



**McDONALD  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**September 2025**

# McPresby News



**back to  
SUNDAY school  
KICKOFF**

**"RALLY DAY" IS SEPTEMBER 7TH  
9:30 AM  
TRINITY CENTER FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!**

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL WELCOMES  
PRE-K (AGE 3) - 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

(EACH WEEK)  
LIGHT CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
9:20 AM  
OPENING - 9:30AM  
CLASS BREAKOUTS  
9:50 - 10:30AM



**McFall Fest  
2025**

**Saturday, October 11, 2025  
11:00am-4:00pm**

(resale starts at 8:00am- 202 W. Lincoln Ave.- across from the BP)

**GOOD OLD-FASHIONED FUN FOR THE  
WHOLE FAMILY!**

BAKE SALE & FOOD, VENDORS N' CRAFTERS, FREE  
GAMES FOR CHILDREN, MUMS SALES, SANDI'S  
TREASURE CHEST RESALE SHOP,  
BASKET AUCTION & 50/50, MUSIC & MORE...

*All proceeds will go towards our mission &  
ministry work!*

McDonald Presbyterian Church  
119 Station Street  
McDonald, PA 15057  
[www.mcdonaldpres.org](http://www.mcdonaldpres.org)



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For the Spirit God  
gave us does not  
make us timid, but  
gives us power, love  
and self-discipline.

~ 2 Timothy 1:7





## Pastor's Page - Are You Grateful for Your Rescue?

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*I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.*

*Galatians 1:11-12*

The Apostle Paul has one of the most dramatic and famous testimonies in all of Scripture. He shares his story with us through the letters that he wrote to people he loved. As he is instructing and encouraging the churches, he frequently reminds them of where he came from and how strongly he opposed those who sought to follow Jesus. Paul never lost his sense of wonder and gratitude that God would show up for him and redeem him from the mess he created. In the first chapter of Galatians, Paul explains that after his conversion he went into Arabia and then to Damascus. I believe that he went there to invest personal time in comprehending what this God encounter meant for his soul and how this truth would completely recalibrate every facet of his life.

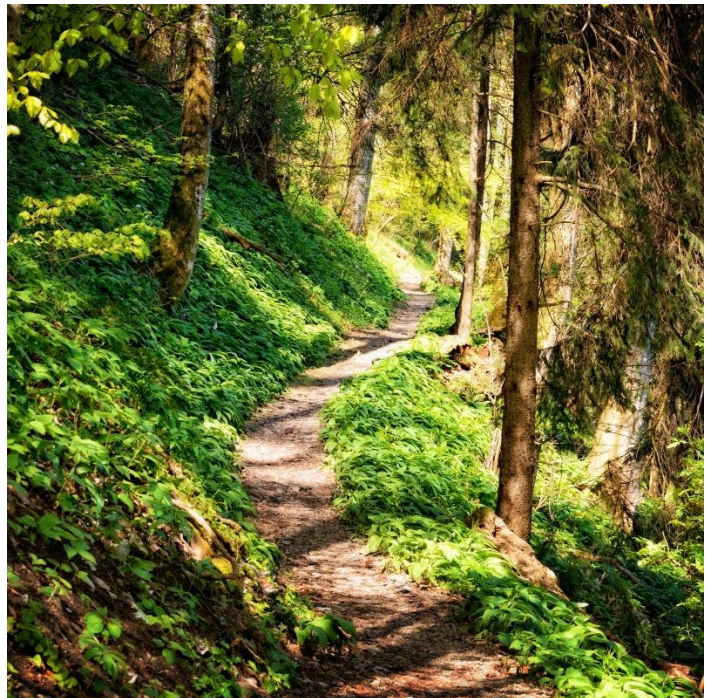
The church in Galatia was wandering from the faith in a serious way. Paul begins the letter with this line in verse 6, *"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – which is really no gospel at all."* The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus has paid the penalty for our sins on the cross. We are always looking for other ways to justify ourselves, and this is what was happening here. While we don't know the whole story, we know that this church was exchanging obedience fueled by the free grace of God with disobedience masquerading as goodness. This is the struggle that followers of Christ have in every generation. Where are the forces of culture pushing us to compromise the gospel in a way that allows disobedience to masquerade as goodness? Are we purchasing too many things? Are we misusing our time? Are we giving permission for the next generation to live in a way that is contrary to the Scripture and harmful to their own souls? Are we holding grudges and withholding forgiveness?

God desires all of our lives to be transformed by him and for him. All of us are flawed and sinful by nature but by the grace of God are brought near to him by faith and practice. Our faith must always be something that we do. Faith is not just in our mind or even beautiful feelings in our heart. Any authentic faith flows out of our hearts and impacts everything we do from within our families and out into the world.

Our lives are to be forever guided by the very heart of Jesus. Our closeness with Him and His Word is the pathway for our obedience. Our Lord is the most trustworthy being in the universe and living in dependency upon him is the definition of freedom and joy. This faith is not something that anyone made up. It is the very truth of God.

May the Lord give you many end of summer blessings,

*Pastor Justin*



# Announcements



## DEACON NEWS

Deacons were delighted to host a Putt-Putt Gathering at North Star Restaurant in August. The weather was great and both young and old tried their skills at playing Putt-Putt and sharing time together in fellowship and a meal. We would hope to do this again in 2026.

We will soon be sending out care packages from MPC to our newest high school grads who have headed off to college for their freshman year! We want them to know they are not forgotten as they leave home.

Upcoming meetings for the Deacons following church are scheduled for:

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

After Church Hospitality Dates are:

Sunday, September 21  
Sunday, October 19  
Sunday, November 16



## WALK, TALK, PRAY



**It's never too late to join Walk, Talk, Pray!**

WTP is an excellent opportunity to exercise while sharing and talking with your church friends. At the end of the walk, we pray about the things we discuss. We meet at the Trail Station:

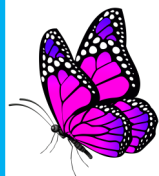
Tuesdays and Thursdays - 6:00 pm group walks to Hunners and back

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

If you are interested in joining, please call Dana Motte at 412-296-2037, or just show up!!!



## ROSE MANOR (FORMERLY VICTORIA MANOR) OUTREACH

*Worship:* On Monday, September 15, we will worship together with our beloved residents of Rose Manor at 5:30pm.

*Bingo:* Wednesday, September 17th at 1:00pm is Bingo Day at Rose Manor.

## FOOD BANK

For the month of September, the Food Bank is requesting *peanut butter & jelly or cereal* 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.

## Announcements

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### Save the Date!

McFall Fest 2025  
Saturday, October 11

**McFall Fest** is one beautiful, busy, bountiful day and we hope you will join us for the fun!

In case you haven't heard about McFall Fest, it is our annual church-wide fundraiser in which ***ALL (as in every single cent!)*** of the proceeds are given to our local, regional and international ministry and missions partners.

This event takes many hands and many weeks of preparation, so if you are reading this ... WE NEED YOU!

Please consider where you might lend a hand.

BAKE SALE  
BASKET RAFFLE  
DECORATIONS  
50/50 RAFFLE  
INFORMATION TABLE  
KIDS' ZONE  
PUBLICITY/SIGNAGE  
RESALE SHOP  
VENDORS

If you have any questions or are looking for more details, please contact  
Kristie Briceland, Patty Doane, Kerry Schmitt or Michelle Unruh



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





# Missions

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## MILITARY BIBLESTICKS

What a unique privilege it is to share the Good News of the Gospel and the hope found in the Psalms. Thanks to your generous hearts, we raised \$750 which will allow Faith Comes By Hearing to provide 30 military personnel with their own Biblestick. What better way to show our gratitude to those who serve our country than by inspiring them with the love and truth of Jesus. Many thanks for your continued support of this worthy cause.

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## **SAVE THE DATE: FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN PACKING PARTY – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025**



Are you looking for a fun way to spend a couple of hours on September 6? Are you looking for a meaningful way to spend a couple of hours on September 6? Are you looking for a couple of hours of fellowship on September 6? If you answered YES to any of these questions, then we urge you to join us at 9am at the South Fayette Intermediate School for the Feed My Starving Children packing party. This is a fun, family-oriented event that is sure to change the way you look at the world. We still have some volunteer spots open in our reservations. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Michelle Unruh (412-720/8232). Thank you for having a heart to help those in need.

## **MOBILEPACK**

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## **BACKPACK GIVEAWAY**

On August 9, MPC hosted the annual Backpack Give-Away for a third year. This event is provided in conjunction with the McDonald Service Unit of the Salvation Army and other area organizations. We were able to bless around 85 community children with backpacks, school supplies, and after-school snacks. During the event, children and their families could play games, color, get their faces painted, enjoy a snack, meet and greet local emergency responders and check out their cool rides. Thank you to everyone who provided donations and volunteered their time. Small efforts on our part make a great impact in our community.



This year's  
Packing Party  
goal is **810**  
shoeboxes!



REMEMBER:



## **Important Dates:**

**KICK OFF SUNDAY**  
**Sunday, September 28**  
During worship

**Packing Party Prep Days**  
Wednesday, September 10  
Thursday, September 25  
9:30am - Calvary Third Floor

**ALL-CHURCH PACKING PARTY**  
**Sunday, November 9**  
9:30am  
Calvary Fellowship Hall

Below is a list of the **SUPPLIES & QUANTITIES WE STILL NEED** to meet our packing party goal.  
*The congregation's continued support is vital and appreciated.*

Toothbrushes – 475	WOW-sized (5"-10") stuffed animals – 379
Flip flops (any size) – 616	Footballs (for big boy boxes) - 135
Crayons – 218	Notebooks/coloring books - 189
Pencils – 3,800	We need small toys, please

We currently have enough washcloths, comb/brushes, bandanas, pencil sharpeners & erasers...Thank you!!



Donations may be placed in the green bin in Calvary Parlor or call Michelle for pickup.  
Questions about OCC? Feel free to contact Michelle Unruh at (412-221-4143/412-720-8232)

*"Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them,  
for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14*



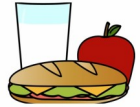
# Community Life Groups

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**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 September 8th & 22nd 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 will start the Fall 2025 in doing the Bible Study - Sermon on the Mount Life Guide by John Stott. We plan to do this as a 9-session study. We recommend participants in the group purchase the Study Book either on Amazon or ChristianBook.com. Our first session will begin Monday, September 15 at 7pm and you only need your Bible and the Study Book. We would love to see all our past participants and always enjoy having new ladies join us. Please reach out to Syndria Lowe or Patty Doane if you would like more information.

**SHE SOARS:** She Soars will resume meeting during the Sunday school hour on Sunday, September 7th in Trinity Parlor.



**MIGHTY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** The Mighty Men's Bible study will go back to the 9:30 starting time beginning on September 7th. All men are invited to join us for a cup of coffee and a time studying John's Gospel. Warning: prolonged exposure to God's word will transform you into a better husband, father, and golfer. Two out of three isn't too shabby!

**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 9:30 AM in the little room at the back of the Sanctuary.



*To the lovely people at McDonald Presbyterian Church,*

*Thank you so much for your continual encouragement and gifts! The Bible Verse notes are so cute; what a great idea! Your packages always bring a smile to my face, and their contents have definitely been put to good use, especially the Chipotle gift card!*

*From,*

*Bella Sworts*

# Summer Service Week

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## SUMMER SERVICE WEEK

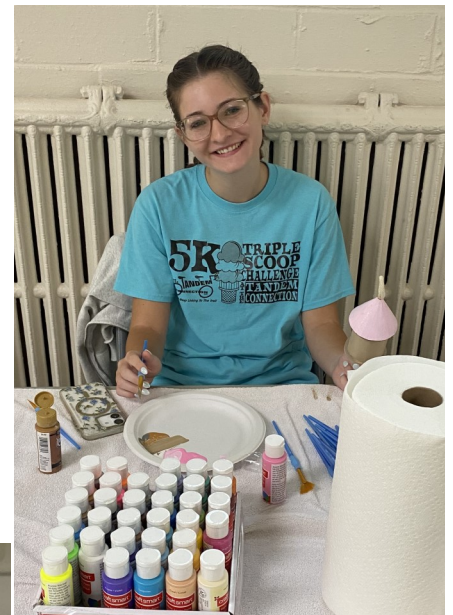
At the opening of our Worship in the Park service on August 3, you could hear the women of the Baptist church shaking their tambourines and singing God's praises. Just as Miriam and the Israelite women sang to God of their joy and gratitude, we, too, were filled with praise and thanksgiving for all God had accomplished during Summer Service Week. The Lord blessed us with good weather, plenty of projects, and an abundance of skilled workers (70 including kitchen, care team, construction, painters, landscapers, carpenters, etc.) We completed over 100 projects in 36 different homes. It was wonderful to work side-by-side with our brothers and sisters from the various parishes of St. Isador the Farmer, Rennerdale Presbyterian Church, McDonald Baptist Church and Center Presbyterian Church in Midway. What a beautiful testament to the wonderful things God's people can accomplish when they come together to love, serve and share. Thank you for making our 8th Summer Service Week such a big success.





# Summer Service Week

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## Silver Souls Picnic- August 2025

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Silver Souls gathered on Monday, August 11th for a Summer Picnic! Our theme was about remembering and devotions shared about God's design in us that "we remember"....His commands, His promises, His faithfulness, His mercy, His love. We shared favorite memories from each other's past and shared favorite picnic foods from the past, including Jumbo Bologna or Isaly's Chipped Chopped Ham on Wonderbread as well as a delicious recipe from Dot Penberthy. Final fun included Team Trivia about Hot Dogs and Picnics. As always the chatter and laughter were delightful to hear!

Our next gathering will be a Christmas Celebration that will be held in early December. Watch for more info in upcoming Newsletter and your RSVP letter in November.







## RENEW YOUTH GROUP

ReNew Yourh is getting ready to start again on September 10 @ 6 pm! We have some great activities planned, games to play and amazing food to eat! Anyone interested in volunteering please join us on September 3 @ 6:30 for an informational meeting.



## SEE YOU AT THE POLE

ATTENTION all Jr/Sr high schoolers! Join us on September 24th @ 7 am and your school's flag pole to join together with other students to pray for your school and classmates! See Erich or Dana for promotional materials to share with friends. SEE YOU AT THE POLE!!!

## 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.

See you on September 7th at 9:30am!



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is in need of new volunteers and old to continue this ministry! The lessons are self-guided videos with Bible verses and questions following to engage the children in conversation. The videos are organized in a folder on the laptop by that Sunday's date. No need to plan ahead! There are usually a few older youth that come down to help set up the video lesson ahead of time too. Please consider volunteering to continue this ministry during the worship service. If you are interested, please call the church office to schedule your time.

## CLUB 724

Club 2:4 is now CLUB 724! It is about living one's faith 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. All youth are invited to join us for an afternoon of fellowship, outside of the church, on Sunday 14th after service. We are tentatively heading to Ironblast's Game Zone down in little Washington. Parents and chaperones are needed for transportation. See Erich and Dana for details and permission slips.

# 724

## 5th QUARTER

The 5th quarter youth event is planned for September 29 following the Fort Cherry- Burgettstown 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.



## ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

September 7	Selah Amsler & Asher Martin
September 14	Della Endy & Ella Puhlman
September 21	Jeanna Manses & Alyssa Wasco
September 28	Jonah Amsler & Julia Amsler

# 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. We are currently working on our schedule and will have it posted to the weekly bulletin soon. If you have any questions or are interested in joining us, please text, call or speak with Heidi or Jeff Betschart.

## CHOIR SCHEDULE

**Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025**

Praise 7:00

SATB/Adult Choir 7:30

**Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025**

Praise 7:00

SATB/Adult Choir 7:30

**Thursday, Sept 18, 2025**

Praise 7:00

SATB/Adult Choir 7:30

**Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025**

Praise 7:00

SATB/Adult Choir 7:30



## BELL CHOIR SCHEDULE

September 11 - Rehearsal

September 25 - Rehearsal

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





# Puzzle



# Calendar

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September 3	Yahweh Wednesday ReNew Volunteer Meeting	Noon 6:30 p.m.
September 6	FMSC Packing Party @ South Fayette Intermediate	9-11 a.m.
September 7	Rally Day (Sunday School kick-off) Ready, Set, Grow Mighty Men Sunday Worship Deacon Meeting	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. Noon
September 8	Lunch Ladies Session Meeting	Noon 6:30 p.m.
September 10	ReNew Youth Group	6:00 p.m.
September 14	Ready, Set, Grow Mighty Men Club 724	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Noon
September 15	Rose Manor Worship Lamplighters	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
September 17	Rose Manor Bingo ReNew Youth Group	1:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
September 21	Ready, Set, Grow Mighty Men Deacon Hospitality	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Noon
September 22	Lunch Ladies Lamplighters	Noon 7:00 p.m.
September 24	ReNew Youth Group	6:00 p.m.
September 28	Ready, Set, Grow Mighty Men OCC Kick-Off	9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. during worship
September 29	Lamplighters	7:00 p.m.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

The American Legion Auxiliary will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Saturday, September 6th from 9am-noon. Cost is \$15/ person for all you can eat!

The Lions Club will be holding their rib sale at the trail station on Saturday, September 27th from 9am until noon (or sold-out).





## Birthdays, Anniversaries



Adriane Ware	9/4	David Rocher	9/16
Hannah Johnson	9/5	Hannah Smith	9/16
Michael Zyra	9/7	Dana Motte	9/18
Susan Malesky	9/7	Hannah Eyler	9/21
Melanie Ankley	9/9	Julie Hanczar	9/23
Will Cameron	9/9	Anthony Panizza	9/23
Dana Myers	9/10	Bob Zyra	9/26
Nancy Lauff	9/12	Lucrece Boko	9/26
Melissa Mohon	9/12	Victoria Nation	9/27
Sophia Speer	9/13	Carol Bywaters	9/28
Jamie Slack	9/14	Stacy Bennett	9/30
Debbie Keslar	9/16	Lyndsay Jordan	9/30
Courtney Gladden	9/1		
Michelle Unruh	9/1		
Tammy McDowell	9/3		
Emily Wasko	9/3		

Caitlin & Carson Allen	9/2
Syndria & Ed Lowe	9/4
Joan & Chris Pryor	9/10
Adriane & Scott Ware	9/10
Jackie & Bill Ewing	9/10
Kate & Jeff Smith	9/12
Tammie & Brian Eger	9/16
Lisa & Eric Wonderly	9/17
Connie & Andy Buydasz	9/19

Dana & Mike Martin	9/29
Jodie & Paul Panizza	9/29
Marlene & Jerry Thomas	9/29



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

Walter Phillips  
Chartiers Bend  
1001 Hastings Park Drive  
Apt. 139  
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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

SEPTEMBER 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

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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

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

Rev. Justin Amsler  
[justin@mcdonaldpres.org](mailto:justin@mcdonaldpres.org)  
(724) 699-0157

## Children's Ministries

### Coordinator

Jennifer Lupi  
[jenniferlupi@mcdonaldpres.org](mailto: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](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

Join us for Sunday School or church as we return to our fall  
worship schedule.

### ACT

Sign up to help with Feed My Starving Children, or serve with  
Children's Sunday School, Children's Church or  
ReNew Youth Group.

