

# McAllister Messenger

DECEMBER 2025

## A Word From Your Pastor: “Bible Study in Community”

*Scripture reading is a very important part of the Christian life. The following quote from our Wednesday night Bible study book explains just how important reading the Bible is:*

*“The Bible is not just an anthology of stories. It is not just a collection of pious phrases. This book contains the power to transform your life, so that you can live it just as God intends. All you have to do is ‘take up and read.’ Better yet, read it in community with other people.”*

*At McAllister Church, we have a couple of opportunities for studying the Scriptures in community. The first is Sunday school, which meets in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday morning at 9:45. We have just started a new series called “A Brief Survey of the Bible.” During each session, led by myself, we analyze a particular story from the Bible as well as watch a video explaining how all the stories in the Bible come together to tell one big story. This big story is the “presence of God with God’s people.”*

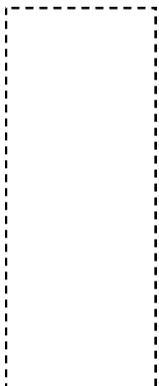
*The second opportunity we have for studying the Scriptures in community is our Wednesday night Bible study. We meet at 6:00 p.m. each Wednesday evening in the Fellowship Hall. We are currently looking at a book called “Questions Jesus Asked.” It explores in-depth six of the many questions that Jesus asks of his followers in the Gospels. For example, we have looked at the questions “Why are you afraid?” and “Why are you anxious?” The book really hits home with some of the most pressing issues of faith in our time.*

*I encourage each of you to attend Sunday school and Wednesday night Bible study. In each, we do more than just study the Bible. We also come together as a community to share our joys and concerns. These times are very important to the life of our church. We do more than just learn about the Bible. We make a spiritual connection with one another. This is a spiritual connection you don’t want to miss. So join us!*

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



*Christmas Blessings to you:*



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

JAN. 2026  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:  
Wednesday,  
December 17th

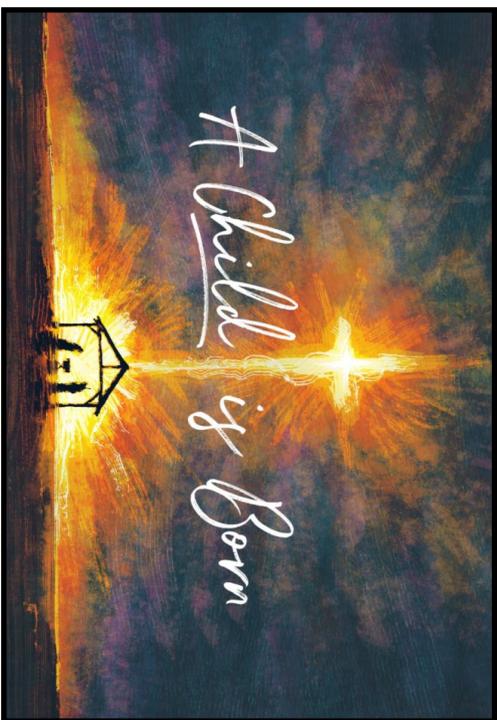
**McAllister Memorial  
Presbyterian Church**  
(540) 962-2675

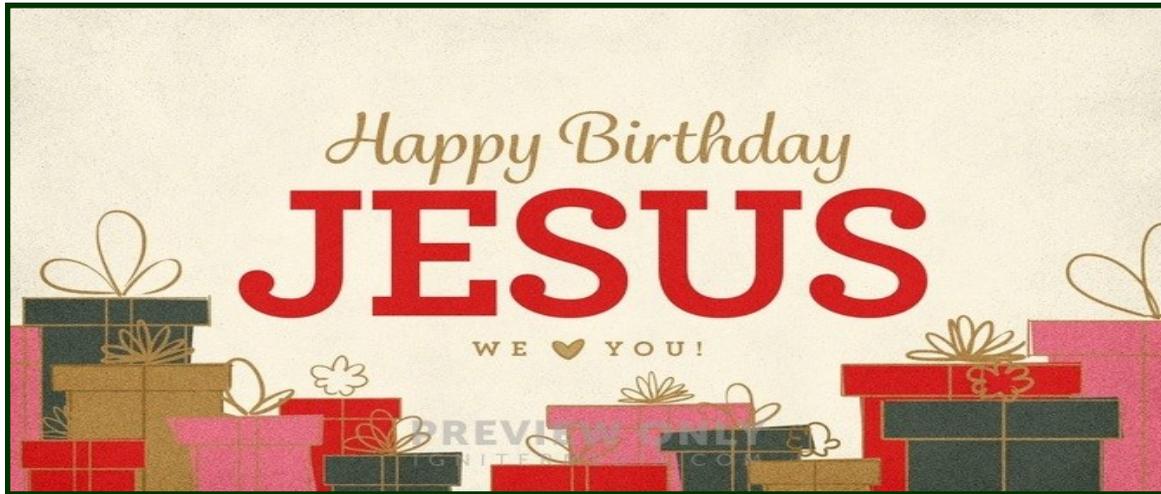


admin@mcallistermempcusa.org  
www.mcallistermempcusa.org

*online giving link:*

**Rev. James E. “Jim” Moss**  
Cell phone: 434-738-8841  
revjimmos95@gmail.com





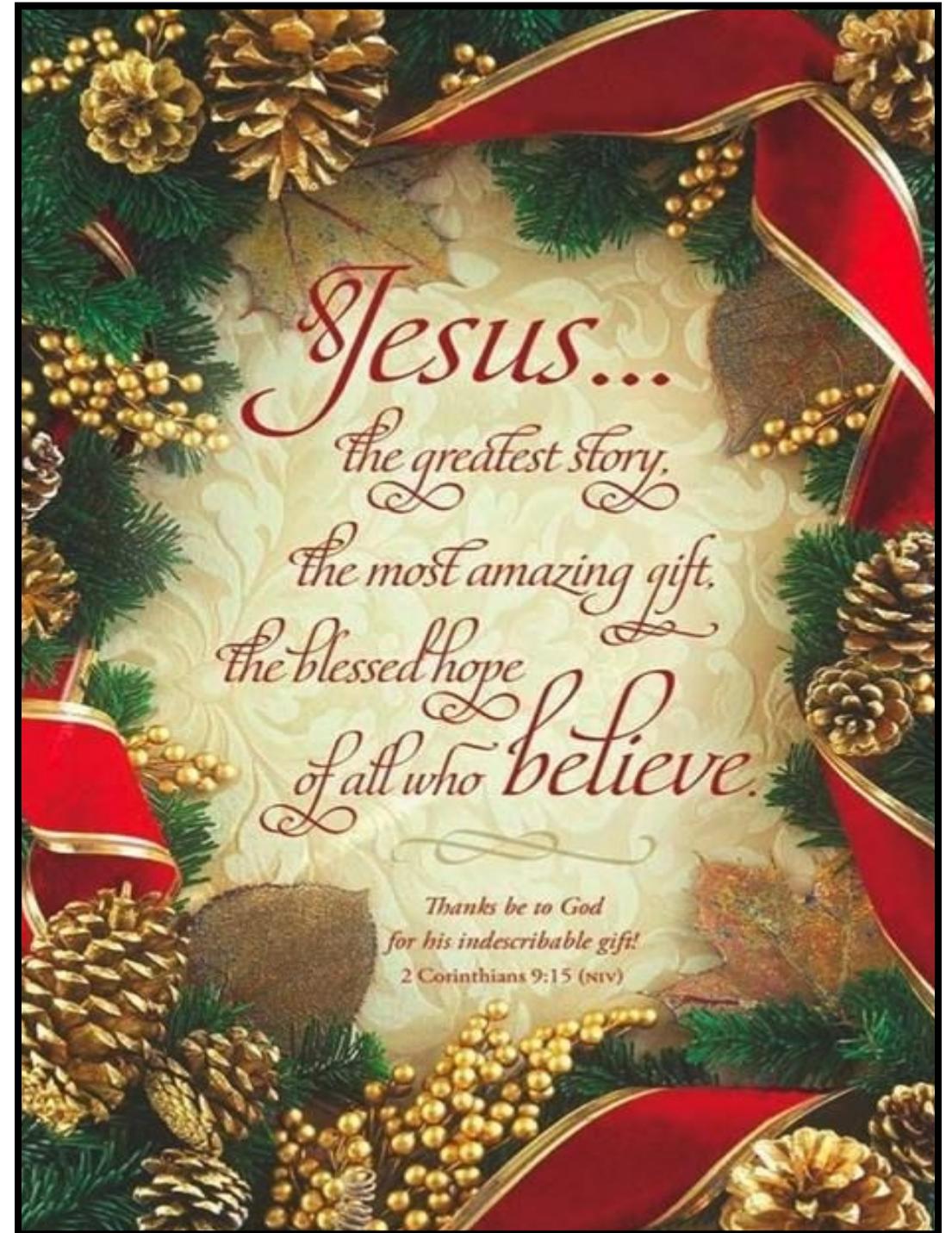
# Merry Birthday

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1—Rick Downer     | 24—Diane Hicks     |
| 2—Kevin Hudson    | Seth McKee         |
| 5—Pat Bowling     | 25—H.L. Wickham    |
| 11—Debbie Bennett | 27—Daniel Reynolds |
| 15—Margaret Moss  | 28—Meghan Craft    |
| 18—Bob Bartley    | 31—Katie R. Long   |
| 20—Brett Smith    | Frank Sponaugle    |
| 21—Ricky Cooke    | Chris Whitehead    |
| 22—Barbara Noel   |                    |



- 2—Kevin & Becky Hudson  
12—Andy & Beth Dreszer  
21—Gus & Becky Hayslett

*In the November newsletter Pam Key's birthday was accidentally left off of the list. We apologize for the oversight. Pam Key celebrated her birthday on NOVEMBER 10th! Happy Belated Birthday, Pam!!!!*



# APPRECIATION

McAllister Church members,

This gift (check) is to say THANK YOU for sending the newsletter to me. I love seeing what is going on and keeping up with all the people.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Anderson

Dear McAllister Church,

With Thanksgiving just days away, I want to thank Pastor Jim, McAllister Church members and friends for the cards, calls, prayers and well wishes during my surgeries this year. The second new hip is beginning to feel like my own and through your good graces and God's help the other surgeries have already begun to fade into memory. I am grateful to all of you.

Andy Dreszer

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN SAMARITAN'S PURSE: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD THIS YEAR. WE COLLECTED 16 FILLED SHOE-BOXES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS INTERNATIONALLY. ALSO DONATED WAS ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE SHIPPING FOR ALL 16 BOXES PLUS AN ADDITIONAL \$90 MONETARY GIFT TO THIS WONDERFUL MISSION.

**GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**

~ Jenni Hinton, coordinator  
McAllister Church



*THANKS to each of you who helped decorate the church sanctuary with greenery and set up the Chrismon Tree. Our sanctuary is now beautifully adorned for the Christmas Season.*



## NEXT SESSION MEETING

There WILL be a Session meeting on December 14th!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW):

Circle 3: 2nd Tuesday of month, 5:30  
Circle 4: 2nd Wednesday of month, noon



The church office will be closed Wednesday & Thursday, December 24th & 25th for Christmas. Jim, April and Buzzy would like to wish everyone a wonderfully Merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



## 2025 Financial Books closing MONDAY, December 29<sup>th</sup>

Financial records for 2025 will close Monday, December 29<sup>th</sup> after the final deposit is taken to the bank. In order for contributions to be recorded for 2025, they need to be delivered to the office or postmarked by Friday, December 26, put in the offering plate by Sunday, December 29 or made online by midnight December 31. We sincerely appreciate all financial contributions gifted throughout yet another financially challenging year and for your cooperation in closing our 2025 books.

**TITHING ENVELOPE BOXES** will be ready for pickup by **SUNDAY, December 28th**. They will be located on the pew bench below the front window in the Fellowship Hall. Please note that **SOME** (not all) box numbers were reassigned to keep our order to 60 boxes or less to allow for significant cost savings. Please feel free to pick the boxes up before or after worship or during office hours.



## Prayer Concerns

Carlos Angell	Linda Baldwin	Sandra Capps	Beverly Ayers
Gerald Franson	Dallas Bates	Jim Crawford	Devin Burks
Wayne Howard	Carson Brown	Sonya Fornwalt	Harry Casey
Garland Humphries	Garsilda Brown	Edgar Freeman	Betty Gibson
Pam Key	Stephanie Clark	Rob Honts	Kevin "Tater" Jackson
Linda Keyser	Mark Entsminger	Scott Jennings	Debbie Rodgers
Pearl Miller	Marshall Fox	Dreama Nichols	Gary Skidmore
Frenchy Parris	Darrell Sampson	Jamie Smith	Brenda Walker
Billy Stull	Charles Twitty	Buddy Sizemore	Downer Family
Karen Wenke	Owen Burch Family	Carolyn Waugh	Billy Lipes Family
H.L. Wickham	AHS Cougar Family	Geraldine Vass Family	Nona Saville Family
Brigette Young	WV mining community	Jamaica, Caribbean	Our Country
			Our World

## Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER: David Lynn, Bonnie Patterson, Rosa Lee Bartley (#500)

SCOTT HILL: Sarah Mays

THE SPRINGS: Andy Howell

CARRINGTON PLACE: B.R. Rupert

BRIDGEWATER HOME: Jean Broughman

TOCKWOTTEN (Rhode Island): Shelby Rock

SHUT-IN: Bob & Leta Bartley, Ricky Cooke, Betty Gibson, Dolly Whitehead

MILITARY: Olivia Bryant, Aiden Downer, Chris Whitehead

MISSIONARIES: Tom & Judy Harvey, Kurt Esslinger & Hyeyoung Lee



## Constant Need

Midge Akers, Jerry Ballengee, Dennis Brinkley, Edgar Brinkley, Linda Caldwell, Sandra Capps, Harry & Jean Casey, Leslie Downer, Cindy Durham, Barbara Flint, Renee Gann, Don Hampton, Cory Harrison, Emma Hartless, Danny & Rhoda Hill, Rob Honts, Janet Hubble, Lori Isaacs, Robert A. Jackson, Wendell & Judy Jones, Christine Lopez, Bebe Marshall, Pearl Miller, Bucky & Doris Mottern, Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Denise Pillow, Theresa Purdue, Linda Ratliff, Anita Rice, Mary Rice, James Rice, Angie Sponaule, Ethan Thompson, Buddy Vass, Greg Vess, Gwen Wolfe, Jerry Wolfe, Linda P. Wolfe. Rider Yeagley, President Joe Biden. Non-believers, our Church, unspoken prayers, local first responders, U.S.A., U.S. troops & gov't, Ukraine & Russia, Middle East.

\*\*\*\*The McAllister Messenger is a monthly publication. Deadline for submissions is the second Friday of each month. You can also view this newsletter online at [www.mcallistermempcusa.org](http://www.mcallistermempcusa.org). To request a full color copy of this publication BY EMAIL, inform us of a change in contact information, OR object to the use of your photo/your children's photo being used, please call the church office or email us (see back cover). We sincerely regret and apologize for any error, misprint, or omission that may occur in this publication. Contact our office at 540-962-2675 with any revisions. Leave a message if necessary as voicemail is checked regularly.



the exact theme of my family's most-used advent calendar when I was young, I couldn't have given you the exact details, other than that it was a small village with tiny windows cut into the building facades. But when I opened it up today, I was stunned to find how familiar it all was. The tabletop-sized calendar unfolds into an L-shape to which there is another L-shaped attachment that opens in the opposite direction. The effect is one of a typical European walled city, only this bewitching city is blanketed in snow and enhanced by gold glitter details. Except for the glitter, it could easily be a wintry village near where we lived in the Czech Republic or Austria. The charming images hidden behind the perforated windows are printed on a translucent sheet adhered to the stiffer cardboard of the calendar - an angel, St. Nicholas, a young chorister with her mouth open in song, a good dog receiving a treat, a songbird in a cage . . . Nick and I were allowed to peel open the tiny windows on opposite days, Nick one day and I the next. On the dusky evenings leading up to Christmas, I was mesmerized by the small Christmas vignettes behind the diminutive windows, imagining what life must have been like inside the "rooms" displayed in the windows, scenes warmly lit by the soft glow of the lamp that mom had placed behind the calendar.

Last night I dimmed the lights in the living room and put my lit cellphone behind the calendar, picturing each space behind the tiny window shutters in my mind's eye. In no time I was transported back to Lexington Avenue at about eight years of age. Christmas carols played in the background - probably Nick on the piano in the living room. Mom and dad talked quietly in the kitchen. I felt safe, warm, happy, and completely at ease. I wish you all the same as we await the arrival of the Christ Child. Have a very merry Christmas.

~Beth



## Musical Minute

Earlier this week I was downstairs in the basement looking through a box of Christmas decorations from mom and dad's house. I was looking for a particular piece that mom used to hang on the den door during the holidays. Made of red felt and embellished with red-sequined poinsettias and other symbols of the season, she attached to it all of the Christmas cards that we received each year. I didn't find the hanging, but as I should have expected, I found a treasure trove of other items from my childhood. First of all was the box itself. I remember it not just because it's been in Andy's and my possession now for a number of years, but I actually remember when it was still used as a gift box in our family. It's from the 1970s maybe, when boxes were made of stouter stuff than they are today. They weren't sold collapsed at the corners and flat as we might purchase a set of gift boxes today. It's a good quality box with sturdy glued corners and an equally sturdy lid. To put it politely, the lid is "slightly" garish, but so colorful with pink, green, black, orange, yellow, and white graphics depicting table centerpieces with candles. Even with the unconventional colors, it IS Christmassy and I've adored it since I was a child. Judging from its heft and the quality of the printing on the lid, I'm guessing that it may have come from the Leggett store on Main Street, or even the Heironimus store in Roanoke back in the day. It's larger than a shirt box—maybe meant for a lady's long, fluffy robe, or some bed linens or towels— but it's not too terribly deep and mom eventually retired it from gift-giving and used it to store Christmas stockings and other flat decorations.

I've dug into it several times since I retrieved it from the attic at mom and dad's, but this year was the first time I went deeply enough to see what was between the sheets of heavy duty foil layered in the bottom of the box. In addition to the vinyl silhouette decals that used to magically stick in the kitchen windows each Christmas, I was delighted to find two paper advent calendars from decades ago. If you had asked me last year, or even last week,

## Deaths

Joyce Hoke Forbes  
Pamela K. Kirts  
Larry A. Wolfe

Lena Brown Bess  
Paul Bodkin  
Francis W. Bush  
Linda K. Corbett  
Mildred P. Kemper  
Terry Ayers  
Owen Dean Burch  
Stacey Corbett  
Clara C. Hanna  
Ilene M. Penland  
Phyllis R. Ramsey

L. "Dolly" Perez  
Terry Lee Rock  
P. "PJ" Smith, Jr.  
Geraldine T. Vass  
Susie Ann B. West  
Janet R. White  
Richard G. Davis  
Loretta Horton  
R. "Gene" Meadows  
Nona Saville  
Phillip Lee Taylor

Dorothy Ballengee  
Joyce Clark  
Judy B. Dressler  
Preston Faidley, Sr.  
Hampton Forbes, Jr.  
James Hawkins  
Isabell T. Hosey  
"Bill" Lipes, Jr.  
"Bill" Maydian  
Jerry Nininger  
Henry D. Moore

## Gifts

In Loving Memory of my wife, Gail Washburn,  
on her birthday by:

✝ Larry Washburn

## With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



The McAllister Church Family extends prayer and sincerest condolences to:

✝ Gus Hayslett on the loss of his uncle,  
Gene Meadows.

✝ Anyone having recently  
experienced a loss.

# Children's Pumpkin Party - Sunday, October 26th



## Notes from Pastor Jim

- ◆ *The Youth and Children will have a Christmas Caroling Party on Sunday, December 7th. We will meet at the church and go caroling at the homes of several of our shut-ins. When we are finished caroling, we will come back to the Fellowship Hall for hot chocolate and cookies. Please join us for what promises to be a fun and meaningful event.*
- ◆ *The Nativity Play will be during worship on Sunday, December 21. We will have rehearsals during Sunday school on December 7 and December 14. Please make every effort to have your children at both rehearsals.*



- ◆ *We will have our traditional Christmas breakfast on Sunday, December 21 at 9:00 a.m. Please bring a dish to share and join us for a time of good food and holiday fellowship.*
- ◆ *The Christmas Eve service will be on Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00 pm. We will have a traditional lessons and carols service followed by the candle lighting as we sing "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World." Join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Bring your friends, neighbors, and relatives!*
- ◆ *We will take down the Chrismon Tree and the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 4 immediately following worship.*

AVERAGE NOVEMBER 2025 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

