

# McAllister Messenger

April 4, 2021

## A Word From Your Pastor Easter Hope and Joy

The traditional Easter Sunrise Service is one of my favorite events on the church calendar. You wake up early, while it is still dark outside – just as the women got up and went to the tomb of Jesus while it was still dark. You drive through the morning twilight to the location of the service – in our case, the Cliff View Golf Club at 7:00 am. (directions are later in this newsletter).

Then, you gather with the other service-goers as the light begins to make its way back into the world – just about the time that Simon Peter and the other disciple reached the tomb. You say a prayer, sing an Easter hymn, and then hear the story of the empty tomb.

The story is full of mystery. What has happened to the body of Jesus? Why is it not where he was laid in the tomb? What is going on? Could it possibly be that he is alive again? What would that even mean? What is the Lord up to?

The story is also full of hope – hope that somehow the terrible event of the crucifixion has been overturned. Especially when we hear in the story that Jesus has appeared to Mary Magdalene, and has instructed her to go tell the others that he is risen from the dead. What an amazing experience this must have been for Mary. What hope and joy she must have felt in meeting her resurrected Lord!

My wish for you this Easter – whether you make it to the sunrise service or not – is that you can experience this same hope and joy. May you, too, meet the risen Lord. Whatever burdens and troubles you are facing, may they be lightened by the light that is coming back into the world.

After all, that may be the best part of the sunrise service – being out in nature as the light comes back into the world. May we feel that light in many ways – in our personal lives, in our church, in our community, in our nation, and in our world.

God is good! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Have a very hopeful and joyful Easter Sunday.



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



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McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church

900 N. Alleghany Avenue  
Covington, VA 24426

(540) 962-2675

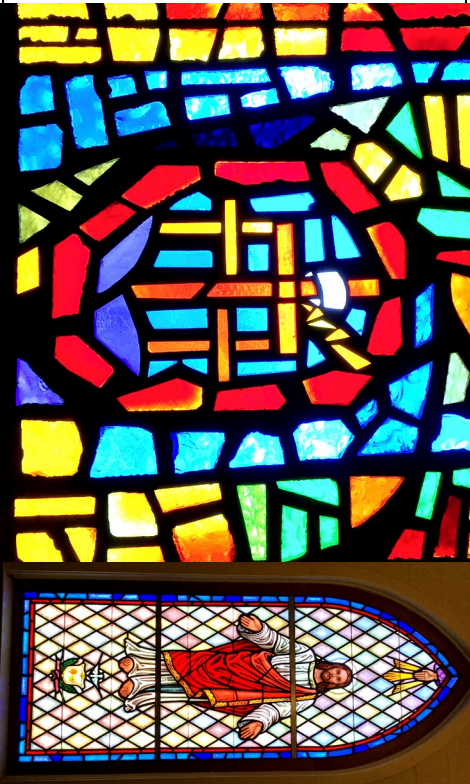
*e-mail -* [mcmPRES@ntelos.net](mailto:mcmPRES@ntelos.net)

*Website:* [mcallistermempcusa.org](http://mcallistermempcusa.org)  
(with online giving link)

Rev. James Edward Moss, Minister

Cell phone—434-738-8841

Email—[revjimmos95@gmail.com](mailto:revjimmos95@gmail.com)



## Come and Go

“Come, see the place where the Lord lay,”  
Said the angels in garments of white.  
Come, see the cavern, once gloomy,  
Now flooded with heavenly light.

Come, see the place He made sacred,  
Make sure’tis an empty tomb:  
For Christ the Redeemer is risen,  
And banished is sorrow and gloom.

“Go quickly” and bear the glad tidings,  
Delay not the story to tell  
To the millions who linger in darkness:  
He triumphs o’er death and o’er hell.

Go quickly and witness for Jesus;  
Go tell of His matchless love,  
How for us He now makes intercession  
At the throne of the Father above.

“Come, see,” and “Go, tell,” is the challenge  
Of Easter, to you and to mee,—  
Come, see for yourself and be happy,  
go, tell that salvation is free.

—P.E. Holdcraft

*Easter means the confirmation of everything sacred to life. Apostolic faith perished with the crucifixion. It was revived with the Risen Christ. Messianic hope, stamped out by legalistic violence, sprang with resurrection to greater faith. Friends turned from the cross with bitter hearts. But the appearance of the living Christ brought their loyalty to full fruition.*

## April Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup> AdriAnne Reynolds Reynolds  
6<sup>th</sup> Cody Nida  
Kim Young  
7<sup>th</sup> Layken Young  
8<sup>th</sup> Angela Sponaugle  
11<sup>th</sup> June Ann Cooke  
12<sup>th</sup> Giaynna Haynes Smith  
14<sup>th</sup> Leslie Nicely  
15<sup>th</sup> Priscilla Moncus  
17<sup>th</sup> Mahaley Reynolds  
18<sup>th</sup> Anita Rice  
Linda Gurd Bogar  
Michael Young  
19<sup>th</sup> Josephine O’Rourke  
20<sup>th</sup> Olivia Lee Bryant  
21<sup>st</sup> Billy Potter  
Hayden Rodgers  
22<sup>nd</sup> Lee Ann Poague  
23<sup>rd</sup> Derek Gibson  
24<sup>th</sup> Kitty Carson  
Julie McCormack  
25<sup>th</sup> Alan Whitmer  
Cody Thompson  
26<sup>th</sup> Amy Ray  
27<sup>th</sup> Betsy Caul  
Steve Craft  
Heather Rowan Riley  
29<sup>th</sup> Patrick Scruggs  
30<sup>th</sup> Ronnie Poague

## Anniversaries

4<sup>th</sup> Pat & Aubrey Bowling  
11<sup>th</sup> Jason & Tamara Hill  
15<sup>th</sup> Stacey & Jamie Bryant  
21<sup>st</sup> Mike & Judy Whitehead  
22<sup>nd</sup> Alan & Kristin Downer  
30<sup>th</sup> Evelyn & Joe Amos

## Prayer Concerns:

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

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

Debbie Humphries	Beth Andrews
Kenny Lane	Billie Fridley
Nancy McFarland	Dennis Fury
Jessie Morris	Andrew Kruse
Richard Shiflett	Norman Kimberlin, Jr
Gerald Sizemore, Sr.	
Richard Tingler	

## MILITARY

Kristen Bennett  
Kristopher Hoffman  
Ryan Pritts  
Chris Whitehead

## MISSIONARIES

Tom & Judy Harvey  
Esslinger/Lee



*Our Nation  
Caregivers  
Covid—19 Patients  
Elected Officials  
Essential Workers  
Non Believers  
President Biden  
Prisoners  
U.S. Troops  
Students  
Teachers  
WRE*

## Newsletter Information

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

**(Deadline for next newsletter is Monday ~ April 12 @ 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.



# Easter Flowers and Gifts



## In Loving Memory

*Bonnie Rice* by Gary Rice & family

*Mr. & Mrs. Pete Necolau*  
*Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. Nicely*  
by Maria Necolau

*Jo Ann Williams and Jean Cross Rice*  
by Maria Necolau

*Ethel Sue Collins, Marion Nicely,*  
*Nolan Nicely, Sr.* by Maria Necolau

*Peggy Redmond, Libby Riley, and Frances Riley*  
by Maria Necolau

*Adolphus A. Hayslett, Sr.* by The Hayslett Family

*Rick & Carol Ayers* by Harry & Gina Tingler

*Dempsey & Helen Laudermilk*  
by Harry & Gina Tingler

*Henry & Zula* by Harry & Gina Tingler

*Family & Friends* by Marshall & Donna Fox

*Jack, Helen, Jesse, Wallace, Brian,*  
*Richard, Jonathan O'Conner,*  
*Bobby Wilhelm, "Truckie" Lemon*  
*& Ashleigh Hepler* by Their Family

*Earl "Truckie" Lemon* by Carole Lemon & family

*Joe Wimer for Dot Wimer* by a friend

*Elmer and Charlotte Keyser* by the Keyser Family

*Wynona Walthall Crush* by Bob Crush and family

*Past members* by Larry and Gail Washburn

*Grover T. Barnett, Sr. & Audrey Barnett Jamison*  
by Bob & Dorothy Bush,  
Tim & Rhonda Barnett & family

*Kenneth L. Jamison & Virginia Jamison*  
by Bob & Dorothy Bush,  
Tim & Rhonda Barnett & family

*Clarence Howard & Mary Bush*  
by Bob & Dorothy Bush,  
Tim & Rhonda Barnett & family

## In Honor

*Margaret Griffith, Callie Uzzell & Kinley Uzzell*  
by Maria Necolau

*Maria Necolau* by Callie and Kinley Uzzell

*Family & Friends* by Marshall & Donna Fox

*Frank & Ethel Sponaugle,*  
*David & Bobbie Reynolds, and Buck & Kay Ray*  
by The Frank & Susan Sponaugle Family and Amy Ray

*To the glory and honor of God*  
by Andrew & Elizabeth Dreszer

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**Memorial**—*In memory of Joseph A. Wimer, Sr.* by Ken and Faye Hall  
*In memory of Joseph A. Wimer, Sr.* by Littlepage/ Gooch Class  
*In memory of Joseph A. Wimer, Sr.* by Danny and Debbie Rodgers

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## Scholarship Applications

Scott Scholarship Applications are available in the church office.  
Any member of McAllister Church attending college in 2021 may apply.  
The deadline to apply is June 1, 2021.



## Easter Worship

The Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Cliff View Golf Club at 7:00 am on Sunday, April 4. Here are directions to get there from the church:

- Go north on US 220 toward Hot Springs for 2.3 miles.
- Turn left on Route 687 (Jackson River Road).
- Go straight for 3.6 miles.
- Turn right onto Friels Dr. (by the sign for the fire station)
- Go until the road dead ends into the golf course after 0.6 miles. Turn left into the parking lot. After parking, walk down the road for just a bit, the service will be held in the fairway to your right. Come find the group of happy Easter worshipers!

We will also have Easter worship in the sanctuary at our normal time (11:00 am). Get there early! Because we must maintain social distancing, we have a maximum of about 70-75 that can fit in the sanctuary. We will have overflow sitting in the Fellowship Hall, watching the service on the television screen.

## Notes From Pastor Jim

- Thank you to everyone who came out for “Spring Flower Day” at the church this past Saturday. The front of the church looks wonderful for our Easter celebration!
- I am now starting to get back out and make some pastoral visits in homes. If you have been vaccinated for Covid and would like a visit – or if you know of someone that needs a visit – please give me a call at 434-738-8841.
- I will be on vacation April 5-April 11. Linda Trumbo will be preaching in my place on Sunday, April 11. This preaching is part of Linda’s training to be a Commissioned Lay Pastor, which is a way for ruling elders to take on some pastoral duties in churches that do not have a minister.





## Musical Minute:

When Andy and I moved to Austria from the Czech Republic in 2001, it took some time to find a home to rent. After a number of months in an apartment on the edge of our new hometown of Graz (Austria's second largest city after Vienna) we found a small family farmstead in a settlement in the country about twenty minutes from the city. At the time, it was undergoing renovations to convert it into two apartments, but we caught it in time to keep it a single family home. The first time we went to view the property we were struck by the beauty and peacefulness of the environs and by the long driveway to the house lined with age-old, twisted apple trees. (I was promptly stung by a yellow jacket that had been feasting on fallen apples near the driveway.) Our future landlord arrived not too long after we did. We all tried our best to communicate as he showed us around the place. Sensing our interest, he invited us to his home for coffee. It turned out that Franz and his wife, Huberta, lived less than half a mile away and would be our new neighbors should we decide to let the house. They turned out to be good neighbors and responsive landlords and Huberta became a dear friend to me. In fact, she made it her mission to introduce me to all that our settlement, Edelsgrub (which we roughly translated to "Noble Ditch"), had to offer.

Our first Easter in Edelsgrub, Huberta called on the Saturday morning before Easter Sunday and informed us that she would be taking us to the local Easter blessing (the Fleischweihe, which actually translates to "Meat Blessing"), an event that would be taking place in one of the farmhouses further down the road from our home. She urged me to gather our Easter ham, eggs, sausage, horseradish root and bread in a basket and meet her at the end of her road so that we could walk together to Herr Leopold's house where the blessing was to be held. Not being Austrian, I didn't have all of the Easter necessities in our fridge, but Huberta told me to just bring what I had. So I did. Andy and I hadn't gotten around to coloring any eggs yet, so I stuck a carton of fresh eggs in my basket, along with a package of

prosciutto (ham, right?), and a jar of prepared horseradish sauce. I did have a nice piece of dark Austrian bread to tuck into the basket.

We headed down the road, deeper into Noble Ditch, where we met up with Huberta. Other neighbors joined us along the way and we all proceeded, baskets in hand, to the Leopold family farmhouse where we could already see the priest and a large gathering of people. At some point along the way, Huberta looked into my basket and I could see she was horrified by the contents! After a good laugh and some gentle chiding, she kindly removed the beautifully embroidered white cloth covering her Easter goodies and placed it over my store-bought items to save me from embarrassment. All of her items had been sourced from local farms and were pristine examples of what, after being blessed on Saturday, would make up Sunday's mid-morning meal before the Easter feast was prepared. The blessing itself was moving—simple and humble in a way, yet also hinting at something much greater and more universal than those of us assembled. It was an exceptionally beautiful early spring day and as Andy and I stood in the company of our neighbors listening to the intonations of the priest in the garden of the centuries old farmstead, we felt a part of something both ancient and timeless. It was an experience we will never forget.

While most Austrians identify as Catholic and may observe various seasonal traditions of the church, many are not practicing Catholics. I'm sure that was the case with several in the crowd that lovely spring morning. Some were there because of their faith and some participated because the tradition held meaning. After the blessing, we all returned to our daily routines, maybe going for a hike, mowing the grass, cleaning the garage, perhaps even going to mass later that evening. But we all knew that we'd taken part in something very special that morning—something greater than ourselves as individuals. I hope that this Easter season holds unforgettable meaning for each of you.

Take good care,

Beth