

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

November 29, 2015

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

The First Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

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 (v. 1)..... *Prepare the Royal Highway*
CCLI #1622560

**Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE .. Lisa & Bill Frye (8:30), The McCarty Family (11:00)

GATHERING SONG (v. 2)..... *Prepare the Royal Highway*
**He brings God's rule, O people; he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!**

†CALL TO WORSHIP

In the eternal moment that is now, God pours out salvation upon us.

Jesus Christ has come! Jesus Christ is coming!

We raise up our heads and our hearts in faithful hope and expectation,
for our Savior is drawing near.

Jesus Christ has come! Jesus Christ is coming!

†HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 82..... *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*
(Please be seated for prayer)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be weighed down by the sins and worries of this life, but watch and pray for the grace of God, who will save you in your time of trial." With confidence in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace. Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us your paths, for you are the God of our salvation.

Moments of Silent Confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God came in Jesus to redeem the world, to proclaim God's kingdom, to draw all things back into order and harmony. By our confession, we open ourselves to the wonder of the fullness of God's unfolding life within us.

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 *We Wait for Thee*

Dark is the night and empty the sky as the ground lies still and cold. We pause in solemn anticipation as we wait for the promise of old. Come, thou Prince of Peace; come, great Lord of lords; come, and set Your people free. Come, Desire of the nations, come with joy and hope we wait for Thee. Revive our hearts and renew our minds, come, and bring us peace to endure. Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Emanuel, God with us!

READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 25:1-10Pew Bible p. 436

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 21:25-36Pew Bible p. 856

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN..... "Who Is Coming?"

Nursery (Ages Infant – Age 3)

†HYMN NO. 357 *The Days Are Surely Coming*

SERMON..... "Drawing Near"

Pastor David R. Witt

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

†THE DOXOLOGY (Hymnal No. 606) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from the Confession of Belhar)

We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ. We believe that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We believe that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker. We believe that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(When the Leader says, "In your mercy," the congregation responds, "Lord, save us")

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. 104..... *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

†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

November 29-December 6, 2015

TODAY

8:30 a.m.: Morning Worship, Habitat for Humanity “Paint Can Offering”
9:45 a.m.: Sunday School for All Ages
11:00 a.m.: Morning Worship, Habitat for Humanity “Paint Can Offering”
12:30 p.m.: PYC Motel Ministry—Fellowship Hall (Lunch Provided)

THIS WEEK

Monday: “Jesus in the Gospels”—2:30 p.m.—Bageant Room
PS 150 Rehearsal—7:00 p.m.—Sanctuary
WATTS Board Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Bageant Room
Tuesday: Open Door Leadership—1:00 p.m.—David’s Office
Spring Mission Event Team—5:00 p.m.—Bageant Room
Ministry Team Night—6:00 p.m.—Fellowship Hall
Wednesday: Staff Meeting—9:30 a.m.—Bageant Room
LOGOS—Theme: “Duct the Halls”—4:30 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir Practice—7:30 p.m.
20s & 30s All Pass Football—8:00 p.m.
Thursday: Adult Trip to National Christmas Center—8:15 a.m.
Cub Scout Pack 1—7:00 p.m.
Boy Scout Troop 1—7:00 p.m.—Assembly Room
Friday: Midnight Gladness—6:00 p.m.
Saturday: Men’s Lectio Divina—8:00 a.m.—Bageant Room
Women’s Lectio Divina—8:00 a.m.—Assembly Room
7th Annual Christmas Breakfast—9:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall
Decorating the Sanctuaries—10:00 a.m.

NEXT SUNDAY—Second Sunday of Advent

Morning Worship—8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages—9:45 a.m.
Called Congregational Meeting—10:50 a.m.—Sanctuary
Advent Theme: “Do Not Be Afraid”
Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6
Sermon: “Prepare the Way of the Lord”
CCAP Offering, Communion
Youth Council—12:30 p.m.
Officer Training—2:00-4:00 p.m.—Bageant Room

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Paul Turner
Mike Dorsey Family
Roy Bayliss
Brenda Carbaugh,
Art Joliffe
Mark Paxton
Mike Dorsey & Family
Daniel McTiernan Family
Cody Monday
Larry Correll
Carolyn Newman
Terrorist Attack Victims
Kyle Pape Family
Lance & Cindy Weeks
Shannon DeHaven

William Ritenour
Suzi White
Martha Gay Joyner
Jermaine Frye
Betty Lee Foulk
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
George Tubbs
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.

ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd:

8:30 a.m.—77

Sunday School—65

11:00 a.m.—145

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

8:30 a.m.

Beadle: Heide Mohler
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler
Greeters: Cathy Plumb, Hazel Spriggs
Hospitality: Debbie & Bill Bender
Liturgist: Terry Hartman
Ushers: Dom Cafaro, Bob Gaines, Dave Yost

11:00 a.m.

Beadle: Bill Robinson
Bell Ringers: Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper, AnnMarie & James Kelly
Greeters: Matt & Kristi Cooper & Sons
Hospitality: Betty Ganoë, Mary Himelright
Liturgist: Lance Astorino
Nametags: Nancy Rodgers
Ushers: Vern Gamble, Evelyn McCarty, Nick Sardelis,
Jamie Symons

GAMES WORKSHOP TODAY

Children preschool-5th grade are invited to the GAMES workshop this morning at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They will love this active time playing “God Says/Jonah Does,” “Second Chance Tag” and “Toss Jonah into the Whale”! What a fun-filled time it will be!

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS/CHILDREN PRAYER BOOKLETS

Our “Opequon-authored” Advent Devotional, “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.

MOTEL MINISTRY SUPPLIES NEEDED

Our PYC have adopted reaching out to those in need in local motels on the 4th Sunday each month and we are seeking your help gathering supplies that cannot be purchased with food stamps. Please place any items in the bin outside the sanctuary. A few new needs have arisen for new and expectant mothers: **diapers** and **baby wipes**. Other needs: **paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent** (pods are easy to separate), **toiletries, peanut butter, jelly, and cat food**.

MANY THANKS TO OUR CONFIRMATION CLASS

Many thanks to our Confirmation Class for packing the weekend food bags for Orchard View Elementary School. The bags will be delivered this week to go home with Orchard View students on Friday.

ADULT TRIP TO NATIONAL CHRISTMAS CENTER

Those adults who have reserved a spot on the trip to the National Christmas Center are asked to be at church by 8:15 a.m. this Thursday, December 3. We will leave at 8:30 a.m. Remember to bring money for lunch at Miller’s Smorgasbord. (Lunch options vary from \$8.00 to \$24.) Travel fun, goody bags, and a special door prize will be awarded.

MUFFINS FOR WATTS BREAKFAST

Want to help with WATTS but your time is limited? Needed: your favorite muffins. Please respond for details to Sandy Vess at 662-3727 or vess.stephen@gmail.com by 21 December. Thank you!

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.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

We are just one week away from the annual Christmas Breakfast, a well-loved and heartwarming time for all ages. The Christmas Breakfast is Saturday, December 5, 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The theme is "To Jesus' Birthplace We Go." Breakfast menu includes ham, scrambled eggs, biscuits, hash brown casserole, fruit, cereal, juice and coffee. You will enjoy a "freeze frame drama presentation," singing of carols (along with new words to a familiar tune for our theme song) and the making of your own manger craft. You are invited to bring new hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves the morning of the breakfast. These items will be hung on the tree and then later sent to Zacchaeus' Kitchen in DC for the winter. Everyone is invited to this festive event.

CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session of Opequon Presbyterian Church calls for a meeting of the congregation next Sunday, December 6 at 10:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to hear the report of the Officer Nominating Committee as they nominate Stella Strickler to serve as a deacon in the Class of 2017. Please be present to exercise your right and responsibility as an active member of Opequon.

OPC WATTS WEEK

Hold the dates: December 28, 2015 to January 4, 2016. The blue volunteer sign-up sheets are available in the Gathering Area & Dell Room. Contact: **Graham Taylor**, 540-247-4663, gtaylorgofishing@gmail.com or **Heather Burton**, 540-771-0121 or mcpitch5@hotmail.com.

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

Motel Ministry

TODAY, 12:30-3:00 p.m. Lunch Provided

Midnight Gladness!!!

Friday, December 4th, 6:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

Join us as we have a night of fun and service while sharing the Christmas spirit with families in need.

Youth Council Meeting

Next Sunday, December 6th, 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch Provided

20s & 30s

Young Adults Sport & Social - Pass Only Football

Wednesday Nights

Come out and cheer us on!

December 2nd 8:00 p.m., December 9th 8:00 p.m.

YOUNG ADULT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday, December 12th, 6:30-9:30 p.m. @Escutcheon

Childcare Provided – drop off kids at Church. **\$10/person** to cover food and childcare expenses. We will be asking everyone to **RSVP by Sunday, December 6th** and provide information for childcare so we can plan accordingly, look out for details on how to RSVP.