

McAllister Messenger

APRIL 2026

A Word From Your Pastor: “Hope in the Resurrection”

Our church lost three of its dear members lately. These losses, of course, caused much sadness and grief for the family and close friends. But sadness wasn't the only emotion that was felt. The funerals weren't just times to mourn. They were also times to celebrate.

As one of the grieving family members told me: “I don't want this to be a sad service. I want it to be a time when we also feel joy. I want it to be a celebration of our loved one's life.” Of course, these services were a time to remember and give thanks for the departed. But they were more than that. We weren't just celebrating the lives of our loved ones. We were also rejoicing in the beautiful truth of the resurrection.

The resurrection is indeed something to celebrate. During this season of Easter, we remember the story of the empty tomb. We rejoice in the fact that despite his death on the cross, Jesus Christ was given new life. He was raised from the dead. And because he was raised, he defeated sin and death for all time. He won victory over the grave, and guaranteed that we will be with him in glory for all eternity.

Therefore, the resurrection gives us hope – not just at a funeral, and not just at Easter – but at all times. Every Sunday when we gather for worship, we are celebrating and rejoicing the fact that Christ has been raised from the dead, and so will we. And on every day in between, we can rise and give thanks and praise God for this beautiful truth.

So at a funeral, it is appropriate to feel sadness and grief for our loss. But it is also appropriate to celebrate. Let us give thanks for the hope we receive from the resurrection.

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



Happy Easter To:



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

MAY 2026
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
Wednesday,
April 18

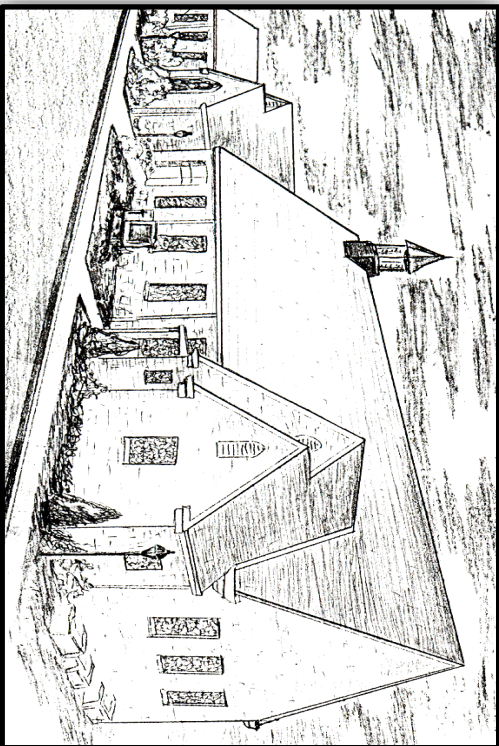
McAllister Memorial
Presbyterian Church
(540) 962-2675



admin@mcallistermempcusa.org
www.mcallistermempcusa.org

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

online giving link:





- 1—*Martha Wilhelm*
- 2—*Maci Johnson*
- 3—*Mallory Hale*
- 4—*AdriAnne R. Reynolds*
- 6—*Cody Nida, Kim Young*
- 7—*Layken Young*
- 8—*Angie Sponaugle*
- 10—*Gayle Martin*
- 11—*June Anne Cooke*
- 12—*Giaynna H. Smith*
- 14—*Leslie Nicely*
- 15—*Priscilla Moncus*
- 17—*Mahaley R. Broughman*
- 18—*Anita Rice, Mike Young*
- 19—*Josephine O'Rourke*
- 20—*Olivia Bryant*
- 21—*Billy Potter, Hayden Rodgers*
- 22—*Lee Ann Poague*
- 23—*Derek Gibson*
- 24—*Julie McCormack*
- 25—*Cody Thompson, Alan Whitmer*
- 26—*Amy Ray*
- 27—*Betsy Caul, Steve Craft, Heather R. Riley*
- 29—*Patrick Scruggs*
- 30—*E. "Lee" Patterson, Ronnie Poague*



- 4—*Pat & Aubrey Bowling*
- 11—*Jason & Tamara Hill*
- 15—*Stacey & Jamie Bryant*
- June Anne & Ricky Cooke
- 20—*Mahaley & Holden Broughman*
- 22—*Alan & Kristin Downer*
- Eric & Haley Young
- 30—*Evelyn (Scruggs) & Joe Amos*

IN THE GARDEN

Spring is just around the corner, so it's time to don your gardening gloves and channel your inner horticulturist. Can you identify these plants featured in the Bible by their pictures below?

Answers are at the bottom of the page.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



ANSWERS: 1-Olive 2: Mustard 3: Fig 4: Cedar of Lebanon 5: Pomegranate 6: Hyssop

Staying Rooted in Faith

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"
- Philippians 4:4

The word "always" is the one that usually gets in the way. It's easy to rejoice when things are clicking, but this isn't a suggestion just for the good times. It's a command for every season. Joy isn't a feeling we have to conjure up. It's a decision to anchor ourselves in who God is rather than how our week is going.

Applied to life, this looks like choosing gratitude when the day-to-day work feels repetitive or when you aren't seeing immediate fruit from your labor. It means your internal state isn't tied to the immediate success of a service or the specific feedback you get in the lobby. We don't rejoice because the situation is perfect. We rejoice because the One in control of the situation is. Take a second today to just acknowledge that truth. It doesn't

Rejoice
in the Lord always.
I will say it again:
Rejoice!

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW):

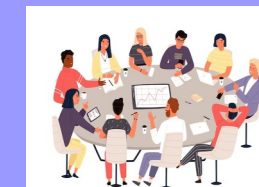
Circle 3: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:30 p.m. at church

Circle 4: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 12:30 p.m. at church



NEXT SESSION MEETING

Sunday,
April 19
after worship



WEEKLY REHEARSALS & MEETINGS—

Adult Choir:
Tuesdays—3PM

Adult Bible Study:
Wednesdays—6PM

Handbell Choir:
Thursdays—1:30PM



Scott Scholarship

It's not too early to apply for the Scott Scholarship. Applications are available in the church office & due by June 1st. Applicants must be a **member** of McAllister Church!

HAPPY
Holy Week



Potluck Dinner



POTLUCK SUPPER

SUNDAY, APRIL 12—4:00 p.m.
Clifton Forge Presbyterian Church
Bring a dish & enjoy!
Hosted by local Presbyterian churches



Prayer Concerns

Jerry Atwell
Beverly Barnette
Wanda Callaham
Pat Carter
Aaron Eggleston
Vinny Geiser
Bob McAllister
Bucky Mottern
Pauline Paxton
Gloria Rowsey
Betty Smith

Dallas Bates
Linda Caldwell
Rob Honts
Meg Jackson
Bobby Jenkins
Lee Kyle
Amelia Nicely
Dee Rose
Tracie Wegman
Dorothy Wimer
Harry Casey & family

Chuck & Jean Bartley
Joe Cooke
Addy Garner
Mike Hayner
Glen Hicklin
Joi Holloway
Maci Johnson
Unspoken request
& friends

Mary Austin
Carol & James Bush
Ricky Cooke
Greg Dickson
Christine Lopez
Eric Rothwell
Sharon Tice
Teresa Tucker Vess
Millie Walker
United States
Middle East
Our World

Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER: David Lynn, Bonnie Patterson (room 101)

SCOTT HILL: Sarah Mays

THE SPRINGS: Andy Howell

BRIDGEWATER HOME: Jean Broughman

TOCKWOTTEN (Rhode Island): Shelby Rock

SHUT-IN: Bob & Leta Bartley, Ricky Cooke, Dolly Whitehead
Danny & Rhoda Hill, Darlene & Jerry Taylor (Sr.)

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, Leslie Downer, Cindy Durham, Barbara Flint, Renee Gann, Don Hampton, Emma Hartless, Becky Helmtoller, 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 Sponaugle, Ethan Thompson, Buddy Vass, Greg Vess, Gwen Wolfe, Jerry Wolfe, Linda P. Wolfe, Rider Yeagley, former Pres. Joe Biden. Our church, non-believers, unspoken prayers, first responders, United States, U.S. troops & government, Ukraine & Russia, Middle East

Easter in a Good Friday World

(An Excerpt from a Sermon by Bass Mitchell)

I believe that we cannot even begin to understand or experience Easter unless we have been through Good Friday, unless we have been where Mary was, our heart broken, our eyes blurred with tears, our spirits crushed by grief. You do not get to Easter Sunday without going through Good Friday.

Her name was Teresa. She was the daughter of my favorite professor in college. She was a wonderful person — gifted, an artist, just married, her whole life ahead of her... but she grew ill and eventually died. I was with him through some of that experience... and let me tell you, it was Good Friday a long time for him and his family, but I will never forget something he said to me soon after her funeral:

“Until you stare death eye to eye, Easter is just a word, a nice day with bunny rabbits and eggs, but when someone so precious to you dies, Easter becomes everything, an anchor in a fierce storm, a rock on which to stand, a hope that raises you above despair and keeps you going.”

He had taught about Easter all his life, you see, but not until he went through his own Good Friday did he begin to understand it, to experience its power.

I did not understand all he meant at the time because I had not suffered enough, had not been through enough Good Fridays, but now I understand. When my father died several years ago, this blessed hope, this Easter became much more than a belief. It became a heartfelt hope, a wondrous promise to stand on when everything else was being shaken to its foundations, for it is true. When you stare death face to face, the death of those you love or your own, Easter takes on a whole new significance for you.

You do not get to Easter Sunday without stopping for a while on Good Friday.

*submitted by Pat Martin

Guide to Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Sunday before Easter. Celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Observed with palm branches, parades, and celebration.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday before Easter. Commemorates the Last Supper. Often observed with foot washing, stripping of the altar, and overnight prayer vigil to keep watch with Jesus in the garden.



Good Friday

Friday before Easter. Most solemn day of the church year. Observes the day Jesus was crucified. Observed by praying the Stations of the Cross and three hours of silent prayer while Jesus was on the cross.



Holy Saturday

Saturday before Easter. Observes the day Jesus was in the tomb. This is a day of somber reflection, reflecting on what we'd miss in a world without Jesus.



Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! This day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Sing hallelujahs and celebrate with great joy.



Deaths

Jean Turner Casey
Betty W. Gibson
Melvin Coffman, Jr.
Hugh Copper
Fred Forbes, III
Joyce V. Guilfoil
John A. Luke, Jr.
McKinley Peters, Jr.
David P. Price, Sr.
Geraldine F. Allen

Nancy Heck Cash
John Michael Dawson
Lawrence L. Dudley
Shirley May Fridley
Loretta Dame Keyser
Brenda Ruley Mick
Patricia Z. Monroe
Ella Weikle Perry
Charlotte Fix Redmon
Richard C. Smith, Sr.

Mary T. Duncan
Richard B. Erkskine
Lloyd Merchant, Sr.
Shirley B. Perkins
Annie H. Sizemore
Garland "Gene" Stull
Judy Johnson Tingler
Teresa Cash Vance
Lewis E. Porter, Jr.
Anna J. Raether-Hill

Charles Allen Banker
Lucy G. Davidson
Cora Crouse Graham
Jeffrey Allan McCoy
Abdul F. Sarafandi
Wayne "Dude" Williams
Roby W. A. Heath
Michael H. Persinger
Vicky S. Dickenson
Dianne Ross Huckle

Gifts

† In Memory of "BR" Rupert by:

*Marshall & Donna Fox
*Lee Ann Poague
*Tina Glenn
*Pam Key

*Chuck & Jean Bartley
*Joe & Pat Martin
*Bobby & Anita Rice
*Rhoda & Danny Hill

*Dorothy Wimer
*Buzzy Riley
*Norma Curtin

† In Memory of Betty Gibson by:

*Marshall & Donna Fox
*Lee Ann Poague
*Tina Glenn
*Pam Key
*Gary & Diane Walker

*Chuck & Jean Bartley
*Joe & Pat Martin
*Bobby & Anita Rice
*Rhoda & Danny Hill
*Berkley & JoAnn Paxton

*Dorothy Wimer
*Buzzy Riley
*Joyce Armentrout
*Sally Pettigrew
*Sandra Kay Hicklin

† In Memory of Jean Casey by:

*Marshall & Donna Fox
*Gary & Diane Walker
*By Their Neighbors
*Thomas Riley, Cindy Baker, Norma Curtin, Maria Nicolau, Larry McCallister

*Chuck & Jean Bartley
*Buzzy Riley
*Richard & Priscilla Downer

*Bobby & Anita Rice
*Lynn Hemp

With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



The McAllister Church family extends prayer and sincerest condolences to:

- † Member Harry Casey on the loss of his dear wife, Jean Turner Casey (member)
- † Anyone having recently experienced a loss



Notes from Pastor Jim

* We will be having a number of special services for Holy Week. The schedule is below. Please join us as we celebrate this most special of times in the church.

* I will be on vacation April 6-12. Lynn Wright will be preaching on April 12.

* The area Presbyterian churches are gathering at Clifton Forge Presbyterian Church for a potluck supper on Sunday, April 12. The supper will begin at 4:00 pm. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy the food and fellowship.

* Mark your calendars! Vacation Bible School has been scheduled for Sunday, June 14 through Thursday, June 18. We will gather each evening from 6:00 to 8:00 for supper, music, crafts, games, storytelling and more!

* Thank you to everyone who brought salads and desserts for our Palm Sunday luncheon. We always have such good food at McAllister!

Total Lenten lunches free will offering tally from all FIVE lunches?

***HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE** - Please join us for the following special services and activities:

Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday Worship (11:00 am) McAllister Church

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday Worship (7:00 pm) Clifton Forge Presbyterian

Friday, April 3 Good Friday Worship (5:30 pm) First Presbyterian

Friday, April 3 Easter Egg Hunt (6:00 pm) McAllister Church

Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunrise Service (7:00 am) Cliffview Golf Club

Sunday, April 5 Easter Breakfast (9:00 am) McAllister Church

Sunday, April 5 Easter Worship (11:00 am) McAllister Church

AVERAGE MARCH 2025 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

65

***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.mcallisttermempcusa.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.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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W.R.E. (Weekday Religious Education) provides public school children with the opportunity to learn about the Bible in addition to their regular school curriculum. With parents' written permission, boys and girls in certain grade levels are released from school for a specified period to go to off campus facilities for religious instruction. The Bible is the primary text, and the curriculum is interdenominational, non-evangelistic, and has been approved by the Virginia Council of Churches and denominational leaders across the state of Virginia.

Local fifth grade students graduating from the W.R.E. program in May will receive new bibles. The W.R.E. program estimates the 2025 graduating class to be 200 students. The gifted bibles cost \$20.00 each thus making the total overall cost of these gifts approximately \$4000.

If you would like to donate to this wonderful program to help offset the overall cost of these graduation gifts the board would be most appreciative of your generosity. Donations can be mailed to:

W.R.E.
P.O. Box 185
Covington, VA 24426

Or, you may give through McAllister Church as W.R.E. is listed on the offering envelopes. The W.R.E. board would like to acknowledge that their last two monthly meetings have been held at McAllister Church. They are very grateful to be able to meet at such a nice location.

May the Lord richly bless each of you.

APPRECIATION

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank everyone for the calls, cards and visits to our Mom during her time at the nursing home and at home. She loved her church family and was grateful for your support. We are thankful for the delicious food prepared for our family after the service. It was wonderful. Thank you and bless you all. Love and

Blessings,

April & Frank Reyns and family

Gerald & Trisha Gibson and family

McAllister Church,

During Jean's illness and trip to Heaven, you people were wonderful. I want to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, food, and visits and especially those attending her Celebration of Life. We send our special thanks to Rev. Jim for his visits to Roanoke when she was in hospice. While he was comforting us, I am sure that she could hear him and his prayers. We also send these thanks to her favorite musician, Beth, and also to Pearl, her singer from the heart. This service was so much like she had asked me for that I felt she was smiling down from Heaven while we were having it. She truly loved this church!

Love to all of you,

Harry Casey and Kim Cooper

McAllister Church Family,

We would like to express our appreciation for prayers, cards, calls, texts, visits and food as I continue my journey to have a hip replacement (getting closer everyday) AND for our daughter Tracie's surgery. She is improving every day on her road to recovery. Please continue to pray for both of us. God Bless you.

Love and blessings,

Donna Fox & Tracie Wegman

Below you will find a survey that is being offered by McAllister Church's Worship & Planning Committee. If you have not already done so, complete the survey and return it to the church as soon as possible.

Please and thank you.

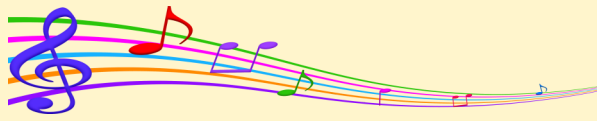
WORSHIP & ACTIVITIES SURVEY - March 2026

(Survey hosted by the Worship & Planning Committee)

- 1. What do you currently find most meaningful about McAllister's Worship Service?**
- 2. What would enhance your worship experience?**
- 3. What additional activities would you like to see offered at McAllister?**
- 4. Other comments?**
- 5. Member - OR - Visitor (circle one)**

******* Please fold and insert survey into the locked, wooden box located in the Narthex. Thank you*******

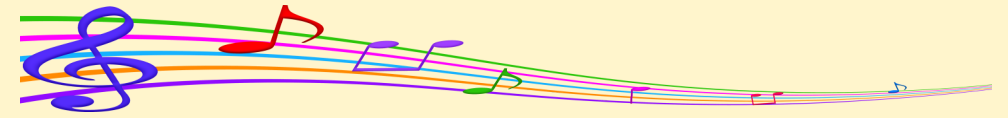
You may also mail in your survey response if you prefer.



Musical Minute

We're currently experiencing a housing boom at (and on) our home out Potts Creek. As of today there are house sparrow nests tucked in under the eaves of each of the four corners of our residence—two front and two back. (Black snakes will follow in short order, I'm sure.) Wrens and sparrows with bits of grass and debris are zipping in and out of the shrubs, and we have at least one bluebird family considering signing a lease on a lovely multiplex that Andy rebuilt at the end of the winter. Just this morning I saw a sleek tree swallow considering a sort of mid-century looking asymmetrical birdhouse that hangs on the vegetable garden fence. With their metallic wings and propensity for aerial acrobatics, I can imagine the tree swallows fitting right in at the recent winter Olympics—maybe as ski jumpers, or on the bobsled team. I figure their little homes are filled with chrome-legged kitchen tables and streamlined post-war furniture pieces from the 1950s and 60s. The wrens and sparrows, in my mind at least, might decorate with cushy, velvet-upholstered Victorian-era sofas and tufted footstools. (Maybe I read too much Beatrix Potter as a child {remember Peter Rabbit? Jemima Puddle Duck, perhaps? Little Squirrel Nutkin?}, but that's what I imagine when I watch our feathered beauties setting up housekeeping each spring.) The brown thrashers are always delightful—a little rowdy with all of their thrashing and mulch tossing, but I think they'd be fun at a party. And I'll bet their nests are a mess—more like a frat house than a tidy little apartment. And goodness knows what a nuthatch nest must look like. They spend so much of their time upside down! Anyway, it's a lovely time of year, with all of the males dressed in their feathered finery and both partners working steadily, seemingly incessantly, to build a safe, predator-proof, and weathertight home in which to raise their family.

I returned home one spring afternoon several years ago to find a spectacularly handsome bird exploring the driveway in front of our house. He had bright orange eye rings and a striking red bill. A Zorro-like black mask intersected his eyes and encircled his face down to his breast. His cream-colored body was marked with bold black stripes on the sides. Between the size of a large crow and a small chicken, his ambling walk suggested that he wasn't in a great hurry to get anywhere and he certainly didn't spook easily. I'd never seen anything like him, and after studying him for a bit, I came inside to take a quick glance at a couple of our bird books. I tried Peterson's "Birds of Eastern and Central North America," National Geographic's "Backyard Guide to the Birds of North America," and a few other bird books we keep on our shelf. No luck . . . I ran outside to see if he was still around so that I could snap a picture so I didn't forget his markings. I thought he might have disappeared, but he'd simply moved closer to the house and was still slowly roaming on foot. I managed to capture a photo—not the best, or the closest—but enough so that I could identify him later. I looked and looked and looked throughout the evening in all of our resources. Still—no luck. Finally the next morning, I decided to join the twenty-first century and look up the darned bird on my iPad. I think I typed in something highly scholarly like, "chickenlike bird with an orange eye-ring and black mask." Almost immediately, he popped up. It turns out he was a Chukar Partridge, a member of the Phasianidae or pheasant family, introduced to the Americas from Eurasia. I was sad to see what followed as I read more about our dashing visitor. It seems that while Chukars have become somewhat established over the years in the dry and rocky



western regions of the U.S., in the East, they haven't adapted particularly well and are primarily released for sporting purposes at game hunting farms. What was this handsome fellow doing in our driveway in Alleghany County, Virginia? As Andy and I discussed it over the next couple of days, we remembered that there had been an avian sporting club not too far from our place a few years earlier. Perhaps our visitor was a lone survivor from those days, simply following his seasonal instincts and looking for his springtime bride so that he could start a family. Every year when I watch our winged neighbors set up housekeeping, I can't help but wonder what happened to Mr. Chukar. In true Beatrix Potter fashion, I picture him with a large extended family by now, grandchildren gathered at his elderly birdy knee as he holds court with the lovely Mrs. Chukar, who is perhaps older, but still just as lovely as when he spotted her those many years ago as he longingly searched the wilds of Potts Creek for his true love. At least that's what I like to imagine . . . Have a blessed Easter and a happy spring.

Beth

