

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

WELCOME! This historic church began worship on these grounds in 1732 and was organized in 1736. We are dedicated to “prayerfully equipping disciples of all generations to be Christ’s hands, heart and feet in the world.” We are strengthened today by your presence whether guest or member. Go forth, blest and renewed because you were here this day! To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- We encourage you to share requests for prayer. You may do so by completing the pink form found in the pew rack and placing it in the offering.
- Trust your children to the care of our dedicated, loving workers! The nursery rooms are located through the Gathering Area, down the Gallery and through the Dell Room. An usher will be happy to escort you. Our nursery ministry cares for infants and toddlers to age three.
- Worship Bags are available for children ages 3-kindergarten. These bags are located in a basket in the back of the Sanctuary. Children are welcome to pick one up as they arrive for worship each week. Please return the bags (and contents) to the basket as you leave worship.
- Parenting in the Pew notebooks are great tools for PARENTS to use while in worship. We value children and parents worshipping together. Parents are invited to pick up one of the 3-ring notebooks in the basket in the back of the Sanctuary and use the suggestions, tools, and ideas within it as you worship with your child. Please return the one and keep it as a resource for your family. Thank you.
- Look forward to taking part in a Sunday School class each week. Sunday School is held at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday. There are classes for all ages and interests.
- Restrooms and a coat rack are located off the Gathering Area, just outside the Sanctuary.
- A water fountain is located off the Gathering Area.
- Large-print hymnals and bulletins are available from an usher.
- Personal hearing assistance devices are available from an usher if you would like to use one.
- Transportation can be provided to worship. Call the church office, 662-1843, before 12:30 p.m. on Friday.

Opequon Presbyterian Church

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

office@opequonchurch.com

540-662-1843

www.opequonchurch.org

WIFI: Network ID: opc-guest Password: 25dec!!!

David R. Witt	Pastor
Kevin W. Hay	Associate Pastor
Carole Witt	Director of Christian Education
Catherine Richard	Office Administrator
Susan Homan	Director of Music
William Heavner	Organist
Robert Sydnor	Sexton
Laurie Carver	Nursery Supervisor
Patty Klinefelter	Faith Community Nurse
Nancy McGaughey	Missionary to South Sudan
Stephen & Brenda Stelle	Missionary to Ethiopia

SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 13, 2015

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

The Third Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE *Prelude on "Truro"*

Please use this time to prepare for the worship of God.

Please complete the Friendship folder and pass it along during the greeting.

PRAYER REQUEST forms are inside the pew racks—please place in offering plate.

†All who are able, please stand.

Bold print—all respond

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

GATHERING SONG NO. 88 (v. 1)..... *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES..... Confirmation Students

GATHERING SONG NO. 88 (v. 7) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear the twofold call of Advent:

Rejoice, your God draws near. Repent, that your sins be pardoned.

Your heart is washed in the waters of forgiveness, and your joy is complete.

Let us praise God who prepares us for Christmas.

†HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 93..... *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

(Please be seated for prayer)

CALL TO CONFESSION

As John the Baptist called the people to repent, as Jesus calls us now, we turn to the one who is both judge and savior, trusting that repentance opens the door to new life, and that peace beyond all measure has been promised to us. Let us confess our sins.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Lord is near.

In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace

with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world.

Moments of Silent Confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us, you are forgiven. The Lord has taken away the judgments against you. Do not worry. Live in peace.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

†THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 654 *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

†PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those near you.)

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM *O Come to Us, Emmanuel*

O come to us, Emmanuel, deliver us we pray. Lord, come to us, abide with us, restore our joy today. Lord, come walk beside us, come lead, teach and guide us. Shine in our shadows and show us the way. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us and ransom Israel. O come to us, Emmanuel, and make us one in love. By your strong hand, Lord, heal our land with grace from above. Bring peace for our sorrows, hope for tomorrow. Shine in our shadows and bring a new day. O Come, O come, Emmanuel.

READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20 Pew Bible p. 767

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 3:7-18..... Pew Bible p. 834

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN "He Brings Us Joy"

Nursery (Ages Infant - Age 3)

†HYMN NO. 96 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

SERMON..... "Rejoicing and Repenting"

Pastor David R. Witt

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *How Great Our Joy*

OFFERTORY CAROL NO. 143 (v. 4)..... *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

**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!**

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "A Brief Statement of Faith" (Sections 4 & 5)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Hymnal p. 35, we say "debts" and "debtors" in the prayer)

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

†HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 134..... *Joy to the World*

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 384 (v. 1)..... *Soon and Very Soon*

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King. (Sing 3x)

Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!

†POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS
December 13-20, 2015

TODAY

8:30 a.m.: Morning Worship
9:45 a.m.: Sunday School for All Ages
11:00 a.m.: Morning Worship
4:30 p.m.: Presbyterian Youth Connection Christmas Dinner &
"White Elephant Exchange"—Fellowship Hall
6:30 p.m.: Open Door Worship—Memorial Sanctuary

THIS WEEK

Monday: "Jesus in the Gospels"—2:30 p.m.—Bageant Room
Men of Opequon Annual Christmas party—6:00 p.m.—
Home of Bill Bayliss, 111 N. Washington St., Winchester
PS 150 Rehearsal—7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary
Tuesday: Session Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Bageant Room
Wednesday: Newsletter Deadline
Staff Meeting—9:30 a.m.—Bageant Room
Winchester Newcomers—10:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall
Lunch Bunch—12:00 Noon—TVOR
LOGOS—Theme: "Hurry to the Manger"—4:30 p.m.
Christmas Caroling—4:30 p.m.—Gathering Area
Sanctuary Choir Practice—7:00 p.m.
Thursday: Cub & Boy Scout Christmas Dinner—7:00 p.m.—Fellowship Hall
Saturday: Men's Lectio Divina—8:00 a.m.—Bageant Room

NEXT SUNDAY—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Morning Worship—8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages—9:45 a.m.
Advent Theme: "Do Not Be Afraid"
Sanctuary Choir Cantata: "Bethlehem's Child"
LOGOS Youth Worship (11:00), Christmas Joy Offering
Christmas Cookie Reception after Each Service
Motel Ministry—12:30 p.m.
"Blue Christmas—Longest Night" Service—2:00 p.m.—Memorial Service
College Student Christmas Gathering—7:00 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Denise Weidele
George Tubbs
Betty Lee Foulk
Amy Bloom
Clay Knick
Caleb Dotson
Rita Gelman Family
Jack & Sandi Pulizzi
San Bernardino Shooting
Don Wilson
George & Mary Bremer
Ken & Edwina Johansen
Scott Weimer
Joanna Mace
Jeff West
Ricky Roberts
Mike Dorsey Family

Roy Bayliss
Brenda Carbaugh
Art Joliffe
Larry Correll
Carolyn Newman
Terrorist Attack Victims
Lance & Cindy Weeks
Shannon DeHaven
William Ritenour
Suzi White
Nancy Lloyd
John deButts
Doug Pittsnogle
Betty Ganoë
Dorothy Rogers
Colleen McMurdo
Jackie & John Boyd

Jane Lewis
Gretchen Cooley
Paula Tobin
Natalie Miller
Frank Vardeman
Ronny DeHaven
Dottie Edwards
Larry Matthews
Lou Ann Thompson
Doug Koch
Michael Keister
Illubabor Bethel Synod of
Church Mekane Yesus
People Looking for Work &
Challenged by the Economy

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

Taylor McMurdo, Greg Sousa, Scott Sydnor, Jerry Morgan and their families.

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

8:30 a.m.

Acolyte: Andy Gray
Beadle: Bill Burslem
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler
Greeters: Rebekah & Marc DesMarais
Hospitality: Dom Cafaro, Edwina Johansen
Liturgist: Mike Butler
Ushers: Andy Gray, Pat Heavner, Dick Widell, Jim Youngblood

11:00 a.m.

Acolyte: Kat Kibler
Beadle: Bill Robinson
Bell Ringers: Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper, AnnMarie & James Kelly
Greeters: The Newhouse Family
Hospitality: Nancy & Richard Lloyd
Liturgist: Kevin Reed
Nametags: Dulcie Reed
Ushers: Breanna Daggett, Tim Gaul, Jason Hathaway,
Kyle Homan, Kat Kibler, Bill Robinson

OPEN DOOR WORSHIP

**Tonight—6:30 p.m.—Memorial Sanctuary
Special Christmas Music
Communion, Sharing Joys & Concerns
Teaching by Pastor Kevin**

ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH:

8:30 a.m.—117

Sunday School—66

11:00 a.m.—141

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS/CHILDREN'S PRAYER BOOKS

Our "Opequon-authored" Advent Devotional booklet, "Do Not Be Afraid," and a Children's Advent Prayer Booklet **are** available for you today. These books are on display in the Gathering Area and Dell Room. Please take a copy for your use during this Advent season, enjoying the daily readings/prayers as you take a few moments to slow down, catch your breath, and focus your mind on the upcoming birth of Jesus.

CARD MAKING WORKSHOP TODAY

Children, preschool-5th grade, are invited to the CARD MAKING workshop this morning at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They will be guided by very talented leaders! They get to make a card for their own use and one that will be given to one of our shut-ins during our Christmas Caroling Night. You will be surprised by their beautiful creations! Let the children come on down and be creative this morning.

COOKIES NEEDED FOR CHURCH COFFEE

Fellowship Ministry is asking for donations of cookies for the coffee scheduled on Sunday, December 20, after 8:30 & 11:00 worship. Please have your donations on plates ready to serve. Thank you.

MUFFINS FOR WATTS BREAKFAST

Want to help with WATTS but your time is limited? Two dozen muffins are still needed for New Year's Day breakfast. Please respond for details to Sandy Vess at 662-3727 or vess.stephen@gmail.com by 21 December. Thank you!

ANNUAL MEN OF OPEQUON CHRISTMAS GATHERING

MOO's December gathering will be at the home of Bill Bayliss (111 North Washington Street, Winchester) tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. There will be yummy holiday treats made by Pam Bayliss, devotions, and the always popular "Thieves' Christmas" gift exchange (a \$10 or less gift). You won't want to miss this holiday tradition and all the fun it holds!

Everyone is Invited!
Christmas Caroling
This Wednesday—4:30 p.m.
Meet in the Gathering Area
Carol with Children—Orchard Ridge & Spring Arbor
Carol with Youth—Homebound Members
Chili Dinner Follows in the Fellowship Hall

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are now available in the hallway leading to the back parking lot. If you want to use envelopes and don't see a box with your name on it, please contact Cathy in the church office. Please don't be concerned if you have a different number than last year. Some numbers have been reassigned.

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

If you have not submitted and dedicated your stewardship commitment for 2016, please complete a green pledge card and place it in the offering today. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

You will notice some windows along the back hallway have been decorated for the season. Our youth Sunday morning classes have been designing and creating "Stained Glass Windows" for the season. Enjoy them as you walk in the back hallway.

WATTS "UP SHOP"

Our guests are sometimes in need of the following items: socks or sweats, (new or gently used), feminine products, toiletries: bar soap, disposable razors, shaving cream, after shave, toothpaste and toothbrushes, combs,

hairbrushes, deodorant and shampoo. Items left at the end of the week will be donated to C-CAP. Place all items in the bin marked WATTS “UP Shop” located in the Gathering Area. Thank for your generous support.

A GENTLE REMINDER

Many of you are filling a Christmas Jar with coins and watching it fill up. That is VERY exciting. **PLEASE keep your jar until Christmas Eve and bring it to 5:00 or 7:30 p.m. worship.** During worship you will learn of the surprising culmination of this project. If you have a jar but will not be able to attend a Christmas Eve service, **please keep your jar** and you will hear of the project conclusion after Christmas EVE and will be able to participate fully as well. Please do not bring full jars before Christmas Eve. Thank you.

MAP IN GATHERING AREA

Have you happened to notice the large map on the wall beside the elevator in the Gathering Area? Just as we are a multi-generational congregation, we also come from a wide geographic area surrounding our church home. Some travel from West Virginia and others as far as Middleburg to worship and serve here! For some folks, Opequon has been their church home for all their years dating back as far as the 1930’s! The Holy Spirit has led others here over the decades as you may have read in the booklet, “The Holy Spirit at Work.” Evangelism gathered many personal stories of journeys that led to Opequon and compiled this booklet in celebration of Pentecost in 2013! You can find a copy in the Gathering Area kiosk. We are inviting you to locate your home on this map. A color-coded sticker will correspond to the decade you and your family joined this special Body of Christ at Opequon! God is good all the time! All the time God is good!

BLUE CHRISTMAS—LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

To acknowledge your recent loss...to remember a loved one...to offer support in this holiday season...you are invited to our annual “Blue Christmas—Longest Night Service,” a Service of Healing and Wholeness, next Sunday, December 20, at 2:00 p.m. in the Memorial Sanctuary. If you, a loved one or a friend has suffered a loss, please join us for this time of prayer, scripture reading, reflective music, and remembrance.

END OF YEAR TAX SAVINGS FOR GENEROUS PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Generous people can make a difference in the world and Opequon supports an active outreach program that makes a difference in people's lives.

"Giving people with grateful hearts" help to reach people who need God's help. Are you a "giving" person? There is not much time left to make charitable donations qualifying for an end of year tax deduction. Is your pledge up to date? Did you get a Christmas bonus from your employer and wish to make a special donation to Opequon? Did you have a wonderful year, and now realize that when we give, others are blessed and God is glorified? God blesses us financially when we give generously (2 Corinthians 9:6). The white envelopes in the pew racks are for donations to the General Fund. Simply write General Fund on the envelope and insert your check. Checks can always be left during the week in the Treasurer's mail box outside of the church office, and all donations received by the end of 2015 will be credited to your account, thus qualifying for the charitable deduction on your income taxes.

PYC News

PYC Christmas Dinner & "White Elephant" Exchange Tonight—4:30-6:30 p.m.

Come share a delicious Christmas Dinner while exchanging Christmas gifts and making Christmas cards for our Motel Ministry.

Motel Ministry Next Sunday, December 20th, 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. NO PYC – Sunday, December 27th

Youth Cooking Dinner for WATTS Tuesday, December 29th—4:00-6:00 p.m.

College Christmas Gathering

Brewbaker's on the Loudoun Street Mall—7:00-9:00 p.m.

Join fellow Opequon College Students home for the holidays
for Dinner and Fellowship!

Parents of College Students: If you have contact info for your college student,
please pass along to Kevin. Email, cell phone, mailing address.

associate@opequonchurch.org

20s & 30s

Young Adults Sport & Social - Kickball

Wednesday Nights (most games 8:00 p.m. or 9:00 p.m.)

Starting January 6th - March 16th

Sign up online now - by Sunday, December 27th!

Talk to Kevin for details on how to sign up.

20's & 30's WATTS Dinner Team

Wednesday, December 30th, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Young Adults Cook & Serve

Our Young Adults will work together to cook and serve our guests.
Please let Kevin know if you plan to be there as we need an accurate
headcount. associate@opequonchurch.org