McAllister Messenger

MAY 2026

A Word From Your Pastor: *"The Roller Coaster of Life"*

At most amusement parks, one will find two types of rides. There is the monorail, and there are the roller coasters. The monorail is a smooth ride. The track it follows is level, with no hills. On the monorail, one can relax and just cruise around the park, enjoying the view and the air conditioning.

The roller coasters are a different story. They feature wild swings between up and down. On a roller coaster, one creeps up the hill, crests the top, and then comes hurtling down the other side. Then, one zooms up the next hill, and again comes hurtling down the other side. There might be five or six or even more of these hills. Some roller coasters even throw in a loop or two or a couple of barrel rolls.

Which is your life like: the smooth monorail or the up and down roller coaster? Most people would say roller coaster. The disciples in the Easter story would certainly say roller coaster. Consider all that they go through as Jesus is crucified and rises from the dead. The story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, of Jesus sharing the Last Supper with the disciples; of Jesus being arrested and persecuted; of him being executed on the cross; of the empty tomb; and of his appearances to them in risen form – all this is ups and downs just like a roller coaster.

But despite the ups and downs, the disciples can find assurance in one beautiful fact, the fact that God never abandons them. Even in that terrible moment when Jesus hangs on the cross, God is working. In that moment, God is forgiving the disciples – and us – for their sin. And of course, God is there at the empty tomb. God is present through the presence of the angels, who proclaim the great news that Jesus is alive.

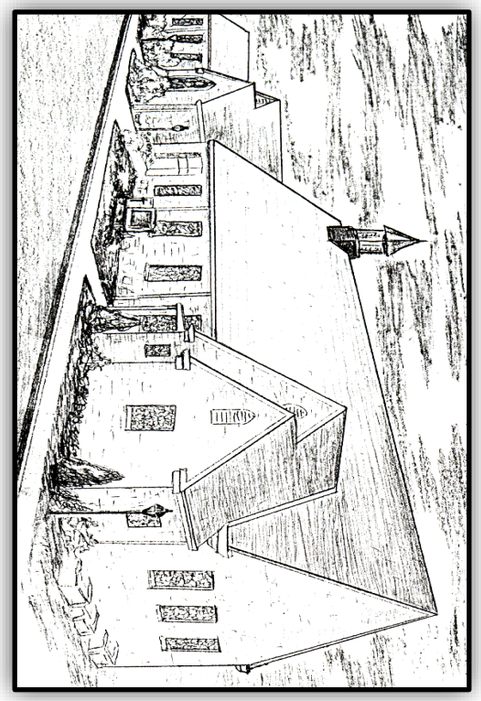
As we go through the ups and downs of our lives, we can find that same reassurance that God is always working. Whether we are perched at the top of a big hill, or zooming through the bottom of the hill, we can have faith that God is with us. Just as God was always with the disciples, God is always with us – no matter how far up or down we might be. Let us give thanks for the presence of the Lord that never leaves us.

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

Springtime Blessings To:

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

MAY 2026
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
Wednesday,
May 20



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
revjimmoss95@gmail.com

3—Shelly Curtis, Carter Hudson, Zak Nida
5—David Sponaugle, Erik Young
6—Brad Hannah, Angie Poague
7—Derrick Miller
8—Jeri O'Rourke
9—Doris Mottern
11—Gina Tingler
12—Naomi Jade "NJ" Burks
14—Darlene Thompson, Eric Webb, Jerry Whithead
15—Rachel Reyns, Van Walker
16—James Bush, Sr., Maggie Webb
19—Amelia Nicely, Kai Rowland
22—Jenni Hinton
23—Brenda Walker
24—Dwain Tyree, Gary Walker
25—Tyler Bartley, Andrew Crawford, Jacob Downer
26—Ruth Caul, Rebecca Hannah
27—Jenny Crawford
28—Gus Hayslett
31—Dusty Rowland

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Anniversary!

6—Steve & Donna Craft
22—Eric & Amanda Webb
30—Cody & Katie Nida

… continued

McAllister Kids Take a Swim at the YMCA

McAllister Kids Easter Egg Hunt—Good Friday, April 3...

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW):

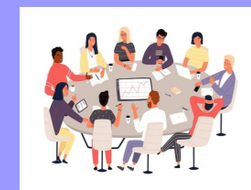
Circle 3: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 5:30 p.m. at church

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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

NEXT SESSION MEETING

Sunday,
MAY 17th
after worship



WEEKLY REHEARSALS & MEETINGS—

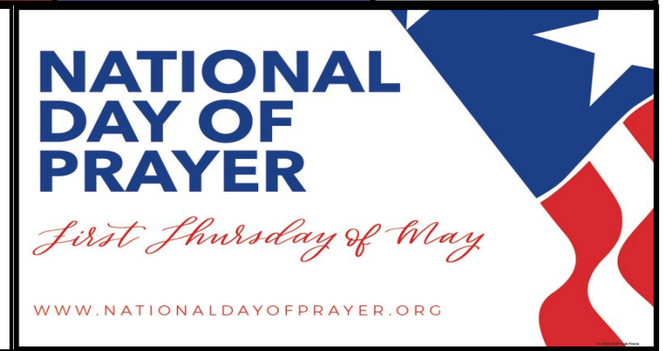
Adult Choir: *Tuesdays—3PM*

Adult Bible Study: *Wednesdays—6PM*

Handbell Choir: *Thursdays-1:30PM*

Scott Scholarship

Applications are available in the church office & due by June 1st.



Save the date...

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
June 14 – June 18
6–8PM.

Dinner, music, crafts, games storytelling and more!

The McAllister Church office will be CLOSED on

Monday, May 25

in observance of Memorial Day.

Prayer Concerns

Catherine Amos
Henry Jackson
Mary Rice
Margie Young
McAllister Church
Our state—VA
United States
Middle East
Our World

Venetta Broyles
Pat & Linda Caldwell
Pat Carter
Ricky Cooke
Christine Lopez
Gloria Rowsey
Marion Trumbo
Teresa Wulff
Soldiers—Iran
Marlene Faidley, Byron Faidley, family and friends

Penny Aaron
Midge Akers
Mikey Bartley
Dillon Nelson
Justin Nicely
Wayne Perkins
Thomas Riley
Lisa Shinault
Mandy Webb
Family and friends of Mike Persinger

Jerry Atwell
Beverly Barnette
Wanda Callaham
Greg Dickson
Aaron Eggleston
Bob McAllister
Bucky Mottern
Pauline Paxton
Betty Smith
Harry Casey, family and friends

Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER: David Lynn 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 Helmintoller, 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 President Joe Biden. Our church, non-believers, unspoken prayers, first responders, United States, U.S. troops & government, Ukraine & Russia, Middle East

Deaths *church members

Bobby Joe Gill	**Ralph "Pie" Anderson**	**Dallas Dewey Bates**	**Roger E. Balser**
Nancy "Penny" Stone	**William L. Berry, Sr.**	**Lewis R. Brinkley**	**John "John Boy" Bazzrea**
M. "Aileen" C. McNeal	**Carl J. Bogar, Sr.**	**James E. "Jim Faidley***	**Howard Cobb**
"Bonnie" L. Patterson*	**Tammie S. Hubbard**	**J. "Vinny" Geiser**	**Rev. William "Pem" Hall**
Betty C. Linkenhoker	**Bernard "Bernie" King**	**Rita Guth Lee**	**Ruth Scruggs Keyser**
Garry F. Mays	**Jerald P. McCulley**	**Stewart Max Walker**	**Debbie Jo C. Kincaid**
	Jerry M. Reid	**Samantha K. Stanley**	

Gifts in Memoriam

✞ In Memory of Betty Gibson by:

*Dolly Moon *Elizabeth Cropper *Kathleen & Jerry Loan

✞ In Memory of Jean Casey by:

*Lee Ann Poague
*Barbara Fawley
*Cliffview Senior Golf Club
*Jerry & Jenny Horn
*Larry Washburn
*Carol Hallet
*Susan & Frank Sponaugle
*Glenn & Terri Smith
*Wanda Haynes
*Joe & Pat Martin

✞ In Memory of Bonnie Patterson by:

*Richard & Priscilla Downer
*Lee Ann Poague
*Bobby & Anita Rice
*Kathleen & Jerry Loan
*Marshall & Donna Fox
*Norma Curtin
*Karen & Tad Robertson
*Dreama Ogden
*Joe & Pat Martin
*Larry Washburn

✞ In Memory of Jim Faidley by:

*Marshall & Donna Fox
*Richard & Priscilla Downer
*Susan & Frank Sponaugle
*Elizabeth, Richard, Tamara Teaff
*Lee Ann Poague
*Norma Curtin
*Buzzy Riley
*Maria Necolau
*Chuck & Jean Bartley
*Joe & Pat Martin
*Howard & Pam Poague
*Larry Washburn

With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort

The McAllister Church family extends
prayer and sincerest condolences to:

✞ Members Marlene Faidley and Byron Faidley on the loss of their husband/son (respectively), Jim Faidley (member).

✞ Members Stacy Patterson & Kathleen Loan on the loss of their mother/sister, Bonnie Patterson (member).

Notes from Pastor Jim

- Thanks to Lynn Wright for preaching in my absence for Sunday worship service on April 12 when I was on vacation.
- 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!
- Thanks to everyone who helped out with the children's Easter Egg Hunt. We had a great time hunting for eggs and meeting the Easter Bunny. We have such a vibrant children's ministry, and it would not be possible without the help of our many volunteers. We also appreciate those who provided candy.
- Thanks to all who filled out and turned in our worship survey. Your opinions are important to us!
- Sunday, May 10 is Mother's Day, and it will be a very special day at McAllister. The Women of the Church will lead the service; we will have a special gift for all the women who are present; and the children will lead something new called "The Noisy Offering." The congregation is encouraged to bring change to put in the Noisy Offering.
- On Sunday, May 17, we will recognize all of our parents. We are so grateful that our parents (and grandparents) bring their kids to church, and we will have a time in the service to thank them.
- Sunday, May 24 is Pentecost. Be sure to wear red. We will have a special Pentecost prayer featuring the Lord's Prayer read in several different languages. Join us as we celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit among us!
- Thursday, May 7 is the National Day of Prayer. There will be a special gathering at noon on the steps of city hall at noon. Our local ministers will offer prayer for the various aspects of our community.

AVERAGE APRIL 2026 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 63

Spring is in the air and nesting season is in full swing! Soon, female birds will begin laying their eggs. In order for the shells to be strong enough to hold the developing chicks, she'll have to greatly increase her calcium intake. Finding enough extra calcium in the wild can be difficult. However, there are ways that we can help.

The first step is to fill our feeders with calcium enriched seed and to also have suet available. Another way we can help our birds get calcium is to put out eggshells. Chicken eggshells contain the calcium that wild birds are in search of during this time.

Here's how to prepare the eggshells:

Rinse the eggshells with water. This removes the membrane and any remaining egg. At this point, you can collect the shells in a container and store them in the refrigerator until you're ready to dry them in the oven. Preheat your oven to 250 degrees. Spread rinsed shells on a rimmed baking sheet. Bake the shells at 250 degrees for 10 minutes. You want the shells to be dried, but not browned. Cool. Place in a Ziplock bag and crush into pieces no bigger than the size of a sunflower seed. Do not crush into a powder.

Now the eggshells are ready to be added to birdseed, placed in a tray feeder, or scattered on open ground. Not only are you helping our wild bird population, but you have also reduced the amount of waste going into our landfills. Thank you for caring for God's creation and His creatures.

Resources: www.audubon.org

Julia Bryan, Earth Care Subcommittee (c/o P.O.P weekly newsletter)

APPRECIATION

McAllister Church,

On behalf of COPE (food pantry), thank you for your wonderful contribution of 84 cans of food on 2/10/26 to our pantry. Your donations greatly benefit those in need in our community and we are most grateful for your support!

Meredith Downey (COPE secretary)

To Our church Family,

Many, many thanks for the cards, calls and prayers. Thanks for the throws for Christmas, especially the purple one. It's great to belong to such a faithful, caring church.

Bucky & Doris Mottern

Reverend Moss,

Thank you so much for the beautiful service for mom (Bonnie Patterson). Everything was so beautiful and fitting. Thank you again.

Stacey S. Patterson

To My Church Family,

Thank you all so much for the prayers, calls, texts and cards. I miss everyone and hope to be back with you soon.

Maria Necolau

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Katie Gibson (member) on her recent engagement to Neal Nicely. Katie is the daughter of Gerald Gibson, Jr. (member). Katie kindly asks that if anyone wishes to contribute to her honeymoon fund (there will be no wedding shower), those contributions/gifts can be mailed to her at:

KATIE GIBSON
602 REAR W. Main St.
Covington, VA 24426

*****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.*

Musical Minute

I came across an article recently that I'd saved from a 2024 edition of Magnolia magazine. The gist of the article, titled "Words That Shape Us," reminded the reader of how we can be buoyed up and encouraged by the words of others and how simple a matter it is to jot down a few words of appreciation, gratitude, congratulations or solace to support those we know going through good times and bad. The author, Allison Antram, wrote about a drawer in her desk containing old cards, Post-it notes, letters, etc. and said, "The handwritten strokes of each have loved me into being." After reading this line, my first thought was, "Wow. What a beautiful sentiment, so eloquently expressed." My second thought was, "Drat. I wish I'd written that!"

While I wish that all of my handwritten momentos were neatly contained in one drawer instead of stashed willy-nilly, I am pleased to have many that I've held onto over the years. I'm sure the collecting of them wasn't even intentional in the beginning. I don't think anyone at the age of 14 or 16 thinks, "One day grandmama won't be here anymore and this card will have such meaning when she's gone." At that age, I think many things just get tucked into a box or a drawer because the sentimental value precludes immediately tossing them in the trash. Whatever the reason, I'm so grateful to still have chatty, goofy, and loving letters written by family members during periods when I was away from home, letters written by college friends over the summer, letters written by high school friends, and letters from brother Nick when he went off to school and I was left disconsolate at home, the first time I'd ever lived without my older sibling. (Remember, there were no cellphones and no texting in the early 1980s!) Reading these letters takes me back in time. I was a younger version of myself, living a different life, not even able to comprehend the one I would eventually live and the one I'm living today. The words in these letters feel like a big, loving hug wrapped around "then me" and "now me." And don't get me started on birthday cards and Post-it notes. Just be grateful you won't be the one tasked with cleaning out my house when I'm gone.

I came home from town a few days ago to find a note on the kitchen island. It had a smiley face with a bun at the top (me) and a smiley face with an Andy haircut at the bottom. The message read, "Gone to the barn!" There were barely four words there, but the thoughtfulness and the smiley faces said it all: I'm glad you're home. Sorry I'm not in the house, but I'll be in soon, and if you need me in the meantime, you know where to find me. I love you enough to leave you a little note so you'll know I haven't deserted you. That little sticky note made me smile at the time, and I made sure to use the other side of it for a short grocery list so I could carry it around with me for an extra day or two so that I could smile again before I threw it away.

The cards we've received from McAllister friends and from the church card ministry over the years have warmed our hearts and brought much joy. The texts I receive from my dear friend Linda at First Presbyterian–anytime of the week, but often on Sunday morning when we are both at our respective churches preparing for the morning service, always bring a smile. Quick texts from brother Nick on Sunday mornings while he's at St. Andrew's in Roanoke and I'm at McAllister always make my heart happy. There's not much better than knowing that someone is thinking of you at that very moment. The writer of the Magnolia article summed things up when she wrote, "If my words can make someone's day, or help them believe the best and truest things about themselves, why would I withhold them?" She's absolutely right. We don't have to send long missives. Just a few meaningful lines can change someone's day or week for the better. I used to be a pretty good correspondent, but I've gotten a bit lax in recent years. I'm going to try and do better and send out a few "warm fuzzies" every week. Who knows? I may just have some kind words up my sleeve to send to you!

Beth