



Our mission:
to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ
who join boldly with the Spirit's work
in the world.

A Service for the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

10:30 a.m.

We Gather at God's Call

Introit *In the Age of Twisted Values*

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude *Amazing Grace* -Wood

Words for Reflection *Mysteries, Yes* Mary Oliver

Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous
to be understood.
How grass can be nourishing in the
mouths of the lambs.
How rivers and stones are forever
in allegiance with gravity
while we ourselves dream of rising.
How two hands touch and the bonds will
never be broken.
How people come, from delight or the
scars of damage,
to the comfort of a poem.

Let me keep my distance, always, from those
who think they have the answers.

Let me keep company always with those who say
"Look!" and laugh in astonishment,
and bow their heads.

*Call to Worship (*responsively*)

Scripture is full of questions...

Where are you?

Am I my brother's keeper?

Whom shall I send?

Who do you say that I am?

Who sinned?

How many times shall I forgive?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Scripture is full of questions,

so just like those in our scriptures,

may we bring our full curiosity and wonder into this space.

Let us ask and seek after our merciful God.

Worship Leader, Ka Guinn

*Hymn

Who Sinned

(tune: Praise to the Lord the Almighty)

We come with questions assuming that there will be answers

Setting the world in an order that obeys our grammar

We want to know where Spirit's river will flow

Frustrated by her meanders

Here is the mystery we claim as the followers of Jesus:

Christ has died, Christ is raised, Christ daily comes to redeem us

Grace free, not earned, whether or not we deserve

God works beyond rules and boundaries

God help us live into mystery beyond comprehension

Quiet our minds always clamoring for some direction

Give us your peace with all that we can't perceive

Holding us within the tension.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

Who here has sinned?

We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand. We ignored people in need.

We make false assumptions and fail to be kind. We are in need of

forgiveness.

Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives. When you lose your way, God comes running.

**Thanks be to God for a love like that.
Have you sinned?**

I have sinned. I put my head in the sand. I ignore people in need. I make false assumptions and fail to be kind. I, too, am in need of forgiveness.

Good news! Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score. When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives. When you lose your way, God comes running.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

*Response *The Steadfast Love of the Lord (refrain)* 59

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, new every morning;
great is your faithfulness, O Lord,
great is your faithfulness.*

We Gather Around God's Word

Time with the Children

Pastor Keith Phillips

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-41

Sermon

Seeking: Who Sinned?

Pastor Ann Pettit

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a merciful God,
**a God who does not keep score,
a God who wants good for us.**
We believe in a creative God,
**a God who would heal with mud,
a God capable of seeing what we cannot.**
We believe in a saving God,
**a God who heals,
a God who greets our questions with patience,
a God who sends us out with hope in our step.**

What wondrous love is this. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem

O God, Whose Will is Love and Peace

-Tallis/Busarow

*O God, whose will is love and peace for all the sons of men,
Let not our human hates release the sworn's dread power again.
Forgive our narrowness of mind; destroy false pride, we plead;
Deliver us and all mankind from selfishness and greed.*

*O God, whose ways shall lead to peace, enlighten us, we pray;
Dispel our darkness and increase the light along our way
Illumine those who lead the lands, that they may make at length
The laws of right to guide the hands that wield the nation's strength.*

*O God, who calls all men to peace, we join with everyone
Who does his part that wars may cease and justice may be done.
Enable us to take the way the Prince of Peace has trod;
Create in us the will to build each day the family of God.*

Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

We Are Sent to the World

*Hymn

Great is Thy Faithfulness

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*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
(Refrain)*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
(Refrain)*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Amazing Grace

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*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.*

**Massanutten Presbyterian Church
Session and Staff**

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Melissa Caldwell	Ka Guinn	Jan Arnold
Matt Hamblen	John Kaltenborn	Ben Craig
Janet Morris	Bill Kilby	Bill Frazier
Doug Smith	Ron Matthews	Chris Hamilton
Skip Wissinger	Janina Peachey	Julia Sensabaugh

Clerk: Jody Humphreys; **Moderators:** Ann Pettit and Keith Phillips

Ann Pettit and Keith Phillips, Co-Pastors

(apettit@massanuttenchurch.org; kphillips@massanuttenchurch.org)

Bob Jerome, Director of Music (bjerome@massanuttenchurch.org)

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Karen Leecy, Office Manager (kleecy@massanuttenchurch.org)

Danielle Cunningham, Digital Media Communications Coordinator
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Katie Rodgers, Nursery Caregiver; **Greg Trobaugh**, Treasurer (gtrobaugh@comcast.net)

Dick Leecy and Cindy Grimes, Custodians

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Life at Massanutten

- Our 2023 Lenten theme is **Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith**. Our friends at *Sanctified Art* developed this theme to follow the lectionary scriptures for 2023, which highlight people who are seeking depth or transformation in their lives. This Lenten theme will carry through our worship liturgy, sermons, and the Lenten study group which is held each Thursday at 11:00 am. And, each Sunday at 9:00 am the Sunday school classes will be using ‘*An Acceptable Fast*’ to move through the season.
- **Easter Candy!** As we make our way toward Easter, plans are being set for the annual Easter Egg hunt that will take place between breakfast and worship that morning. To help our ‘Egg Hunt Team’ get ready, we are collecting bags of small, individually wrapped candy to put in the eggs. Leave your contributions in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you!
- **RAM: Remote Area Medical Clinic needs.** RAM will be held at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds May 5-7. MPC is collecting food to help feed the providers that come to our area while they are working. The following items are needed: *Juice Boxes, Energy Bars and Breakfast Bars*. You may leave your contribution marked for RAM in the Narthex.
- **FLOCKS OF CHICKS mission project**—Massanutten Presbyterian Women invite the congregation to join in this Heifer International initiative. We’re challenging the congregation to join us in purchasing flocks of baby chicks to be given to families in need, along with education on their care. They raise the chicks into hens and use their eggs for nourishment, for income when sold and for sharing with others by passing on the gift. Visit our display in the narthex and pick up an envelope for returning your special gift. You may also donate at MassanuttenChurch.org.
- **Inclement Weather Policy for MPC**—In case of inclement weather, check church closings on WHSV (Harrisonburg television station) or MassanuttenChurch.org.
- **Safety Message:** Always lock your car! Did you know your car fob has an alarm? Learn to use it, in case you are ever threatened or in a dangerous situation.

This Week At MPC

Sunday, March 19

9:00am Adult Sunday School
9:30am Faith Village
No High School Breakfast
Parent Fellowship
10:30am Worship
Godly Play
6:30pm Session (FH)
No Evening Youth Activities

Monday, March 20 Church Office Closed

7:00pm Massanutten Ringers
Boy Scouts

Tuesday, March 21

6:00pm Valley Interfaith Action
Refounding (Bridgewater)
7:15pm Treble Choir (CR)

Wednesday, March 22

7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)
7:15pm Nurture & Discipleship
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 23

11:00am Lenten Study (GA)

Friday, March 24 Church Office Closed

Saturday, March 25 Church Office Closed

9:00am Session Minutes Reading (FH)

Sunday, March 26

9:00am Adult Sunday School
9:30am Faith Village
High School Breakfast
Parent Fellowship
10:30am Worship
Godly Play
5:00pm Fun with Handbells
6:00pm Youth Dinner & Fellowship

Serving March 19

Door Monitor: Mike Guinn

Greeters: Chris & Phyllis Hamilton

Ushers and Water Pourers:
Greg & Ann Trobaugh

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Barbara Palmer

Faith Village: Jennifer Coffelt & Jeannie Sutherland

Godly Play:

No HS Breakfast or Youth (Spring Break)

Serving March 26

Door Monitor: Robin Reed

Greeters: Anita Brechtel

Ushers and Water Pourers:
Harvey & Karen Mast

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Katie Gray

Faith Village:
Jennifer Coffelt & Jeannie Sutherland

Godly Play:

HS Breakfast: Keith Phillips & Diann Reed

MS Youth: Sarah Rimer

HS Youth: Gus Scheidt

Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday, April 2

10:00 am – Coffee Fellowship
10:30 am – Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 4

7:00 pm – Communion

Good Friday, April 5

7:00 pm – Tenebrae Service of Shadows

Valley Interfaith Action (VIA)

Refounding Action

This Tuesday, March 21st 6:00—7:30 pm

Bridgewater Church of the Brethren

Hundreds of VIA leaders will gather as we publicly introduce Valley Interfaith Action to corporate and elected leaders in the Valley and kick off our childcare and transportation campaigns! Childcare will be available.

MPC is a Valley Interfaith Action Covenant Partner.

Children and Youth

Sunday, March 19

9:30am Faith Village
Parent Fellowship
No HS Breakfast
10:30am Worship
Godly Play
No Evening Youth Activities
(Spring Break)

Sunday, March 26

9:30am Faith Village
Parent Fellowship
HS Breakfast
10:30am Worship
Godly Play
5:00pm Fun with Handbells
6:00pm Youth Dinner & Fellowship

Seeking to nurture and empower our children and youth to live and serve in the world as loving disciples of Jesus Christ.