

Advent at Massanutten

December 1: Advent Studies (9 am) and Worship (10:30 am)

December 8: Advent Studies (9 am), Worship (10:30 am) and Christmas Market

December 15: Advent Studies (9 am), Worship (10:30 am)

December 19: A Gathering of Comfort and Hope (11:30 am—1 pm)

December 22: Advent Studies (9 am), Cantata (10:30 am) and Reception

Christmas Eve at Massanutten

Candlelight Family Service & Pageant ~ 4:30 pm

Candlelight Communion Service ~7:00 pm



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 in Advent

December 1, 2024

10:30 a.m.

We Gather at God's Call

Greeting

Introit

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Words for Reflection as the First Advent Candle is Lit and the Water is Poured

*In the midst of suffering and despair,
God's prophet cries, "Comfort!"
Amid all that causes us pain, that brings us to tears,
God's care falls over us like a gentle rain.
In this season of short days and long nights
We are called to tend to each other.
We give thanks for God's compassion.*

*Hymn

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

87

*"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
"Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.
To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over."*

*For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.*

Massanutten Presbyterian Church Session

Class of 2025

Jan Arnold
Ben Craig
Bill Frazier
Chris Hamilton
Julia Sensabaugh

Class of 2026

Erin Basgier
Ashley Gordon-Becker
Jennifer Coffelt
Deidre Lenderking
Beth Smith

Class of 2027

David Allen
Kathy Frakes
Pam French
Lindsey Harvell-Bowman
Ric Leobold

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 (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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Life at Massanutten

*Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.*

*Call to Confession Tori Kaltenborn, Worship Leader

*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Lord God,
we praise you for sending light into this world.
We confess that we live as though
the light had never defeated darkness.
We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent
to be among us and to live in us.
We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season
and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.
Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus.
Prepare us for His return.
Help us rejoice in the light
so that your grace can refresh our spirits
and renew us for the kingdom work to which you have called us..
Amen.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

No matter how weary we are,
no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,
no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?"
God's love keeps showing up for us. So say this with me:
**We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Response of Praise 99

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

*My soul gives glory to my God;
my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
in many marvelous ways.*

*Sharing the Peace of Christ (*responsively*)

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

- **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 tomorrow, **Wednesday, December 4.**
- **December's Coffee Small Group** will gather this Thursday, December 5th, at 10:00 am at the Kaffee Klatsch at the Dayton Farmer's Market. All are welcome!
- The Massanetta Springs holiday feast and concert, "**Christmas with Massanetta,**" will be held on Saturday December 7th, 5:30—8:30 pm. *The Soil and The Seed Project*, will provide the music that night. *TSATSP* is a community-supported ministry which creates music, art and liturgy that nurture faith in Jesus Christ. Please make your reservation at www.massanettasprings.org.
- **Valley Treble Voices** will present their Christmas concert in the sanctuary at 4 pm on Sunday, December 8th.
- **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.
- **Come to the Table**—our 3rd Wednesday dinner and fellowship—will take place on December 18th at 5:30 pm. The evening will be a festive affair of caroling and Christmas fun! It's 'cook's night off' but a meal including a variety of pizza's from Vito's will be served!
- **A Gathering of Comfort and Hope**—Thursday, December 19th at 11:30 am in the fellowship Hall. The holiday season is filled with the sights and sounds of Christmas. At the same time our hearts may carry the weariness of loss, the memories of past seasons, concerns and fears for what's ahead. This gathering will include lunch, space to step away from the noise of the season, and an opportunity to honor what we're experiencing. Please let us know you'll be there by writing Dec. 19th on the connection folder.
- **The Massanetta Springs 'Building a Place for All' campaign** continues to move forward! As of Wednesday, November 27th, a \$4,000,000 threshold was met! And, Massanutten's participation also continues to move forward. Individual commitments and gifts now total \$42,000! This, combined with the session's commitment of \$25,000 over the course of 5 years, and an anonymous matching gift of \$25,000, means we have far surpassed our \$75,000 goal with our contribution totaling \$92,000 right now! If you haven't yet participated but would like to, visit the table in the Narthex for information or go to Massanetta website.

This Week At MPC

Sunday, December 1 - Advent 1

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

Monday, December 2

6:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 117)
 7:00pm Massanutten Ringers
 7:00pm Boy Scouts (119)

Tuesday, December 3

10:00am PW Meeting (GA)

Wednesday, December 4

7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

10:00am Coffee Small Group
 10:00am Kitchen in use until 2pm
 4:30pm Mosaic Rehearsal (HBR)

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

Friday, December 6

6:30pm Dance Group (FH)
Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 7

10:00am Fellowship Hall in use until 1 pm Sunday
Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 8 - Advent 2

9:00am Adult Sunday School (117,119)
 9:30am Faith Village
 HS Breakfast
 Parent Fellowship
 10:30am Worship
 Godly Play
 11:30am Youth Christmas Market (FH)
 12:00pm Session
 1:00pm Recorder Rehearsal
 2:00pm Cub Scouts (108,119)
 2:30pm Treble Choir Rehearsal (S)
 4:00pm Valley Treble Voices Concert (S)
 5:00pm Fun with Handbells
 6:00pm Youth

Serving in Worship December 1st

Door Monitor: Skip Wissinger

Greeters: Chris and Phyllis Hamilton

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

Serving in Worship December 8th

Door Monitor: Harvey Mast

Greeters: Ric & JoAnn Leobold

Ushers & Water Pourers:

Keith & Linda Knupp

Faith Village: TBD

Godly Play: Diann and Robin Reed

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Barbara Palmer

Youth Group: Sarah Rimer, Gus Scheidt & Karen Mast

We Gather Around God's Word

*Sung Prayer for Illumination *He Came Down (v. 1 & 3)*

137

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

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

Time with the Children

Hannah Altman

Anthem

Comfort Ye

-Locklair

Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-2

Sermon

Pastor Ann Pettit

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) *selections from:* A Declaration of Faith

**When Abraham's descendants were slaves in Egypt,
 God heard their cries and prayers.**

**God remembered his promise
 and sent Moses to free them from bondage.**

**Freed slaves became the people of God
 when they accepted the Lord's covenant.**

**God charged them to respond to his rescuing love
 by obeying his commandments.**

**Their life together was to express
 the justice and compassion of their holy God.**

**Since we, too, are the Lord's covenant people,
 we know we must be holy as the Lord is holy.**

The Lord's care sustained the people of Israel.

God gave them a land where they could celebrate his goodness.

The Lord established their kingdom

**and promised a ruler from the line of David to reign in justice and peace.
When God's people worshiped the gods of the land,
when they put their trust in military alliances,
when they failed to do justice and oppressed the poor,
God sent the prophets to condemn their sins
and to call the people back to obedience.**

**We testify that God is faithful.
Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
The Lord still brings from oppressed and uprooted peoples
riches of insight and daring visions that can judge and bless the world.
We can have confidence in God's coming kingdom even in the darkest times.**

Invitation to the Offering

We Are Fed at God's Table

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (*responsively*)

The God of glory be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts in thanksgiving.

We lift them towards God.

Let us offer our thanks to God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

And so, with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he whose coming we await with joy.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Pouring of the Cup

*Communion of the People

(Please move toward the center of the church, then move to the station serving your section.)

Servers will offer you a piece of bread—please cup your hands to receive it and move to the next server to take a cup from the tray. For those who would be helped by a gluten-free bread, please come to the center aisle and receive the elements from the server in the middle.)

*Prayer After Communion

**O God who comes, for this meal that nourishes us in body and spirit; for a taste
of your dreams; for the earth that gifts us these resources; and for these bodies
of ours through which you take on flesh - we give you thanks. May our gratitude
produce faithfulness and our faithfulness shape the world. Amen.**

We Are Sent to the World

*Hymn

Blest Be the God of Israel (v. 1, 2)

109

*Blest be the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us,
who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise
and bring the people peace.*

*God from the house of David
a child of grace has given;
a Savior comes among us
to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald,
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the harbinger of day.*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Blest Be the God of Israel (v. 3)

109

*On those who sit in darkness
the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior
with songs that never cease!*