

The Interface

John McMillan Presbyterian Church

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



April 2025

April is always one of my favorite months of the year! This year that is doubly true because April 20 is Easter! Although we all love Christmas, Easter is the most important holiday for Christians. It is the celebration of God's love for us and the affirmation of our new life in Christ. As Christ was brought to new life, so we, His followers, have new life also. What a celebration!

In April, we will continue with our sermon series "Jesus is the Question." We begin the month with an important question that haunts us all: "Who of you, by worrying, can add a single hour to your life?" Worry, stress, anxiety. We all face it; we all want to get rid of it. Whether we are worrying about our family, our church, or the price of eggs, we are always stressed about something! I was with a group from the church the other day and they all agreed: "We just don't watch the news anymore! It is too stressful."

April Worship

April 6 (10:00 am)

Rev. Emily Miller preaching

Communion

April 13 (10:00 pm)

Rev. Emily Miller preaching

Palm Sunday

April 17 (7:30 pm)

Rev. Emily Miller preaching

Maundy Thursday

April 20 (10:00 am)

Rev. Emily Miller preaching

Easter Sunday

April 27 (10:00 am)

Rev. Emily Miller preaching

One of the biggest things we ALL worry about is the future. No matter how old you are, or how wise you are, the future is always uncertain. Because it is uncertain, it becomes a source of anxiety. At JMPC, concerns about the future take the form of questions about our transition: How long will it take? Are there many good pastors out there? What will happen to our church if we don't find someone? I hear these questions being asked by our members.

As your interim pastor, I want to assure you that we are already making incredible progress on our search for an installed pastor: we have completed the CAT survey, we have a PNC in place, and we are moving ahead to interpret the survey and have listening sessions with the congregation as well. All of that progress should help to alleviate stress!

But more importantly, as I met with your PNC for the first time, I heard PNC chair Mary Cullison say the most extraordinary bit of wisdom. (continued on page 2) She told the group: "We need not

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

875 Clifton Road
Bethel Park, PA 15102
412-833-4704

Online: www.johnmcmillanpc.org
Email: jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.org



EASTER EGG HUNT

Church and Preschool families please join us,

April 12 from 11-12 for our annual Celebration. Children ages 3rd grade and under are invited to participate. When not hunting eggs, kids will have snacks to eat and pictures to color. Weather permitting, the egg hunt will be outdoors. In case of inclement weather, it will be moved indoors. To ensure that we have plenty of eggs for everyone we are asking that you sign up in advance either through [SignUpGenius](#) or on the sign up sheet in the Narthex.

be anxious. God has already chosen our next pastor. We just need to listen for God's direction and follow." Wise words, indeed! No matter how much we fret, we are in God's hands. We are in God's hands every day of our lives, and every day of our transition. And so, I ask: Who of us, by worrying, can change a single thing about the transitional process? God's got this! So, let's celebrate Easter together.

Celebrating with you,

Pastor Emily



HOLY COW! THANK YOU!

Thank you for participating in the Church Assessment Survey (CAT). **Mark your calendars for our Interpretation Lunch on April 6 after worship.** Rev. Ralph Lowe will walk us through our results while we enjoy our chili and hot dogs. The Mission Study will be available in April for everyone which will include a summary of the survey

responses as well as demographic data, history, and a summary of who we are and what we do at JMPC.



Creation Day

On **Sunday, April 27**, we will celebrate our annual Creation Day. After worship, we will have a picnic lunch and tend to the SHIM garden and orchard. Please join us for this fun, outdoor event. Many Hands are needed.



SHIM Garden

April is a busy month in the SHIM Garden. We plant our cool weather crops, weed, till and lay weed suppressant cloth. We must also tend to the orchard by spraying the trees, mending the fence and pruning. Unfortunately, we had to remove four peach trees due to a fungal disease for which there is no cure. We will replant other types of trees such as pears and apples which do not get this disease.

Our gardeners typically harvest 1200 pounds of fresh, organic produce every year. All of our vegetables and fruits go to the SHIM food pantry where they are distributed to families in need.

We need your help for this important mission to continue. We need help with planting, harvesting and maintaining the garden. You can volunteer to help weekly or occasionally. Children are welcome to help in the garden or play on the playground while parents are here.

If you are not able to physically volunteer in the garden, you can help us with a monetary donation. We do not use the church budget to pay for the garden.

Please contact Carolyn Brow at worb5@comcast.net to be put on the mailing list for the garden schedule and information.

Greeters

We are looking for friendly faces to welcome all who come through our doors on Sunday mornings. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. 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. If you have any questions, contact Suzie Burland.



Cookie Angels

The Spiritual Development pillar would like to thank all our very special JMPC cookie angels for baking so many wonderfully delicious cookies for Pastor Emily's reception on her first day of preaching. It provided a very warm welcome for her and her family.

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.

Music Notes

Our Lord has given us the gift of music. He has



called all of us to sing praises and make music to his glorious name. He has created some of us to lead musicians and others to follow. Some of us were created to hum hymns and others to keep hymns from becoming ho-hum. Many of us were made to sing the notes on the black and white keys of the piano while others sing the tones that are in between. Whatever your gift of music is, use it to glorify his name by singing the hymns in worship.

On another “Note”...

No More Cowbells!

Many thanks to those of you who contributed to our fundraising efforts to purchase another octave of chimes for the Celebrations Ringers. It looks like we’re on our way to having the full three octaves of chimes **thanks to you**.

The Mission of JMPC Deacons

“Love each other as I have loved you.” John 15:12

The deacons of John McMillan are attempting to live this out. We reach out to members of our church family in happy times and sad by providing meals, cards and prayers so that every individual feels valued and included.

If you need assistance, please contact the deacon of the month listed in the bulletin.

The April Deacon of the Month is Zach Smith . He can be reached at (412) 651-2200

- JMPC Deacons

Our Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee has begun its work in our search for a new Head Pastor. This is an involved process that takes prayer and discernment. Please keep our PNC in your prayers. Watch for updates on the bulletin board in the narthex and through the Interface and Bulletin. Thank you, PNC Members, for accepting this important position.

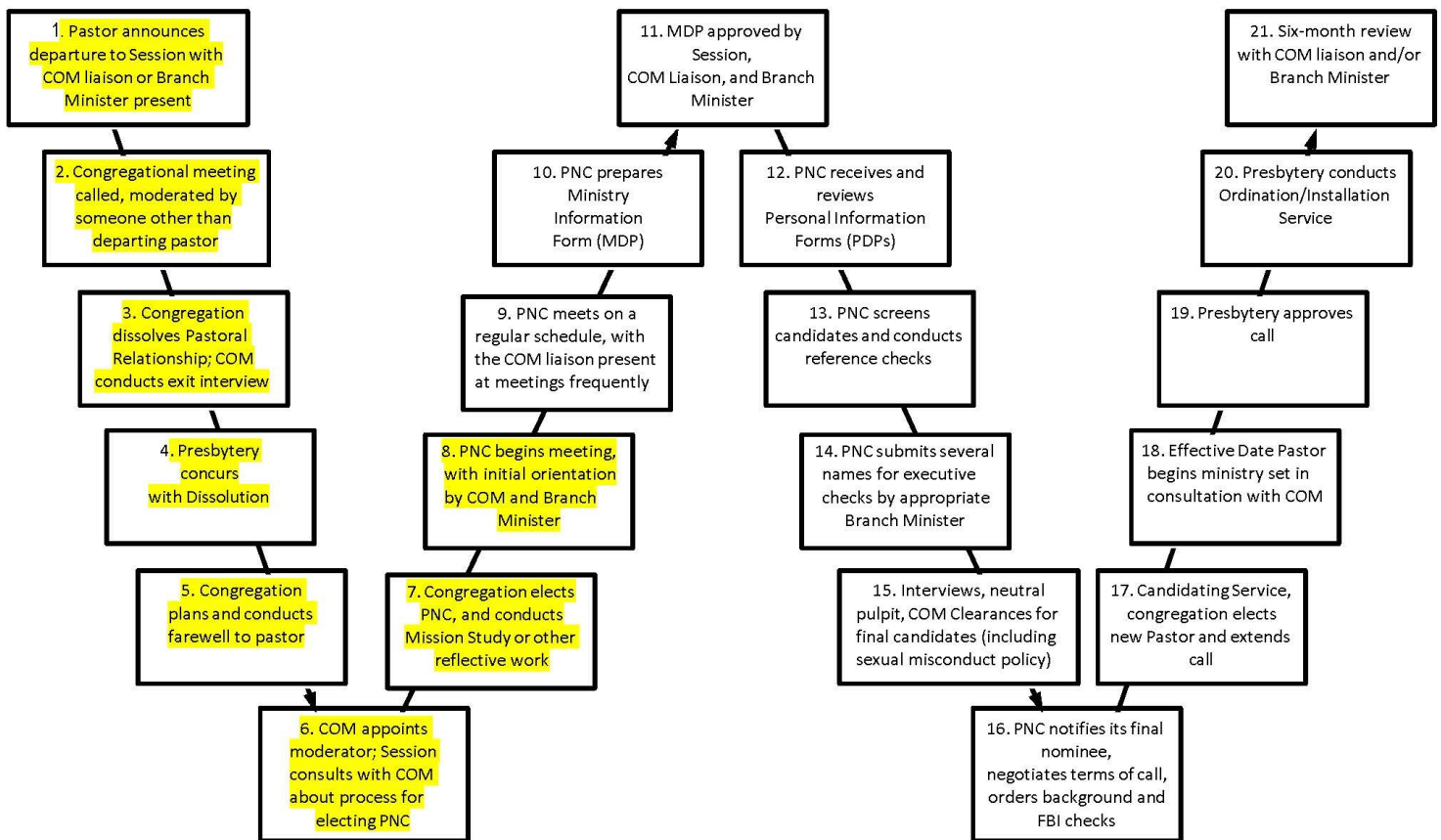


Members (left to right):

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

Pittsburgh Presbytery

Search Process for Pastors & Associate Pastors in Installed Positions



- Check each box as tasks are completed.
- This diagram might be used on a bulletin board to keep your congregation informed on the Search Process.
- Some steps may not be applicable in certain situations. Please consult your COM liaison.

JMPC Book Club

Monday, April 28

7:00 p.m. in the Parlor

All are welcome to the discussion.

Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See

This immersive historical novel was inspired by the true story of a woman physician in 15th-century China.

According to Confucius, “an educated woman is a worthless woman,” but Tan Yuxian’s [...]grandmother is one of only a handful of female doctors in China, and she teaches Yuxian pillars of Chinese medicine, the Four Examinations— looking, listening, touching, and asking[...]When Yunxian is sent into an arranged marriage, she is forbidden [...]from helping the women and girls in the household. Yunxian is to act like a proper wife— embroider bound-foot slippers, recite poetry, give birth to sons, and stay forever within the walls of the family compound, the Garden of Fragrant Delights. How might a woman like Yunxian break free of the traditions and lead a life of such importance that many of her remedies are still used five centuries later? [...] This is a captivating story of women helping each other, a reimaging of the life of one person who was remarkable in the Ming dynasty (Goodreads).



Upcoming Survey (Oh not another one!!!)

But very important and shorter!

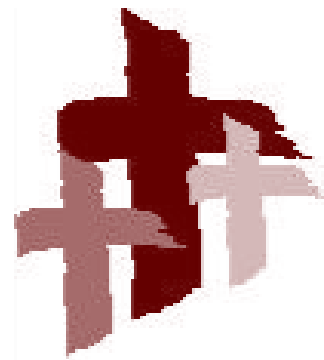
A special group of people are working on what our wants and needs are for an adult education program for our congregation.

An email will be sent in the near future. Please take the time to complete it.



Kids Club & Youth Group

Our last day of Kids Klub is April 9. A special **THANK YOU** to **Linda Pelan** for heading that up this year!



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.

Adopt a Garden 2025

The Resources Pillar invites you and your family to adopt a garden for 2025. We have many small gardens (15) around the perimeter of the church that need some care. Primarily, the gardens require weeding, but you are also encouraged to plant deer-resistant flowers and spread mulch. Work alone to nurture a garden for the growing season; make a garden one of your family's charitable projects; fulfill some community service hours; or encourage a special group to take on a service project. Each area is small, but each has potential for color and design. Your commitment will be about four hours a month. You could also team up with those who are gardening around you to share the watering and weeding efforts throughout the season.

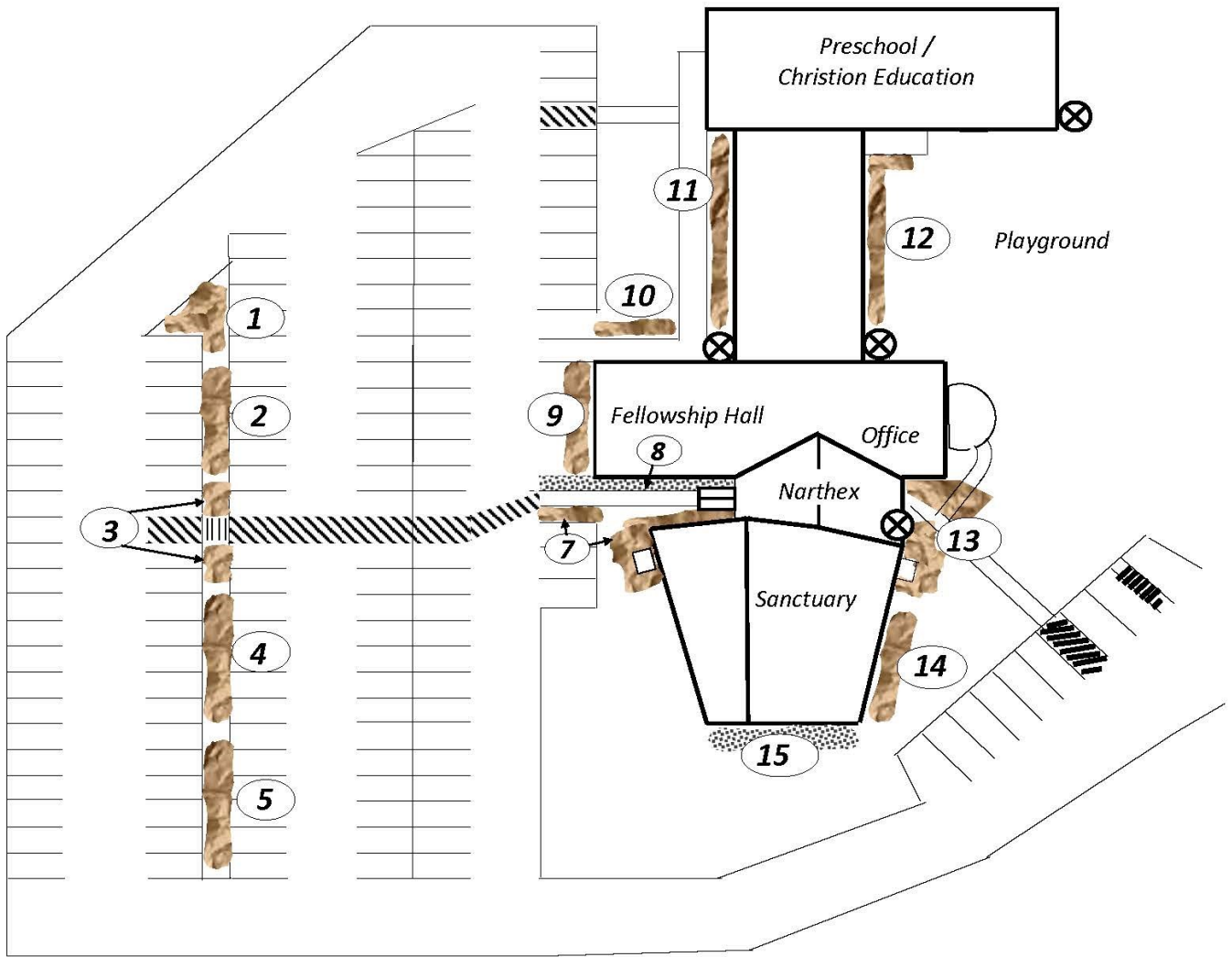
Spring Clean Up Day has been scheduled for Saturday, May 24th from 8 am – 12 noon.

The Garden Adoption




1. Pick a garden area on the diagram for adoption. Put your name and contact information/email on the sign up in the Narthex. Find the line that corresponds to your numbered adopted area.
2. Look over your garden and make some plans.
3. Cultivate the area in the spring. Rid the area of old leaves and dead flowers. Use topsoil, mushroom manure, or peat moss to fertilize the space as needed.
4. Plant your flowers: annuals and/or perennials. Avoid flowers that are deer friendly or they won't last long. Deer have made "our hill" their home over the years with the philosophy that "What is theirs is ours." However, feel free to use deer repellent as needed.
5. **Water and weed** as needed over the summer. Frequency of care depends on the weather, but if you work with those who have adopted gardens near you, it will ease everyone's task.
6. **Pesticides or weed killers should not be used when children are present during preschool or VBS.** A vinegar, soap, and salt solution kills weeds effectively – this recipe can easily be found on internet.
7. Hoses are available at the water faucets. You need a "hex key" to turn on the water. If you need help figuring out the watering faucets, someone will demonstrate the process for you. There are also a few watering cans. The side of the church with the ball field is usually "scorched" by the sun and sometimes needs extra water. Plant hardy flowers that can survive the brutal summer months on that side.
8. Trim bushes or trees as necessary.
9. Plant some bulbs in the fall, if you wish. Clean up the area after the autumn's frost.
10. There are many perennials already planted in some of the gardens so be careful when you weed.

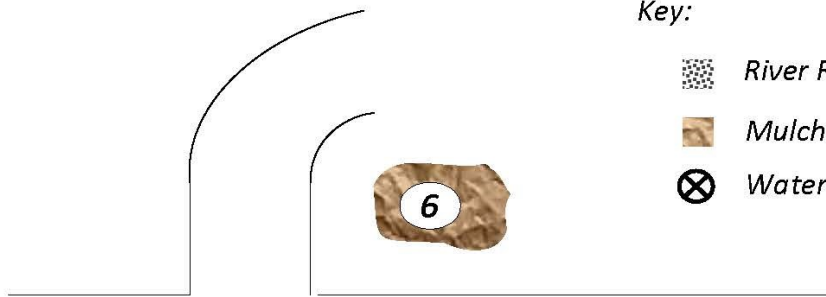


"Adopt A Garden 2025"



Key:

-  River Rock
-  Mulch
-  Water Faucet



Clifton Road



John McMillan Preschool News

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On March 20th, we hosted our annual **Open House** from 6:00-8:00 pm. All staff, students, families, and church members joined us for a fun evening. Our classrooms were filled with amazing work from the students. Refreshments were served, cotton candy, basket raffles, a fun lucky ducky pond, and a 50/50 drawing were some of the highlights of the evening.

Ms. Verna and Mr. Bernie gave us a great **Science** lesson on birds. We were able to meet their bird, Max and enjoyed learning all about so many different birds. They always bring us such a wonderful program.



Also, in science news, we have “**eggciting**” news. We enjoyed hatching chickens this month. We partnered with a company called “Rent The Chicken” and received 7 fertilized eggs. The eggs were in an incubator for 21 days. We watched 5 out of 7 eggs hatch into baby chicks! Each class was able to spend a day with the chicks in their room. Our preschool families then adopted the chickens.

We are grateful for Mrs. Pelan, who has been coming to our 3-year-old classroom and sharing books and activities with the children once a month. The kids really enjoyed her visits. Ms. Miranda, from the Bethel Park Library, continues to come once a month for the older children.



Music classes with Playnotes is always such a fun time. The children sing along to the guitar and play different musical instruments. We are thrilled with the program and so thankful to have them come to our school.



On April 29th we will be attending our spring fieldtrip to the **Spring House Farm** in Eighty-Four, PA. The children will learn how milk is collected and pasteurized. They will also be able to milk a cow and feed a baby calf. They will enjoy an ice cream cone at the end of the tour.



Families are invited to our **Graduation Celebration, May 14th from 7:00-8:30 pm.**

The preschoolers will be performing songs and fingerplays. They will then “Graduate” from their preschool class. There will be a special treat to end the evening.

