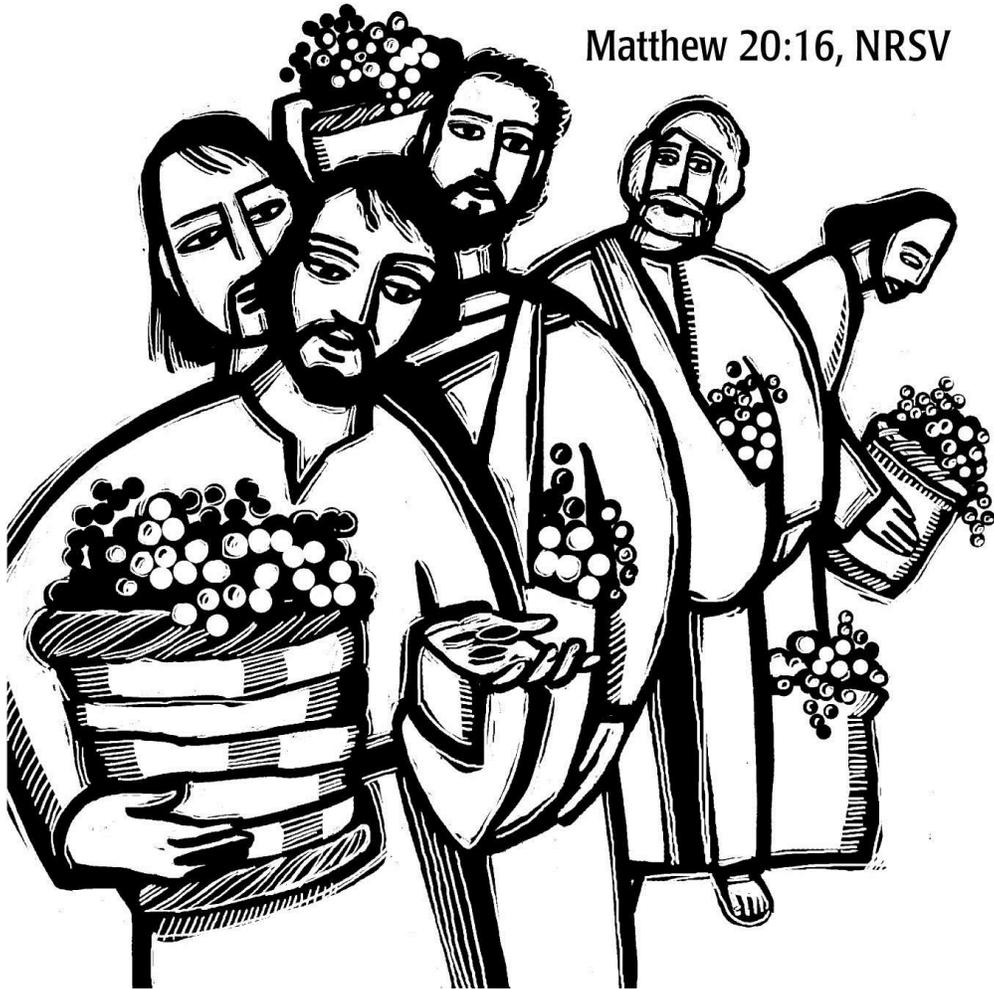


Opequon Presbyterian Church

So the **last**
will be **FIRST**,
and the
first
will be **LAST.**

Matthew 20:16, NRSV



“Prayerfully equipping disciples of all generations to be Christ’s hands, heart and feet in the world.”

--OPC Mission Statement

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

September 24, 2017

8:30 and 11:00 am

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Thanks Be to God A Trumpet Voluntary

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

MINUTES FOR MISSION "Rise Against Hunger"

Elder Susanna Shade

†ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG NO. 710 *We Lift Our Voices*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Whether we embrace God's call in our lives or try to avoid it,

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Whether we are longtimers or latecomers in the life of faith,

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or bring hardship,

God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. We praise God's name forever and ever as we lift our voices!

†HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 643 *Now Thank We All Our God*

(Please be seated for prayer)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Because we do not always live our lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, we confess before God and one another our sins and shortcomings. In repentance, let us turn toward God's grace and mercy.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. We have not been gracious or grateful. We have failed to remember all that you have done. Forgive us and fill our hearts with gratitude. Help us to share our gifts and strengthen our legs so that we can run after you, O God.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

People of God, our sins are forgiven; we are reconciled to God. Let us therefore love one another with gratitude in our hearts and praise on our lips.

LITANY OF PARDON

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

† THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 647 *Give Thanks*

† 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 *Holy Manna*

Lord! Shower us with holy manna, Lord, shower us from above. We gather here to sing hosanna, we gather to share your love. We have gathered here to worship and adore the Lord, our God. Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the Word? All is vain unless the spirit of the Holy One comes down. Christians pray, and holy manna will be showered all around. Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new. Christ will call us home to heaven, at his table we'll sit down; Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

THE READING OF GOD’S WORD:

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 16:2-15 Pew Bible p. 43

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 20:1-16 Pew Bible p. 801

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN “God Gives...”

Nursery (Ages Infant - Age 3)

†HYMN NO. 36 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

SERMON..... **“It’s Not Fair!”**
Pastor David R. Witt

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Simple Gifts*Arr. Taylor

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

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Hymnal p. 35)The Apostles’ Creed

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. 716..... *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 540 *Farewell, Good Friends!*

Farewell, good friends! Farewell, good friends! Shalom, shalom!

Till we meet again, till we meet again, shalom, shalom,

†POSTLUDE

UNDERSTANDING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

(Highlighting a different part of worship each month)

Let’s talk about the CALL TO WORSHIP. The Call to Worship is the ‘official’ beginning of worship. It is the starting line with all of us beginning together. GOD is doing the ‘calling’- it is like GOD saying “HELLO” to us and us saying “HELLO” back. The Call to Worship focuses our attention on the purpose of worship—to gather in praise and honoring God. God is thrilled to have us gather to worship Him. Since He has invited us/called us to worship, then we call/invite one another to worship. The Call to Worship is a time to “WAKE UP” and be alert for the important time of honoring God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
September 24-October 1, 2017

TODAY

8:30 am: Morning Worship, Four Cents a Meal
9:45 am: Faith Formation Education Hour
11:00 am: Morning Worship, Four Cents a Meal
12:15 pm: Motel Ministry–Kitchen
3:00 pm: Communion Education Workshop–Sanctuary
3:30 pm: PS 150 Rehearsal–Memorial Sanctuary

THIS WEEK

Tuesday: Hands & Hearts–10:30 am–Assembly Room
Highland Food Pantry–5:30 pm–Highland Memorial Church
Wednesday: TVOR Lunch Bunch–11:30 am
LOGOS–4:30-7:30 pm–Theme: “Crazy Hair Night”
Choir Practice–7:30 pm–Sanctuary
Thursday: Scout Troop 1–7:00 pm–Assembly Room
Young Adult “Grey’s Anatomy Season Premier” Watch
–8:00 pm–Home of Rebekah Witt
Saturday: Jubilee Kitchen–10:00 am–First Presbyterian Church
Baja Reunion Picnic–5:30 pm–Pitcock Memorial Shelter

NEXT SUNDAY–“World Communion Sunday”

Middle School Rally–Massanetta Springs
Morning Worship–8:30 & 11:00 am
Bread Basket Buffett–9:30 am–Dell Room
Faith Formation Enrichment Hour–9:45 am
Exodus 17:1-7, Matthew 21:23-32
Sermon: "Digame"
CCAP Offering, Communion
Youth Council–12:15 pm
Officer Training–5:00 pm–Bageant Room

ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH:

8:30–68 Sunday School–58 11:00–103

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Mexico Earthquake Victims
Hurricane Maria Victims
Carolyn Rutherford
Daniel Miller
Deanna Deck
Christina
Katie Heavner Baker
Dick Crane
Steve Guthrie
Mark Wilhelm
Michael Funkhouser
Dr Scott Cabozolo
Jeremiah Baker Family
Herb Birchenough
Mac & Paula McNichols
James Searcy
Casey Carr

Roy Barrett
Denise Weidele & Family
June Seal Family
Hurricane Irma Victims
Scott Souders
Alex Jones
Carola Czernik
Deb Kron
Jacki Barb
Al Owens
Hurricane Harvey Victims
Rachel & Michael Weller
The Call Family
Betty Bly
Jay & Marjory Journell
Kevin Paquette
Donna & Terry Coffman

Gordy Lindow
Frances Pitcock
Rick Praml
Dottie Edwards
Gary Strickler
Carlos Valdez
Patricia & Ray Ferguson
Nancy Kerns
Joe & Candy Strosnider
Stephanie Fitch
Phyllis Dilley
Sandi Pulizzi
Jane Lewis
Larry Matthews
Doug Koch
Illubabor Bethel Synod of
Church Mekane Yesus

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

Taylor McMurdo, Brandon Michael, Greg Sousa, Michael White, and their families.

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

8:30

Acolyte: Reagan Tibbs
Beadle: Heide Mohler
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler
Greeter: Becky Proctor
Hospitality: Debbie & Bill Bender
Liturgist: Jay Tibbs
Ushers: Mike Butler, Sherry Schryver, Reagan Tibbs, John Winn

11:00

Acolyte: Breanna Daggett
Beadle: Keith McMurdo
Bell Ringer: Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper, AnnMarie Kelly
Hospitality: Martha Fulton, Debi Hodgson
Liturgist: Dave Arnoldy
Nametags: Kail Barbe
Ushers: Breanna Daggett, Bill Hopeck

THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary are given by Carole Witt in honor of Pastor David's birthday tomorrow. We are all very thankful David is truly alive at 55!

SUNDAY MORNING WORKSHOP FOR KIDS!

The Sunday morning workshop for kids (preschool-4th grade) is known as WORM, a creative and engaging way to share bible stories. It is held at 9:45 am and will be in Classroom 3 today. Children will be making their own 'thinking caps' and learning how to say some GREAT Bible verses in SIGN LANGUAGE. A great story awaits them during snack time. Let the children come!

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION GRADES 6-12:

TODAY-Calling all sandwich artists and friendly faces to help with Motel Ministry after worship! Join this outreach in our nearby neighborhoods. Get out into the community and build some relationships!

September 30-THIS IS A SATURDAY. Extend hospitality to those in the community by cooking up and serving a delicious meal at Jubilee Kitchen. Meet at First Presbyterian by 10:00 am. If you need a ride or are planning to attend, please let Rebekah Witt know at 540-686-0752 or wittrc@dukes.jmu.edu so we can have a head count. We will finish by 1:00 pm.

October 1-NO YOUTH EVENT. Youth Council will meet in the Bageant Room at 12:15 pm with a simple lunch provided. We have important information to discuss, so please be present!

October 8-Progressive Dinner!!! Church members will welcome us into their homes for amazing appetizers, dinner, & dessert. Gather at the church at 4:30 pm so we can get to eating! We will end at 7:30 pm.

COMMUNION EDUCATION WORKSHOP TODAY!

A communion education workshop for children age 4 through 5th grade is taking place TODAY, 3:00-4:00 pm, in the Sanctuary. This time will be led by David and Carole Witt and includes stories, visual illustrations, and hands-on opportunities as we explore the meaning of celebrating the Lord's Supper. Parents are invited to stay with their children and be part of this time as well. This workshop is meant to prepare our children so that they

better understand this special sacrament and can enjoy it with you during worship.

PS 150 REHEARSAL

PS 150 will rehearse today, 3:30-5:00 pm in the Memorial Sanctuary. Please call/text Matt Cooper, 540-336-3833, or Sarah Shade, 540-550-7143, prior to rehearsal time.

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 18-35) NEWS:

Are you a “Grey’s Anatomy” fan? The season premiere is coming on Thursday, September 28th, at 8:00 pm! You can meet at Rebekah Witt's home (203 Halifax Court, Stephens City) to watch the drama unfold. Come and hang out with other young adults who love this TV series or just to get to know people from Opequon. No need to bring anything; snacks will be provided for your enjoyment.

BAJA REUNION

Opequon Presbyterian Church is hosting the annual Baja Reunion this Saturday, September 30, at 5:30 pm at the Pitcock Memorial Shelter. We expect a large showing from the churches throughout the Presbytery. All those interested in considering making the trip to Baja, Mexico in 2018 are welcome to attend. This is an opportunity to meet fellow mission participants, ask questions and discuss the mission. If you plan to attend, please email an RSVP to whopec@att.net by Tuesday, September 25.

WORLD COMMUNION FESTIVAL UPCOMING IN OCTOBER

World Communion Sunday has become a special, celebratory festival each year at Opequon Church and it is next Sunday. You may anticipate uplifting, global music and creative gifts shared by our young people. As always, a variety of home-baked breads are appreciated, the differing textures, colors, shapes, and sizes representing the world-wide Christian community. We also like to include people who are willing to offer a communion invitation in their native or acquired language. Please let Pastors Tracie or David know if you can assist and participate.

MISSION MUMS

The 2018 Baja Mission Team will have mums for sale after worship on Sunday, October 1st. These are large, 2-gallon, very healthy, potted plants. The cost will be \$15. The proceeds will go toward funding our mission trip to Baja, Mexico in 2018. Please make checks payable to OPC and write Baja Mums on the memo line.

DIABETES AWARENESS

On Sunday, October 8, directly following 11:00 am worship service, there will be a conference on diabetes in the Memorial Sanctuary. Lunch will be provided. Please register now. You will find a sign-up sheet on the nametag table.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER

A Rise Against Hunger food packaging event will be held on Saturday, October 14 from 9:00 to 11:00 in the Memorial Sanctuary. All ages are invited to this spirited activity, as we package 10,000 meals in a short period of time while working together. For more information contact Graham Taylor, gtaylorgofishing@gmail.com, or Susanna Shade, shadesathome@aol.com.

“THESE DAYS” DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

The October-December issue of “These Days” is available in the Gathering Area. Focus themes in this issue are “Extraordinary Faith”, “Thankfulness to God”, “When Mercy Abounds”, and “The Strange Depths of God’s Love”. Please help yourself to a copy of the daily devotional while supplies last.

Save the Date—Sunday, October 29—“TRUNK & TREAT”

COMMUNITY GARDEN

While it’s late September and our harvest season is wrapping up, we still have tomatoes, beans, sweet potatoes, cabbage and peppers continuing to grow. To date, we’ve harvested **962.02 pounds** of vegetables. We thank each and every one of you for another successful season!

FALL FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

People of all ages are invited to be a part of a six-week Fall Fellowship Group. Adults of all ages and stages, youth, children and whole families will begin meeting right after World Communion Sunday, October 1st and continue through mid-November. Various times and places for gathering are available. These intergenerational groups, focused on the opportunity to share, care, and pray, will focus on “Faith Bigger Than Fear—Faith in a Great God”. While we may not always be present to connect with our brothers and sisters of multiple generations on Sundays, these groups present a unique opportunity to be connected at other times. Sign-ups have begun! See the display on the nametag table.

In Remembrance

JUNE LUCILLE SEAL

JUNE 12, 1924-SEPTEMBER 15, 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

CHRISTIAN BELIEVER

Christian Believer is a 30-week study that combines study of scripture and Christian belief. Participants make a commitment to daily preparation and weekly attendance at the group study. The class will gather each Monday from 3:00-5:00 pm, beginning Monday, October 2, meeting through May 2018. The class will be facilitated by Pastor Witt and a team of leaders. **A book fee of \$50 will be collected prior to the first day of class and include both the workbook and additional resource reading guide.** See Pastor Witt to sign-up.

WORSHIP NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

How did the music this morning testify to God's generosity?

Notes on Today's Prayers

Notes on Today's Children's Conversation

What did I learn? What will I remember?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

How do these stories of God's generosity invite us to think about our own lives?

When has God provided for me?

How do I feel about God's grace and unconditional love? Regarding me?
Regarding others?

Am I ever resentful of God's generosity toward the "undeserving?" Can it be unfair?

What did I learn from our study of Matthew 20:1-16 this morning that I will apply to my life?