



McPresby News

McDonald Presbyterian Church

March 2016



Holy Week is an important week in the life of the church and, accordingly, we have a number of worship services and events that will be taking place. Details are listed below and continue on page 3. Set aside some time this Easter to worship our Living God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

PALM SUNDAY

On Sunday, March 20, we will be celebrating Palm Sunday with worship and palms in Calvary Center sanctuary. That day our children will have a special program at Trinity Center during the Sunday School hour where they will be doing a number of fun Easter activities.

MORNING PRAYER

Pastor Justin will be leading a time of Prayer at 9:00am in Trinity Center Sanctuary Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (March 21-23) to prepare our hearts to celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord. We will begin and end with the singing of an Easter hymn and will meditate and pray together on the profound nature of what Christ has done. All are welcome and praying out loud is not required.

MAUNDY THURSDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

At 7:30pm on Thursday, March 24, our congregation will gather in Calvary Center for a special service of worship in remembrance of the Last Supper and of Christ's death on the cross. As is fitting for this service, we will be celebrating Communion by coming forward, taking bread, and dipping it in the cup. This will be a powerful service that also includes music and Scripture readings that correspond to the extinguishing of candles throughout the service. By the end of the service the sanctuary will be dark, symbolizing the betrayal and death of Jesus Christ.

24 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

From Friday, March 25 at 7:00pm until Saturday, March 26 at 7:00pm we will be holding a 24 hour Easter Prayer Vigil to take place in Trinity Sanctuary. Volunteers will sign up for different one hour slots and will take shifts praying throughout the day and night for 24 hours. The sign up sheet is located in Calvary's parlor. This prayer can be carried out by one, two, or a whole group of individuals at any particular time. When you arrive, there will be a prayer guide which will make it easy to continue praying and reading Scripture for the hour that you are present. A prayer vigil is a great way to be united as a church family and to open ourselves to the moving of God's Spirit.

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Elections, Politics, and the Sovereignty of God

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Romans 13:1

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. 1 Peter 2:16-17

In America today we are in the midst of a massive cultural shift. This shift can be described as a move from Christendom to Secularism. We are the proud inheritors of a culture largely shaped by those who were seeking to serve the Lord Jesus Christ at the highest levels of government and culture. At our founding, Europe was saturated with Christian thinking and the Bible had been the standard of morality for us and for many of our common ancestors for centuries. While there have been many differing opinions regarding the way our faith should be expressed, only rarely has the Word of God itself been rejected wholly and completely as a guiding document for those who choose to live well. This understanding of Christian values has formed a block of culture that has been called Christendom. The church has rightly benefited in this climate. It has received broad privileges from a society who understood at an intrinsic level that it was our faith in God and particularly in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord that was the basis of our civility and any blessing our nations might receive.

This culture has been maintained because at any given point in our history a majority of people have believed that they should live according to the voice of God. However, we are living in a moment that most of Europe has already experienced. Those in our culture who distrust the church and reject the claims of Christ have a very substantial voice that is seeking to become the majority position. Many missiologists and church leaders have declared Christendom to be dead and have perceived that a new age has begun. If trends continue, they will certainly be right. Some are celebrating but others mourn what could be lost and what has already slipped away.

As Christ followers today we need to be prepared for whatever our future may be. We pray and work towards revival and seek out leaders who will guide our nation according to the way of Christ. But our peace and our victory in Jesus do not depend on who our president is and what he or she believes. It also does not depend on the moral faithfulness of our nation and the ways that our tax dollars are used. Yes, it is wonderful to be able to be proud of our country and the decisions that we make and the people that we care for, but it is not a requirement for our joy or our salvation. Our faith and our convictions in Christ are not subject to majority rule. If radical shifts take place in the make up of our society, it is okay. It means God is up to something different from what we are used to. He is doing something new and will provide new ways for us to be victorious in Him.

To those of us who mourn I say this: Whoever becomes president will be the person God has chosen. As Paul teaches us: *"there is no authority except that which God has established."* While we may love and long for the days when many of our most influential government leaders were people who truly loved the Lord and sought out his truth, this is not a guarantee for us. A government that honors Christ is not necessary for the church to thrive. Right now the church is thriving in places where oppression reigns. The underground church in Iran and Iraq is exploding in the midst of life and death persecution. The rampant evil in those societies has opened the eyes of many to hear and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our country will return to Christ when the Church thrives and a movement of lives being changed is witnessed in our midst. Let's be initiators of that movement. No longer can we make the assumption that everyone we meet knows who Jesus is or has a basic understanding of His teachings. That day is long since past. Let's help welcome people everywhere into the presence of Jesus Christ so that we might experience a little more of the Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven. This is God's heart for the people of our country, and He will accomplish it by whatever means are necessary. Trust Him and you will never be disappointed.

Many Blessings in Christ!

Pastor Justin

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (CONTINUED)

COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

On March 25 at noon, Irons Memorial Presbyterian Church will be holding a service of Worship.

At 7:30pm on March 25, First Baptist Church of McDonald will be hosting the final service of this year's Lenten series. Rev. Amsler will be bringing the message. We hope that many of our members will once again come out for this service to experience together the night of the crucifixion of our Lord.

EASTER SUNDAY

On March 27 our congregation will celebrate with great joy the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will hold one service of worship at 10:45am in Calvary Center Sanctuary. Last year we worked together to invite friends, relatives, and neighbors to worship with us. We were blessed with a great number of people who were able to participate in worship who normally would not have the opportunity to do so.

In addition to welcoming new members, we will be pulling out all the stops for an amazing worship experience where we trust that the Spirit of God will move in powerful ways. To do this we need your help. Please plan to be with us on Easter Sunday and to bring at least one family member or friend who normally does not attend worship. We will have invite cards available and will be praying for those whom we might invite to worship with us.

This is the climax of our Holy Week and is sure to be a great day in the life of the church. Also, please note there will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.



MAMA ~ 2016 COMMUNITY LENTEN SERIES

You are invited to continue participating in this special worship series this Easter season. Many of our churches will sponsor a service followed by refreshments and fellowship time. Offerings collected at each service will be used by the Ministerial Association to support local charities and families.

Wed, March 2 (7:30 p.m.)	Hosted by Center United Presbyterian Message given by Rev. Bob Shull
Wed, March 9 (7:30 p.m.)	Hosted by Venice Presbyterian Church Message given by Rev. Dave Hamer
Wed, March 16 (7:30 p.m.)	Hosted by McDonald Bible Methodist Message given by Rev. Brian Kilbert
Friday, March 25 (12:00 noon)	Hosted by Irons Memorial Church Message given by Rev. Charlie Puff
Friday, March 25 (7:30 p.m.)	Hosted by First Baptist (McDonald) Message given by Rev. Justin Amsler



February is the month of love and that's what we did; love our Ministry's children. Thank you for sending your lovely, Christ loving children to Sunday school and children's church; they are such a blessing every week.

On February 7, we honored Amanda Petito, Emma Russi, Cory Russi and Kirsten Muñoz in our monthly communion. These children spent a Sunday afternoon in preparation for this communion to learn more about their covenant with God and what communion really means. Congratulations to Amanda, Emma, Cory & Kirsten!

Families spent an afternoon in Canonsburg at the Iceoplex to learn more about our Pine Springs collaboration. Registration is open for Pine Springs summer 2016. Our children are qualified for a McDonald Presbyterian scholarship. See Karin Muñoz for more information and check the bulletin board in Calvary after service.

February was blessed with amazing volunteers in Sunday School and Children's Church! Thank you Children's Church volunteers: Sarah, Julie, Stephanie & Jamie!

March will be exciting for our ministry when we remember the sacrifice that our Savior made for us! Sunday school will have its traditional Palm Sunday activities. We will be taking pictures of our kids if you want to dress them in something special. On Easter Sunday there will be NO Sunday School; please take that time to worship as a family and then come join us for an Easter sermon at 10:45.

Vacation Bible School reminder: July 25 – 29! If you feel God is leading you to volunteer, we need you! Please consider any volunteer position. Registration is free, look for more information soon or talk to Karin Muñoz.

Special March dates to know for Children's Ministry

20th – Palm Sunday, dress the kids in their Sunday best for a special photo. Also, volunteers needed to help with the 4, 5 & 6 year old class as they move through the stations

27th – Easter, NO Sunday school

MYM ~SPAGHETTI DINNER & SILENT AUCTION

On Saturday, March 5 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., MYM will host a Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser at Trinity Center Fellowship Hall. Dinner will include a plate of delicious spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert and drink. Tickets are \$9.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 3 to 12 years of age. Children two and under eat free. If you would like to make a donation for the supplies or donate a basket for the Silent Auction, you may do so with Sandi Albertini (724) 926-9137. Tickets will be available following worship on the weeks leading up to the dinner. As always, your support for MYM is greatly appreciated.



NEW MEMBER CONFERENCE



If you are planning to join our congregation at our Easter Sunday Celebration, we have set up a New Member Conference just for you to tell you more about our church, to go through essentials of our faith, and prepare you for membership. This will be a fun and enjoyable time with different presenters and of course refreshments! We will meet from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 12 in Trinity Center Parlor. Please RSVP with our office (724-926-8561) to let us know if you are able to attend or if other arrangements need to be made.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE

Please note that some changes have been made.

This is the donation schedule we hope to follow – ANY GIFT at ANY TIME, is appreciated!!

Keep an eye out for good deals!

February:	bars of soap
March:	washcloths
April:	small toys and small stuffed animals
May:	flip flops
June:	LOOK FOR AN UPDATE
July:	hard candy – such as gum and lollipops – NO chocolate, please
August AND September:	school supplies: notebooks & coloring books, pencils, erasers, crayons/markers/colored pencils
October:	TO BE DETERMINED
All year:	plastic shoeboxes; bandanas (as you find them, 2/\$1 at Dollar Tree stores) extra Christmas cards; monetary donations to defray the cost of shipping (\$7/box)

Any questions, please feel free to contact Michelle Unruh (412-221-4143)

PINE SPRINGS CAMP PRESENTATION & POTLUCK ~ APRIL 3

On April 3, we will be visited by a special guest from Pine Springs Camp who will speak to us in worship and update us on the plans and progress for this coming summer.



Following worship we will have a congregational potluck hosted by our Deacons in the Calvary Fellowship Hall. We will also have activities for the children including painting of walking sticks and some games led by our PSC staff. Parents please bring a paint shirt for your child(ren) if you are concerned about their clothing. This year our week at Pine Springs Summer Camp is July 17-22. Scholarships and more information are available.

DEACONS FLOWER SALE

The Deacons will be taking orders for their annual spring flower sale through Tuesday, April 12. An order form is on page 6. The flower sale supports many worthwhile Deacon projects. The plants are beautiful, healthy and reasonably priced. The flowers will be ready for pick up on Saturday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. at Calvary Center. As always we appreciate your support.



McDonald Presbyterian Church Deacons 2016 Spring Flower Sale

Order Deadline: Tuesday, April 12th

Give orders to any Deacon or place in the Flower Sale Basket in the vestibule.

Pickup: Saturday, May 14th at 10:00 a.m., Calvary Center

Name: _____ Phone: _____

We prefer you to please pay in advance, please make checks payable to McDonald Presbyterian Deacons. If you would like to place an order but cannot pick up your plants at the delivery time, please check here. _____ We will contact you to make other arrangements for pick up. **There are 12 packs per flat, with 36 plants per flat.**

Bedding Plants - \$14.00 per Flat			4 ½" Potted Plants - \$3.50 each		
Quantity	Variety	Color	Quantity	Variety	Color
	Ageratum	Blue		Dracaena Spikes	Green
	Alyssum	White		Geraniums	Pink
	Begonias	Mixed		Geraniums	Red
	Begonias	Pink		Geraniums	Salmon
	Begonias	Red		Geraniums	White
	Begonias	White		New Guinea Impatiens	Assorted
	Celosia	Mixed		Vinca Vine	Green/ White
	Coleus	Mixed		Wave Petunia	Pink
	Dahlias	Mixed		Wave Petunia	Purple
	Dusty Miller	Silver			
	Impatiens	Mixed			
	Impatiens	Pink			
	Impatiens	Red			
	Impatiens	Salmon			
	Impatiens	Violet			
			10" Hanging Basket - \$16.00 per basket		
	Impatiens	White	Quantity	Variety	Color
	Lobelia	Blue		Fuchsias	Assorted
	Marigolds – Dwarf	Mixed		Impatiens	Assorted
	Marigolds – Dwarf	Orange		Ivy Geraniums	Assorted
	Marigolds – Dwarf	Yellow		New Guinea Impatiens	Assorted
	Pansy	Mixed		Non-Stop Begonias	Assorted
	Petunias	Mixed		Vining Petunias	Assorted
	Petunias	Pink			
	Petunias	Purple			
	Petunias	Red			
	Petunias	White			
	Salvias	Red	Vegetable Plants - \$14.00 per Flat		
	Snapdragons-Dwarf	Mixed	Quantity	Variety	
	Snapdragons-Dwarf	Pink		Peppers—Green Bell (Lady Bell)	
	Snapdragons-Dwarf	White		Tomato – Better Boy	
	Snapdragons-Dwarf	Yellow			
	Double Marigolds	Orange			
	Double Marigolds	Yellow			
			TOTAL DUE		



CAMP AGAPÉ will be holding a Maple Syrup Festival on Saturday, March 5 from 10:00am to 3:00pm. This free event will offer pancakes & sausage all day with Agape Maple Syrup, crafts, hayrides, and an opportunity to learn how to make maple syrup. Call for more information or to RSVP. Camp Agapé is located at 72 Agape Road in Hickory. The phone number is 724-356-2308. Website: www.campagape.org



MCDONALD FOOD BANK

The suggested donation item for March is canned vegetables. All contributions are welcomed. Please drop off your donation in the parlor of Calvary Center. Please see Ed Nalesnick if you have any questions. Looking ahead, April's donation item is canned fruit.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

Heritage Public library is hosting Breakfast with the Bunny on Saturday, March 19 at the McDonald Trail Station from 9 am - 12 pm. Cost is \$5 per person. Ages 2 and under are free. Pre-registration is required @ <http://bunnybreakfast.com/> or sign up at the library. Pancakes and sausage, juice and coffee will be served. There will be crafts and coloring for the kids. All proceeds go to Heritage Public Library.



CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULES

Thursday, March 3	Bell Choir	6:00 p.m.
	Adult Choir	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 10	Kids Choir	6:45 p.m.
	Adult Choir	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 17	Bell Choir	6:00 p.m.
	Adult Choir	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 22	Bells/Kids Choir & Women's Choir	7:00 p.m.
	Adult Choir	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 31	Bell Choir	6:00 p.m.
	Adult Choir	7:30 p.m.





CARE LIST

Mrs. Sylvia Cimarrolli	Miss Julie Hanczar
Ms. Kim Cook	Mr. Chuck Smith, Sr.
Ms. Debby Penberthy	Mrs. Evelyn Smith
	Mr. Jack Penderville

Assisted Living /Rehabilitation

Mrs. Connie Walker, **Helen Purcell Home, Health Care Unit**, 1854 Norwood Boulevard, Zanesville, OH 43701

Miss Mary Ann Johnen, **Presbyterian Senior Care, Southmont, Rm 528**, 880 S. Main St, Washington, PA 15301

Mrs. Hilda Balog, **Victoria Manor**, 100 Rose Court, Oakdale, PA 15071 (724)693-8325

Mrs. Bea Cerezo, **Country Meadows of South Hills, #4**, 3570 Washington Pike, Room 414, Bridgeville, PA 15017

Mrs. Dorothy Roths, **Golden Living Center of South Hills**, 201 Village Dr., Rm 308, Canonsburg, PA 15317 (412) 344-9860

Mrs. Dorothy Laughlin, **Victoria Manor**, 100 Rose Court Oakdale, PA 15071 (724)693-8325

Mr. John Walker, **Paulin Personal Care Home**, 119 W. Lincoln Ave, McDonald, PA 15057

Miss. Rosemarie Rocher, **Country Meadows of South Hills, #4**, 3570 Washington Pike, Rm 473A, Bridgeville, PA 15017 (412)206-7096

Mr. Larry Doak, **H John Heinz III Progressive Center**, 1st Fl, South Hall, 1010 Delafield Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Ms. Margaret Augustine, **Humbert Lane Personal Care Home**, 90 Humbert Lane, Washington, PA 15301

Thank you for all of the phone calls, sympathy cards, memorial donations, food and visitation to the funeral home in honor of my mother's passing. The support has meant so much to me and my family at this difficult time.

Vicki, Bob & Jeff Zyra and the family of Dorothy Vermeulen



F. E. A. S. T.

“S” = Serve-serve in new and fresh ways in order to connect people with the timeless truth of Christ.

An online quote attributed to Morgan Freeman states, “How do we change the world? One random act of kindness at a time.” When a stranger acts for no other reason than because someone is in need, that is where we see God's face. That is where we see the true spirit of Jesus in our everyday, ordinary lives. Some recent examples: the young man who bent down to tie the shoe of an elderly woman; the kind gentleman who offered to share his fuel perks with the person at the pump next to him; the woman who paid for another passenger's PAT bus trip because he didn't have exact change. Jesus calls us to serve in many ways-some as small as a random act of kindness toward another of God's creatures. Are we observant enough to find, and inspired enough to create our own random acts of kindness? What new and fresh ways are you serving? Please consider sharing your stories in an upcoming newsletter edition.

MARCH



Children's Church

March 6
March 13
March 20
March 27

Adult Volunteer

Michelle Unruh
Peggy Samarin
Julie Petito
None Needed

Nursery

March 6
March 13
March 20
March 27

Youth Volunteer

Ella Oliveira
Volunteer Needed
Hannah Patishnock
Volunteer Needed

Young Disciples

March 6 Deborah Elicker
March 13 Sarah Amsler
March 20 Linda Matchett
March 27 Rev. Justin

Lay Leaders

March 6 John McCarty
March 13 John Casey
March 20 Jim McDowell
March 27 Ed Nalesnick

Greeters

March 6 Janet Crawford & Joan Pryor
March 13 Shirl & Norm Krenn
March 20 Becky Gladden
March 27 Hannah Fay Descutner; Molly & Tom Maxwell

Acolytes

March 6 Hannah Patishnock & Ella Oliveira
March 13 Cory Russi & Emma Russi
March 20 Megan Esposito & Jillian Panizza
March 27 Alex Nemec & Jake Weiler

Hospitality

March 6 Katie McDowell
March 13 Carol McCarty & Mary Lou Cooper
March 20 Sunday School Kids
March 27 Mike & Alli Patishnock

March 6 Communion Servers

Jim McDowell	Peggy Moore	Ray Morgan
Ed Nalesnick	Nancy Turk	Michelle Unruh

MARCH



Norm Krenn	3/1
Bea Cerezo	3/3
Greg Gilbert	3/3
Jared Thomas	3/3
Julie Bennett	3/6
Dixie Haberland	3/6
Debbie Endy	3/7
Edward Gilbert	3/8
Hannah Patishnock	3/10
Syndria Lowe	3/11
Kate Foriska	3/16
Sammi Patishnock	3/16
Larry Doak	3/17
Gary Haberland	3/18
Jeffrey Burger	3/19

Judy Cook	3/20
Nancy Turk	3/20
Kari Bair	3/23
Andy Buydasz	3/23
Derek Errett	3/23
Gerry Rossi	3/23
Richard J. Masquelier	3/24
Lana Gilbert	3/25
Teri Runtas	3/28
Cory Russi	3/28
Sue Dodds	3/29
Jillian Panizza	3/29
Carrie Theiss	3/29
Kris Hanczar	3/30



Mary Ann & Jim Crowe	3/4
Stephanie & Chris Esposito	3/6
Vicki & Bob Zyra	3/26

MARCH 2016

1 TUES Home Visit Communion Dartball Trustees Meeting 7:30pm Boy Scouts	2 WED MYM Girl Scouts MAMA Lenten Services 7:30pm (Center Presby)		3 THUR Choir Soccer Shots	4 FRI World Day of Prayer AA Trinity Center	
5 SAT MYM Spaghetti Dinner 4:00pm	6 SUN 4th Sunday in Lent Communion 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	7 MON	8 TUES Home Visit Communion Boy Scouts		9 WED MYM Girl Scouts MAMA Lenten Services 7:30pm (Venice)
10 THURS Choir Soccer Shots	11 FRI AA Trinity Center	12 SAT New Member Conference	13 SUN 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship		14 MON Newsletter Deadline Session Meeting 6:30pm
			15 TUES Boy Scouts		
16 WED Office Staff Meeting 10:00am MYM Girl Scouts MAMA Lenten Services 7:30pm (Bible Methodist)			17 THURS Choir Soccer Shots	18 FRI AA Trinity Center	19 SAT
			20 SUN Palm Sunday 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship		
21 MON	22 TUES Boy Scouts	23 WED MYM Girl Scouts	24 THURS Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm		25 FRI AA Trinity Center Good Friday Prayer Vigil 7:00pm
26 SAT Prayer Vigil 7:00pm	27 SUN Easter NO Sunday School 10:45am Worship Welcome New Members		28 MON Office Closed Deacons Meeting 7:00pm		29 TUES Boy Scouts
			30 WED MYM Girl Scouts		31 THURS Choir

Quote of the Month: "We live and die; Christ died and lived!" (John Stott)

Scripture of the Month: Mark 16:5-7

McDonald Presbyterian Church

Worship Site:

202 West Lincoln Avenue
McDonald, PA 15057

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119 Station Street
McDonald, PA 15057

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(724)926-8561

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MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER



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724/699-0157

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Syndria Lowe

Organist

Donna Klimas

MYM Ministry Leader

Jim McDowell

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Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

THIS MONTH

- *March 1 Home Visit Communion*
- *March 5 MYM Spaghetti Dinner*
- *March 6 Communion*
- *March 8 Home Visit Communion*
- *March 14 Newsletter Deadline*
- *March 24 Maundy Thursday*
- *March 25 Good Friday*
- *March 27 Easter Sunday*



NEXT MONTH

- *April 3 Communion*
- *April 3 PSC Presentation Potluck*