McAllister Memorial Presbyterian 900 N. Alleghany Avenue Covington, VA 24426

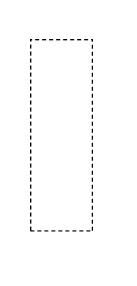
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McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church 900 North Alleghany Avenue Covington, VA 24426





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.

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 Reyns

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 Curtin22nd Amanda & Eric Webb30th 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

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# May 17 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17: 22—31

Psalm 66; 8—20

1 Peter 3: 13—22

John 14:15—21

Ascension of the Lord

<u>May 21</u>

Acts 1: 1—11;

Psalm 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.

<u>Vacation</u>—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).



# KNIHTS

# 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).

### **Children as Pets - The Cat Years**

I just realized that while children are dogs -- loyal and affectionate -- teenagers are cats.

It's so easy to be a dog owner. You feed it, train it, boss it around. It puts its head on your knee and gazes at you as if you were a Rembrandt painting. It bounds indoors with enthusiasm when you call it.

Then around age 13, your adoring little puppy turns into a big old cat. When you tell it to come inside, it looks amazed, as if wondering who died and made you emperor. Instead of dogging your doorsteps, it disappears. You won't see it again until it gets hungry -then it pauses on its sprint through the kitchen long enough to turn its nose up at whatever vou're serving.

When you reach out to ruffle its head, in that old affectionate gesture, it twists away from you, then gives you a blank stare, as if trying to remember where it has seen you before. You, not realizing that the dog is now a cat, think something must be desperately wrong with it. It seems so antisocial, so distant, sort of depressed. It won't go on family outings.

Since you're the one who raised it, taught it to fetch and stay and sit on command, you assume that you did something wrong. Flooded with guilt and fear, you redouble your efforts to make your pet behave. Only now you're dealing with a cat, so everything that worked before now produces the opposite of the desired result. Call it, and it runs away. Tell it to sit, and it jumps on the counter. The more you go toward it, wringing your hands, the more it moves away.

Instead of continuing to act like a dog owner, you can learn to behave like a cat owner. Put a dish of food near the door, and let it come to you. But remember that a cat needs your help and your affection too. Sit still, and it will come, seeking that warm, comforting lap it has not entirely forgotten. Be there to open the door for it.

One day your grown-up child will walk into the kitchen, give you a big kiss and say, "You've been on your feet all day. Let me get those dishes for you."

Then you'll realize your cat is a dog again.

[ Author Unknown -- from 'The Funny Bone' (daily-fun@yahoogroups.com) ]

### Send Newsletter Information

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 18 @ 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, Safe | ty, Deliverance, | Peace and a Cure. |
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| Sherry Ayers Erskine Back Miki Ballengee Bob & Leta Bartley Steve Bennett Doris Burley Emily Byer Elwood Cadd Jean & Harry Casey Betsy Caul Junior Clark Minnie Clark Sandra Clemmons Kenzie Cline Rob & Erskine Back Phyllis Deacon Richard & Cora Hastings Danny & Rhoda Hill Nohall Ballengee Donny & Rhoda Hill Nohall Ballengee Donny & Rhoda Hill Nohall Bash Crush Richard & Cora Hastings Danny & Rhoda Hill Ray/Cathy Riddleberger Ray/Cathy Riddleberger Shelby Rock Dos mith Reyns Ray/Cathy Riddleberger Ray/Cathy Riddleberger Ray/Cathy Riddleberger Shelby Rock Ray/Cathy Riddleberger Shelby Rock Pat Smith Pets Smith Doe & Dot Wimer Betty Jamison Wolfe Linda Payton Wolfe Linda Payton Wolfe Linda Payton Wolfe  Frank/Susan Sponaugle Sally Steele Gary Stone Bill Thompson Estevan Trump Elected Officials U.S. Troops Students/Teachers WRE  WRE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                               | ~                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| Part   Carlor   Car   | Members<br>& family                                                                                           | Richard Downer Pat Eads Samuel Hale Dr. Matthew Mene Travis O'Rourke Teresa Powell Anita Rice Angie Sponaugle                                                                                                                        | Pam Key Bobby & Deb George Leitel fee Martha Wilhe Buddy & Mar  Students Teachers Essential Wor                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | i Leitch olm rgie Young                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Linda B<br>Elwood<br>Judy Jor<br>Frankie<br>Doris M<br>Marcy T<br>Terrie V                                                              | ogar<br>Cadd<br>nes<br>Marshall<br>ottern<br>Chompson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                   | Tonya Jones<br>Sonya Milton<br>B. R. Rupert<br>Sandra Sayre<br>Shirley Varner<br>Brenda Walker                                                                                                                                                           |
| Kemper Murray Richard Paitsel Hollis Dressler Hollis Dressler Hollis Dressler Hollis Dressler Sheila Murphey Earl Fuller John Franklin Tingler Alice Biggs Myers Burdette Rupert, Sr. Rebecca Paitsel Betty Jean Toombs      Tillie Agnor Doc Altizer Steven Craft Steven Craft Galvin Crawford Jonathan Gillette Galvin Grayson Asboth Jan Taylor Armentrout Grayson Asboth Joey Crowder Don Hampton James Crawford Jonathan Gillette Billy Powell Betty Ray Part & Larry Whitner Gail Washburn Dennis Whitehead Pat & Larry Whitner Christy Wiley Angie Wilkerson Donna Wilson Jose Steve Bennett Joy Dodson James Hoover Jos Smith Jean Broughman Leslie Downer Becky Bowers Corky Downer Lee Cabaniss Lee Cabanis Kaylee Elmore Betty Charlis Jeffries Wendell & Judy Jones Betty Stone Betty Gibson Bonie Lockhart Charlis Jeffries Wendell & Judy Jones Betty Ray Pat Smith Joey Wimer Steve Bennett Joy Dodson Jose & Dennis Whitehead Pat & Larry Whitner Charlis Jeffries Wendell & Judy Jones Betty Jamison Wolfe Linda Payton Wolfe Wendell & Judy Jones Betty Jamison Wolfe Linda Payton Wolfe Wendell & Judy Jones Burley Jim & Barbara Flint Junior Clark Helen Deisher-Fox Ke Fox Sandra Clemmons Kenzie Cline Ricky Cooke Courtney Fridley Pearl Miller Pearl Miller Pearl Miller WRE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Evar<br>Clar<br>Mike<br>Kenn<br>John<br>Lonn<br>Patty<br>Jess<br>Davi                                         | n Groves rice Halsey e Howell ny Lane i May nie McKinney y Nicely Rago id Rothwell                                                                                                                                                   | Roger Evans Kristen Helvey Gordon Hosey Meg Jackson Lynn Jeffries Pat Loving Charlotte Martin Mary Kern Morga Joyce Kern Myers                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Ryland Bri<br>Sara Camp<br>Pearl Conn<br>Richard Cr<br>William Hi<br>Jim Howar<br>Pat Loving<br>Berkley Pe                              | sendine<br>bell<br>er<br>owder<br>ill<br>d                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | (<br>]<br>J<br>S<br>1<br>I<br>I                                                                                                   | Gloria Dressler<br>Fom Greenwood<br>Janet Hubble<br>Jenny Lofton<br>Scott Martin<br>Nick Nickell<br>Ellen Pearman<br>Linda Ratliff                                                                                                                       |
| Doc Altizer Bob Andrews Jan Taylor Armentrout Grayson Asboth Joey Crowder Bob Kerry Ayers Bob Crush Erskine Back Miki Ballengee Bob & Leta Bartley Steve Bennett Becky Bowers Jean Broughman Doris Burley Emily Byer Lee Cabaniss Elwood Cadd Joyce Emerson Jean & Harry Casey Betsy Caul Junior Clark Minnie Clark Sandra Clemmons Kenzie Cline Robert & Gail Gibson Belty Ray Donnia Warlitner Gail Washburn Dennis Pillow Belty Ray Pat & Larry Whitme Gail Washburn Dennis Whitehead Pat & Larry Whitme Gail Washburn Dennis Whitehead Betty Ray Pat & Larry Whitme Gail Washburn Dennis Pillow Dennis Pil | Death Rich JoEl Calv                                                                                          | nper Murray<br>nard Paitsel<br>llen Smith                                                                                                                                                                                            | Violet Cronin<br>Hollis Dressler                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Libby McI<br>Sheila Mur<br>Alice Bigg                                                                                                   | Daniel<br>phey<br>s Myers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | (<br>I<br>I                                                                                                                       | C.J. Entsminger<br>Earl Fuller<br>Burdette Rupert, Sr.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Katte Wilbury Killioni i water                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Continuing Prayers  Ontinuing Prayers  Beck Mikk Bob Stev Beck Elwo Jean Dori Lee Elwo Jean Min Min Sand Kenz | Altizer Andrews Taylor Armentrout yson Asboth rry Ayers kine Back i Ballengee & Leta Bartley the Bennett ky Bowers I Broughman is Burley ly Byer Cabaniss ood Cadd i & Harry Casey ty Caul or Clark nie Clark dra Clemmons zie Cline | 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 | Eddie Gibs<br>Robert & C<br>Jonathan G<br>Don Hamp<br>Jennifer Ha<br>Richard & Co<br>Danny & R<br>Joshua Hoo<br>Neil Horn<br>Becky Hun<br>Charlie Jef<br>Wendell &<br>Butch Kem<br>Susan Kenl<br>Susan Lind<br>Bonnie Loo<br>Connie Loo<br>David & Pl<br>Bob/Winnie<br>Doris Ann | on ail Gibson iillette ton unnah ora Hastings choda Hill el ever ter ffries Judy Jones oper nedy strom ekhart wman nyllis Lynn Miller r | Bonnie Pa<br>Denise Pi<br>Billy Pow<br>Betty Ray<br>Frank & A<br>Jim Reyn:<br>Ray/Cathy<br>Shelby Ro<br>Joe Smith<br>Pat Smith<br>Tommy S<br>Monzell S<br>Frank/Suss<br>Sally Stee<br>Gary Stor<br>Bill Thom<br>Ethan Tho<br>Adena Tin<br>Carolyn T<br>Darrell & I<br>Pete Turn<br>Buddy Va | atterson llow rell April Reyn S Riddleberge ock mith Sovereen an Sponaugele ne npson ompson ompson ngler Tolley Oonna Tuck er ass | Danny Warlitner Gail Washburn Dennis Whitehead Pat & Larry Whitme Is Christy Wiley Angie Wilkerson For Donna Wilson Joe & Dot Wimer Joey Wimer Betty Jamison Wolf Linda Payton Wolfe gle  President Trump Elected Officials U.S. Troops Students/Teacher |

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SHUT-IN— Joyce Bartley, Edna Buffaloe, Hallie Dressler, Shirley Ferris, Etha Hayslett, Jean & Carl Irvine, Sadie Landis, Louise Whitehead, Eddie Williams

Ryan Pritts, Chris Whitehead,

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