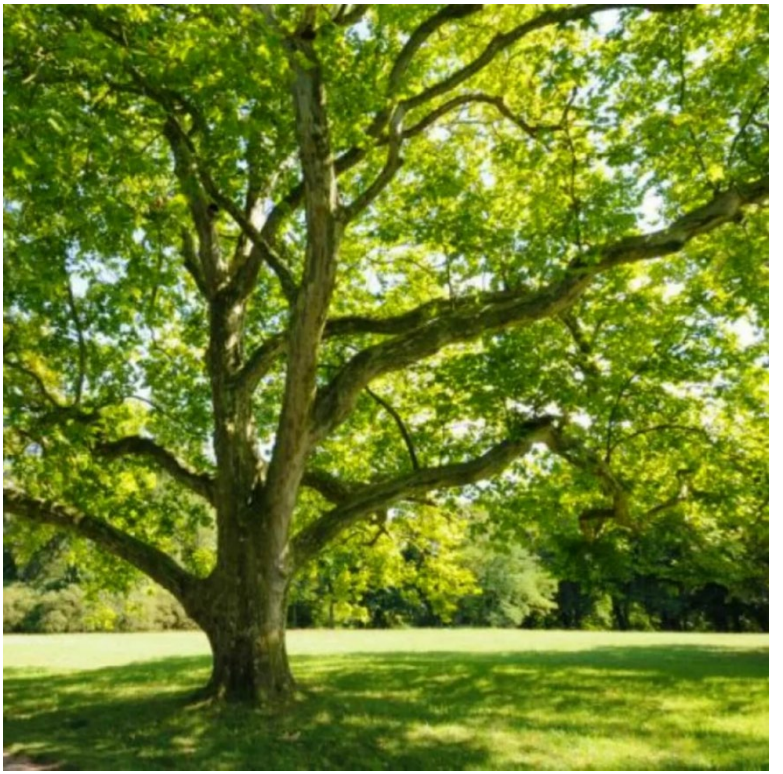

John McMillan Presbyterian Church

10:00 a.m. Worship

To Know, to Glorify, and to Serve God

November 22, 2026

Welcome to John McMillan Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 22, 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 *St. George's Windsor* arr. Douglas Wagner

We Gather for Worship

Welcome & Announcements Pastor 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: Like Zacchaeus, we come with eagerness, longing to catch a glimpse of Jesus as he passes by.
People: We come as God's beloved children, ready to open our eyes and hearts to Christ's presence.
Leader: Jesus sees us, calls us by name, and reaches out to us with grace and a love that welcomes and transforms.
People: As we encounter Christ, may our eyes be opened to see our neighbors, stir our hearts to listen and ready our hands to serve.
Leader: May our lives reflect generosity, compassion, and love of the One who came to seek and save the lost.

All: Open our eyes to see you, open our hearts to know you, and our lives to reflect your love. Let us worship God!

Hymn of Adoration #710 *We Lift Our Voices*

We Are Called to Pray

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Through your eyes, you always see us fully and call us your beloved children. Yet, too often, we close our eyes to the needs of others. Instead, we become consumed by busy schedules, material things, and desire to rise in status. We allow our fears of being taken advantage of and our resistance to change overtake us rather than walk in your ways toward love and grace for all. Forgive us for the times we grumble, judge, and question who deserves your grace. Encourage us to open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors and even our enemies especially when we struggle to understand or believe it is fair. Soften of our hearts to listen, and strengthen our hands to serve with compassion, generosity, and love. Help us see others as you see them and share the grace you so freely give. Amen.

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

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Here the Good News: Just as Jesus called Zacchaeus by name Jesus sees each of us, not for our failures or shortcomings but as beloved children of God. God's grace extends beyond our fears and grumblings and is continually seeking us out, welcoming us and making us new.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven

*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 *Blessing After Blessing* by Vicki T. Courtney

We come to worship our Father in heaven for bountiful riches He sends from above. We praise our Lord daily for treasures eternal. He gives beyond measure with mercy and love. Blessing after blessing, day after day, God is ever giving. Love is His way. Pouring down from heaven, sending His grace, blessing after blessing, day after day. Lifting our voices, we praise and adore Him, our God and creator, from whom blessings flow. We offer thanksgiving for gifts He keeps bringing and pray for His glory to sine in our souls. Blessing after blessing….

We Hear the Word

Scripture Luke 19:1-10

Sermon *And They Began to Grumble* Pastor Stephanie Castlen

***Hymn of Reflection** *Freely, Freely*
(words on screen)

We Respond in Faith

Call to Offering

Offertory *We Gather Together*
arr. Cindy Blevins

JMPC Clarinet Quartet
Joann Bair
Scott Nowak
Laura Waterstram
Jack Waterstram

***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 #717** *For the Life that You Have Given*

***Charge and Benediction**

Benediction Response The Blessing Song (words on screens)

***Postlude** Wir Pflügen arr. Joseph Prentiss

* *Please stand if you are able.*

JMPC Prayer Concerns

As of Thursday, November 19, 2026
Please contact the Church Office with any Joys & Concerns

Prayer Requests

Prayers for Kelly Marian who suffered a stroke and is in the ICU at Allegheny General Hospital. Kelly is a friend of Betty Dillon.

Prayers for Sam Page's younger sister, Amy, who is recovering from breast cancer surgery

Prayers for the Rev. Dr. Silas Ncozana and family on the death of his beloved wife, Margaret Ncozana. Along with the Rev. Dr. Bill and Nancy Paul, they founded the partnership between Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Synod of Blantyre in Malawi, Africa

Prayers for Wendy Edgar and family on the death of her brother, Ken Forest

Prayers for Paul McLinn, a friend of the Todd family, who was diagnosed with kidney cancer and his doctors are working on a treatment plan

Previous Prayer Requests

Prayers for everyone affected by the tragedy in Mt. Lebanon, especially, the Lynch family: Patrick, Anna and their children Caroline and James.

Prayers for Jessica Braden-Rogers's friend, Christina Ohlfest, who recently had a bilateral mastectomy for breast cancer and is waiting on her treatment options.

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

This week, please pray for:

Wendy, Ken, Sam and Leah Edgar
Brian, Rachelle, Sydney and Jackson Edwards
Jim and Suzanne Ellis
Randy, Taylor and Riley Evans
Don and Joyce Ewing

Announcements

Flowers
The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Cheri Clark in memory of Ray Clark.

Pledge Cards
Please prayerfully consider returning a pledge card for 2027 if you have not had the opportunity to do so already. This helps us to effectively budget for our missions and ministries throughout the year. Thank you for helping us to plan how we use the gifts that God provides to do the things that God calls us to do!

Stockings for Soldiers
Thanks to the generosity of preschool families and church members we were able to reach our goal and stuff 100 stockings to be distributed to active duty military personnel.

Kids Club/Youth Group
Kids Club and Youth Group will **NOT** meet this week, Wednesday, November 25.

JMPC Book Club – November 24
Join us this month in the Library at 1:00 for a great discussion of the book:
Life, A Love Story by Elizabeth Berg
In this warm, intimate novel, a woman celebrates the joy she finds in the ordinary things in life and discovers it's never too late to start new adventures…Florence "Flo" Greene is nearing the end of her life, and she decides to leave her house and an account of her life for Ruthie, the younger woman who grew up next door, moved away, and still is like a surrogate daughter. As Flo writes to Ruthie about the meaning of beloved things in her home and about events in her past, she also tries new adventures of her own. She intervenes in the lives of friends in her neighborhood….Flo leaves an indelible mark on others, as this moving novel celebrates life, change, and ways to discover new happiness, friendship, and love (Goodreads).

New Member Class
We will be holding a new member class soon. If you are interested in joining the church, please reach out to Pastor Matt or the office. We will base the class dates on people's availability.

Christmas Wreath Fundraiser



Our youth fundraising wreaths will be available for pick up on **Sunday, December 6th**. Please make checks payable to John McMillan Presbyterian Church with "Youth Mission Trip" in the memo line. Have any questions? Please contact Stephanie Castlen at stephanie@johnmcmillanpc.org.

Christmas Poinsettias

Please help us decorate our church for Christmas. It is now time to order your Christmas Poinsettias. Orders will be taken now through **December 6th**. This year we will be using the *Signup Genius* for orders. Red, White and Pink will be available for purchase. The cost is **$10.00 for a 6" potted flower**. You can put your check made payable to JMPC with Poinsettia in the memo line and place it in the offering plate or give to Sarah in the church office. You can also find a paper order form in the narthex. Include this with your check, marked Poinsettia in the memo line. If you need any assistance with your order, please feel free to contact the church office. In lieu of, or in addition to ordering poinsettias, you can also donate to the Deacon's Caring Fund through December 20th. The order form can be found in the Narthex on the back of the poinsettia order form. Poinsettias can be picked up after the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve service. Order online:
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094CAAA922A4FE3-67504234-christmas

Christmas Decorating of the Church for Advent 2026

Come join us on Saturday, **November 28th at 9:00 am** to prepare our sanctuary for the Christmas season. The tree will be decorated with the lights; the wreaths will be placed on the windows and doors; the Advent wreath will be readied for the lighting of the candles; and the Nativity creche will be placed on the chancel as we begin our Advent season and celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Adult Mission Trip: Save the Date!

We will be going to New Bern, North Carolina to serve in disaster relief. The dates are April 25th – May 1st. The cost is $250. We will have more information coming up.

Christmas Affair Pictures

If you took any pictures or videos at this year's Christmas Affair, we would love a copy. Please share any images with Sarah.You can email her at: jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.org

This Week's Birthdays



November 23 Leah Shubilla
November 25 Kathleen Mazzola
November 28 Linda Pelan

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

This Week at JMPC

Sunday, November 22
10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Sunday School
1:00 pm Russian Baptist (Sheyko)
7:00 pm Reflections Group

Monday, November 23
1:00 pm Pickleball
6:30 pm Yee Twirlers

Tuesday, November 24
9:00 am Ladies Pickleball
10:30 am Preschool Feast
11:00 am Staff Meeting
12:00 pm Bible Study
1:00 pm Book Club
3:00 pm Passion Twirl & Poms
7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting

Wednesday, November 25
4:30 pm South Hill Flute Studio

Thursday, November 26 –Office Closed
Happy Thanksgiving

Friday, November 27 – Office Closed
4:30 pm South Hills Flute Studio

Saturday, November 28
8:00 am Passion Twirl & Poms
8:00 am South Hills Flute Studio
9:00 am Pittsburgh Youth Band
12:00 pm Mon Valley Express

Sunday, November 29
10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Sunday School
1:00 pm Russian Baptist (Sheyko)
1:00 pm Terry Young Baton Twirl
7:00 pm Reflections Group

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

November Deacon of the Month: Zach Smith
Zach can be reached at 412-651-2200
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.