

# 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 17, 2017

8:30 and 11:00 am

## Third Sunday of Advent

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE *How Great Our Joy*..... German Echo Carol

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”  
Rebekah Witt

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

GATHERING SONG ..... *Candles of Advent*

**Advent candles warm and bright, fill the world with radiant light.**

**Help us find the Promised One; guide us to the child who will come.**

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Marc, Rebekah, & Ainsley DesMarais, Audrey & Camden Saunders (8:30)

Clay, Peggy, Paige, Jordan, Payton, & Jaxon Hughes (11:00)

In a world where we often seek personal happiness, Advent calls us to a deeper expression of our faith and joy in Christ.

**For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.**

Advent calls us to remember God’s unconditional love, even when we stumble.

**For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.**

Advent calls us to remember God’s invitation to the human heart to be still in the face of strife.

**For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.**

Advent calls us to remember we always have hope, even when it seems as if our world is caving in around us.

**For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.**

†HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 88 (vv. 1, 6, 7) ..... *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

(Please be seated for prayer)

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Old habits and new wrongs wear ruts through our lives and relationships. But God is able to restore us. Like water coursing through a desert, the waters of baptism flow through us, reminding us that we belong to God and are raised to new life.

### UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. You offer us a place in your house, yet we find no room for you in our lives. You invite us into your eternal kingdom, yet we fail to welcome others. You give us your unconditional love in Christ, yet we neglect to share and practice the “good news of great joy for all people.” Forgive us, God of grace. Let your word of life be with us so that we may truly believe that nothing is impossible with you.**

### MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In Jesus Christ, the Lord has done great things for us! Even if we have gone out in tears, God brings us home shouting for joy.

### LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

† THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 113 (Refrain)

..... *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

† 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

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN ..... “Discovering Joy”

Nursery (Ages Infant - Age 3)

† HYMN NO. 119 ..... *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

***Sing Joy to All the World!***

A Christmas Celebration

Music by Lloyd Larson

Narration by Kylee Larson

Susan Homan, Director

Garrett Jones, Accompanist

Dave Richards, Narrator

***Tidings of Comfort and Joy!***

***A Light Shall Shine***

Jessica Eaton, Soloist

***Prepare the Way!***

***David's Royal City***

***Glory in the Highest!***

***Joy of Every Longing Heart***

***Worship Christ, the Newborn King***

***Sing Joy to All the World!***

**THE SANCTUARY CHOIR**

Basses

Bill Bayliss

Bill Martin

Mac McNichols

Matt Norman

Jack Treece

Sopranos

Lauren Armstrong

Robin Eddy

Robyn Ervin

Rebecca Coryell

Annette Daggett

JoEllen Delamatta

Jan Donovan

Jessica Eaton

Mary Elson

Heidi McMurdo

Warren Sardelis

Denise Weidele

Jennie Wright

Melissa Youngblood

Tenors

Dan Cammer

Bill Heavner

David Witt

Altos

Johanna Abell

Beth Barr

Jen Curtis

Peggy Hess

Lori Jones

Tracie Martin

Paula McNichols

Harriet Smith

Carol Treece

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Gloria in Excelsis* ..... Vivaldi

†HYMN NO.143 (v. 4) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**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!**

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ..... Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9/19 & 9.27

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God’s promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.**

**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. (x3)**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re going to see the King!**

†POSTLUDE

**SERVANTS IN MINISTRY**

**8:30**

- Acolyte: Jack Youngblood
- Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler
- Hospitality: Bill & Debbie Bender
- Liturgist: Mike Butler
- Ushers: Terry Hartman, Heide Mohler, Jack Youngblood

**11:00**

- Acolyte: Alex Sardelis
- Bell Ringer: Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper, AnnMarie Kelly
- Hospitality: Debi Hodgson & Annemarie Matthews
- Liturgist: Kevin Reed
- Live Stream: Lance Astorino
- Nametags: Martha Fulton
- Ushers: Jason Brown, Elise Buonocore, Andy Homan, Lauren Moses, Alex Sardelis, Joel Witt

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 17-24, 2017

## TODAY

- 8:30 am: Morning Worship, Sanctuary Choir Cantata, Reception  
9:45 am: Faith Formation Educational Hour  
11:00 am: Morning Worship, Sanctuary Choir Cantata, Reception  
Children's Choir Practice  
3:00 pm: Memorial Service for Dottie Edwards

## THIS WEEK

- Monday: Christian Believer—3:00 pm—Bageant Room  
Visioning Team—7:00 pm—Bageant Room  
Tuesday: Session Meeting—7:00 pm—Bageant Room  
Wednesday: Staff Breakfast & Meeting—9:00 am—Bageant Room  
Winchester Newcomers—10:00 am—Fellowship Hall  
LOGOS—4:30 pm—Theme: "Caroling & Christmas  
Cookie Night"  
Christmas Caroling—4:30 pm—Gathering Area  
Choir Practice—7:00 pm—Sanctuary  
Thursday: Scout Troop 1—7:00 pm—Assembly Room  
Saturday: Community Christmas Caroling—11:00 am  
—Alamo Drafthouse

## THE ROSE IN THE SANCTUARY

The rosebud announces the birth of Jace Clayton Hartman, son of Tiffanie & Josh Hartman. He is the grandson of Terry & Clayton Hartman, and great-grandson of Barbara & Carroll Youngblood. May God bless and nurture Jace and his family.



## "Ty Headley Tree of Warmth"

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Blanket Drive

\$5 per blanket

**\$2,145** has been collected to date for **429** blankets

Tomorrow is the deadline for inclusion in the blanket booklet.

However, donations will be accepted, through

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Ward Edwards & Family  
Robert Walker  
Zane Hawkins  
Lauren Armstrong  
Paul Guevremont  
Don Crane  
Clay Curbow Family  
Landen Warren Family  
Jace, Tiffanie & Josh Hartman  
Debbie Cabrera  
Peace for Middle East,  
Palestine & Jerusalem  
Madelyn Estep  
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  
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.

## COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLING

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

## TODAY AFTER 11:00 WORSHIP

All children K-5 who are interested in singing at the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service will meet today! Join Susan Homan at the piano right after worship.

## ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>:

8:30–81

Faith Formation–51

11:00–122

## 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 this 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. Donut holes are this mornings' treat! We will be completing some greeting card invitations and try our skill with a PINATA - full of items for everyone. Come enjoy some extraordinary Advent moments! Let's treasure being united to share Advent in a special way.

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

- **December 24-Motel Ministry at 11:15 am**  
Celebrate Christmas Eve by visiting the local motels with us after morning worship. We will go share our joy with those in our community once again! This month we will give a small gift to those we meet so that they have something to unwrap around the holidays. We will have our usual paper products, toiletries, and then serve soup!
- **December 31-Happy New Year's!** No youth event. Enjoy a night with your family and friends!

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

- Motel Ministry is on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of every month and the Youth would love for you to join them in this community outreach after church. Consider donating needed items, serving soup, and building relationships with one another. December 24 (Christmas Eve) is the next opportunity at 11:15 am after morning worship!
- January 7-College-Age Christmas Sweater Party, 4:00-5:00pm  
Come catch up with other college-age people from Opequon who are home for Winter Break! Wear your best Christmas sweater and try to win a prize. Dessert and drinks will be provided. Stay from 5:00-6:00 pm to be part of the College-Age Panel for our High School Youth. A FREE dinner will be served at 6:00 pm.

## **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 TODAY. Questions? Let Rebekah Witt know. Thank you!

## **ADVENT ITEMS FOR YOU**

- This year's devotional is "EXPECTATIONS" with pages full of writings by our own Opequon people. It is WORDS WORTH READING. Advent Devotionals are in the Gathering Area and Dell Room. Take a copy today!
- Children are invited to pick up the ANGELS We Jave Heard on High sticker booklet and backdrop sheet for their use during Advent. Fill the sky with ANGELS (provided in the booklet) and as you hear about all the heavenly messages God sent. Booklets and backdrop sheets are in the Gathering area and Dell Room.



## **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 this 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 meet at 4:30 pm in the Gathering Area.

## **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** Luke 1:26-38

**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.

In Remembrance

**DOTTIE BAKER EDWARDS**

**DECEMBER 25, 1943-DECEMBER 7, 2017**

*"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "Those who believe in me shall live, even though they die, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."*

John 11:25-26

## WORSHIP NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

### Notes on Today's Music

How does today's music express the joy of waiting for and welcoming the Christ?

### Notes on Today's Prayers

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

Where do I discover joy and practice it?

### Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

What is the difference between a "temporary thrill ride" and lasting joy?

What do we do with the "good news of great joy"?



## **CHRISTMAS WEEK SERVICES**

**Sunday, December 24—10:00 am**

Annual Service of Lessons & Carols

Final Four Cents a Meal Offering of the Year

Christmas Joy Offering

No Faith Formation Educational Hour

## **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**

Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20

**5:00 p.m. Family Service—Sanctuary**

Music by Children's Choir

Special Children's Conversation: "The Baby Is Coming!"

**7:30 p.m. Traditional Service—Sanctuary**

Music by Sanctuary Choir

Sermon: "Mend Our Hearts"

Communion

**11:00 p.m. Late Night Service—Memorial Sanctuary**

Contemporary Music by PS 150 & Garrett Jones

Sermon: "Down to Earth"

Communion

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICES—Sunday, December 31—8:30 & 11:00  
a.m.**

Isaiah 52:7-10, Luke 2:22-40

Sermon: "The Extraordinary from the Ordinary"

Covenant Renewal Service