



**McDONALD  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Special Anniversary  
Edition**

# McPresby News

**Celebrating  
150 Years of  
Ministry and  
Worship**



**Celebrating 20  
Years as a  
Merged  
Congregation**

On Sunday, May 31, we will be celebrating what God has done in our midst. For 150 years, our church has been a place of worship, love and support, serving the McDonald community through various ministry programs. Also, 2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the merger of Calvary and Trinity congregations to form McDonald Presbyterian Church. God has been faithful and we want everyone to join in our praise and celebration. *“And you shall rejoice in all the good that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house...” ~ Deuteronomy 26:11*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY



Our celebration will begin at 10:00am on May 31 with the dedication of our new café space and refreshments. At 10:45am we will have a special anniversary worship service. Following worship, we will enjoy a music and food truck festival outside on Station and Grant Streets. Food trucks will be set up along Station Street and will provide delicious options for purchase. Echo Valley Bluegrass will be set and

ready to play, and we will host a community block party from 12-2pm with a bounce house, face painting and more. Further details on food trucks, musical guest, and activities are provided on succeeding pages, so please read on. And, plan to invite your family to friends to this special afternoon of fun and celebration!

## LOOK FOR OUR YARD SIGNS

Soon our yard signs will be out sharing our invitation to the whole community. We hope that many of our friends and neighbors will come out and join us for the festivities. Who will you invite to enjoy a great time of food and fun with your church family?

**COMMUNITY  
BLOCK PARTY**

★ 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ★  
★ CELEBRATION ★

**MAY 31, 2026- Noon to 2pm- Grant St.**  
McDonald Presbyterian Church

*Everyone Welcome!* • Live Music • Food Trucks  
• FREE Kids Fun!  
& Much More!

[mcdonaldpres.org](http://mcdonaldpres.org)

# What to Expect

## Come Early, Stay Late



Join us at 10am in our new Café for coffee, bagels and donuts. Let's start the day together in a time of fellowship and welcoming one another in the love of Christ.

You also do not want to miss the replica of our original church building that will be on display in the Café. This replica stands about 4' high and was created by a member of the McDonald community.

At 10:45, we will adjourn to the sanctuary for a worship service including uplifting singing and melodies from all of our various church musical groups. Come be inspired and filled by the Holy Spirit as we worship together.



## CORNERSTONE DEDICATION

Following our service of worship, we will all proceed to the Lincoln Avenue/Station Street corner of Calvary Center where we will dedicate the cornerstone of our church.

Surprisingly, Calvary Center has had a blank cornerstone on the edifice since it was built. We are excited to have it engraved to mark the founding of our church.

## THE EXCITEMENT CONTINUES

At Noon, Station Street and Grant Avenue will come alive with various activities:



### BOUNCE HOUSE

Our kids will be jumping for joy as they engage in some classic fun.

### FACE PAINTING

Members of our congregation will be delighting the children with festive, colorful designs.



## MIKE THE BALLOON GUY

*Twisting fun into unforgettable memories at our 150th Celebration!*

Get ready to be amazed and delighted—because **Mike the Balloon Guy** is bringing his incredible balloon artistry to our 150th celebration!

With a twist here and a turn there, Mike transforms ordinary balloons into extraordinary creations right before your eyes. From playful animals to colorful hats there's something for all the kids to enjoy.

Mike's creativity will keep smiles going all day long.

Be sure to stop by, say hello, and take home a balloon masterpiece as a special keepsake from this historic 150th celebration with **Mike the Balloon Guy!**

## DID SOMEONE SAY CAKE???



At 1:00pm, during the Echo Valley intermission, we will have a special dignitary recognition with a cake cutting and words of appreciation.

This will be a time of dedication to highlight the special place this milestone holds in the life of our church.

## Echo Valley Bluegrass

---

We are excited to invite Echo Valley Bluegrass back to our church campus. If you haven't experienced them, buckle up for a musical thrill ride! Since 2009, they've been rocking stages with their unique blend of bluegrass, rock, Americana, folk, and Grassicana. With cool retro vibes and a high-energy show, Echo Valley performs more than 60 gigs each year, touring across the U.S. from Nashville to Pigeon Forge, Raleigh and beyond (that's us!).

They are more than just a road show—Echo Valley earned a spot as an Official Showcase Band at IBMA 2022 and wowed crowds at the Pennsylvania Fairs and Showmen Convention in 2022. They've also played at notable venues like The Station Inn, Dollywood, and the Pittsburgh Three Rivers Arts Festival.

The accolades continue: Emily, their standout fiddle player, earned the 2021 Pennsylvania State Fiddle Championship and the 2018 Maryland State Fiddle title.

Their latest album, *Wildest Dreams* (2022), recorded in Nashville and produced by Donna Ulisse for Bell Buckle Records, is turning heads. Fans can also enjoy earlier releases including *Echo Valley* (2016), *Rise and Shine* (2018), and *Christmas with Echo Valley* (2018).

Don't miss the Echo Valley experience—it's a musical journey you'll want to be part of.



# Food Truck Fun for Everyone—May 31st at Noon

*Our festivities will include a variety of food options for purchase from*

**Smoke Wagon BBQ** ~ featuring pulled pork, chicken, brisket and scrumptious side dishes

**Hermes Food Truck** ~ delicious gyros, funnel cakes, corn dogs & chicken tenders

**Frost Fairy** ~ a delectable combination of Italian ice and sorbet

**Luna Coffee Company** ~ custom created espresso drinks and more

## SMOKE WAGON BBQ

In 2001, Fred Rasel built what would become his favorite smoker and the one he still uses today. This smoker was dubbed “The Pork Authority.” After years of mastering his flavors, his hobby grew into a business. In 2009, The Smoke Wagon began as a small backyard project where they would serve pulled pork, ribs and chicken from their house and has grown into the best BBQ in Washington, Pa. You can eat other BBQ, but give The Smoke Wagon a try. Then you can at least say you ate the best BBQ!



## HERMES FOOD TRUCK

Hermes Food Truck serves delicious gyros and platters, classic carnival flavors of corn dogs, hot dogs & burgers, and chicken tenders. They might even tempt you with their deep fried Oreos or baklava.



## LUNA COFFEE COMPANY

Luna Coffee Company brings a beautiful menu of delightful coffee tastes and refreshing drinks. Make sure you stop by and enjoy a tasty cup of your favorite caffeinated beverage!



## FROST FAIRY

Frost Fairy serves their own recipes of Italian Ice & Sorbet. Their products are dairy free, gluten free and nut free. They combine the Italian Ice & Sorbet in fun varieties: A Swirl is a combination of Italian Ice and/or sorbet flavors together in one cup. A Snowdae is their version of a sundae - it is Italian Ice or sorbet with toppings. A Snowstorm is a container that has 4 different compartments—you can choose 4 single flavors to put in it. They also feature a smaller version called a Mini SnowStorm. If you've ever attended a FC football game, you know this truck is a fan favorite.



## MAY 31 ~ Detailed Agenda for the Day

---

- 10:00 AM      *Café Dedication & Ribbon Cutting*  
*Café open providing coffee, donuts & bagels*
- 10:45 AM      *Special Worship Service*
- 11:50 AM      *Worship Service concludes and we proceed to  
Lincoln Avenue/Station Street corner of  
Calvary Center*
- NOON           *Cornerstone Dedication ~ Calvary Center*  
*Food Trucks open*  
*Bounce House opens*  
*Balloon Artist*
- 12:10 PM      *Echo Valley Bluegrass Concert*
- 12:15 PM      *Face Painting*
- 1:00 PM        *Echo Valley Intermission*  
*Dignitary Recognition*  
*Cake Cutting Ceremony*  
*Words of Appreciation*
- 1:15 PM        *Echo Valley Bluegrass  
Concert continues*
- 2:00 PM        *Festivities Conclude*



# 150th Anniversary Fun Throughout the Year



## ANNIVERSARY DESSERT AND GAULETTE COOKBOOK

From now through summer we will be collecting all of our most amazing recipes for fabulous desserts, pies, cakes, gaulettes and anything else that might fit into this delicious category. We are also looking forward to telling the story of how the gaulette recipes have been passed down generation by generation. Look for recipe submission forms soon!

## 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 20-year anniversary celebration. Picture dates are set for June 11-13. The Deacons are spearheading this effort, but we will gladly take any additional volunteers to help with registrations, phone calls, mailings, etc. You may schedule your time slot now by going online to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) (church code is pa1261 and the password is smile1261) In person sign-ups will begin May 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## REPLICA CHURCH BUILDING ON DISPLAY

One of our amazing Covenant Partners has faithfully constructed a replica of the original First United Presbyterian Church building that was located at the current site of First Baptist Church of McDonald. Stop by our new café to see it displayed for all to see and find out who created this awesome work of history.

## CHURCH HOSPITALITY CAFÉ OPENING

Through an immense amount of hard work and commitment to our church's future, we are able to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 31 for the grand opening of our new "café" space in Calvary Center. We look forward to this space being a wonderful place to connect with friends every Sunday and to hold many Bible studies and special events.



## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



We are looking forward to compiling a devotional book that will carry us through the Christmas season with warm words and stories from our very own members and friends. Look for opportunities to write one of the devotions that will comprise this special project that will unify and inspire us all.

# 20 Years Together

---

## A Journey of Faith, Community and Shared Purpose

2006-2026

Twenty years ago, two churches embarked on a remarkable journey that transformed not only their congregations but also the wider community. The decision to merge was born from a vision of unity, resilience, and growth—a recognition that together, they could achieve so much more than apart. As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of this merger, we reflect with gratitude on the path that brought us here and the enduring legacy it has created.

The initial years were filled with excitement and anticipation, but also with challenges. Members from both churches came together, bringing their traditions, stories, and hopes. There were moments of uncertainty as everyone adjusted to new ways of worship, collaboration, and fellowship. Yet, through prayer, open hearts, and a shared sense of purpose, the congregation found strength in unity. The blending of two spiritual families fostered a spirit of acceptance and mutual respect, setting the foundation for a thriving community.

Over the past two decades, this merged congregation has grown in both numbers and spirit. Together, we have accomplished meaningful work—outreach programs supporting the less fortunate, youth initiatives nurturing the next generation, and worship experiences that inspire and uplift. The church has become a beacon of hope, partnership, and love in the neighborhood, welcoming all who seek guidance and belonging. Our collective efforts have made a lasting impact, not only within our doors but far beyond.

The true beauty of the merger lies in the relationships formed and deepened. We have celebrated countless milestones together: baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, and memorials. Through laughter and tears, joy and sorrow, we have grown as one—each member enriched by the diversity and wisdom of the whole. The harmony achieved through blending traditions has made our communal worship more vibrant and our outreach more effective. Our unity has become a living testimony to the power of faith and fellowship.

As we mark this special twenty-year anniversary, we honor the visionaries who saw the potential for unity and the courageous members who embraced change. We give thanks for the pastors, leaders, and volunteers who have guided us along the way, and for every individual whose presence has shaped our story. While we celebrate our achievements, we also look forward with hope, knowing that the journey continues. Our shared mission remains as vital as ever: to love God, serve others, and be a light in the world.

In closing, the merger of these two churches stands as a testament to the enduring strength found in unity. The past 20 years have been a blessing, filled with growth, learning, and faith. Today, we celebrate not only what we have accomplished together, but also the promise of what lies ahead. May our congregation continue to flourish, guided by love, grace, and the unwavering spirit that brought us together 20 years ago.



**McDONALD  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**Special Anniversary Edition  
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](http://mcdonaldpres.org)



## **150th Anniversary Celebration**

*All  
Welcome*

## **Community BLOCK PARTY**

Free Live Music: Echo Valley Bluegrass

Food Trucks\* - Bounce House - Balloon Artist - Face Painting

**May 31, 2026 - Noon to 2pm - Grant Street**

Full Details At: [mcdonaldpres.org](http://mcdonaldpres.org) - \*Food For Purchase - Kids Activities Are Free!