

McAllister Messenger

September 13, 2020

Reopening Worship

During its last conference call meeting, the Session decided that we would seek to go back to in-person worship on Sunday, October 4. This is contingent upon final approval at the Session's meeting on September 20.

The following requirements will be in place. They are based on a combination of the State of Virginia's and the Presbytery of the Peaks' guidelines for worship during this time of pandemic:

- 1) Masks will be required of all worship attendees. If you do not have a mask, we will have some on hand to provide you with one.
- 2) Please come into the sanctuary and leave through the double doors by the narthex or through the doors by the office. Other than the restrooms, please do not go into any other parts of the church building.
- 3) Seating will be done according to social distancing requirements. Please sit where one of the ushers indicates for you to sit. Couples and families who live together will be allowed to sit together.
- 4) There will be no hymn singing or choir.
- 5) We will not pass offering plates. Instead, there will be baskets at the entrance to the church where you can place your donation.
- 6) We will not have Communion at this time.
- 7) There will be no physical contact before, during, or after worship. Please refrain from hugging or shaking hands.
- 8) After the completion of the service, Pastor Jim will dismiss the congregation from back to front by row. Please do not leave your pew until you are directed to do so.
- 9) The pews and all other hard surfaces will be disinfected each week between services.

We understand that these restrictions will make worship a much different experience than we are used to. We ask for your patience and forbearance. This is new and different for all of us, but we want to make sure that our worship is done in a safe and responsible way.

We also understand that some folks will not feel comfortable coming back to church at this time. This is OK. We will continue to broadcast the services on Facebook Live for those who feel more comfortable staying home.

We look forward to finally seeing you back at church!

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



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We're Stronger Than We Think

A little boy went to the fair with his dad and saw an inflatable clown sporting a sign that read, "Try to knock me down." He hit it, he slapped it, he pushed it – he struck it again and again, and the harder he hit, the quicker it seemed to bounce back up. No matter how hard he tried, it just would not stay down. His father watched as the boy punched the clown until he finally interrupted and asked, "How is it possible for the clown to keep standing back up, no matter how hard you hit it?"

The child scratched his head and said, "Dad, I think this clown is standing up on the inside."

Did you know that each of us has the ability to stand up on the inside? Let me explain.

A magazine article told about a woman in rural Florida who was recuperating from a lengthy illness. She enjoyed sitting on her front porch in her wheelchair and, on this day, she watched her son repair his automobile. He raised it on blocks of wood, removed the tires and slid on his back underneath the vehicle.

Suddenly there was a loud crack and the automobile lurched to one side, pinning the young man underneath. She screamed for her husband who ran to assist, but he couldn't budge the car or the young man. He climbed into his own vehicle and sped off for help.

The mother, who hadn't walked in months, realized that her son's groans were growing fainter and she knew that it would be up to her to save the boy. She sensed he was dying and that she had to act immediately.

She rose to her feet and walked on shaky legs to the car. Bracing herself, she lifted. The car rose a few inches – just enough to let the boy scramble free. Then she collapsed.

After a thorough examination, she was found only to have suffered strained muscles. And the incredulous doctor's words were most telling: "I will always wonder," he said, "how far she might have lifted that car if she had been well and strong."

We've read similar stories about persons exhibiting almost super-human strength in times of crises. Call it a miracle. Call it providence. Or call it a physiological response to an adrenalin surge – this mother, and others like her, found the strength she needed, when she needed it, to face the crisis at hand.

Continued...

Our Daily Bread for September thru November have arrived. Stop by and pick one up.				
Members	Edna Buffaloe	Anita Boone	Linda Bogar	Leslie Downer
	Jean Casey	Luke Crawford	Debi Leitch	Charity Hale
Friends/Family	Terry Coffman	Lee Fadley	Frankie Marshall	Sonya Milton
	Doris Mottern	Dwain Tyree	Patsy Parker	B. R. Rupert
Hospice	Gary Whitehead	Martha Wilhelm	Teresa Powell	Natalie Sponaugle
	Louise Whitehead	Buddy Young	Brenda Walker	Carolyn Waugh
Deaths	Randy Anderson	ReRe Bryant	Natalie Austin	Students/Teachers
	Andy Casey	Jace Cantrell	Tom Greenwood	<i>Covid—19 Patients</i>
Continuing Prayer	Pat Eads	Connie Holloway	Barbara Hayse	<i>Essential Workers</i>
	Randy Gilbert	George Leitch	Shana Hotzapolous	<i>Healthcare Workers</i>
Hospice	Pat & Dottie Shumaker	Justin Nicely	Margaret Nicely	<i>Non Believers</i>
				<i>President Trump Prisoners</i>
Continuing Prayer	Carl "Pete" Irvine		Jim Beaudette	Eleanor Anderson
			Lena Elmore	Isaac "Ike" Fox
Continuing Prayer			Gary Stone	Doris Ann Welcher Miller
				Carolyn O'Conner
Continuing Prayer	Tillie Agnor	Junior Clark	Evan Groves	Betty Ray
	Roger Akers	Minnie Clark	Don Hampton	Frank/April Reysn
Continuing Prayer	Doc Altizer	Sandra Clemmons	Jennifer Hannah	Jim Reysn
	Jan Armentrout	Kenzie Cline	Richard/Cora Hastings	Shelby Rock
Continuing Prayer	Grayson Asboth	Ricky Cooke	Danny/Rhoda Hill	Dee Dee Simpson
	Sherry Ayers	Harold Craft	James Hoover	Pat Smith
Continuing Prayer	Erskine Back	Steven Craft	Neil Horn	Monzell Sovereen
	Miki Ballengee	Randell Dilley	Becky Hunter	Angie Sponaugle
Continuing Prayer	Bob & Leta Bartley	Joy Dodson	Charlie Jeffries	Sally Steele
	Steve Bennett	Corky Downer	Wendell/Judy Jones	Bill Thompson
Continuing Prayer	Becky Bowers	Kaylee Elmore	Susan Kennedy	Ethan Thompson
	Jean Broughman	Joyce Emerson	Susan Lindstrom	Marcy Thompson
Continuing Prayer	Doris Burley	Lee & Lelia Fadley	David/Phyllis Lynn	Adena Tingler
	Emily Byer	Jim & Barbara Flint	Pearl Miller	Carolyn Tolley
Continuing Prayer	Lee Cabaniss	Marshall/Donna Fox	Patty Nicely	Darrell/Donna Tucker
	Elwood Cadd	Betty Gibson	Travis O'Rourke	Pete Turner
Continuing Prayer	Jean & Harry Casey	Eddie Gibson	Denise Pillow	Buddy Vass
	Betsy Caul	Robert/Gail Gibson	Billy Powell	Barbara Warlitrer
<u>BRIAN CENTER</u> —Bill Lockhart, Bonnie Patterson, Ruby Stull <u>VIRGINIA VETERANS CARE CENTER</u> —Charles P. Hall, Roy Reynolds <u>SCOTT HILL</u> —Norma Leech, Sara Mays, Mary Whitehead <u>SHUT-IN</u> —Joyce Bartley, Edna Buffaloe, Hallie Dressler, Shirley Ferris, Etha Hayslett, Sadie Landis, Louise Whitehead, Eddie Williams				<u>MILITARY</u> Kristen Bennett, Richard Bray, Kristopher Hoffman Ryan Pritts, Chris Whitehead, <u>MISSIONARIES</u> Tom & Judy Harvey

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am deeply grateful that you have elected me as your General Presbyter. I've gotten to know our congregations and leaders fairly well over the last three years while serving as the transitional presbyter, and I am pleased to know that we'll be walking the journey of faith together in the coming years. I am grateful that my election coincided with the approval of a new mission study and design, and the announcement of a "transformation team" whose members promise to be competent and faithful stewards of our broad vision. We all recognize that life and ministry are changing. It seems to me that we are being called back to our fundamental roots - to be connected to each other in caring and responsive relationships, to work together in and with Christ because we need each other, and most fundamental of all - we are being called to a renewed commitment to be the body of Christ in and for the world. 2020 has been apocalyptic so far - a revealing - of just how deeply the world is in need of the saving grace of God. I am confident that God continues to heal the world and I also think Peaks Presbyterians have more to offer God and the world. Honestly, I hope we can begin to have greater expectations of each other. It is human nature: if we expect little we get little, and when we expect more, even excellence, we are far more likely to become better servants of the Lord.

I am moving this week to Roanoke - just a mile or two off the population center of our presbytery. No, I'm not having 12,000 over for dinner any time soon. But I will be coming to you. We'll use communication technology for necessary business. But I look forward to the free movement we'll enjoy post-Covid. Relationships are built face to face, in person, over coffee. Let's see where God leads us.

The administrative home base will continue to be in Lynchburg, where Robin and Julie competently anchor the presbytery's daily business. More staff will be hired soon to complement the work that the presbytery is doing, according to the approved mission study report. A Program Director for Discipleship will begin in a couple of weeks - preparing for Fall and Winter youth and young adult ministries, and anticipating Camp Peaks in a post-Covid Virginia. A Communications Director position description has been approved and I expect that person will be hired soon. That position is a reflection of how the church is adapting, not just to Covid, but to the digital context in which we live and in which we communicate the gospel. The pandemic has been a kick in the seat of the church, compelling us to catch up with the world. The new communication (and technology director) is expected to equip us for the new landscape. The search for a neighborhood presbyter will take place after we've had a conversation as a presbytery about race and representation. When the presbytery was formed 30 years ago a commitment was made to our Black congregations that an African American would always be on the staff of the presbytery. The promise, the reasons for it, how it has been fulfilled and when fulfillment lapsed and why... all of these need a fresh look before we search for another presbyter. Once we have discerned together our current needs and commitments, we'll be in a position to fulfill the plans approved by the presbytery.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your general presbyter.

In Christ, *Carl Utley*

The Presbytery of the Peaks is God's people dispersed throughout our region. When Covid-19 is under control and we are more free to travel, I'll be where our folks are.

Continued...

And so it is with all of us. When life knocks us down and it seems impossible to get back up, when life demands more from us than we are able to give, then more than ever, we need to find a way to do what needs to be done.

It is at just these times that we come face to face with a reserve of strength we never knew we had. We are stronger than we think. Like the clown, we, too, have the ability to bounce back. We have emotional, spiritual and even physical resources at our disposal. We may get knocked down, but we don't have to stay down.

It's like standing up on the inside. And when we find strength to do that, we will be able to stand up to most anything life throws our way.

~ Steve Goodier (LifeSupport@yahoogroups.com)]

LECTIONARY

September 13

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 14:19-31

Psalms 114 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21

Romans 14: 1-12

Matthew 18: 21-35

September 20

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 16: 2-12

Psalms 105; 1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1: 21-30

Matthew 20: 1-16

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

20th	Allena Brooke Curtis Wendy Poague Shane Reid
21st	Conner Patterson
22nd	Stephen Carper
24th	Greyson Young
25th	David Rodgers
27th	Samuel Moss
26th	Ashtyn Bishop
28th	Krist Walker
29th	Emilee Givens Nathan Hale

ANNIVERSARIES

20th	Craig & Angie Poague
21st	Robbie & Melinda Weikle
22nd	Daryl & Phyllis Bartley
30th	Howard & Linda Wickham

60th Anniversary

Come Celebrate with Us!

H. L. and Linda Wickham

will celebrate their

60th Wedding Anniversary on

September 27, 2020

from 2-4 p.m.

at Douthat State Park

Cards are appreciated,
but no presents please!

Actual wedding date September 30, 1960.

Notes from Pastor Jim

1. Congratulations to Riley Webb for winning the youth duck hunt. Riley found the most rubber ducks that were hidden around the church and on the Jackson River trail.
2. Be on the lookout for the Basket of Butterflies. They are making their way from house to house. If they show up on your doorstep, simply follow the instructions and pass them along. We hope to see them outside the church when we likely will open up worship again on October 4.
3. I am getting back out in the community these days and am making visits again. If you would like a pastoral visit, or know of someone who could benefit from one, please give me a call at 434-738-8841.

McAllister Church extends sympathy to the family and friends of :

Gary Stone ~ *brother of Margie Young*
Gary died September 5, 2020 in North Carolina.
Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

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 ~ September 22 @ 4 p.m.)***

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.



Musical Minute:

I was delighted to read in McAllister's newsletter a few weeks ago about the flock of butterflies that would be migrating to members of our congregation as a reminder of new life and unity. Who doesn't love butterflies? As an English major, I've always been a fan of collective nouns, the term we use to refer to a collection of things taken as a whole. Some of them are obvious and quite familiar to us: a herd of deer, a school of fish, an army of ants, a pride of lions, a gaggle of geese, even a bevy of beauties! Still other collective nouns are more fanciful and descriptive in evoking the characteristics of the group or species in question. Some of my favorites are: an exaltation of larks, a rafter of turkeys, a murder of crows, a memory of elephants, a radiance of cardinals (or a conclave as it's called in the Catholic Church!), a clowder of cats.

After reading about McAllister's butterflies, I decided to look up the collective noun for butterflies. On the internet I found several, including a flutter of butterflies, a wing of butterflies and even a kaleidoscope of butterflies. While I like the idea of a flutter of butterflies, we sometimes even call them "flutterbyes," kaleidoscope gets my vote. For me the term best describes the many vivid visitors we've had to our garden and flower pots this summer.

In reflecting on the bounteous beauty that we are blessed to have just outside our doors, the hymn "All Creatures of Our God and King" came to mind. It is a glorious hymn of praise that can be found on page 64 of our hymnal. The original text was written by St. Francis of Assisi in 1225. It was subsequently paraphrased to the lyrics we know today by William H. Draper in the early 20th century. The tune dates to 1623 and was later arranged to the form we know by famed English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. It opens with the following words of adoration:

*"All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, Alleluia!"*

In my opinion the joyful, resounding final verse can never be loud enough!

*"Let all things their Creator bless, And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, three in one,
O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!"*

I hope that McAllister's flutter of butterflies has made a visit to your yard this summer and I look forward to seeing our winged ambassadors on Alleghany Avenue when we are able to return to in-person services.

Take good care.

Beth