

The Thread

WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2026

Dear Friends,

Considering that human beings have been around for ages, 100 years is not a particularly long period of time. One hundred years is certainly an age few people achieve but, in the course of human history, a century is a mere drop in the bucket of time. Artifacts 100 years old pale in comparison with archeological finds from thousands of years ago. Historical events from 100 years ago are considered by academics to be modern, not ancient. Outside of an individual's longevity, 100 years is not a very impressive span of time.

Except it is! Especially when we consider the life span of a church. Certainly, there are very old churches, going back hundreds of years, scattered throughout the world. Even in our own region there are churches whose founding predates the American Revolution. But, a congregation that has been in existence for a century is a testament to the endurance of the Church of Jesus Christ and the sustaining power of our God. One hundred years is a time period that calls for celebration.

And so we have done. Over the past several months we have come together for events marking the centennial of Westmont Presbyterian Church. We have heard marvelous music presented by incredibly gifted musicians. We have learned interesting facts about our church and region (I didn't know Johnny Weissmuller and Charles Bronson were originally from around these parts). And we have enjoyed the company and fellowship of each other as these gatherings have afforded.

Now we have reached the culmination of our celebration. The weekend of May 16 and 17 will provide two last opportunities for us to finish our centennial celebration in grand style. On Saturday, we will gather in Fellowship Hall to prepare and dedicate a time capsule. It will be filled with items depicting our present-day church. One hundred years from now it will be opened by 2126 WPC folks who will learn something about who we are and what we have been doing to further the Kingdom of God (and wonder who Johnny Weissmuller and Charles Bronson were). This event begins at 4:30pm and you are certainly invited to attend.

On Sunday, May 17, we will gather in the sanctuary for a unique worship opportunity. Praising and thanking God for 100 years of God's faithfulness and grace will be the order of the day. Four former pastors of this congregation will join us and help lead us in worship as we honor the history and legacy of WPC. Special music, including a piece specifically composed for the occasion, will be presented. Undoubtedly, it will be a memorable service, and you are encouraged to attend. It begins at 10:15am.

One hundred years is worth celebrating. Please be part of it.

May God bless you and WPC.



Ken



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

05/03 Morgan Fetzer
05/03 Diane Uhlig
05/04 Todd Miller
05/05 Rebecca Webb
05/05 Charles Price III
05/07 Deborah Corey
05/07 Donna Cauffiel
05/08 Melissa Hinson
05/08 Isebella Miller
05/10 Angela Aboagye
05/12 Leah Young
05/12 Jimmy McCann
05/13 Kacie Livingston
05/14 Tenley Hinson
05/14 Archie Adams
05/15 Monica Black
05/15 Robt Hagerich III
05/16 James Nichols
05/16 Kevin Kirkstadt
05/17 Brennley Riffle
05/17 Joseph Wohl
05/18 Lyndal Garbarino
05/19 Daniel Kevenk
05/21 Tracy Kirkstadt
05/21 Kevin Howell
05/22 Miriam Daisley
05/22 Kevin Pile
05/22 Jim Johnson
05/23 Dennis Appiah
05/25 Ethan Good
05/25 Edna Nti
05/26 William Harris
05/26 Jeanne Strunk
05/27 Hailey Pavlik
05/31 Ted Corey

LITURGISTS

05-03* Betsy Suppes
05-10* Monica Black
05-17* Georgia Yeager
05-24* Kathy Good
05-31* Bernice Adams
*Second Reading Barb Foust

CHILDREN'S CHAT

05/03 No Children's Chat
05/10 Brittain Silver
05/17 Barb Foust
05/24 Elisa Ellenberger
05/31 Betsy Suppes

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

05-03 Joan Rush
05-10 Pastor Ken & Barb
05-17 Centennial Committee
05-24 Pentecost
05-31 Sharon & Taylor Kaseler

USHERS

John Norris, Christine Wiegman, Karen Marsinko,
Monica Black, Tom Ball, Jim McCann, Marge Tarsovich,
Vivian Dunkle, Christine Wiegman

ACOLYTE

WPC CHOIR

FLOWERS

05-03 Monica Black
05-10 C.E.
05-17 Centennial Service
05-24 Pentecost
05-31 Ken & Barb Foust

OPENERS/CLOSERS

05-03 Kevin/Chiz
05-10 Kevin/Jim
05-24 Kevin/Chiz
05/31 Kevin/Dave

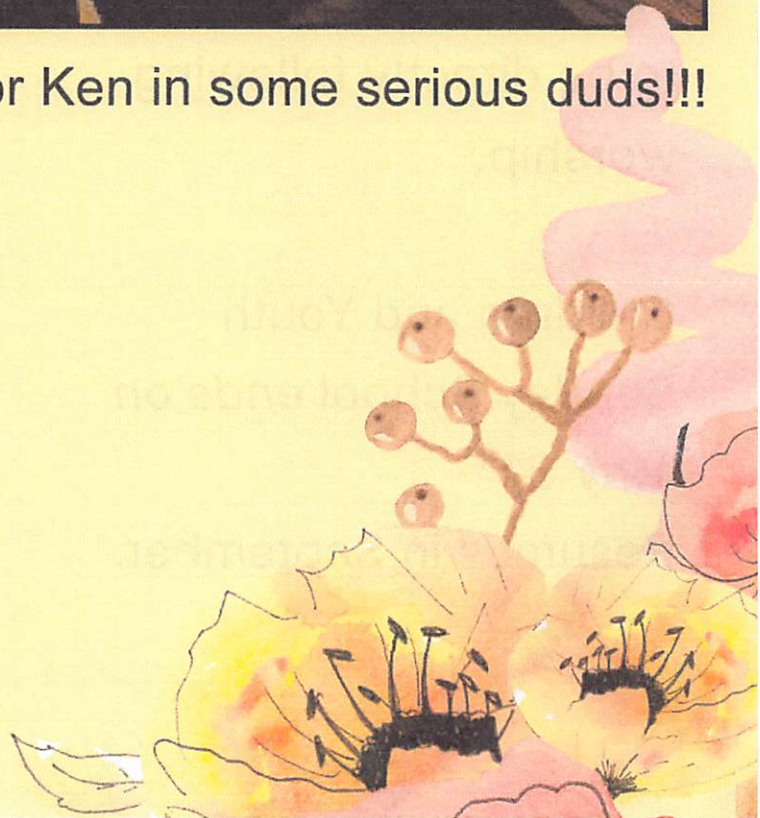


Pastor Ken in some serious duds!!!

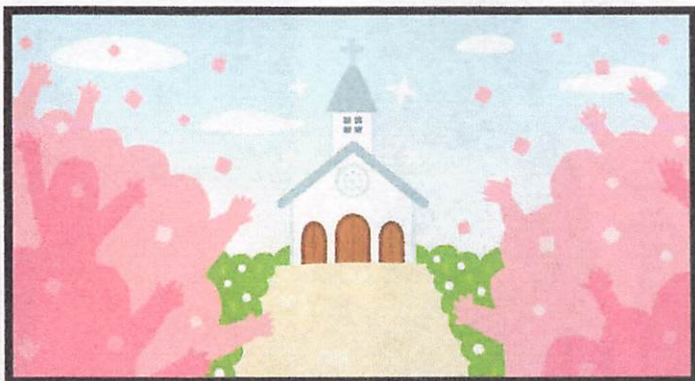


Golden Egg for a Good Egg!!!

2026 WPC Easter Egg Hunt



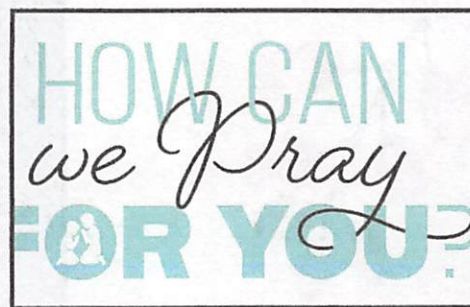
New Church Service Hours



Starting on June 7th
service START TIME will
move *from 10:15AM to*
9:30AM.

Adult Bible Study will
meet at *8:30 AM* and
Fellowship will continue
to be directly following
worship.

Children and Youth
Sunday School *ends on*
May 31st
Resumes in September.



WPC, Laura & Nate, Tracy, James, Angela, Lyn, Lynn, Cindy H., Mike R., Evan, Chris S., Rodney Eatman, Laurel Eatman, Paul Baribault, Stephen Meck, Dan Kovacs, Sharon Pletcher, Virginia, Ted Nyland, Tina, Jim Darr, Deborah DeGol, John Norris, Jean Livingston, Dave Livingston, Leslie Winters, Sylvester, Vince, Beverly, Michael, Jeanne Strunk, Jasmine Connor, Ted & Carole Corey, Gretyl Lauf, Anne Bradford, Kathy J., Nancy C., Alan Burnosky, Kay, Lynn, Matthew, Rick & Denise Mezyk, Skip & Adelle Picking, The Fleegle Family, Pastor Roland, Mike & Angie Hale, Marian Allen, Cory Locher, Bonnie & Barry's daughter- Robin, Dave and Debbie's daughter-Jenny, Deb Lichtenfels, Gretchen Parseghian, Bill Harris' niece, Linda Thomson, Dave Wilson, Larry Riddle, Marge Tarsovich, Megan, Hazel, Walter, Edward, Britton Halle, Mike Long, Carol Burnworth, Patty Hagerich, Crisafulli / Sherman Families, Matthew Yeager, Betty Jo, Rick Krisko, Linda Batey, Pastor Ken and Barb, Will, Jada & Emersyn Foust, Dave, Janet Kokel, Linda Capp, Holly Capp, Lori Begg, Suzanne Bryon, Max Stevanus, The Family of Dr. Magdi Azer, Cameron Evans.

What's Happening

The Stephens Girls

YWCA State Championship Achievements

The Stephens girls excelled at the YWCA state championships, earning medals for their outstanding performances. Among them, Macee distinguished herself by setting a new record, which will be celebrated on the YWCA banners.

Maranda qualified for the GJY Swim Team Districts in several events, a testament to her dedication, discipline, and exceptional athletic talent. In March, she returned to running with the junior high track team. Beyond sports, Maranda is a leader in Student Council and an active member of Hope Club, reflecting her commitment to service and her positive impact on the school community. Academically, Maranda maintains impressive standards as a member of the National Honor Society and consistently earns a place on the Honor Roll.

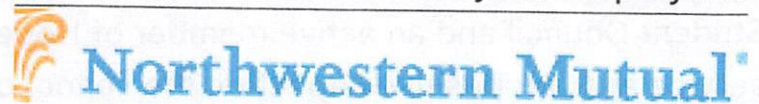
Mariah earned a spot at GJY Swim Team Districts in multiple events, reflecting her determination, perseverance, and strength as a swimmer. She also reengaged with the Jr. High track team in March. She is actively involved in the Hope Club and the Interact Club, where she shows compassion, leadership, and a strong commitment to serving others. In the classroom, she continues to excel academically, earning Honor Roll recognition.

Macee advanced to GJY Swim Team Districts in multiple events, showcasing her hard work and dedication in the pool. In addition to swimming, she dances at Sharon's Dance Studio and is a member of the competitive team, performing in seven different dances this year – a true testament to her passion and commitment. Academically, she earned all A's on her report card, reflecting her strong work ethic and focus in the classroom. As a member of the Student Council, she continues to demonstrate leadership and school spirit.

The Supper Boys

Sam graduated from the University of Virginia (UVA) in May of 2025 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He received a full Naval ROTC scholarship to attend UVA. Upon graduation, Sam joined the submarine service. Most recently, Sam graduated from the Navy's Nuclear Power School on March 27, 2026. He was voted "Most Professional" by his peers in his Power School section. He is now starting Prototype, the intensive phase (Nuclear Power Training Unit-NPTU) for sailors and officers after Nuclear Power School, conducted on Land-based reactor prototypes or Moored Training Ships (MTS).

Conrad joined Northwestern Mutual as a financial advisor in the Monroeville office. He has passed his Series 7 and 63 exams and, as a first-year full-time advisor, was ranked 8th in the nation among 3,400 other 1st-year employees at Northwestern Mutual for sales.



Elsie Alberter

Elsie Alberter will perform in in Bishp McCort's play "Cinderella" in a featured dance ensemble.

She also portrays a knight at the play's opening.

Performance is at the Bishop McCort Guzzi Performing Arts Center on May 14, 15, 16.

Break a leg Elsie!!!

BISHOP MCCORT HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS



RODGERS - HAMMERSTEIN'S
CINDERELLA

MAY 14, 15, 16
7PM | GUZZI PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED IN THE MAIN OFFICE AND AT THE DOOR

STUDENTS \$6	ADULTS \$10
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What Else is Happening?

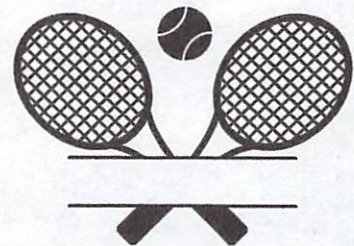
Academic Accomplishments

Elsie Alberter earned high honors for the third quarter. Congratulations to Elsie on this outstanding achievement!

**Great
work!**

Sports Highlights

John Allen, a senior at Westmont, is a varsity tennis player. This week, he is competing in District 6 singles. Looking ahead to the fall, John will attend St. Vincent and join its tennis team.





Chalk Art by Good News Club

Session

Stewardship - Have received close to Per Capita goal. OGHS donations still being accepted.

Pentecost offering dropped by GA.

Buildings & Grounds - B&G CREW works tirelessly inside and outside WPC buildings.

Christian Ed - Egg hunt was well attended & enjoyed fair weather for outdoor activity. VBS in June, looking for volunteers.

Membership - Grow the Church initiative, starting with help from Vital Signs Church Consulting.

Worship & Music - Birk & Hoke Duo scheduled for concert April 19th.

Mission - quilts to be sent to West Virginia with the Presbytery Mission group, end of April.

Safety - Planning next CPR/AED class.

Centennial - details for Booklet, Time Capsule, events May 16-17.

PNC - Congregational Meeting approved for April 19 to vote on PNC candidates.

**Rev. Jim Farrer approved to serve as Transitional Pastor
for 9 months, starting June 1st**

**Elisa Ellenberger
Clerk Of Session**

**Next Session
Meeting:
MAY 20th @ 7 PM**

Finance Committee

Your March General Giving \$ 36,636

March Budget \$ 27,000

Year to Date \$ 114,319

Year to Date Budget \$ 81,000

2025 Year to Date \$ 106,144

Thank You ! Thank You !

Two sunflowers are positioned behind the title. One is on the left, partially cut off, and the other is on the right, more centered. They are bright yellow with dark brown centers.

Stewardship

PENTECOST OFFERING UPDATE

In December 2025, PC(USA) announced the discontinuation of the Pentecost Offering. However, because Westmont Presbyterian Church's 2026 offering envelope schedule had already been finalized, your second-quarter envelope packet will still include a Pentecost Offering envelope.

If a gift is made using that envelope, it will be directed to the Christmas Joy Offering. The ministries and programs previously supported by the Pentecost Offering are now incorporated into and supported by the Christmas Joy Offering.

Going forward, PC(USA) will have three special offerings:

- **One Great Hour of Sharing** — supports ministries of compassion, including efforts addressing hunger, disaster relief, poverty, climate change, and immigration, migration and refugee assistance.
- **World Communion Offering** — calls the church to cultivate reconciliation and promote racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relationships.
- **Christmas Joy Offering** — supports ministries that serve God's children, including youth and young adults, children at risk, leadership development for people of color, Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, and church servants in need.

We are grateful for your continued generosity in supporting these important ministries.

* * * * *



QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

QCD: A Tax-advantaged Method to Support WPC

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a tax-advantaged way for retirees to donate funds directly from their Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a qualified charity, such as Westmont Presbyterian Church. The QCD allows you to fulfill philanthropic goals while reducing your taxable income.

How a QCD Works:

- **Direct Transfer:** The money must be sent directly from your IRA custodian to the charity. If the funds are paid to you first, they generally count as taxable income and do not qualify as a QCD.
- **Tax Treatment:** The distributed amount is excluded from your taxable income.
- **RMD Satisfaction:** If you are age 73 or older and need to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), a QCD can satisfy all or part of that annual requirement.

QCD Eligibility & Rules:

- **Age Requirement:** You must be at least 70½ years old on the day the distribution is processed.
- **Annual Limits:** In 2026, the individual limit is \$111,000 per year. Married couples filing jointly can each contribute up to this amount from their respective IRAs.
- **Account Types:** QCDs can be made from Traditional, Inherited, and inactive SEP or SIMPLE IRAs. They generally cannot be made from active employer-sponsored plans like 401(k)s or 403(b)s.
- **Eligible Charities:** The recipient must be a qualified 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Most Donor-Advised Funds and private foundations are ineligible. Westmont Presbyterian Church is a qualified 501(c)(3) organization.

Qualified Charitable Distributions are one of the most tax-efficient strategies available to IRA owners who are charitably inclined. But the tax benefit only works if handled correctly. Please consult with your tax advisor before taking a QCD.

Westmont Presbyterian Church does not provide tax, legal or accounting advice. This material has been prepared for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide, and should not be relied on for, tax, legal or accounting advice. You should consult your own tax, legal and accounting advisors before engaging in any transaction.

Deacons' Corner

Please know that your deacons derive great pleasure in greeting you as we help with each Sunday service and with special concerts. It is a joy to be actively involved with our church family! We continue to serve our community by delivering to the Soup Kitchen food your donations as well as those from Westmont Elementary School. Please continue to place your donations in the grocery cart outside Fellowship Hall.

The Centennial Celebration on May 16 is quickly approaching, and we welcome anyone who wants to join us in decorating and setting up refreshments in Fellowship Hall before the event and cleaning up afterwards.

This summer, we plan to host a picnic for our Laurel View residents as well as partner with the Koinonia Committee for a picnic and service at Greenhouse Park. If anyone is interested in joining the deacons, please let us know and we'll be happy to give you the scoop on our mission! In His service, we are blessed to be blessings!

Thanks so very much!
Monica Black



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

WPC FORMER PASTOR QUIZ

Match the former pastor with the description of the event. The answers will be provided in person by the appropriate former pastor, as all 4 will be in attendance for the 100th Anniversary Centennial Weekend Celebration on May 16 and May 17, 2026.

_____ This former pastor had to be carried off of the field after blowing out his knee while playing for WPC's softball team.

_____ This former pastor was seen carrying a box of geraniums down the back ally after having to retrieve them from a neighbor whose family member plucked them from around the church.

_____ This former pastor invited the men in attendance at a summer church service to remove their suit jackets as he did he same, preaching in short sleeves and setting a precedent for those who followed.

_____ This former pastor got a little carried away when using a backhoe for the first time on a mission trip making either many extra unneeded holes or holes that were a bit larger than required.

A. Rev. Doug Stevens

B. Rev. Craig Miller

C. Rev. Dave Snyder

D. Rev. Larry Chottiner

Christian Ed News

Upcoming Events

May:

- 05/03 CE Committee Meeting
- 05/16 Youth Lunch
- 05/31 Last Sunday School

June:

- 06/01-05 VBS Prep
- 06/07 VBS Setup
- 06/08-12 VBS
- 06/14 CE Committee Meeting
- 06/20 GND Offsite Field Trip

July

No CE Committee Meeting

- 06/18 Youth Lunch



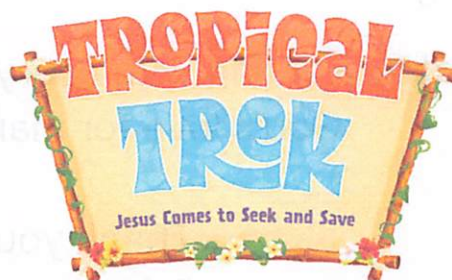
Youth News

GND will meet on May 16th for the Youth Bible Lunch. We will meet from 12-2 for lunch and games. All kids in grades 5th - 12th are invited to join and welcome to bring a friend.

CE Announcements

This year for **Vacation Bible School** WPC will be transported to an island for Tropical Trek: Jesus Comes to Seek and Save during the week of June 8th - 12th. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or see Bri Lohr.

For any kids interested in participating, pre-registration is open on the church website and a registration form is included in this news letter.



Thank You

With our church's Centennial Celebration coming up, I wanted to recognize all of our wonderful CE volunteers, teachers, previous directors, and committee members. We truly couldn't do everything we do without them. Many of them have worked with CE for years, balancing their jobs, families, and helping with CE. Below are our volunteers, youth helpers, and past directors that I know of. If you or someone you know has been a part of CE and are not on the list, please let me know so I can say thank you.

Volunteers:

Misty S
Shelley B
Sharon K
Betsy S
Brittain S
Gretchen L
Melissa H
Elisa E
Mark P
Donna P
Joan R
John N
Karen M
Sydney S

Youth helpers:

Izzy M
Charlie M
Danny M
Aroua H
Olivia S
Maranda S
Mariah S
Macee S
Danica
Isaac S
Gabrielle S

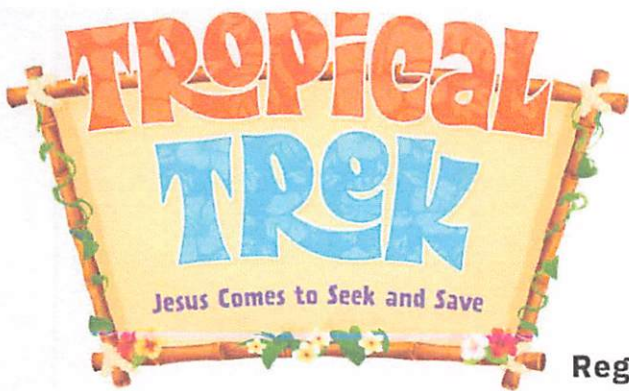
Previous Directors:

Pat McKnight
Tracy Kirkstadt
Michelle Misner
Danielle Kendig
Shelley Boback



I look forward to working with everyone to help kids and adults grow in God's love for many years to come.

Thank you all again,
Bri Lohr CE Director



REGISTRATION FORM

Vacation Bible School 2026
Westmont Presbyterian Church
601 Luzerne St, Johnstown PA
15905

Registration forms (one per child) can be also be filled out
and submitted on line at www.westmontpc.org

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

Name of parent/guardian: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Parent's/Guardian's
cell/home telephone: (____) _____ - (____) _____

Home e-mail address: _____

May we take and publish pictures of your child on our website and/or social
media?

Are you looking for a church? YES _____ or NO _____

Would you like to receive a music download card? YES _____ or NO _____

Friends name: _____

(If your child chooses to be placed with a friend, please write the name on the above line so
they may be put in the same group).



Allergies or other medical conditions:

In case of an emergency, contact: _____

Phone hm./cell: _____ / _____

Relationship to child: _____

P.E.O. Basement Sale Announcement

Event Details . . .

The P.E.O. Basement Sale will take place on Saturday, June 20th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the church basement. We invite all WPC members to donate items that are either like-new or brand-new. Please price your items before donating them. For pricing, use pieces of cut blue painter's tape and a black sharpie for clear labeling.

Pricing Guidelines:

When setting prices, use your best judgment. The standard pricing rule for this sale is the 10% rule: price each item at 10% of its original retail price.

Accepted Donation Categories:

- Christmas / Winter / Valentine's
- Easter / Spring / Gardening
- Patriotic / Summer
- Halloween / Fall
- Purses / Scarves
- Jewelry
- Quilts / Comforters
- Hobbies / Crafts / Sports
- Kitchenware / Table Settings / Glassware
- Home Décor / Small Furniture
- Framed Pictures / Nicknacks
- Cookbooks / Children's Books
- Children's Items / Games / Puzzles

Donation Drop-Off Instructions:

Donations will be accepted only during the week of the sale, starting Monday, June 15th. Please bring your donation to the basement between Monday and Thursday, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., or Monday through Wednesday, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. No drop-offs will be accepted after Thursday morning, as time is needed to organize the sale.

Thank you for your support,

P.E.O. Chapter BZ

Centennial Weekend

Saturday May 16th

- 4PM to 4:30PM** Fellowship Hall - "Doors open!"
- 4:30PM to 5:15PM** Remembrances from former pastors:
- Larry Chottiner
 - Dave Snyder,
 - Doug Stevens
 - Craig Miller
- 5:15PM to 5:30PM** Time capsule ceremony; Fellowship Hall
- 5:30PM to 7PM** Reception catered by "Flair of Country"

Sunday May 17th

- 10:15AM** Worship Service - WPC Sanctuary
Featuring Henry McKenzie Davis
with original composition written
expressly for WPC's Centennial
Celebration
- 11:30AM** Fellowship Hour -
immediately following the service;
Fellowship Hall



Centennial Committee

Centennial Celebration Offering / Investment Fund

Our year-long celebration of Westmont Presbyterian Church's 100th anniversary is drawing to a close. Over the past year, we have shared in special concerts, prayer walks, game nights, remembrance gatherings, and many other meaningful events. The celebration will culminate with special events on May 16-17.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, all centennial expenses are expected to be fully covered by the Centennial Celebration Offering, with no need for support from the General Fund.

As shared when this special offering was first introduced, any funds remaining after all centennial expenses are paid will be directed to the church's Investment Fund, helping support the next 100 years of ministry, mission, and growth.

If you have not yet contributed, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so. You may give using the white Centennial Celebration Offering envelope found in the pew rack, or by noting "Centennial Offering" on your gift.

Thank you for your faithful generosity and for being part of this historic year in the life of our church. May we continue to be guided by God's Spirit as we move joyfully into the century ahead.





1924 Carol Chait



1926



WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Celebrating 100 Years
1926-2026

1954 Carol Choir



Which one is Joan???

Find Joan to win a prize!!!

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S)	4 9:00am Prayers & Squares 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P)	5 11:00am Spiritual Direction	6 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Jax (Jax) 9:30am Girl Scouts Caryn Danchoenko	7 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	8	9
10 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4)	11 9:00am Prayers & Squares 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P)	12	13 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Jax (Jax) 9:00pm WFCM (K) 9:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchoenko	14 9:00am GPS Graduation (F, S) 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	15	16 Centennial Celebration
17 Centennial Celebration 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4)	18 9:00am Prayers & Squares 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P)	19 11:00am Spiritual Direction	20 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Jax (Jax) 9:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchoenko 7:00pm Session	21 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	22	23
24 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4)	25 9:00am Prayers & Squares 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P)	26	27 7:30am Men's Breakfast @ Jax (Jax) 9:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchoenko	28 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	29	30
31 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4)						

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Johnstown PA 15905-2397

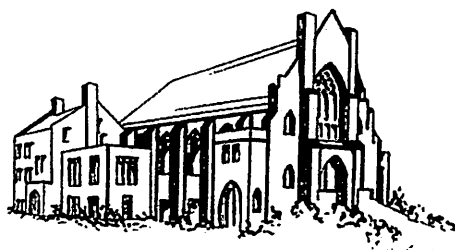
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(814) 536-0796
info@westmontpc.org
(Return Service Requested)

Address Label Here

Save the Date! ~ May 16 & 17, 2026



1926 ~ 2026
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship
10:15 A

Fellowship Hour
11:30A