

McAllister Messenger

Happy Mother's Day

May 10, 2020

The Freedom of "I Don't Know"

It's a question that is likely on all of our minds as we continue to make our way through this coronavirus crisis, and it's a question that doesn't have any quick or easy answers. And that question is this: Why would God allow such a pandemic to occur?

We know that God is sovereign. We know that nothing happens outside of his control. We know that God could choose to eliminate this coronavirus with a snap of his metaphorical fingers. We also know that God loves us, that we are children of God, and that God wants good things for his children.

So how do we square these three things: God's sovereignty, God's love, and the reality of this virus outbreak? As we see the news reports of the cases and the deaths continuing to rise, and as our leaders struggle to balance health and economic concerns, it is perhaps the question that dominates our struggle as Christians to understand the situation.

The best answer we might have right now is a simple, "I don't know." It's the most honest answer, and also the most faithful. Saying "I don't know" can actually be freeing for us. It allows us feel the comfort of God's presence and to see the ways he is working in a world that is so troubled. It allows us to know that the Lord is walking with us by our side as we walk through this valley.

In short, we don't know all the reasons this is happening, but we do know that God is with us through it all. May we give thanks and be comforted by this truth.

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church
900 North Alleghany Avenue
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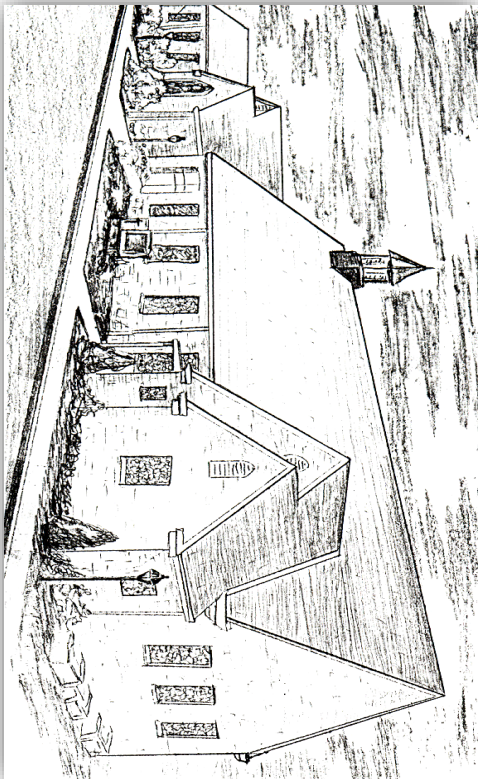
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A Mother's Prayer

"Precious Heavenly Father,

Give me patience when little hands
tug at me with their many demands.

Give me gentle hugging arms
to help protect them from rebellions harm.

Give me wisdom from above
to teach these little ones of Your love.

Give me strength, Your love not to spare
that they may obey and live under Your care.

Give me a spirit . . . quiet and meek
let my words show kindness as I speak.

Give me the ability to teach from the heart
to help my children learn Your Word from the start.

Give me the words You'd have me say
to teach my children how to pray.

Give me time, special moments to share
that they may know, "Mommy really does care."

Give me hands that work willingly
a steadfast example that I may be.

Give me courage to stand in Your might
to teach my little ones to always do right.

Give me boldness to do all these and more
that I may not be ashamed when I stand at Your door.

Thank You Father,

In Jesus Name I pray,
Amen."



May Birthdays

11th	Gina Tingler
13th	Carole Lemon
14th	Jerry Whitehead Darlene Thompson Eric Webb
15th	Van Walker Rachel Reynolds
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

11th	Butch & Norma Curtin
22nd	Amanda & Eric Webb
30th	Cody & Katie Nida



Musical Minute:

After hearing Pastor Jim's rendition of "Rise and Shine and Give God the Glory" during the Children's Sermon last Sunday, brother Nick and I did some reminiscing following the service about our days spent at Camp Fincastle back in the 1970s. What indelible memories—new friends, arts and crafts, bible devotions in beautiful natural surroundings, camper's stew cooked over an open fire, swimming, canoeing, amazing breakfasts (cheese grits!), hayrides, tick checks at the end of each day, sleeping bags damp from dew in the mornings, and singing, singing, singing. It's extraordinary how one song can bring back so many recollections, sensations and smells. I think my favorite verse is the one about the ark:

*So Noah, he built him, he built him an arky, arky.
Noah, he built him, he built him and arky, arky.
Built it out of (CLAP) hickory barky, barky,
Children of the Lord!*

And we can't forget the next verse about the animals embarking by "twosies—Elephants and kangaroosies, roosies!" (As you may have guessed, this song has been running through my head all week! Thanks, Pastor Jim!))

Music has this extraordinary power to transport us to a unique place and time. How many priceless images go through your head when you sing your favorite carol on Christmas Eve? When you hear or sing "The Palms" every year what faces appear in your mind's eye? Your parents, your young children, your younger self?

One of the oddest things about our current situation is being in the quiet sanctuary on Sunday mornings. It's peaceful, of course, but unusual. I look forward to the day when we can once again gather as a church family and raise our voices in song, creating some new musical memories. Until then, take good care. See you soon.

Beth

Organ Restoration Update:

Restoration of our Holtkamp pipe organ continues and completion of phase two is expected by the end of May at the latest. We topped the \$70,000 mark in our fundraising efforts just this week and are making strides toward our goal of \$87,000. During this unprecedented time of Covid-19, it seems there is need all around us. However, if you are able and haven't yet done so, please consider making a gift to the Organ Restoration Fund. No gift is too small and in the end it will be \$5 or \$10 dollars that puts us over the top. Thank you for your generosity and consideration.

LECTIONARY

May 10
5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 7: 55—60

Psalms 31: 1—5, 15—16

1 Peter 2: 2—10

John 14: 1—14

May 17
6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17: 22—31

Psalms 66 ; 8—20

1 Peter 3: 13—22

John 14:15—21

Ascension of
the Lord

May 21

Acts 1: 1—11;

Psalms 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1: 15—23

Luke 24: 44—53

Comforting Quotes for Times of Trouble

“There is nothing we can do to keep ourselves immune to trials, and we cannot eradicate painful feelings in our lives. But even the most difficult seasons are not absent of God's love. And this love changes us. This is what I want to tell you: on the far side of pain we don't prefer, we find transformation we wouldn't trade.”

— Nicole Zasowski,

“What can we do in any hardship? We can hope with prayerful praise. Faith is the only force that can hold you fast at all times.”

— Lailah Gifty Akita

“Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations. The best is yet to come.”

— Zig Ziglar

“I am so very grateful that I serve a God who walks the difficult roads with us, whether we recognize him there or not. I am so very grateful for a God who has experienced betrayal, fear and death himself and overcomes them all.”

— Joan Campbell

“Our vision is so limited we can hardly imagine a love that does not show itself in protection from suffering.... The love of God did not protect His own Son.... He will not necessarily protect us – not from anything it takes to make us like His Son. A lot of hammering and chiseling and purifying by fire will have to go into the process.”

— Elisabeth Elliot

Memorials and Gifts

*In memory of Burdette Rupert
Chuck and Jean Bartley
Elizabeth and Andrew Dreszer*

*In memory of Betty Jean Toombs
Chuck and Jean Bartley
Elizabeth and Andrew Dreszer*

*In memory of Thelma Wilkosz
Elizabeth and Andrew Dreszer*

*In memory of Germaine “Pete” Levisay
Elizabeth and Andrew Dreszer*

*In memory of Wynona Crush
Elizabeth and Andrew Dreszer*

*In memory of Doris Jamison
Elizabeth and Andrew Dreszer*

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.

Vacation—The secretary, Janet Linkenhoker, will be on vacation Monday, May 11 thru Friday May 15. The office will be open until noon each day. If you need assistance after hours, please leave a voice message or call Pastor Jim (434-738-8841) or Clerk of Session, Jim Faidley (962-6569) .



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 7-11. We don't know if we will be able to hold it yet, and possibly will postpone until later in the summer. But we need to start getting organized. If you would like to volunteer, please let Margaret Moss know (434-738-8512).



