

First Week in Advent

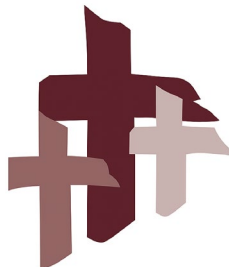


John McMillan Presbyterian Church

10:00 a.m. Worship

To Know, to Glorify, and to Serve God

November 30, 2025



Welcome to John McMillan Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 30, 2025 - 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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Roger C. Wilson

We Gather for Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Pam Dobos

The Advent Candle Lighting

Love's Pure Light

Chancel Choir

*Call to Worship

In this season of Advent, we long for God's presence.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

In this season of advent, we search for God's truth.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

In this season of advent, we seek God's guidance.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

In this season of advent, we remember God's promise.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

The Candle Lighting

Love's Pure Light (Reprise)

Chancel Choir

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and end this gloom of night. Bring hope to the world, bring peace to the earth, and fill us with Love's pure light.

The Candle Lighting Prayer

***The Advent Hymn #82**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

We Are Called to Pray

Call to Confession *(Please be seated.)*

Prayer of Confession

We confess to you, O God, that we are not prepared to welcome your way of righteousness, justice and peace. You call us to repentance, but we refuse to change our ways. You call us to resist oppression, but we resign ourselves to evil. You call us to be reconciled, but we remain divided and afraid. Forgive us, O God of grace. Pour out your Spirit in our lives so that we may be forgiven, set free, and made ready to meet you at the coming of your holy realm. Through Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.

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

Assurance of Pardon

The Lord gives light to those who dwell in darkness, and guides every step in the path of salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

***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

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.

Anthem

Veni Emmanuel

Arr. By P. Liebergen

Chancel Choir accompanied by Marielle Brown and the Celebration Ringers

Come. O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear; Lord, come to us here. Veni! Veni! Emmanuel! Come, O Lord, on earth to dwell! Come, O Lord, we sing a glad noel! O bring us love from God on high: bring us peace, Your birth is nigh. Angels singing, hope they're bringing; we proclaim with a joyful cry! Veni! O Lord, come! Come, O come, Emmanuel!

We Hear the Word

First scripture reading:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Second scripture reading:

Mark 1:1-11

Sermon series: Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes - The Gospel of Mark

***Hymn of Reflection #357**

The Days Are Surely Coming

***Affirmation of Faith:** (Adapted from the Confession of 1967, Book of Confessions)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.
We await his coming with hope.

We Respond in Faith

Call for the Offering

Collection of the Offering

Offertory

Still, Still, Still - Austrian Carol

Arr. Catherine McMichael

Three Rivers Flutes

***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**

We Are Sent in God's Name

***Christmas Hymn #129**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

O Blessed Emmanuel

Bach/Thompson

** Please stand if you are able.*

Upcoming Events & Information

Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God by Ella May Given in memory of Hugh Given.

Annual Christmas Concert & Potluck

Mark your calendars! Our Annual Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, December 14th at 4:30 PM. Enjoy a festive evening featuring our choir, Celebration Ringers, band, preschool performers, and talented soloists presenting your favorite sacred Christmas music.

And that's not all—the concert will be followed by a dynamite potluck dinner! It's truly the best night of the year, so don't miss it!

Adult Education

All adults are welcome to attend Sunday School, 9-9:45 AM for a special study on Advent starting today (November 30th), the first Sunday in Advent. We will delve into "A Season of Hope and Anticipation: Advent Themes in the Four Gospels." Join us as we explore and respond to scripture as it relates to the birth, baptism, God's favor and the divinity of Jesus. Our sessions will take place in the Library each Sunday of Advent in November and December.

Be an ANGEL this Christmas!

Take an angel ornament from the tree in the narthex and hang it on your own tree as a reminder to pray for our sister congregation in Duquesne.

We're collecting NEW coats, hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, and warm clothing for children and teens, plus gift cards (\$15-\$25) to Giant Eagle, Aldi, or Walmart. Bring unwrapped items to the Angel Tree by December 7th or have online orders shipped to the church office.

All sizes (toddlers through adult) are welcome.

Questions? Contact Cheryl Davies (412-901-8939). Porch pickup available.

The Chrismon Tree

This month, look for the Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary with ornaments made by many members of JMPC. *What is a Chrismon Tree?* In 1957, Francis Kipps Spencer created the first Chrismon tree. She coined the term Chrismon as a combination of Christ + monogram to reflect her desire to create decorations for a Christmas tree that "proclaim the name, the life, and the saving acts of Jesus Christ." The purpose was to make homemade ornaments to show central symbols of the Christian faith.

Poinsettias/Deacons Caring Fund

It's that wonderful time of year again! We'd love your help decorating our church for Christmas and invite you to order your Christmas Poinsettias.

Order Details:

- Order Period: Now through December 7th
- Colors Available: Red, White, and Pink
- Cost: \$10.00 for a 6" potted flower

How to Order:

- This year, we're using Signup Genius for orders.
- You can also find paper order forms in the Narthex.
- Please make checks payable to JMPC with "Poinsettia" in the memo line. Place your check in the offering plate or give it to Alicia in the church office.

Additional Giving Option: In lieu of, or in addition to ordering poinsettias, you can donate to the Deacon's Caring Fund through December 7th. The donation form is located in the Narthex on the back of the poinsettia order form.

Pickup: Poinsettias can be picked up after the 7:00 PM Christmas Eve service. If you need assistance with your order, please contact the church office. Thank you for helping us make the season bright!

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Wednesday, December 24th | 4 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Join us on Christmas Eve for a Family Service at 4 p.m. or A service of Lessons and Carols at 7 p.m. *Invite your family and friends!*

Longest Night Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 17th - 7 p.m.

Do you tend to get a little blue during the holidays? Don't be ashamed about it - come worship with like-minded folks at a special service just for you. Let's work through our grief together, so that we can move forward to welcome the Christ child with joy.

JMPC Prayer Concerns

(As of Thursday, November 27, 2025)

(Please contact the Church Office with any Joys & Concerns)

Prayer Requests

Prayers for Martha Sauter who has pneumonia and 3 cracked ribs.

Prayers for Pastor Emily's husband Ed, who is having a valve replacement.

Previous Prayer Requests

Prayers for Ray Kell's wife, who is having a valve replacement.

Prayers for Valene Scalise's brother Brad, who is having open heart surgery.

Pastor Nominating Committee

Please keep the PNC and the church in your prayers as we begin a new phase, receiving resumes from perspective Pastors. May God watch over our congregation through this exciting time.

PNC Members: Grace Bogdon, Mary Cullison, Jim Ellis, Betsy Gilbert, Doug Mickey, Megan Sherry, Joe Smith, Laura Waterstram, Ella Willison

This week, please pray for:

Jim & Judy Willison

Jim & Lynn Willison

Felicia & David Woessner

Alexandra & Nathaniel Wolfe

Jeff & Jen Wolstoncroft

This Week at JMPC

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9:00 am Adult Ed Advent Series
10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Children Church
1:00 pm Terry Young (baton lesson)
3:00 pm Passion Twirl & Poms
7:00 pm Reflections Group

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

1:00 pm Church Bridge
1:00 pm Pickleball
6:30 pm Yee Twirlers

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

9:00 am Ladies Pickleball
3:00 pm Passion Twirl & Pom
7:00 pm Meeting Night

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

10:00 am Staff Meeting
4:30 pm South Hills Flute Studio
5:00 pm Kid's Club
5:00 pm Youth Group

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

1:00 pm Pickleball
4:30 pm South Hills Flute Studio
4:45 pm The Yee Twirlers
6:00 pm Handbell Practice
7:00 pm Choir Practice
7:00 pm Line Dancing

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

4:30 pm South Hills Flute Studio

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:00 am South Hills Flute Studio
8:00 am Passion Twirl & Poms
12:00 pm Mon Valley Express
5:00 pm Flute Recital
7:30 pm Christmas Theater Outing

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

Poinsettias and Angel Tree Deadline

9:00 am Adult Ed Advent Series
10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Children Church
11:00 am PNC Meeting
1:00 pm Terry Young (baton lesson)
3:00 pm Passion Twirl & Poms
7:00 pm Reflections Group

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

11/30 Tracy Ackerman

12/01 Samantha Gaudelli

Grace Bogdon

12/04 Ryan Krieger

12/05 Barbara Clark

Cooper Kenney

Levi Zunic

12/06 Jordan Little

Noelle Chenevert

Sophia Sweeney

Alana Little



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) is now two classes. A class for age 3-kindergarten will meet in Room 4-6 and a class for grades 1-5 will meet in Room 5.

On Wednesday Nights 5pm - 7pm (September through May), we gather for Kids Klub (ages 9-12, 3rd- 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 also:

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
Preschool Director: Kim Doughty

Pastor: Rev. Emily Miller
Office Manager: Alicia Kesneck
Tech/AV: Jackie Druga

JMPC SESSION - Clerk: Cindy Fast

Spiritual Development: Suzie Burland, Kathleen Mazzola, Joe Smith
Outreach: Caitlin Smith, Cheryl Davies, Lynn Willison
Resources: Bryan Durkin, Sam Page, Chris Todd

JMPC DEACONS

Class of 2026: Joann Bair, Bob Burland, Elizabeth Todd, Judy Willison
Class of 2027: Scott Nowak, Zach Smith, Paul Zandhuis
Class of 2028: Sandy Nowak, Susan Baux, Mary Jo White

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

December Deacon of the Month: Bob Burland

He can be reached at 412-833-2103 or bob5958@verizon.net

Pastor Emily Miller 412-519-4274

emily@johnmcmillanpc.org

You can also call the church at 412-833-4704.

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