

January 2024



# Interface

John McMillan Presbyterian Church

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

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Make coming to church a habit in 2024. As a subsidiary resolution, if you have kids, bring them to Children's Church, Youth Group, and Kid's Club in 2024.

Church can be habit forming.

Some time ago, I read the book "The Power of Habit" by Robert Duhigg. It is a fascinating book about how to create and adjust your daily habits – which we all have – some good, some bad. I recommend the book but offer this really brief summary of what I got out of it.

Habits are formed by three things:

Cue (What I want to do.)

Routine (How I do it.)

Reward (Why I do it.)

The main item of the three is number 2 – routine. Here is an example from my life. Many years ago, I decided I wanted to walk my two dogs every morning. It was good for them and good for me. That was the cue. Walking in the morning. To get started, I needed a routine. I would get up, put the coffee on, put the dogs in the car and drive to a local cemetery where I could run the dogs off leash. That was the routine. Afterward, I would drive home, drink my coffee and have a feeling of accomplishment to begin the day. That was the reward, Walking my dogs became a habit within a month. I would do it rain or shine, dark of light, snow or dry. I still do. What made it easy was that I had a routine.

What does that look like with church? Well, the cue is wanting to go to church. The routine comes next. How do you do it? Because you know when it is, where it is and how much of your day it will take, you can plan for it. Like my dog walking, you get up, go, and go home (or maybe someplace else, like the donut shop). That is the routine. When you get home you have accomplished something to start your Sunday. (Something pretty important, too.) That is the reward. Coming to church will be a habit in no time, even if it all takes place in your living room online. (Though getting to church in person, even if it's only once a month, would be a good habit, too.) It's the routine that makes it easy.

Once you create and follow your routine regularly (habitually), it takes the pressure of making the decision to go to church off. It's a no brainer, a habit, you just go.

Make Sunday morning at JMPC a habit.

A resolution, even ...

## Interface

### JMPC is filled with ANGELS!

Thank you to all who donated winter outerwear for our annual Angel Tree Coat Drive. We were able to donate 192 pieces of winter gear for the annual Christmas Market at The First Presbyterian Church of Duquesne. Our generous givers also gifted 5 Walmart gift cards and \$174 in cash donations that were used to purchase 5 Aldi gift cards and a coat and winter clothing for children and youth. Many young people in the community will be kept warm and cozy this winter due to your commitment to caring for our neighbors. JMPC is part of the “glue” that keeps The Shared Blessings Store serving the community of Duquesne. Your continued support is appreciated.



### MEN'S BREAKFAST

We meet for breakfast on the **LAST** Monday of the month. The January gathering of men for breakfast will be January 29th at 9 am. We will continue to meet at the Eat N Park on 88 by the South Park Shops. See you then and invite your friends.



### The Women's Breakfast Club

We meet for breakfast on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 9:00am at Eat 'N Park across from South Park Shops. In January join us on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Everyone is invited and can bring a friend!

We have great fun and fellowship and look forward to seeing each other every month.



### BIBLE STUDY

### Studying the Bible with Pastor Jeff

The Brown Bag Bible Study meets on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at noon in Fellowship Hall. The Bible Study is intended to review and interpret individual books of the Bible from beginning to end. It is not necessary to be present at each meeting. We always have a catch-up summary of prior discussions. Each class offers surprising topics to talk about and debate. Laughter is common. And we always have fellowship time before we get started, too. We are currently studying 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians, the oldest book in the New Testament. Come and check it out. Bring your lunch!

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## A Tremendous Thank You from the Outreach Pillar

Thank you to our wonderful JMPC family for your generous support of our missions during 2023. You make our mission here a reality. **THANK YOU!**

- Donating food on a weekly basis or for our Food Drives
- Volunteered at World Vision
- Prepared, planted, nurtured, and harvested from the SHIM Garden
- Donated to The Shared Blessings Store through drives and especially our Angel Tree Coat Drive
- Shared a meal for Hello Neighbor
- Gave of your time and talent on a Mission Trip
- Donated non-perishables to our Souper Bowl Collection
- Responded to monthly drives shared by JMPC and our Preschool



## ***An Outreach Update***

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in our ministry with our friends, the Revkovas, from Ukraine. What started as a need to help with resettlement here in the USA has turned into a friendship with a group of giving people from JMPC. Because of donations, time, transportation, employment and educational help, and the support of Christian friendship, the family is doing well and progressing towards meeting their goals of a new life in the US. Please keep them in prayer in the coming year as they continue their journey.

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## **Christmas Card Recycling**

Please recycle your Christmas cards for decorating bags for our Christmas Affair 2024. We need just the front of the card. Drop them in the office at your convenience. Thank you!

## **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 11th 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.



## Interface

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### Kids Klub and Youth Group Resume

Kids Klub (grades 3-6) and Youth Group (grades 7-12) will return on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, from 5:00 – 7:00pm! Each Wednesday evening is a fun time with learning, exciting recreation, and a delicious dinner. Bring \$3.00 and FRIENDS are always welcome! Questions, contact Emily at [dce@johnmcmillanpc.org](mailto:dce@johnmcmillanpc.org).

### Christmas Card Workshop

Kids Klub and members of the congregation made around 40 cards this past Christmas season and mailed them to the Hope House in Washington, PA and Sojourner House in Pittsburgh, PA.



### Children's Church

Jesus' birthday- We had a great time celebrating Jesus' birthday with our Children's Church. We heard the story of Christ's birth, made him cards, and sang happy birthday!







### Pepperoni Rolls

The Youth of JMPC will be selling yummy That's a Wrap pepperoni rolls to fund their mission trip to Savannah, GA. They are \$13/ 6-pack. The fundraiser will begin January 3<sup>rd</sup> and orders and money are due by Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Delivery is January 30<sup>th</sup> - right in time for the Super Bowl! You can order from a youth group member or the order form in the Narthex.

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July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, the youth of JMPC will be travelling to Savannah, GA through Youth Works for their annual mission trip. If your youth is interested in attending, a \$100 deposit is due Wednesday, January 31. There are multiple fundraising opportunities! For more information, please see Emily Shubilla.



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### APCE Conference

January 22<sup>nd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>, Emily Shubilla will be travelling to St. Louis, MO for the Association of Partners in Christian Education's Annual Event. She will be attending various workshops, trainings, and networking events. Pray for safety and a fruitful experience. See the JMPC blog to follow her travels!

## The Christmas Affair

Again, the success of the 2023 Christmas Affair surprised us. But as always, the members of JMPC came through with energy and enthusiasm in support of this mission endeavor under the Outreach Pillar. We are delighted to report that \$11,000 will be distributed to 10 mission agencies. The Outreach Pillar prayerfully considered local, national, and global opportunities for mission-giving for the disbursements. This year our global disbursement will directly impact the people of Malawi and our sister church in Chigumula. Over 95 people helped this year, a truly amazing number of volunteers dedicated to this mission project here at JMPC. We are planning a meeting in January to evaluate this event and to plan for the 2024 Christmas Affair. Many of the chairs for each area will be mentored by previous chairs as we move forward. Since 2007, JMPC mission giving through the Christmas Affair is \$152,510; when the Christmas Affair was run by the Women's Association, records show that from 1997-2006, \$81,302.50 was distributed. (We know that the Woman's Association distributed mission money prior to those dates, but we no longer have those records.) Total: 25+ years of mission giving - \$233,812.50



### **JMPC MISSIONS: 2023 CHRISTMAS AFFAIR**

#### **LOCAL and NATIONAL MISSIONS**

3,000.00	<b><u>SHIM:</u></b> South Hills Interfaith Movement empowers local families by providing the tools and resources they need to meet basic needs, achieve self-sufficiency, and build community
1000.00	<b><u>FIRST DUQUESNE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:</u></b> Our sister church use at Pastor's discretion
1000.00	<b><u>FAMILY PROMISE/IHN:</u></b> Helps homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response
1000.00	<b><u>HEARTFEST:</u></b> It is the mission of Heartfest, Inc. to provide funding for dedicated research on the cause and prevention of Congenital Heart Defects
800.00	<b><u>BROTHER'S BROTHER FOUNDATION:</u></b> Bridging the gap between aid and sustainability by supporting localized programs and providing essential resources in the areas of Healthcare, Infrastructure, Disaster Response and Education to promote a healthy life for everyone across the globe
500.00	<b><u>SOJOURNER HOUSE:</u></b> <i>Pittsburgh Presbytery Mission Project.</i> A faith-based residential rehabilitation facility where addicted women learn to break the inter-generational cycle of poverty and chemical abuse while in their own apartment with their children. Located in East Liberty.
500.00	<b><u>WOMEN'S CENTER AND SHELTER OF GREATER PITTSBURGH:</u></b> Helping victims of Domestic Abuse Find Hope.
500.00	<b><u>HELLO NEIGHBOR:</u></b> Supports recently resettled refugee and immigrant families in Pittsburgh, providing them with furnished housing, access to basic food and necessities, employment services, school enrollment support, access to health services, cultural orientation, English language classes, and Family Services programs.
200.00	<b><u>AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION:</u></b> Educates the public about diabetes and helps those affected by it through funding research to manage, cure and prevent diabetes. Sent in honor of <a href="#"><u>Joe and Beth Hancsak (Santa and Mrs. Claus)</u></a>

#### **GLOBAL MISSIONS**

2500.00	<b><u>ADVANCING INVESTMENTS IN MALAWI:</u></b> a non-profit organization whose purpose is to "advance educational and health issues in Malawi." AIIM will directly distribute our funds to our sister church in Chigumula, the Mulanje Mission Hospital, and Saint Andrews Mission Secondary School. For years JMPC has sent church members over to Malawi and have received Malawians into our homes; we have also in years past donated from the Christmas Affair to these three organizations. The Outreach Pillar is delighted that we can do that again through this non-profit organization.
2500.00	<b><u>SUBTOTAL GLOBAL MISSIONS</u></b>
8500.00	<b><u>SUBTOTAL LOCAL and NATIONAL MISSIONS</u></b>
11,000	<b>TOTAL 2023 CHRISTMAS AFFAIR DISBURSEMENT FOR MISSIONS</b>

<b>15 Year Disbursement Record from Christmas Affair</b>	<b>Under Community and Mission/ Outreach</b>
2007	8150
2008	8800
2009	8800
2010	9500
2011	9750
2012	10000
2013	10500
2014	10750
2015	10000
2016	11000
2017	10500
2018	11,400
2019	11,360
2022	11,000
2023	11,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,510</b>

When the Christmas Affair was under the Women's Association, most of the funds raised went to mission, but some went toward JMPC (ex. Building Fund). And the disbursements included other money raised through fundraisers like the flower sale, in addition to the Christmas Affair. (Records from 1991-1996 are no longer available.)

#### **Women's Association Disbursement amounts**

1997	8825
1998	8450
1999	9700
2000	8500
2001	8500
2002	8000
2003	6802.50
2004	8325
2005	8000
2006	6200
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,302.50</b>

**25 years of mission giving: \$233,812.50**

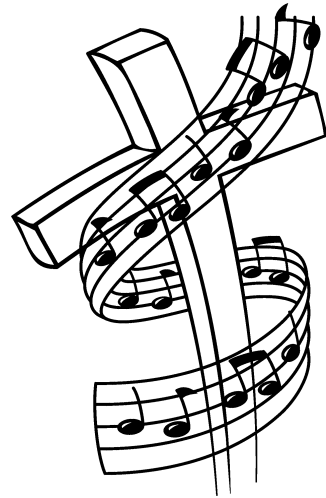
# Interface

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## Music Notes

It's easy to feel the January doldrums after the excitement of Christmas but there is much to be done as illustrated in the following poem by Howard Thurman:

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
 When the star in the sky is gone,  
 When the kings and princes are home,  
 When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
 The work of Christmas begins:  
 To find the lost,  
 To heal the broken,  
 To feed the hungry,  
 To release the prisoner,  
 To rebuild the nations,  
 To bring peace among people,  
 To make music in the heart.



## “I Believe ...” Sermon Series

What does it mean to “believe” something? Is it the same as “believing in” something? And if our identity requires us to affirm the belief of or in something, we might need to think about what it means to “believe”. As Christians, we affirm certain beliefs about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the church, etc. When we make these affirmations of belief, what exactly are we saying? What are mandatory? What are debatable? What are acceptable? We will offer a seven-week sermon series that will explore a few of these questions about some of the “tenets of the faith”. The series begins on January 7th and will continue through February 11th. Come and hear.





## Happy New Year from John McMillan Preschool!

We return to Preschool this month refreshed and ready to go!  
Be on the lookout for snowmen, snowflakes and all things winter in the hallways and classrooms!



### 2024-2025 Preschool In-house Registration Opens Monday, January 22, 2024!

We are excited to offer the following Preschool classes for the 2024-2025 school year:

**AM/PM Pre-Kindergarten:** In this class for children age 4½ as of September 30, 2024, lessons are planned to foster the development of specific skills that are essential for success in kindergarten. All of these skills will be taught through fun and engaging activities over four days (Monday - Thursday). Each day will include free play and gross motor time.

**AM/PM 4-Year Olds:** This class meets 3 days per week and is for children age 4 as of September 30, 2024. Lessons are designed to prepare children for kindergarten and each day includes free play and gross motor time.

**AM/PM 3-Year Olds:** Two options are available for children age 3 as of September 30, 2024. Two-day (Tuesday & Thursday) or Three-day (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday) classes will be offered. Children must be toilet trained. The focus of our 3's curriculum is socialization and learning through play.

Registration will take place on-line or by mail. The completed registration form and non-refundable fee must be emailed or postmarked and mailed to John McMillan Preschool **no sooner than Monday, January 22, 2024.**

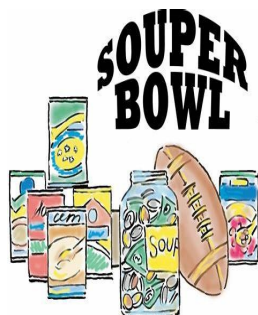
#### In-house registration is open to:

- Children currently enrolled at John McMillan Preschool and their siblings
- Children of John McMillan Presbyterian Church members
- Children of alumni families

Community registration is held after the in-house registration is completed, and is open to those in the community who do not meet the "In-house" registration requirements.

Please contact Kim Doughty to schedule a tour and to learn more about our program. 412-833-4704 ext. 4 or [preschool@johnmcmillanpc.org](mailto:preschool@johnmcmillanpc.org). Registration material and additional information is available on our web-site.

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



Remember to follow us on Facebook to keep up with what's happening at John McMillan Preschool!

This month our January Community Service project is a diaper drive for the Duquesne Blessings store.

We are partnering with JMPC and all collections will benefit those in need.

In February, we will be supporting the Washington County Humane society to coincide with our "Pet" week.

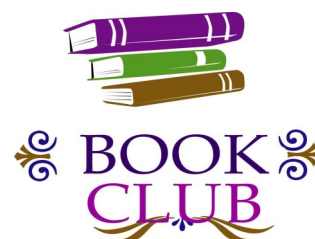
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### The JMPC Book Club

**Monday, January 22 @ 7:00 pm in the Parlor**

***The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson**



In 1936, tucked deep into the woods of Troublesome Creek, KY, lives blue-skinned 19-year-old Cussy Carter, the last living female of the rare Blue People ancestry. The lonely young Appalachian woman joins the historical Pack Horse Library Project of Kentucky and becomes a librarian, riding across slippery creek beds and up treacherous mountains on her faithful mule to deliver books and other reading material to the impoverished hill people of Eastern Kentucky. Along her dangerous route, Cussy, known to the mountain folk as Bluet, confronts those suspicious of her damselfly-blue skin and the government's new book program. She befriends hardscrabble and complex fellow Kentuckians, and is fiercely determined to bring comfort and joy, instill literacy, and give to those who have nothing a fleeting retreat to faraway lands (Goodreads).



If you are or have been a visitor on Sunday mornings, we are glad to have you in worship with our church family. If you are looking for a church home, and want to find out if JMPC might be a good place for you, join us at our next New Members' Class and find out everything you need to know. The class that will begin on January 14 at 9:00am in the church parlor and continue for the next two Sundays (though missing a Sunday is not a problem). There is no obligation to join if you attend, but you can just come to see what we are all about. If you are seeking a place to live and experience faith, mission and fellowship, John McMillan Presbyterian Church would be a good fit. Please call Leslie in the church office to let us know you are coming. Childcare will be available.

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Happy New Year from the JMPC Deacons! The Deacons would like to invite anyone who is interested in attending our committee meeting to please contact Samantha Coggins by call, text (412-568-3484) or email ([samantha@johnmcmillanpc.org](mailto:samantha@johnmcmillanpc.org)), so that we may welcome you! We would like you to join us to find out more about how you can help show comfort to those in need here at JMPC. We will only take about 15-20 minutes of your time once per month to update you on who at our church may need assistance with meals, rides, prayers, or a friendly visit.



**Baptism of our Lord** is the focus during worship on January 8, 2023. On that Sunday we will remember our own baptism and recognize those who have recently been baptized at JMPC in the prior year: Alexander James Roberts; Fiona Marie Brown; Lane Carter Fawcett; Samuel Kenneth Masson; Lucille Rose Masson and Nora Jane Smith



### **The Annual Meeting of the Congregation & Corporation**

Sunday, February 25th

At the conclusion of the 10:00am  
Worship Service

Help is needed to “undecorate” the church on **Saturday, January 6, 2024, at 9:00 am**. If you have questions, contact Cindy Fast.

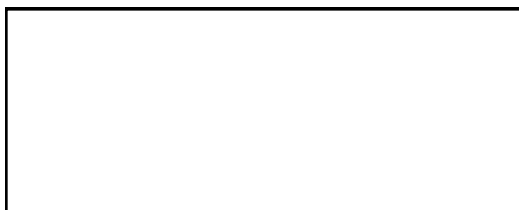


The 2024 flower chart is on display in the Narthex. Help to beautify our Sanctuary on Sundays throughout the year. Flowers are \$40.00 and are promised to one (1) family per Sunday on a first come-first served basis. Please pay prior to, or the day you request flowers to be displayed by placing your check in the offering plate with “flowers” noted or give to Leslie. Call Cindy Fast at 412-854-2356 if you have any questions.

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

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Rev. Jeff Tindall, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Samantha Coggins, Associate Pastor  
Carolyn Brow, Music Director  
Elisabeth Jeffries, Organist  
Leslie Bogdon, Office Manager  
Emily Shubilla, Director of CE  
Kim Doughty, Preschool Director  
Jackie Druga & Kay Zawicki, Tech Crew

\* \* \* \* \*

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[www.johnmcmillanpc.org](http://www.johnmcmillanpc.org)  
[jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.org](mailto:jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.org)

**Visit us on the web**  
**[johnmcmillanpc.org](http://johnmcmillanpc.org)**

**January 2024 Issue**

**January 7 (10:00 am)**

*Communion/Baptism of the Lord*  
Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching

**January 14 (10:00 am)**

Rev. Samantha Coggins preaching

**January 21 (10:00 am)**

Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching

**January 28 (10:00 am)**

Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching

