

MARCH 2023

The CORNERSTONE

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Stellar VBS 2023!



~ Volunteer ~
~ Register Your Child ~
[Click Here](#)

A publication of Westfield Presbyterian Church, New Castle, Pennsylvania

Scholarships Available! Enjoy a Christian Camping Experience

The camps in western Pennsylvania are excellent and we are blessed to have relationships with three: Seneca Hills, Camp Lambec, and Camp Crestfield. All are within easy driving distance and offer spectacular youth summer camps as well as family camps and adult seminars.

Seneca Hills

For over 85 years Seneca Hills has continued its mission of leading people, especially youth, to a vital personal relationship with, and a life of dedicated service to Jesus Christ. The 2023 camping season includes high quality, Bible-based opportunities ranging from *Camp With Me* for ages 5-8 to *The Edge Wilderness Camps* for ages 9-18. Activities include paintball, archery, swimming, crafts, hiking, basketball and much, much more. Family Camp during memorial Day and Labor Day weekends offer a chance to spend time together as a family building relationships and growing in faith away from the daily distractions. Register and learn more at senecahills.org.

Camp Lambec

Offering a week of summer fun along the beach of Lake Erie, camping sessions for grades 3-6 and 7-12 include Bible study, worship and music. Unique to Lambec is Music Camp, offered for grade 4—college freshmen. Each year over 100 campers join in learning and playing music together while hearing the Gospel and enjoying fellowship. A favorite of many Westfield families is Lambec's Family Camp, offered in 3 different summer sessions. Enjoy walks, swimming, boating, fishing, crafts, archery, sports, and theme nights.

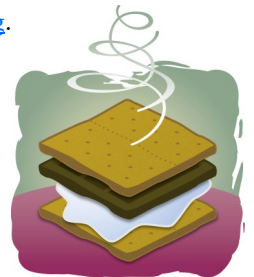


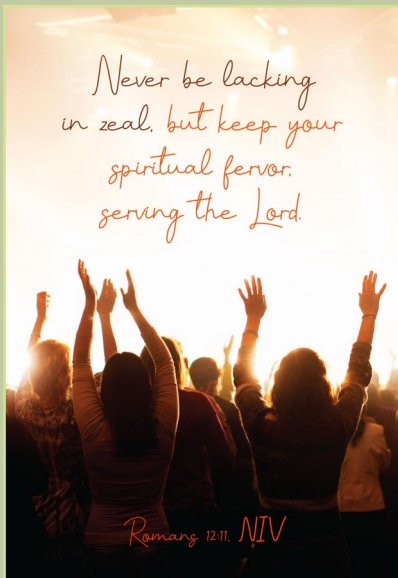
Bible study and good conversations about faith and life are experienced in a variety of settings throughout the week. Learn more and register at camplambec.com.

Camp Crestfield

Offering summer camps and retreats for youth and adults, Crestfield is located on 226 acres along Slippery Rock Creek in Slippery Rock, PA. Summer campers can enjoy a climbing wall, both high ropes and low ropes courses, canoeing swimming, swamp ball, creek hiking, ice cream making, frisbee golf and much more. Learn more and register at crestfield.org.

Westfield offers a 50% scholarship for our campers. Before registering, please contact Jennifer Griffith or the church office to get s'more information!





Ministry Teams

Thank you to all who have responded to the Ministry Team surveys! We have recorded your responses and are working on incorporating those who wish to be involved in various ways at Westfield.

If you haven't already done so, we'd love to hear from you as to how you would like to get involved at Westfield. The responses will help us plan new activities as well as keep up with what is already working well at Westfield.

We'd love to hear from our youth and some of our newer members, so if you are reading this online and have a few minutes, please fill out the survey via the link provided below. There are also paper forms found by the showcase in the back of the church. Just drop your completed survey in the box provided.

It takes all of us to get involved in some way to keep Westfield growing and moving along in the right direction.

[**Complete the Survey**](#)

Let's Take the Opportunity

by Pastor Bobby

Proverbs 29:18 says *without vision, people perish*. I think that is a good axiom for churches. We need to heed the call of Jesus to make disciples and go from our own Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria and throughout the world. That means, we dig in and serve. We use the resources at our disposal to demonstrate and proclaim the love of Jesus to others.

As we think about the state of churches in the U.S. right now, there are two alarming issues. The first is that Christianity is in decline in the U.S. A 2022 Pew survey found that 64% of Americans claim to be Christian, down from 90% fifty years ago, and the survey projects that less than 50% of Americans will claim Christianity by 2070. The second issue comes from the State of Theology survey that is conducted each year. In it, we see that Bible reading is down, belief that Jesus is truly God is down, belief in what we call Apostles' Creed level teachings is down. This decline in core beliefs is not outside the Church, but by professing Christians of all stripes, including Evangelicals.

Some might look at these twin realities and want to be a fortress. Others might see this as a chance to engage in culture wars or look to politics as a solution. These ideas are also gaining traction in our country. To me, it seems the better way is to actually remember why we exist—we are called to make disciples of Jesus, worship God, and dwell in

community. If that is the case, then what can we do?

I look at Westfield and see that we have tremendous opportunities if only we take them. We have worship, learning opportunities throughout the week, fellowship opportunities, and even service opportunities. Of course, we have to contend with sports and other events. Those require us to make choices and decisions. We also know that, as a congregation, we have tremendous financial blessings we have been given. As we look to the future, we may need to ask how we can use those resources to help our community find and know Jesus. We might need to look at opportunities to use our space, or future space, to have events

“We need to heed the call of Jesus to make disciples ... to dig in and serve.”

that draw people to us that might not necessarily be connected to worship (yet). We might need to rethink and reimagine programs we have to see how we attract more kids to us. But we also might have to wrestle even more with that one word command Jesus said to his disciples: “go.”



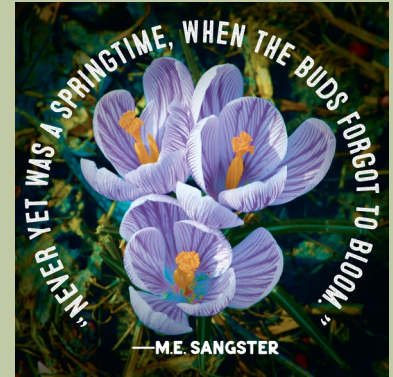
Order Easter Flowers

This year we are offering four choices of Easter flowers for purchase, each in a 6-inch pot. Easter white lilies are \$9.00, sunny yellow daffodils are \$7.00.



Various colors of tulips and hyacinths (no color choice) are also \$7.00 each. Each plant will be used to decorate the church for Easter services and may be picked up following the 11:00 A.M. service on Easter Sunday. You may order as many plants as you wish and you may designate them in memory of or in honor of a friend or loved one.

We must have all orders and money by Sunday, March 19. Make checks payable to Westfield and indicate "flowers" on the memo line. Forms from the bulletin and money may be placed in the offering plate or the church office. You may also contact the church office at 724.667.7045 to place an order.



YO! What's Up?

by Jennifer Griffith

Bobby and I have continued to enjoy the teens in this time of transition between youth ministry directors. The kids are great, and we want to make sure they know that they are valued here at Westfield. That is also the main takeaway in each lesson we have been teaching on Thursday nights. We have been hearing about several examples of the way Jesus loved people in unexpected ways. In every way, Jesus' life exemplifies the full potential of what we were intended to be. And the better we know Him, the more we will be drawn to follow His perfect example. Before we dismiss, or move on to games or even prayer, we always remind them that Jesus loves them.

If you also would like to join in and love on these kids, there are many (easy) ways you can be involved. On Wednesdays,

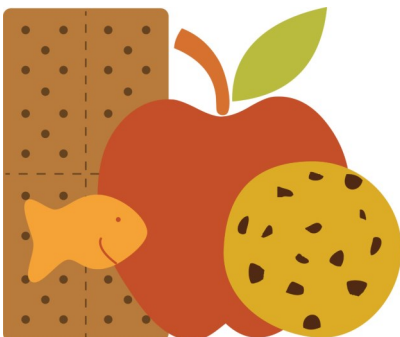
we pick kids up at school and take them to MoCo. Most of the time, they like to hang out with their friends, and do homework, but I enjoy talking and playing games with them. We'd love to have more people. On Thursday nights, we gladly accept snacks, more youth, and adults to lead and/or join for games and activities. (This past week, Jared led us in an egg drop competition. All eggs survived!) So spread the word and bring your friends!



Pastor Bobby and his pizza creations for the YO! Super Bowl party

Musical Munchies!

Mohawk Elementary will be presenting the musical version of *James and the Giant Peach* on March 31- April 1. Many of our Westfield Family students will be participating and we are excited to be able to support them along with the rest of the cast and crew! We will be collecting small water bottles and snacks in order to provide each student with a treat bag on opening night. Watch for a complete list of snacks needed on the poster that will be on display beginning March 5. Thank you in advance for your support! You're just peachy!





HOPE Food Pantry Needs

This month:
pasta, sauce, rice,
macaroni & cheese

Always needed:
coffee
dish soap
laundry soap
cereal
juice

Please leave your items in the coat rack area. Check expiration dates—outdated items cannot be delivered! Monetary donations are also helpful. Make your check payable to “Westfield” and indicate “HOPE Food Bank” on the memo line.

Finding Yourself in God’s Eyes

by Jessie Yauch, Director of Senior Adult Ministries

When I was a child my brothers and I were instructed to “give something up” for Lent. I always decided to give up Pepsi. My brothers followed suit with similar sacrifices. “Giving up” these things became tradition and little to no thought was given as to why we were making this sacrifice, and certainly no consideration was given as to adding something that would make my siblings and I better Christians. So give up that small vice or guilty pleasure, but also read a daily devotional, visit someone who is alone, mentor a young person, volunteer, give to those in need and don’t forget to pray. *I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready.* (1 Corinthians 3:2)

With the start of Lent, one of our activities at JOY will be a self-reflection journal and meditation in prayer concerning the things we can do to better ourselves as Christians. Although this is something we will do at our own time throughout the days, I hope and pray that this exercise will help us see where we may be falling short; for example, holding anger, being

judgmental, not being true with ourselves, or anything that could bring chaos or fears. Or we may find that we still have more to give for the Glory of God. Either way I am excited to see how the Father guides us to a more faithful path and what more God has planned. This is an exercise everyone can do. Talk with God and write down what comes to heart. You will see so many blessings that you didn’t realize were blessings.

In Mark 8:29 Jesus asks, “*Who do you say I am?*” With no hesitation Peter replies, “*You are the Christ.*” I would like to start the first week of our journey by asking the Lord, “Who do YOU say I am?” We will end our Lent Self-Reflection journey with the statement, “Jesus knows me, this I love.”

JOY is every Thursday, exercise at 11 A.M., lunch at noon followed by activities and fellowship. All 50+ are welcome.



March activities/ Themes: Popcorn Day, Wear Green and Tell Riddles, Plant Seedlings, Game Play

Lighthearted Blessings

- May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
- May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
- As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
- May you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you’re dead!
- May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.
- May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.

Christian Symbol

SHAMROCK — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, “Is this one leaf, or three?” Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.



Sharing Lent With Your Family

by Jennifer Griffith, Director of Children’s Ministries

As you know, Lent began this past week. Hopefully you received a copy of the Lent Family Devotional Cards. If not, it’s not too late. Just choose two nights a week throughout the season to gather around the dinner table and talk about Jesus. I also recently mentioned that there are several Lent-related programs to watch on Right Now Media, for example: “5 Minute Family Devotional – Easter Week.” If you have never used this resource, or forget how to access it, go to our church website: www.westfieldchurch.org and under the resource tab, you will see a link to take you to Right Now Media.

For parents/grandparents/all adults, there are a million ideas for Lent, and sometimes that is overwhelming. I have compiled a list of 40 Days of Prayer (a different topic each day) for myself and if you’re interested, I can share that with you.

Family Easter Event & Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 1, 10 am – noon. Please spread the word, bring your friends and neighbors! Look out for reminders and announcements in the weekly bulletin of how you can participate, and donations that will be needed.

For a quick Sunday School update, during the month of February, the kids learned about several “Warnings to the People” found in the Old Testament. We finished the month with a lesson from Matthew 3, “We are to Repent of Sin.” Our key passage was a good reminder, especially in this time of Lent. Acts 3:19 says, “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.” During the month of March, our lessons will be focused on the beautiful answer to the question, “What makes people special?” People are special because God made us in His own image. May you trust and believe that about yourself and those around you.



**We're
HIRING**

**DIRECTOR OF
YOUTH
MINISTRY**

Are you ...

- Passionate about Jesus, students & relationships?
- Interested in part-time (20-25 hrs) per week?

Please send your resume & cover letter to personnel.westfield@gmail.com

Everyone Loves a Church Cookbook!

It has been 20 years since our last Westfield Cookbook! Plans are getting underway to create a new version this year. If you would like to help get this organized, please contact Phyllis McCullough @ 724-651-6285 or psumudder@yahoo.com by March 15. In the meantime, be thinking of some special recipes that you might like to include in this next edition.





Q & A Session is March 26

Bring your questions for our building project

On March 26, we will have one service at 11 A.M. After worship, there is a Question and Answer time for you to ask questions concerning Foundations of Hope and the building project you approved in 2017.

We will do our best to answer your questions at the meeting. We would appreciate receiving questions ahead of time so that we can provide the most complete and detailed answer possible. Also, we recognize not everyone can make it, or that it might feel awkward to ask a question in a large group. There are several ways to

submit your questions by the deadline, 5 P.M. on March 23. Fill out the form that will be in the bulletin on March 12 and 19 and drop it in the offering. Complete the online form found on our website at www.westfieldchurch.org or click [HERE](#). Finally, you may contact the church office at 724.667.7045.

The following Sunday, April 2, Bobby and Marcia Votaw, and at least one more elder, will stay in the sanctuary following the 11 A.M. service if you have any follow up questions to ask.

Presbytery Spring Gathering

Our Presbytery, Rivers of Life, will have it's spring meeting on Saturday, March 25, at Tower Presbyterian Church, 248 S. Broad Street, Grove City. This is a great time for worship and celebration with a little business tossed in. We will hear from Hollis Haff, pastor, author and former Chaplain for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Registration information is available through the church office by calling 724.667.7045 or emailing Maribeth at office@westfieldchurch.org.

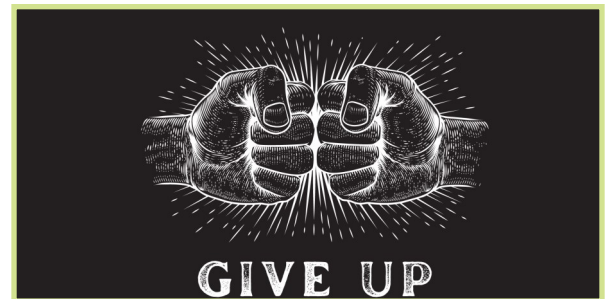


Featured Speaker Hollis Haff



Lenten Sermon Series

- March 5: GIVE UP Unbelief
- March 12: GIVE UP Authority
- March 19: GIVE UP Riches
- March 26: GIVE UP Family



Our Special Friends

- Margie Benson at Carriage Manor
- Russ Bryan & Hazel Pence at Quality of Life-New Castle
- Janet Davis at her residence
- Pearl Jolley at her residence
- Mary Lou Trotter at her residence



The Cornerstone is a monthly publication of Westfield Presbyterian Church. We are a congregation of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. We worship together every Sunday at 8:30 & 11:00 A.M. We welcome all members, friends, and visitors to join us.

Editor & Office Secretary:
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Church Staff:
Rev. Bobby Griffith, Jr.
Senior Pastor

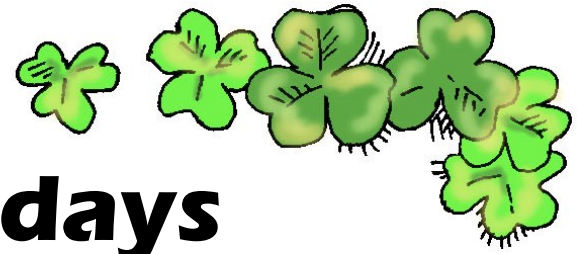
Garrett Ruffin
Music Team Leader

Jennifer Griffith
Director of Children & Family Ministries

Jessie Yauch
Director of Senior Adult Ministries

Heather Brenner & Lee Ann Martin
Financial Secretaries

Dave Micco
Custodian



March Birthdays

3	Gracynn Guido	18	Bob Trotter
4	Joseph Downs Alan McBride		Kevin Byers
5	Daryl Musser		Avery Young
6	Andy Shillingburg	20	Sabrina McClain
7	Asher Scott Addison Stivers	22	Brenda Stewart
8	Hannah McKinley Blakely Thomas	23	Wesley Cunningham
9	Samuel Ealy Kathleen Gerhardt	24	Allison Musser
10	Mallex Ciavarino Susan Schweikert	25	Eunice Randolph
11	Lynn Lytle Kelsey Quinn	26	Peggy Clark
15	Parker Lyons	27	Rhonda Breuer
16	Douglas Harman		Madison Shaffer
17	Zoe Ciavarino David McBride	28	Lorraine Book Amy Gable Clayton Kenny
		29	Ken Lytle Clifford Wallace
		30	Nicola Ciavarino
		31	David Schmolly Abby Scott

March Anniversaries

- 2 Denise & Gary Murphy
13 Vanessa & Vish Pasumarthy
15 Pastor Bobby & Jennifer Griffith
16 Delta & Wes Stoner

