

# Opequon Presbyterian Church

## 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 the back of the Sanctuary. Please return the bag and supplies to the basket when you are leaving.
- **Look forward to taking part in a Sunday School class each week.** Sunday School is held at 9:45 am 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, Bibles 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 before 12:00 pm on Friday.

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217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843 [www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org) WIFI: Network ID: opc-guest Password: 25dec!!!

David R. Witt----- Pastor  
Tracie Martin----- Parish Associate  
Laurie Carver ----- Nursery Supervisor  
William Heavner ----- Organist  
Susan Homan ----- Director of Music  
Patty Klinefelter ----- Faith Community Nurse  
Catherine Richard ----- Office Administrator  
Robert Sydnor-----Sexton  
Carole Witt ----- Director of Christian Education  
Rebekah Witt ----- Youth & Young Adult Director



**SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD**

December 10, 2017

8:30 and 11:00 am

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

PRELUDE ..... *Let There Be Peace On Earth*

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS FOR MISSION ..... “Refugee Resettlement”  
Elder Bill Burslem

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

GATHERING SONG (Worship Order p. 5) ..... *Candles of Advent*

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Lance & Julie Pearce (8:30), Patrick & Emily Baker & Hailey Godlove (11:00)

On this Advent journey, we are mindful of the brokenness of the world that surrounds us.

**We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

As we look around us, we see the hostility that exists between neighbor and nation.

**We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

As we look beside us, we see fractured relationships and unforgiving hearts.

**We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

As we look within ourselves, we confess the reconciling words we have yet to speak and restoring deeds we have yet to do.

**We long for the peace that surpasses all understanding.**

†HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 106 ..... *Prepare the Way, O Zion*  
(Please be seated for prayer)

## CALL TO CONFESSION

God does not want anyone to perish, but rather for all to come to repentance. Therefore, let us confess our sins, for God's salvation is at hand.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You call us to repent, but we turn away from you. You wait patiently for us, but we fail to watch and wait for you. Forgive us, God of grace. Embrace us with tender mercy so that we may be at one with you when all your glory is revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

## MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Brothers and sisters, by the mercy of Christ, your sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

## LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel  
**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

† THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 96 (vv. 1, 2)

..... *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry*

† 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 ..... *Hope Will Come*

Hope will come, to a world in need. Through the eyes of a child, God's people will see. Hope will come, have faith and believe. Open your heart now; make room for the hope Christ will bring. Peace will come, in the midst of strife, to a stable so bare; one still, silent night. Peace will come. God's truth will shine bright. Open your heart now; God's peace will bring us new life. Peace will come to the nations. Hope will ring through the night. For those who walk in darkness will see a great light, and love will reign, love will reign, love will reign, in the day of Jesus Christ.

## THE READING OF GOD'S WORD:

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11 ..... Pew Bible p. 581

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 1:1-8 ..... Pew Bible p. 812

ANTHEM (11:00)..... *Prepare a Way*  
LOGOS Worship K-5, Youth Chimes  
A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN..... "Under Construction"  
Nursery (Ages Infant - Age 3)  
†HYMN NO. 87 ..... *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*  
SERMON..... "Holding on to Hope!"  
Pastor David R. Witt

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS  
OFFERTORY ..... *Setting on "Veni Emmanuel"*  
†THE DOXOLOGY (Hymnal No. 606) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION  
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00)  
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. 123..... *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*  
†CHARGE AND BLESSING  
†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 384 (v. 1) ..... *Soon and Very Soon*  
**Soon and very soon we are going to see the King. (x3)**  
**Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!**  
†POSTLUDE

**TODAY WE WELCOME INTO THE MEMBERSHIP OF OPEQUON CHURCH**  
**Carol Horne** by Certificate of Transfer from Sherando Presbyterian Church,  
Stephens City  
**Phil Hunter** by Certificate of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Winchester  
Please greet them in the Gathering Area following worship.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
December 10-17, 2017

**TODAY**

- 8:30 am: Morning Worship, Fair Trade Coffee  
9:45 am: Faith Formation Educational Hour  
11:00 am: Morning Worship, New Members, LOGOS Worship K-5 &  
Youth Chimes, Fair Trade Coffee  
2:00 pm: “Blue Christmas—Longest Night Service”  
– Memorial Sanctuary  
5:00 pm: Presbyterian Youth Connection Christmas Party  
–Fellowship Hall

**THIS WEEK**

- Monday: Christian Believer—3:00 pm—Bageant Room  
Men of Opequon Christmas Party—6:00 pm  
–Woolen Mills Grill
- Tuesday: Tuesday Morning Mission—9:30 am—Bageant Room  
LOGOS Leadership Team—1:30 pm—David’s Office  
GLOW—7:00 pm—Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday: Happy Days—12:00 Noon—Fellowship Hall  
LOGOS—4:30 pm—Theme: “Knock Your Socks Off Night”  
Choir Practice—7:30 pm—Sanctuary
- Thursday: Read ‘em & Reap—7:00 pm—Home of the Tandys  
Scout Troop 1—7:00 pm—Assembly Room
- Saturday: PYC Wreath Laying—6:00 am—Arlington Cemetery  
Lectio Divina—8:00 am—Bageant Room

**NEXT SUNDAY—Third Sunday of Advent**

- Morning Worship—8:30 & 11:00 am  
Faith Formation Educational Hour —9:45 am  
Sanctuary Choir Cantata: “Sing Joy to All the World”  
Fellowship Reception after Each Worship Service

**ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>:**

8:30—96                      G.I.F.T.—98                      11:00—121

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jay Journell  
David Kerr  
Lori Jones  
Larissa Strosnider  
Megan McCord  
Will & Katie Baker  
Al Owens  
Betty Bly  
Charles Nicholson  
Tom O'Connor  
Joe Simmons  
Bill Adams  
Carol Tubbs

Kes Tariku & Family  
Jim Butler  
Stephen Armstrong  
Bruce Medcalf  
Gretchen Cooley  
Susan Lee  
Heidi McMurdo  
Jennifer O'Ferrell  
Art Sperry  
Annette Tutlon  
Steve Guthrie  
Mark Wilhelm  
James Searcy

Casey Carr  
Donna & Terry Coffman  
Gordy Lindow  
Frances Pitcock  
Dottie Edwards  
Gary Strickler  
Stephanie Fitch  
Phyllis Dilley  
Jane Lewis  
Larry Matthews  
Doug Koch  
Illubabor Bethel Synod of  
Church Mekane Yesus

## PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

Taylor McMurdo, Samuel Phillips, Brandon Michael, Jared Snawder, Greg Sousa, Michael White, and their families.

## SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

8:30

Acolyte: Natalie Youngblood  
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler  
Hospitality: Betty Chicklo, June Malone  
Liturgist: Mike Butler  
Ushers: Dulcie Reed, Jack, Jim & Natalie Youngblood

11:00

Acolyte: Hannah Burton  
Bell Ringer: Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper, AnnMarie Kelly  
Hospitality: Martha Fulton, Betty Ganoe  
Liturgist: Kevin Reed  
Live Stream: Bud Proctor  
Nametags: Dulcie Reed  
Ushers: Jenna Arnoldy, Hannah Burton, Jason Hathaway,  
Kyle Homan, Reagan Newhouse, Bill Robinson

## ADVENT IS A BIG DEAL! COME TO G.I.F.T. DURING ADVENT

We are making a BIG DEAL about Advent and we want YOU to be a part of it! As Advent continues today, you are invited to the G.I.F.T. event each Sunday morning at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. "GIFT" means 'generations in faith together'. It is a time when all ages come together for the educational hour- it is great to experience the wisdom and wonder of all ages and stages. Warm biscuits with butter and jelly are being served today! Come enjoy some

extraordinary Advent moments! G.I.F.T. is for ALL of US; let's treasure being united and coming together to share Advent in a special way.

### **MEN OF OPEQUON**

The Men of Opequon's (MOO) December gathering will be at the Woolen Mills Grill restaurant on Rt. 11 at Clear Brook tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. A room for our party has been reserved just for us (we can be a bit noisy, you know!) We will enjoy seasonal devotions and the always popular "Thieves' Christmas Gift Exchange" (a \$10 or less gift). All men are invited. You won't want to miss this holiday tradition and all the fun it holds!

### **PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION GRADES 6-12**

- **Tonight-Christmas Dinner Potluck, 5:00-7:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall Everyone loves to eat, right? Bring your favorite dish to share with the other youth. The meat and drinks will be provided. Enjoy the Christmas season surrounded by your church friends while also participating in prayer stations!
- **December 16-Christmas Wreath Laying at Arlington Cemetery, 6:00 am-2:00 pm.** Saturday we will head out to Arlington National Cemetery to participate in the Wreath Laying. We will honor and remember those who have lost their lives while defending America. Contact Rebekah Witt by December 13 if you want to attend this event so we can have a headcount of people going. Please bring money to buy your own lunch, and dress warmly.

### **BLUE CHRISTMAS 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 today at 2:00 pm in the Memorial Sanctuary. Please join us for this time of prayer, scripture reading, reflective music, and remembrance.

### **GLOW MEETS TUESDAY NIGHT**

Opequon's women's group, God-loving Opequon Women, will meet on Tuesday night, 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKING FEST! Help knead the dough, roll it out, cut out cookies, bake and then decorate them. The cookies will be packaged for goody bags going to our shut-ins and to Motel Ministry. Enjoy songs of the season and the smell of fresh baked cookies as we do a kind deed to spread Christmas cheer. If you have a rolling pin, Christmas cookie cutters, and cookie sheets, bring

them along to help our BAKING FEST. We are also asked to bring a new winter hat/and or pair of gloves (unwrapped) that will be given as small gifts through our Motel Ministry.

## **HAPPY DAYS DECEMBER EVENT**

The Older Adult Fellowship group, known as Happy Days, will be gathering at noon on Wednesday for an annual Christmas celebration. Bring a favorite meal item for the covered dish lunch; then join in the fun of Silent Monks, singing Christmas carols, and taking part in voting for the ugliest sweater, the best-looking snowman, and the prettiest tree. We will enjoy a seasonal devotion and have some holy hilarity with Christmas candy! A tremendous time awaits you!

## **YOUNG ADULT (AGES 18-35) NEWS:**

- **December 24**-After the morning Christmas Eve worship service ends, we will join the youth as they head down the road for Motel Ministry. Meet in the Dell Room at 11:15 am so we can load up the van with small gifts, toiletries, paper products, and some food for those who live in local motels.
- **January 1**-WATTS needs your help! Join the kitchen team on this evening from 7:00-9:00 pm as they set tables, serve dinner, and clean up. Let Rebekah Witt know if you can be here at [wittrc@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:wittrc@dukes.jmu.edu) or 540-686-0752.

## **"TY HEADLEY TREE OF WARMTH"**

### **ANNUAL BLANKET DRIVE**

**\$5 per blanket, Envelopes Now Available in Pew Racks**

**Please see the display in the Gathering Area for Gift Cards**

## **MOTEL MINISTRY ANGEL TREE ITEMS NEEDED**

In December, Motel Ministry falls on Christmas Eve. The youth invite you to join us at 11:15 am, after morning worship ends, when we visit those who live in local motels. We will serve soup and provide them with a small gift to unwrap. If you can't join us that day, then please stop by the Angel Tree in the Gathering Area to pick up a tag with listed items that are needed. Donations are due by Sunday, December 17. Questions? Let Rebekah Witt know. Thank you!



## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the community garden. We have raised \$1,825 of our \$2,000 goal so far! We will continue to raise money until Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. You can donate directly by visiting our crowdfunding page: <https://donate.seedmoney.org/1318/opc-community-garden>. For more information or to donate by check reach out to one of our garden leaders: Robin Owens - [robinowensopcsession@gmail.com](mailto:robinowensopcsession@gmail.com) or Dana Kelly - [davedana@comcast.net](mailto:davedana@comcast.net)

## **ADVENT ITEMS FOR YOU**

A great gift for us during Advent is our annual ADVENT DEVOTIONAL. The title of this year's devotional is "EXPECTATIONS," with pages full of writings by our own Opequon people that you can ponder, cherish, and immerse yourself into! Over the past 12+years, members and friends of Opequon have written stories, poems, and thoughts that were compiled into an Advent Devotional booklet each year. In the 2017 Advent Devotional you will find a sampling of precious entries from this span of years. Advent Devotionals are in the Gathering Area and Dell Room. It is worth the trip to the church to pick up a copy!

Children are invited to pick up the ANGELS We Have Heard on High sticker booklet and backdrop sheet just for their use during Advent. Simple instructions for setting up the backdrop sheet are on the reverse side. Let's get ready for the birth of our Savior! HAPPY ADVENT! Booklets and backdrop sheets are in the Gathering Area and Dell Room.

## **COOKIES ARE NEEDED FOR CHURCH COFFEE**

The congregation is invited to share their wonderful homemade cookies following the Choir's Christmas Cantata on December 17 after both worship services. Please sign up on the chart in the Gathering Area to bring cookies, plated and ready to serve, for our Christmas coffee.

## **WATTS WEEK IS COMING—December 30-January 6, 2018**

New or lightly used clothing items are needed in **medium & large sizes**:

Sweatpants, Sweatshirts	Long Underwear	Socks
Tee Shirts, Briefs, Boxers	Men's Depends	Hoodies, Sweaters
Coats	Gloves	Feminine Products
	Women's Depends	

Snack items that fit in a lunch bag or back pack are needed:

Energy Bars	Fruit Bars	Peanut Butter or Cheese Crackers
Soft Candy	Chips	

Donations can be placed in the buckets marked WATTS located in the Gathering Area.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING IS FOR EVERYONE!**

Our LOGOS and Congregational Care ministries are teaming up again to lead the way, and they invite you to join them on Wednesday, December 20 when we will be caroling to shut-ins from our church family. After caroling, EVERYONE will reunite and gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Soup and Sandwich dinner prepared by our LOGOS kitchen crew. Everyone is invited to come along as we share the familiar sounds of the Christmas season and give the gift of joy and fellowship. Please gather with us at 4:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

## **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

You are invited to share Christmas joy in the community as we sing at the Alamo and the Greene Turtle on Saturday, December 23. Meet in the Alamo lobby at 11:00 am.

## **2018 FLOWER CHART**

The flower chart for next year is now available on the CCAP table just outside the Sanctuary doors. Sign up to provide flowers to enhance worship on a special Sunday in honor or memory of a loved one.

## **2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Offering envelopes are now available in the hallway leading to the parking lot in the rear of the building. If you want to use envelopes and don't see a box with your name on it, please contact Cathy Richard at 540-662-1843 or [office@opequonchurch.org](mailto:office@opequonchurch.org). Don't be concerned if you have a different number than last year as a few numbers have been reassigned. If you are interested in giving electronically through your financial institution's bill pay system, please let Cathy know so she can issue you a different number.

## **THIS ADVENT...FAITH<sub>5</sub>**



**SHARE** highs and lows

**READ** Matthew 1:22-25

**TALK** about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows

**PRAY** for one another's highs and lows

**BLESS** one another

Every night in every home.

## WORSHIP NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

### Notes on Today's Music

How did today's music express the hope-filled watching and waiting of the Advent season?

### Notes on Today's Prayers

### Notes on Today's Children's Conversation

How am I preparing the way of the Lord?

### Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

What are the broken places of my life and world where hope is needed?

How will I remain steadfast in hope?

What is the beginning of God's good News in my life?

How will it change the way I approach this season of expectation and hope?

What did I learn from our study of Isaiah 40 and Mark 1 that I will apply to my life?