

McAllister Messenger

March 7, 2021

Notice: The Session has decided to restart in-person worship this Sunday, March 7 at 11:00 am. The same masking and social distancing requirements that we used in our previous reopening will apply.

(See the article later in this newsletter for details.)

A Word From Your Pastor Reshaped By The Flood

Earlier in this week, we had some heavy rainfall overnight, which produced some minor flooding in our area. I noticed that the Jackson River and Potts Creek had slightly jumped their banks, spilling over into the fields and flood plains which run next to them. There wasn't, however, any major flooding which could reach any buildings or do any significant damage.

When major flooding does occur, it can do plenty of damage. It can even reshape the course of the river or stream that is flooding. I can remember such reshaping occurring during the major floods of 1993 in the Midwest along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, when my family lived in Kansas City. There were several places where the flood waters carved out a new way for water to flow which forever changed the route of those rivers. It was amazing to see the mighty power of God's creating hand expressed in those floodwaters.

This pandemic we are living through is like one of those major floods. It has the potential to do some serious reshaping of the way we live our lives. Many people are now permanently working from home. Masks also seem to be part of the "new normal." Even the simple handshake, which was once an assumed part of interaction, might never be done with regularity again.

The pandemic also promises to reshape the way we do church. As we reopen worship this week, we are having to adopt many new practices to make sure that everybody remains safe and that we do not spread the virus. These changes are outlined in an article later in this newsletter.

But the virus promises to reshape more than just these details of how we do worship. In a similar way that a major flood can carve out a new riverbed, this "flood"

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



LENT



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Covington, VA
Permit No. 67
Non-Profit Organization

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church

900 N. Alleghany Avenue
Covington, VA 24426

(540) 962-2675

e-mail - mcmpres@ntelos.net

Website: mcallistermempcusa.org
(with online giving link)

Rev. James Edward Moss, Minister

Cell phone—434-738-8841

Email—revjimmos95@gmail.com



of the pandemic is changing some of the basic ways we think about church and how we do ministry. George Anderson, who is pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, writes the following in an article from the Presbyterian Outlook:

“Congregations eventually will get past the pandemic and either return to the way things were or will have become new versions of themselves. Given that the world will have changed, the former is probably not wise. If this transition stage is not managed well, congregations might emerge showing more signs of what was lost than of what has been learned.”

In other words, as things slowly begin to open up again - we will need to find the new ways water is flowing in the “new normal,” and not just expect to be able to go back to the way things were before the pandemic. This will be a challenging phase in our church’s life, and we will need to approach this transition with prayer and with open hearts and minds.

The Session is beginning to look at these questions of the “new normal” and what it will look like, but I am encouraging all of our committees and each individual member to consider these challenges. We are still in the midst of the pandemic, but it is not too early to consider these matters – especially with the vaccine reaching more and more people each month.

If we approach this “new normal” with the right attitude, we will find it not only challenging, but also exciting and inspiring. We will be able to see God’s hand shaping and reshaping the reality of our church life. How interesting it will be to discover how “the flood” has changed the landscape in front of us, and how we are being called to follow its new course. I am excited to be taking this journey with you!

“Pastor Jim” Moss



March Birthdays

- 9 Brielle Smith
- 12 Jason Hill
- 13 Matthew Sponaugle
- 14 Megan Boone
- 16 Jan Armentrout
- 17 Gene Wood
Casey Hicks
- 18 Donna Fox
- 19 Jennifer Hannah
- 20 Cindee Stinnett
- 21 Norma Curtin
- 23 Tiana Warlitner Hodge
- 24 Kathy Crutchfield
- 26 Mike Fleanor
Logan Hill
- 27 Chloe Reid
Kaitlyn Potter
Israel Boone
Tara Uzzell
- 28 Etha Hayslett
Travis O’Rourke
- 29 Lynn Whitehead
- 30 Maryemma Shifflett
- 31 Jeremy Bartley
Brandi Carper Barr

Anniversaries

- 10 Jim & Margaret Moss
- 21 Robbie & Jeff Horn
- 29 Bucky & Doris Mottern

Prayer Concerns:

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tillie Agnor | Kaylee Elmore | Pearl Miller | Pat & Larry Whitmer |
| Mildred Akers | Joyce Emerson | Sonya Milton | Christy Wiley |
| Evelyn Scruggs Amos | Lee & Lelia Fadley | Doris Mottern | Martha Wilhelm |
| Beth & Hershel Andrews | Barbara Flint | Patty Nicely | Donna Wilson |
| Jan Armentrout | Marshall & Donna Fox | Travis O’Rourke | Dot Wimer |
| Erskine Back | Nadine Fullen | Billy Powell | Joey Wimer |
| Miki Ballengee | Betty Gibson | Teresa Powell | Linda Payton Wolfe |
| Bob & Leta Bartley | Eddie Gibson | Paula Pruitt | Buddy Young |
| Chuck & Jean Bartley | Robert & Gail Gibson | Betty Ray | |
| Steve Bennett | Eugene Gilbert | Frank & April Reynolds | |
| Linda Bogar | Carol Grady | Jim Reynolds | |
| Anita Boone | Evan Groves | B. R. Rupert | <i>Our Nation</i> |
| Doris Burley | Don Hampton | Libby Simpson | <i>Caregivers</i> |
| Emily Byer | Richard & Cora Hastings | Pat Smith | <i>Covid—19 Patients</i> |
| Lee Cabaniss | Danny & Rhoda Hill | Monzell Sovereign | <i>Elected Officials</i> |
| Elwood Cadd | Sandra Hill | Angie Sponaugle | <i>Essential Workers</i> |
| Jean & Harry Casey | Connie Holloway | Matt Sponaugle | <i>Non Believers</i> |
| Betsy Caul | James Hoover | Natalie Sponaugle | <i>President Biden</i> |
| Junior Clark | Neil Horn | Sally Steele | <i>Prisoners</i> |
| Minnie Clark | Shana Hotzapolous | Ellis Stull | <i>U.S. Troops</i> |
| Sandra Clemmons | Lori Wolfe Isaacs | Ruby Stull | <i>Students</i> |
| Kenzie Cline | Charlie Jeffries | Susan Terrell | <i>Teachers</i> |
| Ricky Cooke | Wendell & Judy Jones | Bill Thompson | <i>WRE</i> |
| Steven Craft | Susan Kennedy | Ethan Thompson | |
| Luke Crawford | Pam Key | Marcy Thompson | |
| Chris Crutchfield | Richard Law | Adena Tingler | |
| Clair Seckner Dilley | Debi Leitch | Carolyn Tolley | |
| Randell Dilley | George Leitch | Darrell & Donna Tucker | |
| Joy Dodson | Susan Lindstrom | Pete Turner | |
| Corky & Janice Downer | Frankie Marshall | Buddy Vass | |
| Leslie Downer | Charlie Masters | Danny Warlitner | |
| Priscilla Downer | Calvin McClinton | Dennis Whitehead | |

BRIAN CENTER—Andy Howell, Bill Lockhart, Ruby Stull

VIRGINIA VETERANS CARE CENTER—Roy Lee Reynolds

SCOTT HILL—David and Phyllis Lynn, Sara Mays, Mary Whitehead

SHUT-IN—Joyce Bartley, Jean Broughman, Hallie Dressler, Shirley Ferris, Etha Hayslett, Bonnie Patterson, Shelby Rock

DEATHS

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Jim Flint | Walter (Doc) Altizer |
| Rodney Kyle | William David Carter |
| Cindy Arritt Morrow | Paul Crizer, Jr. |
| Angie Wilkerson | Ronald Haydon |
| Joe Wimer | Ronald Hosey, Jr. |
| | John Hudson |
| | Rick Terrell |
| | Guy “Doug” Slayton |

MILITARY

- Kristen Bennett
- Richard Bray
- Kristopher Hoffman
- Ryan Pritts
- Chris Whitehead

MISSIONARIES

- Tom & Judy Harvey
- Esslinger/Lee



Newsletter Information

Please submit newsletter information and prayer request by email, post mail, or by phone.

(Deadline for next newsletter is Monday ~ March 15 @ 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.

Reopening Worship

Worship reopens this Sunday, March 7 at 11:00am. WE will use the same guidelines as we did when we previously reopened. They are as follows:

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 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. 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 seeing you back at church again!

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

Angela Marshall Wilkerson ~ *daughter of Frankie Marshall*

James Gilman Flint ~ *member*

Cindy Arritt Morrow ~ *friend of McAllister Church*

Joseph A. Wimer, Sr. ~ *member, Trustee Emeritus*

Memorials and Gifts

In loving memory of :	In memory of Roy "Eddie" Williams, Sr.
James & Celestine (Happy) Hill	<i>Larry & Pat Williams</i>
Roy & Dorothy Rudisill	<i>Paul Riley</i>
Delories Riddlebarger	<i>Bob & Leta Bartley</i>
Lynda Sue (Suzie) Hill	<i>Amy & James Hoover</i>
Harry Arahovites	<i>Marshall & Donna Fox</i>
by <i>Danny and Rhoda Hill</i>	<i>Barbara Fawley</i>
In memory of Berkley Key by	In memory of Sadie Sovereign Landis by
<i>Gene & Sue Ellen Hinton</i>	<i>Carol Hallet</i>
<i>Paul Riley</i>	<i>Cindy Howard</i>
<i>Kenneth & Sue Rice</i>	<i>Fryda Powell</i>
In memory of Louise Whitehead by	<i>Linda Dressler</i>
<i>Paul Riley</i>	<i>Sandra Dressler Carter</i>
<i>Mike & Diana Speight</i>	<i>William M. Dressler</i>
In memory of James "Jim" Flint by	<i>Frank & Susan Sponaugle</i>
<i>Bob & Leta Bartley</i>	<i>Jerry & Darlene Taylor</i>
<i>Amy & James Hoover</i>	<i>Littlepage/Gooch Bible Class</i>
<i>Jim, Marlene, & Byron Faidley</i>	<i>Debbie & Danny Rodgers</i>
<i>Robbie Warlitner</i>	<i>Butch & Norma Curtin</i>
	In honor of Tonya Jones by
	<i>Joe and Dot Wimer</i>



Presbyterian Women

To the Women of McAllister Church—We still need your support. Circle dues and mission donations may be sent to the church office or included in your giving envelope.

ADDRESSES:

Frances Marshall
902 Westchester St.
Bedford, VA 24523

Luke Crawford #1663392
Greensville Correctional
901 Correction Way
Jarratt, VA 23870

PV2, Poague, Colton 344
Bravo Company
2D Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment
BLDG 3335, 9075 Holcomb Drive
Fort Benning, GA 31905



Musical Minute:

About twenty years ago I came across the poems and prose of Ted Kooser, a native of Iowa and 13th Poet Laureate of the United States. I can't even remember now how his writing came to my attention, but his works quickly became like a longtime, trusted friend. At least one of his books is usually on or near the nightstand so I can drop in for a visit and reread his thoughtful commentary on nature, his friends and neighbors, his family and his life. I was reminded recently of one of his essays when Andy, after raking leaves before the latest snow, ice, and rains, uncovered a hopeful sign of spring in the strap-

py foliage of daffodils emerging from the winter ground. He came in and pointed out the window at the bright greenery under the trees. It made us both smile. In his collection entitled "Local Wonders," Kooser writes about the delight of finding things that bring one unexpected moments of joy, or as he calls it, "hap." He writes, "To be happy, according to Webster, is to be favored by luck or fortune, and the first syllable of happiness, hap—with its luckiness, its chanciness, its sudden surprise—is a source of much delight in my life." After reading this for the first time years ago, the concept of "hap," or happenstance that brings joy, stuck with me.

A few years ago, I looked out the window above the kitchen sink one morning to find our berry-laden hawthorn trees full of dozens if not hundreds of cedar waxwings. Until this moment, I had seen only one single cedar waxwing in my entire life, and suddenly, by pure chance, there was this living, flitting explosion of color in the trees. If you've ever seen one in a bird book or in person, you'd have to agree that they're one of nature's loveliest creations. The tawny brown male sports a dashing black mask and a jaunty crested cap. The wingtips are dotted with red and both the male and female have a band of bright yellow at the very tip of the tail that looks as though it has been painstakingly painted by hand. They feasted on the berries for fifteen minutes or so and then departed to continue their journey to destinations unknown. What a treasured moment of "hap." Had I glanced out the window just a half an hour later, I would have never known that they were ever there.

I feel the same sense of marvel when I get to study a beautiful butterfly feeding on a bloom in the pots on our back deck, or when I come across a tiny, but exquisite trout-lily, or sometimes even a small patch of them, while on a mid-spring walk. It's easy to get lost in petty daily frustrations, or to become anxious or even fatigued by the noise all around us, but I find that when I can leave those tumultuous thoughts behind and observe and appreciate the world and the many kind people in it, there are moments of "hap" in even the most mundane day.

We'll be back to in-person services next week for those who feel comfortable attending. And we'll continue livestreaming on Facebook for those who prefer to stay home and for those who are out of the area. And while we're certain to have some more cold days, spring is truly around the corner and Easter is approaching quickly. It appears that there are now three vaccines available to help us over the final hurdle of this pandemic. Soon we'll be able to visit with our family and other loved ones again—maybe masked and with some social distancing, but we'll be able to rest our eyes on them. Things are definitely looking up. And while you're looking up, make sure that you're also looking out and about for those unexpected moments of "hap." I know they're out there. As Tammy so beautifully expressed it in the anthem on Sunday, "How can I keep from singing?"

Looking forward to seeing many of you next week. Take good care.

Beth

Scholarship Applications

Scott Scholarship Applications are available in the church office. Any member of McAllister Church attending college in 2021 may apply.



EASTER LILY FORM



Anyone wishing to place an EASTER LILY in Memory or in Honor of loved one(s), please fill in the blanks and bring or mail this form to the church office—*ATTENTION LILY FUND* or place in the offering plate by March 14th. All donors will be listed in the Easter Newsletter. Each order of (\$12.00) will supply one lily. Thanks!

Given By: _____

In Honor/Memory of: _____

Number of Plants: _____ at \$12.00 each = **Total \$** _____

**** You may pick up your lily after the 11:00 a.m. worship service on Easter Sunday.****

(For those wishing to give monetary gifts, please use the portion below.)

MONETARY GIFTS IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY

Given By: _____

In Honor/Memory of: _____