Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church

1760 Pine Hollow Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
412-331-2863 | https://www.kenmawrchurch.org

November 15, 2026

Declaring God's Grace & Demonstrating God's Love,
as Directed by God's Word

Welcome!

We welcome you to the worship of God at Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church! Erik Raymond wrote and posted an article on The Gospel Coalition a few years ago in which he says, “During a meeting recently with some new folks at our church I was asked why we have church membership.” Erik notes, “The question has become more common as many churches no longer have a formalized membership process.” There are four parts of Erik’s rationale for membership that easily applies to Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church. Here are the four things I strongly believe about BELONGING to the Church: 1) Church membership is biblical. Like the doctrine of the Trinity, which is not specified but everywhere implied in Scripture, membership is biblical. 2) Church membership is historical. It is not a new phenomenon.3) Church membership is practical. Christians are called to live within a community with mutual accountability and love. 4) Church membership is theological. When we first believe we are united to Christ, receiving all the blessings of the new birth. But we also join with other Christians to live in a community of believers. Without church membership we can look like consumers of Christian faith, rather than a family. -Pastor Karl

Please look at the back page forms to sign up for the Advent Dinner and to order poinsettias for Christmas Eve. Thanks.

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Karl McDonald
Commissioned Pastor	Louise Schoppe
Office/Administrative Assistant	Lindsey McCue
Treasurer/Accountant	Nancy Gilkey
Assistant Treasurer	Lori Ryan
Clerk of Session	Diane Kuffner
Elder of the Month	Audra Wilson
Deacons of the Month	Tony Cario/Kathy Strand
Director of Music	Jayne McDonald
Live Stream Tech	Cameron Brown
Nursery	Tammy Bischak
Counters	Barb Cario/Craig Hinden
Van Driver	Val Kamenar
Flower Delivery	Kathy Strand

The Service of Worship

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Preparing for Worship "The Church's One Foundation" (Moss)

Welcome

Call to Worship

Prayer of Adoration

GIVE PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD

*Hymn of Praise #544 "The Church's One Foundation"

*Prayer of Confession

Our Father in heaven, we thank you that you have led us into the light. We thank you for sending the Savior to call us from death to life. We confess that we were dead in sin before we heard his call, but we received his gift of grace. There are old habits that we cannot throw off, old customs that are so much a part of our lives that we are helpless to live the new life that Christ calls us to live. Give us strength, Father, to break the bonds; give us courage to live a new life in you; give us faith to believe that with your help we will be transformed. All this we ask in the name of the Savior who gave us our redemption, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Forgiveness

*Congregational Response

All ye who are of tender heart, forgiving others take your part.
Sing his praises, Alleluia! Ye, who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on him cast your care!
O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him with humbleness!
O praise him, Alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in One,
O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

© 1998 Jonathan Gilley | CCLI #800917, #20719925

Time with the Children

Children PreK–Grade 4 are invited to children's church and will rejoin their families during the last hymn.

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

…Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn of Faith #131 "Surely the Presence"

GOD'S WORD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Scripture Matthew 16:13-20

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 16:19-24

19 The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. 20 All the brothers and sisters here send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. 21 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. 22 If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed! Come, Lord! 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. 24 My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen. (NIV)

Sermon "Why Belonging Is Important"

*The Second Helvetic Confession 5.124-126 (1561)

The Church has always existed and it will always exist. But because God from the beginning would have people to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth, it is altogether necessary that there always should have been, and should be now, and to the end of the world, a Church.

The Church is an assembly of the faithful called or gathered out of the world; a communion of all saints, namely, of those who truly know and rightly worship and serve the true God in Christ the Savior, by the Word and Holy Spirit, and who by faith are partakers of all benefits which are freely offered through Christ.

And since there is always but one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, Jesus the Messiah, and one Shepherd of the whole flock, one Head of this body, and to conclude, one Spirit, one salvation, one faith, one Testament or Covenant, it necessarily follows that there is only one Church.

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*Sending Hymn "We Beseech Thee"

Jesus, with Thy Church abide, be her Savior, Lord, and Guide,
While on earth her faith is tried: We beseech Thee.
All her fettered powers release, bid our strife and envy cease,
Grant the heavenly gift of peace: We beseech Thee.
May she guide the poor and blind,
Seek the lost until she find,
And the broken-hearted bind:
We beseech Thee.

May she one in doctrine be, one in truth and charity,
Winning all to faith in Thee: We beseech Thee.
May her lamp of truth be bright, bid her bear aloft its light
Through the realms of darkest night: We beseech Thee.
May she guide the poor and blind,
Seek the lost until she find,
And the broken-hearted bind:
We beseech Thee.

May her guides Thy people feed, shepherds of the flock indeed,
Ready, where Thou callest to lead: We beseech Thee.
May she holy triumphs win, overthrow the hosts of sin,
Gather all the nations in: We beseech Thee.
May she guide the poor and blind,
Seek the lost until she find,
And the broken-hearted bind:
We beseech Thee…

© 2010 The New Ancients | CCLI# 800917, 20719925

*Benediction

Thank you for worshipping with us.

TODAY AT KMUPC **November 15, 2026**

Worship Services ..... 8:30 and 11:00
Sunday School 9:45
Christmas Program Practice ..... 10:45 – 11:30
Children's Church 11:00
Deacons Meeting 12:00

THIS WEEK AT KMUPC

Monday Finance Team 6:00
Operation Christmas Child Box Packing Party 6:00
Tuesday Coffee & Connections ..... 9:30 – 11:00
Christian Education Team 6:00
Session Meeting 7:00
Wednesday Jackie's Lunch Bunch 12:30
J.A.M. 6:00
Choir Practice 7:00
Thursday Food Pantry ..... 9:00 – 11:00
Staff Meeting 10:00
Next Sunday Worship Services ..... 8:30 and 11:00
Sunday School 9:45
Christmas Program Practice ..... 10:45 – 11:30
Children's Church 11:00
Middle School Youth Night ..... 5:45 – 7:15
High School Youth Night/Bible Study ..... 6:00 – 8:00

The flowers are given in memory of my mother, Victoria Cersosimo, on her birthday, 11/14, from Claudia Tyler.

TODAY'S BENEVOLENCE: Home to Ken Mawr's week-long Music Camp, Camp Lambec is nestled on 92 acres along the beautiful shores of Lake Erie. For 75 years, Camp Lambec has provided a welcoming place for summer camps, retreats, family reunions, and meaningful opportunities for fellowship, faith, and recreation. With beachfront access to Lake Erie and summer programming offered annually from mid-June through early August, Camp Lambec continues to create lasting memories and enrich lives across generations.

Purchased in 1947 by six Presbyteries, Camp Lambec serves a broad region stretching from Pittsburgh to Rochester, Buffalo, and Cleveland. Each July, our own large gathering of Music Campers returns to enjoy a week of music, friendship, and fellowship—a tradition for over 50 years!

Please prayerfully consider supporting this special offering as we invest in Camp Lambec's vision for continued growth, expanded outreach, and a vibrant future of ministry. Your generosity will help ensure that Camp Lambec remains a place where faith is nurtured, relationships are strengthened, and lives are transformed for generations to come.

Please remember with cards and prayers…

AT HOME

Jean Bryan – c/o Sarah Manges, 9742 Valley View Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Lovell Bryant – 108 Homer Circle, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Dorothy Burgunder – 3927 Windgap Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15204
Sandra Camarota – 2314 Forest Grove Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108
Ralph Chasey– Coraopolis Towers, #818, 951 1st Ave, Coraopolis, PA 15108
Larry Dickson – 116 Connie Park Drive, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Pippa Downs – 136 Marie Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Marian Graham – (Jayne's aunt) 17 Penn Avenue, Greenville, PA 16125
Rose Ann Grannis - (Angela Schoppe's mom) 3121 47th Street, New Brighton, PA 15066
Peg Harcha – 189 Williams Street, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Patricia Hildebrand – 2027 McKees Rocks Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Corinne Irwin – 20 Kenridge Drive, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Carol Kaczmarek – 664 Magnus Lane, Coraopolis, PA 15108
Julia Kozeka – 1021 Manitou Circlle, Aiken, SC 29801
Lee Leck – 22 Rossi Dr., McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Evelyn Lieberman – 1306 Brookline Blvd., Apt. 706, Pittsburgh, PA 15226
Alex Lugin – 34 MacArthur Way, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
George McCurdy – (Russ' father) 1820 German Settlement Road, Ridgway, PA 15853
Roberta Meixell – 32 Eichelberger Dr., Coraopolis, PA 15108
Suzanne Murr – 1780 Pine Hollow Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Ken Parme – 31 Hodgson Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15205
Julia Ramsey – 1113 Mohawk Rd., R.D. #2., McDonald, PA 15057-2553
Binker Rauschart – 205 Sarah Street, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Jeff Sammel – 145 Connie Park Drive, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Donna Sheets – 1500 Letort Street, Apt. 910, Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Dave Smith – 1464 Critchfield Drive, Bridgeville PA 15017
Ellen Tresky – 84 Thorncrest Drive, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Dorothy Triscila – 1301 Cambridge Drive, Presto, PA 15142
Carla Winter – c/o Bob and Stacey Viviano 7405 Portpatrick Court, Wake Forest, NC 27587

IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

Betty Borden –1000 Masonic Drive Sewickley, PA 15143
Illa Boggs – Concordia at Kennedy, Rm 243, 30 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Elaine Crist – 500 Providence Point Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Joan Downs – 1201 Cumberland Rd, Rm 223, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
David Gadsby – Province of Wexford, 210 Fowler Road, Room 1030, Warrendale, PA 15086
Janet Gregory – Concordia at Kennedy, Rm 222, 30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Ann Joseck – 2107 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143
Sue Joseck – Concordia at Kennedy, Rm 203, 32 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Loretta Osborne – Concordia at Kennedy, Rm 210, 32 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Peggy Ponte – Caring Heights, Room 201, 234 Coraopolis Rd., Coraopolis, PA 15108
Helen Sharpe – 125 Apple Blossom Way, Rm 251, Moon Twp, PA 15108
Virginia Shaw – Concordia at Kennedy, Rm 301, 32 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Dee Young – Concordia at Kennedy, Rm 110, 30 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136

IN THE MILITARY

LCpl Andrew Gregory – 21 Atlas Court, East Meadow, NY 11554
Sgt. Paul McCurdy - 7436 McAuliffe Loop, Ft. Campbell, KY 42223
Jackson Dorsey - U.S. Coast Guard Academy, 16 Mohegan Ave., Chase Hall, New London, CT 06320

The Christian Education Team invites you to the

ADVENT DINNER

December 6, 2026

5:00 p.m. in Sharpe Hall

Name_____

Number attending the Advent Dinner_____

Please detach and place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office by November 29.

Details: The main dish will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. A Christmas Carol Sing with Readings Led by the Choir and Youth will follow the dinner.

Questions? Call the church office. 412-331-2863

Christmas Eve Poinsettia Order

In Honor or In Memory

$13 each

Orders due to the office by December 6.

Your Name_____

In honor of_____ number of poinsettias_____

_____

In memory of_____ number of poinsettias _____

_____