

McAllister Messenger

April 26, 2020

Taking It For Granted

One positive effect of the coronavirus crisis is that it has made us aware of things we might have been taking for granted. The ability to gather for worship. A night out at a restaurant. A quick trip to the store. Being able to visit with family and friends. Toilet paper.

During this Easter season, are we taking something else for granted? Are we failing to notice and give thanks for the new life that God is bringing forth all around us? It's all too easy to do. The crispness of a spring morning. The blossoms on the trees. The flowers emerging from their winter resting places. In the natural world, new life is literally all around us, and we might miss it if we are too focused on the difficult news that we see every day.

It is not just in nature that we see new life. In the ability of technology that allows us to worship together despite social distancing. In the call from a friend just to say hello and check in. In the surprise gift of some flowers left on the front porch. In many ways, God is working through the generosity and the faith of God's people to speak a word of new life into this weary world.

Let us not take all these things for granted, lest we miss them and forget to give thanks.

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church
900 North Alleghany Avenue
Covington, VA 24426

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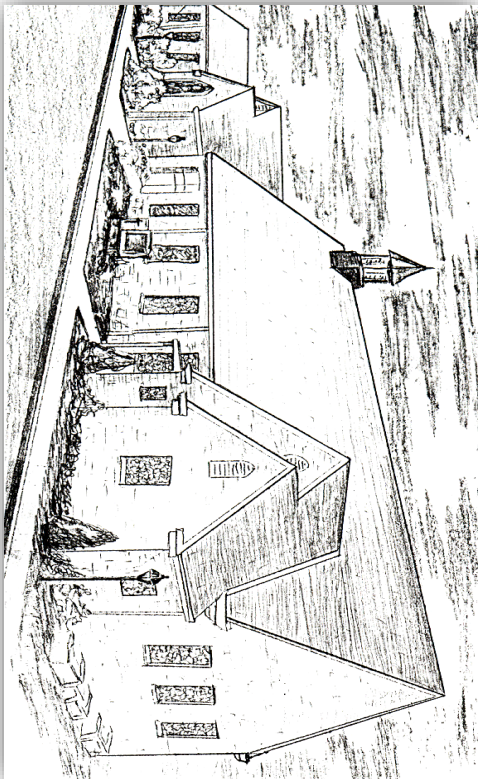
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After Easter – What’s Normal Now?

What now? Lent was interrupted by a pandemic. You’ve improvised Holy Week and Easter. Under ordinary circumstances we’d be coasting this first week after Easter and preparing to settle into the brief period of normal between Easter and Memorial Day/the beginning of summer.

Currently, however, “normalcy” is a matter of debate. When, where, and how will life get back to normal? When will restrictions be lifted? When will it be safe? Will we throw caution to the wind? Are we overreacting? Or have we not yet reacted enough? How many other questions like these need to be answered so that we can get back to pre-Covid conditions?

For me personally, the Covid-19 pandemic has been Ash Wednesday on steroids. Did we need a reminder of our mortality? Our limits? Or just how fragile our illusion of control and living the good life is? A new coronavirus has served us well as a reminder of our limits.

And the cross? The truth is that Normalcy put Jesus there. Presbyterians understand that “normal” is utterly and thoroughly sinful and self-serving. On opposite sides of my living room I have two pieces of art – one depicts Dives and Lazarus, the rich man looking down upon the poor one whose wounds are licked by a dog. The other is a portrait of Jesus carrying the cross. Both are by the same Japanese artist, Sadeo Watanabe. In my spiritual living room the two pieces are connected. One makes the other necessary.

I hope ordinary life resumes soon – for everyone’s sake. But I hope our new nor-

mal is better than what we’ve experienced before. I hope we don’t forget the inequalities that Covid-19 has exposed. Within the bounds of our own presbytery, the so called “digital divide” has become transparent. The resources of the internet are not equally accessible, no more equal than access to health care, educational resources, and economic opportunity. When resources are limited and when we are afraid, we use whatever advantages we possess to make sure we are safe and secure, even if that means squeezing out somebody else.

I hope we as Easter people live into a better, more righteous future, a more just future. If Jesus died for all, if Jesus was raised in power for all, if Jesus prays for us all and sits at the right hand of God for us all – then all lives matter to God and all lives matter to the church, not just lives already in the church, or the lives that resemble most closely our own.

Let’s not waste a crisis, the teachable moment offered by Covid-19. The church’s pre-Covid-19 normal was dying. From a kingdom-of-God point of view, we had become abnormally inward looking. We’ve been looking to reach people outside the church, not for their sake, but for our own, to enrich us, to turn back time and permit us a revival of the way we used to be. A post-Covid world is going to be different, I hope. And that means the church will have an opportunity to be different. As good as it will be when we can be together again, let’s be sure to look around the sanctuary to notice who is not there, and figure out how to reach them where they live, to bring God to bear on their needs, hopes, desires and dreams. The good life is ahead of us, not behind. So says the Empty Tomb. So says the Risen Lord.

from *Peaks Postings*—April 14, 2020



Musical Minute:

I hope that many of you have been able to tune in to McAllister’s live Facebook stream over the last six Sundays. Reverend Jim is giving it his all with meaningful sermons that address both the church season and the current unusual circumstances in our country. His optimism and certainty in God’s love for each of us is faith bolstering and comforting. Kathryn Crutchfield is making sure that you receive a beautiful musical offering each Sunday from one of our talented singers. For the first time in my life, I am playing to an empty and almost silent sanctuary each Sunday. Odd times, indeed.

Tarie Warlitzer will be soloing this Sunday, April 26. We texted a few days ago about what she might sing and decided we’d both sleep on it. Amazingly, by the following day when we again texted one another, we both suggested, “This Is My Father’s World.” It’s perfect for Eastertide, perfect for this fresh spring season, and a perfect hymn of assurance during this period of uncertainty. If you have a hymnal at home, take a minute to reflect on the words of this beloved hymn. Many of you, I’m certain, know most of the words by heart. If you are able, step out on your front porch or take a walk in your yard. If you are unable to be outside, try to get a glimpse of this glorious spring from a nearby window and take comfort in the constancy of the changing seasons. We are blessed to live in the beauty of the Alleghany Highlands. The redbud was exquisite this year, the dogwood is now in full bloom, and the goldfinches, dressed in their brilliantly-colored spring finery, turn every tree in which they land into a lemon tree! While you admire God’s handiwork, remember: “This is my Father’s world: He shines in all that’s fair; In the rustling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.”

I miss all of you. I look forward to the time when we can all be together again. The newly restored Great division is back in the organ. It sounds magnificent!

Beth

Graduate Information Needed

Our graduates from high school and college will be honored on a Sunday after regular services resume.

If you are graduating or know someone who is, please contact the church office so we can get their information.



Scholarship Applications

Applications for the Scott Scholarship are now available. Anyone who is a member of McAllister Church and will attend college in the fall of 2019 is eligible to apply. Contact the church office to have an application mailed to you. The deadline to submit applications is May 29, 2020.



April Birthdays

26th Amy Ray
 27th Betsy Caul
 Steve Craft
 Heather Rowan Riley
 29th Patrick Scruggs
 30th Ronnie Poague

April Anniversaries

30th Evelyn & Joe Amos

May Birthdays

3rd Shelly Curtis
 Zak Nida
 Carter Hudson
 5th Erik Young
 David Sponaugle
 6th Angie Poague
 8th Jeri O'Rourke
 9th Doris Mottern
 11th Gina Tingler
 13th Carole Lemon
 14th Jerry Whitehead
 Darlene Thompson
 Eric Webb
 15th Van Walker
 Rachel Reysn
 16th James Bush, Sr.
 Maggie Webb
 17th Butch Curtin
 Lee Fadley
 19th Amelia Nicely
 21st Shirley Ferris
 22nd Jenni Hinton
 23rd Brenda Walker
 24th Dwain Tyree
 Gary Walker
 25th Jacob Downer
 Tyler Bartley
 26th Ruth Caul
 Carl Irvine
 Bunny King
 28th Gus Hayslett
 Jenny Crawford

May Anniversaries

6th Steven & Donna Craft
 11th Butch & Norma Curtin
 22nd Amanda & Eric Webb
 30th Cody & Katie Nida

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Burdette Rupert, Sr.

Bobby and Anita Rice
 Travis, Jeri, Larry & Josephine O'Rourke
 Lee Ann Poague
 Butch and Norma Curtin
 Jerry and Darlene Taylor
 Norma Lemon and family
 Larry and Gail Washburn
 Gene and Gail Wood
 Carol and Jim Hallet
 Jim Corson
 Frank and Susan Sponaugle
 Kathleen Loan
 Buddy and Margie Young
 Richard and Priscilla Downer
 Joe and Pat Martin

In memory of Trucky Lemon

Buddy and Margie Young

In memory of Doris Jamison

Buddy and Margie Young

In memory of Lillian Wood

Lee Ann Poague
 Kathleen Loan
 Buddy and Margie Young

In memory of Libby Riley

Buddy and Margie Young

In memory of Betty Jean Toombs

Howard and Pam Poague
 Gene and Gail Wood
 Jerry and Darlene Taylor
 Butch and Norma Curtin
 Jackson River Credit Union
 Jeannie Eckhardt
 Sharon Gay Jones
 Lee Ann Poague
 Buddy and Margie Young
 Teri Warlitner Blackledge
 Richard and Priscilla Downer
 Joe and Pat Martin
 Circle #2
 Jim and Cindy McNicol
 Joe and Dot Wimer
 Marshall and Donna Fox

In memory of Wynona Crush

Buddy and Margie Young

In Honor of Beth Leitch Dreszer

Buddy and Margie Young

Dust If You Must

Inspirational Poem about the important things of life

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
 To paint a picture, or write a letter,
 Bake a cake, or plant a seed;
 Ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
 With rivers to swim, and mountains to climb;
 Music to hear, and books to read;
 Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there
 With the sun in your eyes,
 and the wind in your hair;
 A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
 This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,
 Old age will come and it's not kind.
 And when you go (and go you must)
 You, yourself, will make more dust.

By Rose Milligan

Lectionary for April 26 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36—41
 Psalms 116:1—14, 12—19
 1 Peter 1:17—23
 Luke 24:13—35

Lectionary for May 3 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42—47
 Psalm 23
 1 Peter 2:19—25
 John 10:1—10

Notes from Pastor Jim

1. It has been great seeing so many people tune in for our Facebook live broadcasts. For Easter Worship, we had up to 60 devices tuned in at one time, which translates to more than 60 total people (we can't know how many of those were couples or families). We will continue to do Facebook live Sunday school and worship on Sunday mornings (9:45 and 11:00), and the Bible study summary on Wednesday at 6:00 – as long as these social distancing requirements remain in place. Of course, we all look forward to the time we can be gathered together in-person again.
2. Because of social distancing requirements, I cannot make pastoral visits as I normally would. If you would like to have pastoral counseling or just talk and catch up, please feel free to reach me by phone (434-738-8841).
3. I would like to give a personal word of praise to the men who volunteer at the Food Pantry. They have put on face masks and come out during this time of social distancing to keep the food bank up and running. Thank you to everyone who supports this important ministry.
4. Thank you's also go out to others who have helped us stay connected during this time – for those who have been making phone calls to members, to those who have helped fold and mail our biweekly newsletter, and to all those who have done the little things to help us still be the church during this time we can't gather as the church. Thank you for stepping up!

Send Newsletter Information or Sign Up for Email

During this time of social distancing, we are increasing the frequency of our newsletter from once every two months to twice a month. We are also sending the newsletter by email to those who request it. Please email the church office at mcmpres@intelos.net if you would like to be put on our email list.

Please submit newsletter information and prayer request by email, post mail, or by phone. We would love to hear from you and share you joys, laughs, and concerns.

(Deadline for next newsletter is Monday ~ May 4 @ 4 PM.)

The Church Office is open, but we encourage people to refrain from stopping by if a phone call or email will suffice. The office contact information is located on the back page. Also, please mail donations to the church address or donate online.

Healing, Safety, Deliverance, Peace and a Cure.

Members & family	Carl & Jean Irvine Pam Key Bobby & Debi Leitch George Leitch Martha Wilhelm Buddy & Margie Young	Roger Akers Linda Bogar Judy Jones Frankie Marshall Doris Mottern Buzzy Riley Marcy Thompson Terrie Vass Eddie Williams	Anita Boone Tonya Jones Sonya Milton B. R. Rupert Sandra Sayre Shirley Varner Kathy Sparks Lennox Webb Joe Wimer	Elwood Cadd Doris Miller Dr. Matthew Menefee Howard Poague Teresa Powell Bobby Rice Kathy Sparks Angie Sponaugle Kellan Sponaugle
	<i>Students</i> <i>Teachers</i> <i>Essential Workers</i>			
Friends	Tracey Crawford Roger Evans Kristen Helvey Gordon Hosey Meg Jackson Lynn Jeffries Pat Loving Charlotte Martin Mary Kern Morgan Joyce Kern Myers Guy Richards	Wayne Angell Ryland Brisendine Sara Campbell Pearl Conner Richard Crowder William Hill Jim Howard Pat Loving Berkley Persinger Edith Jerman Pettit	Debbie Amos Gloria Dressler Tom Greenwood Janet Hubble Jenny Lofton Scott Martin Nick Nickell Ellen Pearman Linda Ratliff Jean Shinault	Charlotte Dillion Evan Groves Clarice Halsey Mike Howell Kenny Lane John May Lonnie McKinney Patty Nicely Jess Rago David Rothwell Dee Dee Simpson
Deaths	Charles "Pee Wee" Collins Violet Cronin Hollis Dressler John Franklin Tingler	Tammy Persinger Glover Libby McDaniel Sheila Murphey Alice Biggs Myers Rebecca Paitsel	Jimmy Dilley C.J. Entsminger Earl Fuller Burdette Rupert, Sr. Betty Jean Toombs	Jim Cronk Walter "Red" Reynolds, Jr. Guy Sites, Sr. John Rawlin Smith
Continuing Prayer	Tillie Agnor Doc Altizer Bob Andrews Jan Taylor Armentrout Grayson Asboth Sherry Ayers Erskine Back Miki Ballengee Bob & Leta Bartley Steve Bennett Becky Bowers Jean Broughman Doris Burley Emily Byer Lee Cabaniss Elwood Cadd Jean & Harry Casey Betsy Caul Junior Clark Minnie Clark Sandra Clemmons Kenzie Cline Ricky Cooke	Harold Craft Steven Craft Calvin Crawford James Crawford Joey Crowder Bob Crush Phyllis Deacon Imogine Deeds Randell Dilley Joy Dodson Corky Downer Leslie Downer Irene Drumheller Bobby Eggleston Kaylee Elmore Joyce Emerson Lee & Lelia Fadley Jim & Barbara Flint Helen Deisher-Fox Ike Fox Marshall & Donna Fox Bo Fridley Courtney Fridley	Betty Gibson Eddie Gibson Robert & Gail Gibson Jonathan Gillette Don Hampton Jennifer Hannah Richard & Cora Hastings Danny & Rhoda Hill Joshua Hoel James Hoover Neil Horn Becky Hunter Charlie Jeffries Wendell & Judy Jones Butch Kemper Susan Kennedy Susan Lindstrom Bonnie Lockhart Connie Lowman David & Phyllis Lynn Bob/Winnie McAllister Doris Ann Miller Pearl Miller Katie Moody	Travis O'Rourke Bonnie Patterson Denise Pillow Billy Powell Betty Ray Frank & April Reynolds Jim Reynolds Ray/Cathy Riddleberger Shelby Rock Joe Smith Pat Smith Tommy Smith Monzell Sovereign Frank/Susan Sponaugle Gary Stone Bill Thompson Ethan Thompson Adena Tingler Carolyn Tolley Darrell & Donna Tucker Pete Turner Buddy Vass Kimberly Wade
<p><u>BRIAN CENTER</u>—Bill Lockhart, Ruby Stull</p> <p><u>VIRGINIA VETERANS CARE CENTER</u>—Charles P. Hall, Roy Reynolds</p> <p><u>SCOTT HILL</u>—Norma Leech, Sara Mays, Mary Whitehead</p> <p><u>SHUT-IN</u>—Joyce Bartley, Edna Buffaloe, Hallie Dressler, Shirley Ferris, Etha Hayslett, Jean & Carl Irvine, Sadie Landis, Louise Whitehead, Eddie Williams</p>			<p><u>MILITARY</u> Kristen Bennett, Richard Bray, Kristopher Hoffman Ryan Pritts, Chris Whitehead,</p> <p><u>MISSIONARIES</u> Tom & Judy Harvey</p>	