



**McDONALD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

October 2025

McPresby News

McFALL FEST 2025

*The Who, What, Where, Why, When, And, How of McFall Fest
(in no particular order)*

WHAT: McFall Fest is our annual all-church fundraiser

WHY: 100% of our proceeds are used to support our local, regional and international mission and ministry partners, helping them to continue their good works in spreading the Gospel and furthering God's kingdom.

WHEN: Saturday, October 11 from 11AM – 4PM

WHERE: Calvary Fellowship Hall – Sandi's Treasure Chest Resale Shop (opens at 8am)

Calvary Porch Area – Information Table, Mums & Pumpkins for Sale, Music

Grant Street – Vendors and Crafters

Trinity Sanctuary – Kids Zone with Bounce House

Trinity Preschool Room – Basket Raffle

Trinity Fellowship Hall – Food, Bake Sale, 50/50 Raffle

WHO: Everyone reading this should find a way to be involved. WE NEED YOU!!

HOW: Good question! Year after year, we wonder how we manage to pull off such an undertaking, but with willing volunteers and the grace of God, this event continues to be successful in blessing all those involved and all those whom we support

AND?: AND That means that if you haven't volunteered in some way, there is still time. Even if you can't be there that day, there are ways to help. Check out all the details on page 5 and help us make this day a great success!

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds ~ Hebrews 10:24



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Great news! This year, we will have the ability to accept major credit cards, Apple Pay & Google Pay!



Pastor's Page - Can Revival Happen Here?

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. Psalm 19:7 ESV

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? Psalm 85:6

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. Isaiah 44:3

In faith communities and in ministry circles it seems there is always someone talking about and praying for revival. Many yearn for renewal and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, petitioning God for repentant hearts with conviction and persistence. Almost as often, the ministry of the church goes on with few signs of many coming to faith and surrendering their lives to God. So, the yearning continues. The prayers keep going up to our Heavenly Father, asking Him to call us and all people to turn from our wicked ways. From time to time the calls get stronger, other times the prayers are barely a whisper, but they continue.

We wait in anticipation of God making a big move in our culture, in our churches, and in our families. We keep our hearts open to what he might be doing, persistently getting our own homes in order, working on our relationships, studying the Word of God, and building Christian friendships that help us lift high the name of Jesus. In the quiet times the enemy feels empowered and his prowling feels irresistible to many. His deceiving words are indiscernible from truth to scores of unwitting followers who have been convinced that darkness is the path to goodness. This season of deception increases in scope and scale as wickedness goes unrestrained. The faithful remnant of the church is tested and some fall away, but others, the ones in love with the very Words of God, flourish quietly through struggle and the repercussions of sin.

In a moment of the Father's choosing, evil is exposed, the lies of culture are laid bare and the Love of God flows into a myriad of hearts. Those who were lost are found and many find Jesus in a way that they never imagined they could. Schedules and plans are set aside for prayer and worship and testimony. The perfect ways of God are celebrated and joy is restored to the hopeless.

As we pray for God's love to break out, we learn to watch. We learn to notice unusual moments of faith and love breaking into the realm of darkness. We notice when the message of salvation strikes dry and weary hearts like fresh water from a mountain stream. I have been noticing these signs for a year or more in our nation. I see it in our youth. I see it in our community. And yes, I do believe that there are signs of it in our own congregation. Lives are being changed; lies are being exposed. Hope is being restored.



(continued on page 3)

Pastor's Page - (continued)

It is impossible to deny the renewal of faith that is happening across our nation and across the world after the assassination of Charlie Kirk. It is not necessary to agree with Charlie's voting convictions to embrace his heart for God and his passion for evangelism. No one agrees with everything someone else says and that is understood. But, we all can benefit from the conviction by which he lived his life and worshiped our Lord and Savior. His faith and his call to walk in the ways of Jesus have helped many to begin or strengthen their walk with God. For this we must celebrate and take note. God is doing something powerful among us.

We are doing the work Christ has asked us to do. Is it time for a great revival? Is it time for many to turn from their wicked ways and gather together with glad and sincere hearts? Our church family will be committed to helping people gather together for worship, prayer and fellowship, especially for those who are beginning from a place that is far from God. We will always be a place of deep conviction regarding the power of God to change lives and unify our church based upon the resurrection of our Lord Jesus who sits at the right hand of the Father. Our first citizenship is always in heaven and that is the only one that counts in the end. May our hearts be open to whatever Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit calls us to do.

In His Grace,

Pastor Justin

Announcements

DEACON NEWS



As our fall season has come, Deacons hosted their first hospitality event on September 21 with cider and delicious home-baked goodies from Beth Tidd and Kara Berthold. Our next hospitality event will be held Sunday, October 26. We are excited about the plans for a Coffee/Kitchen area coming in the future!

We will also be hosting a New Members Luncheon on Sunday, October 19 to meet with those who are becoming part of the MPC faith family.

We also continued with our College Student Outreach by sending care packages to our three graduates who left home for college. Please continue to keep all our students in your prayers with extra thoughts to Ryan Baldigowski, Lily Jeannette and Zoe Unruh as they start this new exciting part of their life journey.

We have recently started a new ministry area to celebrate the birth of new babies for our covenant partners. We were excited to celebrate our first new baby, Thorton, to mom, Jennifer & Joe Smiechowski.

We look forward to sharing in the joys of watching him grow and to be a beautiful part of our church family!

Finally, we are in discussion about other all-church events that we may be able to share with all as well as our regular ministry areas. We thank you for your continued support of the MPC Deacon Team.

Upcoming meetings for the Deacons following church are scheduled for:

Sunday, October 5
Sunday, November 2
Sunday, December 7

Announcements



TRICK OR TREAT OUTREACH

Saturday, October 25 (6-8pm)

This year, McDonald is holding Trick-or-Treat on Saturday, October 25. The parade starts at 5:30pm with trick-or-treat following immediately after. Our Trick-or-Treat Outreach has become a community favorite. The kids love getting treats from "The Candy Ladies" on the porch side of Calvary. And everyone stops by Calvary Fellowship Hall to grab a hot dog, some popcorn, a drink and a little rest. This outreach has truly become a community tradition. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jamie Slack (724-263-0065).

GOVERNMENT CLEARANCES

Fall is here and the children are back. A reminder to all adult volunteers 18 years of age and older, you must have government clearances to help with the Nursery, Sunday School, Children's Church, reNew, Club 724, and VBS or to chaperone any youth trips and events. For information on how to obtain government clearances, contact Karen Irwin at 412-279-8478 or irwinkl@aol.com or call Kerry in the church office.

ROSE MANOR (FORMERLY VICTORIA MANOR) OUTREACH

Worship: On Monday, October 20, we will worship together with our beloved residents of Rose Manor at 5:30pm.

Bingo: Wednesday, October 22 at 1:00pm is Bingo Day at Rose Manor.



On September 6th, a group of 24 volunteers from MPC helped to pack 31,104 meals at the Feed My Starving Children South Hills Mobilepack event. By the end of the day, over 100,000 meals had been packed! It was a great way to spend two hours on a Saturday morning!



Missions- McFall Fest



Ways YOU can serve for McFall Fest!



*Please contact the chairpersons listed below or
Michelle Unruh (412-720-8232) or Patty Doane (412-913-8401)
Kerry Schmitt (412-519-2636) or Kristie Briceland (412-296-3872)
if you are interested in helping in any way.*

Set-Up/Clean-Up: With over 25 vendors this year, extra hands will be needed to help the vendors get situated on Grant Street. Talk to Tom Maxwell (412-965-3325) if you can help with set-up. Also, it would be appreciated if we had extra help with general clean up after 4pm. Just stick around and we'll put you to work!

50/50 Raffle: Looking for those who like to work a crowd! Please let Ed Esposito (724-492-1530) or Will Cameron (563-210-9090) know if they can count on your help.

Bake Sale: Bake a pie, cake, cookies, bread, gullets, or your specialty. (Please let Jamie know if you plan to make gullets.) Drop off items in Trinity Fellowship Hall between 6:00pm – 9:00pm on October 10. Contact Jamie Slack (724-263-0065) with questions.

Basket Raffle: Baskets may be brought to the church office during office hours. The committee will also be accepting donations in Trinity Fellowship Hall on October 10 from 5:30pm - 9:00pm. We will even build your basket for you, if you'd like, just bring us the goods! P.S. – Gift Cards are especially popular! Please reach out to Melanie Ankley (412-287-5046) with questions.

Kids Zone: We are once again excited to offer a fun, safe area that the kids of our community can come to make crafts, play games and win prizes. Please let Syndria Lowe (412-337-3831) know if you are willing to help with this fun outreach.

Bounce House: In need of adults to monitor/supervise for 1-hour shifts (preferably 2 people per shift). Please let Syndria know if you are interested in helping here.

Kitchen Crew: Please let Betty Ryan (724-796-4955) know if she can count on you at this popular site!

Info Table (Pumpkin & Mum Sale): We are seeking friendly individuals to serve one-hour shifts at the Information Table. Duties are light and include the sale of pumpkins and mums. If interested, please see Patty Doane or call/text at 412-913-8401.

Sandi's Treasure Chest Resale Shop (8am – 4pm): Located in Calvary Fellowship Hall. Donate your "treasures" **but only the ones you might buy for yourself** Contact Carol McCarty (412-480-4876), Mary Lou Cooper (412-965-4977) or Nancy Turk (724-554-4808) with questions or to volunteer with set-up and pricing, to assist during the sale, or to pack up the leftovers.

Collection Dates and Times (NOTE: NO PICK UPS – ONLY DROP OFFS):

Sunday, October 5: 12 noon – 5:00 pm	Monday, October 7: 12 noon – 6:00 pm
Tuesday, October 8: 12 noon – 8:00 pm	Wed., October 9: 12 noon – 6:00 pm
Thurs., October 10: 12 noon – 8:00 pm	Friday, October 10: 12 noon – 5:00 pm

Sandi's Treasure Chest accepts all items in decent condition, except for clothing, baby car seats and cribs, TVs and computers



Operation Christmas Child Updates



Important Dates:

*** Packing Party Prep Days ***

Calvary Pastor's Study - 9:30am – 11:30am

Wednesday, October 15th

Thursday, October 23rd

Thursday, October 30th

*** Packing Party Set Up Day ***

Calvary Fellowship Hall – 9:00am

Friday, November 7th

**** ALL-CHURCH PACKING PARTY ****
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9th - 9:30 am – Calvary Fellowship Hall



*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"**

Scan this code to go to our church's goal page:



**** O.C.C. DROP OFF SITE ****

McDonald Presbyterian Church (Calvary Center Fellowship Hall) will again serve as a drop off site for the shoeboxes. **NEW VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**

Monday Nov. 17	Tuesday Nov. 18	Wednesday Nov. 19	Thursday Nov. 20	Friday Nov. 21	Saturday Nov. 22	Sunday Nov. 23	Monday Nov. 24
10 am-noon and 6pm- 8pm	11am – 1pm	10 am-noon and 6 – 8 pm	11am – 1pm	11am – 1pm	10 am – noon	Noon– 2 pm	10 am – noon

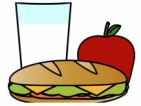
If you are interested in volunteering with any phase of this ministry, please contact Michelle Unruh (412-720-8232) for more information.

Community Life Groups



YAHWEH WEDNESDAY: For the fall, our group will be meeting once a month on the first Wednesday of the month. Each session will be a review of a different minor prophet. If you have questions or are interested in joining us, please contact Pastor Justin. If you have questions or are interested in joining us, please contact Pastor Justin.

LUNCH LADIES: The Lunch Ladies will meet in Trinity parlor on October 13th and 27th at noon and will continue our study called Christian by Andy Stanley. All are welcome. Please contact Peggy Samarin or Linda Matchett for information.



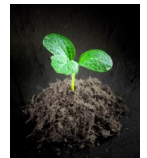
LAMPLIGHTERS: The Lamplighters are doing a Bible Study of the Sermon on the Mount by LifeGuide by John Stott. For this 9-session study, you need your Bible. We also recommend purchasing the Study Book on Amazon or ChristianBook.com. We typically meet in the New Beginnings Room in Calvary Center. We would love for ladies to join us, and please feel free to contact Syndria Lowe or Patty Doane 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: The Mighty Men's Bible study will meet at 9:30am each Sunday in the Calvary Pastor's Study. All men are invited to join us for a cup of coffee and a time studying John's Gospel. "They will be like mighty men . . . because the Lord is with them" (Zech 10:5)

READY, SET, GROW: Ready, Set, Grow meets on Sunday mornings before the worship service. We review the previous week's Scripture portion and sermon points, discussing what we learned and how we applied it to our daily lives. Then, we preview and read the current Sunday's Scripture portion and anticipate what subjects may be taught in today's sermon. We will meet at 9:30am in the Tower Room in Calvary.



FOOD BANK

For the month of October, the Food Bank is requesting *canned vegetables* 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

**FREE FOOD
FOR ANYONE IN NEED.**

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

Some of the more popular items requested are: cereal, breakfast bars, canned meats, peanut butter, jelly, ramen noodles, and side dishes.

If you would like to contribute to this cause, food donations may be dropped off in the church office.



RENEW YOUTH GROUP

ReNew Youth is for students in grades 5-12 and meets on Wednesdays at 6:00pm.

Wednesday, October 15th= movie, popcorn & pizza!! We will be watching a Comedy of Biblical Proportions.

Wednesday, October 29th= glow party and pumpkin carving

Every Wednesday includes dinner, rec time, and a lesson.

CLUB 724

Club 724 had a great time in September bowling at West Pike Bowl!

724

On Monday, October 20th from 5-8pm, join us for an afternoon of Mario Kart and make-your-own pizza.



YELLOW reminds us of Jesus, "Light of the World".

ORANGE reminds us of the deliverance from sins by Jesus' death on the cross.

WHITE reminds us of the righteousness we have because of Jesus' resurrection.

The sweet taste reminds us of the **SWEETNESS** of God's Word!

Psalms 119:103, "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

5th QUARTER

The 5th quarter youth event is planned for October 24th following the Fort Cherry- Serra Catholic game. All students in grade 6 & up may join us for games, food, music and just a plan old good time with our friends at Hickory Presbyterian. See Erich or Dana for information, directions to the church, or to set up a carpooling from the high school.



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!*

OCTOBER ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

October 5= Jeanna Manses & Alyssa Wasco

October 12= Selah Amsler & Ella Puhlman

October 19= Julia Amsler & Della Endy

October 26= Jonah Amsler & Asher Martin



Music

MPC MUSIC ENSEMBLES/ GROUPS

Are you curious about what ensembles/groups we have at MPC? Would you like to join one of them? If you would like more information, please call, text or speak with Heidi or Jeff Betschart about your options. We'd love to have you worship and praise with us through music!



AMPLIFY



Come and "Amplify" your love for Christ through song. You do not have to be a trained singer or instrumentalist to enjoy the evening. Our next "jam session" will be on Tuesday, November 4th at 6:30pm in Calvary sanctuary. If you have any questions or are interested in joining us, please text, call or speak with Heidi or Jeff Betschart.

CHOIR SCHEDULE

Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025

Praise 7:00

Sacred Sounds 7:30

Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025

Praise 7:00

Sacred Sounds 7:30

Thursday, Oct 16, 2025

Praise 7:00

Sacred Sounds 7:30

Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025

Praise 7:00

Sacred Sounds 7:30

Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025

Praise 7:00

Sacred Sounds 7:30



JUBILANT RINGERS

BELL CHOIR SCHEDULE

All rehearsals begin at 6:00pm

October 16 - Rehearsal

October 23 - Rehearsal

October 26 - Sunday Performance

November 13 - Rehearsal

November 20 - Rehearsal

December 4 - Rehearsal

December 11 - Rehearsal

December 18 - Rehearsal

December 21 - Sunday Performance

MUSIC FUN FACT!

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767, Germany) is the world's most prolific composer with over 3,000 pieces of music in his catalog, which is more than Bach and Handel combined. He wrote both sacred and secular music, with his secular music being viewed as more important. To break that down, it is 1,700 cantatas, 600 suites for many different instrument groups, 50 operas, 20 church cycles, 182 concertos, 46 passion oratorios, 32 psalms, 23 motets, 9 masses, 25 pedagogical works, odes and songs, 6 fugues for keyboard, 2 chorale preludes, 81 fantasias/fantasies, 26 overtures, and 287 sonatas, to name a few!

Calendar

October 1	Yahweh Wednesday ReNew Youth Group	Noon 6:00 p.m.
October 5	Ready, Set, Grow Mighty Men Sunday School Deacon Meeting	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Noon
October 6	Lamplighters	7:00 p.m.
October 8	ReNew Youth Group	6:00 p.m.
October 11	McFall Fest	11-4 (8am resale)
October 12	Ready, Set, Grow Mighty Men Sunday School	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
October 13	Lunch Ladies Session Meeting All-Leaders Meeting	Noon 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
October 15	OCC Workday ReNew Youth Group	9:30-11:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
October 19	Ready, Set, Grow Mighty Men Sunday School New Member Luncheon	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Noon
October 20	Victoria Manor Worship Budget Meeting Lamplighters	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
October 22	ReNew Youth Group	6:00 p.m.
October 23	OCC Workday	9:30-11:30 a.m.
October 26	Ready, Set, Grow Mighty Men Sunday School	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
October 27	Lunch Ladies Lamplighters	Noon 7:00 p.m.
October 29	ReNew Youth Group	6:00 p.m.
October 30	OCC Workday	9:30-11:30 a.m.

SILVER SOULS UPDATE

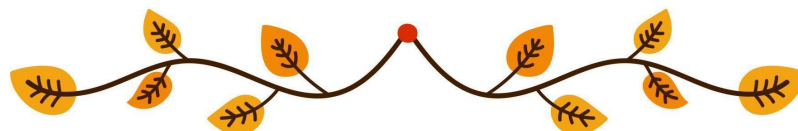
At our last gathering in August, the group selected to have our next gathering be a celebration of Christmas. Please mark your calendars, Silver Souls, for Wednesday, December 10. The event as always will be held in the Trinity Fellowship Hall and start at 11:30am. This luncheon will be catered and include an "Ugly Christmas Sweater/Shirt" Contest, some Christmas trivia and lots of singing of sacred and secular Christmas Carols. Be watching your mail early/mid November for your Information/RSVP letter with more details. I am so very excited to share this special Christmas luncheon event with all of you!.....

Warmly, Syndria

Birthdays, Anniversaries



Eric Wonderly	10/1	Ian Jeanette	10/6	Jeannina Yeager	10/21
Silas Amsler	10/2	Heather Weiler	10/7	Chad Bennett	10/25
Zach-Elie Boko	10/2	Luke Frazier	10/8	Jeff Betschart	10/25
Brian Kocian	10/2	Cosmas Apedo	10/11	David Cook	10/27
Ed Nalesnick	10/3	Christopher Goodwin	10/11	Ida Galicic	10/27
Robert Shepherd	10/3	Erich Puhlman	10/14	Cherie Young	10/27
Kara Berthold	10/6	Collin Schmitt	10/15	Carter Foster	10/28
		Kate Smith	10/15	Lin Nalesnick	10/30
		Tammie Eger	10/17	Lynn Brockman	10/31
		Jeff Zyra	10/17	James Hughey, Jr.	10/31
		McKinley Goodwin	10/19		



Jennifer & Christopher Goodwin	10/5
Allison & Christopher Giambanco	10/5
Betty & Martin Ryan	10/5
Lyndsay & Dan Jordan	10/14
Melissa & Shawn McMillen	10/14
Julie & Joe Petito	10/18
Carrie & Dan Theiss	10/18



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 Hanzcar
 Marlene Shupe
 Bob & Vicki Zyra

McDONALD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2025
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

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

Children's Ministries

Coordinator

Jennifer Lupi
jenniferlupi@mcdonaldpres.org

Interim Coordinators

Erich & Dana Puhlman

Choir Director: *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

DISCOVER

Join a committee, group, or outreach.

FELLOWSHIP

Join us for Sunday School or join a Life Group.

ACT

Sign up to help with McFall Fest on or before October 11th!

