

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SEPT. 27TH

The Session of Massanutten Presbyterian Church has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, September 27th, immediately following worship, for the purpose of receiving the report & recommendations of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

Information from the PNC and Co-Pastor candidate has been sent by postal mail & email. It is also available from the church office.

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

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 are sent to join boldly with
the Spirit's work in the world.

A Service of Worship
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026 10:30 a.m.

*An asterisk denotes an invitation to stand

We Gather at God's Call

Chiming of the Trinity		
Introit	I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art	- Strasbourg
Greeting and Pouring of the Water		
Prelude	O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee	- Wood
*Call to Worship (responsive)	We will sing to God and bless God's name forever and ever.	
	Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!	
	We will declare God's mighty acts and celebrate God's abundant goodness.	
	Let us worship, singing of God's righteousness.	
*Hymn	The Mighty God with Power Speaks	13

The Mighty God with power speaks, and all the world obeys;
from dawn until the setting sun, God's wonder earth displays.
The perfect beauty all around from Zion's height shines forth;
and stars across the firmament so brightly beam their worth.

God comes not with a silent form, but riding on the winds;
before God's face, the raging storm its blast of thunder sends.
All hail the Judge, in bold array, whose promise is to bless;
who sees our sins, yet also feels our thirst for righteousness.

The heavens declare your justice, Lord, as endless as the sky;
against the taunts of disbelief, our God will testify.
Receive my heartfelt gift of thanks, as honor to your might;
refresh my faith with each new day; protect me through the night.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**God of generosity,
we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace.
We believe ourselves more deserving than others.
We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive,
instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show.**

**Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce.
Forgive the double standards we hold.
Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace,
and help us rejoice as we gratefully receive your mercy.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness

The grace of God is boundless, poured out freely for all of us.
**We will receive this gift of forgiveness,
and trust God to transform our lives!**

*Response of Praise *How Our Hearts with Joy Abound (v. 1)* 333

*How our hearts with joy abound,
with your beauty all around;
words are feeble to express
your great love and righteousness.*

*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 *Be Thou My Vision (v. 1)* 450
for Illumination

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

Time with the Children Pastor Keith Phillips

*Children age 4 through second grade may go with our adult leaders to Godly Play,
an interactive children's Bible study that features story, wonder, and play.
They will return to the sanctuary before worship ends.*

Today’s Guest Preacher: Rev. Melissa L. Harmon

Today we welcome Rev. Melissa L. Harmon back to the pulpit. She is a native of Richmond, VA. Rev. Harmon came to the Valley in 2008 to pastor three churches in Highland County. She became a member at large in the presbytery in 2015.

Melissa serves the Church by doing pulpit supply and enjoys being able to worship with the churches of the Presbytery. Rev. Melissa and her wife live in Harrisonburg along with their 3 children. She works as a certified pharmacy technician for Sentara RMH. Melissa’s hobbies include more crafts than should be listed unless this is a resume. She mainly does stained glass, embossed cards, and, when the garden produces, canning the harvest.

Life at Massanutten

- ♦ The “*Deep Dive*” Bible Study will meet this Wednesday 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.
- ♦ Are you interested in joining MPC? See Pastor Keith or an elder to learn more!



MPC will collect the PC(USA)’s World Communion Offering on Oct. 4th. This offering works to ensure all God’s people flourish as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. To learn more, visit pcusa.org/wco.

This Week At MPC		
Sunday, September 20		Thursday, September 24
9:00 am	Adult Sunday School (117,119)	4:30 pm Mosaic (HBR)
9:30 am	Preschool Sunday School, Faith Village, MS Sunday School, and Parent Fellowship	Friday, September 25
		<i>Church Office Closed</i>
10:30 am	Worship with Godly Play	Saturday, September 26
	Session meeting after worship	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
3:00 pm	PNC Meeting (L)	Sunday, September 27
6:00 pm	Youth Group (FH)	9:00 am Adult Sunday School (117,119)
Monday, September 21		9:30 am Preschool Sunday School, Faith Village, MS Sunday School, and Parent Fellowship
6:30 pm	Mass. Ringers (HBR)	10:30 am Worship with Godly Play
Tuesday, September 22		Congregational Meeting after worship
12:00 pm	Board of Pensions Lunch (FH)	6:00 pm Youth Group (FH)
Wednesday, September 23		
7:30 am	Men’s Prayer Group (FH)	
12:00 pm	“LOL” Lunch Grp (GA)	
5:30 pm	Deep Dive Bible Study (L)	
7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (200)	

Serving September 20	Serving September 27
Door Monitor: Skip Wissinger	Door Monitor: Harvey Mast
Greeters: Jody Humphreys and Jackie Corson	Greeters: Dexter & Cyndi Taylor
Ushers and Water Pourers: Larry and Pam French	Ushers and Water Pourers: TBD
Preschool, Faith Village and MS Sunday School: Holly Veenis, Jennifer Coffelt, Ellen Blose, and David Allen	Preschool, Faith Village and MS Sunday School: Holly Veenis, Jennifer Coffelt, Ellen Blose, and David Allen
Godly Play: Holly Veenis and Robin Reed	Godly Play: Holly Veenis and Robin Reed
Nursery: Julia Sensabaugh and Dorothy Dobroth	Nursery: Sally Brown and Diann Reed
Youth Group: Gus Scheidt, Cherokee Adams, and TBD	Youth Group: Gus Scheidt, Cherokee Adams, and TBD

Anthem	<i>Give Me Jesus</i>	- Flemming
	<i>O, when I am alone, O, when I am alone, O, when I am alone, give me Jesus. Give me Jesus, give me Jesus You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.</i>	
	<i>O, when I come to die, O, when I come to die, O, when I come to die, give me Jesus. Give me Jesus, give me Jesus You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.</i>	
	<i>And when I want to sing, And when I want to sing, And when I want to sing, give me Jesus, Give me Jesus, give me Jesus You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.</i>	
	<i>And when I am alone, give me Jesus.</i>	
Scripture		Matthew 20:1-16
Sermon	“Pie Fairness”	Rev. Melissa L. Harmon

We Respond to God’s Word

*Affirmation of Faith (*responsively*) *selections from:* The Confession of Belhar

We believe that God has been revealed
as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;
that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity,
is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged
that God calls the church to follow;
for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;
that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;
that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger,
helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;
that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;
that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need,
which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against
and strive against any form of injustice,
so that justice may roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Invitation to Offering

Song of Thanksgiving

Now Thank We All Our God (v. 1)

643

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

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

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (vv. 1-4)

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.*

*Bind to myself the Name of Holy, great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight, flashing of lightning, strength of wind,
depth of the sea to soil of planet: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Walking behind to hem my journey, going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*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.*

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, home after recent hospitalization for severe back pain), **Bettye Davis** (cancer), **Adele Durost** (on hospice care), **Bill Painter**, **Deborah Roberts** (back and shoulder injuries), **Kathy Marlowe** (recovering from TIA), **Judy Dent** (moved to healthcare at Sunnyside), **Kathy Frakes** (recovering from surgery at VMRC).

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; **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; **Mary Powers** (leukemia), sister of Nancy Wayland.

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 (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).