

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



A Light to the Nations

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!

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

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.
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Opequon Presbyterian Church

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

www.opequonchurch.com

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
Nancy McGaughey	Missionary to South Sudan
Stephen and Brenda Stelle	Missionary to Ethiopia

SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

January 3, 2016
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Epiphany Sunday

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE *I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In*

Please use this time to prepare your inward spirit for the worship of God.
Please complete the Friendship Folder and pass it along during the greeting.
PRAYER REQUEST forms are inside the pew holders – please place in offering plate.
†All who are able, please stand. **Bold print—all respond.**

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS
GREETINGS AND WELCOME

† ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

† GATHERING SONG NO. 137 *He Came Down*

† CALL TO WORSHIP

The Word became flesh and lived among us

And we have seen his glory.

The true light that enlightens everyone has come into the world.

Glory to God who has blessed us in Christ. Glory to God forever.

† HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 143 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

(Please be seated for prayer)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in God's love made known in the gift of Jesus, let us confess our sins.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mystery, we confess our human desire to know, to get things tied down in our minds. We probe and wonder, dissect and describe the natural world, only to find ourselves engaged finally with the "supernatural" and faced with mystery. So, when we tell the story of Jesus, we begin in the manger, for to consider the mystery of his prior existence is beyond us. We forget that we are creatures and you the Creator, that we would have no life apart from the word you spoke to bring us into being. As we look into

this new year, we are aware of the press of fears and anxieties that reveal our lack of faith in him who holds this year and all years, who holds us in his faithful hands. Wash us from all doubt and darkness, we pray, and establish us in the light that enlightens all who turn from their sin, seeking grace.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Through Christ, all things, whether on earth or in heaven, were reconciled to God. Jesus, who ruled from the first over the powers of evil, ruled over the powers of sin and death in this world, and on his cross assured us of our victory in him. We are forgiven. We are eternally free.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

† THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 147 (vv. 1, 6) *The First Nowell*

† PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those next to you)

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

“And also with you.”

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

ANTHEM *Were You There on That Christmas Night?*

The Sanctuary Choir

Were you there on that Christmas night, when the world was filled with a holy light? Were you there to behold when the wonder foretold came to earth? Did you see how they hailed him with the gifts so rare that they chose to bring? Did you see how they bowed as they praised him aloud at his birth? Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the sight? Did you hear how the bells of heaven rang all through the night? Did you know it was God's own Son, the salvation of the world begun? Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth? Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the earth? Were you there?

THE READING OF GOD’S WORD:

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 31:7-14 Pew Bible p. 641

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 1:1-14 Pew Bible p. 862

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN..... “Life and Light”

Nursery (Ages Infant – Age 3)

†HYMN NO. 145 *What Child Is This*

SERMON..... “Eye to Eye”
Pastor David R. Witt

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Unto Us a Child is Born*.....Bach

†CAROL NO. 150.....*As with Gladness Men of Old*

†PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord’s Prayer

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

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread & Cup

Communion Music

Communion Prayer

WE GO OUT IN GOD’S NAME

†HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 140*Once in Royal David’s City*

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 136 (Refrain)

..... *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

†POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 3-10, 2016

TODAY

- 8:30 a.m.: Morning Worship, Communion, CCAP
9:45 a.m.: Sunday School For All Ages
11:00 a.m.: Morning Worship, Communion, CCAP
7:00 p.m.: Hosting WATTS

THIS WEEK

- Monday: WATTS Clean-Up—7:00 a.m.
Older Adult Ministry Team—9:30 a.m.—Bageant Room
Jesus in the Gospels—2:00 p.m.—Bageant Room
PS 150 Rehearsal—7:00 p.m.—Memorial Sanctuary
- Tuesday: Ministry Team Night/50th Birthday Party for Anne Hack
—6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday: Staff Meeting—9:30 a.m.—Bageant Room
Staff Appreciation Luncheon—11:30 a.m.
LOGOS—4:30 p.m.—Theme: “Black Light Night”
Choir Practice—7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary
- Thursday: Cub Scout Pack 1—7:00 p.m.
Boy Scout Troop 1—7:00 p.m.—Assembly Room
- Friday-
- Saturday: Confirmation Retreat
- Saturday: Officers’ Training/Session Meeting—9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
—Bageant Room

NEXT SUNDAY—Baptism of the Lord Sunday

- Morning Worship—8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages—9:45 a.m.
Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Ordination, Installation, Commissioning of New Ruling Elders,
Deacons, Trustee
PYC Community Dinner 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Open Door Worship—6:30 p.m.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bob & Denise Weidele
George Bremer
Victoria Alexander
Justin Lloyd
Chris Bearup Family
Dan Cammer
Dan Phillips Family
Emily & Jaxon Vensköske
Dom Cafaro
George Tubbs
Betty Lee Foulk
Amy Bloom
Clay Knick
Caleb Dotson
San Bernardino Shooting
Don Wilson

Ken Johansen
Scott Weimer
Joanna Mace
Jeff West
Ricky Roberts
Roy Bayliss
Brenda Carbaugh
Art Joliffe
Larry Correll
Carolyn Newman
Terrorist Attack Victims
Lance & Cindy Weeks
John deButts
Doug Pittsnogle
Betty Ganoe
Dorothy Rogers

Colleen McMurdo
Jackie & John Boyd
Jane Lewis
Gretchen Cooley
Paula Tobin
Natalie Miller
Frank Vardeman
Ronny DeHaven
Dottie Edwards
Larry Matthews
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.

COMMUNION TODAY

The bread and wine/juice are passed in the pews, and the congregation holds the elements until everyone has been served, partaking together. The wine is dark red; the grape juice is white. Gluten-free bread is available; please see an usher for assistance. Those serving communion today at 8:30 are: Graham Taylor, Barbara Agreggaard, Dick Widell, Mary Elson, Bill Burslem, Vicki & Mike Crites. Those serving communion today at 11:00 are: Frances Pitcock, David Meyer, Allison Blake, Bill & Pam Bayliss, Kyle Homan, and Robin Owens.

ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH: 10:00 a.m.—120

ATTENDANCE CHRISTMAS EVE:

5:00 p.m.—162

7:30 p.m.—227

11:00 p.m.—52

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

Meets tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Bageant Room. Goodies and coffee will be provided along with great fellowship as we continue plans for programs and trips in 2016. This meeting is open to any older adults.

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

8:30

Acolyte: Sydney Burton
Beadle: Dick Crane
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler
Greeters: Paula & Mac McNichols
Hospitality: Vicky Astorino, Heide Mohler
Liturgist: Johanna Abell
Ushers: Adelyn Astorino, Cheyenne & Sydney Burton,
Vicki Crites, Dulcie Reed, Graham Taylor

11:00 a.m.

Acolyte: Kristin Blake
Beadle: Dom Cafaro
Bell Ringer: Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper, AnnMarie & James Kelly
Greeters: The Kelly Family
Hospitality: Nadine DeHaven & Annemarie Matthews
Liturgist: Liza Homan
Nametags: Pat deButts
Ushers: Kristin Blake, Jim Butler, Annemarie Matthews,
Travis Morgan

LOGOS THIS WEDNESDAY

LOGOS will be back in session this Wednesday, 4:30-7:30 p.m.! The theme is "Black Light Night" with some great effects in store. Please try to wear ALL BLACK so our dinner time activity will have the greatest impact. It will be great to be back together!

NEW YEAR'S & EPIPHANY MORNING

Children preschool-7th grade will enjoy a morning of celebration with a New Year's and Epiphany theme **today at 9:45 a.m. in the Memorial Sanctuary**. Come do some mazes, ring some bells, help make a giant bulletin board, and see our special visitors! There is a lot in store for you!

TY HEADLEY TREE OF WARMTH

\$4,845 has been collected to date for a total of **969** blankets. Thank you for your generosity!

YOU IS SMART, YOU IS KIND, THIS IS IMPORTANT!

You are SMART people and you are a KIND congregation. Even with all our 'smartness', there are still things yet to be learned: that is why it is IMPORTANT to realize that learning is ageless and great opportunities are right here at your fingertips for you to learn about living a life of Discipleship. Each Sunday morning there are enriching adult classes, engaging youth classes, and fascinating WORM lessons and experiences for children- all designed to boost and nudge us on our life journey of faithfulness. Get started this year with a step in the right direction- be a part of a Sunday morning class, come as a family and allow your children to enjoy WORM and your youth to enjoy their class experiences. Next Sunday, 9:45 a.m., a new study will begin in the Bageant Room titled "The Call" and the WORM WORKSHOP for children and younger youth will focus on New Year's/Epiphany activities. The Faith in Families class will study a booklet from the Being Reformed series called "Islam and Christianity" and the Hands-Heart-Feet class will be looking at future mission projects. These are IMPORTANT opportunities for all ages. You are invited!

THE CHRISTMAS JAR SURPRISE

So what is the Christmas Jar Surprise? The surprise was shared on Christmas Eve; however, it is too good to keep from anyone who was not able to be present then. The whole idea was to fill a jar with coins over days, weeks, and months prior to Christmas; and then at Christmas, to GIVE the FULL jar ANONYMOUSLY to someone who NEEDS it—possibly someone who has had difficult times, financial challenges, lost a job or a loved one, or someone who is struggling in any way. There are stories of people leaving the Christmas Jar on someone's door step, on someone's desk at work, or by someone's car. It is COMPLETELY up to the GIVER-YOU! Notes of encouragement attached to the jar have provided great joy as the receivers discover the anonymous gift left for them. SO, the decision is up to each person/family that filled a JAR- YOU get to decide who you want to give your Christmas Jar to and how you will do so. With almost 70 jars having been taken and filled, just think of how wide these acts of love and generosity will reach as the jars are given away this season! If the temperatures outside don't give you chills, thinking of this will! Check out www.christmasjars.com for true and inspiring stories of Christmas jar givers and recipients. This may be a new Christmas tradition for you!

“THESE DAYS” DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

The January-March 2016 issue of THESE DAYS daily devotional is available in the Gathering Area. Some of the featured devotion topics in this issue are “Holy Land Moments,” “Subtle Surprises,” “Teach us to Pray,” and “Root and Fruit.” Pick up a copy while the supply lasts.

APPLE BLOSSOM PRAYER BRUNCH

The Older Adult Ministry Team is organizing a group outing to the Apple Blossom Prayer Brunch on April 29, 2016, 9:00 a.m. We are reserving three tables for our group to attend this fabulous event. There are a few spots still available. The sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area kiosk or you may speak to Carole Witt about getting on the list. Tickets are \$25 per person. Payment is due by the end of this month.

20s & 30s

Young Adults Sport & Social - Kickball
Wednesday Nights, January 6th - March 16th
(most games 8:00 p.m. or 9:00 p.m.)

PYC News

NO PYC TODAY

Sunday, January 10th - Community Dinner 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 17th - NO PYC

Monday, January 18th - MLK Day of Service - Stop Hunger Now @
Shenandoah University

12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Drop-off and pickup at Opequon
Come join us in an event to help stop hunger by packing meals to be
sent to hungry people all over the world!

Upcoming PYC Trips/Retreats

Ski/Snow Tube Trip – Saturday, January 30th, please sign up by Sunday,
January 17th w/ \$25 deposit (details in Youth Emails)

High School Youth Retreat @ Massanetta – Friday, February 5th-Sunday,
February 7th, please sign up by Sunday, January 17th, join Opequon Youth
and other nearby Presbyterians for a Presbytery retreat at Massanetta full of
worship, singing, keynote, fellowship, and recreation.