



# Interface

John McMillan Presbyterian Church

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

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## From the Senior Pastor:

Spring has sprung and it is time to celebrate new life here at JMPC! The changing of the seasons reminds us that everything in life moves along in cycles. There is always a beginning and an end, but in between there are highs and lows, prosperity and anxiety, excitement and fatigue. JMPC has experienced all those things over the years, and has continued to be a light on this hill in Bethel Park.

Recently, I was having a discussion with Jason Freyer, pastor at Beulah Presbyterian Church. He asked how things were at JMPC. I said things were pretty good. Jason's response was a bit surprising. He said, "Great! You know? Things are really good at Beulah right now, too." We then had a chat about how so many churches were bemoaning their financial, membership or spiritual circumstances and how nice it was to share the strength our churches.

What strengths are we experiencing here at JMPC?

- Financial – While the budget was cut to keep us financially secure, we just paid for two very expensive capital improvements without a capital campaign and are still in decent financial shape.
- Membership – Our membership remains stable and appears to be growing little by little. And there is this: We are demographically one of the younger churches in Pittsburgh Presbytery.
- Worship – Our Sunday attendance (present and online) is back to what it was before the pandemic. While we would like folks to return to the sanctuary, there are folks watching us from all over the country and a couple from other countries.
- Outreach – We have a preschool that is one of the best in Bethel Park with over 70 kids enrolled. We are teaching the next generation what they need for a good start in their education and their faith. And don't forget the mission work we do with our other mission partners.
- Fellowship – In all our church functions, there is a camaraderie that offers social time that eliminates one of the current health problems – loneliness. So many folks come to JMPC to do the work of the church and then go bowling, play pickleball, or head out for coffee.
- Youth – Were you at Youth Sunday? Did you see our youth lead worship? It's easy to miss our youth presence when they are in Children's Church or on Wednesday Kid's Club and Youth Group. But they are here. And they are active. We also need to uphold the young members who are either a Candidate for Ministry (Emily Cowser) or Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the PCUSA General Assembly (Grace Bogdon).

There are so many good things going on here at JMPC. We should talk about them. Maybe we should post notes in the Narthex about the good things we see and do at JMPC so that we can see how good we really do have it. Maybe we should let everyone know that JMPC is strong and spiritual – and means to stay that way.



# Interface

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## Vacation Bible School

**Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup>- Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> | 9 AM- 12 noon**

Summer is in full swing and VBS is almost here!

We are looking for hands and feet, for herders and shepherds. No prior experience needed. We need your time and presence. Volunteer if you can- there's a job for everyone. Tell people to register and come to our amazing program. And pray!! Because we will need it!

There's a meeting in the Library Cafe Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> after worship. Come see!

Registration is OPEN, please sign up today!

Registration: <https://form.jotform.com/241216566509054>



Volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4BADA82FABF49-vbsvolunteers1#/>



VBS mission project: This year our mission project is to collect school supplies for our sister church, First Presbyterian Church of Duquesne. Here are the supplies we are collecting. Feel free to buy and ship online or at any store and bring the week of VBS. <https://tinyurl.com/7dv22hzp>

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## Worship Bags

Over the summer, worship bags will be available for babies, toddlers, kids, and youth who will be joining us in the Sanctuary for worship. They will contain games, coloring, treats, etc. Please use and return them at the end of service. Have fun!



On June 2nd , during our regular 10 AM worship service, we will be honoring you or your child's graduation (upcoming or past, as well). Graduates will receive a prayer book and will have their name printed in the bulletin. Please come if you are able! Stop by the church office during regular office hours to pick up your gift if you cannot make it.



## John McMillan Preschool News

It is hard to believe that our school year is over. It was a wonderful year filled with so much learning, growing and laughter. We will miss the children and families that have moved on to kindergarten.



### **SPRING HOUSE DAIRY FAMILY FIELD TRIP**

Our Preschool visited the Spring House Dairy in Eighty-Four and get a tour of a real-live working farm! During the tour the children had an opportunity to learn about dairy cows. They bottle fed and visited with a calf, hand milk a cow the “old fashioned” way, and see how milk is pasteurized and bottled to be sold at the store. We ended our day with a delicious ice cream cone!



### **GRADUATION CELEBRATION**

We had a beautiful night celebrating our children’s accomplishments here at JMPS. We held the ceremony in the church and for the first time livestreamed the event. Thank you to everyone who helped our program throughout the year. We had a fantastic year that was filled with so many fun moments and events.



### **2024-2025 PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Preschool classes for the 2024-2025 school year have filled up quickly! Currently, we have a few spaces left in our morning and afternoon 4’s class. If you know of anyone with a child who will be 4 by September 30, 2024, please tell them about John McMillan!

We offer preschool classes for children ages 3 through 5 years old and enrichment classes in the afternoon. This year our enrichment classes included something for every child and age group: cooking, awesome artists, STEM, Christmas, Spanish, and around the world adventures!

Please contact Kim Doughty to schedule a tour and to learn more about our program: 412-833-4704 or [preschool@johnmcmillanpc.org](mailto:preschool@johnmcmillanpc.org). Registration material for all classes offered and additional information is available on our website ([johnmcmillanpc.org](http://johnmcmillanpc.org)).

**Be sure to check out our Facebook page for pictures of all the fun things happening at John McMillan Preschool!**

## Resources Pillar

Each year we support the missions and services of the Presbyterian Church USA through our Per Capita offering. The Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Synod of the Trinity, and the General Assembly are all funded by these gifts from each member congregation.

JMPC is a very giving congregation. Every year we use a portion of our offerings through the Outreach Pillar to directly support many local and global missions as well as the needs of those in our own church family. The Presbytery keeps an eye on the bigger picture serving needs such as disaster assistance, poverty, disease, abuse, and neglect. The primary source of funding for these Presbytery services is the Per Capita giving from each and every member of the Presbyterian Church. JMPC's Per Capita assessment is **\$35.70** in 2024 for each **confirmed member** of the congregation. If you have not already done so, we ask that you prayerfully consider and submit your family's expected contribution so that we can continue to support the missions and services of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

There is a Per Capita envelope in your offering envelope box that you can use for this purpose. We do not recommend using the online contribution portal for this purpose since there is currently no method to distinguish between a regular offering and Per Capita via that tool. Whether you mail it in or place it in the offering plate, please make sure your Per Capita contribution is clearly marked as such for the money counters to properly account for it.

In Christ's service,

*Chris Altmeyer, Bryan Durkin, and Chris Todd*



# MISSIONS

across the street & around the world



## Christmas Affair 2024

Before you know it, the Christmas Affair will be upon us, Saturday, November 2, 2024. Over 45 Crafters have been registered and a waiting list of crafters is forming. Watch for the schedule for gift bag decorating in September and candy making in October in the upcoming *Interface*. We could use your help with preparations, the day of or just “like” the Christmas Affair Facebook page and share it regularly.

Mark your calendars! We need your help to put it together! Please email Leslie at [jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.com](mailto:jmpc@johnmcmillanpc.com) for more information, to

volunteer or for a crafter application. Follow us on Facebook at John McMillan Christmas Affair Craft Show to stay up-to-date!

## Mission Trip Pancake Breakfast

On Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> after church, the youth will be hosting a pancake breakfast. Come get your pancakes and sausage! All are welcome to attend. This is a donation only event and no tickets will be sold. Please help send our youth and leaders to Savannah, GA!



## SHIM Garden

The SHIM Garden is in full swing. We have planted many crops to nourish the families who rely on the SHIM food pantry. Our garden provides over one ton of fresh, organic produce for our neighbors who cannot afford these expensive, nutritious items at the grocery store.

This important ministry has been helping SHIM for ten years now. Please help us keep gardening! Sign up online or in

the Narthex to receive gardening notifications or contact Carolyn Brow at [worb5@comcast.net](mailto:worb5@comcast.net) for information. We always need help planting and harvesting in the garden.

Don't like to garden? There are other ways to help. We need monetary donations which you can give online or put in the envelope in the Narthex. Just denote “SHIM Garden” in the memo of your check.

Do you have old t-shirts cluttering your drawers? We need people to make tomato ties. Just cut up old t-shirts into strips approximately one inch by twelve inches. We have planted thirty-six indeterminate tomatoes so we need **many** ties. Visit our beautiful garden and view God's handiwork.



**Save the Date:** Pirate Game **Wednesday, July 24th 12:35 pm** versus the St. Louis Cardinals . Tickets: \$39 which includes a \$10 voucher for food. Make checks out to JMPC; Write **Pirate game** on memo line.

Put on Leslie's desk or in envelope in Sue Burland's mailbox

Tickets are on the first base side - Section 108.

Seats are under the overhang to protect against sun and rain

Sign up in Narthex or on Sign UP Genius.

Questions: Contact Pam Dobos: 412-833-3868 or [dob914@yahoo.com](mailto:dob914@yahoo.com)

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## Men's Breakfast

We meet for breakfast on the last Monday of the month @ 9am. We meet at the Eat N Park on 88 by the South Park Shops on June 24th. Sadly, on Mondays there is no buffet. We will hopefully manage. See you then and invite your friends.



## Women's Breakfast

We meet for breakfast on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 8:30am at Eat 'N Park across from South Park Shops. In June join us on the 18th. Everyone is invited ! We have great fun and fellowship and look forward to seeing each other every month.



### **WE WANT TO HELP...**

If The Deacons had a Mission Statement, it could this:

As Deacons, we assist families dealing with grief over the loss of a beloved family member. We provide meals, rides to doctors and just about anything else when asked. We also prepare meals for our youth group, send cards to college students and to shut ins. We work closely with Pastor Jeff and Session to make sure that no one

is forgotten. Each week, we contact five families on The Prayer List to make sure that they know we're praying for them and are available to help anytime. Sometimes, just a few minutes on the phone to let people know that our church is thinking about them, praying for them and letting them know that we really care and want to help anytime it's needed.

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

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Leslie Bogdon, Office Manager  
Kim Doughty, Preschool Director  
Jackie Druga & Kay Zawicki AV/Tech

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**Visit us on the web**  
**[johnmcmillanpc.org](http://johnmcmillanpc.org)**

## June 2024 Issue

- June 2 (10:00 am)**  
*Communion/Congregational Meeting*  
Rev. Jeff Tindall
- June 9 (10:00 am)**  
Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching
- June 16 (10:00 am)**  
*Father's Day/Outdoor Service*  
Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching
- June 23 (10:00 am)**  
*Commissioning of VBS/Grace Bogdon to General Assembly*  
Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching
- June 30 (10:00 am)**  
Rev. Jeff Tindall preaching

