

Our Guest Preacher this Sunday will be Dr. Jennifer L. Aycock, Associate Professor of Religion at James Madison University. She also serves as Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives for the American Society of Missiology. Prior to moving to the Valley, she taught at Hood Theological Seminary and Columbia Theological Seminary. She holds a PhD and Masters of Theology from Emory University, and a Masters of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Dr. Aycock's areas of research include African Christianity during colonization as well as on African Diaspora Christianity in the twentieth century.

**The Church Beyond Our Walls:
Mapping Our Community Reach Through Service**



Throughout the 2024-25 program year, we have been exploring what it means to deepen our connectedness to God, to one other and to the world. We have already focused on ways we do that through worship, education, generosity, and prayer. Over these last four weeks of the program year, we will focus on *service*.

As we enter this season focused on *service*, we're reminded that the heart of the church isn't just what happens inside our sanctuary—it's what we do in the world beyond our walls. One of the most powerful ways we live out our faith is through the quiet, faithful service that so many of our members offer in our wider community.

To recognize and celebrate that work, we're inviting **every member of the congregation to share the organizations, nonprofits, schools, and causes they're involved in.** Whether you volunteer at a food pantry, serve on a local board, mentor youth, advocate for justice, deliver meals, care for neighbors, or support global missions—**your work matters**, and it's part of how our church shows up in the world.

Together, we'll compile this list and share it in the coming weeks as a **visual and powerful testimony to our collective impact.** We hope this growing list will:

- **Inspire** others to get involved
- **Connect** members who serve in similar spaces
- **Celebrate** how the Spirit is at work through this community of faith

Let's lift up and give thanks for the many ways this church already lives out the call to service. **We are the hands and feet of Christ—scattered and serving far**



Massanutten
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service of Worship
May 18, 2025
Fifth Sunday of Easter



We Gather at God's Call

Introit	<i>For the Healing of the Nations</i>	- Wade
Greeting		
Pouring of the Water		
Prelude	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	- Payne
*Call to Worship (<i>responsively</i>)		
Come, let us gather to praise the Lord!		
Praise God from the heavens!		
Praise God from the heights!		
Praise God, all you angels, praise God, sun, moon, and stars!		
Praise God, all creatures in the sea, in the air, on land!		
Praise God, all raindrops and snowflakes, all flames on the hills, and winds in the valleys!		
Praise God, all who rule the world!		
Praise God, all you generations created in God's image!		
Let all of us, everywhere, praise our Living God.		
*Hymn	<i>We Gather Together</i>	336

***We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.***

***Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!***

***We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!***

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*responsive*)

God of all living things, of earth, sky, and sea,

**we confess that we forget the hope and promise
of a New Heaven and New Earth,**

as we live in fear amidst the evil and injustice raging on earth.

God of our cities, towns, communities, and farmlands,

we confess that we create more barriers than bridges

into and around our cities, communities, neighborhoods, and resources.

God of the living, the dying, our ancestors, and the generations who will follow us,

**We confess that we do not always thirst for Your righteousness
that will bring an end to suffering, death, and injustice.**

Oh God, have mercy on us, forgive us, and minister to us with your grace.

Help us to drink deeply of your loving embrace

that casts out fear, tears down walls, and brings peace and life.

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

As the people of God, in the presence of God

may we accept the forgiveness and new life available to us in Christ Jesus.

May we know with certainty that our sins are not eternal,

that God's justice is sure, and that God's love endures forever.

Amen.

*Response of Praise *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

606

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*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

***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.***
(Repeat once)

Life at Massanutten

- **Baja Mission Trip:** Support the 11 young people and parents going on the Baja Mission Trip by **purchasing an item such as nails, windows, roofing, or lumber from the Baja Tree before or after worship on May 18th or 25th.** Cash or check donations made out to MPC (indicate Baja) are welcomed. Presbyterian Women and members of the youth are available to answer questions.
- **This morning** members will have an opportunity to update or have a picture taken for **Instant Church Directory** and learn how to access the directory. Forms will be available for members who need to change or update their information. This will take place between Sunday School and worship, or directly following worship, in the Fellowship Hall. If you already have a photo you'd like to use instead, please email it to the office.
- **Invitation to Make a Musical Offering:** There is much talent in the congregation that may be hidden under a bushel! The summer is an ideal time to let your light shine! Please consider making an offering of your talent during a summer worship service, either as an individual or as a group. Your offering will significantly enhance our worship experience and deepen our appreciation for the many ways the Spirit is alive in each of us. If you (or your child) have any questions or need further encouragement, please contact Bob Jerome.
- Mark your calendar for the upcoming **Churchwide Yard, Book, & Bake Sale**, which will be held the **last weekend in June.** If you are interested in having a spot or have any questions, contact Sally Brown at sallyhbrown47@gmail.com.
- **The "Deep Dive" Bible Study meets next Wednesday, May 28th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** The group focuses on "Diving Deep" into scripture (or other books relevant to our faith) so that the ensuing discussion yields a greater understanding of the truth the Holy Spirit speaks to us. Individuals joining this group should be okay with wrestling with interpretations of scripture that may challenge their previously held personal interpretations. For more details, please see Ron Matthews or David Allen.
- **MPC Preschool** has openings in our Monday/Tuesday and Wednesday/Thursday 3's classes for the fall. If you know of someone looking for a fantastic preschool for their little one please have them email Carrie Markowitz at mpcpreschool3s4s@gmail.com or call (540) 434-6194 for more information.

This Week At MPC	
Sunday, May 18	
9:00am	Adult Sunday School (117, 119)
9:30am	Faith Village Parent Fellowship
10:30am	Worship Godly Play
3:00pm	A. Whiteside (S & GA)
5:00pm	Fun with Handbells (HBR)
6:00pm	Cub Scouts (FH) Youth & Family (PS) Bonfire Cookout
Monday, May 19	
9:00 am	Preschool (FH & S)
6:00pm	Cub Scouts (108, 117)
6:30pm	Boy Scouts (119)
7:00pm	Mass. Ringers (HBR)
Tuesday, May 20	
8:30am	Preschool (FH & S)
Wednesday, May 21	
7:30am	Men's Prayer Group (FH)
9:00am	Preschool (FH, S, & PS)
5:30pm	Third Wednesday (FH)
7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal (CR)
Thursday, May 22	
8:00am	Preschool (FH, S & PS)
6:00pm	Cub Scouts (108 & 117)
Friday, May 23	
<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
Saturday, May 24	
<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
Sunday, May 25	
9:00am	Adult Sunday School (117, 119)
10:30am	Worship

Serving May 18	Serving May 25
Door Monitor: Marc Davis	Door Monitor: Harvey Mast
Greeters: Dick & Karen Leecy	Greeters: Deb Thompson & Karen Mast
Ushers & Water Pourers: Cheryl Henderson & Fred Good	Ushers & Water Pourers: TBD
Faith Village: Jennifer Coffelt	Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Holly Veenis
Godly Play: Bill & Jean Kilby	Faith Village: <i>Resumes in the Fall</i>
Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Erin Basgier	Godly Play: <i>Resumes in the Fall</i>
Youth Group: Hannah Altman & Gus Scheidt	Youth Group: <i>Resumes in the Fall</i>

Weekly Safety Message

See Something? Say Something? If you have a "JDLR" moment (Law Enforcement slang for "Just Doesn't Look Right") share your concerns with an usher, door monitor, or safety team member.

Time with the Children	Pastor Keith Phillips
Special Music	<i>His Eye Is on the Sparrow</i> - Larson
Scripture	Acts 11:1-18, Revelation 21:1-6
Sermon	Dr. Jennifer L. Aycock

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith (*responsive*) A South African Statement of Faith adapted from *A Declaration of Faith*

**We believe in one God who created all the world,
who will unite all things in Christ,
and who wants all people to live together in one family.**

**We believe in God the Son who became human,
died and rose in triumph to reconcile all the world to God,
to break down every separating barrier of race, culture or class,
and to unite all people into one body.**

**We believe in God the Spirit, the pledge of God's coming reign,
who gives the Church power to proclaim the good news to all the world,
to love and serve all people, to strive for justice and peace,
to warn that God judges both the individual and the nations,
and to summon all the world to accept God's reign, here and now. Amen.**

Sharing Our Faith	Matt Hamblen	Service Survey
Invitation to the Offering		
Song of Thanksgiving	<i>Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (v. 1)</i>	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:
to God all praise and glory!***

Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People and the 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

*Hymn

Let Us Build a House (vv. 1-4)

301

*Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Let Us Build a House (v. 5)

301

*Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.*

Massanutten Presbyterian Church Session

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

Clerk: Ron Matthews, **Moderator:** Rev. Keith Phillips

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Dick Leecy and Cindy Grimes, Custodians

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