



Wings of the Spirit

October 2025

Manassas Presbyterian Church, 8201 Ashton Avenue, Manassas VA 20109
www.mpc-va.org • office@mpc-va.org • 703.369.2058



Community FALL FESTIVAL

- Trunk or Treat
- Community games and events
- Pumpkin Painting, Crafts, Games and More!



Saturday, October 25 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM



Manassas Presbyterian Church Parking Lot
8201 Ashton Ave., Manassas VA 20109



FREE and OPEN to the Public



This event is not sponsored or endorsed by PWCS.

From the Associate Pastor



The weather continues to get cooler, the days shorter, and I wonder exactly how it is that we are already squarely in the fall season! It's likely in part because we continue to have a lot of wonderful things going on in the church community and I want to touch on a few.

Ceilidh: First of all, what an amazing time we had at the Community Ceilidh! And what's more, through the Love Offering we were able to raise \$700 in scholarships for the Early Learning Center! Good times, good food, good laughs, and good will abounded that day. If you were unable to join us, do not fret. It sounds like we may be bringing it back as a tradition, so stay tuned! You can see pictures from the Ceilidh on the next page.

Fall Festival: Our Fall Festival fast approaches on October 25 from 9:30-12:30 in our front parking lot. We have a great lineup of trunks and activities for families to enjoy together. If you are wanting to get involved - whether it be to set up a trunk, help with set up/take down, help guide cars to parking, offer a craft or a game, the sky is the limit, please let me know.

Family Ministries Program: We have kicked off our program year with discipleship, fellowship, music, and mission! I am so grateful to be back in the swing of things and have loved seeing us all together learning about God and one another. Thank you to everyone who is involved and helping make this program possible! We are still continuing to seek volunteers for Sunday afternoons, particularly for those who can help with lunches and fellowship time. The more folks we have involved, the better! If something is tugging at your heart to get more involved, please do let me know. I would love to speak with you!

Thanks be to God for our time and ministry together. Thank you all for your engagement, time, gifts, mentorship, creativity, and love.

Grace and Peace
Pastor Rebekah
associate@mpc-va.org

We believe God calls us to reflect Christ's love and mercy by

- **WORSHIPING** as a community of diverse ages, backgrounds and cultures;
- **ENGAGING** the whole congregation in fellowship, learning, service, and outreach to the wider community;
- **SERVING** by caring for each other and reaching out to the world God loves, seeking to understand and respond to needs;
- **GROWING** as individuals, families, and community as we continue to discover who we are in Jesus Christ; and trying to follow his example.



Ceilidh!

Stewardship Status



BY NOW, YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED THE ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP LETTER AND PLEDGE CARD. If you haven't, please contact the Church Office.

Thank you for your generosity!

"The more you give. The more you have."



Mission Ministry Team

New Mission Ministry

The Mission Team is initiating a Blessing Box Ministry for our neighbors in need. The Blessing Box is a "take what you need, leave what you can" ministry providing food and other essentials for living to those in need. It also allows an opportunity for our neighbors to join in the ministry by contributing specific non-perishable food items for those less fortunate than themselves.

The blessing box will be installed in the parking lot near the entrance to the church. The box will initially be stocked with non-perishable food only. Once our neighbors are comfortable with using the box, we will include useful hygiene and personal care items as well. The contents of the box will change as appropriate for the seasons. The list of acceptable items for donation will be posted on the mission bulletin board and will be updated throughout the year as the seasons change.

This is an opportunity for the entire congregation to contribute needed items throughout the year. We are also seeking volunteers to check and restock the blessing box as needed throughout the year. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex if you want to volunteer to help monitor blessing box use.

Food donations for the blessing box can be placed in the food cart we use for the Haymarket food bank support, and appropriate items will be selected from that cart as needed for the Blessing Box.



Church Flowers

If you'd like to provide church flowers for worship, please use this website:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45ADA623A5FFC16-54102886-worship#/>

Session—News from the Clerk



A
Friendly
HELLO
From
Your
Session!

(sorry, Ray)



College Care Packages

Please consider bringing some support and joy in November to our college students by sponsoring a college care package. Sponsorship is \$20. Please indicate college care package when submitting your payment. You may leave a personal message for the student that will be included on the card. If your student was not included and would like to be please contact Linda Nossett.

Thank you for your support!

Link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4EA8A92EA7FE3-58842299-college>

From The Loving Hands Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Loving Hands Prayer Ministry thanks you for participating in the blessing of 41 shawls on September 21. These shawls have been tucked away, waiting for God's calling and love.



On Thursday, October 16, the ministry will be sorting hats and scarves to distribute to Manassas City and Prince William County Public school children in 13 Title 1 schools. Also VETS in Richmond Hospital and other unfortunates will receive them. Here is a small example of the hundreds that have been created in God's name.



‘MADE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU BY THE LOVING HANDS MINISTRY OF MANASSAS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH’ is on the tag of each hat and scarf.

With God's Blessing and in his service,



Worship & Music Notes

Deborah Panell





Thanks, Kelly!

Stephen Ministry

What Does it Take to Become a Stephen Minister (and What Do You Receive in Return)?

In 2026, MPC will be training additional Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministry may have crossed your mind a few times and now you want to take a closer look at the idea of becoming a Stephen Minister. You're wondering: Is this right for me? You may have even felt God's tap on your shoulder, but you still aren't sure. Following is some information that might help you as you prayerfully consider this important ministry.

"I'm not qualified to be a Stephen Minister." What qualifications are necessary to be a Stephen Minister? You need to be a caring person who is willing to learn, grow, and serve. You must be willing and able to maintain confidentiality. You need to make a commitment to training, ministry, and supervision (Small Group Peer Supervision). If you meet those qualifications, your Stephen Leaders will equip you with the rest of what you need: training, support, encouragement, care, and prayers.

"I don't know what to say or do in a ministry situation." Stephen Ministry training is thorough and practical. **Each Stephen Minister completes 50 plus hours of training before ever meeting with a care receiver.** The training includes listening, dealing with feelings, assertiveness, confidentiality, maintaining boundaries, how to begin and end caring relationships, and how to care for people who are grieving, dying, aging, divorcing, and experiencing many other life crises. The goal of training is to prepare Stephen Ministers for whatever they might encounter when working with care receivers. After being assigned to a care receiver, Stephen Ministers participate in continuing education and Supervision Group sessions. This is where they care for and support one another and sharpen their caregiving skills. Most Stephen Ministers have only one care receiver at a time. They typically meet once a week with their care receivers for about an hour at a time. They may also check in with their care receivers throughout the week by telephone or text, particularly when the care receiver is going through a difficult time.

Dedicated Service. A Stephen Minister serves wholeheartedly. This isn't a casual ministry. It involves prayer, thought, consideration, study, and commitment. You may be thinking, "I don't have enough time to be a Stephen Minister." There's a way in which that is true for everyone—time is a precious commodity. As a matter of fact, time is so precious that it only makes sense to use it on activities that make a real difference—in others' lives as well as in your own life. When you make the commitment to be a Stephen Minister, you will find the hours you need to devote to it. Stephen Ministry becomes a priority among the many activities you're involved in. The commitment is significant, but so is the contribution you will be making to serve God.

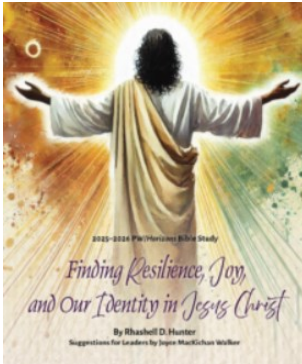
Accountability. A Stephen Minister is accountable to God, the congregation, the Stephen Leaders, the other Stephen Ministers, and the care receiver and in return, he or she receives support, encouragement, and guidance in Small Group Peer Supervision.

Continuous Learning. A Stephen Minister is open to adjusting and adapting his or her caregiving to fit the needs of the care receiver. He or she learns more about caregiving at each meeting with a care receiver and at each supervision session. Stephen Ministry is an experience of continuous learning, growth, and joy.

Applications to become a Stephen Minister will be accepted in November and December of this year. Applications will be available in the Narthex and the Church office. Please place the completed application in the Stephen Ministry box in the office or give it to one of our Stephen Leaders (Gene Barndt, Jeff Shriver or Kathy Massie). Each applicant will be interviewed during the month of January, and selections will be made by the end of January. If you would like to know more about this important ministry, please contact Gene (703-489-4306), Jeff (703-926-2045) or Kathy (703-608-5492). The Holy Spirit may be calling you to the joy, commitment, growth, training, service, and care of being a Stephen Minister. Pray for God's guidance as you consider this opportunity.



Presbyterian Women



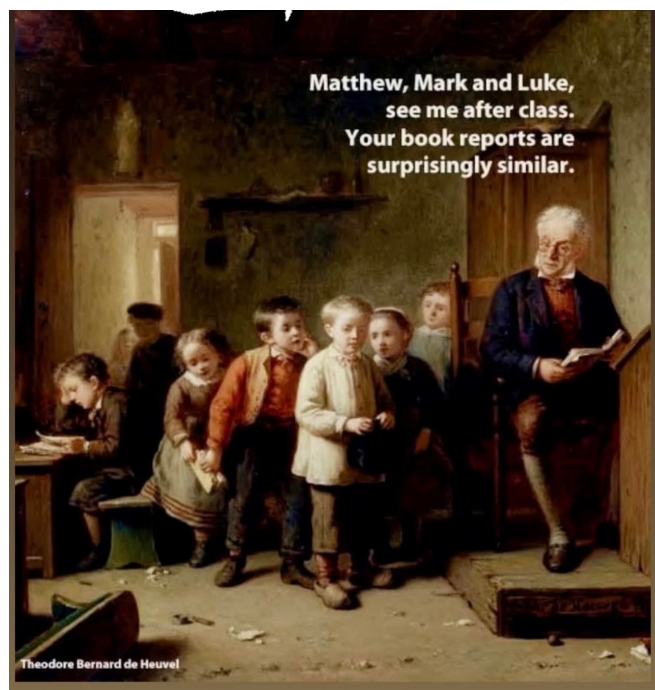
Bible study is the glue that holds Presbyterian Women together and the women of MPC are no exception. We have three Circles that gather “to nurture faith through prayer and Bible study,” which is part of the Purpose of Presbyterian Women across the world. The 2025-2026 Horizons Bible Study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by Rhashell D. Hunter with Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker is the study for all three Circles this year and all three Circles have completed the first lesson in this study. It’s not too late to participate. You are welcome to attend any of the Circles. Come and hear God’s Word for you!

For more information contact one of the Circle representatives: Martha Circle - Christy Tayler & Pam Shriver (Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 10AM); Alpha-Agape Circle - Lois Franco & Julie Mahoney (Meets the third Tuesday of each month at noon); or Covenant Renewal Circle - Rebecca Shell (Meets through Zoom, the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7PM).

MPC Book Group

Laura Kimberly

The MPC Book Group has been reading and meeting since the late 1990’s. We’ve read many, many books from almost every genre and we have held a variety of gatherings around books. After almost 30 years, the Group has decided that it is time to close as of September 30, 2025. Thank you for all your suggestions and support over the years! Continue to explore new worlds and seek out adventures—keep reading!!





Manassas Presbyterian Church Fall Clothing Drive

The Deacons and the Youth will be collecting clothes on Sunday, October 19th and 26th, for Serving Friends, Gainesville United Methodist Church, MPC's mission partner for helping our homeless neighbors in the church parking lot. Here is the list of needs for men and women, all sizes (no kids' sizes, please):

- ⇒ New or gently used T-shirts (short & long sleeves), jeans, leggings, hoodies, sweatshirts, athletic shorts or pants;
- ⇒ Sneakers, boots, or other sturdy shoes;
- ⇒ Backpacks, coats, and jackets;
- ⇒ New underwear and sports bras;
- ⇒ Blankets, sleeping bags, flashlights with batteries.

We will accept other donations, such as children's clothes, and ask that they be labeled accordingly.

The yellow bin located in the vestibule will be available for your donations on October 19th and 26th. The Deacons and the Youth will sort the donations on the 26th and will provide them to the Serving Friends clothing truck on Tuesday, October 28th, during the Neighbors picnic. Donations not needed by Serving Friends will be donated to the House of Mercy thrift store.

Deacons Blood Drive

Thank you for your support of MPC's Fall Blood Drive.

The September 28th Blood Drive was a success!

Your generous support of the blood drive hosted by our Board of Deacons resulted in a total of 39 units being collected. We surpassed our goal of 35 units. Thank you to all who signed up to donate, and to the several walk-in donors. Thank you to all who volunteered to help make the event possible. The deacons appreciate and thank the extra hands from the congregation and our families.

The deacons are already planning the spring blood drive. Watch for the save-the-date information. We are looking forward to another successful blood drive. With your continued support and dedication, we can help meet the need for blood to save the lives of others.



News from Weekend Food for Kids (WFFK) Mission Program

First, a huge THANK YOU to everyone who made the first packing go so smoothly! From the presetup team (renamed to Staging Team), the bag labelers, favor makers and organizers, to all who packed and delivered 800 bags of nonperishable food items for 160 students at three elementary schools. We've only just begun! We have two more packings left in 2025: November 2 for four weeks and **November 22** for 3 weeks. Look for more information in eBlasts and worship slides. Here are the packing dates for 2026:

Setup (Saturday) and Packing (Sunday) Dates for the 2025-2026 School Year

Setup: January 3	Packing: January 4 (4 weeks)
Setup: January 31	Packing: February 1 (4 weeks)
Setup: February 28	Packing: March 1 (4 weeks)
Setup: March 21	Packing: March 22 (4 weeks)
Setup: May 2	Packing: May 3 (4 weeks)
Setup: May 30	Packing: May 31 (2 weeks)

Other ways the congregation can support this program are by bringing boxes of Rice Krispie Bars (60 or 40 bars) and Fruit Gummies (40 or 90 packages) and placing them in the big yellow bin in the Narthex or you can give financially, noting "WFFK-Food" on your donation, either written or electronic.

We continue to be amazed by your support for this program. Thank you for sharing Christ's love!



Weekend Food for Kids (WFFK) Donations

Needed by October 16th for the 2025 November turkey topper snack bag favor:

- > 18 bags of 20 oz candy corn
- > 9 bags of 11 oz candy pumpkins

While Halloween supplies are out, we could also use the following for the 2026-2027 October favor:

- > An assortment of plastic bugs no bigger than two inches -- *for example a spider ring and/or glow in the dark bugs, etc.*

All donations would be greatly appreciated. Please place all donations in the large yellow WFFK bin in the vestibule.

Thank you!



**MPC will collect a
Special Offering for
Rise Against Hunger on
Sunday, October 12.**



To register for the
upcoming packing event
on November 9, scan
the QR code or speak
with a Mission Ministry
Team Member.



Scan me



Early Learning Center

Susan Ferguson



We have completed our first month of school and with that transition, the morning tears have been replaced with happy smiles! The kiss 'n ride is in full swing, music classes have started and students have adjusted well to the routine of school. The PTO has also had a great start having already hosted 3 Picnic and Play gatherings. They will be kicking off their annual fundraiser, and sponsoring a visit from a petting school to the school! It's been a fabulous start to the school year!



October will be a busy month involving Alpaca Day, school pictures, our first Chapel time with Pastor Rebekah, Back to School Night, a PTO Fall Fun Night, the Spooktacular Obstacle Course and Pumpkin parties! We will also continue to notice the change of seasons around us. We love fall and can't wait to jump in the leaves!

Want to help support the school even though you aren't here on the weekdays? We welcome donations to our chocolate ministry jar! This ministry supports the school staff by offering reward for a success or comfort after a hard day.



You can leave your contribution in the church office or drop it by the school office when we are open.



**CHURCH
CALENDAR**



To view the current MPC calendar, check the church website at mpc-va.org.

PRAYER
Requests

To submit a prayer request, please email it to prayers@mpc-va.org. To receive the prayer list, please email the church office at office@mpc-va.org



OCTOBER

- 1 Blair Christolon
- 2 Ashlie Veronie
- 3 Josie Van Wingerden
Kai Helgason
- 6 Rob Weaver
Kathy Massie
- 7 Gordon Grandjean
- 8 Constance Zigah
- 9 Sam Altman
Janice Hutt
Robin Miller
Leanna Papp
- 10 Jordon Calvanese
- 11 Carmen Calvanese
- 12 Mary Flournoy
- 13 Elaine Schultz
- 14 Isaac Appah
- 16 Keagan Loesch
- 17 Gretchen Day
- 18 Jonathan Rutz
- 19 Tori Franklin-Maddox
Dana Renninger
James Haddock
- 20 Adams Loesch
- 21 Brad Bradley
- 23 Linda Chichester
- 24 Alvin King
- 25 Tom Keith
- 26 Megan Baca
- 29 Jessica Haddock
- 30 Gene Franzese
- 31 Jon Saylor

(IF WE MISSED YOUR BIRTHDAY,
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE)



Christmas Tea

Ladies, it is time to save the date for the 34th annual women's Christmas tea that will be held Thursday, Dec 4 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy fellowship, food and entertainment by the Quinn Winds. As always we will need table hostesses to decorate a table for eight. Let your decorating talents flow. Sign up sheets will be posted on the women's bulletin board outside room 5 at the beginning of Nov. Any questions may be directed to Linda Nossett at linda_nossett@yahoo.com.

RISE AGAINST THE HUNGER SAVE THE DATE!



On **Sunday, November 9**, Rise Against Hunger (RAH) is back at MPC! The Mission Ministry team invites you to help at an in-person meal packing event to pack 10,000 meals.

It's not too early to start signing up because we need as many volunteers as possible. Please consider joining us to share our love across the globe using the MPC event registration site home page for [Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Events](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page to register).

Food insecurity is an unfortunate reality for many countries around the world. Learn how Rise Against Hunger activities are impacting world hunger by visiting their site at [Stories of Impact - Rise Against Hunger](#).

Direct questions to Paul Veronie or anyone on the Mission Ministry team.

OCTOBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes 12:30pm Retired Men's Lunch (ROMEOs) 5:00pm Portugal Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Jerusalem Choir Rehearsal 6:45pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal	2 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Team	3 Church Office Closed	4 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
5 World Communion Sunday 8:45am Adult Education Class 2025-2026 10:00am Worship with Communion 11:30am Portugal Full Rehearsal 6:30pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom	6 <i>Portugal Choir Trip</i> 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes	7 <i>Portugal Choir Trip</i> 10:00am Martha Circle 3:00pm Serving Friends 7:00pm Board of Deacons	8 <i>Portugal Choir Trip</i> 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes	9 <i>Portugal Choir Trip</i> 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Team 4:00pm Personnel Team Ministry Meeting	10 <i>Church Office Closed</i> Portugal Choir Trip	11 <i>Portugal Choir Trip</i> 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
12 <i>Portugal Choir Trip</i> Special Offering - Rise Against Hunger 8:45am Adult Education Class 2025-2026 10:00am Worship 11:15am Food Bank Donation Collection 6:30pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom	13 Indigenous Peoples Day <i>Portugal Choir Trip</i> 7:00pm Family Ministry Team ZOOM	14 <i>Portugal Choir Trip</i> 3:00pm Serving Friends 7:00pm Mission Team Meeting via Zoom	15 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes	16 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Team	17 Church Office Closed	18 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am Mulch Fest 2025
19 Stewardship Sunday 8:45am Adult Education Class 2025-2026 10:00am Worship 11:00am Presbyterian 101 6:30pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom Fall Clothing Drive Collection	20 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes	21 12:00pm Alpha-Agape Circle 3:00pm Serving Friends 6:00pm Session Meeting	22 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes 5:00pm Jerusalem Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal	23 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Team	24 Church Office Closed	25 7:00am Men's Fellowship Breakfast 9:30am Fall Festival
26 Reformation Sunday Reynosa Mission Trip Commissioning 8:45am Adult Education Class 2025-2026 10:00am Worship 11:00am Presbyterian 101 11:15am Food Bank Donation Collection 6:30pm Adult Bible Study via Zoom Fall Clothing Drive Collection	27 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes	28 1:00pm Staff Meeting 3:00pm Neighbor Picnic 3:00pm Serving Friends 7:00pm Covenant Renewal Circle	29 9:30am BEACON ELL Classes 5:00pm Jerusalem Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Joyous Ringers Rehearsal	30 10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Team	31 Church Office Closed Reformation Day	