



**McDONALD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

April 2024

McPresby News

YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 4-7PM TRINITY CENTER

*Full Indoor Dining with Premium Takeout
Benefits Pine Springs Camp Scholarships*

Don't miss out on one of our most beloved dinners of the year- our Youth Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle. This year we will be hosting the dinner on April 20, and we will give all profits towards making sure every student can attend camp. A week of camp now costs \$500.00 so it takes all of us working together to send all the kids who want to go. Our youth will be servers for both the takeout and indoor dining. Thanks in advance for your support!



Vacation Bible School



Our annual Vacation Bible School program is being planned as we speak and we are excited to love and minister to our children again this year. We will be underwater this year with our SCUBA theme that will dazzle us with bright colors and unique creatures that all point to Jesus! Set aside time to help us with our decorating team, be an onsite adult volunteer, or help grandchildren or neighbors attend. We will be hosting a kickoff Sunday on April 14 th where we will all learn more about this great opportunity. We are excited to be having Vacation Bible School again this year, June 24-28! Please contact Dawn Jeannette if you have any questions.

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May the God of hope fill you with all joy
and peace as you trust in
him, so that you may over-
flow with hope by the power
of the Holy Spirit.
—Romans 15:13



Pastor's Page — Anticipating Pentecost

After Jesus said these things he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. Men of Galilee, they said, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven. Acts 1:9-11

This is an incredible moment. God did not want the disciples to think for even one minute that they had time to spare. God did not want them standing there feeling bad for themselves or wondering if they were supposed to be sad that Jesus had been caught up into heaven. As they were still looking up into the sky, two men dressed in white stood beside them. The language here is amazing. They were still looking up at the sky “as he was going.” The text makes it clear that though a cloud was obstructing their view Jesus was still on his way up to heaven. The disciples would have been crazy to look away at this pivotal moment. And yet these two heavenly visitors come to them and question them for looking up. The disciples needed a bit of instruction here and sometimes an outrageous question creates the teaching moment that is needed.

The message that these visitors brought is a profound one. Jesus will come back in the exact same way in which you just witnessed him depart. Don't look up into the sky and ask why he had to leave, or feel like you have been abandoned. Look, here we are giving you instructions, will not God be faithful to you as you continue following him? You are the chosen disciples of Jesus, do the things that Jesus told you to do! Have you ever lacked for anything? You will not go without whatever it is you need now either.

The disciples took the message to heart and went about all of the tasks that were important for their fledgling group. Because of their calling and obedience Jesus would use them in ways that they never could have imagined.

As we pursue our future together as a congregation, may we be like the disciples who listened and obeyed. May we also be ones who love and invest in one another while proclaiming the truth of Jesus Christ to the world. Please pray for our leaders and for all of us to step into the ways of Christ so that we may have the extraordinary confidence of the disciples. Who knows what might happen as we take new steps of faith to become better equipped in the Word of God and find ways to joyfully walk with new believers.

May this Pentecost be an incredible time of spiritual refreshing for all of us.

With anticipation for what God will do,

Pastor Justin



Operation Christmas Child



**“He who promised
is faithful.”**

Hebrews 10:23

We are well on our way to setting a new Packing Party goal (over 750)!

Bars of soap/washcloths – 590
Toothbrushes – 87
Flip flops – 21
Pencil sharpeners - 270
Combs – 56
Bandanas – 68

Small stuffed animals – 200
Foam balls (for big boy boxes) - 48
Notebooks/coloring books - 106
Crayons – 477
Pencils – enough for 58 shoeboxes
Plastic shoeboxes - 138

****ITEM OF THE MONTH****



Small Stuffed Animals

The congregation's continued support is vital and appreciated. Thank you!

Questions about OCC?

Feel free to contact Michelle Unruh
(412-221-4143/412-720-8232)

Donations may be placed in the green bin in Calvary Parlor or
call Michelle to arrange for pickup.



WALK, TALK, AND PRAY DISCIPLE GROUP

Beginning in April, interested people will meet at the McDonald Trail Station three times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays - 8-9 AM) to walk, talk, and pray. The goals are to learn about one another and “walk alongside each other” as we talk about our lives, share thoughts about a simple weekly Scripture verse, and pray for one another before we go our own ways. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Dana Motte.



Announcements



LENTEN GIVING MISSION PROJECT- FMSC

THANK YOU! Our Lenten Giving project to benefit the upcoming South Hills mobile pack was another overwhelming success. At the time of this newsletter submission, MPC had raised enough money to sponsor over half a pallet of food - that's 3,888 meals for starving children!! We will have a final total for you in May.

*** "Save the Date" and join us to pack meals on September 7, 2024. ***

MCFALL FEST BRAINSTORMING MEETING

Sunday, April 21 - Noon - New Beginnings Room

Everyone is invited to join us as we start to think about how we can make a good thing even better. Past chairpersons and anyone with bright ideas are encouraged to attend.



SILVER SOULS



To all our wonderful Silver Souls, please mark your calendar for our next gathering to be held Wednesday, May 22nd at the Trinity Center Fellowship Hall. This next event's theme will be "The Way We Were" and allow us all to journey back to our years as we prepared for graduation and our start into adult life. The meal will be catered by Marge of the Pepsi Roadhouse. Please start looking for a picture you might share of when you were around that age. We will use that for a game to see who can recognize the most folks! Be watching your mail in April for specific info. More info will be coming in the May Newsletter too.

BLESSING BOX

Free Food for anyone in Need. Take what you need. Leave what you can.



As many of you are aware, we have a Blessing Box outside the church office that is available for people in need of extra food. With the rising costs of food and other necessities, the box is being used now, more than ever! If you have extra non-perishable food items that you would like to donate to the box, please drop it off at the church office. Some of the most popular items are: soup, mac & cheese, peanut butter & jelly, fruit cups, condiments, rice, noodles, mashed potatoes, canned meats, and breakfast items! Thank you so much for your generosity!

FOOD BANK

For the month of April, the Food Bank is requesting *lunch box items* that can be dropped off in Calvary Parlor. They are also accepting cash and check donations. Please make checks payable to McDonald Presbyterian Church and indicate "Food Bank" on the memo line. Please contact Ed Nalesnick with any questions.

Announcements

DEACON UPDATES

Thanks for Making the Recent Deacon's Fundraiser a "Souper" Success! We were in awe of the wonderful support from our MPC family & friends. We could not have imagined we would have over 225 quarts! And a special thanks to the Deacon Team and some of our helpers for helping with planning, set-up, order taking, chopping, browning, stirring, boiling, pouring, labeling, containing, and prepping the orders. We raised over \$1200 and we look forward to ways to increase our ministry & support other wonderful ministries at MPC!



VICTORIA MANOR OUTREACH

Our outreach at Victoria Manor has been growing, and we have been blessed to spend more time with the residents. In March, we spent time doing crafts, playing bingo, worshipping, and visiting. Here are some of the things we have planned in April:

Wednesday April 3-Craft Day at 1pm

Wednesday April 17 - Bingo at 1pm

Monday April 22- Church at 5:30pm

If you would like to join us for any of these visits, please reach out to Dana Motte or Syndria Lowe.



WASHINGTON COUNTY PRAYER BREAKFAST



Date: Saturday, May 4, 2024

Location: Doubletree, Racetrack Road, Meadowlands, PA

Time: 8:30-10:30 a.m., Cost: \$10/ person

Please contact the church office to register.

GRADUATES

Will your family be celebrating the high school, trade school or college graduation of someone special this spring?

Your MPC family would love to recognize your student on **Graduate Sunday, May 19th**

Please contact the church office by May 5th to share and receive some important details.

Class
of 2024



Children's and Youth Ministry Update

reNEW Student Ministry



RENEW NEWS: ReNEW Youth Group is for students in 5th through 12th grades and meets every Wednesday evening at Trinity Fellowship Hall from 6 p.m. until 7:45 p.m.

RENEW KIDZ: reNEW Kidz Youth Group is for students from Kindergarten through 4th grades and meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday evening from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.



CONTINUED PRAYER REQUEST: Shalom Church friends and family! Please be continuously praying for our ReNew youth group and team of volunteers. We have a busy schedule for the spring and look forward to seeing God grow our youth.

ReNEW ST. PATRICK'S DAY COFFEE HOUSE: On March 15th, we held another successful coffee house fundraiser to benefit ReNew. There was delicious food and performances for all to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who came out to support our youth!



Sunday School

We had a wonderful time with our Palm Sunday stations and pretzel making. Thank you to everyone who helped out!

SAVE THE DATE: Our Sunday School year-end breakfast will be held on May 19th.



Summer Service Week

7TH ANNUAL SUMMER SERVICE WEEK



Come and
Join Us!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

WHO: Volunteers of ALL ages (adults, teens, kids) are needed and welcome!

WHEN: Work days: July 23-26 (volunteer for as few or as many days/evenings as you like)

WHERE: McDonald Borough and neighboring communities

Some ways you can serve and have fun at the same time:

- Pray!
- Volunteer for a work project
- Donate supplies or money for the projects
- Provide and/or serve meals for the work teams
- Celebrate with us by attending Worship in the Park on Sunday, July 28th at Cecil Park (catered picnic follows the worship service)

Come “Love ~ Serve ~ Share” with us!

Tom Maxwell (412-965-3325), Summer Service Week Chair

Michelle Unruh (412-221-4143) and Patty Doane (412-913-8401), Missions Co-chairs

Mission Statement

It is our goal to glorify God by joyfully and intentionally loving our neighbors, showing compassion for those in need, and spreading the Good News of the gospel. We believe the Lord equips us, partners with us in ministry and encourages us to be His hands and feet in our community.

(Mark 12:31, 1 Peter 4:10, Matthew 28:19-20, Ephesians 2:10)

Service Week Volunteer Form

Summer Service Week Mission Project - July 22 - July 26, 2024

VOLUNTEER FORM

Sponsored by: McDonald Presbyterian Church ECO

Contact: Tom Maxwell Cell: 412-965-3325 Email: tommaxx2016@gmail.com

Home Repair Area: McDonald and neighboring communities

Fee: \$50.00 per adult. (Teens and Youth under 18 - no fee)

Please make checks payable to McDonald Presbyterian Church (memo: Service Week Volunteer)

Fee will help cover project materials, volunteer t-shirt and 3 meals a day, served in church fellowship hall.

Please use a separate form for each person volunteering during service week. Teens and Youth do not need to list skill level.

NAME: _____
Adult: _____ Teenager: _____ Age: _____ Youth: _____ Age: _____

T-shirt size (please circle) YS YM YL Adult Small Adult Medium Adult Large
Adult XL Adult 2XL

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Which days will you be available?

Monday, July 22nd (get acquainted/informational session) Location: Trinity Fellowship Hall @ 7:00pm

Tuesday 23rd _____ Wednesday 24th _____ Thursday 25th _____ Friday 26th _____

Interest & Skill Level: 1 2 3 (4) (almost professional)

House Cleaning _____ Yard Work _____

Painting – interior _____ Painting – Exterior _____

Wood Work (porch/deck/ramps) _____ Carpentry (door/window/trim/steps) _____

Stone-Cement (steps/walk/brick repair) _____ Electrical – (light switches/outlets) _____

Other Skills: _____

Please return (BEFORE JUNE 15, 2024) to:

TOM MAXWELL, 2016 STILLWATER LANE, MCDONALD, PA 15057 OR E-mail tommaxx2016@gmail.com

**** APPLICATION AND CHECK CAN ALSO BE GIVEN TO KERRY @ CHURCH OFFICE ****

Calendar

April 2	Lunch Ladies	Noon
April 3	Yahweh Wednesday	Noon
	ReNew Youth	6:00 p.m.
	ReNew Kidz	6:00 p.m.
April 7	Deacon Meeting	12:00 p.m.
April 8	Session Meeting	6:30 p.m.
April 10	Yahweh Wednesday	Noon
	ReNew Youth	6:00 p.m.
April 15	Lunch Ladies	Noon
	Victoria Manor Worship	5:30 p.m.
April 16	Alpha Meeting	7:00 p.m.
April 17	Yahweh Wednesday	Noon
	ReNew Youth	6:00 p.m.
	ReNew Kidz	6:00 p.m.
April 20	Youth Spaghetti Dinner	4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
April 21	Deacon Hospitality	Noon
	McFall Fest Brainstorming Meeting	Noon
April 24	Yahweh Wednesday	Noon
	ReNew Youth	6:00 p.m.
April 28	Summer Service Week Kickoff	During Worship
April 29	Lunch Ladies	Noon

SAVE THE DATE(S)

May 4	Washington County Prayer Breakfast
May 11	Spring Clean-Up Day
May 19	Graduate Sunday
June 24-28	Vacation Bible School
July 23-26	Summer Service Week
July 28	Worship in the Park
September 7	FMSC Meal Packing
October 12	McFall Fest



Our Love & Prayers Go Out To..

Jim Crowe
120 Mosside Blvd, Apt 339
N Versailles, PA 15137

Larry Doak
H. John Heinz III Progressive Ctr
First Floor South Hall
1010 Delafield Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Walter Phillips
Charties Bend
1001 Hastings Park Drive
Apt. 139
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Ida Galicic
Juniper Village
1320 Greentree Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Peggy Hughey
Hawthorne Woods
791 Locust Avenue, Room 104
Washington, PA 15301

Laurain Lacotte
Dorothy Penberthy
Middy Ecker
Joy Penderville
Elsie Kovach
Lila Turk
Victoria Manor
100 Rose Court
Oakdale, PA 15071

Isabelle Krenn
Southmont Senior Care
Room 463
835 S. Main Street
Washington, PA 15301

Dolores Bable
Mary Catherine
Garrett
Julie Hanzcar
Marlene Shupe



Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you. ~ Deuteronomy 31:8

Important Dates



April Birthdays!



Brandon Yates	4/5
Dorothy Penberthy	4/5
Lila Mae Turk	4/6
Sarah Amsler	4/6
Bodhi Jordan	4/7
Lily Jeannette	4/8
Scott Weiler	4/10
Damien Shaffer	4/10
Katie Speer	4/12
Shannon McGinnis	4/13
Daniel Jordan	4/14
Alice Todorowski	4/14
Emma Ware	4/15

Middy Ecker	4/15
Debbie McGinnis	4/20
Jim Brockman	4/22
Katie Martin	4/22
Caitlin Allen	4/24
Tina Kocian	4/25
Nancy Longstreth	4/26
Donna Klimas	4/26
Peggy Samarin	4/27
Jacob Weiler	4/28
Elsie Kovach	4/28
Adam Unruh	4/30



Lin & Ed Nalesnick	4/3
Karen & Dennis Cooper	4/17
Lana & Sonny Gilbert	4/18
Patricia & Jon Sember	4/23
Molly & Tom Maxwell	4/27
Amber & Billy Wasko	4/29



CHOIR PRACTICES FOR APRIL

April 4: 7pm – Praise Team
7:30pm – Adult Choir

April 11: 7pm – Praise Team
7:30pm – Adult Choir

April 18: 6pm- Bell Choir
7pm – Praise Team
7:30pm – Adult Choir

April 25: 7pm – Praise Team
7:30pm – Adult Choir

* If you would like to join us, please contact
Syndria Lowe or Heidi Betschart!



McDONALD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2024 NEWSLETTER

Non Profit Org.
US POSTAGE PAID
MCDONALD, PA
PERMIT NO. 9

Worship Site:
202 West Lincoln Avenue
McDonald, PA 15057

Office Location:
119 Station Street
McDonald, PA 15057

Phone: (724) 926-8561

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



Visit our website:
mcdonaldpres.org

McDonald Presbyterian Church is a mid-sized congregation located in McDonald, PA that exists to honor God by making more disciples for Jesus Christ. Our worship, service and outreach are all focused on helping others experience the love of God and the joy that comes from knowing Him. We love what we do and who we are when we come together as a community of God's people. Our door is always open, and we look forward to meeting you and welcoming you into our fellowship.

Pastor

Rev. Justin Amsler
justin@mcdonaldpres.org
(724) 699-0157

Children's Ministries

Coordinator

Jennifer Lupi
jenniferlupi@mcdonaldpres.org

Choir Director: Syndria Lowe

Assistant Choir Director

Heidi Betschart

Administrative Assistant

Kerry Schmitt
kerry@mcdonaldpres.org

Bookkeeper: Connie Buydasz
bookkeeper@mcdonaldpres.org

Operations Officer:

Tom Maxwell

Custodial Staff

Bob McDowell
Kerry Schmitt

Newsletter Editor: Kerry Schmitt

GET CONNECTED ... BE ENGAGED

WORSHIP

Sundays @ 10:45 a.m. Calvary Center or
live on Facebook

DISCOVER

Find a new way to volunteer your time.

FELLOWSHIP

Join a community life group or Bible Study. See how your faith
can grow!

ACT

Sign up to help at VBS or Summer Service Week

