



McPresby News

VBS 2026

Get ready to BE TRANSFORMED!



We are happy to announce that Vacation Bible School is returning again this year at MPC the week of June 22-26 from 9am to Noon. VBS is available at no cost to kids entering Kindergarten through 5th grade. This year, we are taking a journey through scripture as we learn to BE BOLD, BE WILLING, BE AMAZED, BE BORN AGAIN, and finally BE TRANSFORMED!

We are still accepting volunteers to help make this exciting week a huge success. (See page 3 for meeting info.) You may register children or volunteers by scanning the QR code, by visiting our website (mcdonaldpres.org) or by calling the church office (724-926-8561.)



If you have any old Legos that you are no longer using, we are looking for donations for VBS. Please note: these will not be returned.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY!

We are excited to announce that we will be working with Universal Church Directories to provide a new picture directory of our church members. This will be done in conjunction with our 150-year anniversary celebration. Picture dates are set for June 11-13. Each person/ family who has their picture taken through UCD will receive a free 8x10 and a free directory!



If you haven't already booked your appointment to have your picture taken, it's not too late! You may schedule your timeslot now by going online to www.ucdir.com (church code is pa1261 and the password is smile1261) , or you may call the church office before June 11th.

We would love to have everyone be a part of this. It really helps with putting names with faces. If you choose to not have your picture taken, please contact the church office to make sure your contact information is up to date for the roster.

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SUMMER WORSHIP

From June 7th through August 30th, worship begins at 10:00am. Children's Sunday School and 10:45 worship will resume on September 6th.



Pastor's Page— 150 Years of Transformed Thinking

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but instead be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

The modern life that we have has been achieved through standards and systems. Roads have rules. Tools have standard sizes. Language has rules that make meaning clear. Classrooms have procedures. Militaries have discipline and protocols. Companies have policy manuals and seek best practices. Whenever humans gather around a goal, conforming into some kind of system is a requirement. Few will survive alone in the wilderness. God created humans with a desperate need for each other. Survival depends on community. Community depends on getting along and doing things together. Advancing beyond the stone age required building systems, tools and methods that can be reproduced consistently.

When Paul commands his hearers not to conform to the pattern of this world there is an assumption inherent. We must conform to what is good. Conforming to the good is a requirement for our spiritual health. The message of Jesus Christ is a system of thinking, and living that stands apart from the godless way of life that so many choose to live by. In the Jesus system, generosity, kindness, and love of enemy are baseline. When the world seeks revenge, we give grace and look for opportunities for reconciliation. Why? Because that is what our Lord and Savior did while he was on this earth. He forgave sins and welcomed those far from God to his table.

To be a follower of Christ is to be a person who has a transformed way of thinking. The way a follower of Christ handles the uncertainty of life is fundamentally different than the way someone without God handles those same moments. The follower of Jesus is anchored in eternal life that is accessed through belief in the empty tomb. The one who is a child of God will still suffer, will still face anxiety and discouragement, but they have a system of belief that catches them when they fall.

For one hundred and fifty years our congregation has been teaching people how to love God and love one another. We have been teaching and attempting to live by lessons about turning the other cheek and setting aside time to worship. We have been walking with our children and the children of our community for a century and a half. I have no doubt that our best days are ahead of us. Our best seasons of ministry are just around the corner. Our culture may be slipping away from God, but we are leaning into his message and are seeking to be transformed by his love each and every day.

We are transformed through the old ways. Slowing living and learning about the one who is and was and is to come. Savvy about the world and able to test and approve what God's good, perfect, and pleasing will is for us in the present.

Happy 150th!

Pastor Justin



Announcements



DEACON NEWS

Deacon's will have the Calvary Fellowship Hall open for the Community Garage Sale on Saturday, June 6th. If you are interested in having a table, please notify Kerry in the office as soon as possible. Set up can be done Friday early evening.

Deacon's next meeting is June 7.

Deacon's next hospitality is June 21.



Hearts and Hands Fellowship Friday, June 5th 6-8pm

Bring a craft or a project and a snack to share. For two fun-filled hours, we talk and laugh (and eat) as we craft together. Men & women of all ages welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Dana Motte or Kerry Schmitt

Walk, Talk, Pray Continues through Summer!



WTP is going strong, and we have a wonderful group of walkers for both the hour and the half-hour sessions. We would love for you to join us!

If you are interested in joining us (even one or two times a week), please call Dana Motte at 412-296-2037, or just show up!!! We meet at the Trail Station.

ROSE MANOR OUTREACH

Save the Dates for June:

Monday, June 15, 2026 - 5:30-6:30 PM -
Worship at Rose Manor

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 - BINGO at
Rose Manor 1:00 PM



Tuesdays and Thursdays -
6:00 pm group walks to Hunners and back
6:30 pm group walks to Oliverio and back
Saturday morning:
8:00 am group walks to Hunners and back
8:30 am group walks to Oliverio and back



MCDONALD YARD SALE

McDonald is having their annual community yard sale on Saturday, June 6th. Once again, we will be opening Calvary Fellowship Hall to MPC families who may be interested in selling their own items. There is no charge for a table, but we ask that you please take home any unsold items after the sale. If you would like a table please call the church office.

SILVER SOULS

Our next gathering will be held Wednesday, July 8 at Trinity Fellowship Hall. A Potluck Lunch, Devotional Time and Bingo are the planned activities. Letters will go out soon, so watch your mail for the details and RSVP!



VBS PREP MEETING



Join us on June 9 at 7:00 PM in Trinity Fellowship Hall as we prepare to launch our 2026 Vacation Bible School program! We'll share important information, provide an overview of this year's program, and discuss ways everyone can help make VBS a success.

If you signed up to help, we'd love to see you there! Come ready to share the vision and enjoy some snacks along the way.

Announcements



ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

We are compiling a cookbook of “150 years” of your favorite cookie, dessert, cake, etc. We are looking for recipes that are family favorites and have a story – maybe a favorite of someone in the family who was a member of our church but has now passed. It could be a recipe for a dessert currently served at one of our events. And of course, well known to our area – Gulletes. Cherish those memories by having the recipe in the celebration recipe book. We would like to publish this book for Rally Day as part of the 150th celebration so we need your recipes by July 12, 2026. You may fill out the form found in the parlor or drop a copy of your recipe in the COOKIE JAR. You may also email recipes to lynnabrockman@gmail.com. Any questions please see Lynn, Anna, Jane or Chris.

YOUTH BAKE OFF

Saturday June 27, 2026 in Trinity Fellowship Hall

Each participant is asked to bring in at least two dozen ready-to-eat servings of their dessert creation. Entries are to be brought in by 9:45, and judging begins at 10AM. This Event is open to all youth from 6 years old to 18 years old. Prizes will be awarded, and the top dessert recipe will be the featured youth recipe in The 150th Anniversary Cookbook. If you have any questions or would like to help, please see Jane Worthington.



MCFALL FEST

October 10

It's never too early to start thinking about McFall Fest! This event takes our entire MPC village to organize.

Some vendors have already been secured. Publicity and donation requests are under way. There are numerous ways to plug into this event. Stay tuned for more details on how you can be a part of this fun-filled, mission-oriented event.

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

August (exact date to be determined)

We are delighted to host another Backpack Giveaway this year. This outreach is held in conjunction with the McDonald Salvation Army and other community members and organizations. This is a tangible way for us to help area children and families. A specific date and particular ways in which you can lend a hand are forthcoming.



CHURCH HISTORY

Calvary, originally founded as the First United Presbyterian Church, was established in 1876 and the church building designed by Pittsburgh architect James N. Campbell. The congregation faced financial difficulties until the oil boom reached McDonald, Pennsylvania in the early 1890s, transforming Calvary into a prosperous and rapidly expanding church.

Trinity, originally known as First Presbyterian Church, was established shortly afterward in 1885 and the church building constructed by the Washington, Pennsylvania architectural firm McCallum & Ely in 1897.



Missions



Item of the Month  Flip Flops (any & all sizes)

This year's goal? To pack **825 FUN, FULL AND PERSONALIZED** shoebox gifts!

By purchasing some items in bulk, we can get better deals and reach our goal faster and more economically. Please scan this QR code and visit our **Packing Party Wish List** to see what we are talking about. (Maybe invite a friend to share the cost of an item with you)

Always feel free to contact Michelle Unruh with any questions (412-720-8232).

And again, thank you so much for your support these past 27 years!



[Updated Packing Party Wish List](#)

Inventory Update

Washcloths: 360

Toothbrushes: 77

Stuffed Animals: 141

Bandanas: 781

Notebooks: 34

Flip Flops: 39

SUMMER SERVICE WEEK

July 27-31, 2026

Together with our other church partners we have made an incredible impact on our community over the past 8 years. We are blessed to be able to repair about 35 homes each year and organize some 65 volunteers to carry out the mission. Volunteer opportunities include all levels of painting, cleaning, landscaping and construction work as well as prayer team, kitchen team and more. We hope you will be able to join us for this impactful week. If you would like to volunteer, or if you would like a homeowner's application, please visit the church website (scan the QR code) or pick up a form on the welcome table or in the church office.



724

CLUB 724

Keep an eye on TeamReach for details on finishing the big build of the Titanic. Join us this summer as we have loads of plans in the works.

RENEW YOUTH GROUP

Our Season ends on Wednesday, June 3rd with our End of Year Party @ Pastor Ben's place. Join us for food fellowship and fun.

Have a great summer!



TEAMREACH

Be on the know. Renew and Club 724 will be connecting to students through the Teamreach app to keep our students updated on the happenings for this season! Download the app on google play or the Apple app store and use the following code to join the conversation! RENEW youth code: MPCeco0613 ; CLUB724 code: MPC724eco



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Feel called to mentor the next generation? Please consider becoming a kids church teacher. The more the merrier. Please see Dana Puhlman with any questions or interest!

CONGRATS CLASS OF 2026 GRADUATES!

HIGH SCHOOL GRADS

Isabella Bianchini

Logan Slovick

COLLEGE GRADS

Sydney Bair

Tony Marin

Will Puhlman

DJ Slovick

Sam Unruh

ADVANCED DEGREES

Sarah Amsler

Tom Gilbert



PINE SPRINGS CAMP "ADOPT" A COUNSELOR

The Missions Committee is happy to "Encourage a Counselor" at Pine Springs Camp again this summer.

Please join us in praying for Bella Sworts throughout the summer camp season.

We will be sending her encouraging notes and fun care packages through August 13.



UPCOMING EVENTS/ OPPORTUNITIES

Do you love music? Perhaps you always wanted to try playing the guitar, or learn to sing better? Perhaps you'd like to improve something musical you're already doing, and want to connect with others? The dates for these group-based music opportunities are determined by the attendees' schedules. Please speak with, call, or text Heidi directly (412-491-6050) with your interest/RSVP:

Introduction to group voice/singing class: This class is designed to teach attendees the latest research-based techniques for healthy singing.

Introduction to Ukulele and Guitar: This class is for those who want to learn from scratch or improve their playing skills.

Introduction Handbells: Have you ever wondered what it would be like to play the handbells? Basic techniques are covered for beginners, and some fun techniques are covered for experienced players.

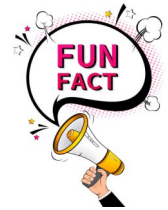
Drum Circle: Keep a beat, fill in the silence, and groove with the earliest of all the instruments.

Flute Ensemble: This ensemble is for those who have been away for a while and want to get back to playing and/or those who are in high school/college and want to continue playing outside of school-based ensembles.

MUSIC FUN FACT!

There is much research on the neurological benefits of singing, playing instruments, and learning music. It is mostly quantitative, meaning it can be measured. What I haven't found much in research is the qualitative side...what the people participating in music making LIKE about it and/or what keeps them coming back. I recently posed this question to a group, and their individual answers made an impact on me.

1. I like the camaraderie of being in this group.
2. We're like a family.
3. We are coming together to make this music from all these parts that are so emotional and impactful in the worship service.
4. I like singing with other people.



Q: What is a pirate's favorite part of going to church?

A: The *arrrrrrrrr*-men!

Dear McDonald Presbyterian Church Family,

As we reflect on our first year serving as Music Ministry Directors, we are filled with gratitude for the love, encouragement, and support shown by this congregation. Stepping into these roles has been both an honor and a learning experience, and we sincerely thank you for your patience, understanding, and grace as we found our way throughout this year of transition and growth.

We are especially thankful for the dedication of every choir member, musician, volunteer, and worship participant who gives their time and talents so faithfully. Your commitment and servant hearts continue to make our music ministry a meaningful part of worship at McDonald Presbyterian Church.

It is a blessing to serve alongside such a caring and supportive church family. We look forward to continuing to grow in faith and music as we worship and glorify God together.

With sincere gratitude,

Heidi & Jeffrey Betschart
Music Ministry Directors



Community Life Groups



YAHWEH WEDNESDAY: Our group meets once a month, and each session, we are studying a different minor prophet. We will meet next on June 3rd and study the book of Malachi. If you have questions or are interested in joining us, please contact Pastor Justin.

LUNCH LADIES: Lunch ladies will meet on June 1st, 8th (picnic), and 29th. The study *Twelve Daring Women of the Bible* will conclude, and we will start a new study at the end of the month. New members are welcome to join us! Please see Peggy Samarin or Linda Matchett if you have any questions.



LAMPLIGHTERS: The Lamplighters have just finished a challenging study on the spiritual discipline of "Listening to God." We will take a break for the summer, allowing our members to engage in the many church activities planned over the next few months. Details on our next study will be forthcoming. Lamplighters is a women's study group that meets on Monday evenings at 7pm. New participants are always welcome. Contacts for this group are Syndria Lowe and Patty Doane.

SHE SOARS: Our group will be taking a break over the summer and will resume meeting during the Sunday School hour in September. All women are welcome!



MIGHTY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: The Mighty Men's Bible Study will take a break for the month of June. We will start back at 8:45am on July 5th upstairs in the Calvary pastor's study. All men in the church are welcome to study the Attributes of God with us every Sunday morning during the Sunday School hour.

READY, SET, GROW: Our class meets on Sundays at 9:30am (8:45 in the summer) in the Tower Room of Calvary. Each session, we meet to pray and then we review and discuss the previous week's Scripture lesson and sermon. We have found it to be an excellent opportunity to connect with others as we delve more deeply into the Bible. Please contact the church office or Dana Motte with any questions, or just pop in on a Sunday morning. You are welcome!!!



QUARTER-LIFE CRISIS: Quarter-Life Crisis is a group of young adults who meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 to study the Bible, eat food, and encourage one another. The group is for young adults from 10th grade and through their 20s. Talk to Kylie Bowland or Julia Amsler to get involved in this dynamic group.

McDonald Presbyterian Church
MCFALL FEST- October 10, 2026

**Now Accepting
VENDOR APPLICATIONS**

Call 724-926-8561 or
Email office@mcdonaldpres.org

- Beware of scammers!
- We will not ask for money!

*I can do ALL THINGS
through Christ
who STRENGTHENS me.*
-Phillippians 4:13

Community News/ Our Love & Prayers



MCDONALD LION'S CLUB RIB COOKOUTS: At the McDonald Trail Station from 9am until sold out. June 27th, July 25th, August 29th, September 26th

PANCAKE BREAKFAST: There will be a pancake breakfast on Saturday, June 6th at the McDonald Trail Station from 8am to noon. Adults are \$8 and children are \$4. Proceeds will go towards the summer youth tennis program and repairing the tennis courts.



BAKED GOODS FOR MOW: Meals-on-Wheels is looking for people who are willing to bake/ provide baked goods periodically for distribution to our clients. Anyone who is interested, please talk to Pat Powell.

FOOD BANK: For the month of June, the Food Bank is requesting *canned meats or tuna* 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.



Thank you for all of the cards, prayers, calls, and visits during my recovery. Your kindness, encouragement, and support were truly appreciated and meant so much to me. I am very grateful for everyone who kept me in their thoughts and prayers! ~ Nancy Turk

ONLINE GIVING

Did you know that you can make your weekly offering and other church contributions online? You can do this by visiting mcdonaldpres.org and clicking on *Covenant Partner Account Access*, or you may scan the QR code.



Our Love & Prayers Go Out To...

Karen Altman
Belmont Village Senior Living Westwood
10475 Wilshire Blvd, Apt 417
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Ida Galic
Strabane Woods- Room 116
319 Wellness Way
Washington, PA 15301

Jon & Patty Sember
Strabane Woods, Room 314
319 Wellness Way
Washington, PA 15301

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

Laurain Lacotte
Middy Ecker
Elsie Kovach
Cloe Barricklow
Rose Manor
100 Rose Court
Oakdale, PA 15071

AT HOME:
Mary Catherine Garrett
Lana Gilbert
Julie Hanczar
Chuck "Tootie" Smith
Bob & Vicki Zyra

Calendar

June 1	Lunch Ladies	Noon
June 2	Quarter-Life Crisis	6:30 p.m.
June 3	Yahweh Wednesday ReNew End-of-Year Party @ Pastor Ben's	Noon 6:00 p.m.
June 5	Hearts & Hands	6:00 p.m.
June 6	McDonald Community Yard Sale	8:00 a.m.
June 7	Ready, Set, Grow Worship Deacon Meeting	8:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m.
June 8	Lunch Ladies (picnic) Session All-Leaders	Noon 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
June 9	Quarter-Life Crisis VBS Prep Meeting	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
June 11-13	Directory Pictures	
June 14	Ready, Set, Grow	8:45 a.m.
June 16	Quarter-Life Crisis	6:30 p.m.
June 21	Ready, Set, Grow Deacon Hospitality	8:45 a.m. 11:15 a.m.
June 22-26	Vacation Bible School	9:00– Noon
June 23	Quarter-Life Crisis	6:30 p.m.
June 27	Youth Bake-Off	9:45 a.m.
June 28	Ready, Set, Grow VBS Celebration Sunday	8:45 a.m.
June 29	Lunch Ladies	Noon
June 30	Quarter-Life Crisis	6:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATES!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: JUNE 22-26, 2026

SUMMER SERVICE WEEK: JULY 27-31, 2026

WORSHIP IN THE PARK: AUGUST 2, 2026

FMSC PACKING PARTY: SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

MCFALL FEST: OCTOBER 10, 2026

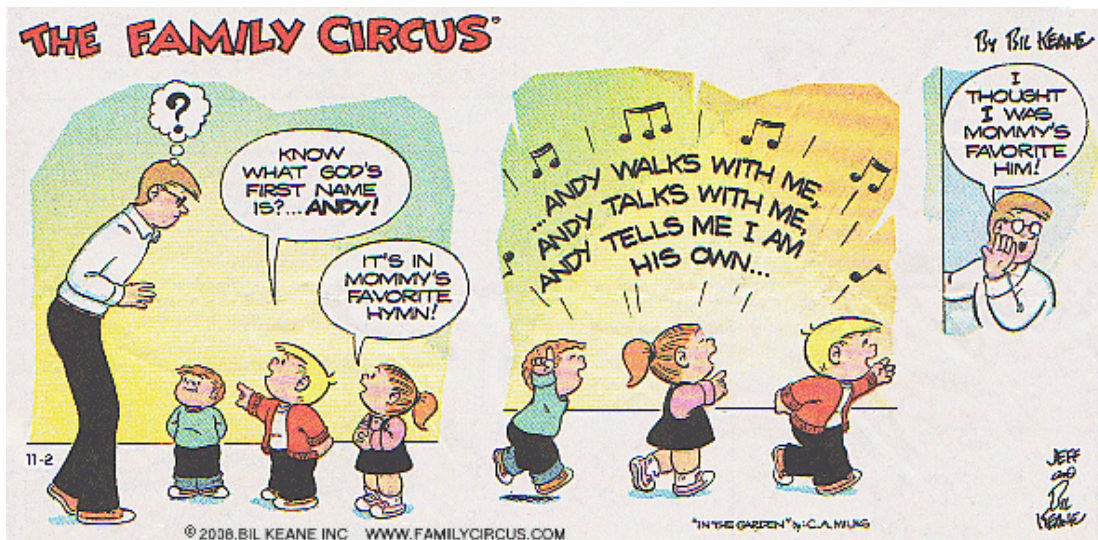


Birthdays, Anniversaries

Happy Birthday
To Everyone
Born in June!

	Rosalynd Yates	6/10	Ian Allen	6/20	
	Selah Amsler	6/12	Mason Caldwell	6/20	
	Scarlett Caldwell	6/12	Steve Dallas	6/20	
	Evie Ewing	6/13	Marlene Thomas	6/21	
	Lisa Wonderly	6/13	Sandra McCloud	6/23	
Joann Gibbs	6/1	Amber Young	6/14	Anthony Marin	6/25
Kyler Giambanco	6/2	Rudolph Boko	6/15	Martin Ryan	6/27
Abigayle Goodwin	6/3	Shawn McMillen	6/16	Jackie Bonds	6/28
Don Roths	6/4	Alexander Nemec	6/17	Bill Ewing	6/28
Cory Crawford	6/7	Lorraine Zombeck	6/17	Rex Keslar	6/30
Elizabeth Dornetto	6/9	Della Endy	6/19		
Allison Giambanco	6/9	Julie Petito	6/19		

Lynn & Jim Brockman	6/2	Deborah & Cliff Elicker	6/14
Diane & Bob Shepherd	6/6	Susie & Don Stepp	6/16
Kara & Ryan Wockley	6/10	Jennifer & Robert Guidice	6/21
Donna & Bob Klimas	6/11	Teri & Jerry Runtas	6/23
Jackie & Patrick Bonds	6/11	Kathy & Ray Morgan	6/26
Peggy & Dean Moore	6/11		
Rhonda & Randy Lauff	6/12		
Kris & David Hanczar	6/13		
Charlene & Robert Potts	6/13		
Kari & Ted Bair, Jr.	6/14		



**McDONALD
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

**June 2026
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

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.

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



Visit our website:
mcdonaldpres.org

Pastor

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

**Children's Ministries
Coordinators**

Erich & Dana Puhlman

Director of Music Ministry

Heidi Betschart

Assistant Director of Music Ministry

Jeff Betschart

Administrative Assistant

*Kerry Schmitt
kerry@mcdonaldpres.org*

Bookkeeper

*Dana Myers
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



SERVE

Look for volunteer opportunities for upcoming events, such as VBS in June, Summer Service Week in July, or one of our many fall events!

FELLOWSHIP

Join a new group or committee, sit somewhere new in church, or invite someone for coffee.

