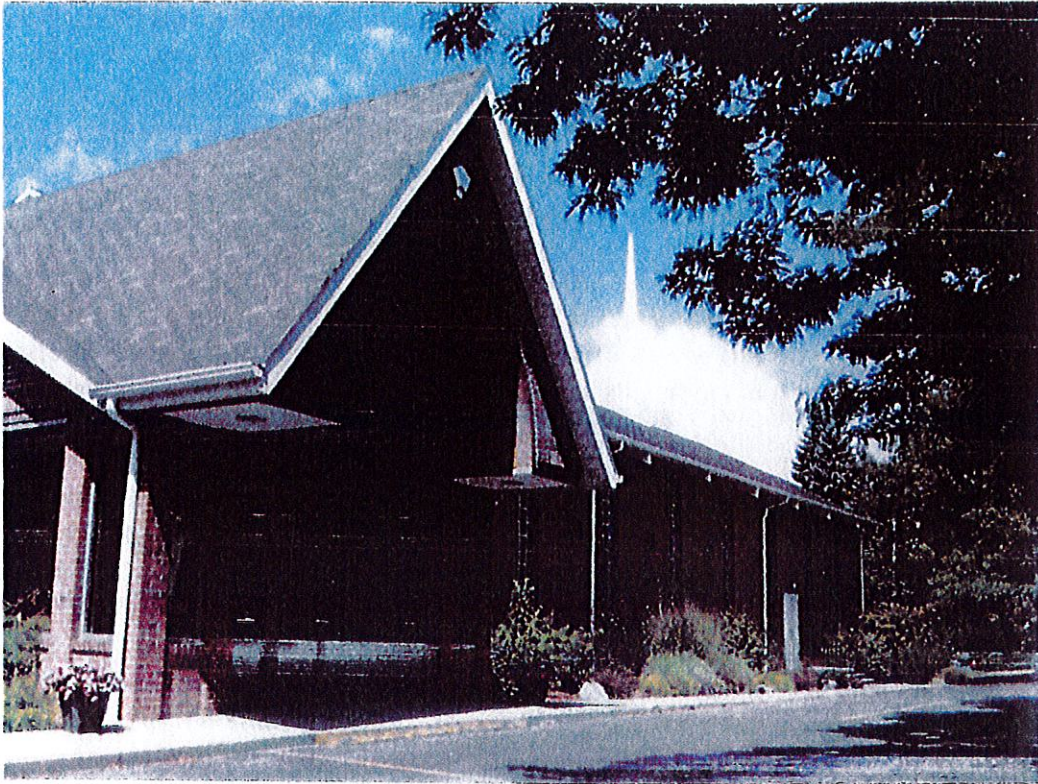


Johnstown Alliance Church



Grace *Growth* *Going*

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We are located in Cambria County in the Laurel Mountains of Pennsylvania, approximately 70 miles east of Pittsburgh. The population in 2018 was 19,467. Johnstown is rich in cultural heritage. It was a booming steel town in the 1800s and had an influx of immigrants during the Industrial Revolution. The people of Johnstown have survived three major floods, the first, in 1889, being noted as the worst natural disaster of the 19th century. Johnstown is the home of the world's steepest vehicular inclined plane. Much has been accomplished to attract tourism in recent years. Hiking and bicycling trails, arts and music festivals, water adventures on our rivers such as tubing, kayaking, and white-water rafting, are just some of the outdoor activities to be enjoyed.

The work of the Christian & Missionary Alliance in Johnstown began as early as 1904. Various meetings were held in the Prospect, Woodvale, and Moxham neighborhoods. In September of 1909, Rev. W.I. McGarvey conducted a tent campaign which resulted in the establishment of the church.

The congregation worshiped in a rented building in Moxham, then seven years later in 1915, a building was erected on Wood Street, in the Hornerstown section of Johnstown. That building was updated and expanded in 1954.

A final move brought us to our present location in Richland, a suburb of Johnstown, in 1969. This came from a vision of our pastor at that time, Walter Maurer, who believed that the corner of Belmont and Arbutus Avenues would be an ideal location for a church. An old barn stood on that 2-acre tract of land and was then replaced by the Johnstown Alliance Church. Many of our congregation volunteered their skills and time laboring to work on the church.

In 1994 we were privileged to celebrate our 85th anniversary, recognizing God's goodness and blessings! Then in 2009 we celebrated our 100th anniversary! Both were very blessed and eventful weekends.

We have a beautiful parsonage with a fenced-in backyard located just down the road from the church. It is in the Richland Township School District. The University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) and Penn Highlands Community College are less than 4 miles away. The church also owns a smaller home next door to the church building that we have been renting since 1979. Our property/facilities are in excellent condition and easily visible and accessible. We have a large, newly paved parking lot and our sanctuary has a seating capacity of 250.

We are known as a friendly and welcoming congregation. We use our gift of encouragement, we offer community-based activities to reach our neighbors, we are firm believers in the power of prayer, and we have a biblically-based doctrine.

We are thankful for the visitors who attend fun events and activities, though we realize they do not know much about what we believe. We seek to find ways to remedy that.

Though there are 25-30 different churches, representing 12 denominations within a 5-mile radius of our church; according to recent statistics 85% of the people in the Greater Johnstown area are unchurched. Johnstown is a financially-distressed area, but we have many places where we could reach people; namely colleges, public schools, low-income housing communities, nursing care facilities, hospitals, and local neighborhood.

We have a vision to grow a larger congregation with mixed age groups, to remain biblically-centered, to continue to be a praying church, and to expand our footprint in the community.

Our facilities are adequate for present ministries; however, we need upgrades for the physically-handicapped.

Our mission and purpose at JAC is two-fold: to love God passionately and to live a Christ-like life.

Our theme is: **GRACE**, which includes salvation, forgiveness, and healing

GROWTH, the truth of Scripture and discipleship

GOING, using our gifts and talents to fulfill the Great Commission

During our 126 years of ministry, we have been privileged to send 25 individuals and families into the ministry, both overseas and here on American soil. They have been/are serving the Lord in missionary work, pastoral work, or evangelism ministries. God has blessed us!

Our current ministries include Sunday School, Morning Worship Service, Life Group, Weekly Prayer Meeting, Alliance Women, and Blanket the City (a needlecraft gifting ministry).

In 2019 our total membership was 23; adherents were 18. On average, our Morning Worship attendance was 31 and Sunday School attendance was 13.

Our worship style is a mix of familiar hymns and contemporary choruses. We have a casual atmosphere and are sermon-centered.

Our giving to the Lord's ministry in 2019 was as follows:

General Fund	\$84,575.00
Building Fund	\$ 400.00
Missions	<u>\$12,876.00</u>
	\$97,851.00

We praise God for the consistency of our congregation as we have been able to increase our tithes and offerings over the last 4 years. God is faithful! It has not been since 2013 that an appeal had to be presented to the congregation due to the General Fund's expenses exceeding our income.

In 2019, we have enjoyed planning the following outreach ministries:

- Donated Gift Bags to First Responders
- Monetary gifting towards student lunch accounts at Richland High School
- Donated stuffed animals to First Responders to give to children in emergency situations
- Monetary donation to Richland Fire Department
- Held a free Community Yard Sale
- Provided classroom supplies to Windber Elementary School
- Held a "Parents' Night Out" on Valentine's Day
- Music and Visitation at Harmony House & Windber Woods (local nursing facilities)
- Monetary gifts to Alliance International Workers, the Harrison Family
- Movie Night with students from University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ)
- Easter Program "Walk With Jesus"

- Red Blessing Box
- Multiple Community Movie Nights
- Community Day
- Church Picnic
- Missions Conference with Steve Volstad
- Distributed Halloween Treat Bags & Gospel Tracts
- Thanksgiving Dinner with UPJ students
- Advent Food Drive for St. Vincent DePaul
- Donated blankets, hats, scarves and mittens to the Salvation Army

We are looking for a pastor to help us reach out to our community, which is our local mission field. Although few in number, we desire to use our gifts as the Lord directs. Our strengths are belief in prayer, the truth in Scripture, and the gift of encouragement.

Over the past 5-10 years, the leadership has realized that in order to preserve the church and its continuing ministries, we have had to step up to take responsibility for our church. We have done that, with God's strength and enabling, and continue to do so.

We are currently without a pastor (since January 2020) and have no additional staff (other than the Elders and the Board of Ministries), though we do have pulpit supply from a local pastor at this time.

When asked by the Western Pa. District what we believe to be important to us in a pastor, we agreed on 4 qualities/talents:

- (1) A director for evangelistic outreach
- (2) A mentor and recruit for lay leaders (one-on-one discipleship and facilitating committees and boards)
- (3) A communicator of the Word of God for Inspiration, Instruction, Exhortation, and Correctness
- (4) A pastor who would perform visitation, baptisms, weddings and funerals, and participate in community and national events

Most importantly, we would desire for our pastor to commit to spending much of his work week in prayer.

A leader who is empathetic, open-minded, energetic, and practical would be a blessing!