

PNC Update to Congregation: The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is grateful for your continued prayers and support throughout this important journey. After much prayer, discernment, and careful consideration, we are pleased to share that we have identified top candidates with whom we are moving deeper into the interview and discernment process. While we are not yet able to share additional details, we are moving thoughtfully through the next steps of the process. We ask that you continue to pray for the candidates, the committee, and our congregation as we seek God’s guidance and trust in God’s timing.

~ Bill, Ka, Jean, JoAnn, Ruth, Holly, and Wanda

Massanutten Presbyterian Church Session

Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
David Allen (ND)	Gina Holden (ND)	John Davis (W)
Kathy Frakes (W)	Jean Kilby (W)	Linda Knupp (A)
Pam French (CL)	Bill Marlowe (CL)	Sarah Rimer (ND)
Lindsey Harvell-Bowman (MS)	Doug Sensabaugh (CL)	Deb Thompson (MS)
Ric Leobold (A)	Vacancy	Kath Wissinger (A)

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

Elder Commissions

A = Administration & Finance, CL = Community Life,
MS = Mission & Service, ND = Nurture & Discipleship, W = Worship & Music

Pastor Nominating Committee

Bill Frazier, Ka Guinn, Jean Kilby, JoAnn Leobold, Ruth Rascoe,
Holly Veenis, and Wanda Wallace

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)
Hannah Altman, Children and Youth Program Director (haltman@massanuttenchurch.org)
Ashlea Liptrap, Office Manager (office@massanuttenchurch.org)
Katie Rodgers, Financial Administrator & Nursery Caregiver
(finance@massanuttenchurch.org)
Anna Richardson, Digital Worship Coordinator (media@massanuttenchurch.org)
Dick Leecy and Cindy Grimes, Custodians

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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
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2026

10:30 a.m.

**An asterisk denotes an invitation to stand*

We Gather at God’s Call

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit *Come Down, O Love Divine* - Robins

Greeting and Pouring of the Water

Prelude *The Gift To Be Simple* - Wood

*Call to Worship Doug Sensabaugh, Worship Leader
We gather as the body of Christ.

We are many individuals, but together we are one.

Each of us has our own gifts, our own calling, our own role,
but all of us proclaim Jesus Christ is the Messiah!

*Hymn *Come Worship God* 386

***Come, worship God, who is worthy of honor;
enter God’s presence with thanks and a song!
You are the rock of your people’s salvation
to whom our jubilant praises belong.***

***Ruled by your might are the heights of the mountains;
held in your hands are the depths of the earth.
Yours is the sea, yours the land, for you made them,
God above all gods, who gave us our birth.***

***We are your people, the sheep of your pasture;
you are our Maker, and to you we pray.
Gladly we kneel in obedience before you;
great is the one whom we worship this day!***

***Now let us listen, for you speak among us;
open our hearts to receive what you say.
Peace be to all who remember your goodness,
trust in your word, and rejoice in your way!***

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

Almighty God,
when faced with earthly powers that seem overwhelming,
we crumble.
We fear this world.
We fear losing our status, our stability, our station
more than we fear you.

Forgive our shortcomings
and teach us to trust in you
when we take a risk for what we know is right.

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

If God was not on our side, we could not stand in the judgment.
But God is with us, steadfast and faithful, as we seek to live in peace.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

*Response of Praise *Glory Be to the Father* 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.*

Introduction to Four Cents a Meal

	Today we receive the 4-Cents-A-Meal offering - a ministry of the PC(USA)'s Cents-Ability program. Gifts to 4-Cents-a-Meal support hunger ministries near and far. 25% of what's received will remain at MPC. We will use it to support the purchase of food for our Blessings-in-a-Bag/Food-for-the-Weekend program at South River Elementary School in Grottoes.
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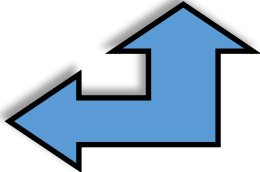
Four Cents a Meal Offering *Give Thanks* 647

*Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.*

*And now let the weak say, "We are strong;" let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"*

*And now let the weak say, "We are strong;" let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!"
Give thanks. Give thanks.*

	Folks who come for the Blessing of the Backpacks will receive this backpack tag today! 
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Life at Massanutten

- ♦ **Today during worship, we will celebrate the Blessing of the Backpacks.** Students, teachers, school staff, and educators of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks, school bags, or work bags so we can ask God's blessing upon them and the new school year. **The Blessing of the Backpacks** is a meaningful way for our congregation to surround students and educators with prayer and encouragement as they begin a new year of learning, teaching, and growing. Together, we will send them forth with the assurance of God's love, guidance, and presence wherever the year may lead.
- ♦ **Presbyterian Women Annual Potluck Kickoff:** All women are warmly invited to join us for the Presbyterian Women Annual Potluck Kickoff this Monday, August 31, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a favorite dish to share as we gather to begin another year of fellowship, faith, and service. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a meal together, reconnect with friends, welcome new faces, and learn more about how Presbyterian Women nurture faith through prayer and Bible study, support the church's mission, work for justice and peace, and care for one another and our wider community. Whether you have been part of Presbyterian Women for many years or are simply curious and would like to learn more, **we would love to have you join us!**
- ♦ **IMPORTANT SCHEDULE CORRECTION:** The Adult Summer Sunday School Class concluded last Sunday, August 16. Please note that there will be **NO Adult Sunday School classes on August 23, August 30, or September 6.** Adult Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 13.
- ♦ **Thank you to everyone who helped distribute backpacks and school supplies to 65 students in our community this year!** As local needs continue to grow, your support at our Pancake Supper Fundraiser and Book Sale enables us to care for local families and help students prepare for a successful school year. We are deeply grateful for your generosity!

This Week At MPC			
Sunday, August 23		Thursday, August 27	
9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal (200)	2:00 pm	Worship Comm. (L)
10:30 am	Worship - <i>Blessing of the Backpacks during worship</i>	4:00 pm	Mosaic (FH)
1:00 pm	Recorder Rehearsals (200)	7:00 pm	Safety Team Meeting (L)
3:00 pm	PNC Meeting (L)	Friday, August 28	
Monday, August 24		<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
10:00 am	PW Prayer, Pizza, and Planning Retreat (SS)	Saturday, August 29	
Tuesday, August 25		<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
4:00 pm	Legacy Team Mtg (L)	12:00 pm	H. Hansohn (FH/Kit)
Wednesday, August 26		Sunday, August 30	
7:30 am	Men's Prayer Group (SS)*	10:30 am	Worship
12:00 pm	"LOL" Lunch Grp (GA)	3:00 pm	PNC Meeting (L)
4:00 pm	Mission & Service (L)		
5:30 pm	Deep Dive Bible Study (L)		
7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (200)		

*The **Men's Prayer Group** will meet on **Wednesday, August 26**, at **7:30 a.m. at The Highlands at Sunnyside.***

Serving August 23		Serving August 30	
Door Monitor: Phyllis Hamilton		Door Monitor: Jack Rimer	
Greeters: Tom and Gina Holden		Greeters: Sarah Rimer and Ellen Blose	
Ushers & Water Pourers: Sally Brown and Jody Humphreys		Ushers & Water Pourers: Deb Thompson and Clayton Robertson	
Nursery: Katie Rodgers and Diann Reed		Nursery: Katie Rodgers and Erin Basgier	
<i>The children and youth programs will resume on September 20th.</i> <i>We hope you have enjoyed your summer!</i>		<i>The children and youth programs will resume on September 20th.</i> <i>We hope you have enjoyed your summer!</i>	

Mark Your Calendars for these Special Dates!

Sun., 9/6	Sunday Morning Mingle resumes	Wed., 9/16	Third Wednesday Dinners resume
Sun., 9/13	Adult Sunday School resumes Annual Picnic after worship	Sun., 9/20	Children & Youth programming resumes

We Gather around God's Word		
Blessing of the Backpacks		Hannah Altman
Anthem	<i>Make Me a Servant</i>	- Harlan
<i>Make me a servant, Lord, Give me a willing heart. May all I do be done for you. Cleanse me and make me anew.</i>		
<i>Make me a servant, Lord, Give me a willing heart. Ready to go, ready to stay. Ready to always obey.</i>		
<i>Make me a servant, Lord, Give me a willing heart. Walking in love, living by faith. Make me a servant, I pray. Make me a servant, I pray.</i>		
Scripture		Matthew 16:13-20
Sermon		Pastor Keith Phillips

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*) From *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

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.

Invitation to Offering		
Song of Thanksgiving	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	606
<i>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.</i>		

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 *My Life Flows On* 821

*My life flows on in endless song,
above earth’s lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.*

Refrain:
*No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I’m clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?*

*Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? (Refrain)*

*What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. (Refrain)*

*The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? (Refrain)*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* (v. 1) 542

*God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.*

Congregational Concerns

We Pray for Our Church Family...

Patricia Armstrong (receiving treatment for a GIST tumor), ***Don Enslen*** (cancer), ***Bettye Davis*** (receiving treatment for cancer), ***Adele Durost*** (pneumonia and receiving treatment for cancer), ***Bill Painter, Deborah Roberts*** (back and shoulder injuries), ***Kathy Marlowe*** (recovering from TIA).

We Pray for Friends of Our Church Family...

Owen Mann; Linda Caldwell, mother of Kevin Caldwell; ***Sandra Rohrer***, mother of Lisa Rohrer Folks; ***Doug Joyner*** (great uncle, cancer and Alzheimer’s Disease), ***Ella Perry*** (friend, connective tissue disease), family and friends of Pastor Keith; ***Bob Voorhees***, father of Patti Hobbie; ***Mark Heltzel***, son of Helen Groves; ***Ray Harvell***, father of Lindsey Harvell-Bowman (health concerns); a member of our church seeks prayers for a private family health concern; ***Kim Hoschar*** (health, transportation); ***Dennis Oakes*** (prostate cancer), brother-in-law of Patti Hobbie; ***Lauren Kusterbeck*** (cancer treatment), friend of Sharon Posey; ***Tony*** (brain tumor), friend of Diann Reed’s family; ***Jean Shepley***, mother of Sherry Matthews; ***Dick Stutzman*** (Parkinson’s), friend of Ron Matthews; ***Rev. Jerrod Lowry*** (cancer treatments) and family, friends of Pastor Keith; ***Ezra Miller*** (diagnosed with leukemia), attended the 4 year old preschool program at MPC last year; ***Sandy Zook*** (Alzheimer’s Disease), grandmother of Cherokee Adams; ***Rev. Will Roberts*** (prayers for discernment as he seeks his next call); ***Taffy de Planque*** (therapy for fractured hip), mother-in-law of Jennifer Davis; ***Heather Brockhoff*** (cancer), sister-in-law of Jan Reser; ***Rev. John B. Sterrett*** (recovering from stroke), son of Doug Sterrett; ***Randy Appleton*** (recovering from stroke), son of Shirley Appleton; ***Christine Eacho*** (recovering from heart failure), mother-in-law of Holly Veenis’s sister; ***Blayke Liptrap*** (son of Ashlea Liptrap); ***Nathan Bales*** (house burned down, recovering from broken ankle), son of the late Bob & Patsy Bales; ***Lynda Coffelt*** (mother of Jason Coffelt); ***Viki Lynch*** (detached retina), friend of Diann Reed; ***Jeff Wilson*** (recovering well at home after a 50-foot fall while rock climbing in Italy), friend of Helen Groves; ***Karol Scarce*** (multiple myeloma), friend of Sharon Posey; ***John Black*** (philanthropic work in the Philippines); ***Holly Veenis*** requests prayer for a family member who was recently hospitalized for mental health recovery; ***Christopher Rice and family*** (strokes), neighbors of Holly & Drew Veenis; ***Holly Veenis*** asks for prayers for Gezzy, a friend going through a divorce; ***Randy Moody*** (recovering from sepsis and a broken hip) and ***Jerry Moody*** (recovering from a fall), cousins of John Davis.

We Pray for Our Mission and Ministry Efforts...

The Pastor Nominating Committee, Massanutten Food Pantry, Blessings in a Bag, Habitat for Humanity, Open Doors, Valley Interfaith Action

We Pray for Those Serving Our Country...

Frank Overstreet, grandson-in-law of Helen Groves (Middle East); ***Jackie DeGaine***, daughter-in-law of Ka & Mike Guinn (Fort Jackson, SC); ***Justin Brockhoff***, nephew of Jan Reser (recently moved from Germany back to the United States); ***Marcus Sensabaugh***, son of Julia and Doug Sensabaugh (deployed); ***Hunter Barr***, nephew of David & Alicia Gutschow (Parris Island, SC); ***Matt Riordan***, grandson of Jack Heintzleman (Fairbanks, AK); ***Dylan Kenny***, nephew of Gus and Stephanie Scheidt (Navy); ***Elizabeth Lee Davis***, daughter of Marc & Nancy Davis (Tampa); ***Dan Balch***, grandson-in-law of Harry and Jean Pettit, (Navy, Japan).