

McAllister Messenger - November 2022

A Word from Your Pastor ~ A Childlike Sense of Wonder

As the autumn leaves are falling, and the morning temperatures give us a chill, we are moving slowly but steadily toward the season of winter. Winter is a season that brings different reactions from different people.

Some people dread the coming of winter and then suffer through the season. These folks complain about the cold, and about the snow that falls and makes roads slick, and demands to be shoveled from driveways. For these folks, winter is something to be endured, to just get through until the warm breezes of springtime return.

Other folks, however, embrace the winter with open arms. They look forward to snuggling up under a blanket with a cup of hot coffee or cocoa, and with a favorite book to read. When the snow comes, they enjoy its beauty and silent majesty as it covers the streets, the yards, and the walkways. They are the ones who bundle up and get out there, sledding on a steep hill or just take a walk through a winter wonderland. They are the ones who decorate their houses with festive lights and ornaments for the Christmas season. They are the ones who cry out “Merry Christmas!” with great enthusiasm, and not just a rote sense of duty.

When we act like the first group, feeling negative about the oncoming cold season, we are nothing but old grumps. But when we act like the second group, like the ones who embrace winter and all its delights, we are showing what can be called “a childlike sense of wonder.” This sense of wonder shares a lot in common with our Christian faith.

Because much as the winter season gives us the choice to embrace or endure, our faith gives us that same choice: to embrace life and all its wonders, or simply to endure life and all the cares and concerns that it brings.

This is not to say that we should never feel down or anxious or grumpy. There are some things in life that warrant these negative emotions. But the problem comes when we dwell on the negative, and we let it blot out all the wonders of faith and of being alive.

So as the temperatures drop and the leaves fall, let us adopt that childlike sense of wonder. Let us embrace all the good things that Christmas and winter have to offer. And let us embrace the leaves themselves. For those who are able, let us rake up a big pile and then jump in. For those who aren’t able to do that, let us enjoy these last few weeks of fall color before winter arrives.

And let us approach our lives with that same sense of childlike wonder. Let us be amazed by the grace and the love that we receive in our families, and in our church family. For if all we do is complain and curse the changing of the season, then that is all we will see: the negative. And we will miss all the wonders. Let us receive the new season as a child, with arms and hearts wide open.

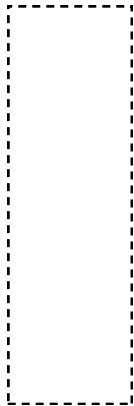
~Jim



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

December Newsletter Deadline: NOV. 18th!

We are thankful for:



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

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church

900 N. Alleghany Avenue
Covington, VA 24426

(540) 962-2675

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Website: mcallistermempcusa.org
(with online giving link)

Rev. James Edward Moss, Minister

Cell phone—434-738-8841

revjimmos95@gmail.com





- 3 Janie Tyree
- 5 Taylor Poague
- 6 Pat Martin
- 7 Harry Casey
- 8 Chris Caul
- 10 Becky Hayslett
Pam Key
- 11 Justin Nicely
- 12 Frank Reyns
- 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
- 26 Kelly Patterson



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

**Notes From
Pastor Jim:**



- * The youth are having a cookout at the Sponaugle home - Cliff View Golf Club (Falling Spring) - on Sunday, November 6th at 4:00 pm. The entire church is invited to join. We will gather around the fire to roast hot dogs and s'mores, sing some campfire songs, and enjoy each other's company. If you need directions, call Rev. Moss at 434-738-8841.
- * There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 13th immediately following worship. We will be electing elders for the class of 2025. This will also serve as our required annual meeting.
- * We are having a church-wide Soup & Sandwich Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 13th immediately following church and the congregational meeting. Attendees are asked to bring a crockpot soup or a dessert. Please join us for good fellowship and good food—consider bringing a friend or two.
- * There will be a community Thanksgiving service on Sunday, November 20th. We will gather with our neighboring churches from Alleghany Avenue. The time for this service has not been determined. Stay tuned.

Mrs. Bonita (Bonnie) Patterson:
Richfield Living Rehab, Rm. 312
1047 Mecca St. NE
Roanoke, VA 24012

Larry Whitmer (now home):
916 N. Greenbrier Ave.
Covington, VA 24426

Prayer Concerns:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Kristen Downer | Dennis Akers | Jeannie Cahoon | Vince Bartley |
| Leitch Family | Jean Casey | Kelly Faulf | Summit Caul |
| Becky Hayslett | Buzzy Hoke | Robert Miller | Richard "Whiskers" Fridley |
| Nadine Humphries | Joe Martin | Brenda Nicely | Allen Hickman |
| Becky Lane | Margaret Moss | Bonnie Patterson | Nancy Tyree |
| Jennifer P. Markham | Mike Paitsel | Nancy Seay | Flood/hurricane victims |
| Gary Reynolds Family | J.C. & Linda Rice | Deborah Twitty | <i>Elected, Appointed</i> |
| Gary Skidmore | Jeanie Terry | "Gut" Twitty | <i>Officials</i> |
| Dot & Joey Wimer | Larry Treynor | Jeri O'Rourke & Family | <i>United States, Our Troops</i> |
| Raleigh shooting victims | Bill Withrow | | <i>Ukraine & Russia</i> |

MILITARY— Kristopher Hoffman, Colton Poague, Chris Whitehead

MISSIONARIES— Tom & Judy Harvey, Kurt Esslinger/Hyeyoung Lee

BRIAN CENTER— Louise Humphries, Bill Lockhart, David Lynn, Kara N. Asboth

SCOTT HILL— Phyllis Lynn, Sara Mays

SPRINGS NURSING CENTER— Andy Howell

TOCKWOTTON (R.I.) -Shelby Rock RICHFIELD REHAB—Bonnie Patterson

SHUT-IN—Joyce Bartley, Jean Broughman, Etha Hayslett

CONSTANT NEED—Midge Akers, Erskine Back, Miki Ballengee, Bob & Leta Bartley, Gary Bartley, Linda Bogar, Matt Bowser, Harry & Jean Casey, Luke Crawford, Patty Crosier, Leslie Downer, Betty Gibson, Evan Groves, Barbara Flint, Derwood Garrett, Don Hampton, Danny & Rhoda Hill, Lori Issacs, Wendell & Judy Jones, Donald Kelley (missing) & family, Pearl Miller, Bucky & Doris Mottern, Patsy Parker, Denise Pillow, Ethan Thompson, Buddy Vass, Larry Whitmer, Shirley Wickline, Dot Wimer, Joey Wimer, Linda P. Wolfe, Buddy Young



DEATHS

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Grace Bates | Lee Dunn | Robert Miller | Moses Hunter, Jr. |
| Bubby Davis | Travis O'Rourke | Dr. Nancy Ochs | Ron K. Jeffries, Sr. |
| Betty Downey | Linda Scott | Billie Joe Phillips | Jilleen J. King |
| Deloris Lewis | Ira Thomas | Gary Reynolds | Lewis & Kathy Leitch |
| Genevieve McKenzie | Dorothy "Dot" Tucker | Reba Spence | Quintin Lyle Reid |
| Charles S. Tucker | Martha B. Williamson | Harry K. Williams | Don Romanello |
| Henry Nigel Barnes | Linda Cardwell | Joe Arambula | Michael Spencer |
| Elva Mae Carpenter | Daisy Mae Durham | Iris B. Bush | Clyde Terry |
| Lee Dunn | Robert Ferguson | Malkcom Crawford | Greg White |
| Tom Eroh, Sr. | Shirley Hill | Ed "Toothpick" Flint | Jane Whiteside |
| Nettie Lindsay | <i>Pat Carter's sister</i> | Betty Harlow | |

Average OCTOBER Sunday Worship Attendance: 52



Sunday, November 20th



Memorials & Gifts

In memory of Travis O'Rourke:

*Marshall & Donna Fox
Howard & Pam Poague
Danny & Rhoda Hill
Butch & Norma Curtin
Ricky & June Cooke
Circle #2
June Walthall Hamm & Family
Buddy & Margie Young*

In memory of Susan T. Kennedy:

Betty Gibson

In loving memory of Ray Hamm:

loving wife, June Walthall Hamm

Donation to Nursery/Sunday School

Buddy & Margie Young

Sympathy

McAllister Church extends sympathy and prayer to the family of:

Travis O'Rourke ~ member, mother of Jeri O'Rourke & Larry O'Rourke

We would also like to extend our prayers and sympathy to Pat Carter, friend of the church, on the October passing of her sister.

Thank You

Dear McAllister Church Family,

Thank you so much for providing the meal for our family following Mom's service. The food was delicious and the time allowed us to remember many good times.

Mom loved her church and adored her church family.

~Larry, Jeri, & Josephine O'Rourke

A big thank you to the Property Committee (Gary Rice, chair) & volunteers who have & continue to assist with fall clean-up efforts here at the church!

Presbyterian Women Meetings

CIRCLE 3 - Tuesday, November 8th, 5:30pm at the church

CIRCLE 4 - Wednesday, November 16th, 12:30pm (Cliffview Golf Club restaurant)



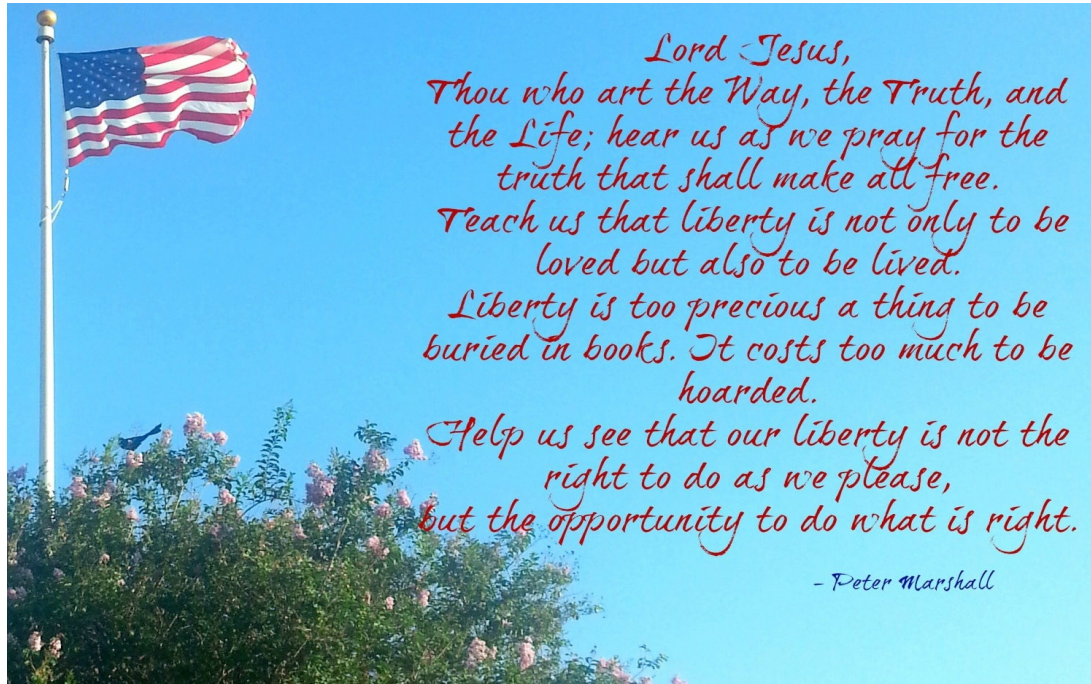
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VETERANS DAY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, NOV. 11,
IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERAN'S DAY.**



*Lord Jesus,
Thou who art the Way, the Truth, and
the Life; hear us as we pray for the
truth that shall make all free.
Teach us that liberty is not only to be
loved but also to be lived.
Liberty is too precious a thing to be
buried in books. It costs too much to be
hoarded.
Help us see that our liberty is not the
right to do as we please,
but the opportunity to do what is right.*

- Peter Marshall

Don't forget to THANK A VETERAN FOR THEIR SERVICE!

...AND BACK!!!! 29 Families served; 1600 lbs. of food distributed!!!

“ I appreciate you and your churches for assisting us so much! It was greatly appreciated.” -- Tim (Principal of Buckhorn School)

“tell all those that donated...Thanks, very much appreciated” -- Missie

“Thank you all so much for all you've done and are doing for our little communities! It is greatly appreciated” -- Tracey



“COOLERS OF LOVE” (Kentucky):

This time a couple Saturdays ago, we were in Buckhorn, KY visiting and getting ready to distribute your food.

We were eating breakfast at Hardees in Hazard, KY when we got a text from Tracey (friend of mine in Buckhorn.. sister-in- law of Tim [principal of Buckhorn School])... saying that the school had posted on its Facebook page that we were distributing food at 1pm. She advised us that there would probably be people waiting in line.

At 1pm we did have people in line and they helped unload the van. It was fun seeing everyone helping each other. Frances took the pictures. She did a great job of catching the feeling of the day at the picnic shelter. There was a lot of laughter and appreciation. The food will eventually be gone... but the people in Buckhorn will always know that they are loved by you..... that will last forever.

We also included pictures of Buckhorn School. There has been a lot of clean up done, but sooo much more. The school has been closed for this year and next school year. The children and staff are having classes in the west wing of A.B. Combs School in Hazard, KY. The children and staff are together and remain “Buckhorn Strong”. Continued blessings, *Linda&Frances*

Truly I tell you,
whatever you did
for one of the least of
these brothers and
sisters of mine,
you did for me.
- Jesus (Matthew 25:40)

WE ARE ALL
ONE IN
CHRIST JESUS
- GALATIANS 3:28

Frances



LOVE FROM COVINGTON, VA....

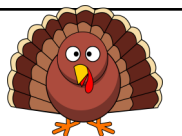


...TO BUCKHORNE, KY...

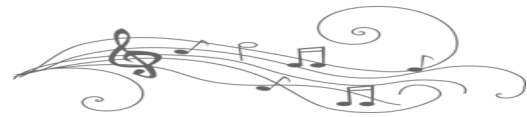


**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ON THURSDAY & FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 24 & 25 IN OBSERVANCE OF THE
THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY**

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Don't forget to gobble...
'til you wobble!*



Musical Minute



I love living in Virginia where we get to fully experience all four seasons of the year. I appreciate the quietude and chill of winter, the unabashed exuberance of spring, and the overgrown bounty of our hot summers (if not the biting insects and humidity that accompany it). Still, in my opinion, nothing beats fall. It brings the promise of cooler days to come, fewer hours of daylight, and more time for cozy indoor gatherings. It also brings pumpkins and mums, the very essence of autumn, on front porches and spilling down walkways. You can see why spiders and their webs are such a symbol of our Halloween celebrations when you see hundreds of silvery, iridescent webs shimmering in the shrubs and grass on a brisk fall morning. There's not much better than stepping outdoors early in the day in October or November, feeling the subsiding chill of the night before as the brilliant sun shines through the ruby and golden hued leaves and the squirrels and birds awaken to begin their daily activities.

Thanks to the foraging habits of our friends in Europe, the cooler nights and bracing morning temperatures of autumn also became symbolic to me of mushroom season. The first fall after our arrival in the Czech Republic I, along with two other American friends, was invited to "go mushrooming" with a lovely older couple. We didn't know them particularly well and our Czech language skills certainly weren't highly developed at that point, but the invitation was heartfelt and they assured us through the help of a translator that they would keep their eyes on us in the Czech wilds and that no harm would come to us. We were advised to dress warmly, wear comfortable shoes, and bring our appetites.

We met just after sunrise at their little cabin/garden plot on the outskirts of town and headed into the woods, each of us carrying a woven basket and a paring knife. Maria and Jiří, our new Czech acquaintances, quickly spotted an example of what we were looking for and showed it to us, noting the color, texture, and the fact that it was smooth on the underside and didn't have gills or "curtains." They impressed upon us how important it was to carefully harvest the mushroom so that it would regrow, and then they stressed yet again the importance of those gills. From the top the two mushrooms looked identical, but the presence of the gills on the bottom of the second meant the mushroom was poisonous. Well that made the stakes

higher . . . And it made us all want to improve our language skills sooner rather than later. Was it the ones with the "curtains" or without that were poisonous?! Not long after we entered the woods, Maria and Jiří displayed their prowess in the search for the elusive fungus (honed through decades of experience, no doubt), quickly filling their baskets with meaty, wild mushrooms. I, meanwhile, continued to scan the ground, finding nothing. As I tried to adjust my vision from the macro to the micro though, I began to notice a whole other world beneath the trees. The forest floor wasn't just scattered with pine needles and leaf debris. There were lush areas covered with verdant moss with tiny star-shaped flowers springing from the spongy ground. There were miniscule pockets of water melted from the overnight frost held in dried leaves and in pock-marked stones, waiting for the sluggish insects to awaken in the warmth of the sun and come have a drink. It was a hidden fairy world unlocked within a magical and foreign forest and as happens with such adventures, we became immersed in the experience, unaware of the passage of time. The sun climbed higher in the sky and at some point, I felt more than a twinge of hunger. What had seemed like just a few minutes search had been more than two hours spent foraging.

We novices had managed to find a few of the brown forest treasures and Maria and Jiří had filled their baskets and then some, moving on to large paper bags. It was time to enjoy the fungal fruits of our labors, so after our meditative and enchanting morning in the woods, we returned in high spirits to the warmth of the cabin where Jiří and Maria prepared a feast of wild mushrooms sauteed in butter and scrambled eggs all washed down with mugs of warm grog. It was one of the best, most satisfying meals I've ever had. There were other trips with other friends to different woods during our years away, each experience unique and magical in its own way. By the second year or so in the Czech Republic I even learned to say, "Jedeme na houby!" or "We're going mushrooming!" But I have always remembered the first trip as being especially empowering, perhaps due to the fact that it felt a bit risky. We hadn't been in the country long, but we trusted two people we barely knew (and with whom we could barely communicate) to take us "into the woods" to harvest a potentially poisonous wild fungus. And we experienced a once in a lifetime adventure and were shown exceeding kindness for which I am grateful to this day. Have a blessed Thanksgiving holiday!

~Beth