

# Opequon Presbyterian Church

## INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

**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! 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.
- **Look forward to taking part in a Sunday School class each week.** Sunday School is held at 9:45 a.m. 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, 540-662-1843, before 12:30 p.m. on Friday.

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## Opequon Presbyterian Church

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  
William Heavner ----- Organist  
Susan Homan ----- Director of Music  
Carole Witt ----- Director of Christian Education  
Laurie Carver ----- Nursery Supervisor  
Patty Klinefelter ----- Faith Community Nurse  
Catherine Richard ----- Office Administrator  
Robert Sydnor ----- Sexton

**Like us on Facebook—Opequon Presbyterian Church**

# SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 11, 2016

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## The Third Sunday of Advent

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE *Prelude on "Truro".....* Arr. Singer

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

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

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**

CHIMES PRELUDE (11:00)..... *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*

LOGOS Youth Worship, Johanna Abell, recorder

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

..... Rob & Kristy Gaines, Cameron, Carson, Caleb & Claire (8:30)

Jessica & Andrew Eaton (11:00)

GATHERING SONG ..... *The Advent Candles*

(Tune: *Away in a Manger*, CCLI #1622560)

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;**

**A candle of Hope in December's dark night.**

**While angels sing blessing from heav'n's starry sky**

**Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.**

**A candle is burning, a candle of Peace;**

**A candle to signal that conflict must cease.**

**For Jesus is coming to show us the way;**

**A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.**

**A candle is burning, a candle of Joy;**

**A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.**

**Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow**

**As Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

## UNISON PRAYER

**Thank you, God for the gift of Joy. Help us to recognize the moments of joy in our lives, and to live joyfully so that others may be filled with the joy that comes from knowing Jesus Christ. Amen!**

### †CALL TO WORSHIP

My soul magnifies the Lord;  
**My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**  
The Mighty One has done great things.  
**Holy is God's name!**

### †HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 93..... *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (Please be seated for prayer)

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Let the desert rejoice, and let the dry land be glad, for God has come to save us. Let us confess our sin.

## UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way.**

## MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more.

## LITANY OF PARDON

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

### †THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 71 ..... *Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me*

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

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM ..... *Prophets Knew*  
Lloyd Larson

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel! Prophets knew long ago that Christ would come to earth. Led by Isaiah they foretold his birth. God in human frame, Emmanuel his name. Prophets knew long ago, long ago. Prophets knew long ago this child would be the King! "Glory to God!" Let heav'n and nature sing. God in human frame, Messiah was his name. Micah prophesied that Christ would be born in royal David's town: Redeemer of Israel, promised to all, a king without a crown! Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel! Prophets knew long ago that in a manger stall angels and shepherds would find the Lord of all! God in human frame, Jesus was his name. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!

### THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10 ..... Pew Bible p. 578

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 11:2-11 ..... Pew Bible p. 792

ANTHEM (11:00) ..... *Rejoice, Rejoice!*  
LOGOS Grs. K-5 Worship

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN..... "Making Promises Come True"

Nursery (Ages Infant – Age 3)

†HYMN NO. 106 ..... *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

SERMON..... "Choosing the Way"  
Pastor David R. Witt

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Carol of the Bells*..... Arr. Heavner

†CAROL 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. 16, 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 (3x)**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the King**

†POSTLUDE

### SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

8:30

Acolyte: Megan Triplett  
Beadle: Alan McKay  
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler  
Hospitality: Betty Chicklo, June Malone  
Liturgist: Mike Butler  
Ushers: Jacob Gaul, Pat Heavner, Reese Tibbs,  
Megan Triplett, Dick Widell, Jim Youngblood

11:00

Acolyte: Ben Newhouse  
Beadle: Shirley Tomblin  
Bell Ringer: Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper, AnnMarie Kelly  
Greeters: Kirsta & Ben Weber  
Hospitality: Jack Drumheller, Annemarie Matthews  
Liturgist: Kevin Reed  
Nametags: Nancy Rodgers  
Ushers: Jason Hathaway, Kyle Homan, Ben Newhouse,  
Brady Noll, Bill Robinson, Cameron Veach

### **"Ty Headley Tree of Warmth"**

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Blanket Drive Ongoing

\$5 per blanket

Envelopes in the Pew Racks

Please See Display in Gathering Area

Envelopes and Cards Available

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
December 11-18, 2016

**TODAY**

- 8:30 a.m.: Morning Worship—Advent 3  
9:45 a.m.: Sunday School Classes for All Ages  
9:45 a.m.: Newcomers' Class —Office Suite  
11:00 a.m.: Morning Worship—Advent 3, LOGOS Grs. K-5 & LOGOS  
Youth Worship  
12:00 p.m.: Presbyterian Youth Connection—"Warm Buns" & Lunch Out  
4:00 p.m.: Blue Ridge Singers Concert—Sanctuary  
6:30 p.m.: Advent Open Door Worship—Memorial Sanctuary

**THIS WEEK**

- Monday: Covenant Bible Study—3:00 p.m.—Bageant Room  
Adult ESL Class—6:00 p.m.—Fellowship Hall  
PS150 Rehearsal—6:30 p.m.—Memorial Sanctuary
- Tuesday: Tuesday Morning Mission—9:30 a.m.—Home of the Baccarys  
"Cultural Expressions" Concert—6:00 p.m.—Sanctuary  
God Loving Opequon Women "GLOW"—7:00 p.m.  
—Bageant Room
- Wednesday: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—(Note Change in Week)  
Happy Days—12:00 Noon—Fellowship Hall  
LOGOS—4:30 p.m.—Theme: "Joy to the World!"  
Christmas Caroling—4:30 p.m.—Fellowship Hall  
Sanctuary Choir Practice—7:30 p.m.
- Thursday: Scout Christmas Banquet—5:30 p.m.—Fellowship Hall  
Court of Honor—7:15 p.m.—Memorial Sanctuary
- Saturday: Men's Lectio Divina—8:00 a.m.—Bageant Room

**NEXT SUNDAY—Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- Morning Worship—8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School Classes for All Ages—9:45 a.m.  
Sanctuary Choir Cantata: "Morning Star"  
Fellowship Reception, Christmas Joy Offering  
CWS Blanket Deadline for Booklet
- "Blue Christmas—The Longest Night" Service—2:00 p.m.—Memorial Sanctuary  
Presbyterian Youth Connection Christmas Party—5:00 p.m.—Fellowship Hall

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Michael Weller  
Melissa Ambers  
Paula McNichols  
Roy Martin  
Beth McCrary  
Fire Victims  
Gary Dove  
Mollie Guthrie  
Art Fulton  
Gene Fish  
Emily Dick  
Patrick Vincent  
Jack Treece  
Elmora Golightly  
Aaron Jeller  
Christine Clark  
Jay Journell  
Mac McNichols  
Cheryl DeCeault  
Ken Johansen

Patricia & Ray Ferguson  
Janet Thompson  
Tom & Vicki Harman  
Sarah Bauwer  
Myrt Nissen  
Connie Robinson  
Donna Coffman  
Robert Sydnor  
Don Lewis  
Kevin Hay  
Opequon Church  
Tiffany Judge  
Samantha, Owen & Brian Cox  
Jolissa Matthews  
Joe & Barbara Alderman  
Rebekah Witt  
Richard Young  
Berlin Zirk  
Ethiopia Unrest  
Dorothy Rogers

Cody Monday  
Stephanie Fitch  
Phyllis Dilley  
Gary Snapp  
Sandi Pulizzi  
Lanette Orduna  
Mettu, Ethiopia  
Donna Klinefelter  
Colleen McMurdo  
Jane Lewis  
Frank Vardeman  
Dottie Edwards  
Larry Matthews  
Doug Koch  
Illubabor Bethel Synod of  
Church Mekane Yesus  
People Looking for Work &  
Challenged by the Economy

## PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

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

## ATTENDANCE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>:

8:30 a.m.—87

Sunday School—54

11:00 a.m.—115

## WORM—SUNDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

Advent Storytelling is the focus of the children's workshop this morning. Children will be building a stable, playing games to remember the details of the birth story, and then helping to find out what is wrong in the story! Great times await our preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grade children in this creative and lively educational hour being held at 9:45 a.m. in Classroom #4. Look for the angels who will be there too!

## PYC NEWS TODAY

- Youth are gathering after 11:00 worship today in the Kitchen/Fellowship Hall to finish preparing and packing WARM Cinnamon Buns that will be taken to the Loudoun Street Mall and handed out as a random act of kindness. Bring money for lunch at Roma downtown after all the warm buns are gone!

- All the gifts purchased and wrapped during Midnight Gladness last weekend have been delivered. Sincere gratitude was expressed for the youth's generosity and kindness. What joy they will bring others on Christmas morning!

## **ADVENT ITEMS FOR YOU**

Advent continues! A great gift for us during Advent is our annual ADVENT DEVOTIONAL. The title of this year's devotional is "What Will I Bring Him?" with pages full of writings by our own Opequon people! It is a treasure to read each day's devotional. It is full of WORDS WORTH READING! Pick up a copy today! This daily devotional will enrich your Advent season. Advent booklets are available in the Gathering Area and Dell Room. Children are encouraged to stop by the CHILDREN'S CORNER **by the elevator** to pick up a weekly item that they can use during the following week as they go through the season of Advent too. Instructions are provided for each weekly item. Let's get ready for the birth of our Savior! What will the item be for this week?

## **CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY CONCERTS**

The **Blue Ridge Singers** directed by Dr. Jeffrey Alban will present "There's a Song in the Air" at Opequon TODAY beginning at 4:00 p.m. For more information, go to [blueridgesingers.com](http://blueridgesingers.com).

"**Cultural Expressions**" is coming to Winchester! Gerson Medina and Anna Dye from Shenandoah University will hold a recital this Tuesday, December 13 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Opequon's Sanctuary. A free will offering will help fund a trip to with Shenandoah Conservatory Symphony Orchestra Tour to Argentina They will perform a classical repertoire including composers like Bach, Walton, Ernst, Piazzola and a few seasonal songs.

**Open Door Advent Worship Tonight**  
6:30 p.m.—Sanctuary  
Informal Praise Worship & Teaching  
PS150 Praise Band, Communion, Shared Prayer



## **GLOW—GOD LOVING OPEQUON WOMEN**

It is time for the Women's Christmas gathering on Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. in the Bageant Room. The women will be enjoying a holiday devotion, goodies and treats, and the making of adorable Christmas ornaments. Make one to keep and one to give away! Women are asked to bring \$1 to help cover the cost of supplies. Put on your bright and festive holiday outfit and come add to the spirit of the evening. Give yourself the gift of time with other friends.

## **HAPPY DAYS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

All older adults are invited to the December Happy Days event—a holiday time of fellowship—this Wednesday at NOON. Bring your favorite holiday covered dish item for the luncheon and then enjoy the engaging and interactive fun as we “build a manger,” play “name that tune,” guess the number of ornaments on the tree and laugh at some Christmas jokes. It is sure to be a delightful time in this season of preparing for Christ's birth.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLING IS FOR EVERYONE!**

The Advent season is upon us and with all the hustle and bustle it brings, wouldn't it be nice to take an evening off and share the joy of Christmas with others? Our LOGOS and Congregational Care ministries are teaming up to lead the way, and they invite you to join them this Wednesday, December 14 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 gather with us at 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please contact David Witt at 662-1843 or [pastor@opequonchurch.org](mailto:pastor@opequonchurch.org).

## **HAVE YOU TURNED YOUR PLEDGE CARD IN?**

“Expanding Our Hearts, Extending Our Ministry” is the theme for this year's stewardship emphasis. As it says in 2 Corinthians 9:6: “God blesses us financially when we give generously.” Dedication Sunday was several weeks ago; however, you can still submit your pledge card by dropping it in the offering plate, stopping by the church office, or even mailing it in. Thank you.

## **CHOIR CANTATA FELLOWSHIP**

A Christmas Cantata fellowship is being planned following each of the worship services on December 18<sup>th</sup>. The Fellowship Ministry Team is asking for donations of a plate of cookies and/or cheese/fruit/crackers. Look for the sign-up board in the Gathering Area. Please add your name to the board and celebrate this special Choir Sunday. Thank you!

## **CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**

The Session of Opequon Presbyterian Church calls for a brief meeting of the congregation immediately following 11:00 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 18 for the purpose of acting on the report of the Church Nominating Committee. The committee will nominate Dominic "Dom" Cafaro to serve as deacon. Please be present to exercise your right and responsibility as an active member of Opequon.

## **AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS CHRISTMAS MUSIC**

The Winchester chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present performances of Christmas music in local churches on December 26, 4:00-7:30 p.m. Due to the huge success of last year's event, we are repeating it. Come view the beautifully decorated and candlelit sanctuaries of historic Winchester churches and hear lovely organ music. These events are free and open to the public, but you will have the opportunity to donate to WATTS (Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter). Performances will begin on the hour and half hour with short presentations on the history of each church at 20 minutes past the hour. Participating churches are: Braddock St. UMC, Market St. UMC, First Presbyterian, Grace Lutheran, First Baptist, and Christ Episcopal.

## **2017 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, 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 her know so she can issue you a different number.