

Manassas Church of the Brethren

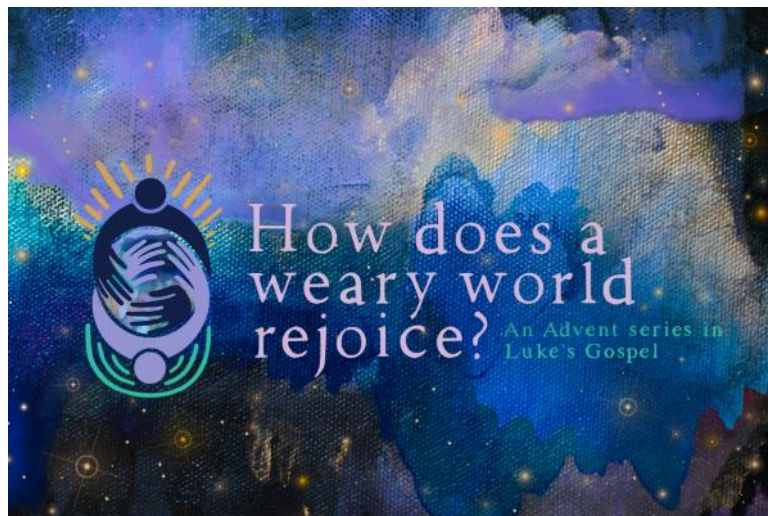
To all our family and friends, Merry Christmas, from the staff at Manassas Church of the Brethren.

Advent is Here!

Christ was born into a weary world. King Herod ruled the land with a legacy of ruthlessness. The Romans treated the people of Israel with contempt, imposing harsh taxes and land seizures that forced many into subsistence farming. Poverty and destitution were pervasive. And yet, Christ was born, bringing good news of great joy for all people. This season, we invite you to look closely at the details in the opening chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Discover where joy is sprinkled throughout the narrative. Identify the moments when joy arrives-despite trepidation, fear, or grief. And consider how joy can be a companion to you this season, for our joy is rooted in the truth that we belong to God. Can you tether yourself to that deep truth? You deserve to feel joy-fully. The world needs your joy, even if you are weary. Join us for this season of advent as we consider “How Can a Weary World Rejoice?” using worship resources from A Sanctified Art.

Each week during Advent, we will have candle-lighters lead us in lighting our Advent candles. We also have an opportunity to serve as worship leader each Sunday. If you are interested in leading worship, sign-up here: [Manassas Church of the Brethren: Worship Leaders \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/signup/Manassas-Church-of-the-Brethren-Worship-Leaders)

If you are interested in ushering during worship, sign-up here: [Manassas Church of the Brethren: Ushers \(signupgenius.com\)](https://www.signupgenius.com/signup/Manassas-Church-of-the-Brethren-Ushers)



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Stewardship November 2023

Average Attendance per week

In Person: 84

Online: 31

Average offering: \$8,238.50

From the Pastor's Study

On October 7, our world changed. Hamas led an attack on Israel and violence has been pervasive ever since. As war broke out on the other side of the world, tensions were felt here in our own community. Unity in the Community was already scheduled to host a viewing of "Repairing the World," a documentary about the Tree of Life synagogue shooting and how Pittsburgh came together as community following this tragedy. Originally, Dar Al Noor, the mosque on Hoadly Rd, was planning to host this event in their community center on October 15, just a week after the attacks on the other side of the world began. Unfortunately, as preparations were made, the leaders of the mosque determined that it would not be a safe venue for this event and were no longer able to host it. Members of the mosque have families in Gaza who have been victims of the violence.

Knowing how important it was to keep the event and to hold space for conversations around antisemitism, Illana Naylor asked if the Manassas Church of the Brethren could host at the last minute. With the help of a few congregants, we made all the arrangements necessary in just a few short days and hosted the event here in our sanctuary and fellowship hall. Sharon Haydon and Illana Naylor worked hard to set everything up and create a welcoming space. This created a safe space for dialogue for our community in the midst of conflict.

At the same time, our neighbors at Dar Al Noor were preparing to host a non-partisan candidate forum for the two candidates running for the Board of County Supervisors Chair position the same weekend as the documentary viewing. The day before their event, they reached out to see if I could help co-moderate the forum, as a local community leader and strategy member of VOICE. Knowing the tensions surrounding the documentary viewing, I agreed to serve in this role. By co-moderating the candidate forum on Saturday, October 14 for our Muslim neighbors and then hosting the documentary viewing on Sunday, October 15 for our Jewish neighbors, it just felt like a way to shine peace in our conflicted world.

Sometimes, we can get overwhelmed by the news we see on T.V. and we wonder what we can do to make a difference. Sometimes, I wonder if the way we make a difference is by loving our neighbors close to home.

During this Advent season as we ponder how a weary world rejoices, especially in the midst of all the turmoil and strife today, may we take a moment to pause and see the good that is possible when we open our hearts and our hands to the community around us.

~Pastor Mandy

Worship Themes

December 3: Advent - Hope
How does a weary world rejoice?
We acknowledge our weariness.
Luke 1:1-28, Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
Preacher: Pastor Mandy North
Worship Leader: Devon D.

December 11: Advent - Peace
How does a weary world rejoice?
We find joy in connection.
Luke 1:24-25, Isaiah 40:1-11
Cantata: *Lead Me Back to Bethlehem*

December 17: Advent - Joy
How does a weary world rejoice?
We allow ourselves to be amazed.
Luke 1:57-66, Psalm 126
Preacher: Pastor Mandy
Worship Leader: TBD

December 24: Advent - Love
How does a weary world rejoice?
We sing stories of hope.
Luke 1:46-55, 67-80
Preacher: Pastor Mandy
Worship Leader: TBD

December 24 Evening: Advent - Christ
How does a weary world rejoice?
We make room.
Luke 2:1-20
Preacher: Pastor Mandy
Worship Leader: Jaylin K.

December 31:
How does a weary world rejoice?
We root ourselves in rituals.
Luke 2:21-38
Preacher: Pastor Mandy
Worship Leader: Mary Jane P.

We Collected Coats and Shoes in November

To support Asylum Seekers through Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid in Washington DC, we collected new and gently used coats and sneakers. Through your generous donations, we were able to donate 51 coats and 5 pairs of shoes.

Thank you for your contributions!



Bread for the World Bake Sale

We had lots of baked goodies for sale after church on Sunday, December 3rd! Kids and Youth met before worship in the Fellowship Center during donut breakfast to prepare for the sale.

This year was another amazing success with the sale raising over \$1,200 to support Bread for the World!



Untrim a Tree is back!

We are once again partnering with Volunteer Prince William's Untrim a Tree holiday gift program. We have been participating with this program for decades and are glad to continue with this very special program to serve children in need in our community.

Each year we sponsor 30 children who will receive two gift tags that are now hanging on our wonderful Christmas tree in the library.

Please try to get the items from the child's wish list. We try to keep it to 2 to 3 gifts/\$75 as a guide so some children don't get 7 items and others get 2 (especially for those in the same family).



Please bring the **unwrapped gifts with the tag taped to the gift** to the church by **December 10th**. The tag is very important so we know what gift goes with each child. The gifts can be left by the tree or in the church office.

Many thanks for your generosity in bringing much-needed joy to the faces of these children this Christmas season!

If you have any questions please contact Kim K.

In Our Community

Healthy Families Prince William Holiday Party

Manassas Church of the Brethren is honored to host the annual Healthy Families Prince William Holiday Party on Friday, December 8th! We have been partners with Healthy Families Prince William since 2017.



There will be cookie decorating, a photo station, live music, activity stations, a special appearance by Santa and much more!

Healthy Families Prince William, a program of Northern Virginia Family Service, provides voluntary home-visiting services to vulnerable first-time parents residing in the greater Prince William area. The four primary goals of Healthy Families Prince William are to promote positive parenting, improve child health and development, promote school readiness, and to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Thanks to the many volunteers from MCoB who contribute their time, talents, homemade cookies, card-making supplies, and much, much more to bring this special event to life for the children in the Healthy Families program!!!

If you would like to volunteer, contact Tina Fisher at tina.fisher@manassasbrethren.org

East End Mobile Park Holiday Party Saturday, December 16th

Helen Zurita, the manager of the East End Mobile Park Community, will be hosting this special party. She needs 5 strong volunteers to help set up tables in the gym at 10am.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Tina Fisher at tina.fisher@manassasbrethren.org



Manassas Church of the Brethren
 10047 Nokesville Road, Manassas, Virginia 20110
 Phone: (703) 368-4783

www.manassasbrethren.org office@manassasbrethren.org

Pastor Mandy North (703-395-5793)

Administrative Assistant Kim Beaty

Sunday Worship (On site & Online) 11:00 a.m.

Office (M-F) 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

If no one is in the office or the line is busy, voice mail will pick up so **PLEASE** leave us a message. Items for the bulletin's weekly newsheet **MUST** be submitted to the church office by **noon on Thursday**. All articles for the **January** edition of the newsletter are due in the office by **Monday, December 18, 2023**.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Collect the Items Each Day

Bring to Our Christmas Eve Service and
We Will Donate to a Local Food Pantry.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - Coffee
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

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We “Needle” Little Christmas!

Our children have been knitting together a Christmas Musical!
Come see them present
“A Christmas Yarn”
on December 10th at 6:30pm.

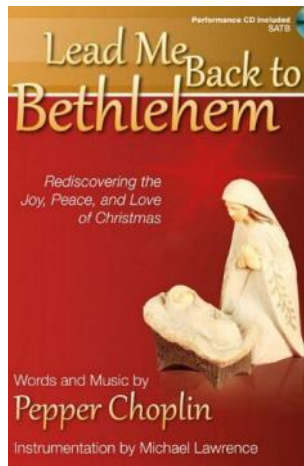
Christmas Caroling

Everyone is invited for an evening of Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 23rd at 6 pm.

We will meet at the church and carpool as two teams to Christmas carol. Then, we will come back to the church for some hot cocoa and fellowship together.



Special Events in our Sanctuary



The Chancel Choir Presents
Lead Me Back to Bethlehem
Our Christmas Cantata on
Sunday December 10th | 11:00am



Our Blue Christmas Service will be held on Sunday, December 17th at 7:00 pm in person in the sanctuary. For those who have experienced loss, the joy of the holiday season can often feel elusive and out of reach. This Blue Christmas service is designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the twinkling lights and holiday hustle and bustle.

Friends, this service is for you. Bring your grief. Bring your weariness. Bring your fatigue and allow yourself a quiet space to reflect and draw near to God.

Come as you are for this service for the weary.



Sunday, December 24th at 7:00 pm
In-Person and Live Streamed

This is a time to worship and celebrate Jesus' birth into this world, the great Emmanuel, God with us!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Our traditional Christmas Eve worship service will include the retelling of the Christmas story from Luke's gospel, singing Christmas hymns, and candle-lighting.

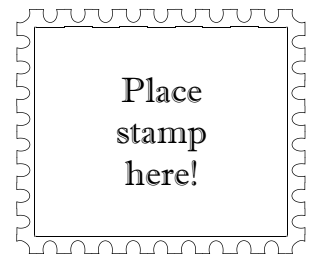
During the service, we will take up a special offering to benefit a local non-profit.



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 Church Office Closed	2
3 <i>Bread for the World</i> 9:00am Donut B'fast & Q&A Session 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am On Site & Online Worship 12:30pm YA Lunch	4	5 12:00pm Lunch Bunch at Arby's on Liberia	6 6:30pm Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Practice	7	8 5:00pm Healthy Families Holiday Party	9 4:30pm Cantata Rehearsal & Party
10 <i>Cantata Sunday</i> <i>Untrim a Tree Gifts Due</i> 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am On Site & Online Worship 6:30pm "A Christmas Yarn" Musical	11 6:15pm Executive Committee 7:30pm Church Board	12 12:00pm Lunch Bunch at Arby's on Liberia	13 6:30pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir at the Fairmont	14	15 6:30pm Youth Lock-In	16 12:00pm East End Mobile Park Holiday Party
17 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am On Site & Online Worship 12:30pm Adult Outing at the Winery at Sunshine Ridge 7:00pm Blue Christmas On-Site Worship	18	19 12:00pm Lunch Bunch at Arby's on Liberia	20 6:30pm Bible Study - Zoom Only Last Day of School before Winter Break	21 1:00pm Retiree's Lunch at Great American Buffet	22	23 6:00pm Christmas Caroling & Fellowship
24 Christmas Eve NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00am On-Site & Online Worship 7:00pm On-Site Candlelight Worship	25 Christmas Day  Church Office Closed	26 12:00pm Lunch Bunch at Arby's on Liberia Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30
31  New Year's Eve NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 11:00am On Site & Online Worship	1 Church Office Closed					

Manassas Church of the Brethren
10047 Nokesville Road
Manassas, VA 20110



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



2 *Jeff & Kim C.*
4 Doug S.
5 James B.
6 Luke C.
6 Matt J.
6 Diane P.
8 Julia R.
8 Anna W.
12 Kelly K.
13 Joan B.
13 Otto C.
14 Anna C.

15 Heather B.
15 Kyra O.
16 Craig G.
17 Willy H.
17 Dick P.
17 *Steve & Julie F.*
19 Kevin S.
20 Leonard P.
21 Joe P.
25 Christopher B.
25 James L.
26 Lucas D.

27 Rick B.
27 *Wayne & Kathie K.*
28 Caroline B.
28 Jim B.
30 Priscilla W.
31 Patricia F.