

Congregational Concerns

Members of Our Church Family...

Carole Kreowski, Bill Painter, Flo Hall, Helen Scully, Chen Liu, Martha Floyd, Luke Hamblen, Patti Hobbie, Don Enslin, Marta Armstrong (recovering from shoulder surgery), **Janina Peachey** (successful surgery Aug. 28th), **Doug & Julie Sensabaugh and family** (Doug's mission trip to Ethiopia Sept. 12-30), **Kath Wissinger** (Bell's Palsy), **Tom Holden** (had pacemaker put in Aug. 30th)

Friends of Our Church Family...

Bill Sheppard, father of Pam French; **Sarah Phillips** (mother), **Paul Wicker** (grandfather), **Emma McLean** (cousin), family of Pastor Keith; **Jean Gilbert**, sister of Jan Reser; **Kat Sorensen**, daughter of Frank and Jean Gearing; **David Frye**, friend of Mike and Ka Guinn; **Cynthia Brock**, (broken shoulder); **Maureen O'Callahan** (severe pain); **Melinda Dobroth**, sister of Dale Dobroth (breast cancer); **Huyen Huynh**, friend of Dana Mather (recently diagnosed with stage 4 brain tumor; mother of a teenage son and 8 year old daughter); **Jewel Downs**, sister of Kat Marlowe (multiple myeloma); **David Stager**, son of Judy Dent's sister, **Susan Stager** (back surgery); **Owen Mann** (newborn with heart issues); **Andy Schoof** (lung cancer), friend and co-worker of Bo Hobbie

We Extend Sympathy ...

to the family of **Doris Field**, who passed away on August 21st. Arrangements to be determined.

to the family of **Rev. J. Harry Hall**, who passed away on August 25th. A memorial service takes place on Sunday, September 3rd, at 3:00 p.m. at St. Michael's United Church of Christ near Bridgewater. This is the church where Harry served as pastor emeritus.

Please help us stay current with prayer concerns by updating the church office of any changes to these requests!

Concerns in the Community and World...

The War in Ukraine.

Our mission efforts: Massanutten Food Pantry, Blessings in a Bag, Living Waters for the World, Habitat for Humanity, Open Doors, Valley Interfaith Action.

Serving Our Country...

Jon Guinn & Jackie DeGaine, son & daughter-in-law of Ka & Mike Guinn (Washington, DC); **Justin Brockhoff**, nephew of Dave & Jan Reser (Pentagon); **William Preston**, son of Chris and Jessica Preston; **Marcus Sensabaugh**, son of Julia and Doug Sensabaugh (Montana); **Hunter Barr**, nephew of David & Alicia Gutschow (Parris Island, SC); **Matt Riordan**, grandson of Jack Heintzleman (Fairbanks, AK); **Tanner Kenny**, nephew of Gus and Stephanie Scheidt (Deployed); **Dylan Kenny**, nephew of Gus and Stephanie Scheidt (Navy), **Joseph Knight**, brother of Ben Craig (deployed); **Elizabeth Davis**, daughter of Marc and Nancy Davis (CENTCOM in Tampa, FL).



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
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 3, 2023

10:30 a.m.

We Gather at God's Call

Introit *We Are One In The Spirit* -Scholtes

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* -Friedell

*Call to Worship (*responsively*)

The God of our lives calls us to worship.

Praise the Lord!

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Let us worship God together!

*Hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth* 14

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight;
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thought and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For thyself, best gift of divine to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**God of mercy,
we confess we have set our minds not on divine things,
but on human things.
Doubting your loving provision,
we grab for more than we need.
Doubting your loving purposes,
we shrink from living as your followers.
Doubting your loving plan,
we become stumbling blocks in your creation.
Forgive us, and cleanse us,
that we may find new life in you.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

*Response of Praise *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

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***In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God; do not be afraid.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.***

*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.

Life at Massanutten

- **You're invited to learn about some of our wonderful programs at MPC!** — Join us after worship on Sept. 10th 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** on Sun., Sept. 10, 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** on Sat., Sept. 16. For more information, check the links in this week's edition of Blessings.
- **Save the date!** — 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!
- Shenandoah Presbytery's **Big Event** will be held Sat., Sept. 9th at Massanetta Springs Conference Center. This year's theme is "Faith Decisions in Difficult Times." Speakers for the event are Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott, Editor/Publisher of the Presbyterian Outlook, and Rev. Dr. Mark Douglas, Professor of Christian Ethics at Columbia Theological Seminary. Registration opens at 8:30am at Stuart Hall. Cost for the day is \$20 (includes lunch). Deadline for mail-in registration is September 6th.
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** is currently organizing aid by communicating with pastors in communities affected by the devastating fires in Hawaii. As people of God, once again we are called to stand with our siblings in "GAP"- Give, Act and Pray. You can find more information on how to do this at pda.pcusa.org/situation/hawaii-wildfires/ Financial gifts may be made online, by calling 1-800-872-3283, or by or by mailing checks with "DR000165-Hawaii" in the memo line to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), PO Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

We welcome Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao as our guest preacher. Dr. Yao serves Shenandoah Presbytery as Associate General Presbyter. Nancy is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary (M.Div.) and Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (D.Min.). She previously served as co-pastor (with her husband, Rev. Jim Yao) and as temporary supply and interim pastor to churches in the Finger Lakes region of New York State. Jim serves as pastor to Moorefield Presbyterian Church, Moorefield, WV. They have two adult sons and one very spoiled cat.

This Week At MPC

Sunday, September 3

9:00am Choir Rehearsal
10:30am Worship with Communion
3:00pm Harry Hall Memorial
Service at St. Michael's
UCC in Bridgewater

Monday, September 4

*Church Office Closed
for Labor Day*

Tuesday, September 5

6:30pm Worship Commission (L)

Wednesday, September 6

7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)
5:00pm Nurture & Discipleship (L)
6:00pm Mission & Service (GA)
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 7

4:30pm Mosaic (HBR) until 7:30
7:00pm Nominating Committee (GA)

Friday, September 8

Church Office Closed

Saturday, September 9

Church Office Closed

Sunday, September 10

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

Serving September 3

Door Monitor: Bill Lam

Greeters: Marc Davis & Doug Smith

Ushers and Water Pourers:

Dwight Newman & Sally Brown

Nursery:

Katie Rodgers & Dorothy Dobroth

Faith Village: *Will resume in the Fall*

Godly Play: *Will resume in the Fall*

MS Youth: *Will resume in the Fall*

HS Youth: *Will resume in the Fall*

Serving September 10

Door Monitor: Jack Rimer

Greeters: Bettye Davis & Helen Groves

Ushers and Water Pourers:

Julia Sensabaugh & Bill & Kat
Marlowe

Nursery:

Katie Rodgers & Katie Gray

Faith Village: *Will resume September 17*

Godly Play: *Will resume September 17*

MS Youth: *Will resume September 17*

HS Youth: *Will resume September 17*

We Gather Around God's Word

*Sung Prayer for Illumination

Lord, Prepare Me

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*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

Kristen Enslen & Carolina Rascoe

Scripture Readings

Psalm 105: 1-10, Romans 12:9-21

Sermon — "Marks of a True Christian"

Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

From A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

**But we rebel against God;
we hide from our Creator.**

**Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and in ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.**

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

**In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah
chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.**

**Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

Invitation to the Offering

Special Music

Open Thou Mine Eyes

Harlan

*Open Thou mine eyes and I shall see.
Open Thou mine ears and I shall hear.
Incline my heart, I shall desire,
Order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of
Thy commandments.*

*O Lord, my God be Thou to me a God
That I may love You, that I May serve You
That I may worship You and adore you.
That I may follow You, that I may look to you.*

*Open Thou mine eyes and I shall see.
Open Thou mine ears and I shall hear.
Incline my heart, I shall desire,
Order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of
Thy commandments. Amen.*

We Are Fed at God’s Table

(See Insert)

We Are Sent to the World

*Hymn

Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether (vv. 1 and 2)

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*Draw us in the Spirit’s tether, for when humbly in your name
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Here we touch your garment’s hymn.*

*As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! so now bind our friendship up.*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether (v. 3)

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*All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.*

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities Begin Sept. 10th!

All are welcome to join our Adult Sunday School classes beginning September 10th from 9-10 a.m.! There are two classes available.

The **Covenant Class** will begin by studying the book of Galatians using the resource [Galatians and James: Faith and Works](#), from the Kerygma program. This class will take place from Sept. 10 – Oct. 15th. Covenant Class meets downstairs in Room 117.

Faithful Conversations will begin by studying the book [Borders and Belonging: The Book of Ruth: A Story for Our Times](#) by Pádraig Ó Tuama. The first week will be led by Dr. Christine Kilby, Associate Pastor of Religion at JMU and the daughter of Bill and Jean Kilby, who uses the book in one of her classes at JMU. This class will take place from Sept. 10th – Oct. 1st. Faithful Conversations meets downstairs in Room 119.

Massanutten Presbyterian Church Session

Class of 2024

Ka Guinn
Matt Hamblen
John Kaltenborn
Bill Kilby
Ron Matthews
Janina Peachey

Class of 2025

Jan Arnold
Ben Craig
Bill Frazier
Chris Hamilton
Julia Sensabaugh

Class of 2026

Ashley Gordon-Becker
Jennifer Coffelt
Deidre Lenderking
Beth Smith

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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