

## Back to in-person worship... but where are the peeps?



There is excitement in the fact that we have returned to in-person worship at McAllister. That excitement was evidenced by the turnout on Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> and the number of people who still tuned into our livestreamed service on the church's Facebook page.

In-person attendance dipped slightly on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> but on both Sundays we had people, real people, not cardboard cutouts (not that we would do that) in our church sanctuary. It was good to see so many faces and hear the chatter and din of people happy to be back in their church home.

Disappointingly (speaking as your livestreaming technician) you can't tell from our broadcast that we had an enthusiastic crowd in the sanctuary. Everyone was gathered up (albeit properly socially distanced) in those back pews just below the balcony and out of range of our new livestreaming camera.

Understandably, not everyone wants to be seen on camera. But when we are announcing that we are back to in-person worship it would be nice for the people tuning in from home or halfway around the world to see that yes, we are in fact back to in-

person worship at McAllister. Social distancing guidelines are being observed but there are real people in the pews! There is a goodly (or godly) number of people in those pews.

People need to see and know that if they want a seat they may want to come a little early and the bonus is 15-20 minutes of pre-service music on the piano.

Please consider sitting in some of those middle and more forward pews so that the camera can see you. We will be mindful of having the camera keep a respectful distance.

Help us show our members and friends that we are truly back for in-person worship at McAllister by taking a seat closer to the front. Invite your friends and fellow church members to join you.

## Why do we sit where we sit in church?

We all know people who are very particular about where they sit in church. We may be such people ourselves. Why do we sit where we sit?

If it were only about the sermon everyone would be sitting in the first few pews right in front of the pulpit and interacting with the pastor.

So, why do people sit in the back or in the balcony? According to John Chilton at the Episcopal Café, reflecting on how people position themselves in relation to others during the sermon, and indeed throughout the entire worship service, provides important clues to how a congregation understands itself as a faith community. People's

interactions reveal how they order their world.

Source:

[https://www.episcopalcafe.com/why\\_do\\_you\\_sit\\_where\\_you\\_sit\\_in\\_church/](https://www.episcopalcafe.com/why_do_you_sit_where_you_sit_in_church/)

## Hierarchy of prestige to seats?

Here is some interesting thinking from what we hope is a bygone era. There was a hierarchy of seats at church. The left side was the "gospel side" and was still considered more "prestigious" than the right "epistle side," similarly the front of the church was more "prestigious" than the rear of the church. In "olden days of yore," when people still paid pew rent to maintain the church, there was even a price difference with the most expensive seat being the one on the left ('gospel side') front aisle and the cheapest being the rear "epistle side" against the wall. Wow! Glad those days are gone!

## Why you should sit in a different seat in church this weekend.

The online article by Chuck Lawless gives six reasons why you should sit in a different seat at church on Sunday. Here are three:

**You'll get to know different people.** You might already know everybody in the church, but sitting with different people will give you the opportunity to get to know somebody more deeply. If you don't know everybody, moving your seat will allow you to know somebody new.

**You'll see the hear the service differently.** It's strange, actually, how

changing your seat alters your perspective on the service. You look at the pastor from a different vantage point. You hear the music and the singing differently.

**You'll learn to be more comfortable with change in general.** Change your place each week, and you'll likely be more open to change as we move forward as a church in the future.

Source:

<http://chucklawless.com/2017/08/6-reasons-to-sit-in-a-different-seat-at-church-this-weekend/>



**QR Code for McAllister's Facebook Page.** Just scan with your camera on your smart phone.

## Join Us!

**Adult Sunday School – Sundays at 9:45 AM**

**Sunday Worship Service – Sundays at 11:00 AM**

**Youth Bible Lesson – posted on Sunday afternoon**

**Five-Minute Bible Study – Wednesdays at 6:00 PM**



**We have several ways to support the many ministries at McAllister Memorial. Please pick the one that is most convenient for you. Thank you!**

### **GIVE ONLINE**

It's easy to give online at McAllister. You can make a one-time gift or a recurring gift using tithe.ly. Go to this link <https://tithe.ly/give?c=898167>

### **GIVE IN-PERSON**

Simply stop by the office any weekday to drop off your check. Collection plates can also be found at the back of the sanctuary.

### **GIVE BY MAIL**

If you would like to give by mail, you can mail your checks to the following address:

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



**Tithe.ly**