



The Thread

Westmont Presbyterian Church

Phone: (814) 536-0796 Website: westmontpc.org Email: info@westmontpc.org

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! 2025 belongs to the history books and 2026 is upon us. For many, the changing of the calendar brings with it an annual opportunity to do some reflecting and evaluating, with an eye towards making meaningful changes to habits and routines. Diets begin in January, as do new exercising regimens. I don't know this for a fact but I imagine gym memberships spike during this month.

It's in this spirit that I invite you to engage in some self-evaluation. Before January gets too old please set aside a few quiet moments to ponder these questions. Consider it, if you will, a trip to the spiritual gym.

*Have I grown in my faith during the past year? Is my faith more real, more mature, more robust, and more resilient than it was at this point in 2025?

*Am I a hopeful person? Do the circumstances I face in my life largely determine my hopefulness?

*Do I consistently do the right thing, even when doing the right thing is hard or costly? Am I fair in all my dealings, even when it's not to my advantage to be that way?

*Am I primarily concerned about myself or others? Do I live in peace with my family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates, fellow parishioners, and the guy who cut me off in traffic this week? Is there anyone I need to forgive or ask their forgiveness?

*Am I right with God? Is my faith being exemplified in every facet of my life?

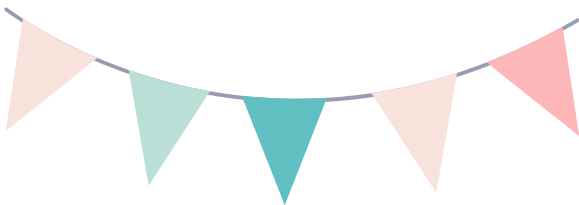
Questions like these are not always easy or comfortable to deal with, but they can help identify weak spots in our faith and lives, and then lead us to make helpful and necessary changes. Such changes can strengthen and deepen our relationship with God and others, always a good thing. Exercise well, my friends.

In Christ,

P.S. Barb and I want to thank you for the wonderful welcome you have given us upon our arrival to Westmont. From helping us unload our vehicles, to giving us guided tours of our new environs, to gifting us with food and supplies, to offering kind greetings and more, you have made us feel welcomed and valued. We are grateful!



01/01 Bonnie Warren
01/01 Melissa Rosenbloom
01/03 Jordon Nichols
01/04 Richard Yocum
01/04 Gary Menett
01/07 Deborah Harris
01/09 Molly Thomson
01/09 Gretchen Lohr
01/12 Briana Lohr
01/12 Bentley Lauf
01/15 Leslie Winters
01/15 Phillip Rosenbloom
01/17 Tiffany Taha
01/18 Emily Kirkstadt
01/19 Lisa Miller
01/19 Kelli Sheehan
01/22 Riley Hernandez
01/23 Luke Curry
01/24 Mariah Stephens
01/24 Maranda Stephens
01/27 Owen Waddell
01/27 Paulette Wohl
01/29 Carly Thomas
01/30 Donna Prothero
01/31 Tabatha Plummer



Those Who Serve

Lay Readers

01/4 Elisa Ellenberger *
01/11 Barb Foust *
01/18 Donna Prothero*
01/25 Mirian Daisley*

*Second Reading Barb Foust



Children's Chat

01/4 No Children's Chat
01/11 Confirmation
01/18 Mark Parseghian
01/25 Ken Foust

Acolyte

WPC Chancel Choir

Chancel Flowers

01/4 Joan Rush
01/11
01/18
01/25 Chiz & Hibby Price



Fellowship Hour

01/4 Betsy & Greg Suppes
01/11 CE Committee
01/18
01/25

Ushers

Mary Meck, Christine Wiegman, John Norris, Margaret Tarsovich, and Vivian Dunkle

Openers & Closers

01/4 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Dave Wylie
01/11 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Chiz Price
01/18 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Jim McCann
01/25 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Chiz Price

From the Swanson Music Sweet

Our Christmas Concert this year is re-scheduled for Sunday, January 11 at 7:00PM. We will be doing works by Rutter, Forrest, Hill and two major works by Hal Hopson and Craig Courtney.

The Hopson work, "Come, Ye Faithful", tells the complete Advent story with songs/carols and narrations. It calls for a lot of congregational participation so bring your singing voices.

The Courtney work is a parody of The Twelve Days of Christmas utilizing music from different periods of classical music, i.e., 17th century Italy, 18th century Germany, 19th century Russia, etc. Craig was Carl Miller's favorite composer and wrote "The Whisper", the anthem dedicated in honor of Carl and commissioned by the WPC Choir.

As I write this, memories of the Nov 23 concert still resonate in my mind and ears. John Dixon was just wonderful and on display was his amazing, creative genius. His playing was perfect, and his warm, meaningful words truly added to the evening. The work, "Fantasia," dedicated to the church, will be in one of his future publications and, as with his previous music books, will be circulated throughout the sacred music industry. Thus, our church's name, which appears at the top of the music as a dedication, has the potential to be seen world-wide.

John is well-respected internationally, and likewise, his music and writings. It was another fitting part of our church's ongoing 100-year anniversary events. The next one is January 4 featuring acclaimed organist and western Pennsylvania native, Paul Jacobs.

Special thanks to the Centennial Committee, Betsy Suppes-Chair, and to all who made the November 23rd concert such a success. And, most certainly, to Gretchen Lohr for the post-concert reception.

Hutch



Session Update

This was the first meeting of the Session with Rev. Foust.

Stewardship Committee would appreciate volunteers.

Repairs approved for the roof and porch at the Wayne Street Manse.

Confirmands will meet with Session before they are confirmed on January 11th.

Personnel presented information about a new general cleaner who began December 15th.

Centennial Committee events:

- Music - Paul Jacobs concert Sunday, 1/4.

- Koinonia - Winter Trivia afternoon, Saturday, 1/17.

- Revising lists for save-the-date postcards.

- Time Capsule chosen for gathering new items.

The Annual meeting will be held on January 25th, to go over the 2025 yearly committee reports and the 2026 budget.



COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

Mission Committee:

December is a busy time for your Mission Committee. I want to extend a special "Thank You" to all of the amazing volunteers who rang bells for the Salvation Army on Friday, December 5th. We collected \$200.29 all while having fun and making memories!

Next, we filled 50 large Christmas gift bags with hats, gloves, socks, deodorant, body wash, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, ChapStick, journals, pens and of course candy! A BIG SHOUT OUT & THANK YOU... for all your wonderful donations of items and cash. We have a generous and loving congregation that enabled us to share that love this past Thursday, December 18th at Spirit Life Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Center in Penn Run, PA.

-Tammy Germana, Chair



Prayer list

WPC, Laura & Nate, Tracy, James, Angela, Lyn, Lynn, Cindy H., Mike R., Evan, Chris S., Rodney Eatman, Laurel Eatman, Doug Myers, Paul Baribault, Stephen Meck, Dan Kovacs, Sharon Pletcher, Virginia, Ted Nyland, Tina, Marge Tarsovich, Jim Darr, Deborah DeGol, John Norris, Jean Livingston, Dave Livingston, Leslie Winters, Jeanne Strunk, Jasmine Connor, Ted & Carole Corey, Gretyl Lauf, Anne Bradford, Kathy J., Nancy C., Alan Burnosky, Kay, Lynn, Matthew, Louise & Jim Abrams, Rick & Denise Mezyk, Skip & Adelle Picking, The Fleegle Family, Pastor Roland, Mike & Angie Hale.

Prayers & Squares

Can you touch a prayer?
YOU CAN!!! ... if it is tied into a prayer quilt made by our Prayers & Squares group. Know someone in need of prayer support who would like a prayer quilt? Would you like to join the quilters?

Please contact:
Linda Capp: 814.241.6963
lcapp@atlanticbb.net
Holly Capp: 814.270.0509
hollyhock11@gmail.com

Deacons' Corner

The Deacon board is planning its outreaches for 2026 and would really appreciate your input to inform the process; a survey is attached. This survey will take just a few minutes, so please grab a beverage and share your thoughts.

After completing the survey, please place it in the basket at the front of the Sanctuary or send it into the church office. The surveys should be turned in no later than January 18th.



January



Christian Ed News

Youth News

GND will meet on January 17th from 1-3 PM at the Centennial Trivia afternoon. Depending on the number of attendees, we will have one or more teams participating.

CE Announcements

On January 11th, our church will be welcoming four new confirmands. During the Children's Chat time, we will be confirming our 2025 Confirmation Class as members.

Sunday School will return on January 11th for the rest of the school year.

CE is starting to plan some of our events for the year, like our annual Easter Egg Hunt and VBC. We will need everyone's help to continue to make these events great. If you would like to help with the upcoming events there will be signup sheets on the CE bulletin board by Fellowship Hall or contact Bri Lohr at blohr@westmontpc.org.

Upcoming Events

January:

01/11 Return to Sunday School
01/11 Confirmation Sunday
01/17 G.N.D. meeting

February:

02/08 CE Committee meeting
02/21 G.N.D. meeting

March:

03/08 CE Committee meeting
03/27 Easter Egg Hunt Set-up
03/28 Easter Egg Hunt



Stewardship

Per Capita

Westmont Presbyterian Church is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Synod of the Trinity and the Presbytery of Redstone.

Each year we are assessed an amount per church member (per capita) to support the operations of each of these governing bodies. The 2026 per capita assessment for Redstone Presbytery churches is \$55. As a result, Westmont Presbyterian Church has pledged \$16,000 to Presbytery for our per capita..

As do most churches, we ask each member to prayerfully consider a donation above their regular (general fund) offering to cover their per capita. By making such a donation, our church is then able to free these funds for other church activities.

You can give using the Per Capita Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or simply mark your donation "Per Capita."

Finance Committee

As we enter our 100th year, it is fitting to acknowledge the 5 families that have established legacies to ensure that their support of WPC continues long after they have joined the Church Triumphant. In our 1st century, the following families have established trusts or funds:

The Slick Family
The Curley Family
The Woodnorth Family
The Baker Family
The Harris Family

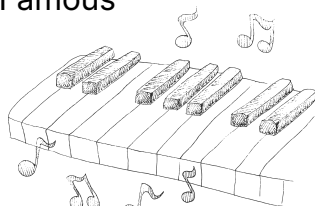
This list of families will be included in the materials we will be inserting into the Centennial Time Capsule during our celebration ceremony in May 2026. The opportunity still exists to have your family name included – “The [insert your name here] family” – and make your family a part of the 200th Anniversary Celebration in 2126. For information and guidance, please contact Barney Custer or your personal attorney.

November General Giving	\$38,144
November General Giving Budget	\$31,900
Year to date General Giving	\$314,238
Year to date General Giving Budget	\$340,000

What's Happening

Centennial Organ Concert

The Centennial Committee is presenting an organ recital on January 4th at 4:00 PM. World Famous organist Paul Jacobs will be playing.



Christmas Concert

We have rescheduled our annual Christmas Concert for January 11th at 7:00 PM. Doors will open at 6:30 PM and the program will start at 7:00 PM. The program is free to attend with a reception afterwards. There will be a freewill offering for those who wish to give.

Centennial Trivia Afternoon

The Centennial Committee will be hosting a Trivia Afternoon on the 17th. We would like help from you with getting questions and answers to ask at the event. Please submit your questions (with the answers) to Donna Prothero by Jan. 10th. See the flyer for more details.

Annual Congregational Meeting

On January 25th we will hold our annual congregational meeting after service. The Annual Report will be available on the Sunday before the meeting. Rev. Ken Foust will be moderating the meeting.

Enrichment Day

On Saturday February 7th WPC will be hosting Redstone Presbytery's Enrichment Day. Enrichment Day is comprised of morning and afternoon classes and includes a continental breakfast and a lunch. The classes are hosted by pastors and representatives from the Presbytery. Topics and additional information will be available soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

01/04 Communion Sunday
01/04 Organ Recital 4PM
01/11 Confirmation & Sunday School resumes
01/11 Christmas Concert 7PM
01/17 Centennial Trivia Afternoon
01/25 Annual Congregational Meeting

**Thread
Articles Due
Jan. 16th 2025**

Articles must be submitted via email to both
info@westmontpc.org
and
blohr@westmontpc.org



FEELING SMART? JOIN WPC CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
FOR AN AFTERNOON OF

TRIVIA

January

17th from

1:00-3:00

pm

FELLOWSHIP HALL

PRIZES AWAIT OUR
WINNERS!

This is a team event,
either make a team
before you arrive or
form one here!

WE WOULD LIKE INVITE THE CONGREGATION TO SUBMIT
THE QUESTIONS. THESE QUESTIONS CAN BE ABOUT THE
CHURCH, JOHNSTOWN COMMUNITY, THE BIBLE, OR ANY
GENERAL SUBJECT EXCLUDING POP CULTURE. IF YOU
WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT A QUESTION WITH THE ANSWER
PLEASE CONTACT DONNA PROTHERO EITHER BY PHONE AT
(814)659-7272 OR BY EMAIL AT
BANDDPROTHERO@GMAIL.COM BY JANUARY 10TH.

WE ALSO ASK IF YOU HAVE ANY CHURCH MEMORABILIA
THAT YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO BRING SO ALL WHO
ATTEND CAN SEE IT.



WPC Centennial Celebration Organ Recital

PAUL
JACOBS

WORLD
FAMOUS
ORGANIST

*DATE: JANUARY 4TH,
2026*

TIME: 4:00 PM

*VENUE: WESTMONT
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH*

This program is free to attend with a reception afterwards. There will be a free will offering for those who wish to give.

DEACONS BOARD SURVEY

What do you expect from deacons?

Please indicate the importance you place on each of the following ministries by number, with 1 being the most and 9 being the least important:

- ___ Greet, hand out bulletins, collect offerings, usher
- ___ Home Touch (reaching out to our shut-ins)
- ___ Deliver items to soup kitchen
- ___ Teacher and Emergency Responder Appreciation Days
- ___ Blood Drives
- ___ Backpack Project
- ___ August Deacons' Picnic
- ___ 5th Sunday Fellowship
- ___ Christmas Program

Please write a brief description of your best ideas for a ministry/ministries you would like your deacons to implement.

Thank you for your generous support as well as time and effort in helping the deacons serve you and our community.

Respectfully,

Monica Black, Moderator of Deacons Board

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Years Day - Office Closed	2	3
4 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S) 11:30am Fshp Hr (F)	5 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K)	6	7 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchanko	8 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K) 6:00pm GPS Christmas in January (F, S)	9	10
11 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4) 11:30am Fshp Hr (F)	12 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K)	13 11:00am Spiritual Direction	14 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 5:00pm WFCM (K) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchanko	15 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	16 Session Reports Due Thread Articles Due	17 1:00pm Trivia (F)
18 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4) 11:30am Fshp Hr (F)	19 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K)	20	21 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchanko 7:00pm Session	22 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	23	24
25 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4) 11:30am Fshp Hr (F)	26 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K)	27 11:00am Spiritual Direction	28 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchanko	29 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	30	31

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601 Luzerne St.

Johnstown PA 15905-2397

814-536-0796

(Return Service Requested)

**NON-PROFIT
ORGN.**

**U. S. Postage
Paid**

**Johnstown PA
Permit # 65**

Address Label Here

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.