



# The Rolling Stone

## SUMMER 2024

### Summertime Tune up and Outward

13 More Days! As I write this summer newsletter, there's just 13 more days of school. This is my last summer sending two kids back to school in the fall, since my son will be a senior next school year. So, this summer is going to be a bit different because we have lots to do as a family to get ready for what the future is going to look like with a kid heading off to school and one who will join the college ranks in short order, too.

I have called this article *Summertime Tune Up and Outward* because, like my home life, we have some things planned to help us retool for the upcoming program year and some opportunities to engage in community outreach. First, some tune ups! In this newsletter, you will receive a report from Session about the next steps we are taking toward achieving our Capital Improvement Goals for 2024. We are excited that we are near completion of our A/V upgrades designed to improve the worship experience both in-person and online. We are equally looking forward to addressing long deferred and awaited accessibility projects. Architectural drawings have been rendered to install a new ramp into the sanctuary and contractors are preparing bids for the narthex ramp and new sidewalk and accessible doors to the fellowship hall.

Another Tune Up project is sponsored by our Faith Formation Team. They are conducting a painting project to beautify and make our classroom spaces upstairs more welcoming and usable. In June, you can volunteer to help brighten up the spaces in preparations for the fall program year. See the newsletter for more details and to sign up!

These tune up projects are designed to increase our hospitality to both long-term members and visitors. Growing our livestream capacities will help us meet our neighbors where they are because often folks' first entrance into Sampson's Mills is via our YouTube channel. Accessibility into our building has long stymied our welcome to our friends and neighbors struggling with mobility. There's power in paint, too, as it demonstrates our stewardship of our building resources and is inviting for people to help them find their place here.

Now what about Tune Outward? While we will spend some tending inward to our building and facility's needs, we want to also stretch our hearts outward into our community. We've got lots planned to cultivate community in our neighborhoods. Our annual Food Truck Friday is back and will be held on June 28<sup>th</sup> featuring the return of our annual Strawberry Social for dessert goodies along with the food truck offerings.

Our summer VBS in the Park will encourage us to get connected with our McKeesport Methodist and Presbyterian friends in hopes to reach kids and families to experience a week at White Oak Park this August. You can walk the parade with our partners, connect with neighbors on Good Neighbor Day and pass out ice cream at Beulah Park and Calvary First this May and June. Together we will play and discover God's creation at VBS at White Oak Park, which will conclude with worship and a picnic at the park on the Sunday after VBS.

Friends, you are invited to join us for a Summertime of Tuning Up and Tuning Outward. There's a place for you and the kingdom of God will be made richer because of it!

Peace,

Pastor Jessica

June 28th 5pm-7pm

## Food Truck Friday AND Strawberry Social!



## Community Yard Sale Spaces– June 15th and August 17th



We again are offering the opportunity for community members to take advantage of our wonderful parking lot location for their own sales for a cost of \$20 per date.

To register for a space, please scan the QR code below or call the office at 412-678-5355.

Deadlines for registration and payment are Wednesday, June 12th and Wednesday, August 14th.



We will also be collecting household items to benefit the Shared Blessings Mission Store of Duquesne on both dates, so unsold items can be easily passed on!



### Summer Vacation Dates

Jo will be away  
July 3rd through July 15th

Pastor Jessica will be away  
August 16th through September 2nd



*Regular church office hours are  
9:30am-1:30pm, Monday-Friday*

Pastor Jessica takes sabbath on Fridays & Saturdays.

Jo takes sabbath on Saturdays & Mondays.

Amber takes sabbath on Saturdays & Sundays.



## Summer Sermon Series 1: May 26th-June 30th Everything We Needed to Learn We Learned in....

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Based on Matthew 6 and Luke 11*

May 26<sup>th</sup> – Our Father, Who Art in Heaven,  
 Hallowed be Your Name

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Whose Will Be Done?

*With Communion*

June 9<sup>th</sup> – Our Daily Bread

*Graduate Sunday*

June 16<sup>th</sup> – Forgive

June 23<sup>rd</sup> – And Lead Us Not into Temptation

June 30<sup>th</sup> – For Thine is the Kingdom,

Power and Glory

## Summer Sermon Series 2: July 7th-July 28th

### **To the Saints: A Sermon Series on the Letter to the Ephesians**

July 7<sup>th</sup> - Sealed by the Spirit, Set in Hope –  
 A Dwelling Place For God

*Ephesians 1:3-16, Ephesians 2:11-22*

July 14<sup>th</sup> – Boldness in Faith, by Faith and Through Faith  
*Ephesians 3:1-21*

July 21<sup>st</sup> – Live a Life Worthy of Your Calling  
*Ephesians 4:1-17*



### **VBS Worship and Picnic – August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

*featuring the biblical stories, reflections and  
 songs of the week with Communion*

### **August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Being the Beloved Community**

Mark 7:1-8, 14-20, 24-30

**August 18, 25 and September 1 –**

**Guest Preachers while Pastor Jessica is on Vacation**

**Save the Date!**

**Kick-Off Sunday – September 9<sup>th</sup>**

**with Communion and**

**Back Pack Blessing**



# Love & Serve Jesus Christ



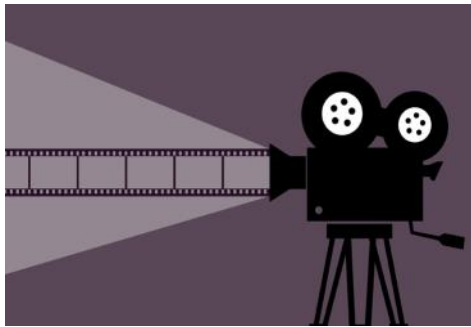
## Summer Music

Each summer, we give the choir and bell choir a break while we invite soloists and small ensembles to share their musical gifts each Sunday.

All voices and instruments are welcomed and wanted!

Contact Jo at [jo@sampsonsmills.org](mailto:jo@sampsonsmills.org) to sign up to share your musical gift!

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## Tech Team

With the Audio/Video Upgrade this spring, we will be training anyone who wants to get involved in our Tech Team! Now is a great time to join and get trained on the new system! Contact Jo at [jo@sampsonsmills.org](mailto:jo@sampsonsmills.org).

## Painting Volunteers Needed!

The second floor of our building is getting a makeover this summer. The Faith Formation Team is looking for volunteers of all ages to help with this project. Many hands are needed so please consider helping out on one or both of our days. **Saturdays, June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup>** will be our work days. **We will begin at 10am and hopefully end around 2 or 3.** Lunch is being provided by the Faith Formation



Team. Sign-up Sheet will be in the narthex or contact Jo to sign up!

**Children's Worship and Nursery Care :** Our volunteers will be taking a much deserved break over the summer, and so we invite all to remain in the sanctuary for the duration of worship until their return in September. In the meantime, feel free to let little ones stretch their legs in the narthex if getting restless. One of our A/V upgrades was the addition of a monitor in the narthex, and so you will be able to view responses, hymns, and scripture just as you would in the sanctuary!



# Cultivate Community

## Mon Yough Chorale Concert

**Sunday, June 9th at 3pm**

Our building partner has their spring concert on Sunday, June 9th, right here at Sampson's Mills! Join them at 3pm for a delightful afternoon of music. Many of their members are familiar faces to our SMPC family!



## White Oak Senior Activities Group

Looking for opportunities to connect with others or just be more active and try new things? Check out some of the many White Oak Senior Activities! With special speakers, yoga classes, coffee hours, and a variety of bus trips, there is something for everyone!

Their monthly flyer is always available on our community bulletin board, or check out their [Facebook Group](#)

## Facility Rentals

Remember that the Fellowship Hall may be rented for private events such as birthday parties and showers. In addition, we are looking to partner with more local non-profit organizations whom we can offer rental discounts to. If you or someone you know is looking for a simple, efficient event space for a family gathering or group meeting, please have them contact the church office!

Call 412-678-5355 or [fill out an inquiry form here.](#)



## Church Choirs Unite!

On April 28th, voices from SMPC, Mary, Mother of God Parish and McKeesport Shared Ministries UMC joined together for a memorable afternoon of music. Enjoyed by both performers and audience alike, look for this event to return next year!

# Session is happy to report that we have status updates on our 2024 Capital Improvement Goals!

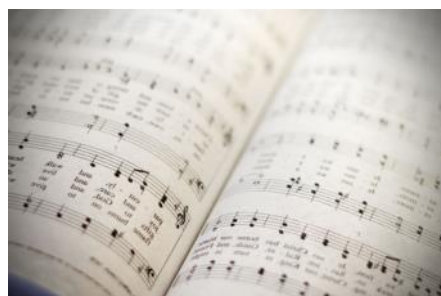
## A/V Upgrades in 2024



- ⇒ Audio improvements have already been **completed** and installed – a new sound board, new wiring, and new microphones
- ⇒ New visual equipment has been **purchased** and **will be installed** in May 2024 and **will be operational** in June 2024! This includes mounted cameras to increase views and zooming capacity, additional TV monitors in sanctuary and narthex, new wiring and hardware to maintain and expand our live-streaming capabilities.

## Building Accessibility Improvements in 2024

- ⇒ Architectural drawings have been **completed** for the narthex ramp entrance from the parking lot to the sanctuary.
- ⇒ Contractors are being **contacted to secure bids** for the ramp project, to replace the broken sidewalk leading to the fellowship hall and to replace and install an accessible door to the fellowship hall from the outside parking lot.



### A Word from Worship...

*This summer, worship will return a portion of our pew hymnals and Bibles back into the sanctuary.*

## Thanks For Your Service...

- ♦ We give thanks to **Fran Suhoski** (Love & Serve Liaison) for faithfully serving the last several years as Elder on Session.
- ♦ We give thanks to **Andy Archer** and **Billie Kissel** for blessing us with their gifts as Deacons.

## We Welcome To Service...

- ♦ **Teresa Trich** as Elder.
- ♦ **Harry and Joanne Welch** as Deacons.

## Giving Snapshot



*In addition, SMPC applied for three grants this quarter, for a combined potential of \$12,500 in additional funding.*

	Envelopes	Online
March	\$25,954	\$3,525
April	\$7,174	\$3,926
May (thru May 12th)	\$4,746	\$3,305

Having issues with the online giving portal? Contact the Presbyterian Foundation for help by calling 1-800-858-6127 or email [clientservices@presbyterianfoundation.org](mailto:clientservices@presbyterianfoundation.org)



# Faith Formation News



EPIC Wednesdays wrapped up on March 20th with our EPIC Family Picnic. Fun was had by all ages as we celebrated a wonderful EPIC Season with great food, games and card making. We're all looking forward to its return in the fall!

This intergenerational ministry is great for ALL AGES.

For more information, visit [sampsonsmills.org/epic](https://sampsonsmills.org/epic).





On Palm Sunday, our 5 confirmands were welcomed as members of the church! After 12 weeks of hard work, discussion and discernment, they presented their statements of faith to session and their families prior to the service.

2024 Confirmands (left-right) : Charlie Keefer, Alice Delose, Phillip Pompura, Gabriella Graham, and Dane Butker

## Our High School Graduates!

We will recognize their accomplishments  
Graduation Sunday, June 9th

 **Sarah Klimchak** will graduate from Trinity Christian School on May 31st.  
In the fall, Sarah will attend Pennsylvania Western University at California for Early Education and Special Education.

**Ryan Nichol** will graduate from East Allegheny High School on May 31st.   
Ryan has committed to

West Virginia University and plans to play soccer on one of their teams. He was a direct admit into the Forensic Science program and plans to become a forensic examiner.



# Empower our Neighbors

## CUPBOARD STRETCHERS MINISTRY / WHITE OAK FOOD PANTRY

Cupboard Stretchers Spring is a time of renewal and re-affirmation of commitments we care about. Every year we receive that committed support from organizations that repeatedly give to our food pantry. We are again grateful for the work of the White Oak Boy Scouts, who collected food in the White Oak area and brought it to the church for our distribution this month. The mail carriers also collected food that was to be bagged beside mailboxes. That food will be sent to the main warehouse in Duquesne and shared among the various pantries.



HIGHMARK | Bright Blue Futures

Coming up in June is a new opportunity for fund raising for our pantry! **Highmark is sponsoring a walk on the North Side June 22nd** to raise money for partner agencies of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, like us! It's so easy - if you can't spare the time or it's too far to travel, you can let your fingers do the walking! **[You are able to direct your contribution directly to our White Oak Food Pantry by clicking here!](#)**

Besides bringing food to the church or giving a monetary gift to our pantry, you can come to the church any 3rd Friday and join our faithful volunteers. You can come any number of hours from 8:30am-1pm. Many hands make light work! We are looking forward to our tweens and teens working beside us as they have been for the last 2 years!

Blessings,

Jolene Keefer  
Co-coordinator

To volunteer, contact

Jolene Keefer

Call or text: 724-396-0977

Email: **[jpkeefe@comcast.net](mailto:jpkeefe@comcast.net)**

Next Distributions

Friday, May 17th

Friday, June 21st

Friday, July 19th

### FEATURED NEED OF THE MONTH

*Donate to our  
Walk For A Healthy Community!*

*All donations will directly  
impact your neighbors through our  
Cupboard Stretchers Ministry!*



*Scan the QR  
code to donate,  
or to participate  
in the walk on  
June 22nd!*





If you require assistance, please call 412-664-3700 or email [enrollment@mckasd.net](mailto:enrollment@mckasd.net).  
If you need to access a computer, please visit us at our Administration Building at  
3590 O'Neil Blvd. McKeesport, PA 15132.

## McKeesport Area School District

# Kindergarten Registration 2024-2025

Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now open! Please follow the instructions below to register. All registrations will be completed online.

Spread the word!  
Kindergarten  
registration is  
now open! Help  
make sure all 5  
year olds are in  
school this fall!

## Serve Weekend 2024

Thanks to hall who contributed to our Serve Weekend efforts!

- 260 Laundry Care Bags for the United Community Center at Twin Rivers
- 500 Hard Tack Candy Bags for students during state testing
- A truck load of household goods benefitting the *Shared Blessing Mission Store of Duquesne*
- A spring refresh of the Cupboard Stretchers storage areas
- Supporting local non-profit *Reflections of Grace* through walking and hair donation



# Community VBS Summer Outreach Volunteer Opportunities



## **Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day Parade in White Oak**

That's right! We're going to be in the parade! We need volunteers to ride in the truck and throw candy as well as walk along side and pass out information. Line-up is at 11:45am. Placement and location has not yet been assigned so when that information comes through, all parade volunteers will be contacted with exact location.

## **Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> – End of School Ice Cream:**

We will be treating our students to some ice cream after school as they prepare to wind down their year. The ice cream stops will be at Beulah Park Campus and Calvary First Campus. Come serve up some frozen sweet treats! Both setup times are 2:00pm until all the kids are through, which should be shortly after 4:00pm.

## **Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> – McKeesport Good Neighbor Day on Fifth Avenue**

This was a huge event last year and we're excited to do it again with even more to offer than before! We will provide a craft station for the kids as well as a free raffle. We will do three 2-hour shifts 9:00am to 11:00am (includes setting up), 11:00am to 1:00pm, and 1:00pm to 3:00pm (includes tearing down). We need multiple people for each shift.

## **Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> – Food Truck Friday at Sampson's Mills**

We need volunteers to sit at an information table at Food Truck Friday to talk about VBS and encourage people to sign up. We will do two 1-hour shifts: 5:00pm to 6:00pm and 6:00pm to 7:00pm. We need two people for each shift.

**Sign Up for Volunteer Opportunities at:**

**<https://forms.gle/LPHERcsnXfTirvsf6>**



All are welcome to

# Community



# VBS

**White Oak Park**

**vbspark.org**

**July 29 – August 2**

**9:00am - 12:00pm**

**Free Program with Free Transportation**

**All ages welcome!**

**(under 4 requires a trusted adult)**



# Community



# VBS

## White Oak Park

**July 29 - August 2**

**[vbspark.org](http://vbspark.org)**

**Worship 10:30 am**

**Streaming Online**

**Rev. Jessica McClure Archer**

*Like Us on Facebook!*



[Facebook.com/sampsonsmillspresbyterianchurch](https://www.facebook.com/sampsonsmillspresbyterianchurch)

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR**

**You Tube**  
**CHANNEL**

<https://sampsonsmills.org/youtube>

**Bible Study with Pastor Jessica**  
Wednesday at 11:00 am

The ladies meet for breakfast  
first Monday of each month 9:00 am  
Denny's in North Versailles.

The men meet for breakfast  
first Tuesday of each month at 8:30 am  
Denny's in North Versailles.

The Millers Daughter's Book Club  
third Tuesday 6:30 pm  
(for more details contact Linda  
Lawrence)

**The Food Bank**  
third Friday of every month  
Volunteers and donations always  
welcome.

**Sampson's Mills Presbyterian Church**  
**1665 Lincoln Way**  
**White Oak, Pa 15131**

**Phone: 412-678-5355**

**Email: [office@sampsonsmills.org](mailto:office@sampsonsmills.org)**

**Website: [sampsonsmills.org](http://sampsonsmills.org)**