

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.

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843 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 24, 2017

10:00 am

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE *O, Come All Ye Faithful*

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

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

GATHERING SONG (Worship Order p. 5) *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

Missy, Chris, Brooke, and Lauren Moses

Love is more than a flicker within the human heart.

Lord, reveal your love, and make us new.

In a hurried world with little time for others. Advent calls us to remember that...

Love is patient.

In a world where often we become consumed by our own interests, Advent calls us to remember that...

Love is kind.

In a world where often we are quick to anger and slow to forgive, Advent calls us to remember that...

Love is not easily angered, and through love we come to forgive.

This Advent, let us behold the love of God embodied in our Savior's birth.

God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in them.

†HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 110 *Love Has Come*

(Please be seated for prayer)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, the grace of Christ educates us so that we can live sensible, ethical, and godly lives. On this eve of his birth, we confess that we struggle to receive him still.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory's light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world: how oppression still enslaves; how garments of war are still stained with blood; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety. We also see what is wrong in us: how passionately we pursue the things of this world, but forget to ponder the mystery of faith; how we do not practice the peace you intend in our relationships, our community, or even in the church. Forgive us, we pray, and help us not to be afraid. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. In the Savior's name we pray.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Good news! Great joy! In Jesus Christ the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Glory to God in heaven, and on earth, peace.

LITANY OF PARDON

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

† THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 113..... *Angels We Have Heard on High*

† 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 “The Star”

Nursery (Ages Infant - Age 3)

† HYMN NO. 135 *There's a Star in the East*

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18 Pew Bible p. 16
God promises to faithful Abraham that by his offspring, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

Carol No. 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Second Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Pew Bible p. 555
Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Carol No. 105 (vv. 1, 5) *People Look East*

Third Lesson: Micah 5:2-4 Pew Bible p. 753
The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem.

Carol No. 121 (vv. 1 & 3) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Fourth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38 Pew Bible p. 831
The angel Gabriel visits the blessed Virgin Mary.

Anthem *Somebody Build a Manger*

Fifth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25 Pew Bible p. 783
St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Carol No. 114 (vv. 1, 2) *Away in a Manger*

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:8-14 Pew Bible p. 833
The angels share good news of great joy.

Anthem *Gloria in Excelsis*

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:15-20 Pew Bible p. 833
The shepherds go to the manger.

Duet *All Is Well*
Jennie Wright & David Witt

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 Pew Bible p. 783
The Wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Carol No. 147 (vv. 1, 3, 5) *The First Nowell*

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14 Pew Bible p. 862
St. John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.

Carol No. 119 (vv. 1, 2) *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Love Came Down at Christmas*

†HYMN 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

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

†CAROL NO. 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

†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

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office is closed this Monday and Tuesday. It will reopen on Wednesday, December 27th at 8:30 am. Merry Christmas!

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

Acolyte:	Cameron Ritter
Beadle:	Leslie Tucker
Bell Ringer:	Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper, AnnMarie Kelly
Greeters:	Jodi, Bill & Wyatt Deck
Hospitality:	Brenda Hawkins, Graham Taylor
Liturgist:	Mike Butler, Kevin Reed
Live Stream:	Lance Astorino
Nametags:	Kail Barbe
Ushers:	Adelyn & Aubrey Astorino, Bill Hopeck, Rob Gaines, Cameron & Carson Ritter, Sherry Schryver

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 24-31, 2017

TODAY

- 10:00 am: Morning Worship, Service of Lessons & Carols,
Four Cents a Meal, Christmas Joy Offering
- 5:00 pm: Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
- 7:30 pm: Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
(Communion)
- 11:00 pm: Late Night Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
(Communion)—Memorial Sanctuary

THIS WEEK

- Monday &
Tuesday: Church Office Closed
- Thursday: WATTS Moving Day—9:00 am
- Friday: Choir Party—6:30 pm McNichols' House
- Saturday: WATTS Begins—7:00 pm—Fellowship Hall

NEXT SUNDAY—NEW YEAR'S EVE

8:30 & 11:00 am Morning Worship

No Faith Formation Hour This Week

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

Sermon: "The Extraordinary from the Ordinary"

Covenant Renewal Service, Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering



"Ty Headley Tree of Warmth"

11th Annual Blanket Drive

\$5 per blanket

\$4,000 has been collected to date for **800** blankets

Donations will be accepted, through Sunday, December 31st.

ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH:

8:30—129

Faith Formation—46

11:00—188

VACATION THIS WEEK

Pastor David Witt will be on vacation through the 30th. If a pastoral need should arise, please call Tracie Martin, Parish Associate at 304-856-2080. Carole Witt will be out of the office on the 27th and returns on Thursday, December 28.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Cody Barr
Jennie Spriggs
Chris Grant
Jim Tucker
The Lango Family
Ward Edwards & Family
Robert Walker
Zane Hawkins
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
Larissa Strosnider
Megan McCord
Will & Katie Baker
Al Owens
Betty Bly
Charles Nicholson
Stephen Armstrong
Bruce Medcalf
Gretchen Cooley
Susan Lee

Heidi McMurdo
Jennifer O'Ferrell
Art Sperry
Mark Wilhelm
Casey Carr
Donna & Terry Coffman
Frances Pitcock
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.

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION GRADES 6-12

- TODAY-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 they have something 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!

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.

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 18-35) NEWS:

- January 7-College-Age Christmas Sweater Party, 4:00-5:00 pm
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. Let Rebekah Witt know if you'll be joining in any part of that evening at 540-686-0752 or wittrc@dukes.jmu.edu.
- January 14-Salam Neighbor Showing-meet in the Youth Spot after the second worship service from 12:30-2:30 pm, popcorn and drinks will be

provided while we watch as two young adult Americans decide to see what it's like to live as Syrian refugees in the country of Jordan. Bring your own lunch if you would like food other than popcorn. Learn more about the refugee crisis through the eyes of people your own age as they immerse themselves in an unfamiliar culture!

INTER-GENERATIONAL CHOIR ALL AGES WELCOMED

On Sunday, December 31st at 11:00 am worship, let's sing "Shout to the North". We will meet in the memorial Sanctuary at 10:30 am to practice. No matter if you're age 7 or age 97, let's blend our voices and sing as one!

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. Meal Servers are still needed for WATTS Week. Please contact Graham Taylor at gtaylorgofishing@gmail.com if you can fill one of these spots:

1 dinner server	evening 31 st
2 breakfast servers	morning 31 st
1 breakfast server	morning 1 st
2 lunch servers	1 st
2 dinner servers	evening 2 nd
2 dinner servers	evening 4 th

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. 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.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

(highlighting a different part of worship each month)

Let's think about the Offertory Words and Prayer of Dedication

- The offertory words are those few sentences spoken right before the offering is taken up by the ushers. What is spoken at this time reflects that what we are doing during the offering is 'responding to God's tremendous goodness.' God has given us everything we have, and we are blessed to give something back.
- The offertory words may take the form of an INVITATION to us all to give something back to God.
- In giving our offering, we are saying thank you to God for all the gifts he has given us. We give money, but we also think of how we can give time, our talents, our support, our energy all to God. WE ARE GIVING OURSELVES.
- Following the collection of the offering, the ushers come forward and there is a Prayer of Dedication. During this time together, we pray God will help us to use these gifts to do God's work.
- The prayer of Dedication reflects that we are giving our best and want God to use it for his best.

ADVENT ITEMS FOR YOU

Advent Devotional items for adults and children are available in the Gathering Area. The adult devotional is titled "EXPECTATIONS" with pages full of writings by our own Opequon people. The children's devotional is "ANGELS We Have Heard on High" with a sticker booklet and backdrop sheet. Take copies home today!

THIS ADVENT...FAITH₅



SHARE highs and lows

READ Luke 2:1-20

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 does today's music express the expectations of Advent and the fulfillment of Christmas?

Notes on Today's Prayers

Notes on Today's Children's Conversation

What is the meaning of the Christmas star?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

How do the various lessons emphasize God's love?

How will I respond to what God has done for me and the world?

How will I receive and welcome God's Gift of Jesus this year?