

McAllister Messenger

October 11, 2020

When The Leaves Change

Autumn is here! The days are getting shorter. The leaves are starting to turn colors and fall from the trees. The weather is getting cooler. Halloween decorations are popping up around town.

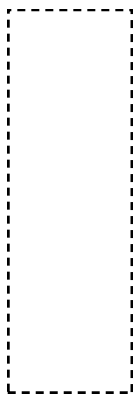
Autumn is a good time for us to consider the concept of change. If there is one thing in life that always stays the same, it is that change is bound to occur. We have seen significant change in our world recently. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have had to change many of our daily habits, including wearing masks, social distancing, and being very careful when we gather in crowds.

These pandemic conditions remind us that change can often be unexpected and difficult. The good news is that God is with us through change, bringing reassurance and hope. As it says in Psalm 46: 1-2: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.”

Not only does God reassure us through difficult change, but God also brings about positive change. As it says in Isaiah 43:19: “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” God is constantly working to renew and refresh our faith and our lives.

So as autumn is upon us and we observe the changing of the seasons, and as we confront all the changes that the world throws at us - let us look to the Lord for comfort and guidance.

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



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Non-Profit Organization

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Renewed Worship

Another change happening at the church is that we are back with in-person worship. The following changes are occurring:

- ◇ No hymns, bulletins, handshakes, or hugs.
- ◇ Masks are worn at all times.
- ◇ Worship-goers are social distanced for seating in the sanctuary.
- ◇ Offering plates are not passed, but are placed in the narthex.
- ◇ Temperatures are checked as worshippers enter the sanctuary.
- ◇ The service is still being broadcast on Facebook Live for those who do not feel comfortable coming in person.

We appreciate everyone for being patient and tolerant with these new guidelines. It is good to be gathering again as a congregation!

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Doris Ann Miller
Marshall and Donna Fox
Howard and Pam Poague
Joe and Pat Martin

In memory of Gary Stone
Marshall and Donna Fox
Joe and Pat Martin

*In memory of Burdette Rupert,
Wynona Crush, Doris Jamison,
Betty Jean Toombs by
Dianne Tingler Mahan*

*In memory of Norwood, Dana,
and Barry Tingler by
Dianne T. Mahan,
Mike & Joan Tingler & Family*

In memory of Alice May Howard
Joe and Pat Martin

In memory of Edna Walker Buffaloe
Marshall and Donna Fox
The Richmonds—(cousins)
Carol, Larry, Linda,
Rocky, and Marilyn
Sharon Ison
Wade Leech

June & Ricky Cooke family
Kathleen Loan
Butch and Norma Curtin
Dwain and Janie Tyree
Bob and Leta Bartley

In Honor of Andy Dreszer
Joe and Pat Martin

Prayer Concerns:

Tillie Agnor	Corky Downer	Frankie Marshall	Brenda Walker
Roger Akers	Leslie Downer	Pearl Miller	Barbara Warlitrner
Doc Altizer	Priscilla Downer	Sonya Milton	Danny Warlitrner
Randy Anderson	Pat Eads	Doris Mottern	Gail Washburn
Jan Armentrout	Kaylee Elmore	Justin Nicely	Carolyn Waugh
Grayson Asboth	Joyce Emerson	Patty Nicely	Dennis Whitehead
Sherry Ayers	Lee & Lelia Fadley	Travis O'Rourke	Gary Whitehead
Erskine Back	Jim & Barbara Flint	Patsy Parker	Louise Whitehead
Miki Ballengee	Marshall/Donna Fox	Denise Pillow	Pat/Larry Whitmer
Bob & Leta Bartley	Betty Gibson	Billy Powell	Christy Wiley
Steve Bennett	Eddie Gibson	Teresa Powell	Martha Wilhelm
Linda Bogar	Robert/Gail Gibson	Betty Ray	Angie Wilkerson
Anita Boone	Eugene Gilbert	Frank/April Reynolds	Donna Wilson
Becky Bowers	Randy Gilbert	Jim Reynolds	Joe & Dot Wimer
Jean Broughman	Tom Greenwood	Shelby Rock	Joey Wimer
Doris Burley	Evan Groves	B. R. Rupert	Madeline Wimer
Emily Byer	Don Hampton	Pat & Dottie Shumaker	Linda Payton Wolfe
Lee Cabaniss	Jennifer Hannah	Dee Dee Simpson	Buddy Young
Elwood Cadd	Richard/Cora Hastings	Pat Smith	
Andy Casey	Danny/Rhoda Hill	Monzell Sovereign	President Trump
Jean & Harry Casey	Connie Holloway	Angie Sponaugle	<i>Covid—19 Patients</i>
Betsy Caul	James Hoover	Natalie Sponaugle	<i>Essential Workers</i>
Junior Clark	Neil Horn	Sally Steele	<i>Healthcare Workers</i>
Minnie Clark	Shana Hotzapolous	Bill Thompson	<i>Non Believers</i>
Sandra Clemmons	Becky Hunter	Ethan Thompson	<i>Prisoners</i>
Kenzie Cline	Charlie Jeffries	Marcy Thompson	<i>Elected Officials</i>
Terry Coffman	Wendell/Judy Jones	Adena Tingler	<i>U.S. Troops</i>
Ricky Cooke	Susan Kennedy	Carolyn Tolley	
Steven Craft	Debi Leitch	Darrell/Donna Tucker	Students/Teachers
Luke Crawford	George Leitch	Pete Turner	WRE
Randell Dilley	Susan Lindstrom	Dwain Tyree	
Joy Dodson	David/Phyllis Lynn	Buddy Vass	

HOSPICE—Carl “Pete” Irvine

BRIAN CENTER—Bill Lockhart, Bonnie Patterson, Ruby Stull, Louise Whitehead

VIRGINIA VETERANS CARE CENTER—Charles P. Hall, Roy Reynolds

SCOTT HILL—Norma Leech, Sara Mays, Mary Whitehead

SHUT-IN—Joyce Bartley, Hallie Dressler, Shirley Ferris, Etha Hayslett, Sadie Landis, Eddie Williams

DEATHS	Eleanor Garrett	Harold Craft	Edna Collins Walker Buffaloe
	Bob Greenwell	Lucy Anna Dudley	Alice May Taylor Howard
	Gordon James	Goldie Helmintoller Jones	Pamela Bowen Tucker
	Norman Martin	Meredith Winn	Mary Landis Turner
	Scott Minter		

MILITARY — Kristen Bennett, Richard Bray, Kristopher Hoffman, Ryan Pritts, Chris Whitehead

MISSIONARIES — Tom & Judy Harvey, Esslinger/Lee

From Brenda Linkenhoker, 2020 Christmas Mother

Dear Church Family:

The Christmas Mother Program is again underway, and as the 2020 Highlands Christmas Mother, I am asking that you keep this annual program in your thoughts and prayers. This wonderful community is full of gifted and talented individuals who each year respond generously to this program. You have cared about all members of the community and acted on their behalf whenever you saw a need. In reflecting on your response in years past, I have chosen as my theme **Simple Gifts—Love and Joy**. I would ask that you put forth your love and joy in supporting this year's program.

Having worked with the Christmas Mother Program in previous years, I know how crucial church families like yours are to the success of the program. Your contributions allow us to continue to serve the growing number of families needing help in the Alleghany Highlands.

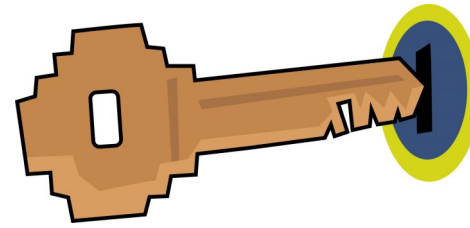
The Christmas Mother Program is supported 100% by local contributions of time, talent, and monetary donations. Ways in which you can show your Joy and Love include any of the following: **Adopt**—In past years, many church groups and individuals have been a major help by adopting one or more families and providing requested items. **Volunteer**—This program could not function without the many volunteers who give of their time and talent. We invite you to volunteer and experience in person what this program is truly about. **Donate**—This year we can only accept new items. Item such as paper products, cleaning supplies, personal care items, diapers, etc., new children's toys, clothing, coats, books, school supplies, household items such as sheets, towels, blankets, and cookware. Adult clothing and shoes cannot be accepted due to space limitations. Stuffed toys are not accepted due to children's allergies. Please do not wrap donated items. **Monetary Donations**—**Monetary contributions may be mailed to the Highlands Christmas Mother, Inc., PO Box 242, Covington, VA 24426 or dropped in the drop box at Highland Bank.**

This year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the program has changed from what it has been in the past. We are being vigilant of all rules and suggested guidelines concerning the virus. It is for that reason; we cannot accept used items. Any assistance you feel you can provide will be greatly appreciated as we know the need in our area is great.

I am honored to serve as the 72nd Highlands Christmas Mother. I look forward to and thank you for your continued kind consideration and generous support of this wonderful program. Please lift up a prayer for community and our nation. Let's **make this Christmas season full of Love and Joy.**

God bless each of you,

Brenda Linkenhoker



New Church Keys

One change happening at church has to do with our keys. We are in the process of having our locks changed because of an issue with keys not working. Anyone wanting a new key will need to contact the church office and let Janet know.

Please do so as soon as possible. You will be asked to pay for the cost of making a new key.

LECTIONARY

October 11

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 32:1-14

Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23

Philippians 4:1-9

Matthew 22:1-14

October 18

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 33:12-23

Psalms 99

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Matthew 22:15-22

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 11 Heather Young Johnson
- 12 Olivia Sponaugle
- 13 Danny Rodgers
- 15 Makenzie Shifflett
- 16 Ronald Barger
- 17 James Bush, Jr.
- 20 Rhoda Hill
- 21 Samuel Poague
- 28 Diane Barksdale
Lisa Sponaugle
- 29 Dolly Whitehead
- 30 Gail Washburn
- 31 Charles "Woody" Whitmer



ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Gene & Gail Wood
- 12 Stacey & Amy Bishop
- 16 Stacy & Kelly Patterson
- 17 Howard & Pam Poague
- 25 Howard & Lora Thompson

Congregational Meeting

Some things don't change, and one of them is the process we use for electing elders in our church. It starts with electing a nominating committee. The nominating committee helps recruit church members to serve as elders. These elders will ultimately be voted on at another congregational meeting. This congregational meeting to elect a nominating committee will be held on Sunday, October 11, immediately following worship.



Wrap Session at The Greenbrier

Sunday, November 1 from 2-4 p.m.

We can have up to 6 wrappers.

(Masks and social distancing are enforced.)

If you are interested,

contact Betsy Caul @ 559-4108

or Anita Boone @ 968-6956

McAllister Church extends sympathy and pray to the family & friends of:

Eleanor Garrett ~ cousin of Jim Faidley

Bob Greenwell ~ cousin of Marlene Faidley

Meredith Winn ~ cousin of Amy Ray

Newsletter Information

Its been a long time since we have heard from many of our members and friends. We would love to hear how you are getting along and share you joys, laughs, and concerns. Please submit newsletter information and prayer request by email, post mail, or by phone.

(Deadline for next newsletter is Monday ~ October 26 @ 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:

It was such a joy last Sunday to hear the happy voices of McAllister's members as people entered the doors to the church for morning worship for the first time in many months. While Pastor Jim and I have grown somewhat accustomed to the quietness of the sanctuary during the days of Covid-19 on Sunday the mood was so familiar, so light and so hopeful. We are wearing masks and practicing social distancing. We Are Back!

Those of us who had planned for as safe a reopening as possible were pleased with Sunday's in-person attendance. And how exciting that many of you who are not yet comfortable returning or able to return for in-person services are continuing to watch from home. After the shock of playing to an essentially empty church in early April, I finally realized that all of you were safely tucked at home—a good place to be in a time of uncertainty. (Most of you were in bunny slippers in my mind's eye!) Your comments on Facebook—to one another, to Pastor Jim, and to me and our soloists—helped me to feel your presence. Even though we weren't in one space last Sunday, I was playing for all of you. I hope that whether you were at home or in the sanctuary, you felt like you were part of the worship experience at McAllister.

For my piano prelude on Sunday, I chose the old American folk hymn HOLY MANNA, commonly sung to the text, "Brethren We Have Met to Worship." It is one of my very favorite hymn tunes and the text seemed particularly fitting for our first day back together. It begins:

*"Brethren, we have met to worship
And adore the Lord our God;
Will you pray with all your power,
While we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit
Of the Holy One comes down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna
Will be showered all around."*

It was wonderful to have some of our number back in the church again after such a lengthy hiatus and it is nothing short of miraculous to me that we can reach many of our members through the modern marvel of livestreaming. However you chose to join us, please do! We are stronger, in good times and in bad, together.

Take good care.

Beth