

## *Advent at Massanutten*

*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

### 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

#### **CONTACT US:**

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

USE THIS QR CODE  
TO SHARE YOUR  
OFFERING ONLINE



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  
*Second Sunday in Advent*

December 8, 2024

10:30 a.m.

---

### **We Gather at God's Call**

Greeting

Introit

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

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

*How do we prepare for Christmas?  
I'm not talking about shopping, or  
or making travel arrangements, or planning meals.  
I mean heeding the prophet's call  
to prepare the way of the Lord!  
If the true gift of Christmas is the birth of our savior,  
what obstacles keep us  
from living into the kingdom he brings?  
How can we prepare for Christmas?*

\*Hymn

*People, Look East*

105

*People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able;  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Bird, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Star, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

\*Call to Confession

Hunter Davis, Worship Leader

\*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,  
too real to hide, and too deep to undo.**

**Forgive what our lips tremble to name,  
what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.**

**Set us free from a past that we cannot change;  
open to us a future in which we can be changed;  
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.**

## Life at Massanutten

- **12:30pm—today!** Join Valley Interfaith Action for worship at Harrisonburg Mennonite Church followed by a conversation with Senator Kaine about VIA's campaign proposals for Transportation and Childcare in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.
- **Come to the Table on December 18th at 5:30 pm** for *3rd Wednesday dinner and fellowship*. 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 pizzas from Vito's will be served! Write table by your name on the Connection Folder to let us know you'll be there!
- **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.
- **Thank you to everyone who participated in the Angel Tree program** this year. Your gifts will assist the Salvation Army in providing Christmas gifts to children in our community.



- The **Valley Treble Voices** will present their annual winter concert, *The Song of Angels*, this Sunday, December 8th, at 4:00 p.m., in the sanctuary at Massanutten Presbyterian Church. This concert celebrates with songs of winter, Hanukkah, and Christmas. A free-will offering will be received.
- The **Massanutten Brass Band** presents their *Christmas in Brass* concert this Sunday at 6pm at Otterbein Methodist Church. The **Massanutten Youth Brass Band**, featuring 40 local youth musicians from many local schools, will also perform. Donations received at this concert will benefit the local Salvation Army.
- Our **Massanutten Brass Quintet**, which played for our worship on Christ the King Sunday two weeks ago, will perform for the *Christmas at Augusta Stone Benefit Concert* on Monday at 7pm at Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church in Fort Defiance. The concert benefits the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank.
- The **Shenandoah Valley Choral Society** presents its 54th annual Christmas concert, *Hark!*, on Friday, December 13th, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 15th, at 3:00 p.m. Both concerts take place at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students.

**This Week At MPC**

**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 (117)  
 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

**Monday, December 9**

10:00am Food Pantry  
 6:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 117)  
 7:00pm Massanutten Ringers  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts (119)

**Tuesday, December 10**

10:00am Morning Circle (GA)

**Wednesday, December 11**

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

**Thursday, December 12**

4:30pm Mosaic Rehearsal (FH)  
 6:00pm Cub Scouts (108, 117)  
 7:00pm Food Pantry

**Friday, December 13 Church Office Closed**

**Saturday, December 14 Church Office Closed**  
 Youth Lock-In

**Sunday, December 15 - Advent 3**

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 (FH)  
 No Evening Youth Activities  
 5:00pm Fellowship Hall in use until 9 pm

**Serving in Worship December 8th**

**Door Monitor:** Harvey Mast

**Greeters:** Ric & JoAnn Leobold

**Ushers & Water Pourers:**  
 Keith & Linda Knupp

**Faith Village:** Jennifer Coffelt &  
 Ashley Gorden-Becker

**Godly Play:** Diann and Robin Reed

**Nursery:** Katie Rodgers & Barbara Palmer

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

**Serving in Worship December 15th**

**Door Monitor:** Jack Rimer

**Greeters:** Tom & Gina Holden

**Ushers & Water Pourers:**  
 Larry & Pam French

**Faith Village:** Jennifer Coffelt

**Godly Play:** Jean & Bill Kilby

**Nursery:** Katie Rodgers & Erin Basgier

*No Evening Youth Activities*

\*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)  
 Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you.  
 I have called you by name; you are mine.  
 God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth!  
 By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God!**

\*Response of Praise *My Soul Gives Glory to My God (v. 1)* 99

*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.**

**We Gather Around God's Word**

\*Prayer for Illumination *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (v. 2)* 93

*Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
 make it a temple, set apart  
 from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
 adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

Time with the Children Pastor Ann Pettit

Anthem *Prepare the Way, O Zion* -Tucker  
 Massanutten Ringers

Scripture Isaiah 40:3

Sermon Pastor Keith Phillips

## We Respond to God's Word

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and in ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

Invitation to the Offering

Song of Thanksgiving *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* (v. 1)

367

*Come, ye thankful people, come;  
raise the song of harvest home.  
All is safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God's own temple, come;  
raise the song of harvest home.*

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.**

## We Are Sent to the World

\*Hymn

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

104

*O Lord, how shall I meet you,  
how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you,  
my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly  
all that may please you best.*

*Love caused your incarnation;  
love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation  
procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling,  
that led you to embrace  
in love, all loves excelling,  
our lost and fallen race.*

*You come, O Lord, with gladness,  
in mercy and goodwill,  
to bring an end to sadness  
and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation  
we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation  
your glory shall display.*

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

95

*Prepare the way of the Lord.  
Prepare the way of the Lord,  
and all people will see  
the salvation of our God.*