



The Higher Ground Herald

West Newton United Presbyterian Church
300 Third and E. Main Streets
West Newton, PA 15089
wnupc1@gmail.com
724-872-7414



March 2026

Worship Schedule

March 1
COMMUNION
“I am the Light”
John 9:1-5

March 8
“THE I AM”
John 10:7-18

March 15
“Martha’s Faith”
John 11:17-27

March 22
“Mary’s Devotion”
John 12:1-8

March 29
PALM SUNDAY
“The Entry”
John 12:1-8

Grace and Peace to you!

We’ve seen a couple of ‘Snowmageddon’ threats in the past couple of months. One of which was real, another didn’t pan out. Snow comes and snow goes, but the Lord remains in charge - and that’s good news for us!

Our Session has been deputized to set the stage for the next steps in the life of our congregation. We are working on several issues that relate to moving ahead. Right now, our heaviest lifting is in trying to identify our priorities. From where I sit, there are a few that are hot button issues that need to be prioritized, each of which requires serious commitment on the part of our little family.

Our physical plant has been well maintained thanks to a lot of work by some of our talented members. The challenge is that our building isn’t as new as it once was, and both our heating plant and our air conditioning system will require some TLC in order to continue operating in a way that we can safely serve Christ on our little corner of the world. Our hope is to keep ahead of things with some programmed maintenance. It’s ongoing, but we have to stay on top of things.

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Another issue has to do with the organ. We have been looking into what is needed in order to bring it back into service, and are working to get a handle on the cost of making that happen. We'll get back to you as soon as we have good information. Our desire is to move ahead. Some of the groundwork has already been laid, but we need a little clarity about what comes next.

A third challenge is related to leadership of the church. Melinda and I have been having a great time being part of the West Newton family. However, at some point the congregation will benefit by having a leader who is a bit younger with fresher ideas on ministry. The challenge in leadership is determining what kind of pastor will suit our church, and then we have to answer how we can be supportive of that pastor.

We already have enthusiasm for ministry in the community - it shows every month when we are host the food bank. We offer ministry for women in our great Presbyterian Women's group, and we offer encouragement to the guys through prayer and nourishment at our monthly men's breakfast. We are also developing a ministry to 'little ones' through a 'Mom's and Kids' program that is getting underway. (BTW - Dads are welcome too!). Do we have all the answers? Not really, but we work for the one who does, and our job is to remain faithful. Sooo—Let's Go Team!



The Westmoreland County Food Bank holds a food pantry at our church the second Friday of the month. The next Food Pantry will be held on March 13th.

Our Session

Clerk of Session: Kris Edwards

Class of 2026

Class of 2027

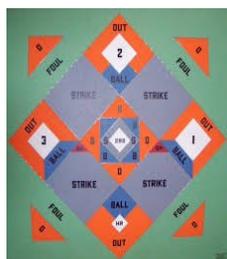
Class of 2028

Gail Burkett
Brian Ritchie
Chuck Yelich

Linda Detman
Jim Santory
Rich Sahar

Dave Craig
Rob Bojarski

Please support our session with your prayers.



Dartball has resumed it's season. Please see Kris Edwards if you are interested in participating.



Please help fill our Blessing Boxes. You can leave donated items in the boxes near the doors or directly in the boxes if there is room. Thank You!



Presbyterian Women

Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community

WNPW CT (Coordinating Team) will meet on **Tuesday, March 3** at 10:00 in the social room.

The PW United Circle will meet on **Wednesday, March 18** at noon in the social room. Bring a sandwich for lunch. March birthdays will be celebrated. Lesson 11 of the Bible Study, "**Women of the Bible**" will be presented by Terri Day. Hostesses are Carolee Ackinclose and Judy Oblack. All are welcome to attend.

PW Sewing will meet on **Wed. March 25** from 9:00 a.m. to noon, in the McKee room, to prepare items for local missions. No skill is needed to participate in the sewing group, so please join us for the fellowship.



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**

Maundy Thursday Agape Meal will be **Thursday, April 2 at 6:30** in the social room. Reservation slips will be available at the church to reserve your place or call the church office. **Deadline for reservations is March 29.**

The traditional beef stew will be served. Pastor Chuck will be conducting the communion service after the meal. Your help is needed to prepare for this dinner. Come at 9:00 a.m. Thursday to help set-up the dining room and prepare the food. We will be done by noon. **And we also need volunteers to stay after the communion service to help clean up the kitchen.** Questions, see Linda Blick.

Apple Dumplings – Save the date. **Wednesday, April 29.**



Fellowship Dinner

The next Fellowship Dinner will be
Thursday, March 12th at 6 pm at
Carson's Tavern.
10 South Broadway
Scottsdale, PA 15683



Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will meet at Gary's on
March 21st at 9 am. See Chuck Yelich for
more information.



If you are unable to join us in
person and wish to receive communion at
home please contact the church
office at 724-872-7414 or
wnupc1@gmail.com to make
arrangements.



The new sign up sheet for chancel flowers
is up. The cost of flowers is \$50. Please
make your payment for flowers in
advance.



There are two ways that this is available.

1. Go to the Church's Facebook page and click on the link for online giving. The link looks like this:

<http://tithe.ly/give?c=573204>

2. Go to your app store and download the Tithe.ly app install it on your mobile device.



The Easter Bell Choir will rehearse on Wednesday, March 4th at 6:00 pm.



The March Mission is One Great Hour of Sharing. Fish banks are in the sanctuary if you would like to pick one up. There are also envelopes in the pews. Please clearly label your donations as March Mission.



Donald O'Bryan	1st
Aleya McMinn	3rd
Craig Haley	3rd
Dennis Koget	8th
Patty Chapman	9th
Dave Davis	9th
Victoria Strickler	10th
Rick Craft	13th
Joyce Martini	15th
Tracy Brown	16th
Jacob Lowanse	16th
Rob Bojarski	19th
Cheryl Barozzie	20th
Jillian Puskar	21st
Betty Salvatore	21st
Chloe Fisher	27th
Nathan Haley	27th
Ashlyn Hoak	27th
Karen Peto	29th

Bob & Elly Bojarski	4th
Tony & Susan Catullo	6th
Jen & Art Hoak	8th

We would love to announce
and celebrate your birthday
and wedding anniversary.
Please let us know when it is...

**Session Minutes
February 15, 2026**

Opened with a Scripture Reading, from Psalm 73, followed by Prayer by Rev. Chuck MacPherson

Moderator :Rev. Chuck MacPherson

Present: Linda Detman, Brian Ritchie, Chuck Yelich, Dave Craig, Rob Bojarski, Gail Burkett

Absent: Jim Santory, Rich Sahar

Clerk's Report: Motion to accept December's Minutes, 2nd, carried

Statistics: 0 Weddings, 0 Baptism, 1 Death-Anne Hustwit, Rolls 205

Communion: 42 people were served Communion on January 11th, 37 were served February 1st.

Worship and Sacraments - Next Communion will be March 1st, Ash Wednesday Service will be February 18th. Maundy Thursday—April 2nd.

Membership and Outreach— Coffee Hour—March 8th.

Budget— Report given by Linda, a profit of \$2,645.81 was reported for the month of December, followed by a loss of \$1,611.48 for January, mainly due to canceling Service on the 25th, \$275.60 was given toward One Great Hour of Sharing.

Christian Ed—A coffee and lesson after church service.

Building and Grounds— Discussion on A/C, boilers, organ, spigot fixed in bathroom, a railing was put up in the hallway, look into putting up directional signs.

Technology— ipad broke, about \$120 to repair. Motion was approved to have Brian look into finding a person or company about fixing the organ. 2nd, approved.

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Session Minutes (continued)
February 15, 2026

Opened with a Scripture Reading, from Psalm 73, followed by Prayer by Rev. Chuck MacPherson

Pastor's Report— Transition team needs to be organized, along with a Mission Statement, and possibly a survey given to Congregation to start process of finding a new Pastor.

Old Business: None

New Business: Motion to let West Newton Presbyterian Women host the Redstone Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering November 7th. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. 2nd, carried. Motion for session to meet every month, at least for the next 6 months, 2nd carried. Motion to retain Kris Edwards as Clerk of Session, 2nd carried. The Annual Statistical Report for 2025 was submitted. Keep missions the same for 2026.

Motion to adjourn by Dave, 2nd by Rob, carried, followed by prayer.

Next Meeting—March 22nd.

Announcements

Please submit any announcements by the **end of the day on Tuesdays each week.** Deadline for updates and notices for the April publication of *The Higher Ground Herald* will be **Thursday, March 26th.**

Contact the church office by phone at 724-872-7414 or email at wnupc1@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:45 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Weekly attendance

February	Adults	Children	Total	Offering
1	32	2	34	\$5,443
8	32	0	32	\$1,610
15	45	0	45	\$3,055
22	36	0	36	\$2,445
4 week total				\$12,553

Contributions

Contributions to the church can be given by check or cash. If you need a year-end statement of your giving, cash contributions must be placed in an envelope with your name.

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE

There are two ways that this is available.

- 1.Go to the Church’s Facebook page and click on the link for online giving. The link looks like this: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=5753204>
- 2.Go to your app store and download the Tithe.ly app and install it on your mobile device.

March 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 9:15 Choir 10 Worship Communion Sunday School	2 7 Dartball Greensburg @ WNUPC	3	4 6:00 Bell Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7 2:00 pm Mommy & Me
8 9:15 Choir 10 Worship Sunday School	9 7 Dartball WNUPC @ Norwin Alliance	10	11	12 6:00 Fellow- ship Dinner at Carsons Tavern	13 10 Food Bank	14
15 9:15 Choir 10 Worship Sunday School	16 7 Dartball Circleville @ WNUPC	17	18 12 PW United Circle	19	20	21 9 Men's Breakfast
22 9:15 Choir 10 Worship Session mtg. Sunday School	23 7 Dartball WNUPC @ West Hempfield	24	25 9 PW Sewing	26	27	28
29 9:15 Choir 10 Worship Sunday School	30 7 Dartball Irwin Methodist @ WNUPC	31				Office Hours 8:45-3 Mon—Thur