

McAllister Messenger

October 25, 2020

A Different Kind of Worship

We've been back at in-person worship for three weeks now, and it is going very well. It is a very different feel to worship, because we are all wearing masks and are social distanced in the sanctuary. It also feels quite different because there is no group participation – no singing of hymns, no recitation of words together, and no sharing of prayer concerns. So far, attendance has been steady, with 44, 41, and 45 people showing up on each Sunday.

Another difference is that we are broadcasting our services on Facebook Live. This has caused me to do my preaching from the floor in front of the Communion table, where my phone's camera can get a good view of my face as I am speaking.

So far on Facebook Live, we have had between 20 and 33 people watching live, and many others who tune in and watch the recording later.

Despite the differences, however, we are still able to come together and worship the Lord. We are still able to meet our denominational Book of Order's definition of worship: "Christian worship gives all glory and honor, praise and thanksgiving to the holy, triune God. We are gathered in worship to glorify the God who is present and active among us – particularly through the gifts of Word and Sacrament. We are sent out in service to glorify the same God who is active and present in the world."

So however you join us for worship, you are experiencing the living and active God who moves among us. We are grateful for the technology that allows us to be virtually present, and for the ability now to gather in-person to give our praise and thanksgiving. May we continue to do so each week!

REFORMATION SUNDAY
October 25, 2020



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

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Covington, VA 24426

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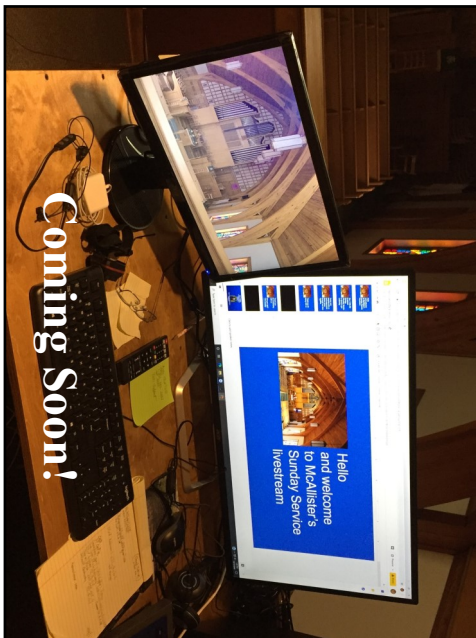
Rev. James Edward Moss, Minister

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Notes From Pastor Jim

- 1) Thank you for all of the cards and gifts for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. I certainly do feel well-loved and appreciated. It is hard to believe that I have already been here at McAllister for more than a year. This is a wonderful and very fulfilling place to serve!
- 2) It has been great to get back to in-person worship and to see many of you again. It has been difficult not to give handshakes or hugs, but that will all come in due time. It is just wonderful to see you all!
- 3) I am now getting back out in the community and am doing some in-home visits. If you would like a pastoral visit, or know someone who could use one, please give me a call – 434-738-8841.

Worship Guidelines

Here is a reminder of our guidelines for reopened worship. These are based on state and Presbytery guidelines:

- 1) Masks are 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 enter the sanctuary and leave through the double doors by the narthex. Other than the restrooms, please do not go into any other parts of the building.
- 3) There are hand sanitizing stations in the narthex and by the office.
- 4) Seating will be done according to social distancing requirements. Please sit where the usher directs you. Couples and families will be allowed to sit together.
- 5) There is no choir or hymn singing. We do have a soloist each week.
- 6) We are not passing offering plates. Please leave your offering in the plates on the table in the narthex.
- 7) Please refrain from any physical contact. This includes hugs and handshakes.
- 8) After the service is completed, Pastor Jim will dismiss the congregation by row from back to front. Please do not linger in the narthex.

Thank you for abiding by these guidelines and for making in-person worship possible!

Prayer Concerns:

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

HOSPICE—Carl “Pete” Irvine

BRIAN CENTER—Bill Lockhart, Ruby Stull, Louise Whitehead

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

SCOTT HILL—Norma Leech, Phyllis & David Lynn, Sara Mays, Mary Whitehead

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

<u>DEATHS</u>	Mary Broce	Eleanor Garrett	Harold Craft
	Gwen Gorham	Bob Greenwell	Lucy Anna Dudley
	Samuel Rothwell	Gordon James	Goldie Helmintoller Jones
	Greg Paxton	Norman Martin	Meredith Winn

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

MISSIONARIES — Tom & Judy Harvey, Esslinger/Lee

November BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Janie Tyree
- 5 Taylor Poague
- 6 Pat Martin
- 7 Harry Casey
- 8 Chris Caul
- 9 Jessica Givens
- 10 Becky Hayslett
- Pam Key
- 11 Justin Nicely
- 12 Frank Reysn
- 13 Donna Walker
- 15 Colton Poague
- 17 Jamie Bryant
- 18 Shannon Rodgers
- 21 Kevin Bennett
- Jared Downer
- Kayleigh Hicks
- 22 Bucky Mottern
- 23 Garlynda Haynes
- Janet Linkenhoker
- 26 Kelly Patterson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Rob & Anita Boone
- 10 Hubert & Debbie Kennedy
- Mark & Shirley Thompson
- 28 Jerry & Darlene Taylor



Wrapping 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



Vacation: The secretary,
 Janet Linkenhoker, will be on
 vacation, November 2 thru 6.

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 ~ November 9 @ 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.

Thank You Note

Reverend Moss and Members,

I appreciate all the prayers, calls, visits, cards, food and flowers during my recent heart surgery.

I'm feeling stronger each day and hopefully it won't be too long before I can be back at church services.

In the meantime, we are enjoying services on Facebook.

Love and miss my church family.

God is Good!

God is Great!

In Christian Love, *Priscilla Downer*

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

Gregory Allen Paxton ~ *member*

LECTIONARY

October 25

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

I Thessalonians 2:1-8

Matthew 22:34-46

November 1

ALL SAINT'S DAY

Revelations 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

November 8

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 78:1-7

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

Memorials and Gifts

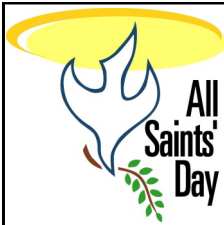
*In memory of Edna Buffaloe by
 Joe and Dot Wimer*

*In loving memory of Susan Parker Potter by
 Tammy Scruggs-Duncan*

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 28 Diane Barksdale
- Lisa Sponaugle
- 29 Dolly Whitehead
- 30 Gail Washburn
- 31 Charles "Woody" Whitmer

ANNIVERSARIES



ALL
SAINTS'
DAY
NOVEMBER 1

*A day to remember those who have
joined the church triumphant.*



DAYLIGHT
SAVING TIME
ENDS
NOVEMBER 1

*Turn your clocks
BACK one hour before going to
bed on **October 31.***



NOVEMBER 3
DON'T FORGET!



Freedom Is Not Free

I watched the flag pass by one day.
It fluttered in the breeze
A young Marine saluted it, and then
He stood at ease.

I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud
With hair cut square and eyes alert
He'd stand out in any crowd.

I thought, how many men like him
Had fallen through the years?
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mothers' tears?

How many Pilots' planes shot down?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No, Freedom is not free.

I heard the sound of taps one night,
When everything was still.
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.

I wondered just how many times
That taps had meant "Amen"
When a flag had draped a coffin
of a brother or a friend.

I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.

I thought about a graveyard
at the bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, Freedom isn't free!

[by Kelly Strong -- from Aiken Drum]

Musical Minute:

It has been wonderful to have so many of you back in the sanctuary for the last three Sundays. I knew that things would be vastly changed when you returned compared to our last meeting in March, but I was not prepared for the general hush as all of you enter the church and await the start of the service. It has made me consider the difference between “silence” and “quiet.”

Pre-pandemic Sundays usually found the choir hurrying up the back stairs after quickly rehearsing the morning's anthem in the choir room. While we waited to be certain that all of us had made it to the top of the stairs and as Pastor Jim warned that he was turning on his lavalier microphone, those of us who were first in line would listen at the closed door to the choir loft to get a sense of how many of you might be “outside.” Your cheerful chatter always made us smile!

I commented to a church member last week that even with our congregants having returned, the church seemed so silent. “It’s not silent. It’s peaceful,” he said. I’ve given that some thought.

When brother Nick and I were young, our folks rented a cabin from the Parker family on the Jackson River. It was a place of great joy, exploration, and education about the natural world. Papa, after shaving outdoors in the ice-cold water of the underground spring that miraculously shot forth from the hollowed trunk of a Chestnut tree, was off to work at Westvaco early in the morning. Mom was up hours before Nick and me, working in the garden and preparing for the day. Our days at the camp were full of adventure and fun and the occasional excitement brought on by a snake sighting. I remember going to bed in the evenings, exhausted from swimming from morning until dusk, listening to the crickets and frogs and the sound of the river. We could hear mom and dad talking softly just down the stairs. In our young minds, all was well with the world. It was quiet—peaceful and still—but not silent.

Which makes me think about the value of quiet as opposed to silence. Silence is the absence of sound or noise. Quiet is just that—quietude—a state of calmness and tranquility. Quietude is a chance to take a deep breath, an opportunity to reflect, a moment to just be, maybe a moment to form a silent prayer . . .

While the atmosphere in our sanctuary may be a bit different these days, I hope that you find it to be one of reassurance and serenity. Welcome back to your church home—a place to reaffirm your faith, renew your spirit and reunite with your McAllister family. It’s so good to see you again.

Take good care.

Beth

