



Interface

John McMillan Presbyterian Church

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

Inside this Issue:

- Christian Education
Pgs. 2-4
- Missions
Pgs. 6-7
- Resource
Pg. 8
- Preschool
Pg. 9
- Fellowship
Pgs. 5 & 11
- Membership & Worship
Pgs. 8 & 10
- Worship Info
on back

From Pastor Jeff

There are several things you can count on with the arrival of the fall season: the amount of daylight begins to shorten, leaves begin to fall, the Pirates go home for the winter, the Steelers make us smile or cringe, the Penguins give us hope, the kids go back to school, and the annual Stewardship Campaign at John McMillan Presbyterian Church takes place.

And so it is ...

It is time to commit financially to the mission and ministry of your church. While it might seem like we are simply asking for money, that is not quite true. Consider this. I read something a while back that I found profound. Interestingly, it involved prayer, not stewardship. It was a podcast of an interview of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel by Carl Stern. The subject of prayer came up and this was the exchange.

Carl Stern: *That raises the question, though — if you're saying that if God were to control every aspect of [someone's] life, it would not be living, then that raises the question, why pray to God, then? If God is not going to interfere, if God is not going to intervene, if God is not going to help, what is the role of prayer?*

Rabbi Heschel: *First of all, let us not misunderstand the nature of prayer, particularly in Jewish tradition. The primary purpose of prayer is not to make requests. The primary purpose of prayer is to praise, to sing, to chant, because the essence of prayer is a song, and [people] cannot live without a song. Prayer may not save us, but prayer may make us worthy of being saved. Prayer is not requesting. There is a partnership of God and [us]. God needs our help.*

As I was poised over my keyboard this morning thinking about what to say to you about stewardship, I could not get Heschel's comments about prayer out of my head. And I thought it spoke to what I was thinking about stewardship. So here is my re-write of Heschel's comments on prayer as applied to stewardship.

First of all, let us not misunderstand the nature of giving, particularly in the Judeo-Christian tradition. The primary purpose of giving is not to make budget. The primary purpose of giving is to praise, to sing, to chant, because the essence of giving is worship and mission, and people cannot live without worship and mission. Giving might not save us, but it might make us worthy of being saved. Giving is a partnership of God and God's people. God needs our help.

This has been our experience here at JMPC, hasn't it? We have formed a partnership with God to pursue God's will in the world. We have gathered our resources and invested them in helping God. And we have helped. What we are asking is that you invest some of your money into our partnership with God. In October you will be hearing more about this. You will also be receiving your estimate of giving card for 2024. Please consider how you will praise, sing, chant, worship and be a light to the world through your donations to JMPC. Come to worship and return the card on October 29, Consecration Sunday.

In partnership with God, we will change lives.





JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND! Wednesday Evenings 5:00pm-7:00pm

Kids' Klub is moving right along! In September, we are learning about 3 of God's miracles, getting to know each other, and sharing in a lot of laughs. Please bring your child and FRIENDS on Wednesday nights from 5-7 PM. \$3/ dinner

Grades 3rd through 6th
Questions?
Emily Shubilla @ 724-984-8202 or
JMPC @ 412-833-4704



On Wednesday, October 11th Kids' Klub and Youth Group will be going to Trax Farm 5-7 PM. Families please bring your children to the church by 5PM and we will carpool. The cost is \$10 and financial assistance is available. We will provide a bagged dinner for all participants!



Wednesday nights from 5-7pm

Youth Group has started and we are learning so much about each other and how we can design our own faith. We look forward to the weeks ahead and hope you can join! Bring a friend! Wednesday nights 5-7 PM, \$3/ dinner.

Youth group is for students 7-12th grade.
Questions—Emily Shubilla @ 724-984-8202



Youth Group will be going to Laurelville Retreat Center for Mud Week November 17th- 19th. All youth 7th- 12th grade are encouraged to come. This is an amazing weekend with mud, music, fellowship, and Jesus. The cost is \$150 and financial aid is available.

Please contact Emily Shubilla for more details.



NOISY OFFERING

The Children's Church kids will be shaking it on October 22nd at the 10 AM worship service. Come hear us "make a joyful noise!"

Children's Church is in full motion! Please come to room 16/18 to see our art work and bring your children 3 to third grade to play, learn, worship, and have fun with us. Children's Church is at 10 AM during the worship service.

It's pageant time!!

We are looking for all kids age 4 and up. We have lots of fun singing and dancing!

A schedule is out and we understand if you cannot make all practices but try to attend as many as you can. We will provide music to take home for practice!

This is a wonderful way for kids to learn about the birth of Jesus and to have fellowship with their friends!

We look forward to seeing everyone!



Christmas Shop Around the Corner

Rehearsals:

Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29 (11-12:30)

Nov. 5 (11-12:30)

Nov. 12, 19 (11:00-1:00)

lunch will be provided

Dec. 2 (9-12:00)

DECEMBER 3 (The Big Day)

Please arrive at church at 9:00



Contact Heidi Todd
414-378-6610
with any questions



Interface

Duquesne Kids Club

On Mondays from October 16th, 23rd, 30th, and November 6th from 5:30-7 PM, all youth group age kids are invited to our sister church, The First Presbyterian Church of Duquesne, to lead their Kids' Klub. The youth will play games, do crafts, have a lesson, and share a meal with their children and youth. The kids have a lot of fun getting to know children from a different community and connecting with another church.

Brown Bag Bible Study

The Brown Bag Bible Study has returned on the first and third Wednesdays of each month @ noon. We will return to studying Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians which was on the syllabus before Pastor Jeff's accident. First Thessalonians is the oldest document in the New Testament. First Thessalonians was written before any of the Gospels and offers insight into what the early church believed about Jesus and his church. We will then move on to 2 Thessalonians, a letter written shortly after the first, and learn about some early misunderstandings of the early church and how Paul addressed them. Bring a lunch – we will be meeting in Fellowship Hall. Contact the church office (jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.org or 412-833-4704) with questions. Come and see. **No Bible Study October 4th.**



Matthew 25 Fellowship

When: 11:00 a.m. (after morning worship) – 12:00 pm, starting Sunday, October 1st.

Where: Fellowship Hall (10/8 in Library Café)

Did you know that in 2022, JMPC became a Matthew 25 church? This means we pledge to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

Matthew 25:31-46 calls us to actively engage in our community and the world around us.

We will do this by embracing one or more of these areas of focus:

- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty

Stay after worship on Sundays this fall, alongside Samantha Coggins, Associate Pastor, to learn about our Matthew 25 commitment, and discern together how we might live out this call.

Direct your questions to Samantha Coggins:

samantha@johnmcmillanpc.org



Be Asleep By 10 Fellowship

When: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, starting Wednesday, September 27th

Where: Fellowship Hall & Trolley Stop Inn

For those of us leading a thriving life outside the Sunday morning worship schedule at JMPC. For those of us who are *not* in worship on Sunday mornings, because we are working, raising kids (or both), practicing hobbies, or simply honoring other commitments.

For those of us who *are* in worship on Sunday mornings, and feel curious about who we

are worshipping with.

For those of us who are newer to JMPC, and looking for peers in faith. For those of us who want to connect at church on a weeknight, while prioritizing sleep!

Join Samantha Coggins, Associate Pastor, on Wednesday nights this fall starting September 27th, to get to know your pastor and connect with new friends.

We'll gather in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 pm to
pray together
celebrate stories of God at work
get to know each other, as siblings in Christ

At 8:00 pm, we'll migrate to the Trolley Stop Inn, for a late snack, dinner, or nightcap. We will keep the vibe of Christian fellowship going, out in the world of Bethel Park.

Imagine: we could all be asleep by 10:00 pm.
May it be so, amen!

Direct your questions to Samantha Coggins:
samantha@johnmcmillanpc.org
(412) 568-3484

MEN'S BREAKFAST

We meet for breakfast on the **LAST** Monday of the month. The October gathering of men for breakfast will be October 30th at 9 am. We will continue to meet at the Eat N Park on 88 by the South Park Shops. Sadly, on Mondays there is no buffet. We will hopefully manage. See you then and invite your friends.



The Women's Breakfast Club

We meet for breakfast on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:30am at Eat 'N Park across from South Park Shops. In October join us on the 17th.

Everyone is invited and can bring a friend!

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



SHIM Garden

The SHIM gardeners continue to harvest. So far, we have harvested about 1000 pounds of fresh, organic vegetables to be distributed at the SHIM food pantry. This amounts to about \$4000 worth of food for our needy neighbors, many of whom are hungry children. You can help by gardening with us on Monday evenings at 6:00, weather permitting. Children and friendly dogs are welcome.



Your works are
wonderful,
I know that
full well.
Psalm 139:14

SHIM Box in the Narthex

Our SHIM box in the Narthex accepts non-perishable items to be shared with the SHIM food bank.

World Vision

JMPC will send a group of volunteers to World Vision in Sewickley the morning of Friday, October 20. We will carpool from the church, departing at 8:15 AM. We will sort clothing until noon and then stop for lunch on our return trip to JMPC. We need 15 to 20 volunteers for this worthwhile mission. World Vision is an international non-profit organization which provides necessities for those in need. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex or scan the QR code below to sign up. You can contact Carolyn Brow at worb5@comcast.net or 724-941-0197 for more information.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A45AAAA29A5FF2-44597239-world>



Adopt a Garden

Time for fall cleanup of weeds and leaves. If you have some time, pick an area, and work some magic before the cold weather arrives.

Peace and Global Witness Offering

On October 1st we will collect the Peace and Global Witness Offering, a special offering of the PCUSA. As we do each year the Outreach Pillar will donate 25% of this offering to a program of our choice. This year it is Frist Presbyterian Church of Duquesne. The balance of the Peace and Global Witness Offering is used by the Presbytery to fund peacemaking efforts locally and internationally including sending missionaries and pastors to work with those in troubled areas. Questions, contact the church office.

Interface

The Christmas Affair - 2023

On November 4th, as we open the doors for the Christmas Affair, the community enters and we greet the visitors with a smile, a cheerful “Welcome” and decorated gift bag, (courtesy of the group fondly known as the Baguettes). Then, all the money that we collect that day goes directly to mission agencies or programs. Last year in 2022 we were able to give away \$11,00 to ten different mission organizations. HOWEVER, our success depends on your willingness to help. This year we have 45 crafters participating, and we anticipate that 1000 visitors will come through our doors on Saturday, November 4. There are many areas where you can help – From Thursday – Saturday - decorating, packaging baked goods, working some Saturday shifts, making candy, baking homemade goodies, putting a sign in your yard (or in some other visible area), and always praying that we at JMPC are following God’s will for our church. The gift bag decorating workshops are going on now; the candy making workshops are scheduled in October. We hope that YOU can find some time to participate. Come, smile, and laugh, while we work. Will you be able to help this year? Sign-up sheets for all the areas are in the Narthex with the schedules and on Sign UP Genius. Questions? contact Pam Dobos: 412-833-3868 or dob914@aol.com Working together with one another, through this event, we show the community how God’s hands are visible in this “church on the hill.”



Christmas Affair Activities: Mark your calendars for the dates and activities below...

Bag decorating and Bow Making: October 2 @ 9 am and October 4 @ 4 pm

Making candy: Saturday, October 14, 21, and 28 from 9 am to 12 pm and Wednesday, October 18 and 25th from 7 pm to 9 pm. Candy can also be made at home. Recipes available for: Tiger Butter, Peppermint Bark, Fudge, Peanut Brittle, Candied Pecans, Tavern Nuts, and Glazed Almonds. Donations requested: Chocolate (dark, white and colors), peanut butter, nuts, pretzel rods Questions: Jessica Scott or Bonnie Dowdell

Baked Goods: Everyone in the church is encouraged to begin baking goodies for the Gingerbread House: cookies, fudge, breads, and pies. We really count on everyone’s baking help!

Packaging Goodies: Thursday and Friday, November 2 and November 3

Decorating the church: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday: November 1, 2 and 3

Picking up tables: Wednesday, November 1

Setting up: Thursday, Friday: November 2 and 3

Cleaning up: Saturday, November 4 after 3 pm

Yard signs: Put a sign in front of your house or in a prime location around the area.



Scan Here to Volunteer!



Resources Pillar

As we enter our annual Stewardship season, we ask all JMPC members to prayerfully consider what time, talents, and treasure you can share with your congregation. Stewardship can simply be defined as “using the gifts that God has given us to do the things that God calls us to do”. Yes of course the church needs your financial support to fulfill our ministries and missions, but there are many other ways in which we also need your engagement.

The Resources Pillar of Session has a rather large responsibility for a variety of church functions, and we need committed volunteers to help us complete this work. Here is a list of the various Ministry Teams within our purview:

- * Personnel
- * Church Officer Nominating Committee
- * Stewardship
- * Finance
- * Audit
- * Legacy Fund
- * Governance
- * Building and Grounds

We are particularly in need of members to man our Stewardship Ministry Team. Please consider how you might use the gifts that God has given you to help JMPC fulfill its ministries and missions.

Chris Altmeyer
Bryan Durkin
Chris Todd



Cookie Angels

Coffee Hour is back on Sunday mornings before the 10:00am service !!

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 9:30am on Sunday morning.

If you drop them off during the week, please mark the treats with date to be used and put in freezer.



JOHN McMILLAN PRESCHOOL NEWS:

The school year has gotten off to a wonderful start! Everyone has adjusted quite well to the routines of preschool – even our youngest three-year-olds! The children are making new friends, learning new songs and learning classroom and playground rules. There is a lot of cutting, writing, gluing, story reading and, of course, playing going on in all of the classrooms – John McMillan Preschool is a busy and happy place!

In September, the children had Chapel Time with Mrs. Shubilla, Library Time with Miss Heather, Music with Playnotes and Science with Mrs. Verna and Mr. Bernie McGinley. Fall Enrichment classes have started. This session we are offering: S.T.E.A.M, Fall Fun, Preschool Book Club and Awesome Artists.



October is full of fall activities. We are hopeful for a visit from the Bethel Park Fire Department. The children will meet the firemen and will check out the firetruck. School photos will take place the second week of October. We will enjoy our annual fall fieldtrip to Simmons Farm and the children will have fun celebrating Halloween at our parties at the end of the month.

Our October Community Service Project is “Socktober!”

“Socktober” October 9th – 24th



Join us and participate in a nationwide program called “Socktober!” This program started out of the idea that giving something as simple as a pair of warm socks can change someone’s day.

We will be collecting socks in all sizes for men, women and children. (The greatest need is for men’s crew socks.) All the socks we collect will be donated to Light of Life Rescue Mission on the North Side. They will distribute them directly to the homeless just in time for winter. Please bring in new socks (packaged or with the tag still on) and place them in the collection basket outside the Preschool classrooms or office.

Every pair of socks will help someone in need this winter! Let’s do a great thing and help as many people as we can!



JMPC Preschool Fundraiser

October 2-Nov. 2, 2023, the Preschool will be fundraising by selling baked goods from The Pie Place. There will be pies, cinnamon rolls, pepperoni rolls and more. Please make checks out to John McMillan Preschool. All orders are due by October 28th. All items will be delivered on Nov. 14, 2023.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Music Notes

*Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise him! Psalm 147*



Choir

Choir continues to rehearse on Thursdays from 7:00 until 8:30 PM. It's never too late to join and we always welcome new members. **Advent** is right around the corner and we will begin rehearsing music for the season in mid-October so please consider joining us, if only for Advent.

Christmas Concert

Our annual Christmas Concert will be on Sunday, December 10, at 4:30 PM. Please contact Carolyn Brow at 724-941-0197 or worb5@comcast.net if you are interested in performing.

Celebration Ringers

The bells practice on Thursday evenings from 6:00 until 7:00. Anyone who reads music is welcome to join us. We will soon begin practicing for **Advent and Christmas**.

Questions regarding our music programs may be directed to Carolyn Brow at worb5@comcast.net.



The Deacons continue to work on ways to help and serve members of our congregation.

- * We stay in touch with our shut-ins
- * We prepare cards for the Caring Table for members to sign
- * We uplift prayers for requests that the Prayer Team receives

* We mail Grief Booklets to comfort those who have lost a loved one

* We help with funeral luncheons

If you know of anyone in need of prayer, a visit, a phone call, or help, please let us know!

Family Fun
FOR EVERYONE

**Fall
Festival**

OCTOBER 14, 2023
NOON - 4:00 PM

Trunk or Treat

Free Food

Prize for Best Trunk

The Great Potato Off

Music

AT
JOHN MCMILLAN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

RSVP

www.johnmcmillanpc.org/tot

**Trunk
or
Treat**



JMPG PRESENTS THE 1ST ANNUAL GREAT POTATO OFF

SHOW OFF YOUR COOKING CHOPS

OCTOBER 14, 2023 AT THE FALL FESTIVAL

*Mashed
Baked
Fried
Diced
Cold
You Name it!*

Best Potato Dish Wins!

**BRING YOUR BEST POTATO
DISH TO THE FALL FEST AND
PUT IT TO THE TEST**

Winner Recieves a gift card

**SAVE YOUR
SPOT NOW!**

SIGN UP IN THE
NARTHEX OR
WEBSITE

**DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES
TO BE THE FIRST MASTER POTATO
CHEF?**



*Gordon Ramsay will not be judging. His image for promotional purposes.

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

* * * * *

Church Office 412-833-4704

October 2023 Issue

Visit us on the web
johnmcmillanpc.org

October 1

World Communion Sunday/Peace & Global Witness Offering
Rev. Samantha Coggins will be preaching on
Galatians 3:23-29

October 8

Fawcett Baptism
Rev. Jeff Tindall will be preaching

October 15

Masson's Baptism
Rev. Jeff Tindall will be preaching

October 22

Rev. Jeff Tindall will be preaching

October 29

Consecration Sunday
Rev. Samantha Coggins will be preaching

