



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

*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

A Service for the Lord's Day
First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023

10:30 a.m.

We Gather at God's Call

Introit *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Lighting of the Advent Candle Led by High School Breakfast Class

Prelude *Once in Royal David's City* -Johnson

*Call to Worship (*responsively*) Jon Alger, Worship Leader

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful.

We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious.

We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest -

inspired or tired,

delighted or doubtful,

connected or curious

and everything in between

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God together.

*Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* 82

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*responsively*)

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.

Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

Family of faith,

no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin,

no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,

no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?"

God's love keeps showing up for us. So say this with me:

We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Response of Praise *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v. 3)*

119

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings,

risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,

born that we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth,

born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing,

"Glory to the newborn king!"

*Sharing the Peace of Christ (*responsively*)

May the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all.

And also with you.

*Sung Prayer for Illumination *Come, Come Emmanuel*

91

*Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

We Gather Around God's Word

Time with the Children

Ashley Gordon-Becker

Anthem

Wounded Alleluias

-Martin/Courtney

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:1-23

Sermon

*How Does a Weary World Rejoice?
We Acknowledge our Weariness*

Pastor Ann Pettit

*Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a God who hears our prayers,
who knows the shape and form of our weariness.
We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us,
not just survival and existence.
We believe in a God who looks ahead,
who is not done dreaming for the world—
a God who sends hope in the form of people and change,
movements and Spirit.
And so we return to this space.
We bring our joy and our weariness
like two sides of the same coin,
and we trust that God is already at work.
Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers.
Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

We Respond to God's Word

Invitation to the Offering

Response of Thanksgiving

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (v. 2)

132

*Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!*

We Are Fed at God's Table
(Scroll to end of bulletin for liturgy)

We Are Sent to the World

*Hymn

Weary World Rejoice

Tune: Silent Night

*Weary world, God's own vine
Tears our only bread and wine
Crying out to be restored
Desperate for a break from war
Weary world rejoice
Come and raise your voice*

*Weary world, broken and bruised
Name of God so misused
Can we see the light of Christ
Glowing in each person we spite
Weary world rejoice
Come and raise your voice*

*Weary world, out of hope
Disbelief is how we cope
We've left faith to rot and rust
Dreams are covered in layers of dust
Weary world rejoice
Come and raise your voice*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Weary World, Rejoice

***Weary world, waiting still
Holding our breath until
Christ returns in truth and grace
Will we recognize his face?
Weary world rejoice
Come and raise your voice***

Liturgy by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed/A Sanctified Art LLC/ Sanctifiedart.org

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 (apettit@massanuttenchurch.org)

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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This Week At MPC

Sunday, December 3

- 9:00am Adult Sunday School
- 9:30am Faith Village
- HS Breakfast (MS Room)
- Parent Fellowship (HS Room)
- 10:30am Worship with Communion
- Youth Christmas Market following worship
- 5:00pm Fun with Handbells
- 6:00pm Youth Dinner & Fellowship

Monday, December 4

- 7:00pm Massanutten Ringers (HBR)

Tuesday, December 5

- 7:00pm Treble Choir Rehearsal (S)
- Safety Committee (L)

Wednesday, December 6

- 7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)
- 4:00pm Midweek Advent Worship
- 6:00pm Mission & Service (L)
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 7

- 10:00am Small Group—Kaffee Klatsch, Dayton Farmer's Market
- 10:00am Preschool (FH)
- 4:00pm Mosaic Rehearsal (FH)
- 6:30pm Valley Interfaith Action (Bridgewater)

Fri., December 8

Church Office Closed

Sat. December 9

Youth Lock-in & Christmas Party
Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 10

- 9:00am Adult Sunday School
- 9:30am Faith Village
- HS Breakfast (MS Room)
- Parent Fellowship (HS Room)
- 10:30am Worship
- Godly Play
- 11:45am Session (FH)
- 4:00pm Treble Choir Concert (S)
- No evening Youth activities*

Serving December 3

Door Monitor: Harvey Mast

Greeters: Dick and Karen Leecy

Ushers & Water Pourers:
Dwight Newman & Julia Sensabaugh

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Erin Basgier

Faith Village:
Jennifer Coffelt & Melissa Caldwell

Godly Play:
Gayle Allen & Angela Kaltenborn

HS Breakfast: Ross & Sarah French

Youth: Sarah Rimer & Barbara Palmer
Gus Scheidt & Chris Hamilton

Serving December 10

Door Monitor: Fred Good

Greeters: Sally Brown & Chris Hamilton

Ushers & Water Pourers:
Keith & Linda Knupp

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Erin Basgier

Faith Village:
Jennifer Coffelt & Melissa Caldwell

Godly Play: Nancy Wayland

HS Breakfast: Ross & Sarah French

Youth: *No evening activities*

Life at Massanutten

- THIS MORNING following worship: Please gather in the Fellowship Hall for the **Youth Christmas Market—Silent Auction and Cookie Sale**. There will be light snacks and festive music. Come find the perfect Christmas gifts for your loved ones. Funds raised will support the MPC youth program.
- Today we enter the **Season of Advent**—a time of preparing our hearts and lives to receive the gift of Jesus. Each week, as we move closer to Christmas, we will consider what it means to rejoice in how God is at work even in the midst of days that are full and sometimes wearying. We will be helped by liturgy and music from *A Sanctified Art* - a team of Christian artists who provide resources to support congregational worship in creative and meaningful ways.
- **Midweek Advent Worship** (Dec. 6th, 13th, 20th) 4 pm. in the sanctuary and livestreamed on our website. The holiday season can be particularly challenging for many as the sights and sounds of Christmas fill our days, but our hearts carry memories and worries and fears. These short midweek services will provide space to pause, pray, remember and acknowledge what we are experiencing.
- **Angel Tree gifts** should be returned today. Thank you for assisting with this ministry!
- **Preschool Popcorn Fundraiser** orders will be available next Sunday, Dec. 10th.
- **Santa Sack Collection**— Santa Sack items should be placed in the designated box in the Narthex by Dec. 10th.
- The **Coffee Break Small Group** will gather this Thursday, Dec. 7th at 10 am near the Kaffee Klatsch at the Dayton Market, 3105 John Wayland Highway. Just show up— but if you have questions, contact Beth Smith at elizellen1456912@gmail.com.
- **Valley Interfaith Action: taking the next steps in our Childcare and Transportation campaigns** this Thursday, Dec. 7th at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren at 6:30 pm. To register, contact the church office by Wednesday!
- **Open Doors News:** MPC will host the shelter in our space Jan. 15—Jan. 29. Check out the table in the Narthex today! You may also volunteer to provide items needed by following the link in the weekly email. For questions about helping those two weeks, see Julia Sensabaugh. To volunteer for transportation throughout the season, contact Dale Dobroth.
- Thank you for participating in the **Church Evacuation Drill** on Nov. 12 - we cleared the sanctuary in less than a minute using all available exits! In the future we will cover designated “Safe Rooms” and shelter in place, as well as other evacuation procedures. With this training, we can all be prepared should an emergency arise.
- **Food Pantry** holiday and ongoing needs have been updated. The list can be found in the Blessings weekly email; printed lists are available near the Food Pantry box in the entry way.

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FAITHFUL CONVERSATIONS

DEC. 3-10 the class will be looking at the background of several advent hymns and discuss the book “The Heart that Grew Three Sizes- Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch.”

DEC. 17 the class will be studying background and context of several Advent Hymns and the poem “For the Time Being” by W. H. Auden

THE COVENANT CLASS will be studying the Advent devotional How Does a Weary World Rejoice? through January 7th.

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS

CHILDREN (THRU 5TH GRADE)

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

Godly Play (Pre-K—2nd grade): Learn Bible stories through wonder and storytelling using wooden figures and felt underlays. 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: 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.



On January 1, 2021, the balance on our mortgage was \$1,071,111. As of October 19, 2023, our balance was \$72,491 - a decrease of **\$998,620**

Since the Debt Elimination Campaign began on September 1, 2021, \$878,274 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!**

We Are Fed at God's Table

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving *(responsively)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy... *(the pastor continues)*

...with all the faithful of every time and place,

who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, O God of majesty... *(the pastor continues)*

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

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, for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Pouring of the Cup

*Communion of the People

(Please move toward the center of the church, maintaining space between you and other worshippers, then move to the station serving your section. Servers will offer you a piece of bread—please cup your hands to receive it and move to the next server to take a cup from the tray. After you receive the elements, please return to your seat to eat the bread and drink the cup. You may leave your cups in the chair racks or dispose of them as you leave the sanctuary. For those who would be helped by a gluten free bread, please come to the center aisle and receive the element from the server in the middle.)

*Prayer after Communion

God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Anthem

Wounded Alleluias

-Martin/Courtney

Lord, hear our wounded alleluias.

Touch our fragile, simple praise.

Comfort every troubled, wayward song with Your gentle grace.

Alleluia!

In the stillness of our inmost thoughts, each broken song redeem.

Move your bow across our silent strings, that we might learn your theme.

Alleluia!

Write in us Your hymn of hope and wonder, craft each needed chord with care.

Fix in us Your wondrous harmony, a symphony to share.

Help us trust Your holy, grand design, Composer of the heart.

Make us now Your instruments of peace and let the music start.

Alleluia!