McAllister Messenger

NOVEMBER 2026

A Word From Your Pastor - *When The Season Changes*

Something amazing happened this week. One day it was like it was still summer. The temperature was in the 80's. I was wearing shorts. I even sweated a little when I took the dog for a walk.

Then, as if out of nowhere, the temperature dropped. That very next day, the temperature was near 50 degrees. Instead of wearing shorts, I put on blue jeans and a sweatshirt. And when I walked the dog, I kept my hands in my pockets because it was a little chilly. Fall had arrived. We had entered a new season.

In life, things can change rapidly like this. Sometimes, this change is a good thing. We get an unexpected promotion. Or it is announced that a new baby will be entering the family. At other times, this change is difficult. A loved one dies unexpectedly. We receive a diagnosis that we were not anticipating. Or we experience a sudden job loss. A new season is thrust upon us, whether we are ready or not.

Whether it is a good thing or not, we can take comfort in knowing that God is with us during our changes of seasons. But we can do more than that. We can know that God is giving us direction and guidance as things change.

Consider the change of season that God called upon Abram in Genesis 12. God called Abram to pack up his family and move to a land that God was going to show him. So Abram not only found comfort in God during a time of change. Abram depended on God to carry him to a new place. And indeed, God did show Abram where to go, and God blessed him there. We can depend on God in the same way.

So as fall arrives. And as things change. As we enter a new season, let us depend on God. Let us give thanks for his care and his guidance. And let us give thanks for his blessings that fall upon us in this new season.

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

DEC. 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
Wednesday, November 18

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





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
revjimmoss95@gmail.com



3—Christie Kinsey, Janie Tyree
5—Taylor Poague Byer
6—Adalynn Johnson, Pat Martin
7—Harry Casey
8—Chris Caul
10—Becky Hayslett, Pam Key
11—Justin Nicely
12—Frank Reyns
13—Donna Craft Walker
17—Jamie Bryant
18—Teagan Law, Shannon Rodgers, Sawyer Young
21—Kevin Bennett, Jared Downer, Kayleigh Hicks
22—Bucky Mottern, Hayleigh H. Young
23—Garlynda Haynes
26—Kelly Patterson, Lillianna Reynolds
28—Brenna Johnson



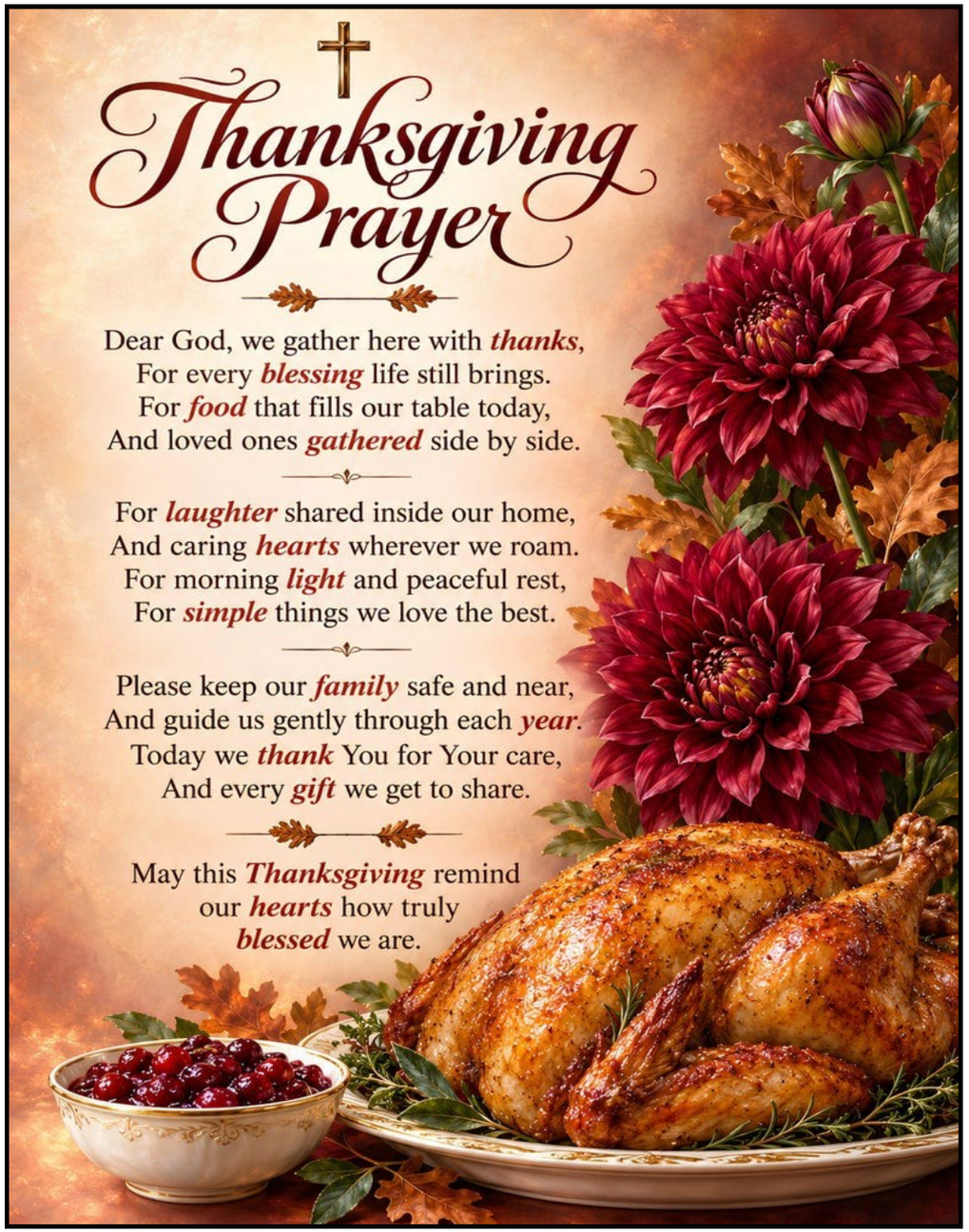
8—Patrick & Jessica Scruggs
10—Mark & Shirley Thompson
11—Tammy (Scruggs) & Kenny Duncan
18—Derek & Lizzie Gibson
28—Jerry (Sr.) & Darlene Thompson

Rooted

Being Grounded in What Does Not Change

Day 1 - Colossians 2:6-7
Day 2 - Psalm 1:1-3
Day 3 - Jeremiah 17:7-8
Day 4 - Ephesians 3:16-19
Day 5 - John 15:1-5
Day 6 - Matthew 7:24-25
Day 7 - Psalm 92:12-15
Day 8 - Isaiah 40:28-31
Day 9 - Hebrews 6:18-19
Day 10 - Psalm 62:5-8
Day 11 - Colossians 1:21-23
Day 12 - Isaiah 26:3-4
Day 13 - Psalm 16:8-11
Day 14 - 1 Corinthians 15:57-58
Day 15 - Hebrews 12:26-28
Day 16 - Psalm 46:1-5
Day 17 - Ephesians 6:10-14
Day 18 - Psalm 112:6-8
Day 19 - Proverbs 3:5-6
Day 20 - Habakkuk 3:17-19
Day 21 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
Day 22 - Psalm 125:1-2
Day 23 - James 1:2-4
Day 24 - Romans 8:35-39
Day 25 - Psalm 119:89-94
Day 26 - 2 Timothy 2:19
Day 27 - Hebrews 13:5-8
Day 28 - Jude 20-21
Day 29 - Psalm 73:23-26
Day 30 - 1 Peter 5:8-10
Day 31 - Colossians 2:6-10

@taming_trentss



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle 3 — Second Tuesday
5:30 p.m. (church)

Circle 4 — Second Wednesday
12:30 p.m. (church)

CONGREGATIONAL meeting:
Sunday November 8
immediately after worship

NEXT SESSION meeting:
Sunday, November 15
immediately after worship







TUESDAY, November 3rd



VETERANS BREAKFAST

November 11,2026
8:30am- 10:00am
VFW Post 1033
710 E. Dolly Ann Dr.
For veterans and a guest

A gift to all veterans in our area

Hosted by
VFW Post 133
VFW Post 1033 Auxiliary

Please come and enjoy the fellowship



Our church office will be CLOSED
THURSDAY & FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 26th & 27th .



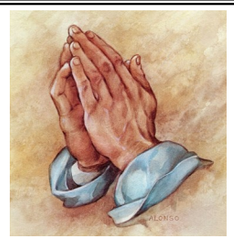


Prayer Concerns

Beverly Kern Hicks	Midge Akers	Randy Dilley
Pam Key	Bob Carroll	Cindy Durham
Blake Markham	Sue Carroll	Tammy Scruggs-Duncan
Pat Martin	Teresa Carter	Greg Floyd
Stephen Mills	Patty Crosier	Christy Gunter
Harlan, Lelian Nicely	Priscilla Downer	Maxine Hance
Brett Thompson	L. "Kinky Fadley	Bonnie Lockhart
Sue Puhle	Meg Jackson	Joe Martin
Debbie Rodgers	Diane Lambert	John Miller
Westrock contractors—	Loretta S. Lambert	Lee Ann Poague
Inhalation accident	Doris Mottern	Buzzy Riley
Six Flags, GA accident	Jimmy Spinks	Angie Sponaugle
victims family/friends	Abingdon HS bus accident	Xavier Taylor
Storm, flood victims	victims and families	Brenda Walker
across the U.S.	"Iron Gate 17" pups	Charlene Walker

Shut-In; Military & Missionaries

BRIAN CENTER: David Lynn, 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



Constant Need

Midge Akers, Jerry Ballengee, Dennis Brinkley, Edgar Brinkley, Sandra Capps, Leslie Downer, Barbara Flint, Clarice Halsey, Don Hampton, Emma Hartless, Amber Hickey, Rob Honts, Lori Isaacs, Robert A. Jackson, Wendell & Judy Jones, Pearl Miller, Bucky & Doris Mottern, Mary Jane Mutispaugh, Denise Pillow, Theresa Purdue, Linda Ratliff, Anita Rice, Mary Rice, James Rice, Truett Ryder, Ethan Thompson, Buddy Vass, Jerry Wolfe, Linda P. Wolfe. Rider Yeagley. Former President Joe Biden. Nancy Guthrie (family & friends). Our church, non-believers. First responders, U.S. troopsfamilies, U.S. government and leaders, Ukraine & Russia, Middle East, Virginia, Our Nation & World. Unspoken prayers.

Blessings for a Veteran

You stood with courage, brave and strong,
Defending right against the wrong.
Through long nights, battles faced with might,
You held the line for truth and light.

Your sacrifice, your steadfast heart,
Has played a role in every part.
Through trials faced, through fear and pain,
You stood for freedom's lasting gain.

May peace now bless your every day,
And guide your steps along the way.
May joy and rest fill all you do,
With love and honor shining through.

For all you gave, for all you've done,
Your courage shines like morning sun.
We lift our hearts, our voices raise—
And thank you for your service always.

*****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 ww.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.*

In this week's "Peaks' Postings"

If you subscribe to the Peaks' Postings newsletter published weekly by the Presbytery of the Peaks (P.O.P.), you will have seen the information below leading the edition. Recently, they have been specifying a different handful of congregations to pray for. If you do not subscribe or do not visit the website routinely to check out the newsletter, below you will see exactly what you missed. McAllister Church is thankful for their prayers over us and ask that you pray along with them for our church and neighborhood churches as well. If you wish to see this edition or others, visit the P.O.P. website at www.PeaksPresbytery.org. You can even sign up to receive the newsletter via email if you wish.

BEE the Presbytery

Presbytery of the Peaks

OUR PURPOSE

Presbytery is the tie that binds our diverse contexts to share God's love by: supporting, connecting, guiding equipping and resourcing ministries.

Beloved Community • Equipping the Saints • Expanding the Kingdom

At our weekly check-in, staff are praying for a few of our congregations by name each week, one neighborhood at a time. We invite you to join us in praying for this week's congregations and building Beloved Community together through prayer.

Praying for the Peaks: Highlands Neighborhood



McAllister Memorial



Sinking Spring



Virginia

Learn more about these congregations and their ministries in the Congregational Yearbook on the website.

Deaths

Debra Amos
Gordon E. Bostic
Linda S. Garringer
"Dottie" B. Gaylor

Sally G. Pettigrew
Joanne H. Robertson
R. "Bubba" Wright
Jonathan Ray Lawhorn

Christine S. Lopez
Cristopher Walton, Sr.
"Herschel" Andrews
Sandra Broughman

Emma Jean Shanks
Rev. Wayne Wright, Sr.
Barbara Leitch
Richard "Rick" P. Lee
Juanita "Nita" Gibson

With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort

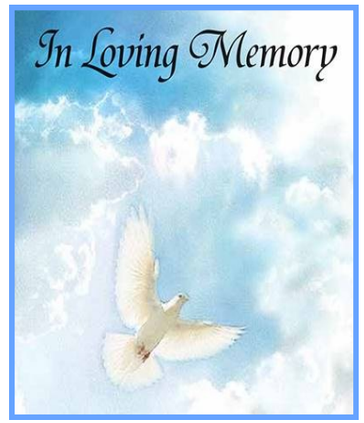


The McAllister Church Family extends prayer and our sincerest condolences:

*Member Evelyn Scruggs-Amos & her husband, Joe on the loss of his mother, Debra Amos

*Anyone having recently suffered a loss

Gifts in Memoriam



In Memory of Debra Amos & Barbara Leitch by Larry Washburn

In Memory M. "Renee" Young Gann by:

✝ Kathleen Loan



Notes From Pastor Jim

- *The youth and children will be taking their **"Noisy Offering" collection to the Alleghany Humane Society on Sunday, November 1st**. They will leave immediately following worship, have lunch at McDonald's, and then go the Humane Society. They will also take the collection of pet supplies. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this endeavor.*
- *The **Worship and Planning Committee** will meet Tuesday, November 3 at 4:30.*
- *There will be a **Congregational Meeting** on Sunday, November 8 immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect elders for the Class of 2029.*
- *The **Witness and Evangelism Committee** will meet Monday, Nov. 16 at 3:45.*
- *We will be **setting up the Chrismon Tree and decorating** the church for Christmas on Sunday, November 22.*
- *Mark your calendars! We will be having a having a **Homecoming celebration** on Sunday, December 6 – the anniversary of our church's founding. We will be having a lunch and a special program following worship. The church will provide the meat. Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share.*
- *Thank you to everyone who helped with the Pumpkin Party or brought candy. The party was a smashing success!*

AVERAGE OCT. 2026 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 56



In lieu of collecting filled shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child** this year, we have decided to collect $10 donations in order to cover the shipping costs of shoeboxes being collected by other local church congregations. Each box costs $10 to ship. If you would like to donate, please submit $10 CASH in an envelope labeled "shoeboxes" to our McAllister Church office in-person, via U.S. Mail, or simply place your envelope in the collection plate during Sunday worship. All donations are due to the church by **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15th!**

Baptism— Clinton Campbell—Sunday, October 18,

On Sunday, October 18th, Reverend Jim Moss performed the Sacrament of Baptism of Clinton Campbell during Sunday worship service before the McAllister Church Congregation. Elder Gina Tingler assisted during the ceremony. Welcome to the McAllister Church Family, Clinton!





Reformation Sunday Worship at First Presbyterian

First Presbyterian Church in Covington hosted a joint Reformation Sunday service October 25th. McAllister Presbyterian Church members attended and were also joined by congregation members from Low Moor Presbyterian, Mallow Presbyterian, Sinking Spring Presbyterian, Edgemont ARP, Falling Spring EPC, Johnson's Creek ARP, and Granbery Memorial UMC. A joint choir participated during the service. McAllister's Handbell Choir also performed.



...More Pumpkin Patch Memories!



Gifts in Honorarium



In Honor of
Susan Sponaugle
for her kindness...
Love,
Dorothy Wimer

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.
~Ephesians 4:32



~POINSETTIA ORDER FORM~



Please ORDER BY:
Sunday, December 6th

We will be using red poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the December 20, Christmas Eve, and December 27th worship services.
To participate complete this form and make checks payable to:
McAllister Presbyterian Church
Enclose your CASH or CHECK payment with this form. Return to the church office, offering plate OR you may call in your order at 540~962~2675.
Thank you.

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

In memory/honor of (circle one):_____

Given By: _____

# of Plants: _____x $13 ea. = $_____

***** You may pick your plant up after the service on December 27th.*****

Musical Minute

It was a chilly, drizzly November day in Edinburgh but our spirits were high as we set out to see the sights in one of my favorite capital cities. A week or so earlier, mom had flown to visit us in the Czech Republic and the two of us had flown to Scotland the day before to meet up with Covington friends to eventually travel to England's Lake District. We were bundled up in coats and scarves and in addition to our usual handbags, we each carried umbrellas looped over our wrists. I sported a backpack full of all the necessities a long day of touring requires–guidebook, tissues, hand wipes, meds for the horrible head colds we both were nursing, bandaids for blisters, bottled water, etc. We had precise instructions from the reception desk at the bed and breakfast where we were staying about which bus to board to take us to the historic heart of the city and even more importantly where to disembark. The staff advised us to let the driver know as soon as we boarded where we wished to end up. As we climbed the steps into the bus we told the driver our plans and he graciously and cheerfully agreed to let us know when we'd reached our destination. We settled into our seats near the front of the bus, pulled out the guidebook to finalize the day's itinerary, and enjoyed the ride to town. As promised, the driver gave us a heads up as we approached our stop. He waved us goodbye and wished us a lovely visit. We waved as the bus pulled away and off we went. Suddenly mom stopped–a horrified, stricken look on her face . . . I truly thought she was experiencing a sudden illness. It was almost as bad as that. "I don't have my purse," she whispered, her eyes teary. With all of the extras we were carrying, she'd left her purse–containing her cash, credit card, and most importantly her passport–on the bus seat.

My mind went blank as to what to do, but then I saw a sign near the bus stop with a number for customer support for the city transit system. I told mom we'd need to find a phone and call that number. Mom had a better idea for me–get on the next bus that had just arrived and tell the driver what had happened. I had my doubts, but since she was my mother I did as I was told. Luckily, my second encounter of the day with a Scottish bus driver was as pleasant as the first. He warmly expressed his sympathy for our predicament and asked which bus we'd been on. I told him at what stop we had boarded and approximately what time, but he said if I could produce the ticket that we'd purchased upon boarding that would be the most helpful thing. Of course it would . . . Digging it out from wherever I'd safely tucked it after boarding the bus would be the difficult part.

By the end of the episode I was on my knees on the wet floor of a city bus with the contents of my purse and backpack dumped out looking for that darned ticket while mom stood on the sidewalk in the rain with tears rolling down her cheeks. Meanwhile, a revolution of all of the commuters who had far more important things to do than

So much fun was had by all – yay for fall fun!



.....more pictures ahead....

McAllister Kids Head to Layman's Pumpkin Patch!



sightsee that morning appeared increasingly imminent. They began to vocally and ardently "inquire" (i.e. shout) why the bus wasn't moving. Several passengers stomped by, angrily glaring at me before disembarking to catch another bus. Blessedly, the driver was a kind and patient soul. (I think he also realized he was about to have a mutiny on his hands.) He finally got on the PA system to apologize for the delay. In closing, he implored for patience, noting in his wonderful Scottish brogue, "These dear ladies are visitors to our fair city. Either one could be your mother, sister, or daughter in a strange city in the same circumstances. Let's show them some Scottish hospitality." I think I was already in tears (and also coughing like a foghorn, with a runny nose and headache) but I certainly was after his impassioned plea. Just as he wrapped up, I found that little slip of a ticket. In my panic I'd probably overlooked it ten times already. I handed it to the driver and he immediately radioed the bus that had dropped us off. In a quick city minute he informed us that the driver had retrieved mom's purse–zipped up and untouched–and that he'd be back around to the same stop where he'd dropped us earlier in about two hours (assuming the buses ran on time and no crazy American tourists held them up . . .).

We thanked him profusely and waved farewell as our newfound hero continued on his way, carrying his remaining busload of malcontents. Then we sat down on the bus stop bench to await the arrival of hero number two. In our post-panic exhaustion, it took us a while to realize that we'd freeze if we waited outside the whole time. We went into a nearby book store to warm up and I went back out about twenty minutes before we'd been told "our bus" would arrive. Heaven knows I didn't want to miss it. I watched and waited as one big bus after another came down the busy city street, each immediately on the heels of the other and I felt panic begin to creep back in. How would I recognize which bus was carrying mom's bag? Not too long after, another bus crested the hill just up the road and I could see mom's bag swinging in the windshield. As the bus neared I could see the beaming driver holding her purse high in his left hand as he approached the curb. He may just as well have been riding a white steed as steering a city bus. Our exchange was brief, but he seemed genuinely delighted to be part of such a meaningful good deed, and off he went. Of course we never saw them again, but the actions of those two men that cold morning left us with warm memories of our big adventure rather than a nightmare story about trying to replace a passport in a foreign country. Mr. Rogers and his mother were right, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." Especially in Scotland, it seems. I hope that you can find kindness and warmth all through the winter months, or, even better, maybe we can be the kindness and warmth that someone else needs.

Beth

McAllister Serves at Local "Teen Tuesday"

Teen Tuesday is a local, volunteer led, independent ministry where teens (age 13-19) gather on Tuesdays from 6:30—8 p.m. at Mountain Rush and COVA (age 18-25) GATHER on Sundays at Mountain Rush from 6:30—7:30 p.m. to GROW in their faith and GO live out the word! Recently, several elders from our church attended Teen Tuesday where they provided a meal to the attendees and worshiped with the group. Below is a picture from the event and a Facebook appreciation post by the group to our church elders.

Teen Tuesday Alleghany & COVA
1d ·

We are beyond grateful for churches like McAllister Memorial Presbyterian Church for their dedication and commitment to serving the teens! We greatly appreciate each of you serving & worshiping with us tonight! Huge thank you to Gavin Via for delivering a message tonight to the teens! If you know Gavin you know these teens were blessed by his message! Huge shout out to all our leaders that make it all happen each week! You guys rock and are more than appreciated!🙏

32 1 3



Lisa Akers – Alleghany Highlands Christmas Mother 2026



Lisa Crawford Akers was selected as the 78th Alleghany Highlands Christmas Mother. Lisa is a lifetime resident with deep roots in the area. She proudly serves as the second-generation owner of Crawford Photography, celebrating 50 years next year, carrying on the legacy of quality and trust established by her father, the late Jim Crawford. She serves as the photographer for most of the local schools and sports leagues giving her connections with many local families over the years. Lisa is a member of Fincastle Baptist Church (Highlands Campus). She is on the board of directors for Olde Town Covington and a member of the Virginia Professional Photographers and Professional Photographers of America. Away from the camera she enjoys time with her husband Jason, a teacher in the Alleghany Highlands Public Schools. They are the proud parents of two grown sons. Austin, is a Virginia Tech alumnus and newlywed who resides in Raleigh, NC. Sammy, a James Madison University alumnus, lives in Virginia Beach, VA where he works and serves in the VB Fellows Program. Lisa stated that she looks forward to continuing the tradition of caring for our neighbors, serving our community, and sharing the love of Christ. Her theme is "Serving Together In Hope & Joy" building a stronger community in His love. Her scripture is Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

SERVING TOGETHER IN

Hope & Joy

Building a stronger community in His love

HIGHLANDS CHRISTMAS MOTHER PROGRAM 2026

Do You Need Help from The Christmas Mother this Year?

Apply in person at one of the following locations:

Central United Methodist Church
414 W. Main St., Clifton Forge
Mon., November 2, 12pm-6pm
Wed., November 4, 10am-4pm

First Christian Church
231 E. Fudge St., Covington
Thurs., November 5, 12pm-6pm
Fri., November 6, 10am-4pm
Thurs., November 12, 10am-2pm

Please be sure to bring the following:

- Picture ID
- Social Security cards for everyone in the household
- Proof of employment & income (pay stub), including unemployment benefits, for everyone who works and lives in the household
- All SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, SSI/SSID cards for the household

Shop Hours: Nov. 30-Dec. 11, M-F 9am-4pm, First Christian Church

Distribution Dates: December 15-16, First Christian Church

Questions? Please contact the Christmas mother office or visit our website!

HIGHLANDS CHRISTMAS MOTHER, INC. ♥ P.O. BOX 242, COVINGTON, VA
540-529-8922 ♥ highlandschristmasmother49@gmail.com
♥ highlandschristmasmother.org Alleghany Highlands Christmas Mother