



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
Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023

10:30 a.m.

We Gather at God's Call

Introit *Bless the Lord, My Soul and Being* 34

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude *I Love to Tell the Story* -Wood

*Call to Worship (*responsively*) Nancy Davis, Worship Leader

Our God gathers us here

**We have been tested, we have suffered,
but God has brought us through.**

Come, let us tell of what God has done for us!

**We cried aloud to God,
and God listened and answered.**

Therefore, we will praise God with shouts of joy!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Hymn *In the Midst of New Dimensions* 315

*In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?*

Refrain:
*God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey,
now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.*

*Through the flood of starving people, warring factions, and despair,
who will lift the olive branches? Who will light the flame of care?
(Refrain)*

*As we stand, a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes,
grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams.
(Refrain)*

*We are man and we are woman, all persuasions old and young,
each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.
(Refrain)*

*Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.
(Refrain)*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy One,

we love you imperfectly:

we do not always keep your commandments.

We love each other imperfectly:

we hurt those you call us to love

through our actions and our inaction.

We love ourselves imperfectly:

**we struggle to believe that we are truly your children,
made in your image.**

Forgive us.

By the power of your Spirit,

make us more faithful

**that we might live as Christ has shown us,
reflecting your love and grace. Amen.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Because Christ lives, we also live.

Not because of anything we have done,

not because of our belief or faithfulness:

we live because Christ lives.

**This is the Christ who forgives us.
This is the God who is in us.
This is the Spirit who is with us.
Alleluia! Praise be to God!**

**to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*Response *My Life Flows On (v. 4 & Refrain)* 821

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?*

We Gather Around God's Word

Time with the Children Pastor Ann Pettit

Scripture Reading Acts 17:22-31

Sermon Pastor Keith Phillips

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) *From A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.**

**In a broken and fearful world,
the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing,**

Invitation to the Offering

Anthem *The Whisper* Boersma/Courtney

*In the desert, in the wilderness of life,
I am searching for the One who searches me.
As I wander hungry, thirsty, lost, alone,
I hear God's call; I hear the whisper of my name.*

(Refrain)

*"Come to the table, your name is written my hand,
Come to the table, your name is written in my heart,
Come to the table and live."*

*At the table, He prepares for me a place.
He redeems me, I am pardoned by His grace.
He restores me with His rich and lavish love.
In His call, I hear the whisper of my name.*

(Refrain)

In His call, I hear the whisper of my name.

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 *I Love to Tell the Story* 462

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;*

it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do.

Refrain:

*I love to tell the story: 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

*I love to tell the story; tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!*

*I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.
(Refrain)*

*I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.
(Refrain)*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

I Love to Tell the Story (Refrain)

462

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his Love.*

**Massanutten Presbyterian Church
Session and Staff**

Class of 2023
Melissa Caldwell
Matt Hamblen
Janet Morris
Doug Smith
Skip Wissinger

Class of 2024
Ka Guinn
John Kaltenborn
Bill Kilby
Ron Matthews
Janina Peachey

Class of 2025
Jan Arnold
Ben Craig
Bill Frazier
Chris Hamilton
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)

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Dick Leecy and Cindy Grimes, Custodians

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This Week At MPC

Sunday, May 14

9:00am Adult Sunday School
9:30am HS Youth Breakfast
No Faith Village
No Parent Fellowship
10:30am Worship
Godly Play
5:00pm Fun with Handbells
6:00pm Youth Dinner & Fellowship

Monday, May 15

9:00am Preschool (S)
7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, May 16

9:00am Preschool (S)

Wednesday, May 17

7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)
9:00am Preschool (S)
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 18

Friday, May 19 Church Office Closed

Saturday, May 20 Church Office Closed

9:30am Presbytery Meeting (Staunton
Third Presbyterian)

Sunday, May 21

9:00am Adult Sunday School
9:30am HS Youth Breakfast
Faith Village
Parent Fellowship
10:30am Worship
Godly Play
5:00pm Fun with Handbells
6:00pm Youth Dinner & Fellowship
6:00pm New Officer Exam (GA)
6:30pm Session Meeting (GA)

Serving May 14

Door Monitor: Bill Lam

Greeters: Ric & JoAnn Leobold

Ushers and Water Pourers:
Sharon Lam & Sally Brown

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Katie Gray

No Faith Village Today

Godly Play: Emily Burkholder

HS Breakfast: Emily Burkholder

MS Youth: Sarah Rimer & Karen Mast

HS Youth: Gus Scheidt

Serving May 21

Door Monitor: Harvey Mast

Greeter: Karen Enslin

Ushers and Water Pourers:

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Sharon Lam

Faith Village:
Jennifer Coffelt & Nancy Wayland

Godly Play: Emily Burkholder

HS Breakfast: Robin & Diann Reed

MS Youth: Sarah Rimer & Dave Lenderking

HS Youth: Gus Scheidt

Life at Massanutten

- **Sunday Morning Adult Education.** Faithful Conversations: The Apostles' Creed. A six-week study that explores the meaning of the phrases of this familiar and ancient creed. Covenant Class: Study of James. A six-week study on the Book of James exploring how both Paul and James approach the importance of "works" in relation to faith and salvation.
- **MPC Youth will be heading to Raleigh, North Carolina, to participate in Raleigh Youth Mission July 16-21.** Throughout their time together they will volunteer at agencies that seek to meet the needs of those who struggle with homelessness, hunger, and poverty in general. Gus Scheidt and Sarah Rimer will chaperone this trip - and there are still a few slots available for youth who'd like to join the group. Please contact Hannah Altman if you have a youth or know of a youth grade 7 - 12 who would like to participate.
- **A Matter of Balance Class** will be held at MPC June 7-July 26 from 2:00-4:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. The class is being offered by Valley Program for Aging Services. Flyers are available on the table in the narthex.
- **The Valley Treble Voices and the Valley Wind Ensemble** will present a shared Spring Concert on Monday, May 15 at 7:00 pm at Harrisonburg High School. Admission is free.
- Plan to attend the **Presbyterian Women's Birthday Celebration and Covered-dish Luncheon** on Sunday, June 11 following worship. Deidre Lenderking will present an update on Blessings in a Bag.
- As the program year winds down, and summer schedules kick in, consider participating in a '**Kick-Off-The-Summer**' read. Between now and June 15, those interested are invited to read Wholehearted Faith, by Rachel Held Evans, compiled by Jeff Chu. Contact the church office to reserve a book or order a copy online. Opportunities to gather to discuss the book will be offered mid-June.
- **Mark your calendars—Our annual book, yard and bake sale** will be held at the church on Saturday, July 15th. Proceeds from the book and bake sale will go toward purchasing school supplies for our Food Pantry children. Church members and friends will be able to set up their own yard sale that day. Watch for more information.
- **Safety Message:** Do you know where the exits are? Like on an airplane, the one you entered through may not be the closest to you.



On January 1, 2021, the balance on our mortgage was \$1,071,111. As of April 21, 2023, our balance was \$193,576 a decrease of **\$877,535** since January 2021.

Since the Debt Elimination Campaign began in September 2021, \$757,189 has been paid on the mortgage as a result of budgeted mortgage payments, additional giving to reduce debt through the year, & gifts made toward campaign commitments. **To God be the Glory!**

MPC preschool children are finishing up the year!

Over the next two weeks our two four year old classes will get ready for and celebrate with their families in the sanctuary (May 24th at 9:30 am and May 25th at 6:30 pm).

And, our two three year old classes will celebrate in the Fellowship Hall on May 23rd and 25th.

Congratulations to the 53 children who have learned so much since September, and many thanks to the teachers for the creative ways they have helped their education get off to a strong start!



Children and Youth

Sunday, May 14

9:30am HS Breakfast
No Faith Village
No Parent Fellowship
10:30am Worship
Godly Play
5:00pm Fun with Handbells
6:00pm Youth Dinner and Fellowship

Sunday, May 21

9:30am HS Breakfast
Faith Village
Parent Fellowship
10:30am Worship
Godly Play
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Seeking to nurture and empower our children and youth to live and serve in the world as loving disciples of Jesus Christ.