

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS BEGIN TODAY!

COVENANT CLASS (Rm. 117)

Similar to a traditional Sunday School model, a biblical concept, book, or person will be explored for a 6-8 week series, four a year. A pastor or group member will lead each series using helpful study materials. The class will begin by studying the book of Galatians using the resource *Galatians and James: Faith and Works*, from Sept. 10 – Oct. 15.

FAITHFUL CONVERSATIONS (Rm. 119)

A congenial group seeking to foster a spirit of Christian community as we explore Scriptural passages in a thoughtful, current, and personal way. Turns are taken to facilitate discussions. Prayer requests and joys are shared each week. The class will begin by studying the book *Borders and Belonging: The Book of Ruth: A Story for Our Times*, from Sept. 10 – Oct. 1.

**Learn more: speak to Pastor Keith,
visit massanuttenchurch.org, or call (540) 434-6194.**



Massanutten
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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
Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 10, 2023

10:30 a.m.

We Gather at God's Call

Introit *The Church's One Foundation* -Stone
Greeting
- *Minute for Mission: Active Shooter Scenario Presentations* Skip Wissinger
Pouring of the Water
Prelude *Jesus Still Lead On* -Manz

*Call to Worship (*responsively*) Mary Ann Alger, Worship Leader

Listen! The Lord calls out to us, offering life!

Teach, lead, turn us to your ways, O God.

Walk in the paths of God's commandments with delight.

Teach, lead, turn us to your ways, O God.

With our whole heart, we will turn to you and live!

*Hymn *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* 306

***Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.***

***Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.***

***We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.***

***When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.***

***From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.***

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH BEGIN NEXT SUNDAY!

CHILDREN (THRU 5TH GRADE)

Faith Village: Explore Bible stories through learning styles such as art, music, science, cooking, drama, & games. 9:30 a.m.

Godly Play (Pre-K—2nd grade): Learn Bible stories through wonder and storytelling. During worship.

YOUTH (6TH-12TH GRADE)

High School Breakfast (9th—12th): Enjoy breakfast food & relaxed talk about faith & anything else. 9:30 a.m.

Youth Group: Have Sunday dinner, fellowship, & fun while learning about your faith. 6-8 p.m.

Fun with Handbells: Explore the fun of ringing from the basics to beyond with the opportunity to ring in worship. 5:00 p.m.

**Learn more: speak to Hannah Altman,
visit massanuttenchurch.org, or call (540) 434-6194.**

Life at Massanutten

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*responsive*)

From evil, even when it masquerades as good,

Merciful God, deliver us.

From selfishness and vain desires,

Merciful God, deliver us.

From irresponsible behaviors, quarreling, and jealousy,

Merciful God, deliver us.

From hurtful disagreements and irreconcilable differences,

Merciful God, deliver us.

Turn us away from the death sin inflicts.

Lead us into the abundant life Christ brings.

Forgive us, we pray,

and teach us to forgive,

through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

Laying aside the works of darkness, we live in the light of Christ.

Gathered in Christ's name, surely he is among us, full of grace and truth.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and lifted up to new life.

Thanks be to God!

*Response of Praise

We Are Forgiven

447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*Passing of the Peace (*responsively*)

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

You are invited to take a moment to share Christ's peace with your siblings in Christ, respecting everyone's desire for as much or as little physical contact in doing so.

- **Active Shooter Scenario Presentation next Sunday after worship!** — Homeland Security Advisor Jamie Finney will be giving an Active Shooter Scenario Presentation in two identical one-hour sessions on Sun., Sept. 17 at 12:30 pm (lunch will be served prior to presentation) and Tues., Sept. 26 at 7 pm. Call or email the church office to RSVP. All are welcome!
- **You're invited to learn about some of our wonderful programs at MPC!** — Join us after worship this morning in the Narthex and Gathering Area to explore different program tables with information, staffed by a volunteer to answer your questions. Lunch will be provided in the Fellowship Hall, along with games.
- You're invited to the **dedication of two Habitat for Humanity homes** this afternoon at 3pm, at 628/630 Virginia Ave. Habitat is holding a ceremonial dedication for the families who will be moving into these new homes and for all of the supporters of the project. MPC has put 48 person-hours into the project over the last year.
- Volunteers are needed for the **Open Doors Food Truck Festival** this Saturday (Sept. 16). For more information, check the links in this week's edition of Blessings.
- **Parents are invited to the first Faith Village & Youth Group meetings of the year next Sunday (Sept. 17).** Faith Village will include breakfast food. Youth will have a cookout at the picnic shelter. Families are invited to bring a side dish to share.
- **Peacemaker Meal Volunteers**—Meal volunteers are needed for a peacemaker visit toward the end of September. These meals should serve two and at least one should be dairy free. If you're interested in volunteering, please email Jean Kilby at jkilby@gmail.com for more information.



On January 1, 2021, the balance on our mortgage was \$1,071,111. As of August 22, 2023, our balance was \$131,776 - a decrease of **\$939,335**.

Since the Debt Elimination Campaign began on September 1, 2021, \$818,989 has been paid on the mortgage as a result of budgeted mortgage payments, additional giving to reduce debt through the year and gifts made toward campaign commitments.

To God be the Glory!

This Week At MPC

Sunday, September 10

9:00am Adult Sunday School
10:30am Worship
11:45am MPC Program Kickoff
with Lunch & Games
(GA, FH, & Narthex)

Monday, September 11

10:00am Food Pantry
5:00pm Admin. Commission

Tuesday, September 12

10:00am Morning Circle (GA)

Wednesday, September 13

7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)
2:00pm Bethel Circle (SS)
4:00pm Evening Circle (FH)
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 14

11:00am Stewardship Cte (Zoom)
4:30pm Mosaic (HBR) until 7:30

Thursday, September 14 (cont'd)

5:00pm Community Life (Zoom)
7:00pm Food Pantry

Fri. & Sat., September 15-16

Church Office Closed

Sunday, September 17

9:00am Adult Sunday School
9:30am Faith Village
High School Breakfast
(MS Room)
Parent Fellowship
(HS Room)
10:30am Worship
Godly Play
12:30pm Active Shooter Scenario
Presentation (FH ... *lunch is
served shortly after worship*)
5:00pm Fun with Handbells
6:00pm MS & HS Youth Cookout
(Picnic Shelter)

Serving September 10

Door Monitor: Jack Rimer

Greeters: Bettye Davis & Helen Groves

Ushers and Water Pourers:

Bill & Kat Marlowe and Julia Sensabaugh

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Katie Gray

Faith Village: *Will resume next Sunday*

Godly Play: *Will resume next Sunday*

MS Youth: *Will resume next Sunday*

HS Youth: *Will resume next Sunday*

Serving September 17

Door Monitor: Harvey Mast

Greeters: Jon & Mary Ann Alger

Ushers and Water Pourers:

Nick Swartz & Ben Craig

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Sharon Lam

Faith Village: Jennifer Coffelt & Nancy
Wayland

Godly Play: Jack & Sarah Rimer

HS Breakfast: Ross & Sarah French

MS Youth: Sarah Rimer & Mark Palmer

HS Youth: Gus Scheidt

We Gather Around God's Word

*Sung Prayer for Illumination *Lord, Prepare Me* 701

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

Time with the Children Hannah Altman

Anthem *More Love* -Davis

*More love, more love!
The heavens are blessing, the angels are calling,
O Zion, more love!*

*If ye love not each other in daily communion,
How can we love God, who ye have not seen?*

*More love, more love!
The heavens are blessing, the angels are calling,
O Zion, more love!*

Scripture Reading Matthew 18:15-22

Sermon Pastor Keith Phillips

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith Adapted from *The Confession of 1967* (9.21-22)

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.

**His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope
for people when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.**

**In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all,
moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience,
and initiates the new life in Christ.**

**The new life takes shape in a community
in which people know that God loves and accepts them
in spite of what they are.**

**They therefore accept themselves and love others,
knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand,
except God's grace.**

Sharing Our Faith: 2023-24 Program Year Kickoff

Deidre Lenderking

Invitation to the Offering

*Song of Thanksgiving *Now Thank We All Our God (v. 1)* 643

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and 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 *Help Us Accept Each Other (vv. 1-3)* 754

*Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.*

*Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.*

*Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.*

*Special Announcement

Dave Lenderking

*Benediction and Blessing for Lunch

*Benediction Response *Help Us Accept Each Other (v. 4)* 754

*Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!*

Massanutten Presbyterian Church Session

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Ka Guinn	Jan Arnold	Ashley Gordon-Becker
Matt Hamblen	Ben Craig	Jennifer Coffelt
John Kaltenborn	Bill Frazier	Deidre Lenderking
Bill Kilby	Chris Hamilton	Beth Smith
Ron Matthews	Julia Sensabaugh	
Janina Peachey		

Clerk: Jody Humphreys

Moderators: Rev. Ann Pettit and Rev. Keith Phillips

Massanutten Presbyterian Church Staff

Rev. Ann Pettit, Co-Pastor (on Sabbatical leave through September 24, 2023)

Rev. Keith Phillips, Co-Pastor (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 Coord. (dcunningham@massanuttenchurch.org)

Katie Rodgers, Nursery Caregiver; **Greg Trobaugh**, Treasurer (gtrobaugh@comcast.net)

Dick Leecy and Cindy Grimes, Custodians

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