

# CHURCH PROFILE



MCILWAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA





# 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.



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!

Reformed

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.

Praying

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).

Outreaching

# 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**

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