

Announcements 11/20/2022

Today

Stewardship: We are quickly approaching 2023 and the \$440,000 in budgeted expenses that come with that new year. We have received many Estimates of Giving cards and hope to be receiving many more from people who are still praying about what God is calling them to contribute. Once you have decided, please either mail the Estimate to the church, email it to Leslie or bring it to church on Sunday and put it in the offering plate. There is no magic to the card itself. A sample email to Leslie will do. For those who cannot make a commitment, we encourage you to give what and when you can. It is our prayer that everyone be a part of the JMPC future and contribute to the fulfilment of our mission to know, glorify and serve God.

Be an ANGEL this Christmas! Many children in our sister church First Duquesne Presbyterian Church and the surrounding community do not have coats or gloves to keep them warm this winter. Our Christmas Collection this year will be NEW coats, hats, gloves/mittens, and scarves for the children of Duquesne. In addition, if you would like to add to your gift, they also are accepting \$10 or \$15 gift cards to Walmart or Aldi. Donations of new gift wrap and bows are also appreciated. Bring your *unwrapped, NEW items marked with boy/girl and size* and place them under the Angel Tree in the Narthex between November 20 and December 4. If you prefer to order coats online and have them delivered to me or the church office, please contact me. All sizes for toddlers to adult are acceptable. Remember that middle and high school students may wear adult sizes. If you have questions, contact Cheryl Davies at 412.901.8939. Porch pick-up is also available.

SHIM Thanksgiving Food Drive: November 1 – 16. It is a tradition here at JMPC to do a Thanksgiving Food Drive for South Hills Interfaith Movement. As a way of showing our thanks for the bounty we have been given just a few items would be greatly appreciated. See the list below for the most needed items. Items can be put in the SHIM bin in the narthex.

Most needed items for SHIM's food pantries

- Dried beans and lentils
 - Rice
 - Pasta sauce in jars
 - Cereal and oatmeal
- Soup (especially low sodium)
- Adult diapers, especially X and XL
 - Diapers sizes 3-6
 - Baby food
 - Dog food
- Personal care items (shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine items, etc.)

Christmas Pageant: Out of the Box. All children ages 4 and up are welcome!

Rehearsals:

Nov. 20 (11:00-1:00)

Dec. 4 (11-1:00) Dec. 11 (11-2:00)

Dec. 17 (9-12:00)

DECEMBER 18 (The Big Day)

Contact Heidi Todd 414-378-6610 with any questions.

Nursery: The nursery will be open every Sunday during the worship service with our nursery attendants, Devon Serena and Sarah Westland. Please bring your child under 3 to play while you enjoy worship.

Children's Church: Children's Church is thriving back in room 16/18. The kids have been learning about Moses and his great contributions to God's work. Next up, we will start talking about Thanksgiving and Gratitude. Join us during the 10 AM church service!

Meet in the Middle: The "middle kids" class will be worshiping with us today.

The ABC (Adult Bible Class): We meet in the Cafe at **11:00am** Sunday mornings. Our Bible study is very informal, and we feel that getting together and reading and studying the Bible is a great way to grow in faith. It's also a wonderful time of fellowship. Please join us. We will begin the new season with a study called **The Risen Christ - Jesus' Final Words on Earth**. If you have questions, see Dan or Susan Zearley or Hugh Given.

To Know God

Brown Bag Bible Studies: The Brown Bag Bible Study will return in January.

Women's Book Study: Women's Book Study Resumes in January! Thanksgiving is upon us, and Advent is coming. We decided as a group last week that we will pick back up with reading Encountering the Sacred after Christmas. We will tackle the second half of the book (Chapter 5 through Chapter 10). Thank you for your faithful engagement with the group this fall. Check your inbox in the new year for a forthcoming announcement of our restart date.

John Covenant Group: This is JMPC's men's Bible Study that meets September through May. It's an informal study and a great time of fellowship. We meet twice a month on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday's at 9:30am in the JMPC Cafe. November dates are the 9th & 23rd. We will begin with a study called Meeting God. If you have any questions, see Jim Hinerman, Dan Zearley or Hugh Given.

Kids' Klub: Wow! We have been having a blast in Kids' Klub. We have been exploring the miracles of God and Jesus. We had a GLOW party for Halloween and look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving.

Youth Laurelville Retreat: On December 2nd- 4th, the youth and leaders will be travelling to the Laurelville Retreat Center through the Pittsburgh Kids Foundation. Registration and payment of \$150 are due by November 11th. <https://form.jotform.com/222446610230140> This event is loved by all- COME HAVE FUN WITH US!

Splash! Newsletters JMPC has been distributing Splash! Newsletters to children in our congregation. These newsletters are for children birth to age 2 and have activities for little ones that can help families raise their kids with faith. If you would like to receive one, please provide Emily Shubilla with the child's name and age and an address or email address.

Contemplative Service: Our monthly meditative worship experience will be offered at JMPC on November 27th **at 7pm** in the sanctuary. This worship experience will offer a calm and peaceful setting, responsive liturgy, a meditation on scripture, periods of silence, prayer, quiet music and opportunities to share feedback. The purpose of this gathering will be to provide a sanctuary of peace from our anxious world, even if just for a short time. Come and see.

To Glorify God

Flower Chart: The 2023 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.

Chancel Choir: Our choir is off to a great start but it's never too late to join us. We welcome anyone who loves to sing. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 7:00 until 8:30. We sing every Sunday.

Celebration Ringers: Ring! Ring! The bell choir welcomes anyone who can read music and would like to join us as we rehearse on Thursday evenings at 6:00. We will ring two Sundays per month during worship.

To Serve God

Blood Drive: Thank you for your donations on Sunday for the blood drive. We collected 24 donations. Since one unit of blood can save up to three lives, your donations helped support life for 72 hospital patients. Thank you so much for all your help and assistance, it's been a very difficult collection time for Vitalant. Please mark your calendars for our next blood drive which will be in May.

Blessing Bags: Kids' Klub of JMPC put together some blessing bags for those in need. Stop by the table in the Narthex and grab one to put in your car to give away as you see fit!

Advent At JMPC

Church Decorating: Help is needed to decorate the church for the Christmas season on Saturday, **November 26th** beginning at 9:00 am. Please sign up via sign up genius if you are available to help. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Fast.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A45AAAA29A5FF2-christmas2>



Advent Sermon Series: Our sermon series for Advent 2022 will focus on the music of Christmas and how it tells the story of Jesus birth. The choir and pastors will be joining together each Sunday to prepare the way of the Lord! Join us for some Advent joy!

Lo How a Rose – Isaiah 11: 1-9 / November 27

Love has Come – Luke 1: 26-38 / December 4

Rise up Shepherd – Luke 2: 15-20 / December 11

O Little Town of Bethlehem – Luke 2: 1-7 / December 18

(Followed by the Children's Pageant)

Angels from the Realm of Glory – Luke 2: 8-14 / Christmas Day

Poinsettias: It is now time to order your Christmas Poinsettias. Orders will be taken now through December 4th. This year we will be using the *Signup Genius* for orders. Red and/or Pink will be available for purchase. The cost is \$10.00 for a 6" potted flower. You can put your check made payable to JMPC with Poinsettia in the memo line and place it in the offering plate or give to Leslie in the church office. If you need any assistance with your order please feel free to contact the church office. In lieu of, or in addition to ordering poinsettia's, you can also donate to the Deacon's Caring Fund through December 18th. The order form can be found in the Narthex or in the e-mail blast.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a45aaaa29a5ff2-poinsettia>



Advent Devotionals based on Isaiah: Pastor Jeff & Pastor Samantha will be continuing the tradition of writing daily devotionals during Advent beginning on November 28 and continuing (except for Sundays) through Christmas Day. Isaiah is the Old Testament Prophet most connected with the birth, life and death of Jesus. It is appropriate to spend time with Isaiah during Advent. These devotions will be emailed on our email account or placed on the church website. If you do not receive JMPC emails, let Leslie know and she can either put you on the email list or make hard copies for that will be placed in the Narthex.

Christmas Concert: Join us on Sunday, **December 11**, at 4:30 PM for our annual Christmas Concert. This concert will feature the Chancel Choir, Celebration Ringers, the JMPC Symphonic Band and many of our best soloists singing joyful, sacred songs of the season. The concert will be followed by a delicious potluck dinner. We hope you can join us. Click here to sign up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A45AAAA29A5FF2-christmas3>



Christmas Pageant: The children will present the Christmas pageant on Sunday, **December 18**, during our worship service. Please join the kids as they present a light-hearted Christmas musical.

Blue Christmas Service: Through the prophet Isaiah, God says "Comfort, comfort, my people." There are many moments in our lives when we need comfort. Christmas can be a time when that is especially true, when we yearn for consolation. Maybe we are grieving the loss of a loved one, struggling with illness, or living in the wake of job loss. Or perhaps we feel overwhelmed by the brokenness of our country and world. We wonder how we will get through the holidays. As a witness to God's comfort, JMPC will offer a service of wholeness and healing on Sunday, **December 18th**, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will spend our time reflecting quietly, meditating on words of comfort, and hearing music, sharing in the good news of *Immanuel*: God with us.

Christmas Joy Offering: The Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special annual offerings for the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. The funds from this offering are distributed equally between the Board of Pensions, who use the money to assist former pastors and their spouses who are living on inadequate pensions, and for racial education. The offering funds provide scholarships to deserving students as well as help with basic operating costs. The offering will be received on Sunday, **December 18th**. There are envelopes and information in the Narthex.

Christmas Eve: We will have two services on Christmas Eve. The family service will be at 4:00 pm, with familiar carols and a soloist. At 7:30 pm we will enjoy lessons and carols with the Chancel Choir and Celebration Ringers preparing us for the birth of Jesus.

*A warm welcome and special thanks to Xuelai Wu
for playing the piano for us this morning.*



The flowers today were given to the Glory of God by Donna Skinnell memory of her parents.



In the Event of an Emergency

November Deacon of the Month: Donna Kovell (412) 613-0210.

Please call Donna, Pastor Jeff or Rev. Coggins with any pastoral concerns.

Direct call/text: Pastor Jeff @ (412) 225-7550 or Rev. Coggins @ (412) 568-3484

E-mail: jeff@johnmcmillanpc.org or samantha@johnmcmillanpc.org

You can also call the church at (412) 833-4704.

Pastor Jeff & Rev. Coggins receive e-mails on their phones as well as on their computers.

What's Happening Weekly @ JMPC

(Check the bulletin or Website Calendar for specific dates/times)

Sundays

Worship
Children's Church
Meet In the Middle
Confirmation Class
Women's Book Study
Contemplative Service

Mondays

Men's Breakfast
Duquesne Kid's Klub
Pickleball
JMPC Book Club

Tuesdays

Women's Breakfast
Ladies Pickleball
After Dinner Bible Study

Wednesdays

John Covenant Group
Brown Bag Bible Study
Youth Group
Kid's Klub

Thursdays

Pickleball
Choir Practice
Bell Practice