

Summer 2024



# JMPC in Mission

John McMillan Presbyterian Church

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



John McMillan Church has been filled with mission and ministry activity! At the church we are still gardening each Monday at our SHIM garden & orchard. Our youth went to Savannah, GA in August. Vacation Bible School was a fabulous time for over 100 children from our church and the community in June. We give thanks to God for all of these experiences that allowed us to be God's teachers, hands, feet and voices!



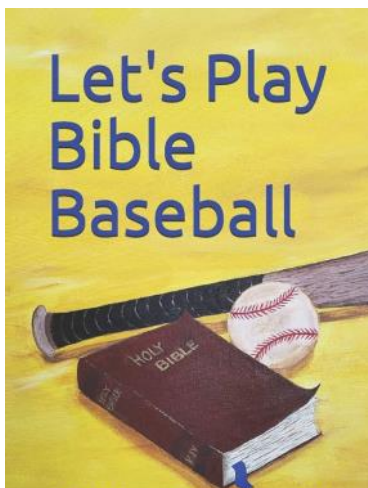
Savannah, GA  
(left & above)



The Savannah, GA youth mission trip was a blessed and wonderful experience for all. We served at places like: The Salvation Army, Old Savannah City Mission, Second Harvest Garden, Tharros Place, Blessingdale's, The City of Savannah, Meals on Wheels, Union Mission, and Loop it Up .

We also served alongside some of the best God friends we have made so far. We worked with Jose, Carlos, and Libby from The First Kissimmee United Methodist Church; and Molly and Jimmy from St. Stephen's Episcopal in Minnesota and their youth. It was a joy and pleasure working with them and joining together in fellowship and worship.

We went on a few field trips to see some local sites. We visited Chippewa Square, mostly for me, to see the site where Forrest Gump was filmed. We toured some of historic Savannah and River Street. On Tuesday, the entire group visited the First African Baptist Church, where we learned its deep roots dating back to the



### **Bible Baseball Night**

To kick off the fall season, we will be having a Family Bible Baseball Night on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 PM.

All are welcome and strong Bible knowledge is not necessary!





# JMPC in Mission 2024

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**Youth Mission trip in  
Savannah, GA**



## **John McMillan Preschool News**

We are excited to start the 2024-2025 school year! On September 5<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome back all our former and new students. It is always such a wonderful time to see the former students and to get to know our new families.

We are anticipating another fun and exciting year. We can't wait for the new wooden boat on our playground boat, that we purchased in honor of Hugh Given. Thank you to everyone that supported us in our fundraising efforts. We know that the boat will bring so much joy and fun to our children.

### **2024-2025 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Preschool classes for the 2024-2025 school year have filled up quickly! Currently, we have a few spaces left in our afternoon 4's class. If you know of anyone with a child who will be 4 by September 30, 2024, please tell them about John McMillan!

We offer preschool classes for children ages 3 through 5 years old and enrichment classes in the afternoon. This year our enrichment classes included something for every child and age group: cooking, awesome artists, STEM, Christmas, Spanish, and around the world adventures!

Please contact Kim Doughty to schedule a tour and to learn more about our program: 412-833-4704 or [preschool@johnmcmillanpc.org](mailto:preschool@johnmcmillanpc.org). Registration material for all classes offered and additional information is available on our website ([johnmcmillanpc.org](http://johnmcmillanpc.org)).

**Be sure to check out our Facebook page for pictures of all the fun things happening at John McMillan Preschool!**









THANK YOU, Vacation Bible School participants and volunteers. We had an amazing time with God “under the stars” with Lumen, our lightning bug mascot leading the way.

We welcomed 25 more children than last year and retained almost all the same volunteers, plus more. The continuity of volunteers is so helpful not only for a successful program, but also pivotal in developing relationships amongst our adults, youth, and kids.

Sarah Willison led as our co-director this year and did a great job. She was positive and kind, willing to adapt to the needs of the kids, and was an amazing support for me.

An important shout out to Anna Todd. Anna led with energy and maturity and her voice, along with others, will be the one stuck in their heads for the days, weeks, and months to come.

Lastly, the staff of JMPC put a lot of time and effort into this ministry. Jeff shared his new talent as puppet master; Leslie ran the registration table and made the Family Celebration program, and Jackie and Kay helped lead music, advertised, led social media, plus more. They were all integral in Vacation Bible School and there every day to support our youth and children.

We cannot wait until next year and there might even be another puppet friend joining us on our adventure!



Do you love kids? Storytelling? Games? We need YOUR spiritual gifts!

Children’s Church is looking for teachers. No experience needed- just come and teach the lesson that will be provided to you. We would love to have you as a part of our little class.

Kids Klub is looking for another leader to assist on Wednesday nights. We are looking specifically for an energetic, male role model who loves kids and Jesus.





## Cookie Angels

We are bringing back Coffee Hour on September 15th!!

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 9:15am on Sunday morning. If you drop them off during the week, please mark the treats with date to be used and put in freezer.



Originally published in the April 2009 issue of Presbyterians Today, Stephany Jackson wrote an article titled "Called to be Servants: By caring for persons in need, deacons reflect the heart of Christianity" (You can read the full article here: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/deacons/>)

In the article, Jackson reviews the "job description" for deacons in the PCUSA and outlines a model of caring. One deacon quoted in the article was inspired by this piece of scripture: Romans 12:9-13: "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."

As Christians, we are all called to serve and love one another. But those who are called to serve as a deacon make a public commitment to minister to those in need, the sick, and the friendless, within and beyond our congregation. The JMPC deacons are thankful that three individuals have answered the call to serve and will be joining us this fall: Scott Nowak, Zach Smith, and Paul Zandhuis. Welcome!

If you or someone you know could benefit from the support of the deacons, tangible or spiritual, please reach out to the church office or the deacon of the month listed in the bulletin.

On behalf of the JMPC Deacons,  
Laura Waterstram



## Music Notes

Can you imagine worship without music? Thanks to the many soloists who have graciously shared their talents with us, we have enjoyed beautiful, spiritual music during worship this summer while the choir has enjoyed some vacation time.

Choir practice will resume on Thursday evenings at 7:00 beginning September 5. You are welcome to join us if you love to sing and can carry a tune. The choir sings nearly every Sunday from September through May.

The Celebration Ringers will practice on Thursday evenings from 6:00 until 7:00 beginning September 12. We always need ringers who can read music. The bells play a couple of times each month.

Please contact Music Director, Carolyn Brow, if you have any questions. She can be reached at [worb5@comcast.net](mailto:worb5@comcast.net) or 724-941-0197.



It is important as a church that the Lord's Supper extends to everyone, especially those that are not able to make it on Sunday morning. We would love to bring you communion whether you are in the hospital, at home, or anywhere else. We serve home communion and are able to schedule other days if needed. If you or someone you know would like home communion, please contact the church office.



### Greeters Needed

JMPC needs you to greet people at the door as they arrive at church. No experience necessary.

Just a smile and a glad hand.

Questions: Suzie Burland [suzieeg@hotmail.com](mailto:suzieeg@hotmail.com)



Jan & Larry Mickey  
1001 Hastings Park Drive, Apt 210  
Bridgeville, PA 15017  
(412) 726-0137 (Larry)  
(412) 726-0138 (Jan)





## Christmas Affair

Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 2nd, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for our annual mission raising event. From the proceeds last year, we were able to donate \$11,000 to various local and international organizations.. To get us started, there will be an organizational meeting after church on Sunday, August 25th. All are welcome, but especially the leaders in each area: Set-up/Clean-up, Bakery, Gingerbread House, Kris Kringle Kafe, Chance Auction, Parking, Decorations, and Crafters. We're looking for volunteers in all areas to help make this possible. Follow us on Facebook at John McMillan Christmas Affair Craft Show to stay up-to-date! As we get closer, we will announce specific volunteer opportunities and details. Please email Leslie at [jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.com](mailto:jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.com) or Pam Dobos at [dob914@aol.com](mailto:dob914@aol.com) for more information or to volunteer. This event features over 40 unique crafters showcasing original handmade crafts, and JMPC members make candy, homemade food, and baked goods to sell. Admission is free and all proceeds benefit local and world-wide missions.

## The Bins are Empty!

The Shared Blessings Store at the First Presbyterian Church of Duquesne is in need of children's clothes for boys and girls in sizes 2, 3, 4, and 5. Your donations are appreciated. Need a pickup? Email Cheryl Davies at [daviesbp53@hotmail.com](mailto:daviesbp53@hotmail.com).

## Adopt a Garden

With Kick-Off Sunday almost here on September 8, we would like to have the landscaping around the church spruced up a bit to welcome the new program year. We have many garden areas that need attention and long to be adopted. These include the front entranceway and the strip between the parking lots. Our small gardens mostly need periodic weeding. Feel free to plant some deer resistant flowers, or if planting mums, spray them with deer repellent. Our gardens don't require much time or effort, but they could sure use some loving care right now. If you can spare a couple hours to work on weeding or sprucing up, it will help to make the outside of our church more welcoming. If you would want to commit to a garden, there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex. Please give us a hand. If you have any questions, contact Pam Dobos at 412-833-3868 or [dob914@aol.com](mailto:dob914@aol.com).

## SHIM Garden

Our gardeners have been harvesting tomatoes, beans, kale, lettuce, peppers and broccoli for the food pantry at SHIM. We provide fresh, organic produce for our neighbors who cannot afford to purchase this for themselves. Many of the families SHIM services have young children or the elderly.

We always need help harvesting on Monday evenings. We also need people to help water during the week. You can help whenever it fits your schedule. Contact Carolyn Brow at [worb5@comcast.net](mailto:worb5@comcast.net) or 724-9410197.



**John McMillan**  
**Presbyterian Church**  
875 Clifton Road  
Bethel Park, PA 15102

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Elisabeth Jeffries, Organist  
Emily Shubilla, Director of CE

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[jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.org](mailto:jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.org)

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**[johnmcmillanpc.org](http://johnmcmillanpc.org)**

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