



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
First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2023

10:30 a.m.

We Gather at God's Call

Introit

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude

Go Tell It On the Mountain

-Carter

Call to Worship

Every year we celebrate Christmas.

Most months we break bread.

Every week we gather for worship.

Every day we count our blessings.

Every minute God is near.

Yes, every minute God is near.

These are the rituals of our faith.

Let us worship Holy God.

*Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)

127

*Hark! the herald angels sing.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn King,
Jesus, the light of the world.*

Refrain:

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.
Joyful all you nations, rise.*

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

THE COVENANT CLASS

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.

FAITHFUL CONVERSATIONS

The class will not meet Dec. 31.

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

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.

*Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies.
Jesus, the light of the world. (Refrain)*

*Christ by highest heaven adored;
Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Jesus, the light of the world. (Refrain)*

*Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Jesus, the light of the world. (Refrain)*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*responsively*)

**God of rhythms, we confess:
our faith would not be what it is without rituals.
Unlike you, we depend on bread and water.
We have to return to this space again and again
to hear old, familiar stories.
For if we stopped,
we know it would not take long before we lost our way.
Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us
ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto.
With grateful and humble hearts we pray, amen.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

Friends, it is not enough to hear once a month or once a year that you are forgiven. We need to hear it every single week. Every single week we need to be reminded that we are held in God's loving embrace.

So hear this good news: no matter where you are on your journey of life, love, or faith, and no matter what you have done or left undone, you belong to God. You are claimed. You are known. You are forgiven.

This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God! Amen!

Life at Massanutten

- **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.
- **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
- **Safety Corner**—If you test positive for COVID-19, stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home. You are likely most infectious during these first 5 days. Wear a high-quality mask if you must be around others at home and in public.

Rev. Colleen Earp is our guest preacher this Sunday. Colleen has been the Program Director at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center since mid-2021. She's a proud native of New Jersey, but has spent plenty of time in Virginia, too, including undergraduate work at the University of Mary Washington, serving on the director team at Camp Hanover, earning a Masters of Divinity at Union Presbyterian Seminary, and a yearlong chaplain residency at UVA Medical Center. Colleen is a member of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association and the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Activist Council.

This Week At MPC

Sunday, December 31

10:30am Worship

Monday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2

Church office reopens at 8:00am

Wednesday, January 3

7:30am Men's Prayer Group
5:15pm Nurture & Discipleship
6:00pm Mission & Service
7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 4

10:00am Small Coffee Group—Kaffee Klatsch in Dayton\
4:30pm Mosaic (HBR)

Friday, January 5

6:30PM Civil War Era Dance Group (FH)
Church Office Closed

Saturday, January 6

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 7

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

Serving December 31

Door Monitor: Karen Enslin

Greeters: Doug Smith & Dwight Newman

Ushers & Water Pourers:

Fred Good & Cheryl Henderson

Nursery: Katie Rodgers

(In the Gathering Area)

Faith Village:

No Faith Village today

Godly Play:

No Godly Play today

Youth: *No Youth Activities today*

Serving January 7

Door Monitor: Frank Gearing & Marc Davis

Greeters: Ric & JoAnn Leobold

Ushers & Water Pourers:

Frank & Jean Gearing

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Barbara Palmer

Faith Village:

Jennifer Coffelt & Jean Kilby

Godly Play:

MS Youth: Sarah Rimer & Hannah Altman

HS Youth: Gus Scheidt & Chris Hamilton

*Response of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High (v. 3)

113

***Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

*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 *He Came Down (using the word "light")*
Sing Twice

137

***He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.***

Anthem

The Hand's That Once Held Mary's Child

-Forrest

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Luke 2:21-38

Sermon

*How Does a Weary World Rejoice?
We root ourselves in ritual*

Rev. Colleen Earp

Meditation

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe that faith is a journey marked by rituals and rhythms.

We come to worship.

We confess our sins.

We pass the peace.

We offer grace.

We hear the Word.

We baptize children.

We break the bread.

And we tell the story

of a loving God.

*And through these sacred rituals, we are reminded:
we are not alone.
God is near, and we have work to do.
May this belief shape the rhythm of our lives.
Amen.*

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 *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* 39

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

Refrain:

*Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

(Refrain)

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
(Refrain)*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (v. 1)* 546

*Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.*

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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