



Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24th

- 4:30 p.m. - Candlelight Family & Pageant Service
- 7:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, December 29

Worship ~ 10:30 am

No programming before worship or in the evening.



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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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
Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

10:30 a.m.

We Gather at God's Call

Greeting

Introit *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (congregation joins in chorus) 88

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Words for Reflection as the Advent Candles are Lit and the Water is Poured

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

*You may have noticed that our introits during Advent
had not included this last line of 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,'
at least not until today. Today's theme is "rejoice!"*

We rejoice as we embrace the hope that Emmanuel shall come.

We rejoice even when the hoped-for has not yet arrived.

In these last days of Advent, what does rejoicing in hope look like to you?

How can you rejoice while waiting for hope to be realized throughout the year?

*Hymn *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* (vv. 1, 4) 107

*Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.*

Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,

behold! the Child of our longing.

Come as a baby weak and poor,

to bring all hearts together,

he opens wide the heavenly door

and lives now inside us forever.

*Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.
Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light;
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share
and bring us at last into glory.*

*Prayer

Pastor Ann Pettit

We Gather Around God's Word

Today, we gather around God's Word by way of a skit and cantata woven together.

*We are grateful to Jean Kilby for her work in writing and directing the skit, "**The Angels Get a Glimpse of Christmas.**" We also thanks to our "angel teachers," Lewis Burkholder, Jennifer Coffelt, Dick Leecy, and Gus Scheidt, along with all our "angel students" who participated in the skit.*

*Our choir will sing "**One Silent Night: A Christmas Ballad of Love & Joy,**" by Pepper Choplin. This music presents each of the familiar elements of the Christmas story through ballad-like recitatives of scripture, surrounded by anthems ranging from outbursts of unbridled joy to moving moments of introspection and gentleness. Special thanks go to Director of Music Bob Jerome and Organist Carol Lown.*

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Life at Massanutten

- You're invited after worship today for **cider and cookies in the Fellowship Hall.**
- Many thanks to the **2024 Advent Planning Team** for their diligent work these last few months preparing for this season: Marta Armstrong, Kathy Frakes, Jody Humphreys, Jean Kilby, Bob Jerome, Carol Lown, and our pastors.
- **Congregational Nominating Committee**—The congregation's nominating committee is seeking nominees to serve in the next class of Ruling Elders for the MPC Session. The Session sets the vision and leads the ministry of the congregation, equipping us all to take part in carrying it out. If you would like to talk about your own sense of call to this service, or suggest someone who you feel would serve well, please contact Ric Leobold, chair of MPC's Nominating Committee at ricleobold@gmail.com Nominees must be members of the congregation.
- **Open Doors Service Opportunity** - While the new Navigation Center will be available to guests beginning on Monday, there is still a need for one volunteer each night to transport meals from Sentara RMH to the shelter location. Please write Open Doors on the Connection Folder if you are interested in volunteering.
- Looking ahead! **MPC Brunch Groups** (*a winter version of Dinner Groups*) will meet for food and fellowship around the table Jan. 23-25, at the home of a host. Signups will begin next Sunday.
- The Session of Massanutten Presbyterian Church has called a **congregational meeting** for Sunday, January 12, 2025, after worship, for the purpose of dissolving the call of Rev. Ann Pettit.
- **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

This Week At MPC

Sunday, December 22 - Advent 4

9:00am Adult Sunday School (117,119)
*No Faith Village,
 HS Breakfast, or
 Parent Fellowship*

10:30am Worship
No Godly Play

1:00pm Recorder Rehearsal (200)

2:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 117)
No Evening Youth Activities

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

4:30pm Family Candlelight Service

7:00pm Candlelight Communion Service

Wednesday, December 25—Christmas Day

Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 27

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 28

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 29 - Advent 4

*No Adult Sunday School,
 Faith Village,
 HS Breakfast,
 or Parent Fellowship*

10:30am Worship
*No Godly Play
 No Evening Youth Activities*

Serving in Worship December 22nd

Door Monitor: Barbara Palmer

Greeters: Karen Leecy

Ushers & Water Pourers:
 Dwight Newman & Doug Smith

No Faith Village Today

No Godly Play Today

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Katie Gray

No Evening Youth Activities

Serving in Worship December 29th

Door Monitor: Sarah Rimer

Greeters: Ric & JoAnn Leobold

Ushers & Water Pourers: TBD

No Faith Village Today

No Godly Play Today

Nursery: Katie Rodgers (*Nursery in
 Gathering Area*)

No Evening Youth Activities

We Are Sent to the World

*Hymn

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (vv. 1, 4)

100

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout
 that the God of my heart is great,
 and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
 that you bring to the ones who wait.
 You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
 and my weakness you did not spurn,
 so from east to west shall my name be blest.
 Could the world be about to turn?*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
 Let the fires of your justice burn.
 Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
 and the world is about to turn.*

*Though the nations rage from age to age,
 we remember who holds us fast:
 God's mercy must deliver us
 from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
 This saving word that our forebears heard
 is the promise which holds us bound,
 till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
 who is turning the world around.*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
 Let the fires of your justice burn.
 Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
 and the world is about to turn.*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (refrain)*

100

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
 Let the fires of your justice burn.
 Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
 and the world is about to turn.*

An Overview of Advent 2024

Since Advent season began on December 1st, we have focused on Isaiah 40:1-5:

<i>1-2 “Comfort, oh comfort my people,” says your God. “Speak softly and tenderly to Jerusalem, but also make it very clear That she has served her sentence, that her sin is taken care of—forgiven! She’s been punished enough and more than enough, and now it’s over and done with.”</i>	<i>3 Thunder in the desert! “Prepare for God’s arrival! Make the road straight and smooth, a highway fit for our God. 4 Fill in the valleys, level off the hills, Smooth out the ruts, clear out the rocks. 5 Then God’s bright glory will shine and everyone will see it. Yes. Just as God has said.”</i>
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(The Message paraphrase)

- **Advent 1 - Comfort:** First, we looked at how God comforted the people in exile through the words of Isaiah 40:1-2. This scripture shows the character of our God who is both merciful and just. We then reflected on how God meets each of us with comfort, mercy, and justice as we wrote down our individual sins on pieces of special paper, and then watched them dissolve as they touched the waters of the baptismal fount.
- **Advent 2 - Prepare:** Then we looked at the message from God to “Prepare the way of the Lord!” in verse 3. We saw how other areas in scripture speak of the “way of the Lord” as one of justice and righteousness. We thought about the “roadblocks” of societal issues of injustice and wrong that block the way of the Lord. We each wrote our thoughts on paper roadblocks that we left on the road in the sanctuary.
- **Advent 3 - Serve:** Last Sunday, we continued thinking about “preparing the way of the Lord” by looking at the descriptive actions of verse 4. Thanks to our Advent team, we had paper mâché rocks labeled with some of the “roadblocks” from the previous week’s activity. We had folks gather in small groups with a rock to think about what we need to do as a society to address “roadblocks” such as consumerism, fear, and discrimination. We talked about what it looks like to do our parts to prepare the way of the Lord by addressing these societal ills, chipping away at the roadblocks bit by bit.
- **Advent 4 - Rejoice:** Today we rejoice with the help of our music and skit leaders. We rejoice in the promise of verse 5: “God’s bright glory will shine and everyone will see it.” We rejoice with confidence in both our calls to the work of preparing the way of the Lord and with confidence in the Lord’s ultimate victory over all of the “roadblocks” along the way. We rejoice in the hope that our salvation draws near.

Congregational Concerns

Members of Our Church Family...

Bill Painter, Mike Finn-McKenzie, Nick Swartz, Les West, Don Enslin, Ellen Blose (recovering from knee replacement), Ann Trobaugh (heart procedure 12/18).

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; Buena Mae Phaup (great aunt, health concerns), 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; Kristin Lam (recovering from surgery to treat 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); Martha Chavira, mother-in-law of Christopher Sutherland (recovering from surgery for a broken leg), Michael Carter Showalter, nephew of Kelly Showalter (3 weeks old and was born with a cleft palate making it difficult for him to eat); John Grimm, brother of Sharon Posey (liver failure and diabetes), Kim Reedy, sister-in-law of Deb Thompson (recovering from lung replacement surgery on Dec. 8); Shepherd Blaylock, great grandson of Ellen Blose (born 4 weeks premature); Bill Sheppard (father of Pam French, recovering from surgery).

We Extend Sympathy...

Doug and Julia Sensabaugh, and their family, on the death of Doug’s mother, Ruth Sensabaugh, member of our church family. A memorial service will take place on Monday, December 30, at 1pm, in the sanctuary.

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).