

**November's Focus: Education**

Throughout the 2024-25 program year, we will be exploring what it means to deepen our connectedness to God, to one other, and to the world. We will do this in a variety of ways - focusing for a season on one of five traditional discipleship practices (represented by the roots on the program year logo you see at right). We recently concluded the focus on worship. Later in the program year, we will focus on generosity, prayer, and service.

This month, our focus is on education. In John 13:34-35, Jesus says, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Without learning how Jesus loved his disciples, how can we keep this new commandment and be known as disciples of Jesus Christ? Without understanding the stories of God and God's people in the Old Testament, how can we understand how God's love for the world led to Jesus becoming "God with us?" Without learning how the Holy Spirit has been at work in others throughout time and space, how can we recognize and respond to the work of the Holy Spirit within and around us as the Kingdom of God breaks in more and more?

We encourage you to deepen your understandings in these areas of education - this month and always. The bulletins this month will be larger to include notes along the order of worship as we better understand why we worship in the ways we do. There will be at least two new Bible study small groups beginning later this month. Our Third Wednesdays dinner on Nov. 20th will feature a fun Bible game. And, of course, our regular faith formation programs for folks of all ages continue this month.

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." - Romans 15:4



A Service for the Lord's Day  
November 17, 2024  
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

**We Gather at God's Call**

<p><i>We pour water into the baptismal fount to remind us of the gift of grace and love through Jesus, and to remind us of our grateful response to that love and grace by living a life of gratitude.</i></p> <p><i>Martin Luther composed the words and music to this beloved hymn. It's often called the "Battle Hymn of the Reformation."</i></p> <p><i>This Call to Worship comes from Psalm 119, verses 1-2, 10-12, &amp; 15. We will learn more about the psalms - and Psalm 119 in particular - later in worship.</i></p> <p><i>This words to this hymn were written more than 350 years ago. Yet they can resonate with us today - and with future people gathering for worship - if we truly are gathered to hear the Word of the Lord spoken and to allow the Word of the Lord to "touch our lips and ears and hearts."</i></p>	<p>Introit <span style="float: right;">Here in this Place</span> <span style="float: right;">401</span></p> <p>Greeting</p> <p>Pouring of the Water</p> <p>Prelude <span style="float: right;">A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</span> <span style="float: right;">-Pachelbel</span></p> <p>*Call to Worship (responsively) <span style="float: right;">Ka Guinn, Worship Leader</span> Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. <b>Happy are those who keep the Lord's decrees, and seek the Lord with their whole heart.</b> With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments. <b>I treasure your word in my heart, that I may not sin against you.</b> Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. <b>I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.</b> Let us worship the Lord together!</p> <p>*Hymn <span style="float: right;">Blessed Jesus, at Your Word</span> <span style="float: right;">395</span></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Blessed Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you; our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you. By your gospel true and holy, teach us, Lord, to love you solely.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded, till your Spirit breaks our night, filling us with light unclouded. All good thoughts and all good living come but by your gracious giving.</i></p>
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**Massanutten Presbyterian Church Session**

<p><b>Class of 2025</b> Jan Arnold Ben Craig Bill Frazier Chris Hamilton Julia Sensabaugh</p>	<p><b>Class of 2026</b> Erin Basgier Ashley Gordon-Becker Jennifer Coffelt Deidre Lenderking Beth Smith</p>	<p><b>Class of 2027</b> David Allen Kathy Frakes Pam French Lindsey Harvell-Bowman Ric Leobold</p>
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Clerk: Ron Matthews

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 (bjernome@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

**CONTACT US:**  
50 Indian Trail Road  
Penn Laird, Virginia 22846  
540-434-6194  
massanuttenchurch.org

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## Life at Massanutten

As we think about our need to confess, let us remember the words of 1 John 1:5-10: “This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

***Glorious Lord, yourself impart,  
Light of Light, from God proceeding.  
Touch our lips and ears and heart;  
help us by your Spirit's pleading.  
Hear the cry your church now raises;  
hear, and bless our prayers and praises.***

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Beautiful Savior, you have made your law clear: Love.  
Love one another.  
Owe one another nothing but love.  
Do no wrong to a neighbor.**

**But we have not mastered what it is to love.  
We have fallen short, causing harm to others  
through careless action and thoughtless lack of action.**

**Forgive us.**

**Teach us how to love more fully, more perfectly,  
as generously as you love, following your law and fulfilling your will.  
Amen.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

Christ does not judge us harshly,  
but forgives all our sin and leads us into new life.  
**We will not take this forgiveness for granted,  
but will let it transform how we live and love.  
Thanks be to God!**

\*Response of Praise *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven (v. 4)* 619

*Angels, teach us adoration;  
you behold God face to face.  
Sun and moon and all creation,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace!*

\*Sharing the Peace of Christ (*responsively*)

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

*Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken* 455  
*(sung twice)*

***Listen to the word that God has spoken;  
listen to the One who is close at hand;  
listen to the voice that began creation;  
listen even if you don't understand.***

Time with the Children

Pastor Ann Pettit

This short song from Canada is an encouragement to pay attention to what God is saying. The last phrase is particularly poignant, as it encourages us not to allow the possibility of not understanding to prevent us from listening. A hallmark of being Presbyterian is the trust that the Holy Spirit is present in our listening and will help us to understand.

- Today we will receive the **Thank Offering of the Presbyterian Women** which supports health and other ministries in the United States and throughout the world. Offering envelopes are in the chair backs.
- **Happy 30th Anniversary to the Men's Prayer Group!** 30 years ago on November 16th, a group of men began meeting every Wednesday for fellowship, coffee, devotions, prayer, and the signing of cards. The MPG card ministry encourages our congregation and many others in our community. We welcome men to join us from 7:30—8:45 a.m. each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall. Please see Pastor Keith or any of the MPG members with any questions.
- **Today is the last day to order Shirley's Popcorn** to support the preschool program. Popcorn will be available for pick-up on December 8th.
- Come to the next Valley Interfaith Action (VIA) Public Action this **Tuesday, Nov. 19th at 6:30 pm** at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. Much like the refounding in March 2022, VIA intends to fill the space with citizens of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County of all faiths, parties, cultures and economic stations. Help MPC bring 25 people to that Action. Write Nov.19 on the connection folder.
- **Help with an Advent craft project!** If you have newspaper that you're willing to give for an Advent craft project, please bring it to the church office or contact Marta Armstrong as soon as possible.
- **Help decorate the church for Advent next Sunday!** Everyone is invited to stay after worship next Sunday, Nov. 24th, to help decorate the sanctuary and other areas of the church for Advent.
- **New educational opportunities next Sunday**
  - ◊ Pastor Keith and Beth Smith will lead a class on **how to read the Bible** on Sun., Nov. 24th, at 2pm. Participants may come to the church or participate on Zoom. The class will be 60-90 minutes long and you're encouraged to have a Study Bible with you. A recording will be shared at a later time.
  - ◊ After worship on Sun., Nov. 24th, Ron Matthews and David Allen will meet with folks interested in a **"deep dive" Bible study** where people can wrestle with different interpretations of scripture. This initial gathering will happen in the Fellowship Hall and will seek a first meeting date and time.
- **Community Thanksgiving Service**—Sunday, November 24, 3pm at the Keezletown United Methodist Church. A free will offering will be received for Massanutten Food Pantry.
- **Angel Tree gifts for the Salvation Army** go to assist children in our community. Select an ornament from the tree in the narthex, signing the notebook to let us know the ornament has been taken. Return your unwrapped gift or gift card with the ornament attached to the church by **Sunday, December 1st**.
- **Salvation Army Santa Sacks** – This annual local mission project supports the outreach efforts of the Salvation Army. A list of needed items can be found in the Narthex, on the Santa Sack Collection Box. Please make your contribution by November 24th.

### Youth Christmas Market

Sunday, December 8th, following worship

Come find the perfect Christmas gifts for your loved ones!  
A combination Silent Auction and Christmas Cookie Sale,  
*all funds raised will go directly to the MPC youth program.*

Youth are looking for donations (drop off Dec. 7th, 10am - Noon).  
Donations must be: New, Handmade, Service or Entertainment, or Christmas Cookies.

For more information or to arrange an alternate drop-off time, contact Hannah Altman.

**This Week At MPC**

**Sunday, November 17**

9:00am Adult Sunday School (117, 119)  
 9:30am Faith Village  
 HS Breakfast  
 Parent Fellowship  
 10:30am Worship  
 Godly Play  
 2:00pm Cub Scouts (108,119)  
 5:00pm Fun with Handbells (HBR)  
 6:00pm MS & HS Youth

**Monday, November 18**

7:00pm Massanutten Ringers (HBR)  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts (PS)

**Tuesday, November 19**

3:00pm Fellowship Hall in use until 9pm -  
 J. Sensabaugh

**Wednesday, November 20**

7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)  
 10:00am Preschool until 12 noon (Preschool)  
 10:00am Kitchen Fire Suppression Inspection  
 5:30pm Come to the Table Dinner (FH)  
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, November 21**

4:30pm Mosaic (HBR)  
 6:00pm Crossroads Farms HOA until 9pm (FH)  
 6:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 119)

**Friday, November 22**

*Church Office Closed*

**Saturday, November 23**

*Church Office Closed*

**Sunday, November 24**

9:00am Adult Sunday School (117,119)  
 9:30am Faith Village  
 HS Breakfast  
 Parent Fellowship  
 10:30am Worship  
 Godly Play  
 2:00pm Cub Scouts (108,119)  
 5:00pm Fun with Handbells (HBR)  
 6:00pm MS & HS Youth (Escape Room)

**Serving in Worship November 17th**

**Door Monitor:** Harvey Mast

**Greeters:** Karen Mast & Helen Groves

**Ushers & Water Pourers:**  
 Lewis, Emily & Jacob Burkholder

**Faith Village:** Jennifer Coffelt & Sally Brown

**Godly Play:** Jack & Sarah Rimer

**Nursery:** Katie Rodgers & Sally Brown

**Youth Group:** Sarah Rimer, Gus Scheidt,  
 & Karen Mast

**Serving in Worship November 24th**

**Door Monitor:** Marc Davis

**Greeters:** Ron and Janet Morris

**Ushers & Water Pourers:**  
 Fred Good and Cheryl Henderson

**Faith Village:** Jennifer Coffelt & Sherry von Oeyen

**Godly Play:** Bill & Jean Kilby

**Nursery:** Katie Rodgers & Katie Gray

**Youth Group:** Sarah Rimer, Gus Scheidt,  
 & Nancy Wayland

*This anthem is based on today's scripture focus: Psalm 119:33-40.*

Anthem

*Teach Me, O Lord*

-Stopford

*Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes,  
 and I will keep it unto the end.*

*Give me an understanding, and I shall keep thy law;  
 Yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart.*

*Make me to go in the path of thy commandments,  
 for therein is my desire.*

*Incline my heart unto thy testimonies,  
 and not covetousness.*

*O stablish thy word in thy servant,  
 that I may fear thee. Amen.*

Scripture

Psalm 119:33-40

Sermon

Pastor Keith Phillips

**We Respond to God's Word**

\*Affirmation of Faith (*responsively*)

*From A Declaration of Faith*

**Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor  
 to include those ordinarily despised and excluded.  
 His life on behalf of others led to persecution and death.  
 He commanded his disciples to live the same way.**

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us  
 lives that recognize all people in all cultures  
 as our neighbors on this planet.**

**Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements  
 in serving and helping our neighbor,  
 to treat our neighbor's needs as our own,  
 to care passionately for the other's good,  
 to share what we have.**

**It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity,  
 avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival.  
 We are obligated to speak the truth in love,  
 to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies,  
 and to accept the risk and pain which love involves.**

Invitation to the Offering

Song of Thanksgiving *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (v. 1)*

645

*Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
 the God of all creation,  
 the God of power, the God of love,  
 the God of our salvation.  
 With healing balm my soul is filled,  
 and every faithless murmur stilled:*

*Would you like to volunteer to serve in one of the above roles during an upcoming worship service? Write "volunteer" in the connection folder.*

You may be wondering why different versions of the Lord's Prayer use "debts/debtors," "trespasses/those who trespass against us," or "sins/those who sin against us." It all stems from an interpretation of the Greek words *opheiléma* and *opheiletés* in Matthew 6:12. The NRSV (along with many other translations) uses the words "debts." Other versions seek to clarify the intent behind the word, which is to seek forgiveness for wrongs we have made against God and other people, while we also seek to forgive those who have wronged us.

Fun fact: The tune for this hymn was first transcribed from Sicilian sailors in the late 18th century. Information like this - and information with deeper meaning - are available at the bottom of most hymns in the *Glory to God* hymnal.

*to God all praise and glory!*

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.**

\*Hymn

**We Are Sent to the World**

*How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

432

*How clear is our vocation, Lord,  
when once we heed your call  
to live according to your word  
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,  
that you are Lord of all  
and will not let us fall.*

*But if, forgetful, we should find  
your yoke is hard to bear;  
if worldly pressures fray the mind  
and love itself cannot unwind  
its tangled skein of care:  
our inward life repair.*

*We marvel how your saints became  
in hindrances more sure:  
whose joyful virtues put to shame  
the casual way we wear your name,  
and by our faults obscure  
your power to cleanse and cure.*

*In what you give us, Lord, to do,  
together or alone,  
in old routines or ventures new,  
may we not cease to look to you:  
the cross you hung upon,  
all you endeavored, done.*

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (v. 2)*

546

*Thanks we give and adoration  
for your gospel's joyful sound;  
may the fruits of your salvation  
in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful,  
ever faithful  
to your truth may we be found.*

**Congregational Concerns**

**Members of Our Church Family...**

*Bill Painter, Flo Hall, Luke Hamblen, Mike Finn-McKenzie, Nick Swartz, Joe Arnold, Les West*

**Friends of Our Church Family...**

*David Frye, friend of Mike and Ka Guinn; Owen Mann; Andy Schoof, friend and coworker of Bo Hobbie; Linda Caldwell, mother of Kevin Caldwell; Janet Binion, Jim Roe, family of Bill Frazier; Sandra Rohrer, mother of Lisa Rohrer Folks; Heather Brookhoff (lung cancer), sister-in-law of Jan Reser; Barbara Phillips (great aunt, breast cancer), Ken Jones (cousin, melanoma and liver cancer), family of Pastor Keith; Ella Perry (connective tissue disease), friend of Pastor Keith; Jeff Batton, friend of Keith Knupp; Pat Forester (back pain and esophageal cancer), friend of Jeannie Sutherland; Kristin Lam (receiving treatment for jaw tumor), daughter of Mike and Elfie Finn-McKenzie; Bob Voorhees, father of Patti Hobbie; Mark Heltzel, son of Helen Groves (recurring blood clots in legs and lungs); Christina Scott, sister of Kathy Marlowe (myeloma cancer diagnosis)*

*We lift our prayers for families and communities affected by wars in the Middle East and Ukraine along with areas affected by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton and other storms as the long and hard work of recovery continues.*

**Our Mission Efforts...**

*Massanutten Food Pantry, Blessings in a Bag, Habitat for Humanity, Open Doors, Valley Interfaith Action.*

**Serving Our Country...**

*Jackie DeGaine, daughter-in-law of Ka & Mike Guinn (Fort Jackson, SC); Justin Brockhoff, nephew of Jan Reser (Germany); Marcus Sensabaugh, son of Julia and Doug Sensabaugh (Texas); Hunter Barr, nephew of David & Alicia Gutschow (Parris Island, SC); Matt Riordan, grandson of Jack Heintzleman (Fairbanks, AK); Tanner Kenny, nephew of Gus and Stephanie Scheidt (Deployed); Dylan Kenny, nephew of Gus and Stephanie Scheidt (Navy); Joseph Knight, brother of Ben Craig (Air Force); Elizabeth Lee Davis (Jordan).*