

**we try to add to what is already full;
we try to earn what we already have.**

Forgive us for our foolishness.

Help us to focus on your grace.

**Help us to live grateful lives in return,
and to point to Jesus Christ as the way to fullness of life. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness (responsively)

The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ’s way of hope and peace.

Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

*Response of Praise *Angels from the Realms of Glory* (Regent Square)

All creation, join in praising

God the Father, Spirit, Son,

Evermore your voices raising

To the eternal Three in One:

Come and worship, come and worship,

Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Liturgy of the Word

Time with the Children

Children are invited to gather at the chancel steps. Following the *Time with the Children*, children will return to their seats in the sanctuary or follow their leaders downstairs to Children’s Church.

Infants through age 2 may be picked up in Room 202. 3’s may be picked up in Room 203. 4 year old and Kindergarten children may be picked up in Room 105. 1st and 2nd graders may be picked up in Room 108.

Anthem *Of the Father’s Love Begotten* Hunter

Of the Father’s love begotten ere the worlds began to be,

He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,

Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see,

Evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessed, When the Virgin full of grace,

By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bare the Savior of our race;

And the Babe, the world’s Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face,

Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav’n adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing;

Pow’rs dominions, bow before Him, And extol our God and King;

Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev’ry voice in concert ring,

Evermore and evermore.

Christ to thee with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,

Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, And unwearied praises be:

Honor, glory, and dominion, And Eternal victory,

Evermore and evermore.

Scripture Reading John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon *Longing for Light...We Point to Jesus* Pastor John P. Leggett

*Hymn *The Desert Shall Rejoice* No. 18

This Week at MPC

Sunday, December 14

9:00am Sunday School
10:00am Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)
10:30am Worship Service
1:00pm Korean PC Worship Service (Choir Room)
4:00pm Disciple Bible Study (Room 114)
7:00pm Massanutten Brand Concert (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 15

10:00am Food Pantry (Parlor and Room 119)
7:00pm Sessional Ministry Meetings
7:00pm Boy Scouts (119)
7:30pm Worship Ministry

Tuesday, December 16

9:00am Yoga (Gathering Area)
1:00pm Staff Meeting (Library)
2-8:00pm Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall)
5:15pm Evening Yoga (Gathering Area)
7:00pm Circle #5 (Library)

Wednesday, December 17

6:30am Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)
10:30am PW Coordinating Team Meeting (Room 114)
5:00pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Thursday, December 18

8:00am–4:00pm Marketplace (Room 108) in use/
Massanutten School
9:00am Yoga (Gathering Area)
10:00am–3:00pm Sanctuary in use/ Massanutten School
7:00pm Food Pantry (Parlor and Room 119)
7:00pm Congregational Care Meeting (Library)

Friday, December 19

6:00pm Korean PC Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Saturday, December 20

3:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Sunday, December 21

9:00am Sunday School
10:00am Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)
10:30am Worship Service
1:00pm Korean PC Worship Service (Sanctuary)
6:00pm Disciple Bible Study (Parlor)
7:00pm Chancel Choir Cantata (Sanctuary)

Thursday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:30pm Family Worship Service and Christmas Pageant
7:00pm Worship Service
11:00pm Worship Service

STEWARDSHIP AND ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

Offering Given Last Week \$16,786.02

Offering Given Year to Date \$576,716.59

Weekly Need \$14,227.00

Difference (\$120,406.41)

Attending Worship Last Week 307

*In response to the blessings of God in our lives, we give of ourselves—
our time, our talents, our treasures, our hearts.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Sherry Gordon; Dan Chalfant; Megan Phelps; Zoe Speakman; Mike Guinn; Dodie Groseclose

FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Jim Dobbs, son of Harry and Alberta Dobbs; **Karen Monger**, aunt of Scott and Lisa Kanney; **Flora Phelps Gutshall and Eddie Gutshall**, mother and step-father of Brian Phelps; **Jackie Taylor**, sister-in-law of Chuck and Anne Bradley; **Ben and Jessie Alger and their newborn baby**, friends of Kyle, Jeffrey and Jeremy Long; **Tina Capuano**, friend of Kevin Caldwell; **Don Grimes**, friend of our church family; **Andrea Lohr**, friend of Jennifer Strawderman; **Richard Williams**, friend of Whit and Helen Scully; **Jean Glick**, friend of Mary Morris; **Tyler Long**, friend of Ed Comer; **the family of Roy Smith; Sharon Williams**, cousin of Melissa Caldwell; **Charles and Rachel Sutton**, friends of the Hylton family; **Violet Conley**, mother of Terri Michael; **Sandra Miller**, friend of our church family; **Mary Lester**, friend of Brian Phelps; **Peter Handleton and Donna Rau**, brother-in-law and cousin of Rhonda Stees; **Edith Mills**, sister of Geri Black; **Jackie Kite Hall**, friend of our church family; **Laverne Grubb**, friend of Ron and Sherry Matthews; **Dean Love**, uncle of Chris McAnulty; **Raymond Frazier**, friend of Chuck and Anne Bradley; **Ayaskanta Rout and family**, friend of Alicia Gutschow; **Robert Landes and H. W. Welcher**, son and son-in-law of Herman and Charlotte Landes; **Ramona Sanders**, friend of our church family; **Ethan Thomas Bassett**, great grandson of Wilson and Joyce Sidwell.

Please place prayer request cards (found in the seat ahead of you) in the offering plate to be included in our congregation’s prayers. Feel free to resubmit any prayer concerns you may have.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Mark B. Heltzel, son of Helen Groves (Washington, D.C.)
Elizabeth “Lee” Davis, daughter of Marc & Nancy Davis (Kuwait)
Jon Guinn, son of Mike and Ka Guinn (Savannah, GA)
Chad Ritchie, son of Robert & Ramona Ritchie (Florida)
Chris Jerome, son of Bob Jerome (Newport, RI)
Stephanie Beard, granddaughter of Jean Beard (New York)
Erin Burtner, cousin of Susan Newsome (New York)
Sean Duncan, cousin of Scott and Lisa Kanney (Kansas)
Scott Andrews, friend of Sam Thompson (Persian Gulf)
Zulnea Andrews, friend of Sandy Thompson (Texas)
Chris Kibler, brother of Alana Miller (New York)

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY TO....

Buck and June Ritchie and their family on the death of Buck’s brother-in-law, Bob Rexrode.

Thanks to Those Serving During Worship

Today	Next Week
Greeters	Greeters
Russell and Helen Groves Bo and Patti Hobbie	Fleming and Sharon Jones Dick and Carol Miller
Ushers	Ushers
Bob Bales, Kevin Caldwell, John Myers, Dwight Newman, Curt Schwabach, Julia and Marcus Sensabaugh, Glenn Strawderman	Jim and Juli Colville, George Cross, Keith and Linda Knupp, Chris Preston, Bruce Rohlf
Sunnyside Bus Driver	Sunnyside Bus Driver
Pat Armstrong	Phil Miller
Sunday School Nursery	Sunday School Nursery
Betsy Harvey	Ellen Painter
Acolyte	Acolyte
Kendra Strawderman	Sarah Haines
Infant Nursery	Infant Nursery
Jeff and Leigh-Anne Lees	Leslie Dutt and Julie Miller
2 & 3 Year Olds	2 & 3 Year Olds
Diane Schwalbach and Wendy Stapleton	John and Sally Brown
Children’s Church Leader	Children’s Church Leader
Alayne Leggett and Janet Morris	Tim and Jill Kincaid

*An Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

God sent his Son to announce that God's promised kingdom is at hand.

**We testify that God is at work here and now
when people obey Christ's commission
to witness to him and make disciples of all nations,
when they spread the good news by their words
and embody it in their lives.**

**We are to proclaim by word and deed
that Christ gave himself to set people free
from sin and self-hatred,
from ignorance and disease,
from all forms of oppression,
and even from death.**

**We are to offer them in Christ's name
fullness of life now and forever.**

**We must not distort the gospel
by weakening its promises or demands,
by identifying it with oppressive structures,
by pointing to ourselves instead of Christ.**

We invite people everywhere to believe in Christ and become his followers.

**We urge them to join us in telling others the good news,
and in struggling for justice, compassion, and peace.**

Concerns of the Church and Prayers of the People

Gathering of the Offering

Offertory *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J.S. Bach

*Doxology Tallis' Canon

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

**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.**

Sending

*Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* No. 41

*Charge and Blessing

*Postlude *Savior of the Heathen, Come* J.S. Bach
*(*Please stand, who are able.)*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT MASSANUTTEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!

We're glad you are here to worship God with us this morning. If you're looking for a church home, we invite you to consider joining Massanutten. Feel free to speak with our Pastor or a Deacon after worship, or call Pastor John Leggett at 540/434-6194 during the week.

Please see one of our Ushers if you would like a large Print Hymnal, Bible, or Bulletin.

Children are welcome in the sanctuary at all times, but a Nursery is available for *Infants to 3 years old* in Room 202 during the Worship Service. **Pagers** are available for parents of children staying in our nursery.

When the *Friendship Folder* is passed to you, please include your phone number and address.

Prayer Request Cards may be found in the seat racks. *Please place them in the offering plate.*

Please see the information on the tables in the Narthex to learn more about what's going on at Massanutten. Extra copies of our bi-monthly newsletter, *The Ministry Link*, may be found there. Please call the church office (540/434-6194) if you are not receiving *The Ministry Link* by mail.

Printed copies of *recent sermons* are available on the table in the narthex.

Worship service CDs are available; if you would like one, please call the church office.

You can find additional information about the many ministries and activities of Massanutten on our **website**: www.massanuttenchurch.org.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 14

- Please pick up an **Advent booklet** from the rack in the Gathering Area. This will help you and your family prepare for the holy season.
- **Advent Study** continues Sunday mornings at 9:00am in the Gathering Area.
- The **Massanutten Brass Band and the Salvation Army Concert Band** will host their annual Salvation Army benefit concert on Sunday, December 14 at 7:00pm at MPC. Bring your family and friends for an evening of music and fellowship. Childcare will be provided.
- **The Chancel Choir will celebrate the birth of Christ with musical selections on Sunday, December 21 at 7:00pm.**
- **Faith Village is collecting money for the Heifer Project.** Parents, please have your children bring in their offering each week. Members of the congregation may also contribute; make checks payable to MPC with "Heifer Project" in the memo line.
- Our next **Blood Drive** is December 16. Sign up after Sunday worship service or call Shawn Green at 289-5735.
- The Worship Ministry is aware of a shortage of individual receivers for our **hearing enhancement system.** Please write "hearing" beside your name on the Friendship Folder this morning, if you are in need of hearing enhancement. We are missing one of our hearing devices; if you happened to take one home by mistake please return it to the church at your earliest convenience.
- Coming soon...another "**Sisters**" **Bible study for women...Unfailing Love: Growing Closer to Jesus Christ** beginning Sunday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m. and continuing weekly for 7 weeks. If you are interested, sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex, or email Nancy Ruh at nruh@massanuttenchurch.org by **December 15.**
- The **Shenandoah Valley Choral Society** will present its annual Christmas concert, *A Ceremony of Carols* on Friday, December 19 at 7:30pm at Bridgewater Church of the Brethren. Advance admission is \$10 for adults/\$9 for seniors and students. Church members Dick Forbes and Ron Matthews are members of the Choral Society.

Christmas Eve Services
Wednesday, December 24

Sermon Title: *Longing for Light... We Welcome Jesus*

Text: Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20

4:30 p.m. Family Worship Service and
Christmas Pageant

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

11:00 p.m. Worship Service



Massanutten
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Service for the Lord's Day
Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2008

10:30 a.m.

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements Ellen Painter, Worship Leader

Prelude *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* arr. Cathy Mokolbust
Crossroad Pealers

For Silent Meditation during the Opening Music

God of Israel, with expectant hearts we your people await Christ's coming. As once he came in humility, so now may he come in glory, that he may make all things perfect in your everlasting kingdom. For he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

*Call to Worship (*responsively*)

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

As we worship today, let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation.

We will worship and give thanks.

*Processional Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* No. 9

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, Light for the world to see.*

**Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gathered today.**

(Reprinted with permission of John Mark Ministries)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (*unison*)

**God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things—
our hearts are filled with joy.**

**By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin
and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom.**

Salvation is your gift to us.

But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts.

We try to complete what is already perfect;

Massanutten Presbyterian Church

50 Indian Trail Road, Penn Laird, VA 22846
Office Phone: 540/434-6194 · Fax Line: 540/434-3102
Church Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
www.massanuttenchurch.org

Staff

John P. Leggett, Pastor (jleggett@massanuttenchurch.org) (Home Phone 540/574-3959)

Ann Pettit, Parish Associate (apettit@massanuttenchurch.org) (540/350-4725)

Nancy Ruh, Director of Christian Education (nruh@massanuttenchurch.org)

Bob Jerome, Director of Music (bjerome@massanuttenchurch.org)

Carol Lown, Organist (clown@massanuttenchurch.org)

Karen Leecy, Office Manager (kleecy@massanuttenchurch.org)