



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 of Advent

December 10, 2023

10:30 a.m.

We Gather at God's Call

Introit

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Singing Bells*

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Confirmands

How does a weary world practice peace?

**By listening before we speak
and saying sorry when we need to.**

By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor.

By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

**By choosing grace over hate
and opening the door for each other.**

There are a million ways to practice peace.

So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

**With God's help, may we bring peace
into a weary world. Amen.**

Prelude

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day
Massanutten Ringers

-Helman

Call to Worship (*responsively*)

Welcome to worship.
I am glad you're here.
Surely God is in this space.
I see God in your face.
Let us worship together.

**Welcome to worship.
I am glad you're here.
Surely God is in this space.
I see God in your face.
Let us worship together.**

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!**

*Watchman, tell us of the night; what its signs of promise are.
Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.*

*Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.*

*Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*responsively*)

God of laughter,
God of open front doors and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt good news.

**We move through this world
waiting for the other shoe to drop,
waiting for life to fall apart,
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.**

Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.

**We lean into fear.
We lean into isolation.**

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

**Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,
And teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth.
Show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

Faith family,
I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives,
God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown
open. There is laughter. There is joy. There is embracing—and it is holy.
So trust this; believe this; say this with me:

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Life at Massanutten

- **Mark your calendars to join us in worship on Christmas Eve - Sunday, Dec. 24**
 - **10:30 am** - The Fourth Sunday of Advent. We will gather for our regular morning worship service at 10:30. The theme of this service is “We sing stories of hope.” You’ll be invited to request Advent or Christmas hymns from the hymnal for the congregation to sing!
 - **4:30 pm** - Christmas Eve Family Candle Lighting Service. While there will not be nursery care available, the service will welcome the participation of God's children of all ages and the children/family corner in the Gathering Area will be available for parents.
 - **7:00 pm** - Christmas Eve Candle Lighting and Communion Service. Nursery care will be available during this traditional Christmas Eve service.
- Join us on for **Wednesdays in Advent** December 13 and 20 at 4 pm. These midweek services provide space and time to reflect and pray, to listen to and name how our spirits are intersecting with a season that can be overwhelming at points in our lives.
- **MPC Preschool’s Holiday Fundraiser** orders will be ready for pick up today.
- **Open Doors News:** MPC will host the shelter in our space January 15—January 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. To volunteer to provide transportation, contact Dale Dobroth or the church office for more information.
- **MPC’s Hunger Ministries** continue to provide food to families in our area. During the month of November, the *Food Pantry* served 26 families which included 88 individuals, 34 of whom were under the age of 18. *Blessings in a Bag* is currently providing 62 bags of food to children at South River Elementary School each week. Thank you for supporting these ministries with your time, gifts and prayers.

Community Holiday Events

- **Valley Treble Voice 2nd Annual Winter Concert** “Christmas Collage” - a set of unusual songs of the Christmas Season will be held at MPC on this afternoon at 4 pm. Jan Arnold and Hunter Davis sing with the treble choir.
- **The Massanutten Brass Band** presents CHRISTMAS IN BRASS this evening at 6pm at Otterbein Methodist Church. This is a benefit concert for the Salvation Army. Come out to enjoy some great music for Christmas with brass band and help support the work of our area Salvation Army. Doug Sensabaugh plays with the brass band.
- **Shenandoah Valley Choral Society** presents its 53rd annual Christmas concert, “Sing We Now of Christmas,” on Friday, December 15, at 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 17, at 3pm at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. Admission \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students. Ron Matthews, Deidre Lenderking, and Danielle Cunningham sing with the choral society.

This Week At MPC

Sunday, December 10

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

Monday, December 11

10:00am Food Pantry
10:00am PW Coordinating Team (L)
5:30pm Preschool Board (L)
7:00pm Massanutten Ringers (HBR)
Boy Scouts (1)

Tuesday, December 12

10:00am Morning Circle (GA)

Wednesday, December 13

7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)
10:30am Endowment Board (L)
2:00pm Bethel Circle (SS)

Wednesday, December 13 continued

4:00pm Evening Circle (FH)
4:00pm Midweek Advent Service
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 14

10:00am Preschool (FH)
7:00pm Food Pantry

Friday, December 15

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 16

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 17

9:00am Adult Sunday School
9:30am Faith Village
HS Breakfast (HS Room)
Parent Fellowship (MS Room)
10:30am Worship
Godly Play
6:00pm Youth Group Fellowship

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:
Emily Burkholder & Nancy Wayland

HS Breakfast: Ross & Sarah French

Youth: Lock-in Dec. 9-10
Sarah Rimer, Gus Scheidt, Karen Mast

Serving December 17

Door Monitor: Harvey Mast & Marc Davis

Greeters: Marilyn Alley & Bettye Davis

Ushers & Water Pourers:
Frank & Jean Gearing

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Dorothy Dobroth

Faith Village:
Jennifer Coffelt & Melissa Caldwell

Godly Play: Robin & Diann Reed

HS Breakfast: Ross & Sarah French

Youth: Gus Scheidt & Karen Mast

*Response of Praise *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v. 2)*

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*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

*Sharing the Peace (*responsively*)

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

And also with you.

We Gather Around God's Word

*Sung Prayer for Illumination *Come, Come Emmanuel*

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*Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
(sing three times)*

Time with the Children

Anthem *Comfort, Comfort Ye*

-Powell

Scripture Reading *Isaiah 40:1-11; Luke 1:24-45*

Sermon *How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Find Joy in Connection* Pastor Keith Phillips

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

*We believe that joy is a sacred gift,
existing on a plane deeper than happiness,
stemming from the truth that we belong to God.
We believe that joy is not meant for isolation.
Joy is meant to be shared,
weaving us together in laughter and in hope.*

