

# McAllister Messenger

JUNE 2026

## A Word From Your Pastor—*VBS is almost here*

*It's June, which means that it's time for Vacation Bible School. This year, VBS will run from Sunday, June 14 to Thursday, June 18. We will gather each evening in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. We will enjoy supper, Bible stories, music, crafts, and games. Bring your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, neighbors, and friends.*

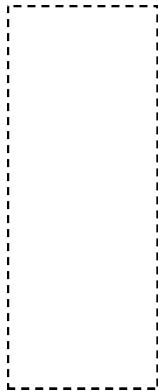
*As we do each year, the boys and girls will compete in collecting the offering. If the boys collect the most, Margaret Moss will get a pie in the face. If the girls collect the most, Pastor Jim will get the pie. The theme of VBS is Snowball Mountain Challenge. Here's an excerpt from the VBS Director's Guide about the theme:*

*"Snowball Mountain Challenge VBS is based on Philippians 4:13. 'I can do all things through him who strengthens me.' This verse reminds us that God's strength through Jesus can help us face challenges. Snowball Mountain Challenge invites us to an exciting winter sports event full of new challenges, friends, and ways to learn that with God's help we can do more than we ever thought possible. Get ready for an ice-cold summer adventure, packed with cool winter activities."*

*For VBS to be a success, we depend upon a large team of volunteers. Thank you in advance to those who help in the kitchen, in leading the groups of kids, with Bible storytelling, with crafts, and with games. Your time and talents are appreciated!*



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



**JULY 2025  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:**  
Wednesday,  
June 24th

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

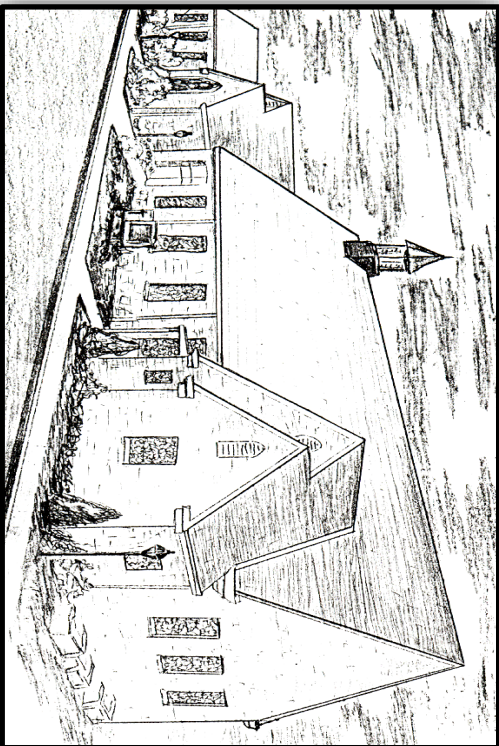
**McAllister Memorial  
Presbyterian Church**  
(540) 962-2675



admin@mcallistermempcusa.org  
www.mcallistermempcusa.org

online giving link:

**Rev. James Edward Moss**  
Cell phone: 434-738-8841  
revjimmos95@gmail.com



- 1—Matthew Byer  
 3—Joe Martin  
 4—Paula Stull  
 7—Molly Parker, George Stinnett  
 10—Kellen Sponaugle  
 14—David Keith, Jennifer Lodge  
 15—Hayli Givens  
 18—B. Darrell Crawford,  
       Howard Poague  
 19—Marlene Faidley  
 20—Rob Boone, Cathy Leitch  
 23—Maddox Hale  
 24—Katie Gibson, Tarie W. Hodge  
 25—Wayne Barksdale, Leta Bartley,  
       Linda Wickham  
 27—Aubrey Bowling, Silas Riley  
 28—Donna Tucker  
 30—Jeff Horn

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**Happy Anniversary!**

- 2—Rick & Leslie Downer, Bobby & Anita Rice  
 3—Chris & Ruth Caul, Jerry (Jr.) & Katrina Givens  
 7—Mike & Carol Fleenor  
 12—Marshall & Donna Fox  
 14—Danny & Rhoda Hill  
 15—Jennifer & Brad Hannah  
 21—Susan & Frank Sponaugle, Gary & Beverly Bishop  
 30—Katie & Cody Long



# McAllister Kids Putt Around - Sunday, April 26





**SESSION MEETING:**

**SUNDAY,  
JUNE 21**

immediately after worship



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

Circle 3 — Second Tuesday of the month, 5:30 p.m. (church)

Circle 4 — Second Wed. of the month, 12:30 p.m. (church)

## Happy FATHER'S Day!

THE RIGHTEOUS LEAD BLAMELESS LIVES; BLESSED ARE THEIR CHILDREN AFTER THEM.

PROVERBS 20:7

CrossCards

**Remember your father on this day with kind words or deeds. Bring him to church with you or attend church with him. If your father has passed on, spend a moment saying a prayer for him.**

Class of **2026**



# Congrats!



## Juneteenth

celebrate freedom



## HAPPY FIRST DAY OF SUMMER!

Sunday, June 21st

## Prayer Concerns

Midge Akers	Richard Downer	Jeff Baker	Anita Broughman
Jean Broughman	B.A. Fridley, Jr. "Junie"	Dawn Burks	Wanda Callaham
Jerry Craft	Tina McGrady	Emily Douglas	Margie Clark
Steve Craft	Debbie Rodgers	Butch Kemper	Ricky Cooke
Mickey Craghead*	Gloria Rowsey	Omie McClary	Mike Ferris
Angela "Pnut" Lockhart	Chris Wiseman	Pearl Miller	Jackie Keyser
Pat Martin	H.L. & Linda Wickham and "Freckles"	Neal Nicely	Phillip Layman
Mrs. Jessie Robinson	Bebe Marshall Family	David Peters	Greg Martin
Diana Gurd Speight	Jackson Bennett Family	Lee Ann Poague	Julie McCormack
Donna Fox's cousin	Our state, VA	Clara, Will Rogers	Leslie Nicely
Tootle's Tingler	United States	Trey & Britney Via	Dorothy Thompson
Donna Tucker	Middle East	Joyce Waddell	Van Walker
Glen Lowe Wolfe	Our World	Family of Jackson	Heather Williams
Teresa Vess	U.S. Soldiers, Iran	Bennett	Cohen Long
		Mike Ferris	Wilda Reynolds
		Danny Milton (Sr.)	Patrick Cahoon

\*Brian Center Room 403

## Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER: David Lynn    SCOTT HILL: Sarah Mays  
THE SPRINGS: Andy Howell    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, 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.



# Pantasia Flute Choir

**Gretchen Jensen, Director**  
**Roanoke, VA**

Features Piccolo, C Flutes,  
 Alto Flutes, Bass Flutes

**Sunday, June 7, 2026**  
**3:00 p.m.**

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**185 N. Maple Ave.**  
**Covington, VA**

Free Admission

McAllister would like to recognize and congratulate Samuel Moss, son of the Reverend Jim Moss and Mrs. Moss (Margaret) for being selected to join the Allegheny Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Tourism as our Outdoor Events and Special Projects intern this summer.



# Welcome SAMUEL MOSS

Samuel is a rising junior at Bridgewater College studying Business Administration and Digital Media Arts. He brings strong communication and creative skills, with experience from the Bridgewater College Writing Center and proficiency in Adobe Creative Cloud, Canva, and Microsoft Office.

Outside of work, he enjoys staying active, photography, and taking advantage of the area's outdoor recreation, including fishing, hiking, swimming, and kayaking.

We are excited to have Samuel with us this summer and look forward to the contributions he will make to our community!



## Deaths

<i>Curtis Bowles, Sr.</i>	<i>Clara B. Anderson</i>	<i>Frankie Dobbins</i>	<i>Jean R. Broughman</i>
<i>Brenda J. Cochran</i>	<i>Brenda Bartocci</i>	<i>BeBe Marshall</i>	<i>Mary Sue H. Fox</i>
<i>E.L. "Lennie" Crance</i>	<i>C. "Wesley" Duncan II</i>	<i>"Jimmy" A. Newberry</i>	<i>Gary Waters</i>
<i>Bobby Joe Gill</i>	<i>Alma A. "Ms. A" Haley</i>	<i>Monroe Patterson, Jr.</i>	<i>Jackson Bennett</i>
<i>Carl P. Keyser, Jr.</i>	<i>Montie K. Jefferies</i>	<i>Barbara Sue Smith</i>	<i>Elizabeth M. Ailstock</i>
<i>Jerry Wayne Lacks</i>	<i>R. Eugene "Bob" Paice</i>	<i>Ronald Swoope</i>	<i>Deborah M. Clinebell</i>
<i>D.A. "Donnie" Lugar</i>	<i>Johnny Allen Rogers</i>	<i>Stephen H. Woodie</i>	<i>S. "Shellie" M.</i>
<i>Carol Ann C. Reid</i>	<i>Gordon "Ellis" Stull</i>		<i>Manspeaker</i>

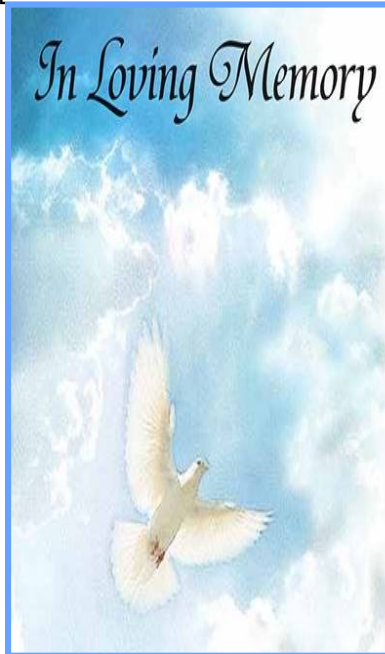
## With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



The McAllister Church Family extends prayer and our sincerest condolences to \*Paul "Buzzy" Riley, Katie Long and Kylene Smith, members on the loss of their mother and grandmother (respectively), Jean R. Broughman.

## Gifts in Memoriam

### In Loving Memory



In Memory of "BR" Rupert (Jr.) by:

† Gene & Gail Wood

In Memory of Jean Caszy by:

† Gene & Gail Wood

† Rhoda & Danny Hill

In Memory of Bonnie Patterson by:

† Gene & Gail Wood

† Rhoda & Danny Hill

In Memory of Jim Faidley by:

† Gene & Gail Wood † Rhoda & Danny Hill

† Circle 4 † Janie & Dwain Tyree

† Bobby & Anita Rice

† Linda Presley-Beauford

† Judy & David Thigery



## Notes From Pastor Jim

- ◆ Thank you to everyone who made our Mother's Day service so special. A special thanks to Tonya Jones for preaching, to Betsy Caul for leading worship, and to Tammy Scruggs-Duncan for doing the children's sermon. Thanks also goes out to Jill Shiflett for bringing the carnations for the women, and to Brigette Young for leading the Noisy Offering.
- ◆ The Noisy Offering was a great success. The children had a great time collecting change in their cans, and they collected over \$100. We will do the Noisy Offering on the second Sunday of each month.

- ◆ Please take note of the VBS dates and times in the lead article of this newsletter. And I'd like to make a personal appeal to the boys who are coming to win the offering contest. I received the pie last year, so this year it's Margaret's turn.
- ◆ Tuesday choir practice and Wednesday Bible Study are taking a break for the summer. Both will pick back up in September.
- ◆ Our Relay For Life team is hosting another fundraising night at Michael's Pizzeria in Covington on Friday, June 5 from 5—9PM. A percentage of all sales that night will be donated to our team. Please see the enclosed form if you wish to purchase a luminaria to display on the night of the Relay For Life event, Saturday, August 1st.

AVERAGE MAY 2026 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

72

\*\*\*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.

Also during our Mother's Day worship service, two Honorary Life Member awards were presented by the Presbyterian Women. Honorees this year were B. "Diane" Hicks awarded by Pam Poague and June Anne Cooke, awarded by Priscilla Downer.

Diane is the daughter of the late Helen & Richard Cooke, Sr. She grew up in Covington and is a lifetime member of McAllister Church. She is the widow of the late Jeff Hicks and has two children – a son, Casey Hicks and his wife, Courtney and a daughter, Kayleigh Hicks. Diane is also the grandmother to Bryce, Cam and Oakes Hicks. Diane was born on December 24<sup>th</sup> and joined McAllister Church in 1967. She is a member of the Covington High School Class of 1972. In her time at McAllister, Diane has served as an Elder and member of Session. She is a member of Circle #3. Additionally, Diane is very active with the church's youth groups and serves on the bereavement committee. Her working career was spent at the local paper mill's Carbon Department. She serves as the spearhead and captain of our McAllister's Relay for Life team that participates in our local American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event in August. In this role, she spearheads lots of fundraising efforts for the team in order to raise money for cancer research.

June Anne Cooke is the daughter of the late Annie and Harry Stinespring and the devoted wife of Richard "Ricky" Cooke, Jr. She grew up mostly in Covington and attended Christ United Methodist Church. McAllister Church welcomed her as a member via letter of transfer in 2013. June Anne is the mother of two adult children, a daughter Christie Cooke Kinsey and son-in-law, Ronnie as well as a son, Stanley "Stan" Cooke and daughter-in-law, Brooklyn. She is also the grandmother of Rachel Kinsey Javins (Alex), Mason Kinsey, Remi Cooke, Colton Cooke, and great-granddaughter Brynn Javins. While at McAllister Church, June Anne has served as an Elder and member of Session. She is a member of Circle #3 and also very active with the church's youth programs and serves with the bereavement committee.

The McAllister Church Presbyterian Women are pleased to present these 2026 Honorary Life Memberships to these two very deserving ladies.



## Mother's Day Worship—led by Presbyterian Women

The church's Presbyterian Women once again presided over our worship service on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10th. The service was led by Betsy Caul while Tonya Jones was the guest speaker delivering her sermon titled "The Gifts of Women". Tammy Scruggs-Duncan performed the Children's Sermon and special children's music was directed by Beth Dreszer. The offering was collected by Debbie Rodgers, Diane Walker, Lee Ann Poague and Carol Bush while Pearl Miller presented the words of "She Will Be Called Blessed" accompanied by Beth Dreszer. The children also participated in the service by handing out carnations to all of the mothers (given by Jill Shifflett) and collecting what is known as our "Noisy Offering" to be collected from here on out on the second Sunday of each month. This special offering is when the children collect coins in cans to donate to a local non-profit of their choice. Thank you to Brigitte Young for leading our littles in this effort.



## With Deep Appreciation

To My Church Family,

Thank you to Rev. Moss for his hospital visits, calls and prayers. Many thanks to all of you for the prayers, cards, visits and calls. I am doing better at home and hope to be back to church soon! God Bless all of you!

Dear McAllister Family,

Our sincerest thanks for the prayers, calls, cards, texts and memorials following the passing of our husband and father, Jim Faidley. Special thanks to Rev. Jim Moss for visiting us in Salem, especially while he was on vacation.

Sincerely,

Marlene and Byron

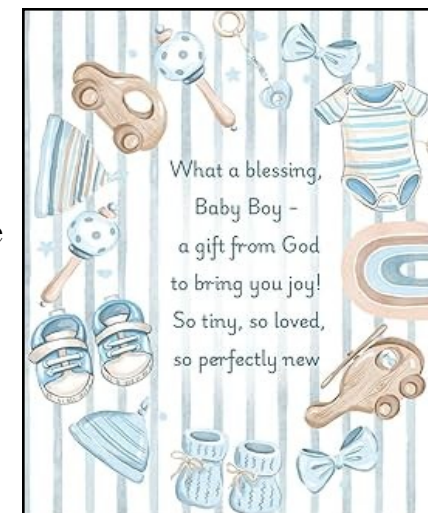
Thank you for recognizing me as the eldest mother last week during Sunday School. It is a blessing to be able to receive such recognition. ~ Pearl Miller  
(Brittany Baker was recognized as our youngest mother present.)

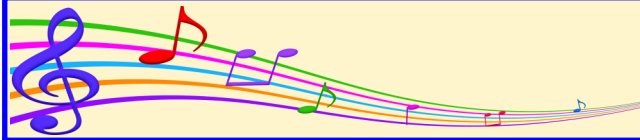
## Congratulations

Congratulations to Evelyn and Joe Amos who recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary!

**Logan and Katie Hill would like to announce the birth of their son, Forrest Eric Hill**

**On April 28th. Paternal grandparents are Tracey Fox Wegman (Mark), Eric Hill (Deana Crowder) and maternal grandparents are Chuck & Melissa Via. Great-grandparents are Marshall & Donna Fox and Danny and Rhoda Hill.**





## Musical Minute

Pure and utter perfection . . . That was last Sunday afternoon on our back deck. After several days of rain, the sun had come out, but the temperatures were still comfortable and the humidity was low. My sweetheart sat across from me at our little table. There were more shades of green to be seen in the field and forest and on the trees, shrubs, grass, plants, and moss than there are words in the English language to describe them. A pileated woodpecker resonantly hammered away in a distant, hollow tree and we heard the soft coos of mourning doves from the other side of the field. With all of the bird houses and shrubs surrounding our home we were directly in the flight path of wrens, tree swallows, house sparrows, bluebirds, mockingbirds, thrashers, and jays, all flying out in a flurry of beating wings if another bird dared to near their nest.

Crows and robins marched resolutely in the grass, unconcerned with us or one another. A couple of plump eastern fence lizards, resembling Jurassic Park miniatures, came up from below the deck to warm their bodies on the brick facade, enjoying the warmth of the late-day southwestern exposure the back of our house affords. One of our resident does came out for a while with her wobbly fawn, the only fawn we've seen so far this year. It's growing quickly and already seems more confident—still keeping mom in sight, but willing to take a few steps further away from her than even a week ago. Other than the sound of birdsong and an occasional dull rumble from Rt. 18, all was silent. As far as late spring afternoons go, it was truly—no exaggeration—perfect.

Several years ago, Andy went fly fishing on the upper reaches of the Cow Pasture River with a friend from Roanoke, The private land John had permission to fish was on an exceptionally lovely stretch of water. Both the fishing and the weather were good that day, and they even spotted a fellow fisherman in the form of a handsome bald eagle. More naturally adapted to the task of catching fish than they were with their waders, fly rods, and earthbound state, the eagle was a breathtaking sight to behold, Andy said. His friend John commented on the drive home, "Well, if a day like today doesn't leave you singing the Doxology, I don't know what will." That's what last Sunday afternoon was like for us. Our souls and our hearts were full of gratitude. With no "devices" or distractions, our spirits just soaked up all of the gifts available right at our back door. The day gave us the sort of stillness and peace that you can carry with you for a lifetime, the kind that can help you through days of illness or grief, the kind that can help you take a deep breath when your car breaks down by the side of the road, or a tree falls on your garage. It's the kind of stillness and calm that can bring comfort in the middle of the darkest night when loneliness and fear come to visit and linger way too long. That kind of peace, if you can keep it alive in your heart in a safe place where you can access it when needed, is a refuge—a reminder of all we've been given, simply because we're alive. John was right, we could all stand to sing the Doxology a little more often.

~Beth

**Recently a box of old Certificates of Baptism/Membership (from 50's, 60's) were discovered and we would like to try to get them to the person or a family member to have. If you know the person or a relative, please feel free to contact the office or take the certificate itself from the box on the counter in the office and deliver it. We appreciate any help!**

*Natalie Elizabeth Whitehead – membership - 7/3/83*

*Michael P. Wade, George A. Wade – 6/29/69 (parents George Abbott Wade & Judith Perrine Wade)*

*Justin Matthew Turner – 1/27/85 (parents Brian Lee Turner & Mary Gwinne Bishop Turner)*

*James Steven Thomas – 4/21/57 (parents Carl Elwood Thomas & Alma Juanita Lawson Thomas)*

*Patricia Diana Rock – membership 4/2/61*

*Jeffrey Allen Quinlin – 3/22/59 (parents John Lewis Quinlin, Sr. & Margaret Quinlin Brinkley, Jr.)*

*Linda Mae Phillips – 12/29/57 (parents Norman Price Phillips & Alice McBee Phillips)*

*Douglas Wayne Phillips – 4/1955 (Easter) (parents Norman Price Phillips & Alice McBee Phillips)*

*Alice Gail Phillips – 4/1954 (Easter) (parents Norman Price Phillips & Alice McBee Phillips)*

*Danny Ray Paxton – membership 4/2/61*

*Elta Marie McCray – 4/13/52 (parents F.J. McCray & Ida Frazier McCray)*

*William Dewayne Loan – Homer Ray Loan, Jr. – 4/11/54 (Homer Reah L., Sr. & Dorothy Downey Loan)*

*Joyce Harlow Keyser – membership 12/29/63*

*George Thomas Keesee – 3/30/58 (parents Harold G. & Dawk Clement Keesee)*

*Charles Edward Fridley, Jr. – membership, 3/25/51*

*Timothy Paul Camp – 3/22/59 (parents Willard A. & Sarah A. Camp)*

*Wallace Scott Brinkley, George Gordon Brinkley, III - 3/22/59 (George G., Jr. & Margaret Q. Brinkley)*

*Raymond Ward Arritt, Jr. – 9/19/57 (parents Raymond Ward Arritt, Sr. & Muriel Smith Arritt)*

*Michael Gene Linton – 4/14/57 (parents Billy Jean Linton & Wanda Hodge Linton)*

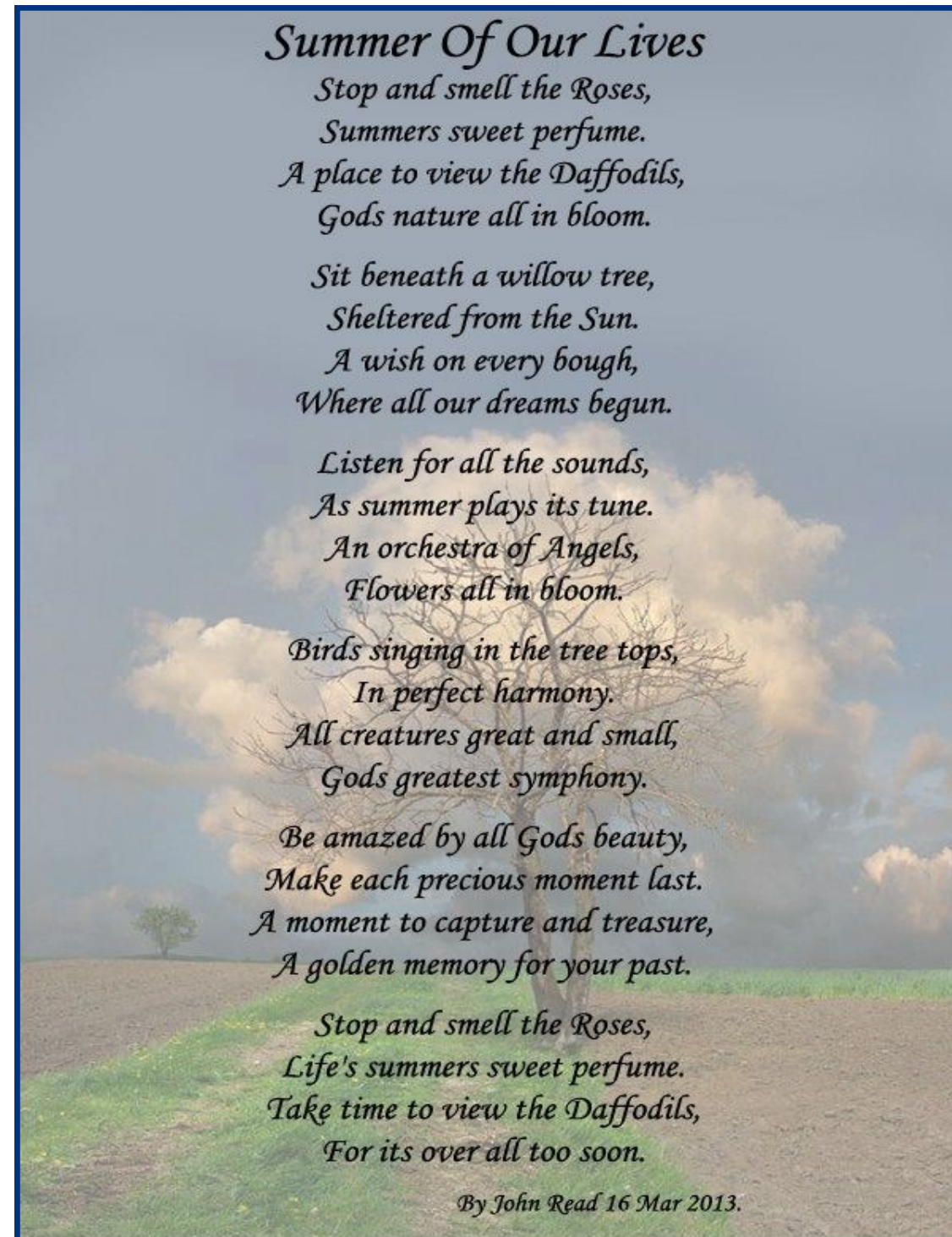
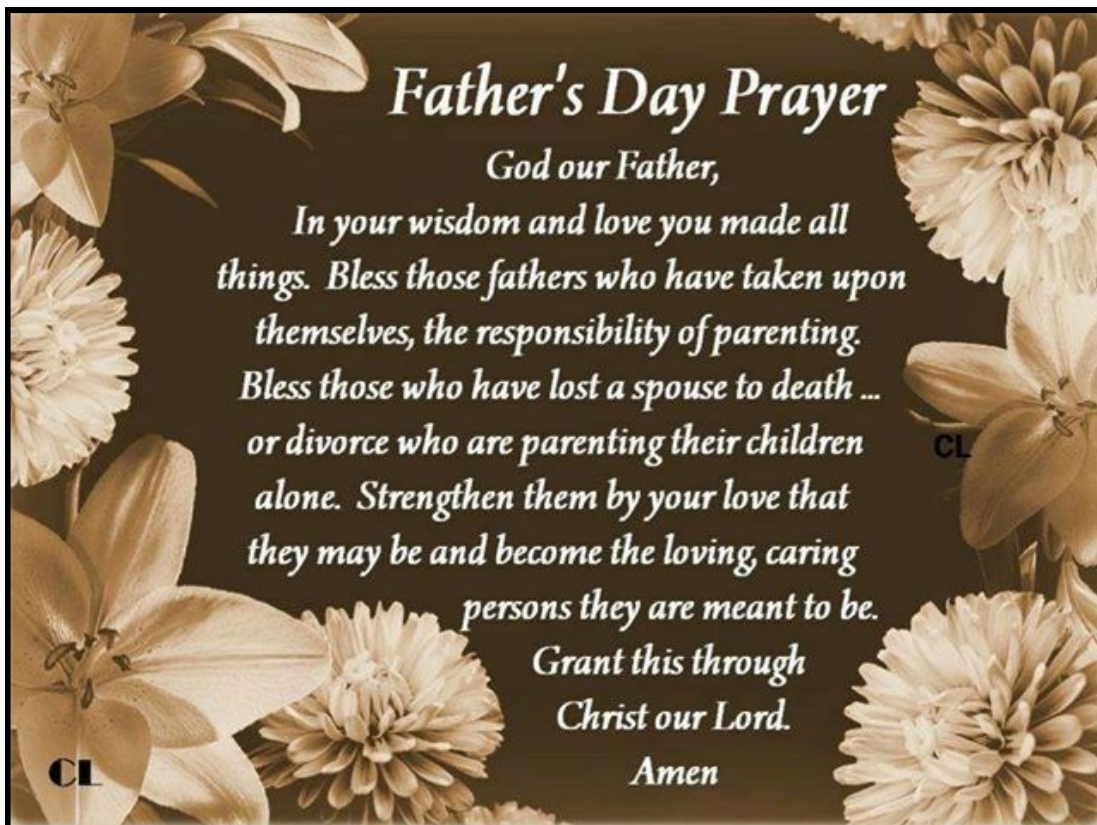
*Lewis Burks Scott, Jr. – 7/10/55 (parents Lewis Burke Scott, Sr. & Arline Jack Scott)*

*Steven Lee Taylor – 10/6/57 (parents Jimmy Lee Taylor & Norma Bartley Taylor)*

*David Allan Vess, Stephen Lynn Vess – 4/11/54 (parents Roy Lee Vess & Hallie Ailstock Vess)*

*Florence Selvey Hepler, Ronald Wayne Hepler, Jr. – 4/20/69 (mother & son)*

IF YOU ATTEMPT TO DELIVER ONE AND IT IS MISSING FROM THE BOX, THIS MEANS SOMEONE ELSE HAS ALREADY CLAIMED IT TO DELIVER. WE APPRECIATE ANY HELP WITH THIS ENDEAVOR. THANK YOU.





### SAVE THE DATE—FUNDRAISER!!!

SPAGHETTI DINNER: FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026  
@ McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church  
sponsored by their Relay for Life team

DETAILS TO COME IN FUTURE SUNDAY WORSHIP  
BULLETINS & THE JULY NEWSLETTER!

## American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Alleghany Luminaria Order Form



When the sun goes down at every American Cancer Society Relay For Life event, hope shines the brightest. During the Luminaria Ceremony, hundreds of luminaria light the track or path to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against a disease that has taken too much. This ceremony of light symbolizes the hope and perseverance with which we all continue to fight. You can give to the American Cancer Society and keep the flame of hope lit by dedicating a luminaria in memory of someone lost to cancer or in honor of someone still fighting or who has beaten the disease. The suggested luminaria donation amount is \$ 10 each.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Honor  
of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Honor  
of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Honor  
of \_\_\_\_\_

You may mail your luminaria form with your donations to:  
Cindy Givens  
305 South Craig Avenue  
Covington VA 24426

FORMS MAY ALSO BE  
GIVEN TO DIANE HICKS  
AT CHURCH UP TO  
ONE WEEK  
PRIOR TO THE EVENT!

Please join us at our Relay For Life event on August 1, 2026 at Jackson River Sports  
Complex at 870 W. Edgemont Drive, Covington VA 24426.

# Vacation Bible School 2026

McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church  
Sunday, June 14—Thursday, June 18



Join us each evening for

- \*CRAFTS
- \*GAMES
- \*BIBLE STORIES
- \*MUSIC
- \*SUPPER and more!

**Please join us. Bring your friends and neighbors!**