

CHURCH PROFILE



MCILWAIN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

Introduction

Purpose, Vision, and A Slice of McIlwainian Life

Our Purpose and Vision

For the glory of God alone and by his grace alone, McIlwain Presbyterian Church equips believers to worship God by proclaiming Christ from the Word and in the World.

Through the power of the Gospel, McIlwain Presbyterian Church seeks to be the salt and the light to the East Hill Neighborhood, Pensacola Area, and to the Uttermost Parts of the World.

A Slice of McIlwainian Life

Sunday Schedule: Sunday School Classes for All Ages
Worship Service
LIFE Group Meetings (Bible Studies and Fellowship Time)
Concert of Prayer (last Sunday of each month)

Mid-week Schedule: Fellowship Dinner
Kids' Choir and Catechism Classes
Youth Bible Study
Adult Bible Study
Adult Choir Rehearsal

We have many opportunities throughout the week to gather

For Prayer:

- Ladies Prayer Meeting
- Men's Prayer Breakfast

For Bible Studies:

- Y.A.B.S. - Young Adults Bible Study,
 - Ladies' Bible Studies,
 - Men's Discipleship Class,
- Thursday Morning Bible Study

In the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), McIlwain stands as an historically significant congregation, graced with a long and unique history in the denomination which it helped found in 1973.

In 1902, members of the First Presbyterian Church in Pensacola, Florida, as a need to establish a Sunday School mission in the growing East Hill Community, one of the city's first suburban areas. Eventually, the growing ministry moved to a location on 13th Avenue and East Blount Street, erecting a unique-styled meeting house in 1907, and in 1911, the Florida Presbytery commissioned a new church: Knox Presbyterian Church, named in honor of Scotland's John Knox, founder of Presbyterianism in the 1550s. There were fifty-nine members.

In mid-1917, Rev. William McIlwain began his time as pastor, serving until 1923. He was widely admired among his congregation and in the city. Under Rev. McIlwain's leadership, the church began construction of a new sanctuary. Pastor McIlwain's wife, Harriet Saunders McIlwain, donated a significant portion of the construction cost. In honor of Rev. and Mrs. McIlwain's ministry, the members chose to rename the church McIlwain Memorial Presbyterian Church in 1925, when the new sanctuary was opened.

Rev. Claude G. Partridge served as McIlwain's Senior Pastor from 1933 to 1949 (the second-longest in our history). He placed the brass plate on the speaker side of the pulpit that reads, "Sir, we would see Jesus." God has blessed McIlwain in that every pastor has made that his priority and has indeed

shown Jesus to their respective flocks.

The 1950s began the "Don" Era at McIlwain: Don Graham (1950 - 1961, 1981 - 1986), Don Patterson (1962 - 1969), and Don Dunkerley (1971 - 1980). Two well known ministries began under Rev. Don Graham that would have a profound impact on modern Presbyterian history, not just in America but around the world: the Youth Crusade and the Pensacola Theological Institute (PTI). With a long run from 1957 to 2001, PTI became known for being a bulwark of conservative theological and strong biblical teaching. It served as a home-base of sorts for conservative, Bible-believing Christians of the Presbyterian Church United States (PCUS) and was a locale where many leaders met to lay the groundwork for a new denomination: the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

By God's providence, faithful pastors have overseen major improvements and changes to McIlwain's campus facilities and the growth of new ministries. In 2002, we called our most recent pastor, Rev. Rob Looper. As our longest serving pastor (nearly twenty years), Rev. Looper was a strong proponent of biblical preaching, faithful discipleship, and robust apologetic engagement with the culture. Under his leadership, we saw a return of PTI.

Though small by some standards, God has given McIlwain Presbyterian Church a ministry that has led many, both on and far beyond the quiet East Hill corner of East Blount Street and North 12th Avenue, indeed, to see Jesus. May God continue to bless its work! Soli Deo Gloria!

History
"Sir, we would see Jesus."

What Kind of Church Are We?

On Beliefs, Community, and Faith

Biblical

Although we live in an age of unprecedented technological, social, and political change, we believe the one thing in this world that is unchangeable is the Word of God. The Bible is “breathed out by God” (2 Timothy 3:16) and, therefore, without error, and is our only guide for faith and practice. It is God’s voice of authority and encouragement and our source of mission and vision. We preach from it, learn from it, and are held accountable to it in our faith. We define who we are and design what we do based on what we believe the Bible teaches.

Presbyterian

We believe the Bible teaches that Christ’s church is to be humbly shepherded and overseen by elders. The apostle Paul appointed elders in each church he planted (Acts 14:23), setting the biblical pattern for the Church in every era. We believe that God calls elders to the work of shepherding and oversight (Acts 20:28), equipping them to shepherd through careful instruction in Scripture, encouragement in sound doctrine, and the disciplines of godly living. It is through the elders’ faithful oversight that we believe God nurtures and leads His Church into mature worship, selfless work, and effective witness that the Lord Jesus is alive and working in the world.

Gospel-Driven

The Gospel is the engine that powers all McIlwain seeks to do. Since the Gospel is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1:16), and, as Paul says, the matter of first importance (1 Corinthians 15:3), our goal is to always direct our hearts back to the hope and assurance of God’s mercy in Jesus Christ. Keeping the Gospel as the driver of all we do reminds us that, though we are all individually great sinners, Christ is for each one of us a great Savior. When this kind of conviction drives our ministry and empowers our actions, we are truly learning what it means to both rest and work by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Community

By his power in the Gospel of Christ God has made McIlwain a community of faith and fellowship, committed to loving and supporting one another as a family of believers. But God has also planted us in the thriving and diverse Pensacola community of East Hill, and our desire is to serve and bless our neighbors as God enables. We want to know our neighbors, love our neighbors, and minister God’s grace to our neighbors — all by being good neighbors and demonstrating what true community looks like.

Reformed

We believe in the Biblical and theological truths that were rediscovered during the 16th and 17th century movement known as the Reformation. During the Reformation, bold and passionate men such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Martin Bucer, looked both at their Bibles and at the Roman Catholic Church — and saw great inconsistencies and even abuses. They and others like them proposed that the Church needed to be reformed to a more biblical way of ministry. Rome resisted reformation even to the point of arrests and executions in some cases — but God blessed the rediscovery of the doctrines of grace that had been covered over by the teaching of mere men.

The Reformation saw the birth of what would become the Lutheran Church, the Dutch Reformed Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church, and even the Church of England. At McIlwain we embrace the five main points that powerfully motivated the Reformation and simply summarize the clear teaching of the Word of God with regard to the foundations of the Christian faith:

Sola Scriptura - Scripture alone! Sola Gratia - Grace alone! Sola Fide - Faith alone!
Sola Christus - Christ alone! Soli Deo Gloria - Glory to God alone!

Praying

John Calvin said that prayer is “the chief exercise of faith”. Nothing shows the reality of our faith than the practice of listening to and talking with God in prayer. Prayer was a priority in Jesus’ life and in the life of the early church. More than anything else, we believe that prayer is not how we change God’s mind to do what we ask, but rather how God changes us so that we learn to want what God wants - and then to ask accordingly for his glory! We take seriously the privilege of responding to God’s call to seek him in prayer, bringing to him our needs, requests, and praise not because he needs reminding but because he is the only one who can do what we ask. We have an active ePrayer chain, weekly Men’s and Women’s Prayer groups, and make prayer a foundational part of our LIFE Groups and our corporate worship.

Outreaching

God has called believers to be in the world but not of the world (John 17:14, 15; 1 Corinthians 5:9), engaging individuals, and influencing institutions with the truth of the Gospel and the claims of Christ. We are not to hide ourselves from the world but demonstrate to the world the truth of who he is by the fruit of good works (Matthew 5:15, 16). Jesus said that we are to be “the salt of the world”, which means we must have a preserving and flavoring influence in the culture (Matthew 5:13). Believers should therefore, be engaged in every area of life - common and skilled labor, academics, economics, politics, the arts and entertainment, doing everything they do with excellence and as unto the Lord (Ecclesiastes 9:10; 1 Corinthians 10:31).

Demographics & Financials

A Numerical Picture of McIlwain

Average Worship Attendance	145
Communing Members	186
Regular Attenders	46
Kids (ages 0 - 12)	32
Youth (ages 13 - 18)	19
Young Adults (ages 19 - 39)	44
Middle Adults (ages 40 - 59)	23
Older Adults (ages 60 - 79)	85
Well-Seasoned Adults (age 80+)	29

Financials

McIlwain owns all of the buildings on our campus and has been debt-free for over a decade. We consistently stay within the operating budget and give a generous portion to world missions through Faith Promise giving.

The Beach

God has blessed the Gulf Coast with some of the most beautiful white-sand beaches He ever created, especially Pensacola Beach. There are areas available for families to gather and long stretches when one just needs some solitude. Historic Ft. Pickens is located at the far west end of the island and offers tours of the fort, battlegrounds, a fishing pier and a GREAT location to watch our world-famous Blue Angels fly!

Navy Base

Pensacola NAS is called the "Cradle of Naval Aviation" because all Navy, Marine, and Coastguard pilots start their flight training here in Pensacola. The area is well-known for our rich military history and presence as many pilots find their way back to Pensacola to retire. Other attractions found there include the Pensacola Lighthouse, the Naval Aviation Museum, Ft. Barrancas, and Barrancas Cemetery.

Downtown

Pensacola has the distinction of being America's first settlement. Downtown Pensacola offers many historical sites and museums as well as great food and entertainment. We have our own minor league baseball team, the Blue Wahoos. Palafox Street boasts many restaurants and small shops, and the area has won awards for having one of America's "Most Walkable" downtowns. At the end of Palafox, where it meets the water, is the Port of Pensacola, which has hosted many a historical ship and freighter and even a few aircraft carriers.

Education Opportunities

Pensacola has the distinction of having two colleges and a university: Pensacola Christian College, Pensacola State College, and the University of West Florida. Parents have numerous choices for both private Christian and public education throughout the city and surrounding areas. Pensacola also has a very vibrant home school community.

Pensacola
Beach, Navy Base, Downtown, and Education



MCILWAIN

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Proclaiming Christ: from the Word and in the World

1220 East Blount Street

www.mcilwain.org

Pensacola, Florida 32503

info@mcilwainchurch.org

(850) 438-5449