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**Massanutten Presbyterian Church Session**

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

**Elder Commissions:**  
A = Administration & Finance  
CL = Community Life  
MS = Mission & Service  
ND = Nurture & Discipleship  
W = Worship & Music

**Massanutten Presbyterian Church Staff**

**Rev. Keith Phillips**, Pastor (kphillips@massanuttenchurch.org)  
**Bob Jerome**, Director of Music (bjerome@massanuttenchurch.org)  
**Carol Lown**, Organist (clown@massanuttenchurch.org)  
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**Katie Rodgers**, Financial Administrator & Nursery Caregiver  
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**Anna Richardson**, Digital Worship Coordinator (media@massanuttenchurch.org)  
**Dick Leecy and Cindy Grimes**, Custodians

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In the event of inclement weather, check church closings on massanuttenchurch.com, WHSV-TV, whsv.com, and the church Facebook page.



**Our mission:**  
*To nurture disciples of Jesus Christ who are sent to join boldly with the Spirit's work in the world.*

A Service of Worship  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Follow Me - Hope

December 14, 2025

10:30 a.m.

*\*An asterisk denotes an invitation to stand*

**We Gather at God's Call**

Introit *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* - Wesley/ Goss

Greeting and Pouring of the Water

Prelude *Precious Child* - Krug  
Massanutten Ringers

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy (*responsively*) *Gus, Riley, and Avery Scheidt*  
Where can we share hope?

**When others are weary and broken, we strengthen them.  
The candle that takes its light from another has light to share.**

How can we share hope?

**When we are weary and tired, we lean on the hope others provide.  
Jesus says, "Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."**

On this third Sunday of Advent, let us light a candle to share hope.

Candle Lighting Hymn *Live into Hope*

*Live into hope of liberty,  
the right to speak, the right to be,  
the right to have one's daily bread,  
to hear God's word and thus be fed.*

\*Call to Worship (*responsively*) Doug Sensabaugh, Worship Leader

The story begins with hope for a child -  
**a child, born of woman, like us;**  
a child who will lead us;  
**a child who will inspire us;**  
a child who will be our living hope.

**We give thanks for the coming child, Jesus.**  
Let us worship God.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel,  
but we remain silent in the presence of evil.  
You call us to be reconciled to you and one another,  
but we are content to live in separation.  
You call us to seek the good of all,  
but we fail to resist the powers of oppression.  
You call us to fight pretensions and injustice,  
but we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people far and near.**

Forgive us, O Lord.

**Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit,  
and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others;  
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

Hear the good news: Hope does not disappoint us,  
for God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit given to us in baptism.  
Believe this good news and give thanks: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God!**

\*Response of Praise

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* (v. 3)

611

*Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.  
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.*

**Life at Massanutten**

- ◆ **A Fire & Rescue Training Exercise will take place near the church on Friday, December 19th.** The Fire and Rescue folks will come off part of the northern end of our parking lot for vehicles used in the exercise. Please don't be alarmed if you see smoke and firefighting vehicles near the church on that day.
- ◆ **Community Life will host a Christmas Dinner on December 21st after the worship service.** *The menu features Chicken Cordon Bleu in Cream Gravy, Green Beans, Ginger-Glazed Carrots, Mashed Potatoes, and Rolls, with Cookies for dessert.* Don't miss out! If you plan to attend, please write "Christmas Lunch" and the number of guests in the Special Events section when signing your name in the Connection Folders, or contact the church office by calling (540) 434-6194 or by emailing [office@massanuttenchurch.org](mailto:office@massanuttenchurch.org).
- ◆ **Set A Reminder:** The choir will have rehearsals on Monday, December 15th, and Wednesday, December 17th.
- ◆ **Coffee Break Small Group:** There will be **NO** Coffee Small Group in January, the next group will meet on **Thursday, February 5th, at 10:00 am** at the Kaffee Klatsch at the Dayton Market. All are welcome!
- ◆ **Safety Message:** Be aware of where fire alarms and extinguishers are located before you need them!

**Mark Your Calendars!**

Sun., Dec. 21 A Retelling of Christmas Story with Special Choral & Congregational Music and the Writings of Ann Weems plus an Old-Fashioned Christmas Dinner after Worship

Wed., Dec. 24 4:30 p.m. Family-Oriented Christmas Eve Worship with Candlelit "Silent Night"



7:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Worship with Communion & Candlelit "Silent Night"

Sun., Dec. 28 Hymn / Christmas Carol Sing during worship

**This Week At MPC**

**Sunday, December 14 - Advent 3**

9:00 am Adult Sunday School (117,119)  
9:30 am Faith Village  
MS Sunday School  
Parent Fellowship  
10:30 am Worship  
Godly Play  
2:00 pm Cub Scouts (108, 119)  
*No Fun w/ Handbells*  
*No Youth Group*

**Monday, December 15**

6:00 pm Cub Scouts (FH)  
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (CR)

**Tuesday, December 16**

9:00 am Preschool (FH)  
5:00 pm Gators Swim Team (FH)

**Wednesday, December 17**

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

**Thursday, December 18**

3:30 pm Mission & Service (L)  
4:30 pm Communication Task Force (L)  
6:00 pm Cub Scouts (108, 119)  
Community Life (FH)

**Friday, December 19**

*Church Office Closed*  
Community Life (FH)

**Saturday, December 20**

*Church Office Closed*  
Community Life (FH)

**Sunday, December 21 - Advent 4**

9:00 am Adult Sunday School (117,119)  
*No Faith Village*  
*No MS Sunday School*  
*No HS Breakfast*  
*No Parent Fellowship*  
10:30 am Worship - Lessons & Carols  
Community Life Christmas  
Lunch (FH)  
*No Godly Play*  
2:00 pm Cub Scouts (108, 119)  
*No Fun w/ Handbells*  
*No Youth Group*

**Serving December 14**

**Door Monitor:** Robin Reed

**Greeters:** Bill and Jean Kilby

**Ushers & Water Pourers:**

Keith and Linda Knupp

**Faith Village & Middle School:**

Jennifer Coffelt, Emily Coffelt,  
and David Allen

**HS Breakfast:**

*Post lock-in meeting*

**Godly Play:**

Jean Kilby and \_\_\_\_\_

**Nursery:**

Katie Rodgers & Katie Gray

**Youth Group:**

*No Youth Group*

**Serving December 21**

**Door Monitor:** Dwight Wm Newman

**Greeters:** Ric and JoAnn Leobold

**Ushers & Water Pourers:**

Mike Guinn and Sally Brown

**Faith Village & Middle School:**

*No Sunday School*

**HS Breakfast:**

*No HS Breakfast*

**Godly Play:**

*No Godly Play*

**Nursery:**

Katie Rodgers & Emily Burkholder

**Youth Group:**

*No Youth Group*

\*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

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (v. 1)*

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***My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.***

***On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.***

Time with the Children

Cherokee Adams

Anthem

*Sussex Carol*

- Hagenberg

*On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;  
on Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,  
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.*

*Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;  
Then why should men on earth be sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad;  
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty.*

*When sin departs before his grace then life and health come in its place.  
When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;  
angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.*

*All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:  
Then out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night,  
"Glory to God in highest heav'n, Now and for evermore," Amen!  
Now and for evermore, Now and for evermore,  
Amen! Amen! Amen!*

Scripture

Luke 1:39-49; Mark 2:1-12

Sermon

"Share Hope"

Pastor Keith Phillips

## We Respond to God's Word

\*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)      *From* The Confession of 1967 (9.21 and 9.24)

**The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.**

**His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for people when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.**

**In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.**

**The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The teaching of apostles and prophets guides people in living this life, and the Christian community nurtures and equips them for their ministries.**

Invitation to Offering

Song of Thanksgiving      *We Praise You, O God (v. 3)*      612

*With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.  
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!*

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

\*Hymn      *Arise, Your Light Is Come!*      744

*Arise, your light is come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God,  
which shines on you today.*

*Arise, your light is come!  
Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captives' liberty,  
good tidings to the poor.*

*Arise, your light is come!  
All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the brokenhearted ones  
and comfort those who mourn.*

*Arise, your light is come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God's power will make us strong.*

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (v. 5)*      543

*Christ in the eyes of all who see me,  
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,  
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:  
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*