



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
Baptism of the Lord

January 7, 2024

10:30 a.m.

We Gather at God's Call

Introit *What Is This Place?* -Neder-landtsch

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude *Light Dawns on a Weary World* -Cherwin

*Call to Worship Worship Leader, Deidre Lenderking

There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God.

Do you ever feel that way?

Yes. We do.

**The world can be a harsh place;
we often need that reminder.**

Well then, let us care for one another.

Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.

Church, you belong to God.

You are God's beloved.

Friend, you belong to God.

You are God's beloved.

Let us worship the God who knows our names.

Let us worship the God who calls us beloved. Amen.

*Hymn

Here in This Place

401

*Here in this place the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name.*

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

THE COVENANT CLASS

Jan. 7 the class will conclude studying the Advent devotional How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

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

FAITHFUL CONVERSATIONS

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.

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.

*We are the young; our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.*

*Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

*Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away:
here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

*Call to Confession


*Prayer of Confession (*responsively*)

**Loving God, from the very beginning,
you breathed life into us and called us good.
However, somewhere along the way we replaced “good” with “not enough.”
Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase
and began to doubt our own self-worth.**

**Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us.
For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved.
Show us how to return to that truth.
Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news. 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.
- **Blanket the World with Love**—Offering envelopes for the Blankets+ Offering are in the chair racks. A gift of \$10 will purchase a blanket for a person or family in need. Hebrews 13:16 reminds us, “*And don’t forget to do good and share with those in need.*”
- **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.



**Bold Faith + Extravagant Generosity
= Changing Lives**

On January 1, 2021, the balance on our mortgage was \$1,071,111. As of December 20, 2023, our balance was \$42,488 - a decrease of **\$1,028,623**.

Since the Debt Elimination Campaign began on September 1, 2021, \$908,277 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!**

This Week At MPC

Sunday, January 7

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

Monday, January 8

10:00am Food Pantry
 6:30pm Boy Scouts
 7:00pm Massanutten Ringers (HBR)

Tuesday, January 9

10:00am Morning Circle (GA)

Wednesday, January 10

7:30am Men's Prayer Group
 2:00pm Bethel Circle (SS)
 4:00pm Evening Circle (FH)

Wednesday continued

6:30pm Gathering Area in use until 9pm
 7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, January 11

4:30pm Mosaic (HBR)
 7:00pm Food Pantry

Friday, January 12

Church Office Closed

Saturday, January 13

Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 14

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

Serving January 7

Door Monitor: Frank Gearing & Marc Davis

Greeters: Ric & JoAnn Leobold

Ushers & Water Pourers:
 Frank & Jean Gearing

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Barbara Palmer

HS Breakfast: Ross & Sarah French

Faith Village:
 Jennifer Coffelt & Jean Kilby

Godly Play:
 Karen Enslin & Emily Burkholder

Youth: Sarah Rimer, Gus Scheidt & Chris Hamilton

Serving January 14

Door Monitor: Barbara Palmer

Greeters: Bettye Davis & Marilyn Alley

Ushers & Water Pourers:
 Keith & Linda Knupp

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Sharon Lam

Faith Village:
 Jennifer Coffelt & Jean Kilby

Godly Play: Robin & Diann Reed

Youth: Sarah Rimer & Gus Scheidt

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

Family of faith, God's grace and understanding is deeper and wider than we could possibly imagine.

So say these words of grace with me:

Our story begins with belovedness.

**Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall,
 God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us.
 We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved.
 Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Response of Praise

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

59

***The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end.
 They are new every morning, new every morning;
 great is your faithfulness, O Lord, great is your faithfulness.***

*Sharing the Peace (*responsively*)

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.

We Gather Around God's Word

*Sung Prayer for Illumination

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove (v. 4)

279

***Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
 with all thy quickening powers;
 come, shed abroad a Savior's love,
 and that shall kindle ours.***

Time with the Children

Rev. Ann Pettit

Anthem

Come to the Water

-Foley

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:21-22

Sermon

*How Does a Weary World Rejoice?
 We trust our Belovedness*

Rev. Keith Phillips

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

**I believe that the God I see in scripture is a God of love.
 I believe that God created me and delights in that creation.
 I believe the psalmist who says, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made."**

I believe that, just as God called Jesus “beloved,”

God extends this same term of endearment to us.

I believe that no matter our earthly challenges,
nothing could strip me of that sacred title.

I could fail every test, miss every goal,
drop every ball, and I would still be God’s beloved.

Therefore, I cling to this promise like a rock in the storm.

I anchor myself with this good news,
allowing the anxiety of the day to roll over me as best I can,
because I know where I belong.

I am a child of God.

I am beloved.

I strive to live this way.

Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Song of Thanksgiving

I Come with Joy (v. 5)

515

*Together met, together bound by
all that God has done,
we’ll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.*

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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

547

*“Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”*

*“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son’s story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”*

*“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit’s power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Spirit of the Living God

288

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.*

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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