Massanutten Presbyterian Church Session

Stated meetings of Session occur on the 3rd Sunday of the month after worship (except July & Dec.)

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,
Moderators: Rev. Lynne Clements*, 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. Lynne Clements, Co-Pastor (**starting Nov. 16th*)
Rev. Keith Phillips, Co-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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Massanutten
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2026 10:30 a.m.

**Bold indicates congregational participation*

**An asterisk is an invitation to stand*

We Gather at God's Call

Chiming of the Trinity

Introit *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* - Dunstable

Greeting and Pouring of the Water

Prelude *Praise Unfolding* - Eithun
Massnautten Ringers

*Call to Worship (*responsive)* Ron Matthews, Worship Leader
Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.
In you, we come home - to rest, to wrestle, to love, to be loved.
We dwell in you.

Before the mountains were born, before you delivered the whole world,
from everlasting past to everlasting future, you are God.
In you, we are home - we dream, we flourish, we fade, we rejoice.
We dwell in you.

*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)*
God of love, your commandments are so simple:
love God, love neighbor, love self.
Yet we cannot always muster that love.

Love for you seems too abstract and distant.
Love for our neighbors seems too impractical and draining.
Love for ourselves seems too impossible and unimportant.

But you are truly the God of love;
if there is anyone who can help us love, it is you.
Shower us with your love so we might have the greatest example,
and help us learn from you.

*Assurance of Forgiveness
It is true: we are beloved of God.
The God who loves us does not condemn us.
We will live in the glory of God's love!
Thanks be to God!

*Response of Praise *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven (v. 1)* 619

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

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.

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.

Life at Massanutten

The **2026 Congregational Nominating Committee** has begun work on selecting a slate of nominees for the Class of 2030 Session members. We are still seeking input from the congregation with suggestions for those nominees. As always, we are seeking a diverse selection that represents the various demographics within our congregation. If you know someone you would like to see represent you (or if you are willing to serve), please let the committee know. **Committee members are Chris Hamilton, Gus Scheidt, Frank Gearing, Tim Russell, Sarah Rimer, and David Allen.** You can submit your suggestions in writing to the church office, to Pastor Keith, or directly to one of the committee members. The committee will meet next on November 10 to begin narrowing the list to a final slate, so input before that date would be helpful. If possible, please contact the person you would like to see nominated and confirm they would be willing to serve before submitting their name. Thank you.

Looking Ahead:

- We will recognize veterans of the US military at the church on Sunday, November 8th. See the *Blessings* email newsletter to find out how to include yourself, your loved one, or your friend in this recognition.
- The Presbyterian Women is asking for items for Salvation Army Santa Sacks by November 15th. Please see the *Blessings* email newsletter for a list.

Do you know an MPC college student? The Nurture & Discipleship Commission is hoping to bring back the College Connection. Church members would agree to contact students with notes & emails of support & encouragement for a period of at least one year.

We need the following student information: college mailing & email addresses, birthday, and any other pertinent information. Email Gina Holden at vholden1@aol.com with this information or for questions.

COLLEGE CONNECTION
Massanutten Presbyterian Church

This Week At MPC

Sunday, October 25

9:00 am Adult Sunday School (117, 119)
9:30 am *No programs for children, youth, or families this AM*
10:30 am Worship with Godly Play
Four Cents a Meal collected
4:00 pm Cub Scouts (108, 119)
6:00 pm Youth Group (FH)

Monday, October 26

5:00 pm Preschool Board Meeting (L)
6:00 pm Scouts (108, 119)
6:30 pm Mass. Ringers (HBR)

Tuesday, October 27

8:00 am Pre-K Trunk or Treat (FH)

Wednesday, October 28

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 Rehearsals (200)

Thursday, October 29

9:00 am Legacy Board Meeting (L)
4:30 pm Mosaic (HBR)
6:00 pm Scouts (108, 119)

Friday, October 30

Church Office Closed

Saturday, October 31

Church Office Closed

Sunday, November 1 - All Saints Sunday

9:00 am Adult Sunday School (FH)
9:30 am Preschool Sunday School, Faith Village, MS Sunday School, and Parent Fellowship
10:00 am Sunday Morning Mingle
10:30 am Worship with Godly Play and Communion
6:00 pm Youth Group (FH)

Serving October 25

Door Monitor: Harvey Mast

Greeters:
George and Lynda Gibbs

Ushers and Water Pourers:
Greg and Ann Trobaugh

No programs for children, youth, or families this morning

Godly Play:
Bill and Jean Kilby

Nursery:
Katie Rodgers and Diann Reed

Youth Group:
Cherokee Adams, Karen Mast, Gus Scheidt, and Chris Hamilton

Serving November 1

Door Monitor: TBD

Greeters:
TBD

Ushers and Water Pourers:
Lewis, Emily, and Jacob Burkholder

Preschool Sunday School, Faith Village, Middle School Sunday School, and High School Breakfast:
Jennifer Coffelt, Carol Lown, Holly Veenis, Emily Burkholder, and Sarah Rimer

Godly Play:
Ka Guinn and Holly Veenis

Nursery:
Katie Rodgers and Erin Basgier

Youth Group:
Cherokee Adams, Hannah Altman, Gus Scheidt, and Sarah Rimer

We Gather around God's Word

Time with the Children — David Allen

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.

Anthem — *Day by Day* — - Hayes

All day, all night, angels watching over me, my Lord.
All day, all night, angels watching over me.

Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me. Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me Draw me nearer to my heavenly goal.

Love divine, beyond all mortal measure, Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure, Where at last I'll find eternal rest.

All day, all night, angels watching over me, my Lord.
Day by day and night by night, angels watching over me.

Day by day, I know you will provide me Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me O'er the paths I struggle day by day.

I will fear no evil of the morrow, I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow Till in glory I behold your face.

Oh, what joy to know that you are near me When my burdens grow too great to bear;
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me When I come to you, O Lord, in prayer.

Day by day, no matter what betide me, You will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me, I will reach at last the promised land.

I will reach at last the promised land. Angels watching over me, day by day.

Scripture — Matthew 22:15-22

Sermon — Pastor Keith Phillips

We Respond to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith *(responsively)* — Adapted from *The Confession of 1967*

The new life in Christ takes shape in a community
in which people know that God loves and accepts them
in spite of what they are.
They therefore accept themselves and love others,
knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand,
except God's grace.

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.

Sharing Our Faith — Congregational Nominating Committee — Gus Scheidt

Invitation to Offering

Song of Thanksgiving — *We Praise You, O God (v. 1)* — 612

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

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 of Grace and God of Glory* — 307

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

*Benediction

*Benediction Response — *Go with Us, Lord* — 748

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.

Congregational Joys & Concerns

We Pray for Our Church Family…

Patricia Armstrong *(receiving treatment for a GIST tumor),* ***Don Enslen*** *(cancer),* ***Bettye Davis*** *(cancer),* ***Adele Durost*** *(on hospice care),* ***Deborah Roberts*** *(back and shoulder injuries),* ***Kathy Marlowe*** *(recovering from TIA),* ***Judy Dent*** *(moved to healthcare at Sunnyside),* ***Kathy Frakes*** *(recovering from infection at home),* ***Bill Painter*** *(home recovering from triple bypass surgery),* ***Helen Groves*** *(heart procedure on Oct. 19th).*

We Pray for Friends of Our Church Family…

Owen Mann*;* ***Linda Caldwell****, mother of Kevin Caldwell;* ***Amanda Phillips*** *(cousin, concussion and broken tailbone),* ***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;* ***Ray Harvell****, father of Lindsey Harvell-Bowman (health concerns);* ***Joe Harvell****, uncle of Lindsey Harvell-Bowman (cancer); 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;* ***Julie*** *(medical concerns), friend of Diann Reed;* ***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 and upcoming decisions), son of Doug Sterrett;* ***Joseph Sterrett*** *(mitral valve replacement), 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);* ***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;* ***Mary Powers*** *(leukemia), sister of Nancy Wayland;* ***Michael Gearing*** *and family (recent death of 8-year-old son in Utah), cousin of Frank Gearing;* ***Melinda Dobroth*** *(significant health issues), sister of Dale Dobroth;* ***Maureen Lane*** *(awaiting biopsy results), friend of Betty Yost.*

We Extend Sympathy to …

Ellen Blose *and her family on the death of Ellen's sister, Mary Sepulveda, on Oct. 10th.*

The family of ***Mary Hoefling****, who died on Sept. 28th. A memorial service takes place on Oct. 25th at 2 p.m. at Mt. Zion Church of the Brethren. Family visitation takes place at 1 p.m. in the sanctuary.*

We Pray for Our Mission and Ministry Efforts…

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).*