

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.

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602 540-662-1843 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



SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 18, 2016

8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE *Love Came Down at Christmas* Traditional Irish Melody

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

..... Leslie, Jim, Amy, Jamie & Katherine Tucker (8:30)
Emily, Jason, Lucas & Joshua Brown (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.**

**A candle is burning, a candle of Love,
A candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;
For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.**

UNISON PRAYER

O God, thank you for loving us, and for sending us Jesus to teach us about your love. Help us to remember that your love will never come to an end. Strengthen us to love others as you love us. Amen.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

We are here

Because we have heard a whisper of hope

And we have faith its day will come.

We have heard a promise of peace

And we have faith its day will come.

We have heard a song of joy

And we have faith its day will come.

We have heard a hint of love

And we have faith its day will come.

We have heard of the birth of the Christ-Child

And we have faith his coming again is coming soon!

Come, Lord Jesus, our Savior, the Morning Star.

†HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 143..... *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*
(Please be seated for prayer)

CALL TO CONFESSION

In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age—worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. Redeem us from evil and cleanse us from sin, through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us has come to us in Jesus Christ. Jesus binds up the broken hearted, heals infirmities, and relieves our burden of sin. So arise, shine; for your light has come. And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

LITANY OF PARDON

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

†THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 121 (vv. 3, 4) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

†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

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN..... "Love and Life is..."

Nursery (Ages Infant-Age 3)

†CAROL NO. 110 *Love Has Come*

Morning Star

Celebrating the Everlasting Light of Christmas

Arranged and Composed by Lloyd Larson

Susan Homan, Director

Johanna Abell, Accompanist

Bob Gaines, Narrator

Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Morning Star

Chosen by God

Jessica Eaton, David Witt, soloists

O Little Town of Bethlehem

He Come from the Glory

Bill Bayliss, Jennie Wright, soloists

Why Do the Shepherds Sing?

Morning Star (Finale)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Gloria*..... Vivaldi

†CAROL NO. 113 (v.3) *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria...in excelsis Deo! Gloria...in excelsis Deo!**

†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

†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



"Ty Headley Tree of Warmth"

10th Annual Blanket Drive

\$5 per blanket

\$3,297 has been collected to date for **659** blankets
toward our \$5,000/1,000 blanket goal.

**Today is the deadline for inclusion in the blanket
booklet.** Donations will be accepted, however, through
December 31st.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
December 18-25, 2016

TODAY

- CWS Blanket Deadline for Booklet
- 8:30 a.m.: Morning Worship—Advent 4, Choir Cantata,
Christmas Joy Offering, Fellowship Reception
- 9:45 a.m.: Sunday School Classes for All Ages
- 11:00 a.m.: Morning Worship—Advent 4, Choir Cantata,
Christmas Joy Offering, Fellowship Reception
- 2:00 p.m.: "Blue Christmas—The Longest Night" Service
—Memorial Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m.: Presbyterian Youth Connection Christmas Party
—Fellowship Hall

THIS WEEK

- Monday: WATTS Moving Day
PS150 Rehearsal—6:30 p.m.—Memorial Sanctuary
- Tuesday: Session Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Bageant Room
- Wednesday: No LOGOS This Week
Sanctuary Choir Practice—6:30 p.m.
- Friday: Staff Christmas Breakfast—9:30 a.m.—Fellowship Hall
Church Office Closes at 12:00 Noon
- Saturday: Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
5:00 p.m. Family Service—Sanctuary
7:30 p.m. Traditional Service—Sanctuary
11:00 p.m. Late Service—Memorial Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY—Christmas Day

Morning Worship—10:00 a.m. ONLY
Lessons & Carols with Special Music
Four Cents a Meal Offering

ATTENDANCE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH:

8:30 a.m.—94 Sunday School—65 11:00 a.m.—129

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Mike Fries
Ben Weber
Lori Jones
Lauren Armstrong
Beth Drummonds
Debbie Buckley
Nancy Simmons
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
Jay Journell
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.

WORM—SUNDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

TODAY, the children will be treated to “Movie and Popcorn” as we watch “The Nativity” then play some Christmas games. Great times await our preschool-5th grade children in this creative and lively educational hour being held at 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Follow your nose to the smell of popcorn!

PYC NEWS TODAY

It is time for the YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY today, 5:00-7 :00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Great holiday fun, delicious dinner and dessert (ham, mac & cheese and brownie sundaes), and the Thieves Christmas Game! In this game, you can STEAL. Bring a wrapped, \$10 unisex gift for the game. Come participate in this special annual event!

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

8:30

Acolyte: Audrey Saunders
Beadle: Alan McKay
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler
Greeter: Leslie Tucker
Hospitality: Lisa & Bill Frye
Liturgist: Mike Butler
Ushers: Emma Abell, Terry Hartman, Heide Mohler,
Audrey Saunders, Payton Shanholtz, Carroll Youngblood

11:00

Acolyte: Addison Williams
Beadle: Shirley Tomblin
Bell Ringer: Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper, AnnMarie Kelly
Greeters: Kirsta & Ben Weber
Hospitality: Martha Fulton, Betty Ganoe
Liturgist: Kevin Reed
Nametags: Nancy Rodgers
Ushers: Jason Brown, Brady & Carter Cooper,
Andy Homan, Addison Williams, Joel Witt

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 TODAY 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.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

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 devotion. A few copies are still available so pick one up today from the Gathering Area!

PLEASE PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR 2017!

“Expanding Our Hearts, Extending Our Ministry” was 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 last month; 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 before the end of 2016. This will help the session as plans are made for 2017 and the budget is approved. Thank you.

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.

KIDS CORNER FOR ADVENT

Kids are invited to stop by the “Kids Corner” area by the elevator to pick up the weekly Advent item just for them! There is a surprise item each week. A suggestion on what to do with the item is attached to it. If you missed a past Advent week, you are welcome to take those items too, while the supply lasts. It is exciting to get ready for the birth of our Savior!

2016 PLEDGE DONATIONS

All donations for 2016 need to be in the church office by **noon on Friday, December 30th**, in order to be deposited by year end. Please drop off your pledges/donations in the church office.

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. 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.

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CHRISTMAS WEEK SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES—Saturday, December 24
Isaiah 9:2-7, Luke 2:1-20

5:00 p.m. Family Service—Sanctuary
Music by Children's Choir
Special Children's Conversation: "Building the Manger"

7:30 p.m. Traditional Service—Sanctuary
Music by Sanctuary Choir
Sermon: "Not to Be Missed!"
Communion

11:00 p.m. Late Night Service—Memorial Sanctuary
Contemporary Music by PS 150 & Garrett Jones
Sermon: "Not to Be Missed!"

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE—Sunday, December 25—10:00 a.m.
Annual Service of Lessons and Carols
Special Children's Conversation, Special Music
Final Four Cents a Meal Offering

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE—Sunday, January 1—10:00 a.m.
Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon "Celebrating the Journey"
Communion, Covenant Renewal Service