MCPRESBY NEWS

MCDONALD PRESBYTERIAN



Second Annual Friendsgiving Dinner!

We hope you will join us on Saturday, November 21st for our second annual Friendsgiving dinner! We will provide the turkey, stuffing, and mashed potatoes. You bring a side dish, salad, or dessert.

4:00-7:00pm in Trinity Fellowship Hall

Everyone is invited!

Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday, November 15, so we know how many to plan for.





Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

~ Colossians 3:15

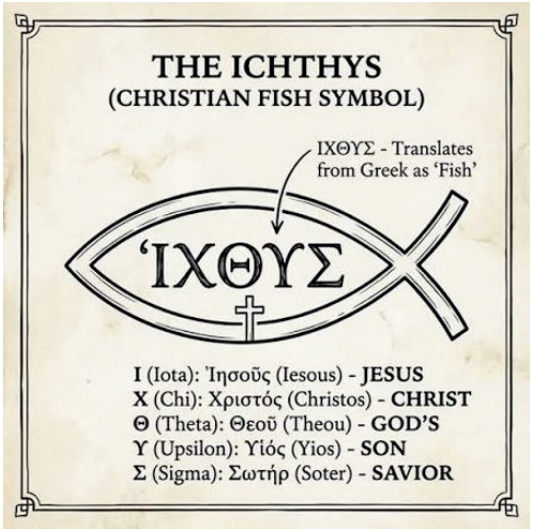
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THE MYSTERY OF THE 8 SPOKED WHEEL

Way back in the 1990s, the symbol of a fish became very popular as a renewed Christian symbol in our culture. Of course, my first car had one on the back trunk, and amazingly it stayed there through the car's glorious end when the engine finally quit twelve years later. Some of our members still have the fish on their cars and for good reason. It is truly an ancient symbol in the archeological record. ICHTHUS (or ICHTHYS) means fish in Greek, and it is a brilliant acrostic for the message of Jesus. The meaning of the symbol is clearly described through the graphic below.





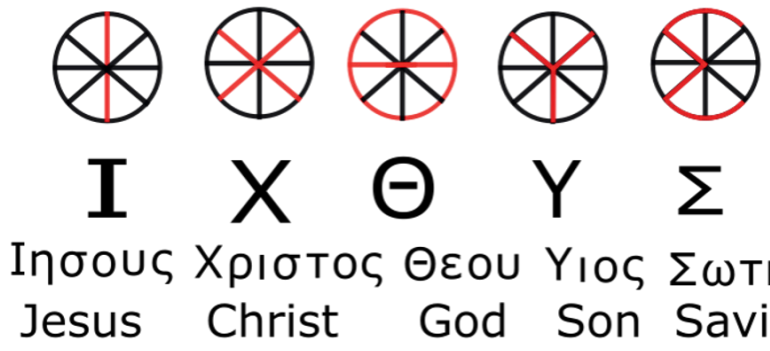


Interestingly, there is another ancient symbol that secular archeologists have attempted to obscure over the past century or more. The evidence is overwhelming that the Eight Spoked Wheel carving found in the ancient world is not an obscure game board, but instead is a very clearly documented Christian Symbol that holds the ICHTHUS meaning. Many of these wheels are found as graffiti in temples and street pavement in the ruins of the Roman Empire. The wall plaster (above left) was discovered in 1792 in Rome and dates back to the fourth century. These wheels, such as the one pictured above right are found near crosses and other Christian hand carvings from periods when the church was growing in the region.

A little bit of Greek here goes a long way, and the explainer graphic I have included below does a good job of showing how those five letters fit into the wheel. What does all of this show? These ancient markings, some architectural and some simply scratched into stone, prove that the early believers made the exact same claims about Jesus Christ as we do today. Jesus is the Messiah or Christ. Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is our Savior. This is not a modern faith that we have; it is a faith that transcends time and place because it is the very true Word of God.

Keep Believing and Deepening Your Faith,

Pastor Justin



DEACON'S DOINGS

Our next meetings are scheduled for November 1 and December 6.

We will host hospitality on November 22 as we decorate for Christmas!

Thanks to all who joined us for our Bingo/Make Your Own Pizza event. We had loads of fun and lots of winners of all ages! Everyone got to make their own pizza just the way they liked along with salad, snacks, drinks and yummy desserts!





SILVER SOULS NEWS

Our holiday gathering will allow us to celebrate Christmas together on Wednesday, December 9, 2026. The gathering will be held in Trinity Fellowship Hall starting at 11:30am.

We will share in a time of devotions, then a catered holiday meal from Pepsi Roadhouse. We will then have time to sing our favorite Christmas carols and secular holiday favorites and to share holiday traditions and memories with one another.

Your RSVP/information letters will be coming to you by mid-November!



HEARTS & HANDS

Our next Hearts & Hands gathering will be on Friday, November 13th. from 6-8pm in Trinity Parlor. Everyone is invited to attend. You may bring a craft or project of your own to work on. We also have a few crafts on hand that you may do. We would love for you to join us for this time of fun and fellowship!



ROSE MANOR OUTREACH

Our monthy gatherings at Rose Manor are as follows:

Monday, November 16th 5:30-6:30= Worship

Wednesday, November 18th 1:00= Bingo



CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Following Worship on November 22nd, we will be decorating the church for Christmas. The Deacons will also be hosting a time of hospitality and fellowship during this time. We invite you to stay and help decorate while enjoying time spent with your brothers and sisters in Christ.



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, or you may scan the QR code.

McFALL FEST

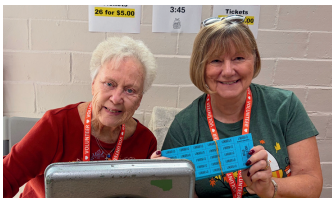
It is with heartfelt appreciation that the McFall Fest Steering Committee thanks everyone who helped make this year's event so successful. We specifically want to thank our sponsors: Csonka Heating & Air Conditioning; Gaitens Agency; Graff National Funeral Home; Oliverio Auto Inc.; Rock, Mulch & More; Preferred Primary Care Physicians; S.P.S.I.; Thomas & Little Funeral Home; and Wauthier's Lawncare. Above all, we thank God for his abundant blessings, faithful provision, and the spirit of love and generosity shown throughout the day. Our net proceeds were just over $15,000! These funds will help strengthen our mission and ministry partners locally, regionally and internationally. McFall Fest is a beautiful demonstration of what can happen when people unite around a shared purpose. Individual gifts become a collective blessing with an impact that reaches far beyond our walls.

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15)





















TRICK-OR-TREAT OUTREACH

Saturday, October 31 was a night of treats, smiles and community. Our church campus was filled with laughter, colorful costumes, and warm fellowship during this year's trick-or-treat outreach. Families across the community joined us for a safe and welcoming evening of fun, giving our congregation a wonderful opportunity to share hospitality and build new connections. This evening is a simple but meaningful way to show God's love through generosity, kindness and presence. By opening our doors and creating a place where everyone felt welcome, we reminded our neighbors that the church is here for them – not only on Sundays, but throughout the year.



ALL-CHURCH SHOEBOX PACKING PARTY!



Sunday, NOVEMBER 8, 2026 ~ 9:30am

Calvary Center Fellowship Hall

(No children's SundaySchoolthatday–bringthefamily&packshoeboxes with us!)

** Packing Party Set up Day **

Thursday,November 5–10:00am – Calvary Fellowship Hall

If you are packing shoebox gifts at home, please deliver them to Calvary Center Parlor by or on November 8th or drop them off during National Collection Week (see below). Please consider including the $10 suggested donation to defray shipping costs and the printing ofgospel materials.

We also continue to appreciate monetary gifts to cover the suggested donation per shoebox ($10/box)

DON'T FORGET: you can "Build a Shoebox Online" Scanthiscode to go to ourchurch'sgoalpage:

McDonald Presbyterian Church
(Calvary CenterFellowship Hall)
will again serve as a dropoff site for the shoeboxes.

NEW VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

Mon, Nov. 16: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Mon, Nov. 16: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Tue, Nov. 17: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Wed, Nov. 18: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Wed, Nov. 18: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Thu, Nov. 19: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Fri, Nov. 20: 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
Sat, Nov. 21: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Sun, Nov. 22: 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Mon, Nov. 23: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

If you are interested in volunteering with any phase of this ministry, please contact Michelle Unruh (412-720-8232) for more information.

THANK YOU AND WELCOME!
STAFF AND PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR NOVEMBER



PASTOR DANA MOTTE

As a congregation, it is difficult for us to express just how happy we are to welcome Pastor Dana to our church staff. Dana has served with us over the past 20 years and has deepened her faith and skills as a pastor through full-time preparation and ministry. From teaching at a Christian school to earning a seminary degree, Dana has pursued her calling every step of the way. While Dana continues to serve full-time as a chaplain, she will add so much to the life and health of our church. Although Dana donates most of her time here, she will be a paid member of the church staff, and we are so excited about the ministry she will be able to share with us in the days ahead. Please let Pastor Dana know how much you appreciate her and the life of faith that she leads.

ROBERT MCDOWELL

It is our pleasure to be able to say "Well Done" to Bob McDowell after almost 9 years of service to our congregation. Bob has kept us clean and bright around here with a smile on his face. Untold hours spent vacuuming and mopping have resulted in beautiful spaces and happy church members. Bob has been blessed with being the custodian for many major construction projects. An 8-year look back brings us to the full renovation of Trinity Fellowship Hall and kitchen, the renovation of the children's area in Calvary Fellowship, followed by the full renovation or Calvary Kitchen. Bob has seen almost every pipe under both of those floors! Finally, Bob has kept us clean through the construction of the Kairos Café and associated improvements. This is really just an overview and in no way expresses how much construction dirt we have tackled in those years. Bob – Thank you for a great spirit and a ready willingness to do whatever is necessary to support our church operations. From hedges to snow, you always got the job done.



GARY MCGINNIS

Gary McGinnis is a long-time member of our congregation and has great Presbyterian roots! Gary is happily retired and married to Debbie, who has been a tremendous teacher and leader of our children over the years. Debbie still serves the kids of our community at Fort Cherry Elementary. When the news came that Bob would be retiring, the wheels started to turn in Gary's mind. Soon enough, he asked about the job and has been learning the ropes for the past several weeks. Because of Gary's willingness, high level of skills, and commitment to our congregation, we are experiencing a seamless transition from one custodian to another. When you see Gary around the churches, please give him a warm welcome.

COMUNITY LIFE GROUPS

LAMPLIGHTERS: Meet: Monday evenings at 7:00pm in Trinity parlor
Topic: A Study of the Parables of Jesus by Lenya Hertzig & Penny Rose
Gender: Women
Age: Any
Led By: Patty Doane & Syndria Lowe

LUNCH LADIES: Meet: November 2nd, 16th, & 30th at noon in Trinity parlor
Topic: Heaven by Jennifer Rothschild
Gender: Women
Age: Typically retired seniors
Led By: Peggy Samarin & Linda Matchett

MIGHTY MEN: Meet: Sunday mornings at 9:30am in Calvary pastor's study
Topic: Attributes of God
Gender: Men
Age: Any
Led By: Don Roths

QUARTER-LIFE CRISIS: Meet: Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in Calvary pastor's study
Topic: The book of Matthew
Gender: Any
Age: 10th grade through 20's
Led By: Kylie Bowland & Julia Amsler

READY, SET, GROW: Meet: Sunday mornings at 9:15am in Calvary tower room
Topic: The previous week's sermon
Gender: Any
Age: Any
Led By: Dana Motte

YAHWEH WEDNESDAY: Meet: November 11th & 25th at noon in Trinity parlor
Topic: 1st & 2nd Peter
Gender: Any
Age: Any
Led By: Dr. Justin Amsler & Jim McDowell

NEW GROUP FORMING: Meet: Sunday mornings at 9:30am in Calvary above Café
Gender: Women
Age: Parents of children still living at home
Led By: Sarah Amsler





NOVEMBER ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

November 1 (Communion)
Asher Martin & Ryker McMillen
November 8
Selah Amsler & Lucy Duesenberry
November 15
Jonah Amsler & Silas Amsler
November 22
Ella Puhlman & Emily Wasko
November 29
Della Endy & Hannah Smith

MUSICAL FUN FACT

Johann Sebastian Bach is considered one of the greatest composers of all time. His family has a legacy of over 300 years of professional composers and musicians, and while he had 23 children between two marriages, only 10 survived into adulthood. He played the pipe organ and violin as his primary instruments and loved coffee so much that he wrote a cantata about it. During his lifetime, people thought of him as a regular working musician and didn't know about his compositions until 100 years after his death, when Felix Mendelssohn conducted a performance of Bach's St. Matthew's Passion. Today, Yo-Yo Ma has brought Bach's cello suites to the forefront. (Source: https://www.classicsforkids.com/composer/johann-sebastian-bach/)

MUSIC REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

November 5: Grace Notes, 6:00; Echoes of Mercy, 7:00; Sacred Sounds, 7:30
November 12: Jubilant Ringers, 6:00; Echoes of Mercy, 7:00; Sacred Sounds, 7:30
November 19: Jubilant Ringers 6:00; Echoes of Mercy, 7:00; Sacred Sounds, 7:30
November 24: Echoes of Mercy, 7:00; Sacred Sounds, 7:30
December 1: Amplify, 6:30





What happens when you play Beethoven backwards? He decomposes
What do you get when you drop a piano down a mine shaft? A flat minor
Why did the band hire a baseball player? Because he had perfect pitch
What kind of music are balloons afraid of? Pop music
Why couldn't the printer stop making music? The paper kept jamming

Robert McDowell - November 01
Edward Semerod November 01
William Wasko November 02
Kristie Briceland November 03
Nic Speer November 04
Diane Shepherd November 04
Joan Pryor November 05
Elsie Koch - November 07
Melanie Roths ~ November 07
Randy Klimas ~ November 08
Janet Crawford ~ November 09
Thomas Maxwell ~ November 09
Betty McWreath ~ November 09
Patrick Powell ~ November 09
Lois Meehan ~ November 11
Jude Cameron ~ November 11



Brayden Jordan ~ November 12
Heather Bianchini ~ November 12
Katie Cameron ~ November 14
Alicia Slovick ~ November 14
Karen Altman ~ November 15
Odin Lupi ~ November 17
Evan Tidd ~ November 19
Jennifer Guidice ~ November 20
Hannah Mohon ~ November 21
Brian Jeannette ~ November 21
Pam Wingard ~ November 24
William Slivka ~ November 25
Bob Parkison ~ November 27
Lana Longstreth ~ November 29
Harry Masquelier ~ November 30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dixie & Gary Haberland ~ November 9
Joy & Rich Snatchko ~ November 22





MPC EVENT CALENDAR

November 1	Deacon Meeting	12:00 p.m.
November 2	Lunch Ladies	12:00 p.m.
	Lamplighters	7:00 p.m.
November 3	Quarter-Life Crisis	6:30 p.m.
November 4	ReNew Youth Group	6:00 p.m.
November 5	O.C.C. Packing Party Set-Up	10:00 a.m.
November 8	O.C.C. Packing Party	9:30 a.m.
November 9	Session Meeting	6:30 p.m.
November 10	Quarter-Life Crisis	6:30 p.m.
November 11	Yahweh Wednesday	12:00 p.m.
	ReNew Youth Group	6:00 p.m.
November 13	Hearts & Hands Fellowship	6:00 p.m.
November 15	Ready, Set, Grow	9:15 a.m.
	Mighty Men	9:30 a.m.
November 16	Lunch Ladies	12:00 p.m.
	Rose Manor Worship	5:30 p.m.
	Lamplighters	7:00 p.m.
November 17	Quarter-Life Crisis	6:30 p.m.
November 18	ReNew Youth Group	6:00 p.m.
November 21	Friendsgiving Dinner	4:00 p.m.
November 22	Ready, Set, Grow	9:15 a.m.
	Mighty Men	9:30 a.m.
	Deacon Hospitality	12:00 p.m.
	Church Decorating	12:00 p.m.
November 23	Lunch Ladies	12:00 p.m.
November 24	Quarter-Life Crisis	6:30 p.m.
November 26	Thanksgiving Day	*office closed*
November 29	Ready, Set, Grow	9:15 p.m.
	Mighty Men	9:30 p.m.
November 30	Lunch Ladies	12:00 p.m.
	Lamplighters	7:00 p.m.



Pine Springs- Women in the Woods
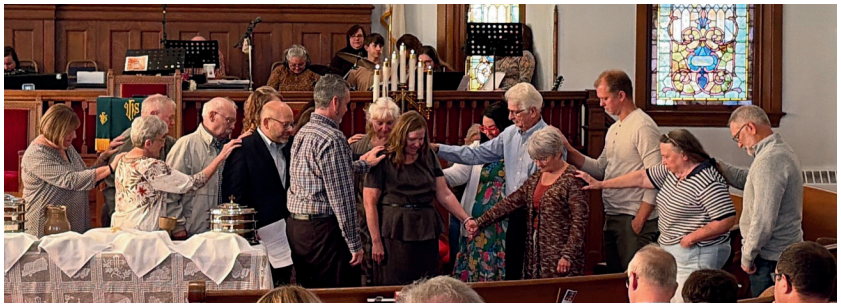


Lunch Ladies Bible Study



Rose Manor



Rose Manor



Dana Motte's Ordination



Dana Motte's Ordination



Sunday School Breakfast

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.
~ Hebrews 10:24-25

MCDONALD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Worship Site:
202 West Lincoln Avenue
McDonald, PA 15057

Office Location:
119 Station Street
McDonald, PA 15057

Office Hours:
M: 8-4:30, T: 1:30-5
W: 8-2, Th: 8-2

Phone: 724-926-8561

Website: mcdonaldpres.org

November 2026
Newsletter

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ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MCDONALD, PA
PERMIT NO. 9

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(724) 699-0157

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kerry@mcdonaldpres.org

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Erich & Dana Puhlman

Director of Music Ministry
Heidi Betschart

Assistant Director of Music Ministry
Jeff Betschart

Bookkeeper
Dana Myers
bookkeeper@mcdonaldpres.org

Operations Officer
Tom Maxwell

Custodian
Gary McGinnis

MPC is an active and vibrant community of faith connecting people from the greater McDonald region. We find much joy in studying the Scriptures and actively serving Jesus Christ. We have been blessed and are inspired weekly to serve him more fully. Living well in today's world is challenging to say the least. Life is better when lived out with brothers and sisters in the faith! If you live in the McDonald area and are seeking a place where you can connect with God and with others we think that you will enjoy worshiping and serving with us.

