

McAllister Messenger

OCTOBER 2026

A Word From Your Pastor - “Calm in the Storm”

I was four years old, and was lying in bed terrified. It was two o'clock in the morning, and a strong thunderstorm was rolling through. It must have been right on top of the house, because the bright flashes of lightning and loud claps of thunder were nearly simultaneous.

In my terror, I pulled the covers up over my head. I wanted the storm to hurry up and pass on by, but it just seemed like the lightning got brighter and the thunder got louder. Eventually, I did the only thing that I knew to do. I cried out for help. I cried out for God to take away this frightening storm. I cried out for deliverance.

God responded to my cries. God didn't make the storm pass, at least not right away. But God did send me deliverance. This deliverance came in the form of my mother, who all of a sudden was standing in the doorway and asking, “Jim, are you alright?” When I cried out again, she moved into the bedroom and sat next to me on the bed. I sat up and threw myself into her arms, and she held me until the storm finally moved on.

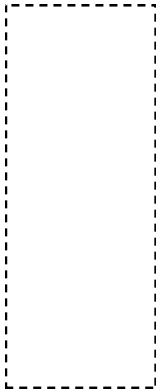
To a child, there is nothing as comforting as a mother's arms; and to us as adults, there is nothing as comforting as God's arms. Life sends us storms. Sometimes, those storms are intense. Sometimes, those storms are terrifying. But if we cry out to the Lord, the Lord will send us deliverance. He might not make the storms go away, but he will give us comforting arms to turn to. He will hold us until the storms pass.

It's just as it says in the classic hymn of assurance and trust, “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”:

*“What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, Leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms.”*

What peace and security it brings us to know that God will hold us through all the storms of life!

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



NOV. 2026
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
Wednesday,
October 21st

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

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Presbyterian Church
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***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.



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

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

*There will be a
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
followed by our regular
SESSION MEETING,
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11*

October 4



**INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES' DAY**

(formerly Columbus Day)

Monday, October 12th



October 25

Reformation
SUNDAY
GRACE ALONE FAITH ALONE
SCRIPTURE ALONE

Please update your church directory for:

Jason & Tamara Hill
222 Moose Park Rd.
Covington, VA 24426

**Also, Luke Crawford has an updated
(temporary) address—cards are appreciated:**

Luke Crawford
c/o Life Center of Hillsville
P.O. Box 1448
Hillsville, VA 24343



Breast
CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH

WHATEVER IS



TRUE



HONORABLE



JUST



PURE



LOVELY



COMMENDABLE

IF ANYTHING IS EXCELLENT OR PRAISEWORTHY,
THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

@HerBiblicalWorldview

Prayer Concerns

Debra Bates	Larry Bartley	Chanda Cook	Herschel Andrews
Amber Hickey	Curtis Clemmons	Lisa Dickson	Amanda Easton
Jason Hill	Priscilla Downer	Steve Driscoll	Denny Hiner
Meg Jackson	Joyce Emerson	Cindy Durham	Diane Lambert
Lee Kyle	Kolby Hiner	Shiela C. Hostetter	Greg Martin
Pat Martin	Shawn Kimberlin	Gladys Laws	Bertha Sizemore
Lee Ann Poague	Jonathan Lawhorn	Jayne Hill-May	Tootles Tingle
Buzzy Riley	Pete Leitch	Sherry Hosey	Ethan Thompson
Tammy S.-Duncan	Gil Markham	Doris Mottern	~
Angie Sponaugle	Sue Puhle	Ralph Oyler	Storm victims here &
Ethan, Marcy	Teresa Vess	Stephanie Joy Wells	across U.S., abroad
Thompson	Family/Friends of	H.L. Wickham	~
Grady Whitt	Renee Young Gann	Nepal (China)	Family & friends of
			U.S. soldiers killed

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

MISSIONARIES: Tom & Judy Harvey, Kurt Esslinger & Hyeyoung Lee



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. troops & families, U.S. government, Ukraine & Russia, Middle East, Virginia, Our Nation & World. Unspoken prayers.

A Christian Pumpkin

I am a Jack O' Lantern
My light will shine so bright

For I am a Christian pumpkin
My symbols tell what's right.

My nose is like the cross
on which our Savior died

To set us free from sin
We need no longer hide.

My mouth is like a fish
The whole wide world to show

That Christians live in this house
And love their Savior so!

The story starts at Christmas
My eyes are like the star

That shone on Baby Jesus
And wise men saw from far

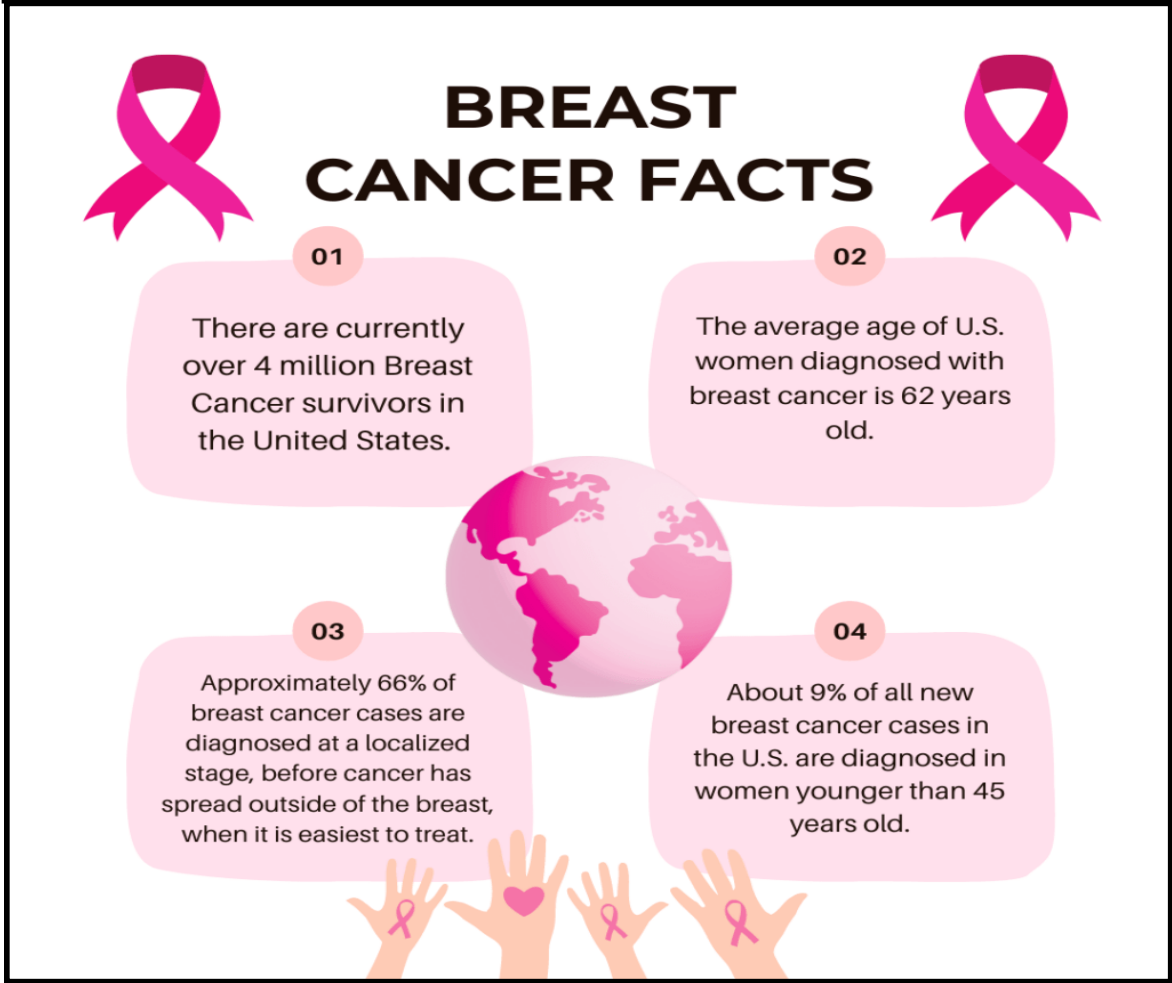
My color it is orange
Just like the big bright sun

That rose on Easter Day
Along with Gods' own Son.

And so on Halloween
Let's set our pumpkins out

And tell the trick or treaters
What Gods' love is all about!





Deaths

Sue Martin Burns
Sadie Mae Kelley
Sandy Jo Kemper
Cheryl Darlene Nicely
Brent Wayne Via
Mildred P. Walker

Jesse Leon Drennen
Julia "Judy" H. King
Brett Ashby Lauder milk
Dolly Carter Lowry
Charles Lee Masters
Virginia Lee Meadows
Pastor "Michael" Simmons

Margaret Anderson*
Emma J.H. Filer
Macelia W. Hunter
Russell Hunter, Jr.
Joyce Smith Traynor
"Greg" Eugene Via
*former member

Timothy E. Cason, Sr.
"Renee" Young Gann*
Marcus Ray Jeter
Janie Kelley
Sally Krueger Nicely
Winona S. Robinson
Larry J. Snedegar

With Deepest Sympathy & Comfort



The McAllister Church Family extends prayer and our sincerest condolences to:

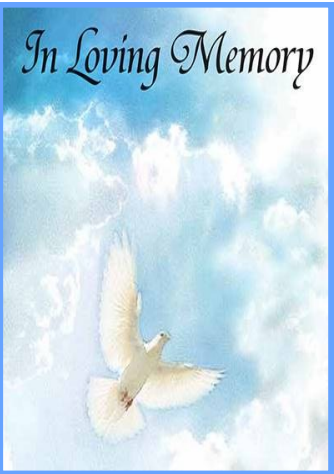
*Church members Margie Young, Mike Young, and Kevin W. Young and their families on the loss of their daughter and sister (respectively), M. Renee Young Gann

*Members Steven Craft and his sister, Donna C. Walker on the loss of their aunt, Mary Via

*Member David Keith of Vinton on the loss of his sister and former member, Margaret K. Anderson

*Anyone having recently suffered a loss

Gifts in Memoriam



In Memory of my sister, Bonnie Patterson on her birthday, August 25th by Kathleen Loan

In Memory of Rocky Washburn, Sr., Betty Gibson, Mary Via, and Margaret Anderson by Larry Washburn

In Memory M. "Renee" Young Gann by:

† Marshall & Donna Fox	† Joe & Pat Martin
† Bobby & Anita Rice	† Chuck & Jean Bartley
† Norma Curtin	† Richard & Priscilla Downer
† Larry Washburn	† Danny & Rhoda Hill
† Lee Ann Poague	† Adult Sunday School Class
	† Joyce Armentrout



Notes From Pastor Jim

- ♦ *The Witness and Evangelism Committee will meet Tuesday, October 6 at 4 PM.*
- ♦ *The Christian Growth and Nurture Committee will meet Tuesday, October 6 at 5:30 pm.*
- ♦ *There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 11 immediately after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect the nominating committee.*
- ♦ *Session will meet Sunday, October 11 immediately after the congregational meeting.*
- ♦ *The children's trip to **Layman's Pumpkin Patch** will be on Sunday, October 18. We will have lunch during junior church time and leave for the pumpkin patch at noon.*
- ♦ ***Reformation Sunday** is October 25. We will worship with the other area Presbyterian churches at First Presbyterian. There will be a lunch, followed by a musical program of choirs and bell choirs from the participating churches.*
- ♦ *The children's **Pumpkin Party** will be Sunday, October 25 at 5:00 pm. Join us for supper, games, and a costume contest. Bring a friend!*
- ♦ *Save the Date! We will be celebrating **McAllister's Homecoming** on Sunday, December 6. This will be the 108th anniversary of our congregation. We will have a special worship service and a **luncheon**.*

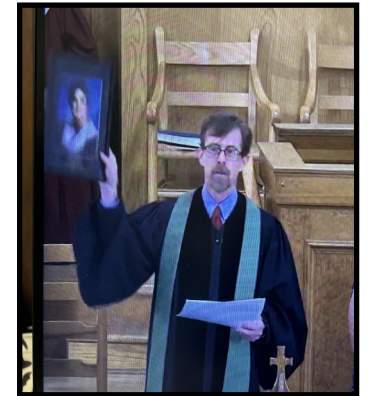
AVERAGE SEPT. 2026 SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

52

McAllister Remembers & Honors Betty Gibson

On Sunday, September 20th, McAllister Church honored the memory of Betty Gibson, long-time member of McAllister Church. Betty served over three decades as our Sunday School Superintendent. She also lead our Christmas Cheer program for many years and served as Presbyterian Women (PW) Chairperson. Our Session chose to memorialize Betty with a plaque to be displayed in the Sunday School office. Betty's love for McAllister Church is evident in the many ways she served McAllister Church throughout her life.

(Pictured below: The family of Betty Gibson looks on as Reverend Jim Moss, assisted by Jill Shifflett, honors her service to McAllister Church; Reverend Moss shows the plaque to the congregation.)



Sacrament of Baptism

*On this same Sunday service in which Betty Gibson was remembered, her great-granddaughter, **Eloise Ann Marie Broughman**, daughter of members Mahaley & Holden Broughman, was baptized. She was presented for baptism by her parents and her maternal grandfather, Frank Reyns. What an extra special day at McAllister Church!*



Words of Thanks

To Our Wonderful Church Family,
We would like to take a moment to sincerely thank you for the love, prayers, kindness, and support you have shown us daily during this difficult time of loss.

There are truly no words to express how much everything you have done has meant to us.

From the beautiful graveside service for Renee and comforting words from Reverend Moss, Joe Martin's great rendition of "How Great Thou Art", to the wonderful ladies who prepared and provided food as well as the men who set everything up for the meal. We are also thankful for the abundance of cards, phone calls, prayers, visits, and every thoughtful act of kindness. We are so grateful and blessed.

You stepped in and cared for our family when we needed it most, and we will never forget the love you showed us. Your kindness lifted burdens, brought comfort during a very painful time, and reminded us of what a blessing it is to have such a loving church family.

Thank you for being there for us, praying for us, and for loving our family so much. We may never be able to thank each of you enough, but please know that every act of kindness was deeply appreciated and will always hold a special place in our hearts.

With Love and Heartfelt Gratitude,
The Young Family



BUZZY RILEY UPDATE (from Kylene's Facebook post): "Dad will be coming home from the emergency neurosurgery and rehab tomorrow (Thursday, 10/1). He has done really well but will be pretty limited for a time - no driving, no steps, no downstairs at home, no work, etc. He is using a walker and **eating a low carb/low sugar diet**. I will be around for the next few days but returning home to Salem on Sunday. If anyone is interested in providing a meal once we cannot be there, a sign up has been set up at <https://www.supportnow.org/paul-riley>. He has his cell phone (reach out to me - or the church office - if you need the number (it is in the church directory)). He does not feel like talking for long periods. I would imagine the same for visitors, a short hello to make sure he is okay there alone is helpful, but he is not going to be up to hosting. Feel free to message me or Katie Long (Facebook). So many have reached out - we appreciate everyone's prayers

Thank You Pastor!

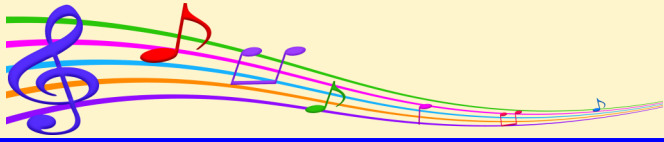
PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

To Our Pastor

In God's perfect wisdom, He knew what to do,
He sent us a Pastor as faithful as you.
With faith as your rock and a spirit so bright,
You guide us in truth, walking in His light.

A Shepherd for His flock, so strong and true,
You give of yourself in all that you do.
For all your devotion, we simply want to say,
We are blessed by your service each and every day.

◆ ◆ ◆
We Appreciate YOU



Musical Minute

I was recently gifted a huge cache of old sheet music and songbooks. It took two men to carry the tote bag, almost the size of a body bag and weighing about the same as an occupied one might, to my car. As of today, I'd guess I'm not quite a quarter of the way through it. It's tempting to just let some of it go without playing through it all, but in my experience there's always a hidden gem somewhere amongst the other unremarkable items. The music in this particular trove runs the gamut from sacred to classical, orchestral, music theater, community song collections, children's songbooks, and music instruction materials. Most of it dates from the early 20th century with a few pieces published before 1900. Flipping through it is like a musical stroll through the last 125 years—the good, the zany, the spiritual, and sadly, but occasionally, the deeply offensive. There are love songs, as I suppose there have been since humans began falling in love, songs evoking the sadness of war years, including the Civil War and two World Wars, songs of the Great Depression, songs of worship, humor, longing and sadness, joy and optimism. My observations from the lyrics that I've read thus far:

- A. Mothers are always to be revered.
- B. Fathers are either saints or drunken louts.
- C. Beautiful young ladies, every single one of them an object of admiration, are rosy cheeked, lithe, and delicate on their tiny little feet.
- D. "Marked" women needn't bother returning home as they've already disappointed the entire family, ruined the family name, and altogether and in no uncertain terms are no longer welcome there. Oh—and just to make sure your soul is completely crushed, young lady, your mother is but a withered shell of her former self, and your father has turned your picture to face the wall . . . (Surprisingly, I've come across no mention of the fate of the sons who helped to "mark" these young ladies in the first place. I can only assume they may turn up in a later song as a prized suitor for someone else, perhaps as a saintly or loutish father, or a rakish dandy . . .)
- E. Beloved dogs in life become saints upon their passing, a sentiment with which I completely concur.
- F. Longtime wives are *somewhat valued in spite of the fact they turn "old and gray" with "her old face lined and tired."* Good grief . . .

These, so far, seem to be the universal and most oft-repeated truths. Below is a charming, admittedly unsubtle, example of universal truth "A" published in a collection from 1935 entitled "Treasure Chest of Old Time Song Hits." (It appears to have been written by a male, but I think it might have been a mom in disguise.)

Always take mother's advice.
She knows what is best for your good.
Let her kind words then suffice,
And always take mother's advice.



And here's another example—a real tear-jerker—taken from the same collection:

It now lies on the shelf, it is faded and torn, that dear old shawl by mother worn,
'Tis all that is left for this heart to adore, to bring to mind those happy days of yore,
How often the hands to these folds have been press'd, that now beneath the daisies are at rest—

The tears come unbidden and silently fall, to gleam like gems on mother's old red shawl.

Chorus:

It is useful no more, yet I fondly adore that dear old shawl my mother wore;
And thro' life it shall be a lov'd treasure to me,
That little old red shawl my mother wore.

I'll just give you the first couple of lines of an example of universal truth "D." You can use your imagination to fill in the rest.

She's just like a rose with a broken stem, that is plucked, and then cast aside. The garden of love has no place for them when their fragrance and perfume have died.

I guess the poor lass has made her (metaphorical flower) bed and now has no choice but to lie in it . . . I'll spare you the dreary lyrics of "She May Have Seen Better Days," but suffice it to say those lovely, lithe, dancing young ladies didn't have much room for error when making decisions about their future.

But to end on an upbeat note, let me share with you one of the sweet gems I discovered in my bottomless body bag of goodies. It was published in 1948 and according to the front cover was featured by the renowned dance band "Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians." I'd never heard it until just this week and playing and singing it brought a smile to my heart. It's maybe a little "pollyanna-ish" but you really can't deny the sentiment!

Powder Your Face with Sunshine (Smile! Smile! Smile!)

Powder your face with sunshine, put on a great, big smile.
Make up your eyes with laughter, folks will be laughing with you in a little while.
Whistle a tune of gladness, gloom never was in style.
The future's brighter, when hearts are lighter,
Smile! Smile! Smile!

Reading these lyrics, I can't help but think of the ubiquitous powder jar with the fluffy "puff" that sat on many of our grandmother's dressing tables. Just imagine rays of sunlight peaking out from under the lid of the jar before she lifted it to powder her face and nose with a little sunshine. What a happy thought!

Until next time—**Beth** (smiling, as ever)