



# McPresby News



## **YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 4-7PM TRINITY CENTER**

*Full Indoor Dining with Premium Takeout  
Benefits All Youth*

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 March 14, and we will give all profits towards our various youth programs as needed. Profits will go towards Pine Springs Camp scholarships, ReNew and Club 724. Our youth will be servers for both the takeout and indoor dining. Thanks in advance for your support!



## **HOLY WEEK 2026**

**Sunday, March 29** - Palm Sunday Celebration

**Thursday, April 2** - Maundy Thursday Service w/ First Baptist McDonald  
(7:30pm in Calvary Sanctuary)

**Friday, April 3-Saturday, April 4**- 24-Hour Prayer Vigil

**Sunday, April 5**- Easter Sunday

We encourage you to join us for these meaningful times of worship.



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**Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.**



**~ Romans 6:8-11**

# Pastor's Page

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*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:12-13*

*A joyful heart is good medicine. Proverbs 17:22*

Jesus embedded within the church a heart for sharing what we have with others. The theological core of our church family is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The love and grace of God unites us and gives us the resources needed to be a close and loving family. We rejoice over the privilege that we have of knowing God's voice and being claimed as his sheep that will never be snatched away.

The second part of that thriving church family is to be intentional about sharing the Gospel with others and intentionally adjusting our ministry to welcome new members into our church family. For those of us called to worship and serve here at MPC, we are challenged to ask ourselves, "what adjustments can we make in 2026 that will add joy to our church and will help us welcome others into our family?" We can also ask, "Where does God want us to grow so that we can keep fulfilling our mission for the next generation?"

One of the best marks of a healthy and thriving congregation (presuming good theology!) is happy, welcoming, and joyful Jesus followers. In a world that is so transactional, the church sets out to be different. We set out to be joyful and generous in a troubled world. We are free to laugh in uncertain times. We have our lives structured in a way that we can welcome others into it. We have a vision for our family, and when new members join with us, we have prepared ways for them to serve.

The thriving church in 2026 realizes that the greatest need our neighbors have is usually not food or physical items, although we give away plenty, but instead joyful Christian community and worship. Friendship is the greatest need in our society, and a congregation that sets out to make new friends will most certainly find them.

We love our church family, and together we want to be that place that feels refreshing to the weary traveler. Our goal is that more and more of us will find a way to assist in our mission in 2026. That we will become strong in allowing more and more people to help with administration, ministry, and maintenance, so that collectively we can all spend more time on building friendships and investing in the lives of those God sends to us.

Our plan is to set out some dates very soon to schedule a few vision-casting sessions. Perhaps, on some upcoming dates, we will gather together for the purpose of hearing ideas about how we can grow in the next few years and solidifying some goals that we can tackle together. Anything that we do will be incremental change and natural growth points, such as having a more effective welcome team on Sunday mornings and so forth.

Please pray for our church in 2026 that we can continue to get better at what we do and prepare for the growth that we believe God desires us to be a part of.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Justin*



# Announcements

## DEACON NEWS



Thanks to all who supported our 2026 Soup Sale Fundraiser! Remember that your soup pickup date is on Sunday, March 8th after church in the Calvary Fellowship Hall .

Our upcoming meetings will be after church on Sunday, March 1st and Sunday, April 12th.

## Hearts and Hands Fellowship



Our Hearts and Hands group is going well and doing great things! We have been meeting once a month in Trinity Parlor to work on a craft, eat snacks, and enjoy fellowship with one another. Our next meeting date will be Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:00pm. We would love to have you join us as we make something for Easter for our Rose Manor friends. If you have any questions, please contact Dana Motte or Kerry Schmitt

## ROSE MANOR OUTREACH

Save the Dates for February:

Monday, March 16th, 2026 - 5:30-6:30 PM  
- Worship at Rose Manor

Wednesday, March 25th, 2026 - BINGO at  
Rose Manor 1:30 PM



## VBS 2026

We are excited to announce the return of Vacation Bible School this year! Our theme is *BE TRANSFORMED*. VBS will take place in our Trinity building June 22-26 from 9am to noon. There are many ways you can help, either as a leader or behind the scenes. For more information, please see Dana Motte, Kerry Schmitt, or Heidi Betschart.



## SILVER SOULS

Our next gathering, a celebration of St. Patrick's Day, is fast approaching. It will be held Wednesday, March 18 in Trinity Center at 11:30am. Remember to turn in your RSVP by Wednesday, March 11th. Please feel free to "wear your green". Looking forward to sharing fellowship, food & fun with all of you!

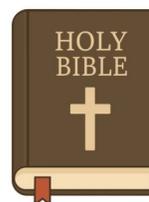


## GET INVOLVED IN WORSHIP

Are you willing to serve as a Lay Leader? All you need to do is lead the Responsive Reading and read the Scripture Lesson. Our 9th-grade and above active covenant partners are invited to serve as Lay Leaders. We also need people to help out with Children's Church or teach the Young Disciples lesson. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please contact the church office or scan the QR code here to sign up online. Thank you for your active role in our congregation.



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



Adult Sunday School will be meeting in Calvary Fellowship Hall at 9:30am while construction is underway. Anyone is welcome to join us! See Peggy Samarin or Lin Nalesnick for more info.

*Why wasn't Boaz a nice man before he got married? He was Ruth-less.*



# Announcements

## WEEKDAY PARKING ETIQUETTE

Our church is a busy place and we often have activities during the week. The Parking Lot across Station Street is a privately-owned lot and the owner is generous in allowing many different people to park there. However, he has asked us to be respectful to the needs of the downtown businesses that depend on that lot being available, especially Subway and the Gym. Therefore, for evening meetings and other larger activities we should utilize our street parking and parking lot when available. Also, if there are six or less spaces remaining in the lot during the week we are asking drivers to seek other parking in Trinity or elsewhere to help us preserve our relationship with the parking lot owner. Thank you for your consideration.



## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS BRUNCH

Everyone is invited to have brunch with us on Saturday, March 7th at 10:00am in Trinity Parlor. Come and see how you can help! We are in need of people of all ages and abilities, who can share their talents to help us keep our church buildings beautiful. Whether you are handy with tools or with gardening or cleaning, there is something for you to do!



## 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In 2026 we will mark the 20th year that we have been a merged church known as McDonald Presbyterian Church. So much has been accomplished in that time and we are going to celebrate our union! Various activities will take place throughout the year, including a new church directory, an update of the church history, a collection of gullet recipes and their family traditions, a new Advent booklet and a community celebration with food trucks, singers, bounce house and other activities planned for May. Watch the bulletins and newsletters for meetings to organize committees so that, as a church, we can prepare for this major milestone.



## GULLET/COOKIE/DESSERT INFORMATION



McDonald Presbyterian Church will be celebrating our 20-year anniversary at the end of May. As part of that celebration, we are talking about compiling a "cookie book". First thoughts were gullets only but that may evolve further to include other desserts. To do this we need a co-chair and committee members. Someone who has computer skills to format a book/booklet and can help organize not only the recipes for publication but also, we would like to have a cookie table and possibly sell some of the goodies on the day of the celebration. If you are interested, please contact Lynn Brockman at 412-720-2821 or [lynnabrockman@gmail.com](mailto:lynnabrockman@gmail.com)

## 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, and more information will be forthcoming. The Deacons are spearheading this effort, but we will gladly take any additional volunteers to help with registrations, phone calls, mailings, etc.



# Missions

## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN ~ ANNUAL LENT FUNDRAISER



As we enter the season of Lent, we are reminded of the spiritual practice of giving to those in need. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian nonprofit organization that is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC uses our monetary donations to fund meal ingredients, which are then hand-packed by volunteers and dispersed to needy children around the world. As is our Lenten tradition, we will be offering a giving opportunity lasting through Easter Sunday. If you haven't already, please pick up a mini M&M tube for the easy collection of your donations. Enjoy the M&Ms, fill the tube with quarters and return the filled tube to Michelle Unruh, Patty Doane, or the offering plate. Note that supplies of the M&M tubes are limited; however, you can still donate without a mini tube. Cash or checks earmarked "FMSC" can be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Please join us in this worthwhile fundraising mission to feed the hungry children of the world. Thank you in advance for your generosity. *"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."* ~ Hebrews 13:16

## FMSC ~ Purse Bingo

In addition to our annual fundraiser, Feed My Starving Children South Hills Mobile Pack is hosting a designer purse bingo on Sunday, April 12 from 1-4pm at the Oakridge VFD. This is a fun way to gather with friends while raising money for a great cause! We will be reserving a table for MPC members and friends. Tickets are \$30 each if you register before March 31. If you are interested in attending with the church group, please contact Kerry in the church office. Note that you must be 18 years or older to attend this event.



## 24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

7PM FRIDAY, APRIL 3 –

7PM SATURDAY, APRIL 4

As we enter Lent, our minds and hearts should be focused on our relationship with God and ways to incorporate spiritual practices to draw closer to him. Prayer is the communion of the soul with God. A sacred time to exalt the Lord, repent our sins, express gratitude, and petition on behalf of others. It is a beautiful, often emotional, purposeful conversation between us and our Lord. It is transformative for those praying and for those being lifted in prayer. We have the power through prayer to seek God, to reach Him, to deepen our relationship with Him, and to deepen our love for God's people.

Our 24-hour prayer vigil is a beautiful expression of faith that draws a close to the 40 days of Lent. It is an unbroken chain of prayer that has become an important part of our collective preparation for our celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter morning.

Sign-up will be available online through our website near the end of March. There will be an option for the in-person vigil held at Trinity Sanctuary, and there is an option for the remote/at-home vigil.

It is our sincere hope that each of you feels moved to participate in this year's 24-hour prayer vigil.

If you have any questions or need assistance signing up, please call Patty Doane (412) 913-8401 or Michelle Unruh (412) 720-8232.

## MCDONALD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH YOUTH SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAM 2026

PINE SPRINGS CAMP, JENNERSTOWN PA

[WWW.PINESPRINGS.ORG](http://WWW.PINESPRINGS.ORG)

McDonald Presbyterian Church is committed to sending all our young people to summer camp that would like to attend. Church camp is not something that only “outdoorsy” kids do. It is something that we believe is a powerful spiritual formation experience. A week of spiritual formation could be life-changing for any student, especially in these times. At camp our students experience a full week of worship, study, play, and relationship-building that leads to a great week of spiritual growth that is fun and energizing. Every student that attends from McDonald Presbyterian Church and registers by the deadline will receive a \$300.00 scholarship towards the cost of camp. While the cost of camp could be more than \$600.00 this scholarship program will bring the costs down to below \$300.00 for those who register before the early bird deadline.

### **McDonald Presbyterian will be attending Pine Springs Camp Week 6: July 19-24**

**We have chosen a week where all our students who have completed the third grade or higher will be able to attend camp together.** This week of the summer there are traditional camps offered for students who have completed the third grade to the completion of their senior year. Pastor Justin will be able to serve as a Volunteer Director for the exploration camp. Adventure Exploration is open to all students who have completed grades 3-5. Students who have finished grades 6-8 will attend the Adventure Journey Camp and students who have completed grades 9-12 will attend the Adventure Expedition Camp. All Classic camps run from Sunday afternoon through Friday evening.

**MPC Registration Deadline:** Pine Springs does not have a registration deadline date, but our church has a scholarship deadline of **Sunday, June 1**. We recommend registering your camper(s) as soon as possible due to limited cabin availability. Pine Springs offers an early bird discount of \$25 if your registration is completed or postmarked by **March 23rd**. Other discounts are also offered.

**Registration Procedure:** Registration for camp is something that happens directly between the student’s parent or guardian and Pine Springs. Registration forms and initial payment should be completed online or mailed directly to the camp. When this happens, contact the church office ([kerry@mcdonaldpres.org](mailto:kerry@mcdonaldpres.org)) and notify us of the details: child’s name, child’s grade completed and week of camp attending. Most of our parents register their children online and forward us their confirmation email, which works very well. In early June a check will be sent out from our church to pay for the MPC Scholarship portion of all those students who have registered.

**Other Weeks at Pine Springs:** Can’t attend our week? Have a brave young camper who wants to attend a different week? PSC offers camps all summer long. The same scholarship guidelines apply for students attending from our congregation. Students attending one of the short weeks (3 days) will receive a prorated scholarship of \$200. The same registration procedure applies.

**Additional Scholarships:** Pine Springs Camp also has a scholarship fund that is available for additional support.

*Thank you for your interest and support!*

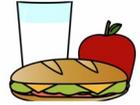
# Community Life Groups

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**YAHWEH WEDNESDAY:** Our group meets once a month, and each session, we are studying a different minor prophet. We will meet next on March 4th and study the book of Zephaniah. If you have questions or are interested in joining us, please contact Pastor Justin.

**LUNCH LADIES:** Lunch ladies will meet on March 2nd, 16th, and 30th. The study *Twelve Daring Women of the Bible* will continue. New members are welcome to join us! Please see Peggy Samarin or Linda Matchett if you have any questions.



**LAMPLIGHTERS:** The Lamplighters are working on a study called "Listening to God." We will be meeting on Monday evenings at 7:00pm in the Trinity parlor. For any lady that is interested in finding out more or potentially joining our women's group, please feel free to contact Patty Doane or Syndria Lowe for more information.

**SHE SOARS:** This year She Soars Life Group will be reading the Bible in a year with the self guided book called *A Beautiful Year in the Bible: The 52 Week Bible Study for Women*. This book includes weekly Biblical reflection questions and guided prayer. Come join us moms and women every Sunday during the Sunday school hour!



**MIGHTY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** It is still the perfect time to join us for our new series about the attributes of God. To be a mighty man of God, we need to learn about the God who is, rather than the God we imagine. Join us every Sunday at 9:30 upstairs in the Calvary "pastor's study" as we try to wrap our finite minds around our infinite God.

**READY, SET, GROW:** Our class meets on Sundays at 9:30 am 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 new and dynamic group.

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## TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN A SMALL GROUP

10. It's healthy for your soul.
9. It's the best way to get and stay connected.
8. It was Jesus' model.
7. You'll make friends who will become family.
6. You'll be prepared for the unexpected.
5. You won't go through struggles alone.
4. You'll make friends for life.
3. It strengthens the church.
2. You'll have people to celebrate with.
1. YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPERIENCE IT FOR YOURSELF.



**MOST.SHOEBOXES.EVER.  
(AGAIN)**

Praising GOD ~ Thanking YOU

## 2025 National Collection Week Totals

Bible Chapel – McMurray	3,399
Crossroads Ministries – Finleyville	4,754
First Church of the Nazarene – Waynesburg	1,968
McDonald Presbyterian Church - McDonald	3,268
South Franklin Community Bldg. - Washington	11,329
Build a Shoebox Online (BASBO)	276
<b>Southwestern PA Total</b>	<b>24,994</b>
<b>Mid-Atlantic North Total (PA &amp; NJ)</b>	<b>674,678</b>
<b>United States Total (includes BASBO)</b>	<b>10,906,661</b>
<b>Worldwide Total</b>	<b>12,205,900</b>

Questions about OCC?

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

**MPC 2026 Packing Party Goal:**

**825 Shoebox Gifts**

**Items of the Month**



Stuffed Animals

&



Washcloths

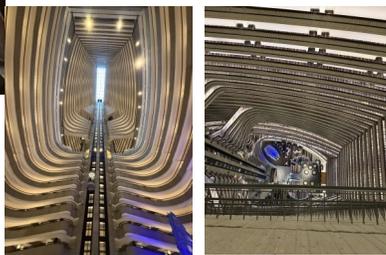
# ECO National Gathering

## ECO NATIONAL GATHERING

One of the greatest parts of our young denomination is the way that we get together once a year to worship and keep ourselves energized for mission. This year we had record-breaking attendance with 1,500 people present for the conference. We brought a team of six, and it was a wonderful time of learning about Jesus and bonding together as a group. We are proud to be an ECO church and are blessed to have a wonderful conference to send our people to each year. If you want to increase your ministry and leadership, consider attending with us in the future.



See you next year in  
**DALLAS, TX**  
FEB 1-3, 2027



For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?

~ Esther 4:14

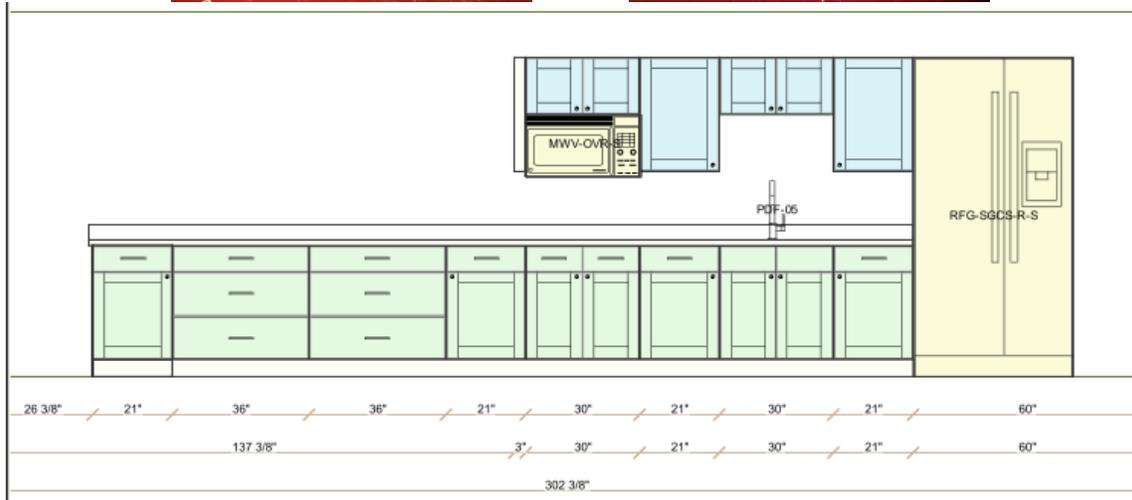
# Calvary Cafe

## NEW CAFÉ ON THE WAY!



Great News! Construction has begun on the Café space in Calvary Sanctuary Level! We are excited to be launching a renewed focus on hospitality both through our facilities and through our actions. The café will be a wonderful place to fellowship during the week but particularly on Sunday mornings. Coffee will be available for Sunday School hour and throughout the morning as well as refreshments (think bagels!) ready to be made.

We look forward to seeing many people enjoy the space while everyone pitches in to practice hospitality. We truly appreciate the vision that put the New Beginnings Room in place and are glad to be adding to that vision for the years ahead. Coffee, Tea and Hot Chocolate Lovers will be all smiles before we know it!



# Our Love & Prayers, etc

## God is Love

X	S	G	M	E	R	C	Y	J	K
E	A	L	D	W	I	S	D	O	M
F	L	P	O	J	F	H	I	T	V
O	V	A	O	V	H	E	J	E	G
R	A	T	V	Q	E	A	W	A	R
G	T	I	R	D	A	L	E	C	A
I	I	E	F	A	I	T	H	H	C
V	O	N	Y	M	P	A	L	E	E
E	N	C	T	R	U	S	T	R	E
Q	Q	E	K	K	G	U	I	D	E



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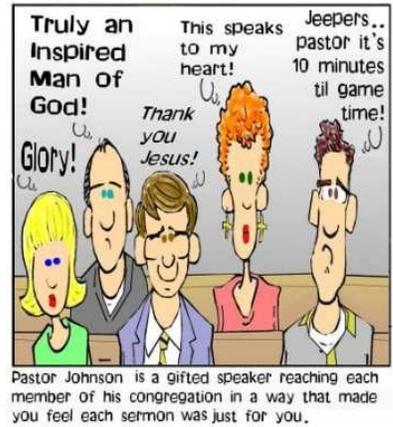
FAITH  
FORGIVE  
GRACE  
GUIDE  
HEAL  
LOVE  
MERCY  
PATIENCE  
SALVATION  
TEACHER  
TRUST  
WISDOM

## HOW TO MAKE A PALM CROSS

1. Holding a palm strip fold the widest end in a loop.
2. Bend the thin end of the palm to the right, ceasing a diagonal line.
3. Fold the palm behind the cross. Secure the center with staple.
4. Wrap the remainder of the palm over the top-right angle of the cross, bringing it straight across the back and over the top-left angle to the front. Cross it diagonally to the bottom-right corner.
5. Weave the small remaining piece in the back under loops and tie it off. If needed, you can use another staple of a drop of glue.
6. You can add ribbon or flower.

### MARCH ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

March 1= Della Endy & Ella Puhlman  
 March 8= Jonah Amsler & Selah Amsler  
 March 15= Julia Amsler & Alyssa Wasco  
 March 22= Jeanna Manses & Asher Martin  
 March 29= Jonah Amsler & Julia Amsler



## Our Love & Prayers Go Out To...

**Ida Galicic**  
 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  
 Julie Hanczar  
 Marlene Shupe  
 Chuck "Tootie" Smith  
 Bob & Vicki Zyra

## CLUB 724

Things are in motion to create a dedicated area for our MPC Youth. The room behind the kitchen in Trinity is starting to take shape. We have the couches, a new a/c thanks to the building and grounds team, and now we are looking to spruce up the pool table. Contact Erich if you have any questions.

Join us on March 22nd as we head down to Printscape Arena in Southpointe to participate in the free ice skating sponsored by Pine Springs.

Save the date! April 25th, Club 724 will be hosting an outing to the River hounds game down at High mark Stadium at Station Square. All the church is invited to join our little caravan.

Service project opportunities abound! Sign up to volunteer at the Spaghetti dinner fundraiser on March 14th that raises funds for our activities, including Pine Springs scholarships. Also, we will be filling Easter Baskets for folks for Meals on Wheels to be delivered Easter week and that includes a fresh dyed egg.

Keep an eye on Team reach for updates and for sign ups.

# 724

## 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



## RENEW YOUTH GROUP

Renew has been going strong as we have been feeding and bringing the Gospel to 15-35 youth every Wednesday. We will have St Patrick's Day celebration on March 11th. After the Easter season we are planning for an Archery field trip, bowling, and we will placing flags for the 1100 + veterans interned at Robinson Run. Feel free to join us at any activity. See Erich if you have any questions.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School is available for students in PreK through 12th grade. We meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in Trinity Fellowship Hall and then disperse to their classrooms after opening worship time together.

And don't forget: *A continental breakfast is provided every Sunday, starting at 9:20am!*

## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Save the date! Join us Friday April 17th at 6:30 pm in the Trinity Sanctuary for a family movie night. We will be showing "Light of the World." Air is the animation film of Jesus life, and our kids have been seeing clips in Children's Church through the Lenten season. Join us for movie style snacks and refreshment for an evening the whole family will enjoy!

## PSC SKATES



Pine Springs Camp is hosting FREE ice skating on Sunday, March 22nd from 2:40-4:40pm at the Printscape Arena in Southpointe. Bring your family or friends and learn about PSC!

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

### WE NEED YOU!

Our church is blessed with having so many young people in our congregation, and because of this, we have a wonderful children's church program offered during worship. We are in need of some new helpers to help out with this on the occasional Sunday. The lessons are already done for you, so there is no need to worry about planning. If you are interested in helping out with this very important ministry, please see Dana Puhlman.

## AMPLIFY



Do you play an instrument or like to sing? Would you like to learn something new? Come and join us! Our next rehearsal is on February 10th at 6:30pm. If you're interested in being part of Amplify, please speak with, call, or text Jeff or Heidi Betschart for more details. Come be part of the music and the joy — we'd love to have you!

## JUBILANT RINGERS

### BELL CHOIR SCHEDULE

*All rehearsals begin at 6:00pm*

Thursday, March 5 - 6pm

Thursday, March 19 - 6pm



## CHOIR SCHEDULE

**Thursday, March 5, 2026**

Praise 7:00

Sacred Sounds 7:30

**Thursday, March 12, 2026**

Praise 7:00

Sacred Sounds 7:30

**Thursday, March 19, 2026**

Praise 7:00

Sacred Sounds 7:30

**Thursday, March 26, 2026**

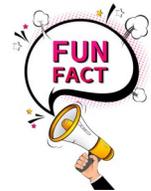
Praise 7:00

Sacred Sounds 7:30



## MUSIC FUN FACT!

Did you know that between 1550 and 1750, violins were hand-crafted in Cremona, Italy? Approximately 20,000 violins were made there. There were three primary families that produced them: the Amati, Stradivari, and Guarneri families. The violins made by these families are highly valuable and sought after today. The violins made by Antonio Stradivari and Guarneri del Gesù have very different sounds. Scientists have studied some of the remaining violins for their unique sounds, seeking to understand how the makers crafted such high-quality, long-lasting instruments. The answer lies in the chemicals that they used to treat the wood, such as copper, zinc, alum, and borax. (Sources: <https://stories.tamu.edu/news/2021/08/12/the-secret-of-the-stradivari-violin-revealed/> and [https://www.yamaha.com/en/musical\\_instrument\\_guide/violin/structure/structure002.html](https://www.yamaha.com/en/musical_instrument_guide/violin/structure/structure002.html))



## FOOD BANK



For the month of March, the Food Bank is requesting *canned goods* 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.

## BLESSING BOX

Our Blessing Box, located outside the church office, is still thriving and blessing many community members.

We are always accepting donations of nonperishable food items. If you would like to contribute to this cause, food donations may be dropped off in the church office.

# Calendar

March 1	Ready, Set, Grow	9:30 a.m.
	Mighty Men	9:30 a.m.
	Deacon Meeting	Noon
March 2	Lunch Ladies	Noon
	Lamplighters	7:00 p.m.
March 3	Hearts & Hands	6:00 p.m.
	Quarter-Life Crisis	6:30 p.m.
March 4	Yahweh Wednesday	Noon
	ReNew Youth Group	6:00 p.m.
March 7	Buildings & Grounds Brunch	10:00 a.m.
March 8	Ready, Set, Grow	9:30 a.m.
	Mighty Men	9:30 a.m.
March 9	Session Meeting	6:30 p.m.
March 10	Quarter-Life Crisis	6:30 p.m.
March 11	ReNew Youth Group	6:00 p.m.
March 14	Youth Spaghetti Dinner	4:00-7:00 p.m.
March 15	Ready, Set, Grow	9:30 a.m.
	Mighty Men	9:30 a.m.
March 16	Lunch Ladies	Noon
	Lamplighters	7:00 p.m.
March 17	Quarter-Life Crisis	6:30 p.m.
March 18	Silver Souls	11:00 a.m.
	ReNew Youth Group	6:00 p.m.
March 21	Leadership Cohort	9:00 a.m.
March 22	Ready, Set, Grow	9:30 a.m.
	Mighty Men	9:30 a.m.
March 23	Lamplighters	7:00 p.m.
March 24	Quarter-Life Crisis	6:30 p.m.
March 25	ReNew Youth Group	6:00 p.m.
March 29	Ready, Set, Grow	9:30 a.m.
	Mighty Men	9:30 a.m.
March 30	Lunch Ladies	Noon
	Lamplighters	7:00 p.m.

# Birthdays, Anniversaries, Love & Prayers



Greg Gilbert	3/3
Jared Thomas	3/3
Hannah Jean Kocian	3/5
Julie Bennett	3/6
Heidi Betschart	3/6
Dixie Haberland	3/6
Ryan Wockley	3/6
Debbie Endy	3/7
Edward Gilbert	3/8
Corrinne Reed	3/10
Syndria Lowe	3/11
Heather Tkach	3/13
Jim Martin	3/16

Kate Zombeck	3/16
Larry Doak	3/17
Addison Demo	3/18
Gary Haberland	3/18
Jeffrey Burger	3/19
Paul Bianchini	3/20
Judy Cook	3/20
Nancy Turk	3/20
Kari Bair	3/23
Andy Buydasz	3/23
Camille Ewing	3/24
Dawn Jeannette	3/24
Lana Gilbert	3/25
Teri Runtas	3/28
Sue Dodds	3/29
Jillian Panizza	3/29
Carrie Theiss	3/29
Kris Hanczar	3/30
Adrienne Frazier	3/31

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Adrienne & Matt Frazier	3/11
Vicki & Bob Zyra	3/26



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



# McDONALD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 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.*

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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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Visit our website:  
[mcdonaldpres.org](http://mcdonaldpres.org)

## Pastor

*Dr. Justin Amsler*  
[justin@mcdonaldpres.org](mailto: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](mailto:kerry@mcdonaldpres.org)

## Bookkeeper

*Dana Myers*  
[bookkeeper@mcdonaldpres.org](mailto: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

Join a committee, group, or outreach.

### FELLOWSHIP

Check out a Bible study or Sunday School class

### ACT

Sign up to help with one of our upcoming  
events.

