



How can we have true renewal in the church? True renewal begins with self-examination and honest evaluation, laying the groundwork for meaningful growth and transformation. It calls for a clear acknowledgment of present realities and a willingness to confront obstacles that hinder progress or misalign the church's core values.

This is not a superficial exercise but a deep and intentional reflection on the identity, purpose, and direction of the church. For a congregation renewal to take place, it involves revisiting the church's spiritual and communal commitments, assessing its impact and relevance, and discerning its alignment with its mission and calling. Only through this honest and sometimes difficult work can true renewal take place. Then we can arrest the decline in our church's and have people trusting the church's witness again.

Some Questions for Reflections

- **What is the key mission of WPC congregation?** The key mission reflects every church organization's commitment to its teachings, as well as its spiritual and communal responsibilities.
- **What are the core values of WPC?** The core values are the fundamental belief or guiding principle that shapes decisions, actions, and behaviors. Core Values often represent what is most important to the church.
- **In your perspective, do the core leaders model the values and mission of the church?**

By practicing Jesus' principles of authenticity, humility, inclusiveness, and supportive accountability, we will not only inspire trust and commitment within the church but also, we will reinforce our collective mission to transform individual lives and the broader community.

The Lord's peace be with you! God, bless you!!!

**By Rev. Bernard Nti
Pastor, Westmont Presbyterian Church**

**WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MARCH LECTIONARY PLAN
2025**

1. March 2nd, 2025: Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Corinthians 3: 12 – 4:2

Luke 9:28 - 36

Part II of Exploring Liturgy

2. March 5th, 2025: Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58: 1 – 12

Matthew 6: 1 – 6, 16 – 21

Application of Ashes

3. March 9th, 2025: 1st Sunday in Lent

Romans 10: 8b - 13

Luke 4: 1 - 13

Daylight Saving Time Begins

4. March 16th, 2025: 2nd Sunday in Lent

Psalms 27

Luke 13: 31 - 35

5. March 23rd, 2025: 3rd Sunday in Lent

1 Corinthians 10: 1 - 13

Luke 13: 1 – 9

Mock Service by Teens & Youth

6. March 30th, 2025: 4th Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5: 9 - 12

Luke 15: 1 – 7

Those Who Serve

ACOLYTES

03/02
03/09
03/16
03/23
03/30

LAY READERS

03/02 John Norris
03/09 Barney Custer
03/16 Mark Parseghian
03/23 Elisa Ellenberger
03/30

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

03/02 Sharon Kaseler
03/09 The Esch Family
03/16 Spiritual Direction
03/23 The Priest Family
03/30 Leslie, Tom B., Ray, Monica

OPENERS

3/2 Jim McCann
3/9 Kevin Howell
3/16 Jim McCann
3/23 Kevin Howell
3/30 Jim McCann

CHANCEL FLOWERS

03/02
03/09
03/16 Mark Parseghian
03/23 The Priest Family
03/30

NURSERY

03/02
03/09
03/16
03/23
03/30

CHILDREN'S CHAT

03/02 Communion Sunday
03/09
03/16
03/23
03/30

USHERS:

03/02
03/09
03/16
03/23
03/30

General Giving for the month of February 2025

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| February 2025 | \$ 16,546 |
| YTD 2025 | \$ 54,617 |
| Prior YTD | \$ 64,452 |
| 2025 YTD Budget | \$ 58,333 |

- Flower Calendar
- Fellowship Hour
- Liturgist

Sign up sheets are posted on the K Room.

DEADLINE:
Newsletter Articles

**Deadline for the April
Thread is
Friday March 21**

2025 Mission Payments

through February

Young Life \$1000

Bible 2 School \$200

Good News Club \$500

Highlands Health \$500

New Day \$500

Pgh Thea Seminary \$500

Prayers & Squares \$250

Sudan Presb Church \$300

Saturday's Kitchen \$250

Women's Help Center \$250

Blessed to be a Blessing



| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| 03/29 | Misty Stephens |
| 03/29 | Michael Pavlik |
| 03/29 | Aurora Hinson |
| 03/27 | Wyatt Lohr |
| 03/27 | Amy Howell |
| 03/25 | Jeffrey Webb |
| 03/25 | Crew Thomas |
| 03/25 | Gabe Good |
| 03/21 | Thomas Apetz |
| 03/19 | Ron Good |
| 03/16 | Danny Maciorowski |
| 03/12 | John Norris |
| 03/11 | Marian Morgan |
| 03/06 | David Livingston |
| 03/04 | Hannah Kavenk |
| 03/02 | Cindi Cort |



WPC Christian Ed March News

Help Wanted

CE is looking for your help with the upcoming Glow in the Dark Easter Egg Hunt. We need help with set up, running the event, and clean up. If you are interested in helping with the egg hunt, please fill out and return the volunteer form to the church office with a copy of your clearances if applicable. Thank you!



Upcoming Events

- March- 2nd CE Meeting; 24th Early Bird registration deadline for Pine Springs
- April- 4th: Egg Hunt Setup; 5th Easter Egg Hunt @ 7:00pm; 6th CE Meeting
- June-8th VBS Setup; 9th-13th Breakout VBS

Youth Group

Surveys were handed out during Sunday School to kids in the 5th-12th grade. These surveys ask what days & times work best to meet and what activities the kids are interested in doing. Please return the surveys to Bri Lohr once completed.



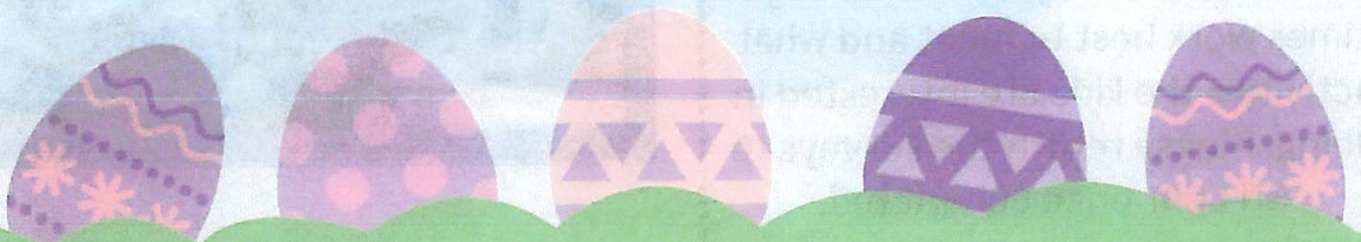
GLOW IN THE DARK EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL 5TH, 2025
AT 7:00 PM

WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
601 LUZERNE ST, JOHNSTOWN, PA 15905

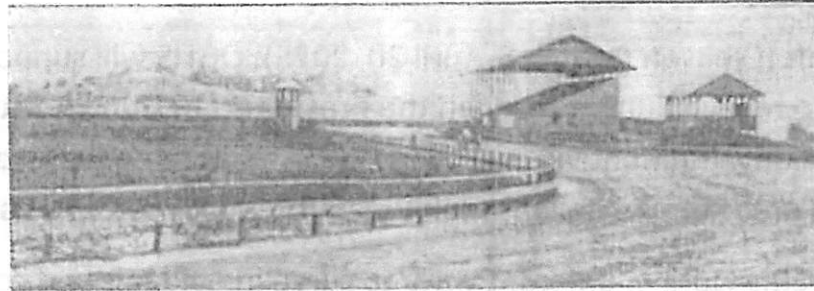
KIDS AGES 0-12 ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR AN EGG HUNT, GAMES, CRAFTS, SNACKS. ALL KIDS WILL RECEIVE A GOODIE BAG.

THE FIRST HUNT WILL START AT 7:00PM FOR AGES 0-3, WITH THE NEXT AT 7:30 FOR AGES 4-6, THEN 8:00 FOR AGES 7-9, AND ENDING WITH AGES 10-12 AT 8:30. DOORS WILL OPEN AT 6:45 TO ALLOW TIME TO SIGN IN AND GET IN PLACE FOR THE FIRST HUNT



As we near WPC's 100th birthday – A look back at

Westmont Race Track



At the turn of the 20th Century – Johnstown's leading outdoor recreation center was the old Westmont grounds, comprising football and baseball fields and a harness racing track. This rare look at the track shows the home stretch. The small building in the center is the judge's stand. Directly opposite the grandstand in the back is the old bandstand.

The 28 acre property was bounded by what is now Tioga St, Wayne St and Dartmouth Avenue. Westmont Presbyterian Church stands on what was the approximate center of the track.

Work on the track began on June 1893. As construction continued, the driving association considered the idea of putting the road that led from Whiskey Springs (Franklin St) to Westmont in first class condition. A newspaper item at the time said "the road has an easy grade and it is estimated that it can be made an excellent driveway with an outlay of about \$1000. Another much shorter route to the park, although a very steep grade, will be put through the lands of A.J Haws and the Cambria Iron Company. These roads, together with the incline will afford ample ways by which the grounds may be reached. Now you know where the name "Easy Grade" comes from and when Millcreek Road was laid.

Less than two weeks after the awarding of the contract, the association ran into some mild opposition. The Roxbury Driving Park Association asked the Westmont group to reconsider their purchase and join them in the Roxbury (Luna Park) deal. The proposal was flatly rejected and work continued on schedule on the hilltop land. The grandstand had seating for 2,500 – it also contained a large dining room for the general public. Fifty stables housed the horses. In front of each was a fire hydrant. Johnstown at that time had more than 100 racing horses, some of the prominent owners being A.J Haws, Samuel Lenhart, Joseph Love, Dan Olmstead, C.J. Brugggraf, J.C.Pender and Eugene Zimmerman. The official opening of the track began with a three day meet September 20, 21, and 22, 1893. Also, on the opening bill – chariot races, hurdle races and people parachuting out of hot air balloons. Admission was 50 cents. Four days before the opening of the park – over 1,500 people gathered at the park for a series of bicycle races sponsored by the Johnstown Cycle Club. The German Band provided music between the races.

Johnstown High School played some of its earliest football games on the Westmont field even before the park was constructed. In November 1900, the Trojans played Altoona there and scored a 12-5 victory. They also defeated Derry 17-0 on October 12, 1901 and the team continued to play occasional contests on the hilltop field until October 1904, when it transferred its games to the field area of The Point.

When the field was used for football, the competing teams usually were taken by wagon up the Incline. Pedestrians used a patch which led up to the hillside from behind the old Johnstown High – now the site of the current MRI building – since it was much shorter than using the "Big Road" – Millcreek Road. Surrounding the park was the Johnstown Country Club golf course, forerunner to Sunnehanna. In later years, the course was disbanded and another course was built at Sunnehanna. Much of the city's baseball was played at Westmont Park. The Johnstown Athletics were in prominence at the time. The life of the park was short lived though, as the Cambria Iron Company, owner of the property, started selling it as lots in 1907.

Stewardship - ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)

Our country has recently suffered several disasters; fires in California and floods from Hurricane Helene to name the most recent.

During the Lenten season (March 5-April 20, 2025), OGHS will support:

- Efforts to relieve hunger through the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**.
- Promote development via Presbyterian Committee on **Self-Development of People**.
- Assist in areas of disaster through **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**.

All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Your gift to OGHS helps improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to *share God's love with our neighbors in need*.

OGHS is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together yearly to work for a better world:

- 32% of the funds goes towards Disaster Assistance
- 36% of the funds goes towards Hunger Program
- 32% of the funds goes towards self-development of people.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:

* In 2023, PDA granted \$6.1 million in 27 U.S. states and 46 countries.

* 131 National Response Team members were deployed to 46 presbyteries.

* 1,837 work team volunteers served in AR, CA, FL, KY, LA, MS, NC, TX and Puerto Rico, donating 127,755

hours, totaling more than \$4 million in volunteer time.

* 116,273 Gift of the Heart Kits and blankets were distributed in partnership with Church World Service.

*PDA provided \$256,000 in Migration Accompaniment Ministry grants in the U.S

*Presented Emotional and Spiritual Care programs to more than 300 participants.

* 116,273 Gift of the Heart Kits/blankets were distributed in partnership w/Church World Service.



From the Swanson Music Sweet

With the beginning of Lent, our Music Ministry, after a post-advent lull, goes into full swing with recitals, services and concerts. Our Lenten Wednesday **noon-time recitals begin on March 12 with Bridget Deveney, Organist at Immaculate Conception in Irwin, PA.** She was with us two years ago.

Then, **Tim and Courtney Dabbs will play and sing on March 19** and I know we all will look forward to hearing them!

On March 26, Kevin Clemens, Organist at Saint Andrew's Episcopal in Pittsburgh will join us for the first time. Like me, Kevin holds the Colleague Certification with the American Guild of Organists and is an officer in the Guild.

Reverend Jim Farrer will present a varied vocal program on April 2, and he is a favorite and always most entertaining.

And **Dr. Jeff Jones, Minister of Music and Organist from First Presbyterian in Greensburg** and who was with us last year, will round out this year's schedule on **April 9.**

On **Palm Sunday, we will present Ruth Schram's "Living Last Supper"** which we did 4 years ago. This will pair up our Chancel Choir, an orchestra, and members of the congregation as Disciples gathered around the table with Jesus in the Upper Room. The disciples will share their inner most thoughts with monologues supported by the choral works. *This has been perhaps our most requested choral work in the time I have been with the church.*

Now before all of this, on **March 9, we will celebrate "Woman Composer Sunday"**. All of the music for the service that day will have been composed by women including a hymn by Fanny Jane Crosby composed in 1875, and a choral work by the iconic contemporary organist and conductor, Jane Marshall.

All of us from the Music Ministry will look forward to seeing all of our members each Wednesday and Sunday.

Thanks, Hutch

LENT PROGRAM 2025
WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------|
| March 5 th 2025 | Ash Wednesday Potluck in Fellowship Hall, Service in Sanctuary | 5.30 pm |
| March 12 th 2025 | Wednesday at Westmont (Noon Recital) & Evening Prog with Potluck | 5.30 pm |
| March 19 th 2025 | Noon Recital & Session Meeting | |
| March 26 th 2025 | Wednesday at Westmont (Noon Recital) & Evening Prog with Potluck | 5.30 pm |
| April 2 nd 2025 | Wednesday at Westmont (Noon Recital) & Evening Prog with Potluck | 5.30 pm |
| April 9 th 2025 | Wednesday at Westmont (Noon Recital) & Evening Prog with Potluck | 5.30 pm |

HOLY WEEK BEGINS

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----|
| April 17 th 2025 | Maundy Thursday | TBD |
| April 18 th 2025 | Good Friday | TBD |

LENTEN MOVIE ACTIVITIES

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Movie A, Title: Mind Reader: A mentalist in the early 70's fools everyone including the local magician's associations, who out of jealousy, tries to shut him down. This is a very unique evangelistic drama.

Movie B, Power of the Air: A missionary from Africa comes to the United States and shares with a concerned Christian how he feels the church in America is in danger.

Movie C, Because of Bethlehem: Love is Born, Hope is Here! Together, we will explore Why Jesus Chose the Nails and reflect on His sacrifice for us.

Don't miss this opportunity for deep spiritual growth and meaningful fellowship during this Lenten season!

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We need volunteers for potluck. If interested please call Jane. The phone number is

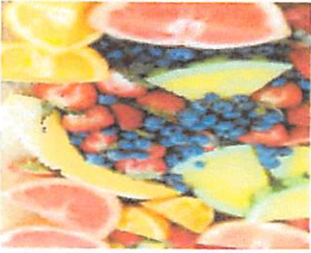
Westmont Presbyterian (814) 536-0796 and say:

Invite a friend and come with your family!

Babysitting available! . Please call Bri on 814-536-0796 .

Westmont Presbyterian Church
601 Luzerne St. Johnstown, PA 15905

Spread the word! You don't have to be a Presbyterian to participate!



STUDENT SNACKS FOR WESTMONT HILLTOP SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Deacons are excited to announce a **new outreach ministry here on the hilltop**. Our congregation has been asked to help **supply snacks for students in the Westmont Hilltop School District**. **Students are dismissed early on Fridays, and some students are not provided lunch. These students are offered healthy snacks on these days to hold them over until they return home.**

If you would like to participate, please put your cash or check in an envelope **clearly marked "Students' Snacks,"** and we will do the shopping for you. Your donations can be placed in the regular offering plate. Thank you in advance for supporting our students at Westmont.



CPR CERTIFIED

We will be offering another opportunity for you to become CPR certified or to renew your certification. **Misty Stephens**, along with **Drs. Josh and Melissa Hinson**, will facilitate a class on **Saturday, April 5, from 9 AM until noon in the Koinonia Room**. You will learn basic First Aid and how to use an AED in addition to CPR.

Please contact Misty at (814) 233-2486 for more information or to register.

HEAD and NECK CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

WHEN: Last Wednesday of each month. (Began 04/27/2022).

WHERE: Westmont Family Counseling Ministries

TIME: 6PM to 7 PM

WHO: Head and Neck Cancer RSVP: 814.536.0798 @n WFCM office.

This is a free community service sponsored by WCFM

Facilitators: Lyn Garbarino OTR, CLT

Michelle George BSN, RN



WPC Health Corner

Hello Church Family,

This month, we are going to motivate ourselves to move. The weather outside has not been great, but we can still move within the confines of our homes. Stay healthy!

Health Champions

MOVE YOUR WAY
ADULTS

What's your move?

You know you need physical activity to stay healthy. But did you know it can help you feel better right away?

Boost your mood

Sharpen your focus

Reduce your stress

Improve your sleep

So get more active — and start feeling better today.

How much activity do I need?

Moderate-intensity aerobic activity
Anything that gets your heart beating faster counts.

AND

Muscle-strengthening activity
Do activities that make your muscles work harder than usual.

Right on time this week? Start with just 5 minutes. If all adds up!

Or get the same benefits in half the time. If you step it up to vigorous-intensity aerobic activity, aim for at least 75 minutes a week.

Is it moderate or vigorous? Use the "talk test" to find out.

When you're being active, just try talking.

- If you're breathing hard but can still have a conversation easily, it's moderate-intensity activity.
- If you can only say a few words before you have to take a breath, it's vigorous-intensity activity.

What counts?

Whatever gets you moving!



You can get more active.

No matter who you are, where you live, or your own, or together, you can find a way that works for you.



And over time, physical activity can help you live a longer, healthier life.

- ✓ Lower your risk of diseases like type 2 diabetes and some cancers
- ✓ Control your blood pressure
- ✓ Stay at a healthy weight

So take the first step. Get a little more active each day. **Move your way.**

Find tips to get moving and build a weekly activity plan.
oahp.health.gov/MoveYourWay/Activity-Planner



MOVE YOUR WAY
What types of physical activity do older adults need to stay healthy?

Moderate-intensity aerobic activity

Anything that gets your heart beating faster counts.

Muscle-strengthening activity

Activities that make your muscles work harder than usual count.

Mix in activities to improve your balance!

Aim for a mix of aerobic, muscle-strengthening, and balance activities.

Try activities that count as more than 1 activity type, like dancing, sports, or tai chi.

If that's more than you can do right now, **start slow and do what you can** — even 5 minutes of physical activity has real health benefits.

Walk. Run. Dance. Play. What's your move?

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER So Is The WESTMONT COMMUNITY FARMER'S MARKET (17th SEASON)

Back by popular demand is an upcoming new season for the local farmer's to share their produce with our local community which will begin on Saturday May 24th. The hours will again be from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Saturdays through October in our church's parking lot. We hope many of the same fabulous vendors who were here last year will again be selling their vegetable, fruits, flowers and other goodies. We are in the process of contacting the 12 vendors that were here last year. As we determine who will come back this year, you will all be notified by Thread Articles. At our organizational meeting on 2/20/25 we were tasked to also arrange Music, PEO Hot Foods Booth, Advertising etc..

It takes a lot of effort to organize and run this type of project and the Farmer's Market committee is looking for volunteers to help us reach out to the community and share this experience with those around us. People are needed to help set up and tear down the market each week (no heavy lifting), dog sitters, coffee and tea makers and folks to assist the vendors. Most importantly we need the congregation not only to support the vendors, but just to be there to mingle and say howdy to our neighbors. The purpose of the market is not to try to attract new people to our church, but to show God's love by just being with them and getting to know who lives around us. It's almost like the old block parties many of us enjoyed years ago. Many congregation members were regular visitors to the market last year, but we need the entire congregation to support this effort. Bring a friend and 'spread the word'. Buy some goodies and maybe some for neighbors who live around you, but are not able to come to the market themselves. If anyone is interested in volunteering or have any innovative ideas please contact Cindi Cort (814) 244-2933, Debbie Lichtenfels (814) 525-2091 or Gary Lichtenfels (814) 525-2090!

So, mark your calendars for each Saturday, pray for good weather and enjoy the fellowship with the farmers and those in our community. It's a great way to spend an hour or two on a summer Saturday morning buying fresh vegetables and fruits and enjoying each other's company.

BEING THE HANDS, FEET, AND VOICE OF GOD is what we do!

Farmer's Market Committee (subcommittee of Mission Committee)

A note from MISSION COMMITTEE...

REDSTONE MISSION TEAM has recently notified us of a mission trip planned for the week of April 27-May 02 at St. Albans, WV.

The goal is to build a gazebo for Hegakiah House, a house donated for use as a drug / alcohol rehab residence.

Redstone works alongside PDA and WV Ministry Advocacy and Workshops.

Cost is \$300 per volunteer; the volunteer being responsible for \$150.

A **Pancake Dinner Fundraiser** will be held to offset the cost for volunteers.

When: Tuesday, March 4th

Time: 4 -7P

Where: Congruity Church in New Alexandria.

Redstone may be planning another mission trip later in the year. *Interested in this mission?* Interested in other mission opportunities? If so, please contact Tammy Germana at younggang@atlanticbb.net

LET'S GET ACTIVE IN MISSION!!

March 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|-----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| Bible Study (K) Worship Communion Fshp Hr (F) CE meeting | 3 9:00am Prayers & Squares 11:00am Prayer Group | 4 10:00am Spiritual Direction (P) | 5 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 5:30pm Pot Luck Dinner (S) 6:30pm Worship - Ash Wed (S) | 6 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K) 6:00pm Bible Study (K) 7:00pm Prayer Warriors (K) | 7 | 8 |
| Bible Study (K) Worship (S) Youth Sunday School (UL4) Fshp Hr (F) | 10 9:00am Prayers & Squares 9:45am Garden Club (F) 11:00am Prayer Group | 11 | 12 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 12:00pm Noon Recital (S) 5:00pm WFCM (K) 5:30pm Pot Luck Dinner (F) 6:30pm WAW Worship (F) | 13 7:30am Finance (E&P) 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K) 6:00pm Bible Study (K) 7:00pm Prayer Warriors (K) | 14 3:00pm SESSION REPORTS DUE (Office) | 15 |
| Bible Study (K) Youth Sunday School (UL4) Fshp Hr (F) | 17 9:00am Prayers & Squares 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm Deacons meeting (K) | 18 10:00am Spiritual Direction (P) | 19 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 12:00pm Noon Recital (S) 7:30pm Session | 20 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K) 4:00pm Worship & Music 6:00pm Bible Study (K) 6:30pm Special Needs Dance (F) 7:00pm Prayer Warriors (K) | 21 THREAD ARTICLES DUE | 22 |
| Bible Study (K) Worship (S) Youth Sunday School (UL4) Fshp Hr (F) | 24 Geneva Pre School Art Auction Fundraiser (F) 9:00am Prayers & Squares 11:00am Prayer Group | 25 | 26 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 9:00am THREAD OUT 12:00pm Noon Recital (S) 5:30pm Pot Luck Dinner (F) 6:30pm WAW Worship (F) | 27 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K) 6:00pm Bible Study (K) 7:00pm Prayer Warriors (K) | 28 | 29 |
| Bible Study (K) Worship (S) Youth Sunday School (UL4) Fshp Hr (F) | 31 9:00am Prayers & Squares 11:00am Prayer Group | | | | | |

THE THREAD
Westmont Presbyterian Church
601 Luzerne St.
Johnstown PA 15905-2397

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MISSIONAL INTENTIONS TO BE:
Christ Centered
Biblically Based
Servant Led
Blessed to be a Blessing

Worship 10:15 a.m.

Fellowship Hour 11:15 a.m.

PASTOR
Rev. Bernard Nti

SEXTON
Kevin Howell

GENEVA PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Kristen Kane

MINISTER OF MUSIC/ORGANIST
Jim Hutchinson

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Jane Bennese

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Briana Lohr

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