



West Hempfield Presbyterian Church
8 West Hempfield Drive
Irwin, PA. 15642
724-863-1260
www.westhempfieldpc.org

NOVEMBER 2017

**O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

~ 1 Chronicles 16:34

It is usually at this time of year that I get an annual glimpse of the curmudgeon that I could become if not careful. The crotchiness hits me during these rainy, fall days. I sit at stop signs or my kitchen window grumbling in my head while watching the last of the leaves, now all brown and crunchy, hitting the ground, leaving behind stark brown sticks reaching to the sky. The bare branches of trees, the gray skies and the browning of the goldenrod on the hillsides all cause me to grouse and shake my head. No amount of pumpkin-spice-scented-this-or-that can rid me of this yearly malaise. Ahead lies cold temperatures and an enduring bleak landscape for months. I do not like the cold. Or wearing coats. Or closed windows. I miss the smell of grass being mowed and the sound of crickets at night. I mourn the loss of early mornings with a book on the patio. I grieve for one more evening to sit outside in the glow of fireflies and the twinkle-lights hanging from ferns overhead. Darn it all! But then, I remember Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving Day is the one thing that turns my curmudgeon into Pollyanna once more.

President Abraham Lincoln declared the first Thanksgiving National Holiday on October 3, 1863 in the midst of the worst crisis in American history – brothers fighting brothers. Here is part of what he proclaimed:

“The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.”

We have so very much to be thankful for even though we also live in divisive times. The changing of seasons, even if I don't like it, reminds me that change is a certainty. War can become peace. Greed can become generosity. The trees don't stay bare forever. The cold has an end. So too, an annual case of curmudgeon-ry will cease. Gratitude makes me happy. The Bible is chock-full of it. But since Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday, and not necessarily a “church holiday,” it occurs to me that even the atheist and agnostic among us probably has an urge to say “thank you” at this time of year. They just don't know who they are thanking. Happily, I do.

~ See you in church! ~ Peggy

THINGS IN COMMON

Starbucks coffee
A bottle of nail polish
A paperback book
A candle

A fast food burger
An On-Demand movie rental
2 candy bars
A box of pens

2 cans of soup
A gallon of ice cream
2 bags of Oreo Cookies
A big bag of Tootsie Rolls

What do all of these things have in common? They cost under five dollars. Each of them can hold some importance in our lives, depending on our needs and wants at any particular time. However, not one of them is something that we would miss if we did not have them.

So, the challenge is this: Can you give up something that would cost you about five bucks each week and instead, put that amount into your offering at church? Instead of the annual stewardship campaign, the session has instead endorsed “The \$5 Challenge” for the last quarter of 2017. We all spend money on things we don’t need and that’s fine. But imagine what God can do with the money we spend on a specialty coffee. The cost of a single coffee may not seem like much, but when we commit as the Body of Christ to doing with a little less so that the mission of the church can do more, it’s an amazing amount of goodness! It’s not too late to start. If each one attending church committed to \$5 more each Sunday for the last quarter, there would be over \$5,000 extra.

West Hempfield Presbyterian Church has always had enough. We believe in and worship a God who has faithfully cared for the congregation and surrounding community. Even with all of the extra expenses in 2017 of a building that is “at that age” when things need replaced, the bills have been paid. The programs that were planned for have all been paid for. Ours is the God of enough. Therefore, we do not ask you to increase your giving from a place of want. Instead, we challenge each other to do more – as little as \$5 or a lot – *because* God has made sure we had enough. Instead, we are challenged to dream bigger and ask what *more* might God be able to do? Join us in finding out. And thank you for your constant, cheerful support of the church of Jesus Christ in this place.

**Don’t forget to turn your clocks back by one hour this
Saturday at midnight, November 5th**



November 5 – Communion Sunday 8:30 & 11am Worship; Sunday School 9:30am

November 12 – 8:30 & 11am Worship, Coffee Hour provided by the office and fellowship;
Sunday School 9:30am

November 19 – One Service 11am; Thanksgiving Dinner to follow; No Sunday School

November 26 – 8:30 & 11am worship; Sunday School 9:30am, Decorate for Christmas following 11am worship

LOCAL MISSION

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

The collection of food items will begin Sunday, November 12th

Below is a list of suggested items for each week. You may donate as much and as many times as you'd like. The Deacons and Missions thank you for helping them help others in need in our community.

November 12 – Breakfast Items (cereal, oatmeal, juices, cereal bars, dried milk, etc.)

November 19 – Lunch Items (peanut butter, jelly, soups, mac-n-cheese, canned fruit, etc.)

November 26 – Dinner Items (pasta, sauces, canned vegetables, cookies, cake mixes, puddings, rice mix, drinks, etc.)

December 3 – Paper Products / Toiletries (paper towels, tissues, soaps, shampoo, toothpaste, floss, etc.)

All items should be non-perishable.

If you have a name of a family which could benefit from this ministry, please call the church office.

If you can help packaging the baskets, please contact Janet Lore at 724-864-4083.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE WARM THIS WINTER

Each year our church family provides a coat to the children of West Hempfield Elementary School who are in need. There is a donation envelope in your pew so that you may help us continue this loving mission. The children thank you!

THE GINGERBREAD TREE

Check the bulletin board outside the sanctuary for gingerbread men. Each one represents a family that you can adopt for Christmas. Each Gingerbread has a number which represents which family they belong to, along with the Sex, Age and Child's Interests. When you take a gingerbread, please write your name and phone number on the index card provided and place in the envelope next to the bulletin board. Once you have finished shopping and packaged your gift, please attach the gingerbread man to the gift and return it in front of the bulletin board. *December 10th is the deadline to have your gingerbread gifts back to the church. Thank you!!*



INTERNATIONAL MISSION

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES



Provides gifts for children. Take a shoebox and fill it with the list provided. Shoeboxes will be available after worship or you may stop in Monday – Friday between 9am and 1pm.

COUPON BOOKS

These will be available for purchase after worship or you may pick one up in the office. The books are \$5 each. One book is for the Norwin Area and the other is Greensburg. Thank you for your support.



BEVERLY'S CUPCAKES

Thank you to all who baked and decorated cupcakes for Beverly's Birthdays in October. Do you want to help? We are looking for bakers or donations of small treats (i.e. stickers, small toys, packaged snacks, candy – please no peanuts) for birthday treat bags. You can sign up on the Beverly's Birthday's bulletin board or call the church office to be added to the list. Our next decorating will be Thursday, **November 16th at 10am in the upstairs kitchen**. The theme is minions. Thank you!!

RINGING FOR A CAUSE

If you are interested in participating and ringing the bell this year for the Salvation Army, please sign up. We are scheduled for **Saturday December 2nd** from 10am-8pm (1 hour increments) at the Giant Eagle in North Huntingdon (both sides).



SAVE THE DATE: Irwin Male Chorus

When: Saturday, December 16, 2017

Time: 7:00 PM Refreshments to follow

Where: The sanctuary

The Irwin Male Chorus has been warming people's hearts with their music for the past 100+ years. Please join us, and bring your friends – young and not so young. We look forward to an evening filled with a variety of music. Free will offering.

AN EVENING OF MUSIC

Tony Greendonner, WHPC Music Director and David Bridge will be playing duets. Sunday evening on **November 19 at 6:30 p.m.** This will be an evening of preludes and postludes to help prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations. Please join us for a wonderful evening of music and some hymns. David Bridge, organist at Salem United Methodist Church in Wexford, assistant organist and private music instructor at Calvary United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh, and Saturday organist at Bethany United Methodist Church in Latrobe will be joining Tony.



FELLOWSHIP THANKS YOU!

Warm weather, blue skies, 60 plus classic cars, music, over 40 donated Chinese auction items, baked goods, hamburgers, hot dogs, & nachos all equal an amazing profit of \$1485.56
Special thanks to all the committees, volunteers, church members that brought their cars, the congregation for donating items, and to Larry and Mary Esther DeTesta who know everything and anything about car cruises. If you were not able to attend this year, there's always next year!

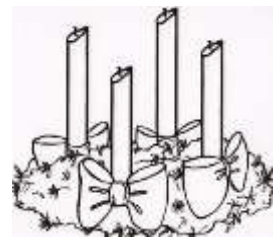
Thank you PWA for providing the church with a new refrigerator in the upstairs kitchen.

The Advent Season

There are many opportunities to help with worship this upcoming Christmas Season including decorating the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas, lighting Advent candles, and providing special music during Advent Sundays. Please consider joining in the preparation for the Advent Season:



- The Worship Committee will be decorating on **Sunday, November 26th**. If you can lend a helping hand that would be greatly appreciated. More details will be provided in upcoming bulletins.
- This year the lighting of the Advent Wreath will be done by the children. Please bring your family to worship during Advent and let them experience to wonder of preparing to welcome the Christ-child into the world.



- We plan to have the **Bell Choir** as part of our musical worship experience for Christmas. If anyone is interested in Bells we will meet *after choir practice in the choir room at 7:30 on Thursdays*. I am seeking a minimum of 5 committed people. We will do a couple songs that are very easy and no prior music experience is necessary. Even if you've never played bells or believe you don't have a musical bone in your body, if you can count to four, you can learn the bells. Please speak to Tony Greendonner if you're a willing to participant.
- The Worship Committee is currently looking for special music for the month of December/Advent. Thank you for considering offering your time and talents in making the upcoming Advent Season a special worship experience!
- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary provides a free Advent devotional on their website at www.pts.edu where you can click on "Resources" then "Publications" and scroll to the devotionals. As always, the church provides the Daily Bread resources for you. They can be found in the lobby.

SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2017 AFTER 11AM WORSHIP

Please join your church family for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner following worship at 11am on November 19. Please sign up on the table in the Narthex or call the church office Monday-Friday (9am-1pm). **Please RSVP no later than November 12th**
Thank you!!

NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Men's Bible Study 7pm	2 Choir Rehearsal – 6:15pm	3	4 Fall Back 1 hour 
5 Sunday School 9:30am Communion 8:30 & 11 WORSHIP	6 DART BALL 7PM @ Irwin Methodist	7 PWA Board Meeting 10am - kitchen	8 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Food2Go4Kids – 6:30pm, kitchen Men's Bible Study 7pm	9 Choir Rehearsal – 6:15pm Stewardship & Finance Meeting, 7pm	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:30am 8:30 & 11 WORSHIP Coffee Hour	13 DARTBALL 7PM @ Circleville *PIE DELIVERY*	14 Deacons Meeting 6:30pm – kitchen NAMI 7pm	15 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Christian Ed Meeting, 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 7pm	16 Beverly's Birthday's 10am decorating Choir Rehearsal – 6:15pm	17	18
19 One Service 11am Thanksgiving Dinner to follow *No Sunday School An Evening of Music 6:30pm	20 DARTBALL 7PM @ WHPC	21	22 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Men's Bible Study 7pm	23 Have a blessed Thanksgiving! *Office Closed*	24 *Office Closed*	25
26 Sunday School 9:30am 8:30 & 11 WORSHIP Decorate for Christmas after 11am worship	27 DARTBALL 7PM @ WHPC	28 Session Meeting 6:30pm - kitchen	29 Senior Cards 11-2:30 Men's Bible Study 7pm	30		