

McAllister Messenger

FEBRUARY 2026

A Word From Your Pastor: "Present In The Storm"

As I write these words, we are bracing for an incoming winter storm. They are predicting up to twelve inches of snow and ice, as well as several days of frigid temperatures to follow. It is quite possible we will see widespread power outages. As you read these words, you will know whether these predictions came true.

If the storm is as brutal as they are predicting, it will remind me of a winter storm we endured when our son Benjamin was only four months old. We were living in South Carolina at the time, as an early December ice storm hit.

The power went out about four in the afternoon. We holed ourselves up in the living room, where we had a fire going to keep us warm. But the fire couldn't keep up with the dropping temperatures. As darkness fell, I watched the temperature drop from 65 to 60 and then down into the fifties. I knew that the temperature in that living room would keep on dropping as long as the power was out.

I'll never forget the feeling of helplessness I felt as I had little Benjamin in my arms, with him wrapped up in several blankets to keep him warm. I said a short prayer for our protection as the temperature continued to drop.

But then, something amazing happened. After I said my prayer, a sense of calm overcame me. I just knew that despite the precarious situation we were in, we would be all right. I knew that the Lord was with me, and that the Lord would keep us safe. And sure enough, about four in the morning, the power came back on, and the house began to warm up.

The Lord has a history of being with his people during storms. While the disciples are out on the sea in a boat during a storm, and as the wind and waves are threatening to capsize them – Jesus comes to them walking on the water. And Jesus calms the storm. In the same way, Jesus comes to us through all the storms that we face in life, and he calms the wind and the waves.

If indeed we faced brutally cold temperatures and power outages during this last storm, I hope you turned to God for protection. I hope you prayed that God would keep you safe. Because God is with us through all the storms we face in life. And God – just like Jesus on the stormy sea – brings us calm. Let us give thanks for the presence of God during the storm.

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



Happy Valentine's Day to:



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

MAR. 2026
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
Wednesday,
March 18

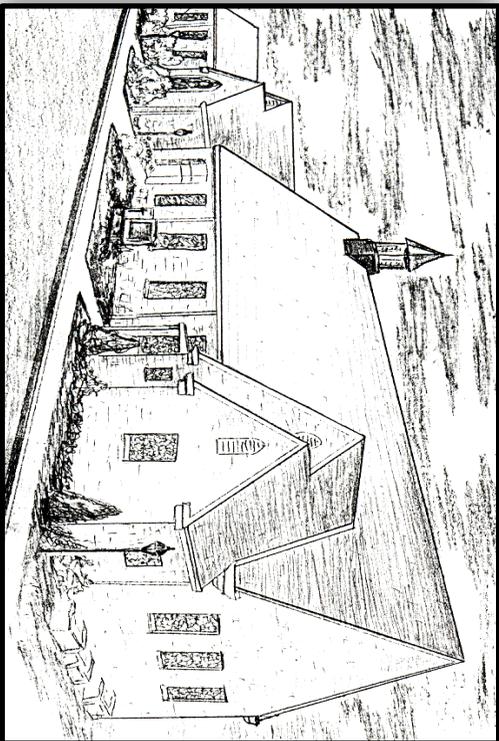
McAllister Memorial
Presbyterian Church
(540) 962-2675



admin@mcallistermempcusa.org
www.mcallistermempcusa.org

online giving link:

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

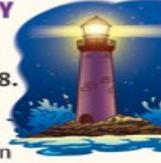
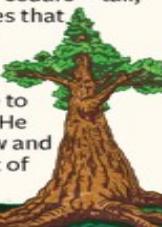




- 1—Jerry Taylor, Sr.
- 2—Payson Riley
- 3—Kelley Tingler
- 4—Paul Linkenhoker
- 6—Julia Bryant, Betty Gibson,
Chris Johnson
- 8—Summit Caul
- 9—Amanda Webb
- 10—Mason Hale, Tammy Scruggs-Duncan
- 13—Cody Long, Adam Tingler
- 15—Steve Bennett
- 16—B.R. Rupert, Jr.
- 17—Gerald Gibson, Jr.
- 20—Bobby Rice, Aaron Ratliff
Chad Thompson
- 21—Tonya Jones
- 22—Dorothy Thompson
- 23—Brittany Baker, Brynn Javins,
Craig Poague
- 24—Luke Baker & Zeke Baker
- 27—Sandy Ruth Persinger
- 29—Callan Layne Crawford



- 10—Dorothy & Terry Thompson
- 14—Jenni & Gene Hinton, III
- Dwain & Janie Tyree
- 28—Brandi & Justin Barr

<p>WEDNESDAY</p>  <p>Isaiah 5:8. Ten children walk in the light, the light of Jesus' love for everyone around us. How can you shine today?</p>	<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>Read Psalm 119:105. Taking the wrong path or road can lead you to a place you do not want to go! God's Word puts us on the right path, guiding us to do what is pleasing to God. God's Word leads us to Jesus!</p> 	<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>Read Matthew 5:14-16. God's people are little lights in a dark world. When you are kind, when you help someone in need, and when you show love to others, you are shining the light of God's love. Your light points the way to heaven! Sing "This Little Light of Mine."</p>	<p>SATURDAY</p> <p>Read 1 John 1:5. Not only did God create light, God is light. There is no evil in God. He is completely good and true and sinless. Make a list of good things that come from God, then thank Him!</p> 
<p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>Read Matthew 14:13-21. How do you feed your family for lunch? How about Jesus? Jesus could—He fed over five hundred people with five bread and two fish. Jesus is the Son of God!</p> 	<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>Read Matthew 26:26-28. In Holy Communion, we receive Jesus' true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of sins. It is a great mystery and an even greater blessing!</p> 	<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>Read Matthew 4:3-4. Jesus was hungry. He had not eaten for forty days. The devil's suggestion to turn stones into bread must have been so tempting, but Jesus refused. Bread gives us physical life, but God's Word gives us eternal life.</p> 	<p>SATURDAY</p> <p>Read Matthew 7:9. Jesus told His followers: If parents give their children good gifts, how much more will our heavenly Father give us good gifts? Go to God with all your needs.</p> 
<p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>John 15:5. We are connected to Jesus and His love in Him. He bears fruit: love for others. Draw a picture of a way that you bear fruit in Jesus.</p>	<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>Read Psalm 92:12-14. Psalm 92 describes believers as palms and cedars—tall, beautiful trees that were planted around the temple. As we stay close to God's Word, He helps us grow and bear the fruit of the Spirit.</p> 	<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>Read Revelation 22:14. After Adam and Eve sinned, they had to leave the Garden so they wouldn't eat from the tree of life. But Jesus paid the punishment for our sins. Now we will have eternal life with Him forever!</p>	<p>SATURDAY</p>  <p>Read Revelation 7:9-10. Have you thought about who will be in heaven? Believers from every nation and language will be there, praising God together! Draw a picture of the believers in heaven praising Jesus.</p>
<p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>John 13:14-15. Jesus has shown us how to serve others. How can you show love by serving today?</p> 	<p>HOLY THURSDAY</p>  <p>Read Matthew 26:17-29. On the night before He went to the cross, Jesus instituted (began) the Lord's Supper. As you gather with your family for dinner, talk about the blessings Jesus gives to believers in Holy Communion.</p>	<p>GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>Read John 19:16-30. Make black thumbprints (our sins) on a white paper cross. Color a red heart over each thumbprint. Jesus died for your sins because of His great love for you!</p> 	<p>HOLY SATURDAY</p> <p>Read Luke 23:50-56. After Jesus died, His body was laid in a tomb. What did the women find when they arrived there on Sunday morning? Take a peek at Luke 24:1-12!</p> 

Lent Week 3

SUNDAY

Read Genesis 1:3-4.
Without God, there would be nothing—not even light. Light a candle during your devotions this week as you explore how God’s light gives us life.



MONDAY

Read John 8:12.
Take a walk in the dark tonight. Then use a flashlight. When you walk in the dark, it’s hard to know where to go. Jesus is the light that guides us on the path to goodness and life.



TUESDAY

Read Psalm 27:1.
A night-light can help calm our fears when it’s dark. Jesus’ light is far more powerful than a night-light. He takes away the fear of sin and death and gives us hope and life!



WEDNES

Read Ephesian
A thief of darkness steals in the dark. Child of God, shine your love on them. How can your light

Lent Week 4

SUNDAY

Read John 6:35.
Snack on different kinds of bread during your devotions this week as you learn how Jesus feeds us with His love, grace, and forgiveness.



MONDAY

Read Exodus 16:14-15, 35.
The people of Israel grumbled about being hungry. They forgot about God’s promise to care for them. We sometimes grumble too. Say a prayer, asking God to give you a thankful heart.



TUESDAY

Read Matthew 6:11.
How many kinds of bread can you name? Bagels, muffins, rolls. . . Hungry yet? God blesses us with bread and also with a home, family, and everything we need. How can you thank Him today?



WEDNES

Read Mat
Could you with your your towel and did! I thousand loaves of How? He

Lent Week 5

SUNDAY

Read Psalm 1:3.
Place a green plant on your table this week as a reminder that God’s Word helps us grow in faith and love.



MONDAY

Read Genesis 2:16-17.
When Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree, sin entered the world. But God still loved them and promised a Savior. Cut a heart from red paper, draw a cross on it, and place it in the plant on your table.



TUESDAY

Read Jeremiah 23:5.
Jesus is the “righteous Branch,” the descendant of King David. Jesus is also the Son of God who came to earth to save us. Now He reigns in heaven as the King of kings and Lord of lords.



WEDNES

Read Joh
We are co through f helps us l God and l vine with grape, wri can bear!

Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY

Read John 12:12-19.
Share the Good News about Jesus, our King, by using colored chalk to write “Hosanna” and “Jesus is King!” on your sidewalk.



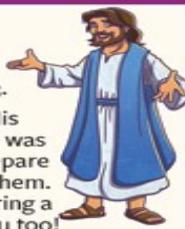
MONDAY

Read Romans 8:19-22.
Jesus created the world. All of creation is waiting for Jesus to come again and make all things new!



TUESDAY

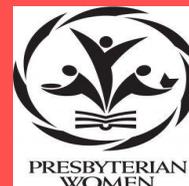
Read John 14:2-3.
Jesus told His disciples He was going to prepare a place for them. He is preparing a place for you too! One day, Jesus will return to take all believers to be with Him forever. What a joyful day that will be!



WEDNES

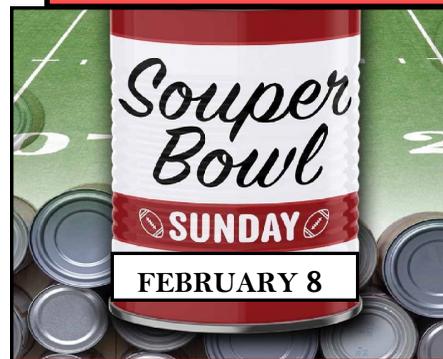
Read Joh
Jesus has love and s will you si someone

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW):

Circle 3: 2nd Tuesday of month, 6:30
Circle 4: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 12:30
NOTICE—CIRCLE 4 = NO FEBRUARY MEETING!



A Valentine’s Luncheon will be held **Sunday, February 8th** immediately after morning worship. Chicken will be provided. Everyone please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

NEXT SESSION MEETING

Sunday, February 15th - immediately after worship

Lent

(SEE SCHEDULE IN PASTOR’S NOTES)

2025 Giving Statements have been mailed to those residing out of town. Others can find theirs on the table in the sanctuary narthex. If you have any questions, please contact church treasurer, Buzzy Riley, in the church office 540-962-2675. Thank you.

****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. 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.

Prayer Concerns

Evelyn Amos	Becky Bostic Barber	Herschel Andrews	Ricky Cooke
Betty Brown	Tammy Barker	Dallas Bates	Darrell Crawford
Jim Crawford	Anna Legg-Bartley	Angie Poague	Bennett Downer
Vinny Geiser	Gary Bishop	Aiden Riley	Sandy Giamalis
Loretta Hunter Iverson	Kathy & Jody Byer	Tammy Scruggs-	Amber Hickey
Jerry Loan	Ruth Caul	Duncan	Pam Key
Eddie Nelson	Heather Coffman Daniels	Sandy Watson	Laura Kyle
Arlene Peery	Cindy Durham	H.L. Wickham	Bobbie Perdue
Eric Webb	Nicky Persinger	Karen Winke	Angie Sponaugle
Our Country	Gary Rice	Jane Terrell Family	Roger Tingler (GA)
Our World	Darrell Seay	Minneapolis, MN	Linda Wickham
	Keith Turner		

Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER: David Lynn, Bonnie Patterson

SCOTT HILL: Sarah Mays

THE SPRINGS: Andy Howell

CARRINGTON PLACE: B.R. Rupert, Jr.

BRIDGEWATER HOME: Jean Broughman

TOCKWOTTEN (Rhode Island): Shelby Rock

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

Danny & Rhoda Hill, Darlene Taylor, Dolly Whitehead

MILITARY: Olivia Bryant, Aiden Downer, Chris Whitehead

MISSIONARIES: Tom & Judy Harvey, Kurt Esslinger & Hyeyoung



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, 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 Mottorn, Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Denise Pillow, Theresa Purdue, Linda Ratliff, Anita Rice, Mary Rice, James Rice, Angie Sponaugle, 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.

remind you and your family of God's love for us through this now it applies to us in our daily lives.

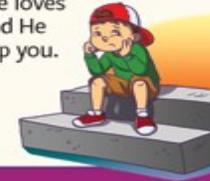
WEDNESDAY

Isaiah 3:19.
You will be
returned to
dust.
For our sins,
we die, but
God will
raise us
again! The
cross on
our forehead
reminds us
of Jesus' death
so we can
live with Him



THURSDAY

Read Job 2:8.
Job suffered in his life, but even on his worst days, God was with him. God is with you too, on both good days and bad days. Call out to Him. He loves you, and He will help you.



FRIDAY

Read Job 19:25-26.
Job knew he would someday die and return to dust. But he also knew that God would one day raise him to eternal life. This promise is for you too!



SATURDAY

Read Isaiah 61:3.



What makes you sad? What makes you happy? Take time as a family to share ups and downs. Jesus' love turns our sadness into gladness!

WEDNESDAY

Proverbs 2:21.
How gargling with water can soothe a sore throat? Through salt. Prophet Elisha, I drank deadly water. But because of my faith in Jesus, you were healed of your sickness!



THURSDAY

Read Colossians 4:6.
A little salt makes food tasty, but too much salt? Yuck! Sometimes our words come out a little too salty. Pray that God helps you share His Word, perfectly seasoned with love and hope.

FRIDAY

Read Leviticus 2:13.
Salt helps keep food from going bad. The Israelites added salt to their offering as a reminder that God would preserve (keep) His covenant with Abraham. He promised to bless all families of the earth through Abraham's descendant, Jesus.



SATURDAY

Read Mark 9:50.
Faith in Jesus makes you part of the family of God. It also gives Christians peace with one another. How can you be a peacemaker today?



WEDNESDAY

John 3:5-6.
When you are baptized, you are born into God's family and His Word! Baptism is your family's water so you can celebrate them this year.

THURSDAY

Read 2 Kings 5:9-14.
At first, Naaman didn't want to wash in the Jordan. When he finally listened to God's words, he was healed. When you listen to God's Word, you are healed too! Jesus washes away your sins and gives you new life.



FRIDAY

Read John 13:10.
Jesus has forgiven our sins and has made us clean. But just as dirty feet need to be washed daily, so we go to Jesus every day to confess our sins and receive His forgiveness.



SATURDAY

Read John 7:37.
When you are thirsty, there's nothing like a tall glass of water to quench your thirst. We need water to live. We need Jesus' living water to live eternally!



The following is a Lent Family Calendar that may be used to help Lent season. Each day provides bible scripture and a summary of 1

PROMISED TREASURES

Lent Family Calendar

“Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” (Matthew 13:52, ESV®)

Each week on this year’s Lenten journey, we will see, smell, touch, or taste a biblical item that reminds us of God’s eternal love for us in Christ.

Lent Week 1

SUNDAY
Read Ezekiel 37:5.
Sundays in Lent are “little Easters,” celebrations of Jesus’ resurrection. Sing or hum an Easter hymn as you thank Jesus for giving us new life in Him!



MONDAY
Read Matthew 5:13.
Salt was important in the ancient world. You have a job as important as salt—to share God’s love with others. Place a saltshaker on your table this week as a reminder that you are the salt of the earth!



TUESDAY
Read Luke 14:34.
Can you imagine a potato chip without salt? Salt makes things taste good! Jesus wants us to be salt in the world, sharing our faith so that others can taste the goodness of His love for us.



WEDNESDAY
Read 2 Kin
Did you know warm salt water can help with a sore throat and the pain of a cold? God healed you through faith. Have you been your sin-sinner?



Lent Week 2

SUNDAY
Read Psalm 23:1–2.
Water isn’t just refreshing—we couldn’t survive without it! Enjoy a cold glass of water during devotions this week as you learn how God works through water and His Word to give us new life in Him.



MONDAY
Read Genesis 6:17–18.
God sent a flood to wash evil from the world. But God kept Noah’s family safe in the ark. Many years later, Noah’s descendant, Jesus, was born. Jesus washes away the sins of the world!



TUESDAY
Read 1 Peter 3:21.
In Baptism, our sins are washed away. We have new life in Jesus!



WEDNESDAY
Read John 3:13
When you have two baptisms in this world, you were born by water and the Holy Spirit. Write the Easter story on your calendar.



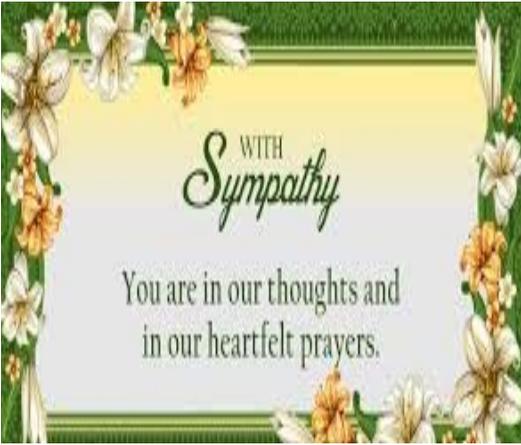
Deaths

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>Tracy Smith Evans
Charlotte Martin
Barbara M. Paitsel
Troy Robertson
Nancy Reid Seay
Bernard Thompson, Jr.
Joyce Brown Tucker
Robert A. VanLear
Vicky L. Wilmer</p> | <p>Linda Baldwin
Larry Brewster, Sr.
Billy J. Camden
Leo S. Carper
Dallas S. Dobbs
Norma R. Dressler
Dorothy V. Jefferies
Linda B. Keyser
Robin P. Lindsay
Barbara K. Nicely
Frank E. Persinger, Sr.</p> | <p>Rosa Lee P. Bartley
Roselyn B. Boone
J. “Pete” Broughman
Nancy Lee Clark
Saundra H. Fornwalt
Charlene S. Fridley
Bessie W. Paxton
Rachel R. Persinger
Thurmond Persinger
R. “Darrell” Sampson
Anne Staunton</p> | <p>Clyde Ellis Ayers
Jesse J. Carter
Agnes A. Hicks
George A. Nelson, Jr.
Betty F.H. O’Conner
Clinton W. Shannon
Jane D. Terrell
R. “Bobby” Tolley, Jr.</p> |
|--|--|--|---|

Gifts

✝ In Memory of Elmer & Charlotte Keyser
by The Keyser Family

With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



The McAllister Church Family extends prayer and sincerest condolences to:

✝ Members Bucky Mottern and Debbie M. Bennett on the loss of their sister and aunt (respectively), Barbara Mottern Paitsel.

✝ Anyone having recently experienced a loss.



Notes from Pastor Jim

* Thank you to everyone who helped with the youth movie outing to see “David.” We had a great time and saw an excellent and inspiring film.

* Thank you to everyone who helped take down the Chrismon tree and the Christmas decorations. We showed that many hands make light work indeed.

* Sunday, February 8 is “Souper Bowl” Sunday. We will be collecting canned goods for COPE Food Pantry. Please drop them in the large receptacle in the narthex.

* The Valentine’s Lunch is Sunday, February 8 immediately following worship. The church will provide chicken. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

* The Lenten lunches will begin on Wednesday, February 25 at McAllister Church at noon. Stay tuned for the remaining Lenten Lunch schedule.

* The youth and children are going bowling on Sunday, February 22. We will have lunch in the Fellowship Hall and then proceed to the bowling alley for an afternoon of fun.

* Thank you for all the birthday cards and well-wishes. I don’t feel a year older, but I will accept the accolades.

Lenten Schedule:

*Tuesday, February 17, 4:30-7:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (Mallow PC)
******No offering collected******

*Wednesday, February 18, 4:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service @ First Presbyterian

Each Tuesday (February 24 to March 24), 9:30am— Lenten Breakfast (Mallow PC)
******Free will offering will be collected******

Please stay tuned to upcoming for service times and locations for Holy Week.

AVERAGE JANUARY 2025 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

64

McAllister Kids Head To The Movies...



The youth and children of McAllister Church visited our local movie theater, Covington Movies-3, to watch the newly released animated feature “David” on Sunday afternoon, January 4th.

“David” is an animated biblical musical film featuring the character of David from the Book of Samuel in the Old Testament. It tells the story of a young Israelite shepherd, poet, and warrior who is predestined to become the new King of Israel. He embarks on a journey from beyond the shadow of an evil Philistine giant named Goliath to prove to his people that true power lies not in a kingship but in faith and freedom.



APPRECIATION

Thanks to Bert Caul for heading up a small team of members to help purge and clean out some storage closets here at church (primarily the older, unused Christmas decorations). Those helping with this effort included Bert, Marshall Fox, Howard Poague, Jerry Whitehead, Mike Young, Chuck Bartley, and Pearl Miller.

Another big THANK YOU goes out to Pam Poague and Anita Rice for handling the huge undertaking of cleaning out the kitchen pantry here at church. Your always helpful demeanor and kindness shines brightly and is very appreciated!

Outgoing Building & Grounds committee chair, Marshall Fox, wishes to thank Howard Poague, Gary Rice, Gary Walker, and Mike Young for mowing the grass and keeping our church lawn well manicured, neat and tidy this past year. THANK YOU!

If you've ever tried to locate a particular key for something here at church, you know sometimes it can be quite the task. Decades worth of keys have taken up residence in the church, original keys have been copied, shared, lost, locks changed, padlocks added/removed, and more all leading to a large HEAP of keys existing in numerous locations. Recently, Bert Caul tackled the monumental task of doing a complete overhaul and re-organization of the key box located in the church office. This is a tremendous help in accessing keys quickly and easily and will be quite the time (and headache) saver. THANK YOU, BERT!!

McAllister Church Ruling Elders: Class of 2028

Our church has installed its newest class of elders—the Class of 2028. The time and dedication served by elders is vital and sincerely appreciated. There are many spokes to the McAllister proverbial “wheel” that ensure the church operates as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

A big part of this effort is fulfilled by fifteen active church elders who commit themselves to a three year term serving on our church session. Session is the primary decision-making body meeting once per month (minimally) in order to conduct church business through six working sub-committees including: Finance, Property, Christian Growth & Nurture, Music & Worship, Commitment, and Witness/Evangelism. Each committee meets periodically as well and has a chairperson leading the group.

We applaud our outgoing Class of 2025 Elders—June Anne Cooke, Marshall Fox, Diane Hicks (who also served as clerk of the session), and Brigitte Young.

We welcome our newest class including Howard Poague, Gary Rice, Paul “Buzzy” Riley, Tammy Scruggs-Duncan, and Van Walker.

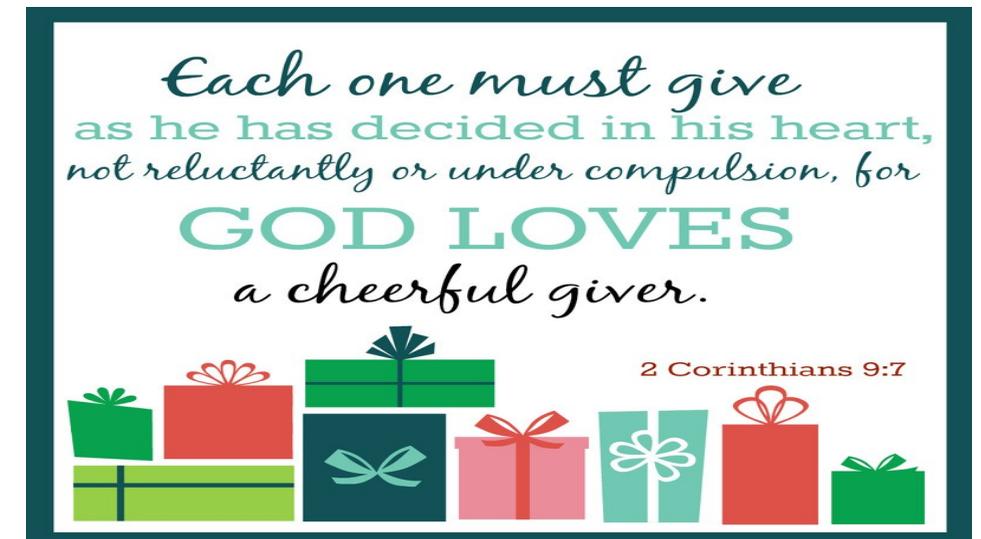
CHRISTMAS CHEER 2025

Thank you to everyone who donated to our “Christmas Cheer” fund in 2025. We were able to make a donation to the Allegheny Highlands Christmas Mother again this year as a result.

2025 Sponsors of the fund include:

- *Danny & Rhoda Hill**
- *Gary & Diane Walker**
- *Lee Ann Poague**
- *Pam Key**
- *Charity Hale**
- *Buzzy Riley**
- *Diane Tingler Mahan**
- *Gary Rice**
- *Harry & Jean Casey**
- *Debbie Rodgers**

Please note that our church Session has voted to change the name of the fund starting in 2026 to the “Christmas Cheer Giving Fund” to more accurately describe the fund.





Musical Minute

I visited my general practitioner last November and in light of my recent milestone birthday he suggested that it might be time for a bone density scan—no big deal, just a precautionary exam to establish a baseline for the future. He scheduled me at Carillon Clinic in downtown Roanoke and I dutifully reported for my appointment on the designated day a week or so ago. An added bonus to the preventive healthcare visit was that I put the stick and carrot motivation theory into practice and scheduled a lunch date with my sis-in-law Catherine for the same day. Essentially, bone density scan=stick, 3/12 hour lunch with my Cathy=carrot!

Check-in at the clinic was quick and easy and I had little longer than a five minute wait. Soon after my arrival, a bright-faced young man poked his head out the door from the back of the facility and called my name. I don't know why, but I hadn't expected a male at the mammography clinic. Still, he was a "lovely boy," as my mother would say, and quickly put me at ease, asking me a few personal questions, which he assured would be brief. The test was quick and unobtrusive, and as he conducted the individual scans we talked easily about family, pets (he has a "pandemic pup" named Cash—a blue heeler/Australian Shepherd mix), and other innocuous things. He was natural and professional for one so young—directing me where to lay on the table and placing pillows under my knees for the optimal x-ray view, pausing during the shots and briefly reviewing how things had gone with each "take," but making me feel as comfortable as if we'd met at a church social.

He talked a bit about his parents and siblings and shared that his older sister, in addition to having recently had her first child, had also just discovered her first wrinkle. I couldn't help but giggle. "If you don't mind my asking," I inquired, "how old is your sister?" Apparently she'd just turned thirty. Oh my . . . I told him about the card big brother Nick gave me for my sixtieth birthday last August. "Too old to dance in the club & and too young to wear a life alert." Indeed—that about sums it up! My youthful medical technician thought the card was hysterical. "I'm not much of one to go to clubs," he told me, "but if I went to a club and saw someone your age dancing I would be thankful and grateful." He said it with such kindness and positivity, but WHAT????!!! If you saw someone MY age dancing?! I may not be particularly good at it, but I love to dance . . . He said it so emphatically though, and was such a sweetie, I couldn't be offended. In fact, I understood exactly what he meant. The exhibition of joy at any age is an exquisite thing to witness. But I realized in the moment if I hadn't before the stark difference between being under the age of thirty and being sixty! I'm still wondering exactly when that happened. But happen it did, and I'm truly grateful for it. I've been playing for funerals since I was 13 years old and know the alternative all too well. In considering all of this, I realized that it's been a while since Andy and I've had a dance party in the kitchen, but after last year he's got two new hips and 15 screws in his recently "improved and revised" neck. And it turns out that my bone density is just fine. I think it's time for a Valentine's Day Dance! You'll know that we crashed into the kitchen table if you don't see us for a few weeks. Happy February!

Beth



And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8



The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.

Mother Teresa

Share the
love of Christ
on Valentine's Day.