



WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY?

John McMillan Presbyterian Church

10:00 a.m. Worship

To Know, to Glorify, and to Serve God

September 27, 2026



Welcome to John McMillan Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 27, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.

We're glad you are here today. We are a community of people who are disciples of Jesus Christ, and it is our mission to provide a way for this community and the communities around us to know, glorify and serve God. It is our hope that our worship and fellowship today will allow us all to feel

God's presence.

If you have any questions about the church, or if there is any way we can help you, or pray for you, please let us know.

The Service of the Lord's Day

Prelude

Song of Peace

Michael Shea

We Gather for Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Stephanie Castlen

***Passing of the Peace**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.

***Introit**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Jesus calls us the salt of the earth.

People: **We come trusting that God has called us to be a blessing in the world.**

Leader: Jesus calls us the light of the world.

People: **We gather to remember how God's light shines through us.**

Leader: Let us worship together knowing we belong to God who calls and sends us as salt and light into the world.

All: We are salt. We are light. We are God's beloved people. Let us worship God!

We Are Called to Pray

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you have called us to be salt and light, yet we fall short of the people you call us to be. We greedily hold onto the gifts you have given us and place them under our bushels. Instead, we seek praise for our own accomplishments rather than using them to serve others and shine light in our community. But that light is not meant for us alone. You call us to have courage to stand against injustice and care for our neighbors, yet too often we choose comfort. We cover our ears and remain silent to the struggles of others who call us to act with justice. We have lost our saltiness. Forgive us, O God for our selfishness, our cowardness and our ambivalences. Renew our courage, open our hearts, and give us strength to live as the salt and light you called us to be. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession *(A time of silence for personal confession)*

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Even when we fail, even when we are not perfect, God still claims us. God still calls us by name. God still places God's Spirit upon us.

People: We are known and loved and forgiven. Amen.

***Gloria Patri #581** *(Please stand.)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Time With the Children

Pastor Matt Fricker

Choir Anthem

Let the Peace of Christ

by Joseph M. Martin

Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart. Let His peace and joy fill every part. We're one body and one race, joined as one in His embrace. With unity and hope you're set apart. Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart. Let the Word of Christ now dwell in you. Let His wisdom guide each work you do. Let each psalm and hymn you sing be a grateful offering. Come fill your hearts with praise and gratitude. Let the Word of Christ now dwell in you. Serve the Lord your God with all your life. Make the will of God your heart's delight. Let every word and every deed lead every nation to believe. Let every worship song you sing be a gift of praise in true doxology. Let the love of Christ be in your song. Let your music be for Christ alone. Teach the world His song of love, till we sing in heaven above. Come rejoice and let the alleluias start. Oh, let the love of Christ, let the Word of Christ, let the peace of Christ rule in your heart.

We Hear the Word

Scripture

Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon

Be Salty

Stephanie Castlen

*Hymn of Reflection

(words on screen)

O God of Light, May Our Light Shine

(Tune: O Waly, Waly)

We Respond in Faith

Call to Offering

Offertory

*Doxology #609

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Are Sent in God's Name

***Hymn of Discipleship #753**

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

***Charge and Benediction**

Benediction Response

The Blessing Song

(words on screens)

***Postlude**

Then Shall The Righteous Shine Forth from "Elijah"

Felix Mendelssohn/arr. Todd Kendall

** Please stand if you are able.*

JMPC Prayer Concerns

As of Thursday, September 24, 2026

Please contact the Church Office with any Joys & Concerns

Prayer Requests

Prayers for Jim Gavala who developed pulmonary fibrosis due to an autoimmune disease. He is now in need of a double lung transplant.

Prayers for Marielle Brown's good friend, Michael Young, who passed away suddenly last week. He was only 40 years old.

Prayers for Jim Ellis' neighbor, Donn, whose cancer has returned and has been in the hospital for 2 weeks.

Previous Prayer Requests

Prayers for Wendy Edgar's brother, Ken Forrest, who entered the hospital Thursday, 9-17, for his next round of cancer treatments.

Prayers for strength and healing for our awesome AV Tech, Jackie Druga, as she goes through chemotherapy

Joys

Janet Dykstra is officially a grandmother. Her son Jimmy and his wife Brigid had Baby Margaret Marie Dykstra, who was born at 6:29 am weighing 7 lbs. 10oz.

This week, please pray for:

Grace Bogdon
Leslie Bogdon
Jeanie Bonnewell
Rich and Linda Boren
Lexi, Zachary, and Rhea Britton

Announcements

Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in memory of Marjorie Till by Douglas Till.

The white rosebuds today are in honor of the birth of Margaret Marie Dykstra, daughter of Jimmy and Brigid Dykstra and granddaughter of Janet Dykstra. Margaret was born on September 9th.

Choir and Celebration Ringers

Choir and Bells will practice on Wednesday evening rather than Thursday this week. Bells will rehearse at 6:00 and Choir at 7:00.

World Vision

On Friday morning, October 16, we need volunteers to help sort new clothing at the World Vision warehouse in Sewickley. We will carpool from JMPC at 8:15 and proceed to World Vision to work as a group. Afterward, we will stop for lunch at a restaurant on the way home. We should be back at JMPC at around 1:30.

This is a great way to help World Vision send clothing around the world to people in dire need while visiting with fellow members of JMPC. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. You can contact Carolyn Brow at worb5@comcast.net if you need more information.

Adult Mission Trip

We will be taking an adult mission trip this Spring! We will have an initial meeting after worship on September 27th in the church library. If you have an interest in possibly going on the trip, please join us! These trips are a great way to serve others and engage in the mission of God

Coats for Kids

Our Duquesne Angel Tree is now Coats for Kids. Pastor Judi would like to distribute them at the end of October, so the kids have them as colder weather begins.

Bring new, or clean, gently used, coats, hats, gloves, and scarves to the church by October 18. Sizes range from toddler to adult sizes for middle and high school kids. Other items of winter clothing are also accepted. If you have questions, contact Cheryl Davies 412.901.8939.

Laurelville Youth Retreat

We invite all youth from 7th-12th grade to join us for our annual Laurelville Mud Weekend Retreat at Laurelville Retreat Center, November 20-22! Total cost is \$200 per youth with a **\$100 deposit due October 7th** and the final \$100 payment due November 11th. Please make checks payable to John McMillan Presbyterian Church with "Youth Mission Trip/Retreat" in the memo line. Spots are limited so sign up in the Narthex today! Question? Reach out to Stephanie Castlen at stephanie@johnmcmillanpc.org Were excited to spend the weekend enjoying high-energy games, creative worship, outdoor adventures, and making new friends along the way! See you there!

Trunk or Treat

Join us Saturday, October 17th from 3-5pm for our annual JMPC Trunk or Treat! Come check out our creatively decorated trunks, paint pumpkins, play games, enjoy coloring pages and of course, collect plenty of Candy! Costumes are welcome (and encouraged!), so come dressed up and ready for an afternoon of Halloween fun! Questions, please reach out to Stephanie Castlen at stephanie@johnmcmillanpc.org.

Calling All Cars!

Want to help make our annual JMPC Trunk or Treat extra special? We invite you to decorate your trunk, and hand out candy to our tricker-or-treaters, on Saturday, October 17th from 3-5pm! Please arrive by 2:30pm to give you plenty of time for finishing touches. Please sign up your car in the Narthex. Need decorating ideas? Please reach out to Stephanie Castlen at stephanie@johnmcmillanpc.org. Come enjoy the spooky season with us for an afternoon filled with fun, fellowship, and lots of candy!

SHIM Orchard

On Saturday, October 3 at 9:00 AM we will dig holes for 11 replacement trees for the orchard. This should only take about an hour if we have enough diggers. We need your help!

Tree Pittsburgh is providing new trees to replace the peach and cherry trees which were victims of black knot fungus. We are replacing them with pears, Asian pears and persimmons which are very disease resistant.

You can contact Carolyn Brow at worb5@comcast.net if you have questions.

Installation Service

Pastor Matt will be installed as our head pastor on October 10th at 3pm. Pastor Louise Rogers will be preaching the service, and several other pastors will participate in the service. Everyone is welcome to join!

Children & Youth Registration Form

Is your child participating in Sunday School, Kids Club, and/or Youth Group this year? Please pick up a Children & Youth Ministry Registration & Release Form in the Narthex, fill it out, and return it to the church office. This form will provide the needed information for your children and youth to be safe as they have fun and grow in their faith! If you have any questions, please email Stephanie Castlen at stephanie@johnmcmillanpc.org.

New Security Doors

We have our new security doors installed! The doors will be unlocked from 9am-3pm Monday through Friday. If you need access to the building outside of those hours, please contact Sarah in the office or Pastor Matt. Your keys will continue to work until we collect them.

JMPC Book Club - September 29: The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick

By early 1960s standards, Margaret Ryan, Viv Buschetti, and Bitsy Cobb, suburban housewives in a brand-new "planned community" in Northern Virginia, appear to have it all. The fact that "all" doesn't feel like enough leaves them feeling confused and guilty, certain the fault must lie with them. Things begin to change when they form a book club with Charlotte Gustafson--the eccentric and artsy "new neighbor" from Manhattan--and read Betty Friedan's just-released book, *The Feminine Mystique*. (*Book Club participants might want to reacquaint themselves with this book, too*) Controversial and groundbreaking, the book struck a chord with an entire generation of women, helping them realize that they weren't alone (Goodreads).

This Week at JMPC

Sunday, September 27

10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Sunday School
11:00 am Adult Mission Trip Mtg.
1:00 pm Russian Baptist (Sheyko)
1:00 pm Terry Young Baton Twirl
7:00 pm Reflections Group

Monday, September 28

8:00 am Men's Breakfast (Eat 'n Park)
1:00 pm Pickleball
6:30 pm Yee Twirlers

Tuesday, September 29

9:00 am Ladies Pickleball
11:00 am Staff Meeting
12:00 pm Bible Study
1:00 pm JMPC Book Club
3:00 pm Passion Twirl & Poms

Wednesday, September 30

1:00 pm Women's Club (Donna Skinnell)
4:30 pm South Hill Flute Studio
5:00 pm Kids Club/Youth Group
6:00 pm Celebration Ringers
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, October 1

1:00 pm Pickleball
4:30 pm South Hills Flute Studio
4:45 pm Yee Twirlers
7:00 pm Line Dance

Friday, October 2

4:30 pm South Hills Flute Studio

Saturday, October 3

8:00 am Passion Twirl & Poms
8:00 am South Hills Flute Studio
9:00 am Pittsburgh Youth Band

Sunday, October 4

10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Sunday School
1:00 pm Russian Baptist (Sheyko)
3:00 pm Sheyko Dinner
1:00 pm Terry Young Baton Twirl
7:00 pm Reflections Group

This Week's Birthdays



September 27	Connall McCracken
September 29	Scott Krieger
	Lexi Britton
September 30	John Robert
	Ella Willison
October 1	Logan Czadankiewicz
October 2	Matilda Houser

If we've missed your birthday, please contact the church office as we may not have it on file. Thank you.

Welcome Visitors

- ❖ We are grateful to have you join us in worship this morning and ask you to please register your name in the **Friendship Pads**.
- ❖ Our **Nursery** is available during worship for children up to 3 years old in Room 7.
- ❖ **Sunday School (Children's Church)** A class for age 3 through 5th grade will meet in Room 5.
- ❖ On Wednesday Nights 5pm - 7pm (September through May), we gather for **Kids Club** (ages 6-12, 1st- 6th grade) and **Youth Group** (ages 12-18, 7th-12th). We learn about God, have dinner, and join in fellowship. Bring \$3 for dinner and friends are always welcome!
- ❖ To learn more about our programs, church activities & missions, we invite you to:
 - Pick up a copy of our monthly newsletter, **The Interface**, in the Narthex (Lobby).
 - Contact the church office 412-833-4704 or jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.org
 - Visit our website: www.johnmcmillanpc.org
 - Visit us on Facebook or our YouTube channel.

JMPC STAFF

Ministers: All People of JMPC
Music Director: Carolyn Brow
Organist: Elisabeth Jeffries
Office Manager: Sarah Cribbs

Pastor: Rev. Matt Fricker
Director of Spiritual Dev.: Stephanie Castlen
Tech/AV: Jackie Druga
Preschool Director: Kim Doughty

JMPC SESSION - Clerk: Cindy Fast

Spiritual Development: Suzie Burland, Jessica Scott, Joe Smith
Outreach: Caitlin Smith, Cheryl Davies, Steve Lucia
Resources: Jim Hinerman, Sam Page, Chris Todd

JMPC DEACONS

Class of 2027: Scott Nowak, Zach Smith, Paul Zandhuis, Elizabeth Todd
Class of 2028: Sandy Nowak, Susan Baux, Mary Jo White
Class of 2029: Melanie Czadankiewicz, Donna Kovell, Emilee Little

Our Partners In Ministry

The staff of Pittsburgh Presbytery; Congregations in the South Branch of Pittsburgh Presbytery; First Presbyterian Church of Duquesne and Pastors Judi Slater and Caroline Baker;
The Chigumula Church in Malawi Africa; South Hills Interfaith Movement;
World Vision; Hebron USA, Chiapas Partners

In the Event of an Emergency

September Deacon of the Month: Scott Nowak
Scott can be reached at 412-654-7771 or captscott48@juno.com
Pastor Matt Fricker -412-498-6761 - matt@johnmcmillanpc.org
Stephanie Castlen - 631-413-2996 - stephanie@johnmcmillanpc.org
You can also call the church at 412-833-4704.

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