

SEPTEMBER 2023

The CORNERSTONE

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A publication of Westfield Presbyterian Church (ECO)



Fall Picnic at [Moraine](#)

We have planned fun and fellowship at beautiful Moraine State Park for our church family on Sunday, September 10. Join us after 11 A.M. worship at the pavilion at McDanel's Boat Launch North Shore. This location is perfect for biking (bring your own or rent), hiking, fishing, kayaking, boating, and yard games. Or you might want to just relax in your lawn chair! Enjoy fellowship while enjoying the lake view.

Several church members will bring their kayaks if you are interested in giving it a try.

The pavilion is handicap accessible and near restrooms. It is rented for the entire day. Bring your own picnic dinner and drinks and we will plan to eat together at 5:00 P.M. Optional: bring a dessert or snacks to share.

New Schedule
Beginning September 10

9:45 Sunday School
11:00 Worship



Who, Me? Yes, You!

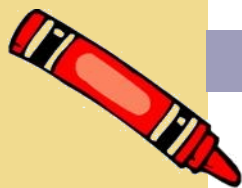
The Bible is filled with people who don't feel up to the challenge of serving God, speaking for God or leading his people. But God always knows what he's doing. Pastor Haviland Houston issues this challenge: "When you are hesitant to act, or feel a failure of nerve coming on, when courage lags, or even if laziness and the 'I don't care' blues get you down, may the words of Mordecai to Esther burn in your hearts and minds: 'And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'" (See Esther 4:14.)

Max Lucado offers a similar reminder in *You Were Made for This Moment*. "God always has his person," he writes,

also citing the book of Esther. "When we feel as though everything is falling apart, God is working in our midst, causing everything to fall into place. He is the King of quiet providence, and he invites you and me to partner with him in his work."

Lucado continues: "[God] has a Joseph for every famine and a David for every Goliath. When his people need rescuing, God calls a Rahab into service. When a baby Moses needs a mama, God prompts an Egyptian princess to have compassion. He always has his person. He had someone in the story of Esther. And in your story he has you."

*The fruit of the Spirit
comes when we are
centered on Jesus ...*



Fruit of the Spirit

by Pastor Bobby

It has been enjoyable preparing for our Fruit of the Spirit sermons. I do not usually write sermons that are more topical, so the preparation has been totally different! Plus, as I've studied each one, it makes me think, *ergh...I am not very patient...* among other things. But the good news is that God can change us to be more like Jesus!

If you want more resources on this topic, I suggest Christopher Wright's [Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit](#). It breaks down each fruit, is packed with Scripture, and Wright does an excellent job centering on God's work, and not making these into legalism.

We can often take qualities and turn those into markers to say, "because I am patient, God is pleased with me," but what Paul offers us in [Galatians 5:22-23](#) is something better. The fruit of the Spirit comes when we are centered on Jesus. Through that reality, we walk and live by and through the Holy Spirit.

That is far more freeing for us than lists of rules. That doesn't make rules bad, but it means we have a better focus - Jesus - rather than turning our faith into a checklist.

Lifting Our Children in Prayer

by Jennifer Griffith, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Praying for our kids is one of the most important things we can do for them, especially during seasons of transition like back-to-school time. So mark off time on your calendar or to-do list this week, and spend at least 5 minutes a day praying these 10 scriptures over them. Whether or not you are a parent or grandparent with kids in your house going back to school, you can still join in with your church family to pray for the kids in our community.

1. Ephesians 4:32 – Ask God to help them be kind.
2. Joshua 1:9 – Praise God for always being with them.
3. Proverbs 10:9 – Ask God to help them walk in integrity this year.
4. Psalm 56:3 – Ask God to help them put their trust in Him.
5. Philippians 4:6-7 – Ask God to help them not worry.

6. Luke 2:52 – Ask God to help them grow this year.
7. Proverbs 17:17 – Pray for their friends.
8. Colossians 3:23 – Ask God to help them work hard.
9. James 1:5 – Ask God to give them wisdom.
10. Philippians 4:12 – Pray for their contentment in all circumstances.

(Source: *DeeperKidMin*)

Speaking of prayer... families of kids, please be sure to get a Back-to-School Color Prayer Journal. This activity will help them start the school year with prayer, matching each color with a scripture verse and specific prayer prompt. There are resources for both kids and parents to start the school year with intentional prayer!

Register Kids for Sunday School

Like VBS, we have an online registration form for all kids who attend Sunday School. Whether your kids come every week, or once a month, or even once a year, please register so we have accurate information for them. There is a volunteer section as well, so if you are interested in helping this year, please fill it out.



Protect Yourself! Self-Defense Class Offered September 30

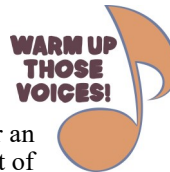
Do you know what you'd do in an uncomfortable or even dangerous situation? Westfield Deacons are hosting a comprehensive 2-hour self-defense class for anyone age 9 and older.



Learn the ABCs of self-defense: awareness, boundaries, and combat techniques. Designed for beginners, you'll learn how to increase your situational awareness, identify threats, establish boundaries, de-escalate encounters, and protect yourself and your family.

Mike Demko of Demko Family Martial Arts & Fitness in New Castle is highly experience and very personable! Coach Mike regularly teaches locally and across the county. The \$5.00 registration fee is well worth the investment. Invite a friend to join you and register now. Space is limited:

Chancel Choir News by Garrett Ruffin, Music Team Leader



I am excited about what God has planned this season. We continue our theme from Psalm 150: "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord," and what better way than to join the choir! Come, lift your voice and sing as we collaborate with the praise band, guest soloists, and our friends from Edelweiss!

If you are looking for an opportunity to get out of the house or enjoy good laughs and fellowship with your church family, please join us as we praise and glorify our God through traditional and contemporary songs alike. We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 P.M.

Instruments of Connection

Following Jesus involves much more than attending worship, as Pastor Stan Purdum points out in a sermon titled "The Hug": "The spiritual life, in addition to some outwardly religious and inwardly devotional acts, also includes such mundane activities as sending thank-you notes for gifts received, returning phone calls, greeting fellow worshipers Sunday after Sunday, surprising our spouse with a

spontaneous act of appreciation, helping out at funeral dinners, seeking common ground during disagreements, listening to our children, working at not being a grouch, visiting friends and relatives and, perhaps, even sending an electronic hug. All those things are instruments of connection. The spiritual aspect is the intentionality behind them."



Margie Benson
at Carriage Manor

Janet Davis
at Avalon

Bonnie Ernst
at Masternick Memorial

Ann Fox
at her residence

Bob Kenny
at his residence

Hazel Pence
at Quality of Life—New Castle

Mary Lou Trotter
at her residence

A Great Day to Learn Something New

Join us on Promotion Sunday, September 10, at 9:45 A.M. in Fellowship Hall as we LAUNCH into a new Sunday School year. Whether your kids are moving up to a new class or not, you are welcome to join us in our Promotion Sunday celebration.





A delicious lunch at JOY when we celebrated Joke Day, compliments of Lorraine Book.

Look closely. Do you get the joke?

Our JOY- Filled Calendar

by Jessie Yauch, Director of Senior Adult Ministries

*I will instruct you and teach you
in the way you should go;
I will counsel you
with my loving eye on you.
Psalm 32:8*

The last two months at JOY, we have changed some of our conversations at WOW time from so many stories that have caused tears to more stories of seeing what good has come in circumstances that were stressful. We had a day with noodles of fun, with lots of laughter, and a day of somber sorrow for the loss of our very own and loved Pearl Jolley.

September is a month that is about reading books to learn new things, so why not pick up your Bible and learn something new? Learn to appreciate the words that

our Father has for us and let your heart take in all the love and understanding that is hidden in every word. You may find that God is telling you to be still or he might be saying get up and move.

On our JOY calendar, we have a day to celebrate chocolate milkshakes, a day to show gratitude and more fun activities to be announced.

We are a group that has discussions and helps each other in prayer and friendship. We lift up each other when needed and celebrate the things in our lives that need celebrating. Come join us on Thursdays, exercise at 11 A.M. and lunch at noon followed by fellowship and activities.

Food and Fellowship

by Lorraine Book

The free community meal starts up again on the last Wednesday of the month, September 27. We have a lot of people who truly enjoy coming to the meal and enjoy this time of fellowship.

Our volunteers also enjoy this time of getting to know each other better as we work together. If you would like to be part of this mission by delivering meals to the homebound at 4:30, setting up tables and chairs and setting tables on the morning of the meal at 9:00 A.M., serving food or clearing tables from 4:45-6:30 P.M., or cleaning up from 6:20-7:00 P.M., please contact me to sign up and join the team. jfbbook@verizon.net or 724.944.6982.



GraceFit Yoga Returns

Christian yoga classes taught by Janette Marnik return to Westfield this fall. A 6-week session begins September 19 and continues every Tuesday from 6:00-7:00 P.M. Register now for this time of worship, praise, and connection to Christ. Registration fee is \$48 and due by the first class. Please scan the code at right to register or contact the church office at 724.667.7045



Fall Festival Features Family Activities and Pie Eating Contest!

by Beth Clark

Westfield's Community & Hospitality Team is planning a Fall Festival, Pie Eating Contest, and Social at Westfield on Saturday, October 14, from 4-7 P.M.

We will have games & crafts for adults & kids starting at 4:00 P.M. Supper will be at 5:00 P.M. with the pie auction & eating contest to follow.

Bids for pies start at \$10.00. Advance registration for the pie eating contest is

required. To register, call/text Barb Cody 412.576.8715, Beth Clark 724-651-2102, sign up in the back of the church or scan the code here.

Please mark your calendar and plan to come and enjoy fun, fellowship and food. More information will follow and we will be reaching out to our church family for possible pie donations and a list of needed craft supplies.



Blessed With Work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, “No, dear, that’s okay. I’m blessed with work.”

Here’s a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie’s plot, I’ve always remembered

Marty’s words. But I don’t think I’ve ever claimed to be “blessed with work.” By contrast, I often sigh as I’m dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, “To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God.” In what ways are you “blessed with work”?

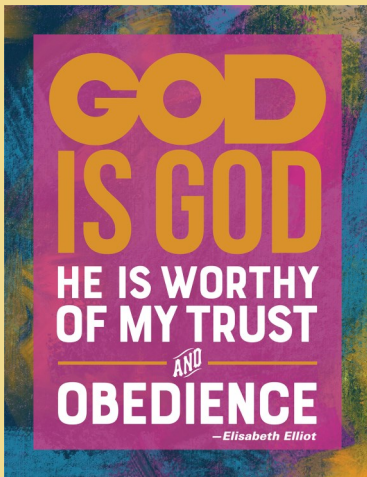
—Janna Firestone

*Father, we thank for the work to which you have called us—
at home and beyond. May we glorify you in all we do.*

Coffee and More



Looking for ways to serve but already have a busy schedule? Please prayerfully consider signing up to host coffee and conversation. It is a great time of fellowship and such a welcoming ministry for visitors and new members. Hosting just once a year is a huge blessing. Please text or call Barb Cody at 412-576-8715. Also, there is a sign-up board in the back of the church. Thank you to all past, present and future hosts!!!



When Home Cooking Isn't Possible

Some options for you and your family

The Westfield Deacons' **Make a Meal—Share a Meal** ministry is designed to help new mothers and those members experiencing a time of crisis, just home from the hospital, or those suffering from illness, injury or trauma. Volunteers are contacted to make and deliver a meal to those in need. Meals can be requested by calling the church office at 724.667.7045 or Lorraine Book at 724.944.6982.

Individuals and families may also want to take advantage of the **UPMC Jameson Take-Out Meal Program**. Nine varieties of frozen meals are available 7 days a week for \$3.60 each, including baked chicken, stuffed peppers, baked ham, baked cod, and mac and cheese. You pick up the meals in the Nutritional Services Department (near the cafeteria) and check out in the cafeteria with cash or credit card. Hours are 8-5 Monday through Friday and 8-3 on weekends. More information is available by calling the hospital at 724-656-4059.

Another option is **Simplified Meals by Ginger**, located in Slippery Rock. Ginger is Anne & Tom Kephart's daughter. There are dozens of fresh, healthy choices, including gluten-free options. Value meals start at less than \$7.00. Prepackaged in containers that can be stored frozen and reheated in the microwave at your convenience. The best part? Arrangements can be made with Anne Kephart to pick up an order for you.

Please contact Anne at 724-510-1770 to work out specifics first, then place your order at simplifiedmealsbyginger.com or 724.372.2892, option 1.



The Gift of Empathy

by Lorraine Book, Stephen Leader

Are you concerned about the anger and discontent that seems so pervasive around us these days? We can be part of the solution. People long to be heard and understood and lash out in anger when they feel as if no one understands their problems.

Did you know that you can learn how to listen with empathy and make a person feel valued and cared for even if you don't agree with them?

If you would like to learn how to relate to others with empathy please join the

Stephen ministers as we study *The Gift of Empathy: Helping Other's Feel Valued, Cared For and Understood*.

Mark you Calendar for 7:00-8:00 P.M. on September 14, 28, October 12, 26, and November 9.

Please text me by September 3 to sign up and/or if you want a copy of the book for \$15. Or, just come and listen to the conversation if you don't want to read the book. My number is 724-944-6982.

The Cornerstone is a monthly publication of Westfield Presbyterian Church. We are a congregation of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.

From Sept. 10, 2023 to May 26, 2024 we worship together every Sunday at 11:00 A.M. We welcome all members, friends, and visitors to join us.

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Jessie Yauch
Director of Senior Adult Ministries

Heather Brenner
Lee Ann Martin
Financial Secretaries

Dave Micco
Custodian

Food Assistance

On your next shopping trip, considering adding an item or two that will help with food assistance. **The Blessing Box** at MoCo House helps the Bessemer community by providing items like single-serving pudding and fruit cups, easy mac-n-cheese, easy-open cans of SpaghettiOs and soups, granola, and other healthier snacks. Items for the **Project HOPE Food Pantry** for the Mohawk Area this month are hygiene products (toothpaste, soap, deodorant, shampoo). Items may be placed in the labeled bins at Westfield.



Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 William M. Byers
Karen Renner | 16 Mason Guido
Landon Kenny
Joelene Bingham | 24 Cannon Gable
Rich Patton
Austyn Trotter |
| 3 Bella Gable | 17 Frank Hogue | 25 Monas Cunningham
Tyler White |
| 6 Shirley Miles | 18 Andi Liggett | 26 Thomas Kephart
Debby McClain
Hazel Pence |
| 8 Andrew Stambul | 19 Kelly Eichenlaub
Jim Leslie
Amy Vastano | 27 Karen Matsukas |
| 9 Chris McEwen | 20 Scott Deal
Blake Logan
Mary Lou McCurley | 28 Katherine Harman |
| 10 Carol Foster | 21 Abygail Bekoski
Mason McKinley | 30 Drew Brenner |
| 11 Nora Kenny | | |
| 12 Abreanna Thompson
Victoria Thompson | | |
| 13 Gabriel Osman | | |

Anniversaries



- 1 Debbie & Dave Liggett
- 4 Brenda & Erik Stewart
Jennifer & Mark Thompson
- 6 Mickayla & Griffin Waldhauser
- 8 Phyllis & David McCullough
Brittany & Anthony Sullivan
- 11 Braunda & Dave Allegro
- 14 Raesha & Quintin Elser
Trudy & Robert McEwen
- 17 Jen & Darin Ernst
- 20 Debbie & Brad White
- 21 Kelsey & Chris Quinn
- 23 Megan & Cam McConahy
- 25 Shel & Dan McClain
- 28 Lori & Jim Scott