

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 3, 2017

8:30 and 11:00 am

First Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE *Toccata and Variations on "Hyfrydol"* Arr. Young

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 "Ty Headley Tree of Warmth"
Susan Homan and Jennie Wright

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

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

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Greg, Johanna & Emma Abell (8:30), Bill, Jodi & Wyatt Deck (11:00)

We begin the season of Advent with expectant and believing hearts.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

During Advent we confront the darkness that so often exists around us.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

During Advent we confront the doubt that so often resides within us.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

During Advent we confront the division that so often occurs between us.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

†HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

(Please be seated for prayer)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up;

faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done. Yet

God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of

life.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you. We study the trends of our times and ignore the signs of your reign. We trust in things that pass away and forget your eternal promise. Forgive us, God of grace. Strengthen us, by your hand, so that we may be ready for that day when you come to reign in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again. Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord!

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

† THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 104 (vv. 1, 3)

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

† 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 *Bring Us Hope*

Ruth Elaine Schram

Bring us hope, bring us love; bring us peace from above. Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above. Bring us hope, bring us hope. Bring us light, take our darkness away. Bring us light, turn our night into day. Bring us hope, bring us love, peace and joy from above. Bring us hope, bring us hope. Hope to replace our hopelessness, love to refill our emptiness, our emptiness, peace in the midst of our distress; oh, how we need Your joy! Bring us hope, bring us hope, bring us hope!

THE READING OF GOD’S WORD:

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 64:1-9 Pew Bible p. 606

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 13:24-37 Pew Bible p. 826

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN “Please Fix It”

Nursery (Ages Infant - Age 3)

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

SERMON..... "Expectations!"
Pastor David R. Witt

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *My Lord, What a Morning*

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

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (8:30)

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 *Meditation on Three Celtic Tunes*

#800 *Salley Gardens*, #797 *Ye Banks and Braes*, #692 *Wild Mountain Thyme*

Closing Prayer

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

†HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 97 *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*
(Tune-St. George's Windsor, No. 367)

†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


CANDLES OF ADVENT

Words by DON BESIG
and NANCY PRICE (ASCAP)


Music by
DON BESIG (ASCAP)

CONGREGATION


(on cue)




Ad - vent can - dles warm and bright,



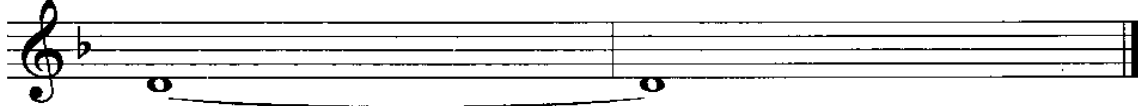
fill the world with ra - diant light.



Help us find the Prom - ised One;
*Help us greet the Prom - ised One;



guide us to the child who will
now the Son of God has



come.
come.

* optional words for lighting of the Christ candle

Copyright © 2001, Harold Flammer Music
A Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.
International Copyright Secured All Rights Reserved
SOLE SELLING AGENT: SHAWNEE PRESS, INC., DELAWARE WATER GAP, PA 18327

Reproduced by Permission of the Publisher

A 7525

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 3-10, 2017

TODAY

- 8:30 am: Morning Worship, Communion, CCAP Offering
- 9:45 am: G.I.F.T. Event—Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 am: Morning Worship, Communion, CCAP Offering
- 3:00 pm: Shenandoah Valley Chorus Christmas Concert—Sanctuary
- 4:00 pm: Young Adult Game Night—Fellowship Hall

THIS WEEK

- Monday: Older Adult Ministry Team—9:30 am—Bageant Room
Christian Believer—3:00 pm—Bageant Room
- Tuesday: “Grief & the Holidays”—11:00 am—Bageant Room
Technology & Communications—5:15 pm—Bageant Room
Ministry Team Night Dinner—6:00 pm—Fellowship Hall
Devotions—6:45 pm, Meetings—7:00 pm
- Wednesday: Adult Trip—7:15 am—Sight and Sound, Lancaster, PA
Staff Meeting—9:30 am—David’s Office
LOGOS—4:30 pm—Theme: “All I Want for Christmas”
Choir Practice—7:30 pm—Sanctuary
- Thursday: Pastors’ Meet & Eat—12:00 Noon—Roma
Paint Night—7:00 pm—Greene Turtle
Scout Troop 1—7:00 pm—Assembly Room

NEXT SUNDAY—Second Sunday of Advent

- Morning Worship—8:30 & 11:00 am
- Faith Formation Educational Hour—9:45 am
- Isaiah 40:1-11, Mark 1:1-8
- Sermon: “Holding On to Hope!”
- New Members (11:00), LOGOS Worship Groups (11:00)
- “Blue Christmas—Longest Night Service”—2:00 pm—Memorial Sanctuary
- Presbyterian Youth Connection Christmas Party—5:00 pm—Fellowship Hall

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Lori Jones
Larissa Strosnider
Megan McCord
Mike Butler
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
Mac McNichols
Jennifer O'Ferrell
Art Sperry
Annette Tutlon
Kerry Foster
Carolyn Rutherford
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: Ainsley DesMarais
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler
Hospitality: Brenda Hawkins, Heidi Mohler
Liturgist: Mike Butler
Ushers: John & Sarah Carter, Vicki Schmidt Crites,
Ainsley DesMarais, Dulcie Reed, Graham Taylor

11:00

Acolyte: Paige Clark
Bell Ringer: Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper, AnnMarie Kelly
Hospitality: Vicky Astorino, Jack Drumheller
Liturgist: Kevin Reed
Nametags: Pat deButts
Ushers: Jim Butler, Paige Clark, Wyatt Deck,
Annemarie Matthews, Chase Pierce, Graham Taylor

ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH:

8:30–75

Faith Formation–35

11:00–90

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: Marc Desmarais, Betty Dobler, George Schember, Mary Elson, Graham Taylor, Robin Owens and Jay Tibbs. Those serving communion today at 11:00 are: Lynn & Jerry Metheny, Allison Blake, Lance Astorino, Dorothy Walker, Nick Sardelis and Robin Eddy.

TODAY WE WELCOME INTO THE MEMBERSHIP OF OPEQUON CHURCH

Alyce Callahan by Certificate of Transfer from First United Presbyterian Church, Sault Ste Marie, Michigan

Barbara Jackson by Letter of Transfer from Round Hill United Methodist Church, Winchester

Suellen Knowles by Certificate of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Winchester

Lance Pearce by Letter of Transfer from Market Street United Methodist Church, Winchester

Julie Pearce by Letter of Transfer from Market Street United Methodist Church, Winchester

Naomi Thomas by Letter of Transfer from Kernstown United Methodist Church, Winchester

Please greet everyone in the Gathering Area following worship.

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 begins today, **you are invited to the G.I.F.T. events 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. Breakfast is being served today: **pancakes, eggs, bacon, fruit!** 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.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Shenandoah Valley Chorus will share an afternoon of Christmas favorites today at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Invite a friend to listen to some terrific barbershop style Christmas tunes.

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 18-35) NEWS:

- **TODAY-GAME NIGHT!** Meet in the church Fellowship Hall from 4:00-6:00 pm for some board game playing and help put together college care packages for people from Opequon who are away at school! Bring a snack to share and your favorite board game.
- **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 there at wittrc@dukes.jmu.edu or 540-686-0752.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

The Older Adult Ministry Team meets tomorrow morning at 9:30am in the Bageant Room for planning and discussion about future events, programs, and trips. Coffee and refreshments are provided along with a great dose of fellowship and humor. The meeting is open to any older adults who would like to join in the conversation.

GRIEF AND THE HOLIDAYS

A "Grief and the Holiday" session will be held this Tuesday, December 5, at 11:00 am in the Bageant Room. Please contact Patty Klinefelter at 869-6080 or pklinefe@gmail.com to register.

ADULT CHRISTMAS TRIP TO SIGHT-N-SOUND

The time has come for our awaited trip to see "Miracle of Christmas" at the Sight-n-Sound Theater! Those who have signed up for a seat on this trip are asked to be at church **by 7:15 am** this Wednesday. You are in for a great day. Travel game, goody bags, door prizes, a delightful show, and a scrumptious lunch will make it all complete.

MEN OF OPEQUON

MOO is trying something new and different for Christmas this year! The Men of Opequon's (MOO) December gathering will be at the Woolen Mills Grill restaurant on Rt. 11 at Clear Brook on Monday, December 11 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! **We will need a headcount to let them know. Please RSVP to Pastor Witt at pastor@opequonchurch.org or let him know in person by this Wednesday, December 6. Let's fill up the room!**

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 on Sunday, December 10, 2:00 pm in the Memorial Sanctuary. Please join us for this time of prayer, scripture reading, reflective music, and remembrance.

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION GRADES 6-12

December 10-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 that 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.

"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

CHECK OUT THE TRAIN DISPLAY

A wonderful train and Christmas town display has been set-up in the Crossing. It was created by Jason Brown. Thank you, Jason, for this wonderful addition to our Christmas celebration. And, thank you, Carroll Youngblood, for building and painting the tabletop platform. Check it out and enjoy!

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

The OPC Community Garden is applying for the seed money grant again this year. We are being challenged to raise \$600 via our crowdfunding page during our 30-day challenge period. The first 50 projects that are able to do so will be granted an additional \$400 seed money. The 30-day challenge period runs to December 15. 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

Dana Kelly - davedana@comcast.net

Joelle Cafaro - drhealer@gmail.com

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, pulling various stories and reflections from each year and compiling them into a collection of treasures that will guide us through this Advent. We are grateful for the contributions over all these years and how we can bring 'old thoughts' back to our minds for us to enjoy this Advent. It is a daily dose of words worth reading. 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. Watch as you fill the sky with ANGELS (provided in the booklet) and as you hear about all the heavenly messages God sent. A sample backdrop is there for you to see. Place your backdrop in your bedroom as a special Advent decoration. It will get more beautiful each day. Let's get ready for the birth of our Savior! **HAPPY ADVENT!** Booklets and backdrop sheets are in the Gathering Area and Dell Room.

A NAME CHANGE

You may have heard some different expressions/different words used in referring to what we all have known as “Sunday School”. The Christian Education Ministry Team has been wrestling with this for some time. ‘Sunday School’ may hold many great memories for some of us as it was a formative time in our childhood and youth years. You may currently be part of a Sunday morning class that nurtures your faith and is helping you to grow in being a disciple of Jesus. That is great news, and that will not change. However, the reality of today is that “Sunday School” is thought of as a very outdated term and one that does not often bring positive connotation with the word ‘school’ attached to it. The Christian Education Team pondered ‘what is it that we are trying to do during the hour that is called ‘Sunday School’? In essence, the goal is for FAITH FORMATION in each participant. Thus, the ‘new name’ of the ‘Sunday School’ hour is being adjusted to be known as “Faith Formation Educational Hour”. Yes, that is a mouthful! Over time, we hope to shorten it slightly, once we all can get more accustomed to a new name. Of course, the name ‘Sunday School’ will continue to slip out as we all train ourselves in this change. We have known it as that for a long time! BE patient with yourself and us as we move forward.

WATTS WEEK IS COMING!

We will be hosting WATTS guests Saturday, December 30, 2017 through Saturday, January 6, 2018. Items of clothing are needed. Our guests often do not have clean clothes to put on. Not having regular access to a washer and dryer leaves them with the choice, “Do I spend money at the laundromat or do I save money for food?” These clothing items are needed in **medium & large sizes**. Items can be new or lightly used.

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. God bless you and thanks from the WATTS Team for your support.

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.

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.

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.

THIS ADVENT...FAITH₅



SHARE highs and lows

READ Matthew 1:18-21

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.

Memorial Sanctuary Repurpose Options

Since the Memorial Sanctuary was temporarily repurposed as a Fellowship Hall during the remodeling project, Session is now working to determine the best long-term use for the space. As part of that process, Session is seeking input and ideas for possible future use. Please complete the form below with your comments and suggestions.

I would be in favor of exploring other uses for the memorial Sanctuary.
Yes ___ No ___ Maybe ___

I would suggest the Memorial Sanctuary be used for:

Name: _____

Optional

Place completed forms in the box on the Name Tag Table

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

What would I like God to fix?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

What expectations do I have of others? What expectations do others have of me?

What expectations do I have of God? What expectations does God have of me?

What are our expectations in this season of advent?

How will I "keep alert" for God amid so many seasonal responsibilities and distractions?

What did I learn from our study of Isaiah 64 and Mark 13 that I will apply to my life?