



The Thread

Westmont Presbyterian Church

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

February 2026

Dear Friends,

February is upon us, bringing with it a few pretty significant occasions. On February 2, tens of thousands of hearty souls will gather in the woods outside of Punxsutawney before the crack of dawn to hear of the meteorological prognostications of a groundhog named Phil (an early spring sounds good to me!). On the 14th florists will be busy filling orders designed to put smiles on faces for Valentines Day (did you know that more wedding proposals take place on Valentines Day than just about any other day?). And then, less than a week later, Ash Wednesday appears on the church calendar, marking the start of the season of Lent.

"Lent" is not a biblical word, nor do we read about its observance in Scripture. According to Professor Donald Macleod the word "lent" comes from the old English term "lencten" which refers to the lengthening of days during the springtime. Traditionally Lent is a season of 40 days (excluding Sundays) preceding Easter. The early Church created Lent as a time of reflection, penitence, and fasting in order for Christians to properly prepare themselves for the events of Good Friday (the Crucifixion of Jesus) and Easter (His Resurrection). Sacrifice is also a part of Lent and, over the years Christians have "given up" various food items or activities for the duration of the season.

I would strongly encourage you to observe the Lenten season. This 40-day period holds the potential for spiritual growth and development, not only for us individually, but collectively as a church. If you are of the habit of giving up things for Lent, then by all means do it. However, I believe growth can and will occur more through addition rather than subtraction. If you are not in the habit of intentionally taking time each day to read Scripture and pray, you might try this discipline during Lent. You might read a Psalm (start with ones you know like Psalm 23 or 100) and a chapter of a Gospel (such as the Gospel of John) each day. If you are not in the habit of joining with others in worship, please make it a priority, and take advantage of special worship opportunities throughout the season such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. And, if it's been a while since you have helped others in need, please seek out ways to do this. All of these "additions" can help us grow closer to our God and Lord and prepare us for the thrill of celebrating the life given to us through the Rising of Jesus from the dead.

If I can be of help to you in your Lenten observance or anything else, please don't hesitate to let me know.

May our Lent together be meaningful and spiritually renewing.

In Christ,

Ken



02/01 Brittany Priest
02/03 Rebekah Kevenk
02/05 Kamdyn Riffle
02/06 Kristen Kane
02/08 Jean Wilson
02/08 Suzanne Langer
02/08 Sheila Perman
02/10 Julie McCue
02/13 Deborah Lichtenfels
02/13 Patricia Ditson
02/16 Julie Kevenk
02/16 Shirley Miller
02/17 Diane Sendry
02/17 Gary Lichtenfels
02/18 Oliver Esch
02/21 Roman Nichols
02/22 Zane Kendig
02/25 Susan Brill
02/27 Vivian Dunkle
02/28 Mara Glover



Those Who Serve

Lay Readers

02/01 Bernice Adams *
02/08 Tammy Germana *
02/15 Kathy Good *
02/22 Monica Black *
• Second Reading Barb Foust

Children's Chat

02/01 No Children's Chat
02/08 Barb Foust
02/15 Brittain Silver
02/22 Elisa Ellenberger

Fellowship Hour

02/01 Joan Rush
02/08 Rehme Family
02/15 Maciorowski Family
02/22 Heather & Coralie Maravalli

Ushers

John Norris, Tom Ball, Karen Marsinko

Acolyte

WPC Chancel Choir

Openers & Closers

02/01 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Dave Wylie
02/08 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Jim McCann
02/15 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Dave Wylie
02/22 Opener - Kevin Howell Closer - Jim McCann

Session Update

- Next meeting -
The February Session meeting has been moved to 2/11/26 due to Ash Wednesday on 2/18/26.
- Ordination & Installation date is February 1st.
- Finance -
Reported a strong end-of-year 2025 giving.
- Stewardship -
"Per Capita" for 2026 is \$55 per giving unit.
- Christian Ed -
Easter Egg hunt will be on 3/28/26.
- Worship & Music -
A light meal is planned on Ash Wednesday, followed by a Service with Communion & Ashes.
 - Wednesdays at Westmont will continue through Lent.
 - A music Cantata will be performed on Palm Sunday.
- Personnel -
Met with staff for reviews in January.
- Centennial -
An activity will be held on February 14th with Rev. Doug Stevens and other former staff.
 - A lot of plans in the process for May 16th, the Centennial weekend.
- Deacons -
The 2026 focus is on relationships.

**Next Session meeting on
February 11th @ 7:00 PM.**



February 18th
Light supper at 6:00 pm
followed by a short service &
Communion

**Join us as we begin the
season of Lent.**

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, Lennyn, Iver, Edward, Mike & Brittany & Family, Britton Halle, Mike Long, Carol Burnworth, Patty Hagerich.

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

It is with great gratitude to you, our church, for the success of the deacons' Christmas Program. Aldi gift cards were gifted to 19 families. St. Vincent dePaul helped provide clothing to ten families who took advantage of our vouchers. Gifts were showered upon 74 children. Thank you all for participating and making this program possible.

The deacons are looking forward to serving our church and community this year. We are hosting a blood drive in Fellowship Hall on Thursday, February 5 from 12 to 5 p.m. You may register at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or by calling 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767). Donations of homemade cookies to offer donors would be very much appreciated and may be left in the kitchen by Thursday at 12:00 with a note indicating they are for the blood drive.

In celebration of Valentine's Day, the deacons will deliver balloons and prayer squares to our Home Touch Ministries members. Cookies and prayer squares will be delivered to 65 emergency responders.

We appreciate your support, your ideas, and your prayers,
Westmont Presbyterian Church Deacons

February Christian Ed News



Youth News

GND will meet on February 21st for a Youth Lunch. We will meet from 12-2 for lunch and games. All kids in grades 5th - 12th are invited to join. Please let Bri Lohr know if your child will be attending.

CE Announcements

We will be hosting our annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 28th from 1-3 PM. The CE Committee would like to ask for donations of candy to fill treat bags for the participants.

As this is a community event, we ask that all candy donations be peanut free to ensure every child's safety. If you would like to help set up, run, or clean up the event there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of Fellowship Hall.

It is with great excitement that we are announcing this year's VBS theme and dates. This year WPC will be transported to an island for Tropical Trek: Jesus Comes to Seek and Save during the week of June 8th - 12th. More information will be posted on the bulletin board outside of Fellowship Hall for those interested in donating supplies or helping during VBS.

Upcoming Events

February:

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

March:

03/08 CE Committee meeting
03/21 GND Offsite Trip
03/27 Easter Egg Hunt Set-up
03/28 Easter Egg Hunt

April:

04/12 CE Committee Meeting
04/18 Youth Lunch

May:

05/16 Youth Lunch
05/17 CE Committee Meeting
05/31 Last Sunday School



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, our church is asked to contribute a per-member amount that supports the work of these church bodies. For 2026, the per-member amount is 55 dollars. This means Westmont Presbyterian Church has pledged 16,000 dollars to the Presbytery.

We invite each member to consider a gift, in addition to regular giving, to help cover this amount. Doing so allows our church to use more of its funds for ministries and programs.

You can give through the Per Capita envelope in your packet or mark your donation "Per Capita."



UPCOMING EVENTS

February

02/01 Communion Sunday
02/05 Deacons Blood Drive
02/07 Enrichment Day
02/14 Afternoon with Doug Stevens @ 1:30PM
02/18 Ash Wednesday Service and Dinner 6:00PM
02/25 Wednesday Concert @ 12PM
02/25 Wednesdays at Westmont @ 5:30PM

Thread Articles Due February 13th 2026

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

EVER DREAM OF BEING PART OF A MISSION TRIP?

A team from our Presbytery will go on a mission trip this spring, after Easter.
Sponsor: PDA and West Virginia Ministry

When: April 19- April 25

Contact: Tammy Germana

Phone: 814-659-9044

Email: younggang@atlanticbb.net
or contact WPC church office
@ 814-536-0796

Cost: \$150 per person

Meeting

Where: Slickville, PA - carpool available

When: February 01, 2026

Time: 2 PM

Pancake Supper

Mandatory Pancake Supper Fundraiser

Where: Congruity Church
136 Fenneltown Rd.

New Alexandria, PA 15670

When: Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Time: 4 -7 PM



Please prayerfully consider this mission opportunity.

Finance Committee

As we embark on our second 100 years, let's look back at how we receive our donations. In the early 20th century, if Friday was payday, you went to the pay window and were handed an envelope with cash and coins. After work, you would go to the bank to pay your mortgage payment, then to the "buy here, pay here" dealer to make your jalopy payment, then to the water company to pay the water bill, and to the electric company to pay the electric bill. Then on Saturday, you would go grocery shopping with whatever money was left to buy groceries for the week, but leave enough out to put in the plate at church to honor your pledge (and a few dollars for the local watering hole).

Fifty years ago, things were a bit easier. You received a paycheck, which you would take to the bank to deposit (keeping out enough cash for gas and your church pledge), stopping by the post office on your way home to buy stamps. Then, that evening, you would sit down in front of your drop-top desk to write out checks, address the envelopes, put a stamp on each one, and mail them the next day.

At the turn of the 21st century, it got even easier. Your employer electronically deposited the check into your account, and you signed on to your computer and paid most of your bills, except the ones for which you still needed to write out a check, like the church and the grocery store. (If you still write checks at the grocery store, turn around and glance at the puzzled look on the faces of the people in line behind you).

Nowadays, with automatic payments, you wake up on payday, your check is deposited, and all your bills are paid as you sleep. If you still write checks to the church, consider signing up for automatic payments. It's been said that giving is part of Worship, so if it is your preference to place an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, don't let that dissuade you from helping out our Assistant Treasurers. Just sign up to have your general giving pledge made automatically, then throw a few dollars in a Deacon's or Mission envelope on Sunday.

Contributions can be set up for any frequency and modified or suspended at any time. You will have your own personal record of your donations. Funds can be withdrawn from a checking account, savings account, or charged to a credit card (cash back?). Just click "Donate Now" on our website to set up your account or call the office for assistance.

3 Gs for 2026 – Grow General Giving

Thank you for your donations. The WPC Finance Committee.

Good Read: *"The Rise and Fall of the Paper Paycheck"* by Dr. Bernardo Batiz Lazo.

General Giving	
December	\$48,926
2025 YTD	\$360,875
2024 YTD	\$329,581
Budget	\$353,500

What's Happening

Deacons Blood Drive

Thursday, February 5th, our Deacons are hosting a blood drive with the Red Cross. The drive is scheduled to start at 12 and end at 5 PM, and you can sign up at RedCrossBlood.org.

Enrichment Day

On Saturday, February 7th, WPC will be hosting Redstone Presbytery's Enrichment Day. Enrichment Day consists of morning and afternoon classes and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. The classes are hosted by pastors and representatives from the Presbytery. Childcare will be available for those who need it. See attached form for topics and additional information.

Afternoon with Doug Stevens

On Saturday, February 14th, we will be hosting Rev. Doug Stevens and other previous church staff for an afternoon. We will watch one of Doug's sermons, a 2008 Children's Chat by Tracy Kirkstadt, and a performance by a few members of our choir. This event will take place from 1:30-3:00 pm.

Wednesdays at Westmont

We will be hosting a Lenten study on a series from Dr. Bailey lead by Ken Foust at 5:30 PM each Wednesday. There will a potluck dinner, please sign up to bring a dish. A separate lesson will be held for elementary and middle school kids.



LOVE

Jesus taught that loving one another is second only in importance to loving God (Matthew 22:37-40), and that when we love one another, God lives in us (1 John 4:12). There are so many ways to do that beyond candy, hearts, and roses. But Valentine's Day is a good reminder.



Chancel Flowers

You are invited to donate chancel flowers in honor or memory of loved ones. Please sign up in the Koinonia Room.

Saturday Afternoon with Doug Stevens

February 14 from 1:30 PM until 3:30 PM

Doors open at 1:00 PM for early birds

Special Guests

Tracy Kirkstadt

The Lemon Sisters

Rodney Eatman

Watch video clips from a Service in June 2008 including

Doug's Sermon, Tracys Children's Chat

The Lemon Sisters trio—Live performance reenactment

Connie Pavlik, Sandy Lee, Pat Greenland

**Hear stories about the origins of 3 ongoing church Missions
which all started during Doug's ministry.**

The Farmers Market—Gary Lichtenfels

Prayers and Squares – Linda Capp

WPC Special Needs Ministry – Barney Custer

View a slide show of church life during Doug's ministry.

**If you have one , bring a memory of the Pumpkin Patch, Our
Katrina Mission Trip, Youth Club, PAC and the 30 hour famine**

**A time of sharing memories will follow the program. If you
don't have a memory you will surely make one.**

**Coffee, hot chocolate and cookies included. Bring a desert to
share if you would like.**



WEDNESDAY

Dinner Nights!

During Lent, a potluck dinner will be followed by a series of short videos narrated by Dr. Ken Bailey.

Feb., 25 - March 4, 11, 18, 25

Join us on Wednesdays!

FELLOWSHIP HALL | 5:30 PM

A sign-up sheet for what you're bringing to the potluck will be in the Koinonia room.

Wednesdays @ Westmont

Lent Discussion

The Wednesdays at Westmont Lent Adult series at WPC will be a series of short videos by Dr. Kenneth E. Bailey. Dr. Bailey is regarded as one of the preeminent scholars of the New Testament. The short videos by Dr. Bailey are about some of the parables in the New Testament. After the video, Rev. Ken Foust will offer commentary and lead a discussion on the parable.

Dr. Bailey was born in Bloomington Illinois. He spent 40 years (1955-1995) teaching in Egypt, Lebanon, Israel and Cyprus. He had a degree in Arabic and literature, systematic theology and wrote his dissertation on the field of the New Testament.

For any kids in elementary and middle school, Bri Lohr will be simultaneously teaching a series in the nursery. The lessons will be about 30 minutes and will start when the video does.

**LOOKING BEYOND OUR WHITE SNOWCOVER,
SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!**

**WELCOMING OUR 18TH ANNUAL
WESTMONT COMMUNITY FARMERS' MARKET !**

Mark your calendars!!! Back by popular demand, the Farmers Market will open in May 2026,; start date to be determined. The market is held on Saturdays from 9AM to 12N through October in our church parking lot.

Local farmers share their produce with the local community. We anticipate seeing many of our fabulous vendors return again this season to sell their vegetables, fruits, flowers and other goodies.

A great deal of effort goes into organizing and running the market; the Farmers' Market Committee is always looking for volunteers for community outreach to share this experience with our neighbors. Volunteers are needed to set up and tear down the market each week (no heavy lifting), dog sitters, coffee and tea makers and folks to assist the vendors. We invite the congregation to support our vendors and to simply be there to mingle and say "howdy" to our neighbors.

The purpose of the market is to show God's love by simply being present 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 at last year's market; this year, we encourage the entire congregation to support our effort. Bring a friend and "spread the word!" Buy some goodies and maybe some for your neighbors who are unable to attend the market themselves.

We are in the process of setting up an organizational meeting for 2026, so if you'd like to be a part of this process, keep an eye on the bulletin for updates, or refer to the contact numbers listed below.

Interested in volunteering? Have any innovative ideas? Please contact:

Cindi Cort (814) 244-2933

Debbie Lichtenfels (814) 525-2091

Gary Lichtenfels (814) 525-2090

Pray for good weather, enjoy fellowship with the farmers and those in our community and spend an hour or two on a summer Saturday morning buying fresh vegetables, fruits, meats, eggs, flowers and baked goods. Sit down, enjoy each other's company and enjoy a fresh cup of coffee & goodies!
SEE YOU THERE!!!

Farmer's Market Committee

(a sub-committee of Mission Committee)

ENRICHMENT DAY
PRESBYTERIAN LEADERS & MEMBERS
AT WESTMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BUILDING - JOHNSTOWN
SATURDAY, February 7, 2026

11:15 - 12:15 Clerks of Session Review of 2025 Session minutes.
12:15 - 12:40 Registration & Sandwiches, Classy Cheese, Fruit, Veggies, Cookies, etc.
12:40 - 1:00 Opening Lon Weaver, Interim Executive
1:00 - 1:10 Pine Springs Camp Update
1:10 - 1:20 Introduction of Classes
1:25 - 2:35 Session #1
2:35 - 2:50 Break for Fellowship and Snacks
2:50 - 4:00 Session #2
4:03 - 4:13 Closing gathering

Our afternoon schedule allows for roads to be cleared.

A. What Presbyterians Believe Part II	Jim Sunseri
B. Pictorial Review of Redstone 2022 Israel Tour	
Led by Jerusalem Seminary President	Ken Foust and Tour Participants
C. Don't Worry, Be Happy	Bob Sheehan and Alice Tondora
D. Spiritual Care Now and at the End of Life	Danielle Kendig

Cost: Free Each person should bring a Bible and each church should send a food item for refreshments.

Pre-Registration: We need an idea of numbers for snacks, handouts, and room assignments.

1. **To pre-register:** Phone Karen at the Redstone Presbytery office 724 837-6737 and say:
 “Our church is (name). We think (#) will likely attend.”
2. Also, try to have your participants fill out the list below.

Courses I think I will take: Name _____ Church _____

Session #1

- ☐ A. What Presbyterians Believe
☐ B. Pictorial Review of Israel Tour
☐ C. Don't Worry, Be Happy.
☐ D. Spiritual Care, Now and End of Life

Session #2

- ☐ A. What Presbyterians Believe
☐ B. Pictorial Review of Israel Tour
☐ C. Don't Worry, Be Happy.
☐ D. Spiritual Care, Now and End of Life

Mail this registration form to:
By Tuesday, February 2, 2026

Westmont Presbyterian Church
601 Luzerne St. Johnstown, PA 15905
814 536-0796
www.westmontpc.org

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

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Adult Bible Study 9:00am 10:15am Worship (S) 11:30am Fishp Hr (F)	2 IOC and staff (K) 10:00am 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K) 3:00pm GOOD NEWS CLUB	3	4 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchanko	5 Red Cross Blood Drive (F) 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	6 Session Reports Due	7 10:00am Enrichment Day
8 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4) 11:30am Fishp Hr (F) 11:30am CE Committee Meeting	9 8:00am Garden Club 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K) 3:00pm GOOD NEWS CLUB	10 11:00am Spiritual Direction 6:30pm Farmers' Market K Rm	11 12:00am GPS Valentines (F) 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 5:00pm WECM (K) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchanko	12 9:00am GPS Valentines (F) 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	13 Thread Articles Due	14 1:00pm Saturday with Doug (F)
15 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4) 11:30am Fishp Hr (F)	16 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K) 3:00pm GOOD NEWS CLUB	17	18 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchanko 7:00pm Session	19 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	20	21
22 9:00am Adult Bible Study 10:15am Worship (S) 10:30am Youth Sunday School (UL3, UL4) 11:30am Fishp Hr (F)	23 10:00am IOC and staff (K) 11:00am Prayer Group (P) 12:00pm Bridge Group (K) 3:00pm GOOD NEWS CLUB 6:00pm WPC Book Club	24 11:00am Spiritual Direction	25 7:30am Men's Breakfast (Jax) 5:30pm Girl Scouts Caryn Danchanko	26 1:00pm Staff Meeting (K)	27	28

THE THREAD
Westmont Presbyterian Church
601 Luzerne St.
Johnstown PA 15905-2397
814-536-0796
(Return Service Requested)

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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.