



Bold Faith + Extravagant Generosity
= Changing Lives

On January 1, 2021, the balance on our mortgage was \$1,071,111. As of November 22, 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!**

ADULT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

FAITHFUL CONVERSATION

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

Class will not meet *Dec. 24 or 31*.

Jan. 7-14 the class will study loneliness, focusing on the epidemic of loneliness in our culture and types of personal, individual loneliness.

THE COVENANT CLASS

Dec. 17, 24, and Jan. 7 the class will conclude studying the Advent devotional How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

Class will not meet *Dec. 31*.

Beginning *Jan. 14*, the class will study “Invitation to the Old Testament” by the Disciple series for eight weeks.

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS (RETURNS JAN. 7TH)

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.



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
Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

10:30 a.m.

We Gather at God’s Call

Introit

‘Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude

Angels We Have Heard on High
Kelsey Davis and Jan Arnold

-Arr. Parman

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Led by: Faith Village

*Call to Worship (*responsively*)

Our God can part the sea.

God can bring water from a rock,

and provide bread in the desert.

Our God can walk on water.

He can heal the sick,

and turn water into wine.

Our God sets the stars in the sky.

God hears our voice when we cry,

and is closer than our own breath.

There is nothing our God cannot do.

Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

*Hymn

He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands

He’s got the whole world in his hands.

He’s got the whole world in his hands.

He’s got the whole world in his hands.

He’s got the whole world in his hands.

*He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.
He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.
He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.*

*He's got the little bitty baby in his hands.
He's got the little bitty baby in his hands.
He's got the little bitty baby in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.*

*He's got you and me, sister, in his hands.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.
He's got you and me, family, in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.*

*He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Holy God,
Somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe.
We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts.
We praise those who have answers,
and assume that wonder is an answerless game.
Forgive us for closing that door to you.
Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children.
Teach us the ways of awe and wonder,
so that like Zechariah,
when we find ourselves speechless,
our first words will be words of praise.
With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

Family of faith,
just as we marvel at mountains and newborns, at sunrises and sunsets,
God marvels at us.
There is nothing you could do
or leave undone that could prevent God from loving you.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
**We are forgiven.
We are loved.
We belong 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 our last **Wednesday in Advent** on December 20 at 4 pm. The midweek service provides 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.
- We will receive our **Christmas Joy Offering** this Sunday and on Christmas Eve. Gifts to this offering will be used to assist current and retired PC(USA) church workers, as well as educational institutions related to the denomination that equip communities of color.
- **Check out the OPEN DOORS Information Table in the Narthex:** Dale Dobroth will be available to answer questions about the current transportation needs for this ministry AND Julia Sensabaugh is available to help connect you to needs related to MPC’s hosting weeks of January 15—January 29
- **Office hours update:** The church office will be open Dec. 18-21 from 8:00 am-12 noon, and will be closed from Dec. 23-January 1. Voicemail and email will be checked regularly.
- **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.
- **Shenandoah Valley Choral Society** presents its 53rd annual Christmas concert, “Sing We Now of Christmas,” this afternoon 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.
- **Inclement Weather Policy for MPC**—In case of inclement weather, check church closings on WHSV (Harrisonburg television station) or the church website www.massanuttenchurch.org

This Week At MPC	
Sunday, December 17 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Faith Village HS Breakfast (HS Room) Parent Fellowship (MS Room) 10:30am Worship 6:00pm Youth Group Fellowship	Thursday, December 21 Friday, December 22 <i>Church Office Closed</i> Saturday, December 23 <i>Church Office Closed</i> Sunday, December 24 9:00am Covenant Sunday School <i>No Faith Village, HS Breakfast or Parent Fellowship</i> 10:30am Worship <i>No Godly Play today</i> 4:30pm Family Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service with Candlelighting and Communion <i>No Youth Activities today</i>
Monday, December 18 7:00pm Massanutten Ringers (HBR) Boy Scouts Court of Honor (FH)	
Tuesday, December 19	
Wednesday, December 20 7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH) 4:00pm Midweek Advent Service (S) 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	

Serving December 17	Serving December 24
Door Monitor: Harvey Mast & Marc Davis	Door Monitor: Robin Reed
Greeters: Marilyn Alley & Bettye Davis	Greeters: Tom & Gina Holden
Ushers & Water Pourers: Frank & Jean Gearing	Ushers & Water Pourers: Larry & Pam French
Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Dorothy Dobroth	Nursery: Katie Rodgers
Faith Village: Jennifer Coffelt & Melissa Caldwell	Faith Village: <i>No Faith Village today</i>
Godly Play: Robin & Diann Reed	Godly Play: <i>No Godly Play today</i>
HS Breakfast: Ross & Sarah French	HS Breakfast: <i>No HS Breakfast today</i>
Youth: Gus Scheidt & Karen Mast	Youth: <i>No Youth Activities today</i>

*Response of Praise *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (v. 1)* 119
*Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn king.
 Peace on earth and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful all ye nations, rise;
 join the triumph of the skies;
 with the angelic host proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 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* 91
*Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.
 (sing three times)*

Time with the Children
 Anthem *See Amidst the Winter Snow* -Arr. Forrest
 Scripture Reading Luke 1:57-66
 Sermon *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?* Pastor Ann Pettit
We Allow Ourselves to be Amazed

*Affirmation of Faith
 We believe in a God who knows our names,
**who counts the hairs on our heads,
 and carries the dreams in our hearts.**
 We believe that God's fingerprints are all over creation,
**and that God is forever speaking to us
 in a million different ways.**
 We believe that awe and wonder,
**goosebumps and laughter,
 telling stories and paying attention,**
 are all ways that we can say thank you
 to our creating, sustaining, and loving God.

**Therefore we commit ourselves
to moving through this world with eyes wide open,
with porous hearts,
and grateful spirits.**

We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude,
**trusting that these things
will forever draw us deeper into God's loving arms.**

We believe.
We stand in awe. Thanks be to God!

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!*

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 *When Morning Gilds the Skies* 667

*When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Does sadness fill my mind? A solace here I find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss? My comfort still is this:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Let earth's wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Let air and sea and sky from depth to height reply:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response *When Morning Gilds the Skies (v. 4)* 667

*Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

*Be this the eternal song through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

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

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 (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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