

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Luke 15:1-7



WELCOME! This historic church began worship on these grounds in 1732 and was organized in 1736. We are dedicated to “prayerfully equipping disciples of all generations to be Christ’s hands, heart and feet in the world.” We are strengthened today by your presence whether guest or member. Go forth, blest and renewed because you were here this day!

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, located in the back of the Sanctuary. Please return the bag and supplies to the bin when you are leaving.
- **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, 540-662-1843, before 12:30 p.m. on Friday.

Opequon Presbyterian Church

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.com

www.opequonchurch.com

David R. Witt----- Pastor
Carole Witt ----- Director of Christian Education
Catherine Richard----- Office Administrator
Susan Homan ----- Director of Music
William Heavner ----- Organist
Robert Sydnor----- Sexton
Laurie Carver ----- Nursery Supervisor
Nancy McGaughey----- Missionary to South Sudan
Stephen and Brenda Stelle----- Missionaries to Ethiopia

SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

September 11, 2016

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Christian Education Sunday**

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*.....arr: Livingston

Please use this time to prepare for the worship of God.

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please complete the Friendship folder and pass it along during the greeting.

PRAYER REQUEST forms are inside the pew racks—please place in offering plate.

†All who are able, please stand.

Bold print—all respond

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG *Amazing Grace/Jesus Loves Me*

Words by John Newton/ Anna B. Warner, CCLI #1622560

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found was blind but now I see. Alleluia.**

Refrain: **Alleluia Allelu**

Alleluia Alleluia

Alleluia Allelu

Alleluia Allelu

Alleluia

Jesus loves me, this I know. For the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong. They are weak but He is strong. Alleluia.

(Refrain)

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice with me, people of God.

God has gathered us in from the wilderness.

Rejoice with me, people of God.

God has swept away the darkness of the night.

Rejoice with me, people of God.

Today, there is joy in the presence of the angels.

†HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 475..... *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

(Please be seated for prayer)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sisters and brothers, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God every time we turn toward our home and remember whose we are. With open hearts, let us pray.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we confess that we have not turned away from sin. You search for us, like lost sheep, but we pretend not to hear your voice. You treasure us, like lost coins, but we spend our lives in foolish ways. Forgive us, God of grace. Help us to repent and return to you, so that we may join the joyful feast of redemption and restoration. In mercy, bear us home—until we recognize your presence wherever evil is confronted, truth is spoken, and life is restored.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

But this we call to mind, and therefore have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. In the name of the Lord, who is our portion and our hope, I declare that our sin is forgiven. May our mouths be filled with praise.

LITANY OF PARDON

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

†THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 519 (vv. 1, 3) *Your Only Son*

†PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those near you.)

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

MOMENTS OF REMEMBRANCE—September 11, 2001

...though fifteen years have passed, you are faithful still.

Yesterday, today and forever; let your love and peace endure.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM *God is Our Refuge*
Doug and David Joyner, trumpets

God is our refuge and strength; a present help in time of trouble. Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear. Come and behold, the work of the Lord, the awesome acts of God. He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth. He is the Word, we are his hands, He will lead us. He is the air, we are his song, we will celebrate his presence all the day long. He is the rain, we are the stones, He will cleanse us.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28.....Pew Bible p. 613

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 15:1-10Pew Bible p. 850

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN..... "The Runaway Bunny"
Nursery (Ages Infant – Age 3)

†HYMN *God's Great Love Is So Amazing!*
Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Tune: What a Friend We Have in Jesus CCLI #1622560

**God's great love is so amazing! See a shepherd with his flocks!
Ninety-nine are safely grazing; one is lost among the rocks.
That good shepherd goes and searches 'til he finds the one astray.
So God says to fill our churches with the ones who've lost their
way.**

**God in love is always seeking! See a woman with her broom!
For a single coin she's sweeping every corner of the room.
When it's found she calls each neighbor, telling friends from all
around.
So God says to search and labor 'til God's precious ones are
found.**

SERMON..... "God's Active Pursuit"
Pastor David R. Witt

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Setting on "Immortal Invisible"* arr: Haan

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

LITANY FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Leader:

Jesus gave a variety of gifts to his followers to equip the saints for the work of ministry. Today we recognize and bless those who have been called to the ministry of leading, teaching, and guiding.

Congregation:

At the celebration of baptism, we promise to provide children with Christian love and nurture through prayers and encouragement, teaching and affection. God has called many people to be leaders and teachers. We praise God for calling them to this service of Christian education and for the gifts and guidance God provides for ministry.

Leader:

We need leaders and teachers who will welcome our children and love them as Jesus loved the children. We need leaders and teachers who will walk with us and show us how to live in faith every day.

Leaders & Teachers of Children:

In response to God's love and call, we promise to welcome them, to love them, to walk with them, to wonder with them, and to model for them what it means to live in faith every day. We commit ourselves to lead them and to learn from our children.

Leader:

We need leaders and teachers who will love our youth and celebrate both the wonders and the worries of growing up, the questions and reflections as they seek to understand and be understood, much as the young Jesus did in the temple.

Leaders & Teachers of Youth:

As disciples who have answered God's call and are also growing in faith, we promise to study God's Word with our youth and to share our understanding of what it means to witness and to serve Christ. Their questions and growing faith will nurture and strengthen our faith.

Leader:

We need leaders and teachers who love our adults and who help them respond faithfully to both the joys and the crises that come with living through the adult years.

Leaders & Teachers of Adults:

In response to God's love and call, we promise to seek to nurture all members in faith and to affirm and encourage each person to build up Christ's body in this place. Their commitment and support will help us in this ministry.

CONGREGATION:

We have heard these promises and we commit ourselves to support our teachers and leaders through our prayers, our participation in education, worship, and service, and our friendship and love.

PASTOR:

Leaders and teachers, may your love, commitment, skills, and modeling nurture our faith, strengthen our friendships, increase our faithful witness and service, and help us to live and grow in faith every day. And let all God's people with one voice say,

CONGREGATION:

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Hymnal No. 35, we say "debts" and "debtors" in the prayer.)

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

†HYMN OF DEDICATION NO. 649.....*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE NO. 600*Amen*

†POSTLUDE

**"Back to Church/Evangelism Sundays"
Invite a friend! Reach Out to Someone Missed!
September 18 and 25**

THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given by Gary, Karen and Brian Dove in celebration of Adam's marriage to Megan Brewer on September 17th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September 11-18, 2016

TODAY

- 8:30 a.m.: Morning Worship
9:45 a.m.: Sunday School Kick-Off, Sunday School Classes
11:00 a.m.: Morning Worship
12:15 p.m.: LOGOS Staff Training—Fellowship Hall
4:00 p.m.: Presbyterian Youth Connection Kick-Off—Pitcock Shelter

THIS WEEK

- Monday: Older Adult Ministry—9:30 a.m.—Bageant Room
Men of Opequon—6:00 p.m.—Chick-fil-A (PVR)
Beyond the Broken—6:30 p.m.—Bageant Room
MOO—7:00 p.m.—Youth Spot
- Tuesday: Tuesday Morning Mission—9:30 a.m.—Bageant Room
LOGOS Leadership Meeting—1:30 p.m.—David’s Office
GLOW—7:00 p.m.—Bageant Room
- Wednesday: Happy Days—12:00 Noon—Fellowship Hall
LOGOS Kick-off—4:30 p.m.—“Set Sail”
Sanctuary Choir Practice—7:30 p.m.—Sanctuary
YA Volleyball—8:30 p.m.—Body Renew
- Thursday: Cub Pack 1—7:00 p.m.—Fellowship Hall & Classrooms
Scout Troop 1—7:00 p.m.—Assembly Room
- Saturday: Men’s Lectio Divina—8:00 a.m.—Bageant Room
Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build—8:30 a.m.
“Go Take a Hike”—8:30 a.m.—OPC Parking Lot

NEXT SUNDAY—“Back to Church” Sunday

- Morning Worship—8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School Classes for All Ages
Jeremiah 8:18-9:1, Luke 16:1-13
Sermon: “Blessing and Responsibility”
Introduction of Confirmation Class
Stroke Prevention/Awareness Seminar—12:15 p.m.—Fellowship Hall
Communion Education Workshop—3:00 p.m.—Sanctuary
Presbyterian Youth Connection—5:00-7:00 p.m.—Fellowship Hall

ATTENDANCE ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH

8:30 a.m.—71 11:00 a.m.—101

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Richard Young	Dino Urena	Doug Pittsnogle
Steve Vess & Family	Marj Praml	Colleen McMurdo
Wayne Lake	Dorothy Rogers	Jane Lewis
Elizabeth Browning Family	Dr. Donald McNeill	Gretchen Cooley
Patrick Lanaghan	Cody Monday	Paula Tobin
Berlin Zirk	Larry Schryver	Natalie Miller
Connie Robinson	Stephanie Fitch	Frank Vardeman
Jane Damewood	Al Owens	Dottie Edwards
Betty Wilson	Phyllis Dilley	Larry Matthews
Natural Disaster Relief	Peter Schieve	Doug Koch
Garrett Hodgson	Gary Snapp	Michael Keister
Patricia Wines	Sandi Pulizzi	Illubabor Bethel Synod of
Sandra McKee & family	Lanette Orduna	Church Mekane Yesus
Bob Wilson	Donna Coffman	People Looking for Work &
Ethiopia Unrest	Mettu, Ethiopia	Challenged by the Economy
Patricia & Ray Ferguson	Donna Klinefelter	

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

Taylor McMurdo, Greg Sousa, Scott Sydnor, and their families.

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF 2016

Come enjoy the “mini 3 RING CIRCUS’ time as we gather in the **Memorial Sanctuary TODAY** at 9:45 a.m. for our opening to a new Sunday School year! There will be wonderful ‘acts’ that will entertain, words to inspire, and some authentic circus goodies provided. Young, Old, Families, Youth- come celebrate in this 3 Ring Circus focusing on *Faith, Family, & Fun*. Following our intergenerational time together, there will be time for us all to go to our respective classes and WORM workshops. Let’s send the ‘ball’ through the RINGS during this terrific kick-off!

LOGOS STAFF GATHERING 12:15 P.M. TODAY

All LOGOS staff are invited to the orientation gathering today at 12:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The theme for our gathering is “Where Everybody Knows Your Name”. It is a time of eating together, playing together, and hearing the newest and most pertinent details of our upcoming LOGOS year. Childcare is available during the meeting. CHEERS for our LOGOS staff!

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION KICK-OFF EVENT TODAY

It is a FAMILY EVENT for all 6-12th grade youth and their families, TODAY, 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Pitcock Memorial Shelter. “Dinner and DOINGS” will be the focus of our time together. Roasted chicken, rolls, and drinks will be provided. Youth families are invited to bring a side dish (salad, vegetable) or a dessert to share.

There will be an official Corn Hole Tournament happening along with some 4-Square fun and Kan-Jam challenge. It is an evening of enjoyment for all. Come join many other youth families in this great time together.

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

8:30

Acolyte: McKenna Williams
Beadle: Dick Crane
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler
Greeters: Mike Butler, Nancy Grubb
Hospitality: Debbie & Bill Bender
Liturgist: Terry Hartman
Ushers: Pat Heavner, Reagan Tibbs, Dick Widell,
Bryce & McKenna Williams, Jim Youngblood

11:00

Acolyte: Cole Owens
Beadle: Bill Hopeck
Bell Ringer: Kristen Blake, Bailey Cooper, AnnMarie Kelly
Greeters: Susie Cherry, Carole Metheny
Hospitality: Alice Foley, Martha Fulton
Liturgist: Lauren Armstrong
Nametags: Dulcie Reed
Ushers: Ashton Clark, Jason Hathaway, Kyle Homan,
Lauren Moses, Cole Owens, Bill Robinson

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

Meets tomorrow morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Bageant Room for a time of discussion and planning, with refreshments and laughter included! This meeting is open to any older adults who would like to join us.

MEN OF OPEQUON MEETS TOMORROW

We will return to Chick-fil-A tomorrow for dinner at 6:00 p.m. The program and meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Youth Spot. LT Col (Ret) David Cress from Quarry Permit Environment Training Services, LLC, Winchester will be our guest speaker. David had a long and distinguished career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He also taught at Southwest Virginia Community College. David will speak on a variety of Federal coal mining issues. We'll be finalizing plans for Camp Paddy Run Day on Sunday, October 2nd, along with our ongoing support for iCARE and other church ministries. Come on out and join us, gentlemen!

BEYOND THE BROKEN HEART

How do you understand grief when your heart is broken by the death of a loved one? To survive and live forward, those who grieve must find answers. Beyond the Broken Heart is a support group for those who are grieving the death of a loved one and are in need of a community to share the loneliness of grief. Scriptural wisdom will be used to explore the issues of grief and offer spiritual encouragement for a life of renewed hope and joy. Each participant will be required to purchase a workbook from the church for a cost of \$10. The group will also offer some specific coping strategies to guide the way back to fullness of life. If you are grieving the death of a loved one, please join us on the journey through grief. We will meet on Mondays, September 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 24, 31 and November 7 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Bageant Room. To sign up, please contact: Patty Klinefelter, OPC Faith Community Nurse, 540-869-6080, pklinefe@valleyhealthlink.com or Lori Henley 585-943-3159, lhenley@rochester.rr.com.

GLOW-OPEQUON'S WOMEN'S GROUP

GLOW meets this Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Bageant Room. Our focus this month is "A Back to School Special" with devotion time, hilarious school poems, and some interactive time of sharing, including a fantastic game of "Family Feud". All Opequon women are invited. Allow yourself just a couple hours to devote to your own enjoyment and come join the treasure of women for this evening.

HAPPY DAYS THIS WEDNESDAY

The monthly older adult fellowship gathering, known as Happy Days, meets this Wednesday at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The time begins with a covered dish lunch which will be followed by guest speakers Jim and Carolyn Stohl, authors of an Amish life book. Their presentation is sure to be fascinating and the lunch is always more than delicious. What a satisfying time. All older adults are invited.

LOGOS REGISTRATION IS OPEN

A NEW LOGOS year is right around the corner, set to begin September 14. Our EXPRESS REGISTRATION for LOGOS is available and IT IS EASY! Stop by the LOGOS table in the Gathering Area (or go online) to complete the registration form and make payment of ½ of the fees. With brand new weekly themes, spectacular special events, and updated/relevant bible time materials, our upcoming 19th year of LOGOS at Opequon looks to have something to offer all K-12 children and youth! As a family, give some thought to how this ministry can be a most cherished part of your lives. **Please try to register TODAY.**

Habitat for Humanity - Interfaith Build
This Saturday, September 17, 8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Join us in working on a house for a family in need with the Habitat-Interfaith Build.

“GO TAKE A HIKE”

On Saturday, September 17th, we will be hiking on the Signal Knob Trail in the Elizabeth Furnace area of the George Washington Forest, which is in the very north end of Fort Valley. We will meet at OPC at 8:30 a.m., and leave no later than 9:00 a.m. Please bring at least a quart of water and a light lunch. The hike is a total of 4.4 miles (2.2 each way). It includes two overlooks, Buzzard Rock and Fort Valley. The views are supposed to be wonderful. They both look north, down the Valley towards Middletown and Winchester. It is considered a moderate hike. We plan to be back around 3:00 p.m. For those who wish, we plan to go to a local establishment to watch the Alabama-Ole Miss game. The whole day sounds like a lot of fun and we hope that you will join us. Please contact Mike Butler by Friday, call/ text 540.533.1239 or email mbutler57@outlook.com.

STROKE PREVENTION/AWARENESS

Next Sunday, September 18, 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Fellowship Hall

Presenter: Laurie Schutz, RN,
Valley Health Neuroscience Program Coordinator
Lunch Provided

The Sign-up Sheet is on the Nametag Table in the Gathering Area

COMMUNION EDUCATION WORKSHOP

A communion education workshop for children age 4 through 5th grade is being offered next Sunday, September 18, 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This time is 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.

FALL WORK DAY

Saturday, September 24

8:30 a.m. until ?

Join Us for Work Inside and Out!