

WEST ALEXANDER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Monthly Newsletter-September 2026

Greetings Corner

Devotion: Job chapters 12 & 13

Job has had enough.

His friends have been telling him why they think he is suffering. They believe they understand what God is doing, and they keep offering explanations. But Job knows they don't understand his situation.

Sometimes people are quick to explain why something has happened, even when they don't really know. They may mean well, but their words can add more stress to someone who is already hurting.

Job doesn't want another explanation from his friends. He wants God. He says, "*I desire to speak to the Almighty.*" When we don't understand what God is doing, we don't have to pretend that we do. And we don't have to hide our questions from God.

Job brings his confusion, his anger, his pain, and his questions directly to the Lord. Job is struggling to understand God's silence. And yet there is something beautiful underneath all of this: Job hasn't given up talking to God.

Sometimes we think having faith means never questioning. But Job shows us something different. Faith isn't always having the answers. Sometimes faith is continuing to seek God when we don't have the answers.

And there is another lesson here concerning Job's friends. We don't always need to explain someone's suffering. Sometimes people don't need our answers.

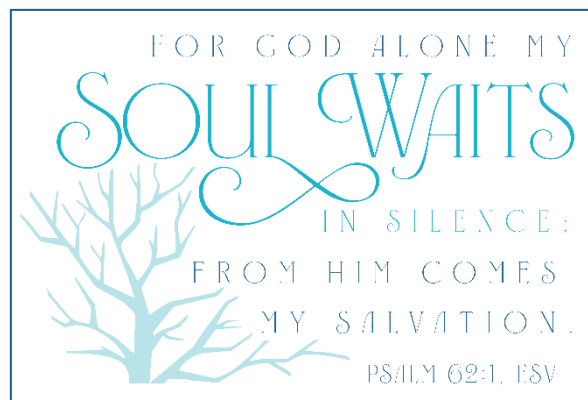
They need our presence.

They need our prayers.

They need someone willing to sit beside them and say, "I don't understand either, but I'm here with you."

God can handle our questions. He can handle our tears. He can even handle our frustration. What He asks us to do is keep coming to Him.

Amen.



Events Corner

September 1	7:30 pm	Session Meeting
September 13	Summer worship hours stop and regular hours resume	
	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 am
September 14	6:30 pm	Trustee Meeting
September	No Deacon Meeting-will resume October 13	

Annual Worship at the West Alexander Fair

Sunday, September 6, 2026
6:00 pm at the Fairground's Show Tent



Come join the community for a faith filled evening of music,
worship and fellowship!

Featuring Kable Dale, Jacob Judy and
Sandy Huffman with live music!

FREE EVENT
FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

Whatever your church affiliation or denomination, it's a great
evening with others and the Lord!

Birthdays and Announcement Corner

September 10	Bobijo McCuen
September 19	Walter Cox
September 21	CeCe Burig
September 27	Betty Davis
September 30	Michal Roup



Missions/Outreach Corner

10% GIVING REPORT FOR 2026:

As a Church, through the Mission/Evangelism Committee, we give 10% of our monthly tithes to various missions. Listed below are the charities we have supported for 2026:



January 2026: Coalition of Christian Outreach (Jubilee) benefiting local college students.

February 2026: McGuffey Community Bible Program (Bible Release).

March 2026: Bryan Brown Fundraiser as assistance for medical expenses.

April 2026: Resurrection Power. Resurrection Power is a Washington County, PA-based non-profit (founded 2001) providing Christian-based recovery housing and support for men and women battling drug and alcohol addiction.

May 2026: Bedillion Pizza; This local business provides free pizza and drinks to children during summer recess when they do not have access to school lunches.

June 2026: Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk, Pastor from Waynesburg for his mission trip to Kenya. He and his family minister at Tenwek Missionary Hospital where his daughter, will be working in surgery teaching surgical residents there. His Son-in-law is an Anglican Priest and will be working with the local churches. This amazing hospital expresses the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every patient admitted. Their hospital motto is "We Treat, Jesus Heals!"

July and August 2026: Andy and Heather Nelson ministries.

A Prayer for



**Share a Smile—
It's Contagious**

Joy and Laughter

*Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the wit to see a joke
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to other folk.
—Anonymous*

Pastor Jim Kirk's trip from Kenya!

A Brief Summary of our 2026 Mission Trip to Bomet, Kenya Travel: Tuesday, June 16th at 7AM to Wednesday, June 17th, at 8:30PM in Nairobi, Kenya We spent two days in Nairobi for grocery shopping and adjusting to local time (7 hours ahead of Eastern time in U.S.) Arrived at Tenwek Mission Hospital on Friday, June 18th, at 3:30PM local time in Bomet, Kenya! Matthew 25: 35-40 says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink . . . I was sick and you looked after me . . . Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." This trip was all about caring for the "least of these brothers and sisters of Christ." My wife, Kathy and I traveled with our daughter, Dr. Katherine Hill, her husband, Father Chris Hill, and their two children, Guy (age 4) and Ruth (age 7). Every day, Katherine worked at the Tenwek Mission Hospital, surgery dept. and did surgeries and some teaching of surgical residents. The Africa Gospel Church of Kenya sponsors Tenwek Mission Hospital as the Gospel of Jesus Christ is given to every patient! "We Treat, Jesus Heals," is their hospital theme and their staffing is made up of both short-term and long-term missionaries. We experienced God's hand at work in many ways during our 5 weeks at Tenwek, with missionaries and their families, patients of Mustard Seed House, the Bomet Womens' Prison ministry, and the Threads of Hope Sewing Ministry. Because of the generosity of the church I am serving, Hewitt Presbyterian Church, the Washington Presbytery Mission Team, and the West Alexander Presbyterian Church, we were able to make donations to these ministries as well as the Compassion Fund at Tenwek Hospital. (this fund helps patients pay for their medical care and treatments). Thank you for all your prayers and donations toward God's work at Tenwek! The hands and feet of Jesus Christ is hard at work in Kenya, Africa through all the doctors, nurses, and staff members at Tenwek Mission Hospital. If anyone would like to support the AGC Tenwek Mission Hospital, there is an organization here that provides support: "Friends of Tenwek," and you can check out their web site at: friendsoftenwek.org. Rev. Dr. James W. Kirk, Pastor Hewitt Presbyterian Church

A message from Rusty for the Ethiopian Mission

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As you know so well, the past two summers we have prayed for the summer evangelism campaign organized by the Aman Bethel and Mizan Bethel congregations in Ethiopia. You might remember last year the team leader was deliberately run into by a truck, crediting prayer support for keeping him safe.

This year the campaign plan came late, only reaching me a day ago. Because of short timing and limited information, I think I'll only turn to three of our congregations for prayer support for the young evangelists going out. Of course you are at the top of that list, since the effort is led by Tesfaye Kezi and the folks at Aman Bethel Church.

Already this Friday, the team of 25 young people (mostly men, but with several women) will be starting their work in Biftu. I think it's too late to get word to the congregation for that part.

But on the 21st and 22nd of August, the team will bring their enthusiastic witness to the gold-field town of Dima. Last year they did not make it to Dima, so this is a big step forward. Dima is a rough place, with people coming from many areas to dig for gold. Safety for the team is a prayer priority.

Then on the 28th and 29th of August, the team will go to the town of Jemu among the Me'enit people, another place they have been longing to go. This will be their first time there.

You gave big financial support last year for this work. I think the cost is completely covered for this year, with Washington Presbytery contributing (gasoline is hard to get and costly in Ethiopia with all the turmoil in the oil markets). The main thing we should pray for is safety for the participants and for the Holy Spirit to move among the people who hear the Gospel. Also it is well to pray that the small congregations near Dima and Jemu can foster the new converts with the care and instruction they need.

I hope we'll get some information back as the campaign goes on. I will try to pass along quickly any news that comes. Thank you for sharing this prayer request in any way you can with the congregation. Praying together with the evangelists puts us right there in that distant and strange place, sharing the Good News with people walking in darkness. Judging from the past two years, we can expect forty to fifty people to have their lives transformed, with hundreds hearing the Gospel, often for the first time ever.

Rusty

As School Begins, Let Us Thank God for Teachers

It is sometimes said that public school teachers do not teach values. Yet every day, countless teachers quietly model compassion, patience, integrity and kindness through the way they care for their students.

Many teachers go far beyond lesson plans and classrooms. They spend their own money on school supplies, workbooks, clothing, snacks and special needs for children who may otherwise go without. They encourage struggling students, celebrate small victories and offer steady support to children facing difficult circumstances at home.

Teachers also work with students from many different backgrounds and abilities. Some patiently help children learn English, while others devote extra time and care to students with learning, emotional or social challenges. In a world where many children face poverty, abuse, loneliness, neglect or uncertainty, a caring teacher can become a source of hope, stability and encouragement.

Many educators also serve faithfully in churches and communities, living out their faith through daily acts of love and service. Their influence often reaches far beyond what grades or test scores can measure.

As a church family, let us remember to pray for teachers, encourage them in their calling and thank God for the important difference they make in the lives of children every day.

An Important Letter from McGuffey Food Pantry

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Partners,

For the past 34 years, it has been my privilege to coordinate and operate the McGuffey Food Pantry. Together, with your generosity, volunteerism, and unwavering support, we have been able to provide food and hope to countless families throughout the McGuffey area. I am deeply grateful for every donation, every hour of service, and every act of kindness that has made this ministry possible.

As many of you know, we have experienced several transitions over the years. With Washington County Commissioners awarding the state and federal food grants to the Greater Washington Food Bank, we are once again facing significant changes that affect our ability to continue operating as we have in the past.

After much thought and consideration, I have made the difficult decision that I, along with my daughter Shannon, are no longer willing to continue serving as the coordinators. This has not been an easy choice, but after 34 years of service, I believe it is time for someone else to carry this important work forward.

If there is an individual, church, organization, or group interested in taking over the operation, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the transition. I would be happy to share my knowledge and experience to help ensure the pantry continues serving our community.

However, if no one is willing to assume this responsibility, the pantry will be forced to close once the remaining financial resources have been exhausted.

My greatest hope is that the McGuffey community will continue to have access to this valuable resource. I encourage anyone with a passion for serving others to consider stepping forward to keep this ministry alive.

Thank you for your friendship, encouragement, and faithful support over these many years. It has truly been an honor to serve this community, and I will always cherish the relationships and memories we have built together.

If you are interested in discussing the future of the pantry or would like more information, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

With sincere gratitude,

Connie Dorsey
Coordinator, McGuffey Food Pantry
724-350-5878

Hi WARC family,

Aug 2006

Thank you for praying! The past couple of weeks have been so full that I wasn't sure how we were going to balance everything! But then God shows up and miracles happen all because our God is good and He loves to answer our prayers.

"YL-VBS": For those of you who know Andy and me from our Young Life days you would not be surprised to see how we run a VBS. Ha! We get the curriculum from another company and then slice it and dice it to make it fit our church, yet focus on good teaching, relationships, music and fun.

This year we focused on three super fun songs that all our boys approved of prior. Any song that was too slow didn't make the cut. It was also the first time we had a 'drama' to end our evenings which included Andy and JB (12 yrs old) and another Mom / son (16 yr old) combo. They hit it out of the park! The older kids said it was their favorite part. Andy and I felt like we were writing YL skits again. We taught kids about David's life and Psalm 23 and ended the week with a Celebration on Friday that brought all the families together to see the kids sing and hear Andy share the Gospel. Hardly an empty seat in the sanctuary! We also raised over \$1000 for our missionary friends in Malawi.



Miracles: Our area made national news on Wednesday, ^{July 26th} for the **flooding** that was taking place thanks to a lingering storm dropping from 3-20" of rain in 48 hours. Most everyone received a warning on phones at 6AM claiming a state of emergency until 10AM then extended to 3:30PM. Andy and I weren't sure what might happen but around 3PM the rains started to lessen. Clark (13yrs) was the first one we asked about what to do. "Don't cancel!" he said. ☺ We connected with our furthest out volunteers and they were willing to give it a try. Andy drove around at 4pm and everything seemed ok in our small area. Other areas had many blocked roads. In the end, we had a great night of VBS (even with our field flooded) and only 2 families had to miss. It really was



a miracle. Considering our theme was 'Ireland' it made sense that we had so much rain so we could feel Irish. Ha! Another miracle was how God enabled us to have a **Youth Group** time for 45 minutes each night. We had 12 kids in 6th-10th grade that volunteered to help with VBS for the first 2 stations. Then we had them transition to their own 'hang out time' with leaders at our downstairs

couches. JB and Clark said it was a highlight to have their own time for games/snacks and chatting. These leaders will now transition as the Youth Leaders for our attempt at a monthly youth group starting in September. And finally, two parents shared at the picnic how they were able to **talk with their kids about their faith** thanks to things shared at VBS. What a blessing for our church to play a role in parents leading at home.

Job: Thank you for praying for me to get a job at the Christian school! I'm happy to share that on Thursday I accepted a part time position as a History teacher at Loudonville Christian School. There will also be a long term sub opportunity for me when the librarian has surgery. I feel like it will be a wonderful fit so I can still be Mom and keep helping with church ministry. All five of our boys are now planning and preparing to be there with me. It will be a blessing to be in the building with them and to go to school together.

*Answered
Prayers!*

Puppies: Also this week, our dog, **Shiloh**, had her 4th and final litter of puppies (9!) We dropped her off at the breeder's house Thursday at 9am and she had the puppies that night. Close one! She's doing well and will stay with the puppies until mid September.

VM Conference: This week we head to our annual Village Missions Conference.

Andy's family will be watching the boys so we can attend as a couple.

Thanks for continued prayers for our ministry and family. Truly!
Heather and Andy

*We already made it
back home and it
was a blessed week!*

*We so appreciate your
prayers and generosity towards
our ministry!*

*Hugs from
M*

*PS - the boys and I will be
at the Wash Co Fair for Aug 19-21st
if you see us in the dairy barns*

Connections Corner

We return to Regular Hours September 13th

Sunday Morning Worship—11:00 am

Sunday Morning Adult Friendship Class-Choir Room 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Adult Praying Hearts Group-Fellowship Hall 9:30 am

Prayer Corner

To request prayer by the church, call or email the church office. Praying Hearts Group will receive your request and honor it. Also, Elder Jane Noble, Clerk of Session, 304.639.9148 welcomes your prayer requests. Please tell us if your request is to be held in confidence or included in the Prayers for the People in morning worship.

Labor Day: Honoring Work and Rest

Labor Day gives us an opportunity to honor the work of our hands and the many ways people serve their families, churches and communities. As we pause from our usual routines, may we give thanks for meaningful work, remember those seeking employment and receive God's gift of renewing rest.

Church Information

Church Officers

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>
<u>Session:</u>	Mary Lea Dutton Lynne Glessner Jane Noble, Clerk	Patty Johnson Jodi Noble Bob Morgan	
<u>Deacons:</u>	Gino Delbert Lee Ann Delbert Kathy Strawn	Peggy McCuen Beverly Philabaum Regina Wood	Dianna Smith
<u>Trustees:</u>	Barb Rodgers Lee Rodgers, Pres.	Doug Teagarden Bob Wagner Tiffany Wagner	Will Noble

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