



**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  
*Second Sunday in Lent*

March 5, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**We Gather at God's Call**

Introit *O God Who Gives Us Life* -arr. Sullivan

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude *My Song Is Love Unknown* -Burkhardt

Words for Reflection

*Do we slide into something new?  
 Do we make a formal announcement?  
 Dearest reader, I have decided to begin again.  
 Do we turn gradually, a gentle yield in a new direction; or like a wave,  
 Do we crash onto the shore of a new day?  
 Do we grieve the change? Are there breadcrumbs on the path?  
 Will Nicodemus be there?  
 Will it ever be easy?  
 I'm not sure exactly how we begin again,  
 but I know that moths wrap themselves in silk,  
 and after quite some time,  
 after many long nights,  
 after days spent alone,  
 they break out of their shell.  
 They pull themselves out under open sky,  
 and they spend the rest of their days chasing the light.  
 Maybe it's always that way with beginnings.  
 Maybe it feels like the protective layer falling away.  
 Maybe we have to go it alone at first.  
 Maybe it feels like pulling and dragging yourself into something new.  
 Maybe there's always open sky at the other end.*

\*Call to Worship (*responsively*)

What is it like to begin again?

**It is like flowers in the spring that push through frozen ground.**

**It is like babies learning to walk, one clumsy step at a time.**

**It is like Nicodemus in the night, asking Jesus for guidance.**

**It is like a Sunday morning, starting our week anew.**

May we find God in our seeking.

**May we learn as we go.**

May we be brave enough to begin again.

**Let us worship the God of new beginnings.**

\*Hymn

*Hymn of Promise*

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*In the bulb there is a flower;  
 in the seed, an apple tree;  
 in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
 butterflies will soon be free!  
 In the cold and snow of winter  
 there's a spring that waits to be,  
 unrevealed until its season,  
 something God alone can see.*

*There's a song in every silence,  
 seeking word and melody;  
 there's a dawn in every darkness,  
 bringing hope to you and me.  
 From the past will come the future;  
 what it holds, a mystery,  
 unrevealed until its season,  
 something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning;  
 in our time, infinity;  
 in our doubt there is believing;  
 in our life, eternity.  
 In our death, a resurrection;  
 at the last, a victory,  
 unrevealed until its season,  
 something God alone can see.*

\*Call to Confession

Worship Leader, Jan Arnold

**\*Prayer of Confession** (*responsively*)

God of new life, you call us into unknown places,

**and we bury our heads in the sand.**

You promise all the stars in the sky,

**and we doubt it can be true.**

You speak of new life in the Spirit,

**and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.**

Over and over and over again, you invite us closer to you.

**Show us the way. Forgive our mistakes.**

**Give us the courage to begin again with you.**

**Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

Family of faith, hear and believe this good news:

There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than we can imagine.

No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven.

Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, we are made new.

Join me in saying:

**We belong to God. We are held in God's love. We are made new. Amen.**

**\*Response**

*The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

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*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

Scripture Reading

John 3:1-17 & Genesis 12:1-4a

Sermon

*How Do We Begin Again?*

Pastor Ann Pettit

**We Respond to God's Word**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in a God who meets us in the shadows,**

**who welcomes our questions,**

**who invites us to begin again.**

**We believe that Jesus showed us a new way,**

**a deeper faith, a more compassionate existence.**

**We believe that all of our beginnings**

**should return us to this foundation,**

**and that no matter how many times we lose our way,**

**God always welcomes us home. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem

*The Call*

Herbert/Clausen

*The Lord called me from the womb,  
From the body of my mother He called my name.  
I am honored in the eyes of the Lord,  
And he has become my strength.*

*Come, come, come, my light, my feast, my strength:  
Such a light as shows a feast;  
Such a feast as mends to length  
Such a strength as makes his guest.*

*Come, my joy, my love, my heart:  
Such a joy as none can move;  
Such a love as none can part;  
such a heart as joys in love.*

**We Are Fed at God's Table**  
(see insert)

**We Are Sent to the World**

**\*Hymn**

*Begin Again*  
(tune: *For the Beauty of the Earth*)

*In the deep night of the soul  
Rich in questions, yearning for  
Life that matters far beyond  
Picket fences and front lawns  
When we tire of life mundane  
We can still begin again*

*In the sunset of our life  
After years of joy and strife  
As we ponder legacy  
Wondering what we will leave  
When the lights are growing dim  
We can still begin again*

*Every morning, every hour  
 Spirit gifts us with the power  
 To begin our life anew  
 What then will we choose to do?  
 Close a chapter, lift the pen  
 To once more begin again*

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

*Baptized in Water, v. 2*

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*Baptized in water,  
 sealed by the Spirit,  
 dead in the tomb with Christ our King;  
 one with his rising,  
 freed and forgiven,  
 thankfully now God's praises we sing.*

## 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. We are the beneficiaries of these encounters in scripture, as they help us to exercise the spiritual practice of seeking ourselves – lifting up deep questions that strengthen our faith. This Lenten theme will carry through our worship liturgy, sermons, and the Lenten study group.
- **Lenten Studies will be offered throughout the coming weeks:**  
Thursdays at 11:00 am (church) and 7 pm (Zoom) Pastors Keith and Ann will lead groups that will follow our Lenten theme: ‘*Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith*,’ Contact the Church office to let us know of your interest and to receive study materials.  
Each Sunday at 9:00 am the Sunday school classes will be using ‘*An Acceptable Fast*’ to move through the season.
- **TODAY at 1:00 pm after worship**—Habitat for Humanity Faith Build Opportunity. Join us at **628 & 630 Virginia Avenue**. We are getting very close to the point of joining in the hands-on work of this effort and today we are invited to celebrate our families by writing encouraging notes on the framing boards of their home in advance of drywalling.
- **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.
- **Massanutten Cares**. We are seeking congregational help in identifying projects for our “all hands on deck” day of caring on Saturday, April 22nd beginning at 8:30 am. Is there someone you know that needs gutters cleaned? Bushes trimmed? Smoke alarm batteries or light bulbs changed? What else can we add to our list of things to do? If you have a project you’d like to suggest, please contact Matt Hamblen or the church office. A member of the mission and service commission will follow up in order to learn more and determine how this might fit into the day’s schedule.
- **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.

### 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)

**Carol Lown**, Organist (clown@massanuttenchurch.org)

**Hannah Altman**, Children and Youth Program Director (haltman@massanuttenchurch.org)

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

**Danielle Cunningham**, Digital Media Communications Coordinator  
 (dcunningham@massanuttenchurch.org)

**Katie Rodgers**, Nursery Caregiver

**Greg Trobaugh**, Treasurer (gtrobaugh@comcast.net)

**Dick Leecy and Cindy Grimes**, Custodians

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**The Spirit of Adventure**  
**Massanutten Brass Band**  
**Massanutten Presbyterian Church**  
**March 12 at 4:00 pm**

Massanutten Brass Band is celebrating their 20th anniversary in 2023 with a very special concert. Come gather for this musical adventure as the band performs a wide variety of music themes from television and movies. The band was formed in 2001 right here at Massanutten church. A reception will follow the concert where you can greet the band members.

**Valley Interfaith Action (VIA)**  
**Refounding Action**  
**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 5**

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

**Sunday, March 12**

*No Children or Youth Activities*  
*today (Spring Break)*  
 10:30am Worship  
 Godly Play

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

**This Week At MPC**

**Sunday, March 5**

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

**Thursday, March 9**

11:00am Lenten Study (GA)  
 7:00pm Lenten Study (Zoom)

**Friday, March 10** *Church Office Closed*

9:00am Fellowship Hall in use until 6pm Saturday

**Saturday, March 11** *Church Office Closed*

9:00am Fellowship Hall in use until 6pm

**Sunday, March 12**

9:00am Adult Sunday School  
 9:30am *No Faith Village today*  
*No High School Breakfast*  
*No Parent Fellowship*  
 10:30am Worship  
 Godly Play  
 4:00pm Massanutten Brass Band Concert  
*No Evening Youth Activities*

**Monday, March 6** *Church Office Closed*

7:00pm Massanutten Ringers  
 Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, March 7**

5:30pm VIA Childcare Meeting (FH)  
 7:15pm Treble Choir (CR)

**Wednesday, March 8**

7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)  
 4:00pm Evening Circle (Zoom)  
 6:00pm Mission and Service  
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

**Serving March 5**

**Door Monitor:** Bill Lam & Marc Davis

**Greeters:** Ka Guinn & Bettye Davis

**Ushers and Water Pourers:**  
 Lewis, Emily & Jacob Burkholder

**Nursery:** Katie Rodgers

**Faith Village:** Jennifer Coffelt & Sally Brown

**Godly Play:** Jack & Sarah Rimer

**HS Breakfast:** Pastor Keith

*No Evening Youth Activities*

**Serving March 12**

**Door Monitor:** TBD

**Greeters:** Ric & JoAnn Leobold

**Ushers and Water Pourers:**  
 Angela & Corinna Kaltenborn

**Nursery:** Katie Rodgers and Erin Basgier

**No Faith Village today**

**Godly Play:** Robin & Diann Reed

**No HS Breakfast today**

*No Evening Youth Activities*