

The Interface

John McMillan Presbyterian Church

*Our mission is to provide a way for the community to
Know, Glorify, and Serve God!*



February 2025

I write this message at a very exciting time in the life of John McMillan Presbyterian Church. As you all know, Rev. Jeff Tindall, who has faithfully served this church for more than 10 years, has decided to step away from full time ministry and retire. It is a time of both sadness and uncertainty. At times like this, folks in secular society use phrases such as: "When one door closes, another opens." In the church, we look to scripture to hear God saying, "I know the plans I have for you . . . plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29:11.) As I begin my time with you as your transitional pastor, I will always remind you that God has wonderful plans in store for this church, to take a time of sadness and uncertainty, and transform it into a time of excitement and hope. We just need to be patient and let those plans play out in God's time.

I am not a stranger to the South Hills of Pittsburgh. I grew up in Mt. Lebanon, went to Bucknell University, and then followed a path to be a lawyer, graduating from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. In law school, I met a great guy from Peters Township and we got married. Our very first house was in Bethel Park, on Fruitwood Drive, just across Clifton Road from JMPC. After a few years as an attorney, I felt God telling me that my true calling was in the church, so I enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and graduated in 2007. Ever since then, I have been

involved with many churches in the area, as an associate pastor, a solo pastor and a transitional pastor.

I begin at JMPC excited to get to work leading the church in worship, mission, spiritual growth and pastoral care. I am especially excited to begin the journey of transition from Pastor Jeff to whomever God is calling as your next pastor. God will be with us on this journey, and it will happen in God's time. I can't wait to see whom God has in store for us!

I am looking forward to getting to know you all. My door is always open. Come in and share your thoughts with me. This is an exciting time to be the church!

Grateful to be with you,

Pastor Emily

February Worship

February 2 (10:00 am)

Rev. Ralph Lowe preaching

February 9 (10:00 am)

Rev. Alan Abbot preaching

February 16 (10:00 am)

Rev. Jessica McClure preaching

February 23 (10:00 am)

Rev. Debbie Evanovich
preaching

Carolyn Brow, Music Director
Catherine Sams, Office Manager
Elisabeth Jeffries, Organist
Kim Doughty, Preschool Director
Jackie Druga, AV/Tech

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Online: www.johnmcmillanpc.org
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Church Officer Nominating Committee

The church officer nominating committee will be presenting a full slate of elders, deacons, and the PNC members, chosen by the committee, at the congregational meeting on **February 23**. It is the duty of the congregation to elect those in these positions. We feel truly blessed to have so many talented members come forward to accept positions in this important time.

Spiritual Development News

There is an exciting time coming!!

Sundays in February will bring guest pastors to JMPC:

February 2--Rev. Ralph Lowe

February 9--Rev. Allan Abbott

February 16--Rev. Jessica McClure-Archer

February 23--Rev. Debbie Evanovich +
congregational meeting



Holy Cow! A Mission Study

As we enter this season of transition, one of our first tasks is to complete a Mission Study and Demographic Survey to help the PNC in the search for our new pastor. To do this, we need your help. You will be receiving a HOLY COW Consulting survey that asks some important questions about our church and community. The survey will be sent via email to all members of the congregation with hard copies available to those who don't receive email or do not feel comfortable using that format. We will also have an opportunity to fill out a copy or use a computer at JMPC to complete this task. We encourage online participation since information will go directly to HOLY COW without having to be entered by someone else. There will be a short turn-around time of 3 -4 weeks so that we can compile the information and let HOLY COW do their interpretation. Once that is complete, we will be scheduling a time for the report to be presented to the congregation.

Watch your email and Constant Contact emails for more information. The survey results will be used by the PNC to help develop their Ministry Information Form to begin their search. Prospective pastors will use this as a guide to see if their talents, interests, and type of ministry is a good fit with JMPC.



If you have questions, please contact Cheryl Davies, Rick Brow, or Jim Willison.

World Vision

We need **volunteers** to go to World Vision on **Friday, February 7**. We will carpool from JMPC at 8:15 and head to Sewickley where we will sort new clothing until around noon. We will then stop for lunch as we head home. Please join us for this wonderful mission which helps needy families all around the world. You can sign up online or in the narthex. Contact Carolyn Brow at worb5@comcast.net for more information.



Greeters

We are looking for friendly faces to welcome all who come through our doors on Sunday mornings. Please scan your calendar and pick a Sunday that works best for you. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or use the link for the sign-up genius. As the Greeters are the “first impression” of the John McMillan congregation, it is our hope that we make all visitors and members feel welcome with a warm handshake, a smile, and the message that we are glad they are here. Use the QR below to pick a date you are available. If you have any questions, contact Suzie Burland.



Souper Bowl Sunday

It's almost SOUPER BOWL time! The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national program to help the hungry. It started more than 25 years ago by a church youth group. On **Sunday, February 9**, look for the Soup Pot in the narthex. Bring a can of nonperishable food (or any non-perishable item) and \$1 to help feed people in need. All food and money will be donated to SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Movement) to help with their food bank.



Cookie Angels

Coffee Hour is Sundays before worship. There are some unseen angels at JMPC. They are the wonderful bakers who make cookies, muffins, and other delicious treats for us all to eat during Coffee Hour. Would you like to be an angel, too? Treats can be dropped off any time before **9:30 a.m.** on Sunday morning. If you drop them off during the week, please mark the treats with date to be used and put them in the freezer. There is a sign up in the Narthex! Questions: Suzie Burland or Kathleen Mazzola.



Our cookie angels have been wonderful and your delicacies were enjoyed by all. But now we have the empty containers stacking up and waiting for you. They are sitting on the window ledge in the kitchen. Please pick them up at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your generous cookie donations.

Music Notes

The choir needs singers for **Lent** and **Easter** for which we are already beginning to rehearse. Please just show up to choir practice on **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.** if you are interested in joining us. Music reading skills are not necessary and we welcome anyone who enjoys singing.



Come and join the fun!

Duquesne Kids Klub Needs YOU!

The winter session of Duquesne Kids Klub will run **February 17, 24 and March 3, 10**. We use volunteers to help us with meals for around 25 at each meeting. If you would like to donate towards a meal or supply a meal for February 24 or the Mondays in March, please contact Cheryl Davies 412.901.8939. Easy meals like chicken nuggets, pasta (some without sauce), sliders, etc. hits with the kids. Any child-friendly food welcome. Usually, we include some type of veggie or fruit and a dessert.

Would you like to be part of the fun? Volunteer to help on these Monday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

JMPC Deacons

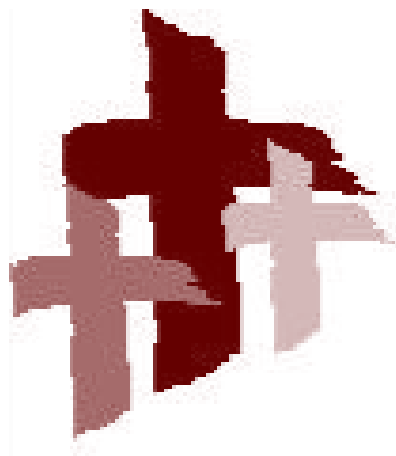
The Deacons at John McMillan are your fellow church members, your friends, neighbors and probably someone you sit near to in church each week. If you need a meal, a ride to a doctors, maybe a prescription picked up or maybe just someone to talk to, don't hesitate to give us a call we're always there to help..

Our names are listed in the back of The Sunday Bulletin each week and while one of us will be "The Deacon of The Month", any of us would love to hear from you....

The February Deacon of the Month is Bob Burland. He can be reached at (412) 833-2103

Keep those Estimate of Giving Cards coming!

First, thanks to everyone who has returned their Estimate of Giving cards for 2025. JMPC cannot carry out our missions and ministries without your financial support. Currently, we are a couple weeks past Consecration Sunday and want to be sure we have all the Estimate of Giving Cards submitted. If it is your intention to submit a card, and we hope it is, please send it in as soon as you can so that we can set the 2025 budget by the end of the year. If it is not your intention to submit a card, please continue to support JMPC financially when you can with what you can. Again, thank you all for your continued financial support of JMPC.





January 25, 2025

Carolyn Brow Garden
Manager

John McMillan Presbyterian Church 875
Clifton Road

Bethel Park, PA 15102 Dear

Carolyn:

As we sit in front of our garden planning paperwork and seed catalogs looking forward with hope to the warmer days ahead, I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your volunteers for your hard work through the 2024 growing season! The SHIM Community Gardens Program continues to thrive with the support of the 14 gardens in our growing network, as well as the community businesses and organizations that we have built strong relationships with since

the inception of the program in 2012.

The 2024 growing season was very successful – a total of 17,608 pounds of produce was distributed through our 3 food pantries!

You, along with your dedicated team of volunteers at John McMillan Church help the SHIM garden program to achieve each of the benchmarks set forth in our mission statement:

‘SHIM’s mission is to mobilize community resources and implement sustainable programs that compassionately help our neighbors

meet basic needs, achieve self-sufficiency and build community.’

“mobilize community resources” = John McMillan’s leadership allows a portion of available land to be utilized for the garden. Your parishioners support the program through donations, seed starting, volunteering and countless other garden tasks.

“implement sustainable programs that compassionately help our neighbors meet basic needs and achieve self-

sufficiency” = John McMillan volunteers grow healthy produce for our clients to include in their diets, meeting one of the most important basic needs – nutritious food choices. Without access to a healthy diet, one’s physical and

mental resources may not be adequate to do the hard work needed to achieve self-sufficiency through SHIM’s various programs.

“build community” = the SHIM garden program is rooted in community values. Each of the 14 gardens have built

relationships amongst each other and within the community. We share the mission of compassionately helping those in need by growing nutritious food. Through our individual garden outreach programs, we are building community by sharing our passion and knowledge for gardening and the significance of a healthy diet with our clients, volunteers

and the public.

With gratitude for all your hard work, SHIM thanks you and your volunteers for helping the garden program to be successful! We couldn’t do it without you.

Sincerely,

Becky Henninger

SHIM Community Gardens Program Manager

JMPC Book Club

Monday, February 24

7:00 p.m. in the Parlor

All are welcome to the discussion.

An Unfinished Love Story: A Person History of the 1960s by Doris Kearns Goodwin

One of America's most beloved historians, artfully weaves together biography, memoir, and history. She takes you along on the emotional journey she and her husband, Richard (Dick) Goodwin embarked upon in the last years of his life (Goodreads).

Future Books:

James by Percival Everett - Monday, March 24

The Wager by David Grann



2025 Flower Chart

The 2025 Flower Chart is on display in the Narthex.

Help to beautify our Sanctuary on Sundays throughout the year.

Flowers are \$45.00 and are promised to one family per Sunday on a first come -first served basis. Please pay prior to, or the day

you request flowers to be displayed by placing your check in the offering plate with "flowers" noted, or give to the Church Office. Call Cindy Fast at 412-854-2356 if you have any questions.



Kids Club & Youth Group

If you are in the Third to Sixth grades we want to welcome you back to Kids Klub from **5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays**. Bring \$3 and join us for supper, arts/crafts, games, music and more!

Contact person: Linda Pelan at linpel@verizon.net or 412-527-9755

Youth Group (grades 7-12) also meets on Wednesdays.

Director of Youth & Family Ministries Search

The search for a new Director of Youth and Families continues. Any referrals welcome; please contact Kathleen Mazzola at kmmazz2014@gmail.com.

Winter Weather

Should the need ever arise, we have put into place a cancellation policy at JMPC. If ever in doubt that church or church activities are canceled you can check the following places:

- Church Voicemail will advise of cancellations
- We will post on Facebook
- We will post on our Website (www.johnmcmillanpc.org)
- You will receive an e-mail advising of the cancellation
- WPXI closings & cancellations





John McMillan Preschool News

2024-2025 Preschool Registration Opens Wednesday, February 3, 2025!

It is time for Preschool Registration at John McMillan.
We are excited to offer the following Preschool classes for the 2025-2026 school year:

Pre-Kindergarten AM or PM: For children age 4½ as of September 30, 2025, this class meets Monday-Thursday and fosters the development of specific skills that are essential for success in kindergarten. Each day will include free play and gross motor time.

4-Year Olds AM or PM: For children age 4 as of September 30, 2025, this class meets three days per week and lessons are designed to prepare children for kindergarten. Each day includes free play and gross motor time.

3-Year Olds AM or PM: For children age 3 as of September 30, 2025, 2-day (Tuesday & Thursday) or 3-day (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday) classes are offered. Children must be toilet trained. The focus of our 3's curriculum is socialization and learning through play.

Young 3 Year Olds AM: For children turning age 3 June- Oct. 31, 2025, 2-day (Tuesday & Thursday) classes are offered. Children must be toilet trained. The focus of our 3's curriculum is socialization and learning through play.

Please contact Kim Doughty for a form or to learn more about our program.

412-833-4704 or preschool@johnmcmillanpc.org.

***Please share this information with family, friends, and neighbors!
Let's get the word out about our wonderful preschool!***

Mark your calendars for our Spring Social Open House. This will be held on Thursday March 20th from 6:00-8:00 pm. This is a fun family night with basket raffles and ice cream.



Sarris Easter Candy Sale

Easter candy sale will be from Feb. 12- March 14, 2025

Sarris candy will again be available at the same prices as in stores.
Please consider ordering your Sarris Easter candy at JMPC,
as all proceeds will benefit our Preschool.

Candy will be **delivered the week of April 7th**. Thank you for your support!

