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### John McMillan Presbyterian Church

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

One of the beliefs we celebrate during Lent is that Jesus' lessons to humanity and death on the cross somehow reconciled us with God and freed us from death. We regularly celebrate this belief whenever we participate in the Lord's Supper. And when I say we "particulate" in the Lord's Supper, I mean it. Certainly, we participate when we eat the bread and drink from the cup. But there is a bit more we could be doing that we generally don't.

In the liturgy of the Lord's Supper, there is a prayer called the "Prayer of Great Thanksgiving". This long prayer recites the history of our salvation and gives thanks to God for our reconciliation with God through the life and death of Jesus, God's Messiah. It's worth focusing on this prayer because it is a lesson as much as it is a prayer. One way to focus on this prayer is to actually participate in it by reciting parts of the prayer responsively (we at JMPC, like many churches, do not include these traditional congregational responses).

Traditionally, the prayer starts out with this congregational litany:

*The Lord be with you.*

***And also with you.***

*Lift up your hearts.*

***We lift them to the Lord.***

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

The prayer starts with noting that God is our creator who made everything. Humanity was created in God's image to love and be loved by God. Everything was good until humanity rebelled. Since that time God has chased us and sought our reconciliation, first through prophets, then through God's son.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Interface

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### **Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 5-8 pm**

The Mission Trip Committee and the youth with their leaders are sponsoring a night out for families! Children ages three to third grade are welcome to come have dinner, play, do crafts, and listen to the Resurrection Story. Registration is required and online only. Families will be asked to give a donation in any amount, which will be for the youth and adult mission trips.



On Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm, Kids Klub will be trekking the JMPC hill to run a mile for mission. All are welcome to attend to cheer them on or run alongside us. Please consider sponsoring one of our kids with a donation in any amount!

### **Vacation Bible School**

In the church, the mighty church, we sing together because we are WILD ABOUT JESUS!

Vacation Bible School is Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>-Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> at 9 am until 12 noon. Registration is required and space is limited. Adult and youth volunteers needed- including planning, teaching, decorating, and more!

### **Youth Group & Kids Klub Meets Wednesday evenings from 5:00—7:00 pm**

Youth Wednesday Nights are continuing! We meet every Wednesday night 5-7 pm. Youth and kids ages 3<sup>rd</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade. You are welcome to come, even if you have never before!

Bring \$3 for dinner and a friend!



## Stone Soup Lenten Mission Lunches

*Stone Soup* is a folk tale about the value of community members sharing resources with one another. More can be accomplished when people work together and everyone benefits by contributing. In line with that theme, although the soup and salad will be furnished, all attending should bring their own place setting: 2 bowls, a soup spoon, and a fork. The luncheon speakers represent the top three mission outreach recipients from Christmas Affair disburse-

ments.

### March Mondays from 11:00 am -12:30 pm

- **March 4th** - Chicken Noodle soup, Butternut Squash soup and tossed salad  
Speaker: Jim McGuffey from SHIM
- **March 11th** - Beef Vegetable soup, tomato soup, and spinach salad  
Speaker: Pastor Dan Merry - AIIM (Advancing Investments in Malawi)
- **March 18th** - Ham and bean soup, broccoli soup, and coleslaw  
Speaker: Pastor Judi Slater - Outreach through First Duquesne Presbyterian

Goodwill Offerings accepted for each mission

Invite a friend, local Presbyterian churches have also been invited.

Contact Pam Dobos if you will can make any of the above soups or if you can help with set up/clean up.

[dob914@aol.com](mailto:dob914@aol.com) or 412-833-3868/412-965-3194

Reservations required: Please use the QR code to sign up or contact the church office.



## Men's Breakfast

We meet for breakfast on the LAST Monday of the month. We will continue to meet at the Eat N Park on 88 by the South Park Shops on March 25 @ 9:00am.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 8:30am at Eat 'N Park across from South Park Shops. Ijoin us on March 19th.

Everyone is invited and can bring a friend!

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

*(Continued from page 1)*

Then we sing that first response.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Next we thank God for Jesus, describing his ministry and death on the cross in our place. We proclaim that Jesus reigns with God and will come again to take us with him into eternity. We then proclaim the Supper as our holy remembrance of Jesus.

Our traditional response here is:

*Great is the mystery of faith:*  
**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Finally, we ask that God send the Holy spirit to consecrate the bread and cup as well as our lives to God's purposes. We ask to be sent out for God into the world to tell this same story. We then end with the Lord's Prayer (if it has not already been recited).

Why do we pray this prayer? It is the way to participate in the sacrament. We remember God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We remember our story. The story about how we ran from God, and God came after us. God saved us from ourselves.

While that is the story of our history with God, the prayer is also a prayer of thanksgiving for Easter. The day death died. As we approach Holy Week, I ask that we all take time to think about these things – and remember.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Music Notes

*Psalm 57: 7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music.*

Did you know that there are more than fifty references in the Bible to singing and music? The scriptures repeatedly encourage us to sing praises and play our instruments for the glory of God. Yet many of us are unsure of our voices or our ability to sing in tune. God made all of our voices; high and low, melodic and croaky. He made all of our voices for the purpose of praising Him. The scriptures don't tell us that only those with the most beautiful voices should sing. They tell us all to sing. Lent is filled with beautiful music so allow yourself to join in the singing of the hymns during worship. Music is good for the soul and unites us during our worship services. Most of all, music is pleasing to God.







## SHIM Garden

While March can be a chilly month, it is when we begin planting the SHIM Garden. March is the time to plant peas and onions. We also have all our seedlings, which will be planted in the warmer months, started in the Brow greenhouse.

We need help! Would you like to be involved in the blueberry field? Are you interested in working in the orchard? These tasks are not very time-consuming, and you can do them on your own schedule. There is as much guidance available as you would need. We also need gardeners to help in the vegetable garden and the flower beds. You can help as much as you like.

Please sign up in the narthex if you have any interest and Carolyn Brow will contact you. You can contact her at [wor5@comccast.net](mailto:wor5@comccast.net). You can also sign-up online.

All of our produce is donated to SHIM where it is distributed to our neighbors in need through the SHIM food pantries.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Combined Spring Concert

**Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> | 7:00pm | Sanctuary**

Free concert of the Community Band South and Penn West California University Band. All are invited to attend this concert that will be held here at JMPC. These two big bands are looking forward to entertaining you with a wide range of musical pieces.

\* \* \* \* \*



SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING


On Easter Sunday, March 31st, please take part in this annual special collection. A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, providing food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.



## John McMillan Preschool News

We are so thankful that it is spring - our preschoolers are bursting with energy and are so glad to go outside on our wonderful playground! Our preschool days have been full of joy and activity.

**Sarris Easter Candy Sale: Thank you** to everyone who purchased Sarris candy for Easter. Your support is very much appreciated. Candy will be delivered on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy your delicious chocolate!

 **Pet Week:** We had lots of fun with all of the pets that visited and we read lots of books during our *Paws for Reading* program. Check out all the bones in the hallway!

**We are offering four new afternoon enrichment classes for spring: Jump Into Spring, Buggin' Out, Green Thumb and Spring into Adventure.** More information is available on our website.



Our **Easter** parties are being planned. We will have an egg hunt, search for our Easter baskets that the Easter Bunny will hide, and play some fun games.



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

The Bethel Park Library had some staff changes, so Ms. Miranda is our new librarian. She will visit once a month for **Library**. She is doing a great job engaging the children and we look forward to working with her.



The children have been enjoying our new **Music** classes with Playnotes. 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.



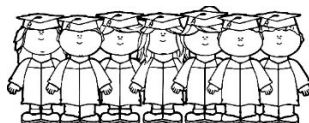
On April 24<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the preschool! All are welcome to join us in our open house. We will have baskets to raffle and cake to enjoy.

On April 30<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 pm.**

The preschoolers will be performing songs and fingerplays. They will then "Graduate" from their preschool class. We will end our evening with ice cream.





## Ash Wednesday

The Library Café was full of crafts and activities on Ash Wednesday. Some youth started doing our Lent Collaborative Coloring activity and received ashes. During dinner, families received some discussion questions about Jesus to share together during a mealtime or anytime in honor of the Lent season. To receive these questions called Family Table Talk, please ask Emily Shubilla.

\* \* \* \* \*



## Preschool Playdate

**Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 9:15- 9:45 am and 12:30-1 pm and Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 9:15-9:45**

Preschool families are welcome to join for socializing and younger sibling playtime in Fellowship Hall. Stop in and have a donut and some coffee and let the littles get some energy out!

\* \* \* \* \*



## Kids Klub Retreat

Nine kids and four adult leaders had an adventurous wonderful retreat at Crestfield Camp. Thank you to all who came and helped make this happen!



## 2024 Easter Flowers



Look for Easter flower information in the bulletin soon!

## Easter Children's Church Party

On Easter Sunday, Children's Church will be having a party in Fellowship Hall with Jesus, baking, and fun! Join us during 10 AM worship service!



## GUESS WHAT'S HOPPENING?!!

**Saturday, March 23rd | 11:00am-12noon**

Join us for our annual egg hunt for ages infant through third grade! We will have a snack, activities, coloring, and a visit from SOME BUNNY special! Rain or Shine!

Questions: Emily Shubilla at 724-984-8202 or [dce@johnmcmillanpc.org](mailto:dce@johnmcmillanpc.org).





**Palm Sunday**

March 24th @ 10 am

**Maundy Thursday**

March 28th @ 7:30 pm

**Good Friday**

March 29th @ 12:00pm

**Easter Sunday**

April 31st

Sunrise @ 7:00am

Worship @ 10:00am

## Interface



There is STILL a nationwide shortage of blood donations. On Sunday, March 10th JMPC will be hosting a blood drive in Fellowship Hall from 8 am to 2 pm. Please consider donating blood before or after service that day. You can schedule an appointment by going to:

**[www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org)** (link below)

Click "Donate Now" (upper right of screen)

Enter Zip Code 15102

Click "Donate Now" again

Check the Blood Drive Code Circle

Enter group code UG0010091

Choose your time to donate

Or just show up on Sunday, March 10th! (However, appointments are preferred.) Please let's join together on Sunday March 10th to support this important cause. Any questions - please see Jessica Scott. Thank you for your support!



The Spiritual Development Pillar/ Fellowship Committee would to thank everyone who participated in the Ash Wednesday potluck dinner either by bringing soup, bread, a salad , dessert , or by helping with setup or cleanup. Thanks to everyone it went very smoothly and we think our Duquesne Church members felt welcome. The combined communion service with JMPC and our sister church ,Duquesne Presbyterian Church, was a blessed beginning to our Lenten season. We thank you all.

Easter blessings

### JMPC Book Club

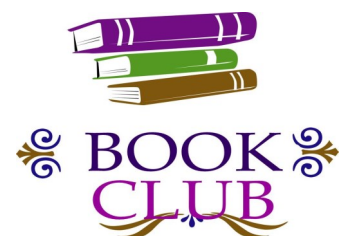
**March 18 - @ 7:00 pm in Parlor**

*The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, a dilapidated neighborhood. As these characters' stories overlap and deepen[...] McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community-heaven and earth-that sustain us(Goodreads).

April 22 - *The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger

May 20 - *American Sirens* by Kevin Hazzard





Every month, I will be testing your Biblical knowledge with questions, puzzles, etc. to see how well you know your stuff. The first adult and first youth who answer correctly and report back to me will receive prizes! Consider yourself challenged

-Emily



### March Challenge!

Youth- What are the first five books of the Old Testament often called?

Adult- What are the two formats that the Book of Job is written in?

*Last month-*

February Challenge Questions

Youth- What is the interpretation of Emmanuel?

Answer: God is with us. No winner! **There is a prize being offered, youth and kids!!**

Adult- Who personally baptized more people, John the Baptist or Jesus?

Answer: John the Baptist- First time winner- Sarah Douglas



### Scott Nowak - Stair Lift "Ministry"

The Deacons would like to shine a light on the special work of Scott Nowak over the last few years. He, along with Sandy's help, has worked to assist many people in need. He has been taking donated stair lifts from homes and has installed them in the homes of people in need, free of charge. His efforts include removing, repairing and refitting and then contacting someone in need and installing it. He has done a total of 16 installs. His efforts have been a great blessing to many people. Thank you Scott for doing this wonderful work.

### Are you CPR Certified ?

The Deacons would like to compile a list of church members who are CPR certified. Nancy Page and Jackie Druga have agreed to produce a video about the AED location and usage and we thought it would be good to have a list of certified members on hand.

So if you would let Leslie ([jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.org](mailto:jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.org)) or Toni Sulkowski ([tjs7290@verizon.net](mailto:tjs7290@verizon.net)) or Dan Zearley ([daniel.zearley@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.zearley@gmail.com)) know it would be much appreciated.

### World Vision

Friday, 6.15am - 2pm

We need at least twelve volunteers to sort clothing and men on the way home with the clothing.



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

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Kim Doughty, Preschool Director  
Jackie Druga, AV/Tech  
Kay Zawicki, AV/Tech

\* \* \* \* \*

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

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

**March 2024 Issue**

**March 3 (10:00)**

*3rd Sunday in Lent*

*Communion*

*Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching*

**March 10 (10:00 am)**

*4th Sunday in Lent*

*Daylight Savings Time Begins*

*Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching*

**March 17 (10:00am)**

*5th Sunday in Lent*

*Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching*

**March 24 (10:00 am)**

*Palm Sunday*

*Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching*

**March 31**

*Easter Sunday*

*7:00 am Sunrise Service*

*10:00 am Traditional Service*

*Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching*



**March 28 (7:30 pm)**

**Maundy Thursday**

*Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching*

**March 29 (Noon)**

**Goo Friday**

*Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching*