

McAllister Messenger

APRIL 2022

~A Word From Your Pastor~

What Is So Good About Good Friday?

It's hard to believe, but Holy Week is almost upon us. This is the time when we celebrate the events of Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem (on Palm Sunday); his Last Supper with his disciples and his arrest (on Maundy Thursday); his persecution and his execution on the cross (on Good Friday); and his resurrection from the dead (on Easter Sunday).

It is a week full of mystery and questioning – but perhaps one of the biggest questions we will ask is, “Why is it called Good Friday? What is so good about it?” The answer to this question lets us know why this is such an important day on the Christian calendar.

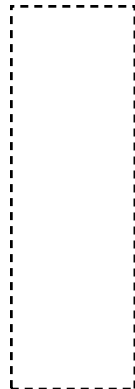
Based on what happened on that day, it doesn't seem good at all. This is the day that Jesus was persecuted. The day he was hung on the cross in shame. And the day he died a very painful death up on that cross. In the moment, there was nothing good about day. Beyond the immediate pain and suffering that Jesus endured, the cross represents the sin that we are all guilty of, and how our sin drove Jesus to that cross.

So how did this terrible day become good? How did God bring something positive out of something that seems so very negative? The answer lies in the fact that Jesus went voluntarily to the cross. As the Son of God, he had the power to free himself and spare himself from the suffering of the cross. But in his great love for us, he chose to die that painful death.

In going voluntarily to the cross, Jesus took our place. He exonerated us from the guilt of our sin. He forgave us. And that is what is so good about Good Friday. It is the day that Jesus bore our sins in his body, the day that God's grace was poured out over all our sin.

On Good Friday this year, we will be joining First Presbyterian in their sanctuary for a special service (April 15 at 5:00 pm). I encourage each of you to come, and hear this terrible but good story once again. I also encourage you to come to our Maundy Thursday Communion service, which will be at 7:00 pm in our sanctuary.

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



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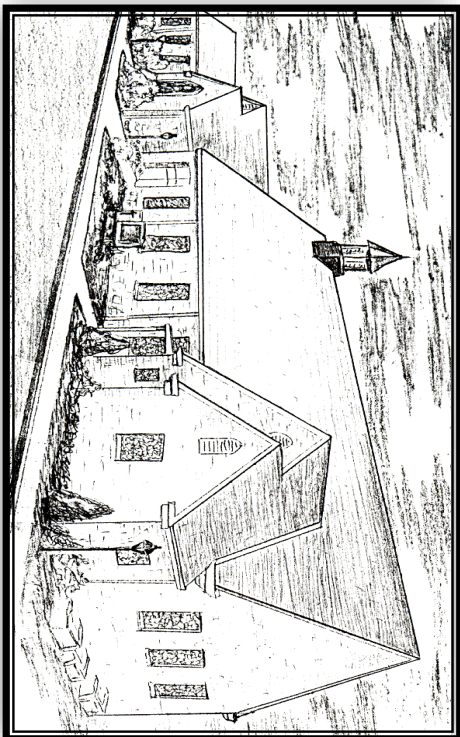
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A NOTE OF THANKS:

Thank you, McAllister Church, for the opportunity to serve as your secretary and treasurer for 19 years and seven months. These have been some of the best years of my life. The friendships I have made at McAllister are very precious and will remain a part of my life forever.

Thank you for the recognition during the worship service on February 27. It was extremely touching. I especially thank McAllister Church for the beautiful inscribed retirement clock—it now has a place of honor in my living room.

I offer a special thank you to everyone for the cards, gifts, flowers, and cake. And thanks for the phone calls and best wishes, too. Your love and kindness fills my heart with joy!

My wish is for God's continued blessing on McAllister Church, her members and her friends.

In Christian Love,
Janet Linkenhoker

Next Session Meeting

SUNDAY, MAY 15th

**immediately*

following church service

We hope all session members will be able to attend.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

April Rowland (new church secretary) will be in the office Wednesdays-Fridays, 7:30am-3:30pm for the duration of the school year. Summer hours will be Wednesday-Friday, 8am-4pm.

Presbyterian Women

Circle #3—Tuesday, April 12
@ 5:30pm (MMPC)

Circle #4—Wednesday, April 13
@ 1:00 (MMPC)

Circle members not attending a meeting are to send their offering to support the

COPE

With current inflation and gas prices, more families than usual are struggling to make ends meet. Please remember our COPE Food Pantry donation box in the front of the church. Thank you in advance!

Prayer Concerns

Mike Seldomridge	Doug & Donna Altizer	Sandra Clemmons	Barbara Flint
Shirley Wickline	Amy Ray	Barbara Entsminger	Don Hampton
Norma Curtin	Van Loving	Diana Gurd Speight	Danny & Rhoda Hill
Joe Martin	The Carter Family	David & Angie Sponaugle	Neil Horn
Doris Hagadon	Ukraine & Russia	Linda Wickham	Lori Isaacs
James Rice	United States of America	Edna Wilfong	Wendell & Judy Jones
Jennifer Hannah	Robbie Warltner	Naomi Holt	Pam Key
Covington Police Dept.	Lonnie Morgan	Sue Burns	Sue Miller
Caleb Ogilvie Family	George & Shirley Persinger	Burwin Tucker	Sonya Milton
Randy Paxton Family	Bert & Betsy Caul	Lewis Leitch	Bucky & Doris Mottern
Stacy Jeter Family	Jimmy Skeens	Midge Akers	Patsy Parker
Wells Fargo Employees	Leslie Downer	Erskine Back	Denise Pillow
BB&T Employees (CF)	Shelby Rock	Miki Ballengee	Ethan Thompson
Truist Employees (CF)	Danny Milton	Bob & Leta Bartley	Buddy Vass
Valerie Brackenridge	David Chesnut	Gary Bartley	Larry & Pat Whitmer
Robert Jackson	James McCauley	Linda Bogar	Martha Wilhelm
Chris Myers	Ricky & June Cooke	Harry & Jean Casey	Shirley Wickline
Faye Malcolm	Debbie Fraley	Steven Craft	Dot & Joey Wimer
Lennox Webb	Margie Alderson	Luke Crawford	Linda Payton Wolfe
John Owens	Linda Gurd Bogar	Leslie Downer	Buddy Young
The Cooke Family	Elwood Cadd	Betty Gibson	COVID-19 victims
The Warltner Family	Sharon Campbell	Evan Groves	



BRIAN CENTER—Bill Lockhart, Ruby Stull, David Lynn

SCOTT HILL—Phyllis Lynn, Sarah Mays, Mary Whitehead

SPRINGS NURSING CENTER—Andy Howell

SHUT-IN—Joyce Bartley, Jean Broughman, Etha Hayslett, Bonnie Patterson, Shelby Rock (R.I.), Martha Wilhelm

MILITARY
Kristopher Hoffman, Colton Poague, Chris Whitehead

MISSIONARIES
Tom & Judy Harvey
Kurt Esslinger & Hyeyoung Lee

Andy Howell is now a resident of the Springs Nursing Center in Bath County. His new address is: Springs Nursing Center 167 Spring Street Hot Springs, VA 24445

Shelby Rock (Linda Wickham's sister) has moved closer to her daughter in Rhode Island. Her new address is: Tockwolton—500 Waterfront Drive—Room 223 East Providence, RI 02914

DEATHS

Angela Ambrose
Reggie Carter, Jr.
Ruby Gordon
Wade Hayslett
Mary Heighter
Mack Humphries
Laura Jean Jamison

Laura Jean Jamison
Stacy Jeter, Sr.
Cecil Jordan, Sr.
Elizabeth McCoy (of Iron Gate)
Carl Nichols
Phyllis Nida

Caleb Ogilvie
Randy Paxton
Toney Poulston
Laura Shaffier
Phyllis Vance



Newsletter Submissions

Please submit newsletter information and prayer requests by email, U.S. mail, or by phone. Deadline for the MAY newsletter is April 22, 2022.

NOTES FROM YOUR PASTOR

We will have the following special services for Holy Week. Please join us as we celebrate the solemn and beautiful events of the crucifixion and resurrection.

Palm Sunday worship. (April 10, 11:00 am) Come and get your palm and wave it in celebration of the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ the King! We will also look toward the solemn events of the Last Supper and the cross.

Maundy Thursday service. (April 14, 7:00 pm) Join us for Communion as we commemorate the Last Supper and the arrest of Jesus Christ. At the end of the service, we will do the traditional stripping of the church, a very powerful and symbolic event.

Good Friday service. (April 15, 5:00 pm) Join us at First Presbyterian as we remember the terrible events of Jesus' persecution and his death on the cross. Many people consider this the most powerful worship service of the year.

Easter Sunrise service (April 17, 7:00 am) Held at Cliffside Golf Club, this service features the youth of our church as we remember the events of the empty tomb.

Easter worship (April 17, 11:00 am) We will join our hearts in celebration of the resurrection! Join us for special music, liturgy, and an Easter sermon.

Easter Egg Hunts

All children up through 3rd grade are invited for a special Easter Egg Hunt. It will be held in the **Fellowship Hall on Good Friday (April 15) at 2:00 pm**. All you need to bring is your Easter basket! Bring your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends for this special event.

All youth 4th grade and up are invited for a special "Glow In the Dark" Easter Egg Hunt. We will meet at the **Sponaugle's house (on Cliffview Golf Course) at 7:00 pm on Good Friday (April 15)**. We'll roast hot dogs and s'mores over the fire. Then, we'll have the egg hunt once it gets dark, using glow in the dark eggs.

Easter Breakfast

We will be having a special Easter breakfast at **9:00 Easter morning (April 17) in the Fellowship Hall**. The Adult Sunday school class is coordinating the breakfast. Please join us for yummy casseroles and good fellowship! Sunday school will proceed as usual at 9:45 am.

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 10, 11:00 am – Palm Sunday worship

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday communion service

Friday, April 15, 2:00 pm – Children's Easter Egg Hunt (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, April 15, 5:00 pm – Good Friday service (at First Presbyterian)

Friday, April 15, 7:00 pm – Youth Easter Egg Hunt (at the Sponaugle's)

Sunday, April 17, 7:00 am – Easter Sunrise Service (at Cliffview Golf Club)

Sunday, April 17, 9:00 am – Easter breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, April 17, 11:00 am – Easter worship

Steeple Update

The new steeple was installed during the week of March 21st. The old steeple, more than 60 years old, was removed and the beautiful new larger steeple was raised, placed, and secured. It looks extremely nice. The new steeple is just over 25-feet tall and 6-feet wide at the base. McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church would like to sincerely thank everyone who donated to the Steeple Fund. Another big thank you is extended to Chuck Bartley for managing the project. A dedication for the new steeple is being planned.

MEMORIALS:

In Memory of Kitty Carson: by Johnny & Camilla Cabaniss
by Howard & Pam Poage

In Memory of Teresa Powell by Johnny & Camilla Cabaniss
by Gene & Sue Ellen Hinton
by Travis O'Rourke & Jeri O'Rourke

STEEPLE FUND:

In Memory of Teresa Powell by Van & Brenda Walker

In Memory of Kitty Carson by Van & Brenda Walker

In Memory of Emmett & Lillian H. Wood by Gene & Sue Ellen Hinton

Memorials & Gifts

Thank You!

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church,
On behalf of COPE, thank you for your continued support of the Pantry. Your donations are very much appreciated and we are grateful for you remembering the food pantry.
~Meredith Downey, COPE Secretary

Dear McAllister Friends,
Johnny & I want to thank you for your prayers and cards during the illness and death of our dear cousin, Patsy Davis. Knowing so many support our family is a true blessing!
~Love, Camilla & Johnny Cabaniss

I want to thank everyone who came to Mom's 90th birthday celebration last Sunday. Thank you for all of your cards, gifts, and well wishes. She really enjoyed seeing everyone as she does not get out much anymore. You all made her day. May God bless each and every one of you.
~Jean Bartley & Family

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP IN
THE MONTH OF MARCH WAS 54 (58/46/60/55)**

April Anniversaries

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

April Birthdays

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



EASTER LILY FORM

Anyone wishing to place an EASTER LILY in Memory or in Honor of loved one(s), please fill in the blanks & bring or mail form to the church office ASAP —*ATTENTION LILY FUND*— or place in the offering plate by April 10th. All donors will be listed in the Worship Bulletin on Easter Sunday. Each order (\$12.00) will supply one lily.

Given By: _____

In Honor/Memory of: _____

(circle one)

Number of Plants: _____ @ \$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: _____

(circle one)

Musical Minute:



In 1997 Andy and I had the opportunity to spend a meaningful and memorable (it was so cold!) Easter in the city of Cracow (Kraków), Poland. For years we'd been told of the beauty of the city and its importance in Polish history, and we finally decided to take a three-day weekend to investigate this jewel about 200 miles from our home in the Czech Republic.

At the time we visited, Pope John Paul II, the first Pole ever elected to the papacy was still in the Vatican. Easter is a huge celebration in predominantly Catholic Poland anyway, but the fact that a native son was the current Pope made the seasonal joy in Cracow even more palpable. There were banners featuring the Pope's benevolent countenance throughout town and excitement pervaded the atmosphere as individuals and families prepared for the upcoming festivities. All day Saturday and throughout the evening, we saw streams of people carrying baskets, pouring in and out of the many churches around the city center. (Wikipedia states that there are at least 120 Catholic Churches in Cracow.) Holding items for the Easter feast the following day the baskets were brought to the church to be blessed by the priest. In addition to decorated hard-boiled eggs (pisanki in Polish), ham, smoked sausage, horse-radish root and other traditional foodstuffs, a requisite item in the basket was the traditional Easter babka, a sort of turban-shaped, ridged, slightly sweetened (and delicious) yeast cake baked in a traditional babka (bob-ka) mold. I was happily introduced to babka when I married into Andy's family and babka and I have been good friends ever since! We have the recipe that Andy's mother used, made all the more special because it was given to her by a dear family friend. Andy makes beautiful babkas and over the years I have also learned to make his mom's babka. Any of you who are accustomed to working with yeast dough will find the recipe very approachable. As with many yeast breads, there is a bit of time involved (most of it resting time for the dough), but the technique itself is not difficult, especially if you have a sturdy mixer (which I am quite certain most Polish housewives throughout the centuries did not have!). Anyway—if you're feeling up to some "armchair" travel and a little work in the kitchen, I present you (see insert) with the recipe for Anna Monseu Dreszer's Easter Babka, courtesy of the Dreszer's longtime family friend, Sally Mroczek. If it turns out well, and it absolutely should, you can bring it by the church and maybe Pastor Jim will bless it for you!

~Beth