

**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 24, 2024  
Reign of Christ Sunday

**Massanutten Presbyterian Church Session**

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

**Moderators:** Rev. Ann Pettit and Rev. Keith Phillips

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Today is **Reign of Christ Sunday** (also known as *Christ the King*). Today we celebrate the sovereignty of the God who is known to us in Jesus Christ. We give honor & glory to the Lord of heaven and earth, while watching & praying for the coming of God's realm of righteousness, justice, and peace. Above all earthly powers, the crucified and risen Lord alone claims our adoration and allegiance.

This is a relatively new addition to the calendar of the church year, first observed in the Roman Catholic Church in 1925. It is the last Sunday of the church year. One week from today, a new church year begins with Advent!

We are grateful for the leadership in worship by the following brass players this morning:

**Trumpet:** Becky Ford & Matt Baraclaugh

**French Horn:** Caroline Fauber

**Trombone:** Doug Sensabaugh

**Tuba:** Alan Shull

**We Gather at God's Call**

Introit *All People That On Earth Do Dwell* 385

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude *Jesus Loves Me* -Slechta

\*Call to Worship (responsively) Deidre Lenderking, Worship Leader  
Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.  
**God's steadfast love endures forever.**  
Jesus Christ is coming to reign.  
**To God be the glory forever and ever!**  
Let us worship God.

\*Hymn *Come Worship God* 386

**Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;  
enter God's presence with thanks and a song!  
You are the rock of your people's salvation  
to whom our jubilant praises belong.**

**Ruled by your might are the heights of the mountains;  
held in your hands are the depths of the earth.  
Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,  
God above all gods, who gave us our birth.**

**We are your people, the sheep of your pasture;  
you are our Maker, and to you we pray.  
Gladly we kneel in obedience before you;  
great is the one whom we worship this day!**

**Now let us listen, for you speak among us;  
open our hearts to receive what you say.  
Peace be to all who remember your goodness,  
trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!**

## Life at Massanutten

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Eternal God, we confess that we have failed to seek your will.  
You come to us in glory, yet we hide our faces from you.  
You speak to us in truth, yet we close our hearts to your word.**

**Forgive us, God of grace.**

**Release us from sin, restore our lives, and rule in our hearts,  
this day and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel:

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us;

Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

\*Response of Praise

*Rejoice, the Lord is King! (v. 2)*

363

***Our Savior, Jesus, reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when he had purged our stains,  
he took his seat above.***

***Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

Four Cents a Meal Offering *Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart*

647

***Give thanks with a grateful heart;  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.***

***Give thanks with a grateful heart;  
give thanks to the Holy One;  
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.***

***And now let the weak say,  
"We are strong";  
let the poor say,  
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"***

***And now let the weak say,  
"We are strong";  
let the poor say,  
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"  
Give thanks. Give thanks.***

*The 4-Cents-a-Meal offering supports hunger-related ministries near and far through the Cents-Ability program of the Presbyterian Church (USA). 25% of what's received from Massanutten remains in our area and assists with the purchase of food for Blessings in a Bag - our food for the weekend program at South River Elementary School in Grottoes.*

### • Happening after worship today ...

- ... **Decorate the church for Advent** - Everyone is invited to stay after worship to help decorate the sanctuary and other areas of the church for Advent.
- ... **New educational opportunities!**
  - ◇ Pastor Keith and Beth Smith will lead a class on **how to read the Bible** today 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 today, 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** - will be held today at 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 **Monday, December 2nd**.
- **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. Today is the last day to make contributions.
- **Shenandoah Valley Choral Society** presents its 54th annual Christmas concert, "Hark!" on Friday, December 13 at 7:30pm and Sunday, December 15 at 3:00pm at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students.
- **Watercolor Activity**—Unleash your creativity and relax in a vibrant atmosphere before the full swing of the holiday season by joining Jill Enslin for watercolor painting, no experience needed! This painting theme will be "A Midwinter's Sheep." Join us on **Saturday, November 30th from 10 am to 12 pm** in the Fellowship hall for step-by-step instruction, and a fun, welcoming environment for all! All painting materials provided (watercolors, brushes, paper, and frame). Cost is \$40 on arrival, cash or check. Reserve your spot through the signup link in this week's Blessings newsletter.



### 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 24 - Reign of Christ Sunday**

9:00am Adult Sunday School (117, 119)  
 9:30am Faith Village  
 HS Breakfast  
 Parent Fellowship  
 10:30am Worship  
 Godly Play  
 1:00pm Recorder Rehearsal (200)  
 2:00pm Cub Scouts (108,117)  
 6:00pm MS & HS Youth (Escape Room)

**Monday, November 25**

6:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 117)  
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts (PS)

**Tuesday, November 26**

**Wednesday, November 27**

7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)  
 No Choir Rehearsal Today

**Thursday, November 28 - Thanksgiving Day**

*Church Office Closed*

**Friday, November 29**

*Church Office Closed*

**Saturday, November 30**

*Church Office Closed*

10:00am Watercolor Activity (FH)

**Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday of Advent**

9:00am Adult Sunday School (117,119)  
 9:30am No Faith Village Today  
 No HS Breakfast Today  
 No Parent Fellowship Today  
 10:30am Worship  
 No Godly Play Today  
 2:00pm Cub Scouts (108,119)  
 5:00pm No Fun with Handbells Today  
 6:00pm No Youth Activities Today

**Serving in Worship November 24th**

**Door Monitor:** Marc Davis

**Greeters:** Ron & Janet Morris

**Ushers & Water Pourers:**  
 Fred Good & 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

**Serving in Worship December 1st**

**Door Monitor:** Skip Wissinger

**Greeters:** TBD

**Ushers & Water Pourers:**  
 John, Angela, Cameron & Corinna Kaltenborn

**No Faith Village Today**

**No Godly Play Today**

**Nursery:** Katie Rodgers & Phyllis Hamilton

**No Youth Activities Today**

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

*Jesus said to his disciples, "You call me Teacher and Lord - and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. **For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.**"*

*- John 13:13-15*

**We Gather Around God's Word**

Time with the Children

Hannah Altman

Anthem

*To the Lamb on the Throne*  
 (Congregation joins on the final verse)

-Forrest

*Worthy the Lamb!*

*Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
 And publish abroad His wonderful name.  
 The name all victorious of Jesus extol!  
 His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.*

*"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"  
 Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;  
 The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
 Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.*

*God rules in the height, almighty to save,  
 Though hid from our sight, His presence we have.  
 The great congregation His triumph shall sing,  
 Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.*

*Then let us adore and give Him His right,  
 All glory and pow'r, all wisdom and might:  
 All honor and blessing with angels above,  
 And thanks never-ending and infinite love.*

Scripture

John 13:1-17, 34-35

Sermon

Pastor Keith Phillips

**We Respond to God's Word**

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

From *A Declaration of Faith*

**We are certain that Jesus lives. He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God. He lives as one of us with God. Because he shares our humanity and has bound us to himself in love, we have an advocate in the innermost life of God.**

**We declare that Jesus is Lord. His resurrection is a decisive victory over the powers that deform and destroy human life. His lordship is hidden. The world appears to be dominated by people and systems that do not acknowledge his rule.**

**But his lordship is real. It demands our loyalty and sets us free from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us. We maintain that ultimate sovereignty now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life. Jesus is Lord. He has been Lord from the beginning. He will be Lord at the end. Even now he is Lord.**

Invitation to the Offering

*All praise and thanks to God,  
who reigns in highest heaven,  
to Father and to Son  
and Spirit now be given:  
the one eternal God,  
whom heaven and earth adore,  
the God who was, and is,  
and shall be evermore.*

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**

*We All Are One in Mission*

*We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.  
A single, great commission  
compels us from above  
to plan and work together  
that all may know Christ's love.*

*We all are called for service  
to witness in God's name.  
Our ministries are different;  
our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others  
by God's surprising grace,  
so every folk and nation  
may feel God's warm embrace.*

*Now let us be united  
and let our song be heard.  
Now let us be a vessel  
for God's redeeming word.  
We all are one in mission;  
we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united  
by Christ, the Lord of all.*

\*Benediction

*As you look at the words  
to this hymn, compare  
them to the following  
scriptures:*

- *Matthew 28:16-20*
- *1 Corinthians 12*
- *2 Corinthians 4:5-7*
- *Ephesians 4:1-13*
- *1 Peter 4:10*

\*Hymn

***“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.”***

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**Congregational Concerns**

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

*Bill Painter, Mike Finn-McKenzie, Nick Swartz, Joe Arnold, Les West, Don Enslin*

**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 Extend Sympathy...**

*To the family of Flo Hall, who died on November 19th. There will be a memorial service St. Michael's United Church of Christ - Bridgewater at a later date.*

*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).*