

Massanutten Presbyterian Church Session

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

September 13, 2026 10:30 a.m.

*An asterisk denotes an invitation to stand

We Gather at God's Call

Chiming of the Trinity
Introit Praise Ye the Lord - Cleveland
Greeting and Pouring of the Water
Prelude When Morning Gilds the Skies - Page
*Call to Worship (responsive, from Psalm 103) Kath Wissinger, Worship Leader
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits.
The Lord works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is the Lord's steadfast love toward those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far the Lord removes our transgressions from us.
Let us worship God.

*Hymn God Welcomes All 399

God welcomes all,
strangers and friends;
God's love is strong
and it never ends.

Choir sings first two times. Congregation joins third time.

*Call to Confession		
*Prayer of Confession (<i>unison</i>)		
God our Judge, we admit that we have double standards.		
We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to forgive others.		
We seek relief for ourselves, but fail to seek relief for others.		
We seek leniency for ourselves, but fail to show that mercy to others.		
Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive,		
showing others the same grace and mercy		
that you have generously shown to us.		
*Assurance of Forgiveness		
People of God, hear and believe:		
God does not deal with us according to our sins,		
but according to God’s own steadfast love for us.		
As far as the east is from the west,		
so far God removes our sins from us.		
Thanks be to God!		
*Response of Praise	We Are Forgiven	447
	We are forgiven. We are forgiven.	
	Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.	
	We are forgiven. We are forgiven.	
	Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.	
*Sharing the Peace of Christ (<i>responsively</i>)		
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.		
And also with you.		
	We Gather around God’s Word	
*Sung Prayer	Spirit of the Living God	288
for Illumination		
	Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.	
	Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.	
	Melt me; mold me; fill me; use me.	
	Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.	
Time with the Children		Hannah Altman



Open Doors’ 10th Annual Food Truck Fest

Join Open Doors on Saturday, September 19, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds for local food trucks, live music, a kids’ zone, a petting zoo, adult beverages, and more! All event proceeds, including admission, support Open Doors’ mission to provide safe shelter, compassionate support, and access to resources for neighbors experiencing homelessness and hardship.

For tickets:
scan the QR code or visit
givebutter.com/foodtruckfest26.



Volunteers are needed to assist with admissions, beverage service, setup, and other event activities. Volunteers receive free admission before and after their shifts. Sign up at valleyopendoors.org/volunteer.

Life at Massanutten

- ♦ **Third Wednesday Night Dinners Are Back!** Join us for our first “*Come to the Table*” Third Wednesday Dinner this Wednesday, September 16, from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a delicious meal, play games, meet new people, and connect with others in our church family. If you plan to attend, please write “Table” and the number attending in the special-event sign-up section of today’s connection folder. Mark your calendar for our upcoming dinners: **September 16, October 14, November 18, and December 16**. We look forward to welcoming you to the table!
- ♦ The “*Deep Dive*” Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, September 23, at 5:30 p.m. in the Library. This group explores Scripture and other faith-related books through thoughtful, in-depth discussion to deepen our understanding of the truths revealed by the Holy Spirit. Participants are encouraged to come prepared to consider and wrestle with interpretations of Scripture that may challenge their existing beliefs. For more information, please speak with Ron Matthews or David Allen.
- ♦ Join the **Coffee Break Small Group** at Kaffee Klatsch in the Dayton Market on the first Thursday of each month for good coffee, friendly conversation, and fellowship. Our next Coffee Break is Thursday, October 1, at 10:00 am. Everyone is welcome!
- ♦ Our next **Sunday Morning Mingle** faith and fellowship gathering will be on Sunday, October 4th. We invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month. Enjoy light refreshments and take the opportunity to get to know one another better. Let us come together in grace for this Sunday morning gathering and celebrate the joy of strengthening our connections!
- ♦ Are you interested in joining MPC? See Pastor Keith or an elder to learn more!
- ♦ **Safety Corner: Skylight Removal:** The skylights in the kitchen, located just off the Fellowship Hall, are scheduled for removal from **Friday, September 18, through Sunday, September 20**. For everyone’s safety, the Fellowship Hall and kitchen will be closed and unavailable for use throughout this period. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this work.

This Week At MPC Sunday, September 13 9:00 am Adult Sunday School (117,119) 10:30 am Worship Church Picnic post worship 3:00 pm PNC Meeting (L) Monday, September 14 10:00 am Food Pantry 5:30 pm Admin. Comm. Meeting (L) 6:30 pm Mass. Ringers (HBR) Tuesday, September 15 Wednesday, September 16 7:30 am Men’s Prayer Group (FH) 12:00 pm “LOL” Lunch Grp (GA) 5:30 pm Third Wed. Dinner (FH) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (200)	Thursday, September 17 4:30 pm Mosaic (HBR) Friday, September 18 1:00 pm M & S Comm. Mtg (L) <i>Church Office Closed</i> Saturday, September 19 <i>Church Office Closed</i> Sunday, September 20 9:00 am Adult Sunday School (117,119) 9:30 am Preschool Sunday School Faith Village MS Sunday School HS Breakfast Parent Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Godly Play Session meeting after worship 3:00 pm PNC Meeting (L) 6:00 pm Youth Group (FH)
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Serving September 13 Door Monitor: Harvey Mast Greeters: Ric and JoAnne Leobold Ushers & Water Pourers: Lewis, Emily and Jacob Burkholder Nursery: Katie Rodgers and Katie Gray <i>The children and youth programs resume next Sunday, September 20th. We hope you have enjoyed your summer!</i>	Serving September 20 Door Monitor: Skip Wissinger Greeters: Jody Humphreys and Jackie Corson Ushers and Water Pourers: Larry and Pam French Preschool, Faith Village and MS Sunday School: Holly Veenis, Jennifer Coffelt, and David Allen High School Breakfast: Emily Burkholder Godly Play: TBD Nursery: Julia Sensabaugh and Dorothy Dobroth Youth Group: Gus Scheidt, Cherokee Adams, and TBD
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Anthem

Set Me As a Seal

- Clausen

Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm,
 For love is strong as death, for love is strong as death.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm,
 For love is strong as death, Many waters cannot quench love;

Neither can the floods drown it, neither can the floods drown it.
 Neither can the floods drown it, neither can the floods drown it.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm,
 For love is strong as death, for love is strong as death.

Scripture

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

Pastor Keith Phillips

We Respond to God’s Word

*Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

From *The Confession of 1967* (9.20)

**We believe that God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation.
 The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church
 as the community in which we are reconciled to God and to one another.
 The Spirit enables us to receive forgiveness as we forgive one another,
 and to enjoy the peace of God as we make peace among ourselves.
 We believe that in spite of our sin, the Holy Spirit gives us power
 to become representatives of Jesus Christ
 and to proclaim the good news of reconciliation to all.**

Sharing Our Faith

Faith Village Shepherds

Jennifer Coffelt

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!*

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 *Called as Partners in Christ’s Service* 761

*Called as partners in Christ’s service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God’s chosen end.*

*Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring, Christ’s clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God’s people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.*

*Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other’s burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.*

*So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person’s sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.*

*Instructions for the Picnic, Blessing for the Picnic, and Benediction

*Benediction Response *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me* (v. 1) 543

*God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

Congregational Joys & Concerns

We Pray for Our Church Family...

Patricia Armstrong (in healthcare at Sunnyside to regain strength; receiving treatment for a GIST tumor), *Don Enslen* (cancer), *Bettye Davis* (receiving treatment for cancer), *Adele Durost* (on hospice care), *Bill Painter*, *Deborah Roberts* (back and shoulder injuries), *Kathy Marlowe* (recovering from TIA), *Helen Groves* (recovering from successful heart procedure).

We Pray for Friends of Our Church Family...

Owen Mann; *Linda Caldwell*, mother of Kevin Caldwell; *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; *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); *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); *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* (recovering from strokes), neighbors of Holly & Drew Veenis; *Randy Moody* (recovering from sepsis and a broken hip) and *Jerry Moody* (recovering from a fall), cousins of John Davis.

We Extend Our Congratulations to ...

Great grandparents *Harry & Jean Pettit*, grandparents Ann & Patrick Pettit, mother Brigid Dykstra, father Jimmy Dykstra, and aunt Mairead Pettit on the birth of Margaret Marie Dykstra on Sept. 9th in Pittsburgh. Margaret weighed 7 lbs., 10 ozs. Mother and baby are doing well!

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 DeGaîne*, daughter-in-law of Ka & Mike Guinn (Fort Jackson, SC); *Justin Brockhoff*, nephew of Jan Reser (Mississippi); *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).