

Announcements 11/27/2022

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.

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.

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: Advent has begun! Please join us for Children's Church as we celebrate the season by learning about each candle on our advent wreath and countdown to Christmas. Children ages 3 to third grade can join us in Room 16/18 during the 10 AM church service. There will be no Children's Church December 18th- January 1st to participate and watch the Christmas Pageant and then for a Christmas break. We will resume on January 8th.

Meet in the Middle: Meet in the Middle is still meeting in the middle of the hall in Room 5 during 10 AM church service. We will be learning about Advent and the Christmas story. There will be no Meet in the Middle from December 18th- January 1st to participate and watch the Christmas Pageant and then for a Christmas break. We will resume on January 8th.

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

Virtual Advent Gathering: Emily Cowser, child of JMPC and current seminarian, will be hosting a weekly virtual Advent gathering for her seminary and church communities, and she wants to invite anyone interested from JMPC to participate. She will be exploring an Advent guide called "Bread is Home: A Guide for Sharing Welcome." The guide is jointly created by Edible Theology and We Welcome, and it invites us to reflect on the theme of hospitality in the story of Christ's birth as well as our own approach to hospitality within our current relationships and within the context of the refugee crisis. You can find the guide here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p84497x>. The group will gather together weekly on December 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 6:00-7:30pm to discuss the week's material. You are encouraged but not required to reflect on the material prior to our time together. You do not need to attend all four weeks to participate. There will be talk about food, so eating dinner during the gathering is encouraged! If you are interested in joining, please email Emily at ecowser@pts.edu and she will send you the Zoom link.

Jesus' Birthday Party: Children's Church and Meet in the Middle will be baking cupcakes to share and singing in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 11th during the 10 AM worship service. Join us in Fellowship Hall! Youth are welcome to volunteer to help- just ask Mrs. Shubilla.

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

Rehearsals:

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.

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.

Youth Group: Youth Group will be attending their annual visit to Laurelville Retreat for the Pittsburgh Kids' Foundation Mud Weekend December 2nd- 4th. Please pray for them to have fun, be safe, and learn a little about God!

Kids' Klub: Our last day of Kids' Klub for the winter session is Wednesday, December 7th. We will be celebrating with a Christmas party! Please wear your jammies and watch A Charlie Brown Christmas with us, play games, eat dinner, and HAVE FUN! Kids 3rd to 6th grade are welcome to attend!

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.

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

Christmas Luminary Sale: Help the JMPC youth light-the-drive! Purchase luminaries for \$5 each and the youth will assemble and place them in the driveway of our church on Christmas Eve. ALL proceeds will go to youth and leader mission trip funds to Chicago this summer! Orders and money due by Wednesday, December 14th. All youth are welcome to sell. Orders can be made with any member of youth group, in the church Narthex, or online at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1I1JBH7deYDNKRjT2j5G4MNoiQ-LQj2wZTjEKhnOg9aY/viewform?edit_requested=true



Thanksgiving service and dinner: Thank you to all who attended, prepared, and enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner and service. Over 80 church members and visitors joined in fellowship and worship. We are so proud of our youth and their leaders for creating a memorable night. We donated 60 pounds of food to SHIM and \$730 for Faresi, our sponsor child from World Vision and Heifer International.

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

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.

Christmas Day: There will NOT be in person worship on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th. This will be an online service ONLY at 10am on Facebook Live or you can watch it later in the day on YouTube.

New Year's Day: There will NOT be in person worship on New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1st. This will be an online service ONLY at 10am on Facebook Live or you can watch it later in the day on YouTube.

*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 Hugh & Ella May Given in honor of Hugh's 90th birthday.



The rosebuds are in celebration of the birth of Alexander James Roberts, son of Jenna & Jamie Roberts & grandson of Debbie & Jack Yankowski born November 20th, 7 pounds 12 ounces, 20 inches long.

4 WAYS TO GIVE



IN PERSON



VANCO
MOBILE



ONLINE



QR CODE

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
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