

Opequon Presbyterian Church

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

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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 25, 2016-January 1, 2017

TODAY

10:00 a.m.: Worship—Service of Lessons & Carols,
Four Cents a Meal Offering

THIS WEEK

Monday-Sunday: Winchester Area Temporary Shelter 7:00 pm-7:00 am
Monday-Tuesday: Church Office Closed—Merry Christmas!
Wednesday: Newsletter Party—9:30 am—Bageant Room
Saturday: Jubilee Kitchen—10:00 am—1st Presbyterian

NEXT SUNDAY—New Year’s Day

Worship 10:00 a.m. Only
Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon “Celebrating the Journey”
Communion, Covenant Renewal Service

ATTENDANCE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH:

8:30 a.m.—119

Sunday School—58

11:00 a.m.—134

SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 25, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

How Great Our Joy..... German Echo Carol

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

†GATHERING SONG NO. 137 (vv. 1, 2)..... *He Came Down*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Like eager children waiting for dawn, tearing at the wrapping to get to the gift, waking sleeping parents with shouts of joy, let our celebrations begin!

Because Christ is our hope may this Christmas morning find us able to say “Alleluia” even in the midst of weariness and anxiety.

Jesus, come to us, fill our hearts with joy in knowing this deeper truth that life contains, that because You come, all will be well.

Let us witness not to successful lives, not to perfect health, faultless families, highly achieving work, or new possessions, but to our faith of knowing you.

And as we gather this joyful morning, let our Alleluias rise from willing lips, from lives opened to your gift, and from hearts filled with your love.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, and Amen!

Written by Ann Siddall, Stillpoint Faith Community

†CAROL NO. 132 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

(Please be seated for prayer)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Even on this day of celebration, let us come before the Holy One of Israel confessing our sins with contrite hearts, so that we may not deceive ourselves, but instead know the truth of our forgiveness.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy Incarnate God, by the light of your goodness and mercy, our failing to see your true light is clear: we have not loved you, we have not loved our neighbors, we have not loved ourselves. Our feet have not brought good news to the poor nor have our voices defended Earth and its creatures and plants. Forgive us, blind us with your holy honesty, so that we may more clearly see your will, and walk with sure steps into the way of wholeness and peace.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

People of God, beloved of the Holy One, in Christ Jesus, God has blessed all creation and called you to truth. As forgiven people, from this day forth, let your lives be given to the light so that all the world will know the power of rebirth through 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. 147 (v. 6) *The First Nowell*

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.**

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

†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..... "God Gave Us Christmas"

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18 Pew Bible p. 16

God promises to faithful Abraham that by his offspring, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

Carol No. 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Second Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Pew Bible p. 555

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Carol No. 105 (vv. 1, 5) *People Look East*

Third Lesson: Micah 5:2-4 Pew Bible p. 753

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem.

Carol No. 121 (vv. 1 & 3) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Fourth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38 Pew Bible p. 831

The angel Gabriel visits the blessed Virgin Mary.

Carol No. 128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Fifth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25 Pew Bible p. 783

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Special Music *Joseph's Song*

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:8-14 Pew Bible p. 833

The angels share good news of great joy.

Carol No. 123 (vv. 1 & 2) *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:15-20 Pew Bible p. 833

The shepherds go to the manger.

Carol No. 135 *There's a Star in the East*

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 Pew Bible p. 783

The Wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Carol No. 151 (vv. 1, 5) *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14 Pew Bible p. 862

St. John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.

Special Music *A Hallelujah Christmas*

Susan Homan

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen (Mice on the Keys)* Arr Elmore

†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. 35, we say "debts" and "debtors" in the prayer)

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

†CAROL NO. 136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

**Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

†POSTLUDE

†† †† ††

KIDS CORNER

A few items remain in the big bin at the KIDS CORNER (located by the elevator). Kids are invited to pick up any item they may have missed while the supply lasts. Be sure to take home a 'Jesus and Manger Bag' for some great fun today. Have a very meaningful Christmas.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office is closed this Monday and Tuesday and will reopen on Wednesday, December 28th at 8:30 am.

CAROLE AND DAVID ON VACATION THIS WEEK

Carole and David Witt will be on vacation through Saturday, December 31. If a pastoral concern arises, please contact Jean Steidel, 540-323-7071 or Pam Orndorff, Lead Deacon 540-667-5154.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Hazel Spriggs	Emily Dick	Richard Young
Dick Widell	Patrick Vincent	Berlin Zirk
Cody Monday	Jack Treece	Ethiopia Unrest
Sally Nelson	Elmora Golightly	Dorothy Rogers
Ron Wilkes Family	Aaron Jeller	Cody Monday
Whit Kennedy Family	Jay Journell	Stephanie Fitch
Pam Stevens	Ken Johansen	Phyllis Dilley
Karen Cord	Patricia & Ray Ferguson	Gary Snapp
Ben Weber	Janet Thompson	Sandi Pulizzi
Lori Jones	Tom & Vicki Harman	Lanette Orduna
Lauren Armstrong	Sarah Bauwer	Mettu, Ethiopia
Beth Drummonds	Myrt Nissen	Donna Klinefelter
Debbie Buckley	Connie Robinson	Colleen McMurdo
Nancy Simmons	Donna Coffman	Jane Lewis
Michael Weller	Robert Sydnor	Frank Vardeman
Melissa Ambers	Don Lewis	Dottie Edwards
Paula McNichols	Kevin Hay	Larry Matthews
Fire Victims	Opequon Church	Doug Koch
Gary Dove	Tiffany Judge	Illubabor Bethel Synod of
Mollie Guthrie	Samantha, Owen & Brian Cox	Church Mekane Yesus
Art Fulton	Jolissa Matthews	People Looking for Work &
Gene Fish	Joe & Barbara Alderman	Challenged by the Economy
	Rebekah Witt	

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

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

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

Beadle:	Shirley Tomblin
Bell Ringer:	Bill Frye
Greeter:	Leslie Tucker
Hospitality:	Ina & Robert Walker
Liturgists:	Mike Butler, Kevin Reed
Ushers:	Pat Heavner, Bill Robinson, Joel & Rebekah Witt

“WATTS UP” SHOP

Our Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter guests are sometimes in need of the following items: **snacks, white socks, sweat shirts & pants** (medium/large), **Depends, feminine products,** and **lip balm** i.e. Chapstick. You will find a bin in the Gathering Area for all donations. Items left at the end of the week will be donated to CCAP. Thank you for your generous support.

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS CHRISTMAS MUSIC

The Winchester chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present performances of Christmas music in local churches tomorrow, 4:00-7:30 p.m. 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.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP INFO

- ❖ Offering envelopes are now available in the Gathering Area. If you want to use envelopes and don't see a box with your name on it, please contact Cathy, office@opequonchurch.org or 540-662-1843. 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.
- ❖ 2017 Pledges are still being accepted. You'll find a pledge card in the pew rack. Please return these via the offering plate.
- ❖ 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.

PYC NEWS TODAY

Merry Christmas to YOU! Thank you for a wonderful time at the youth Christmas party last Sunday night. Enjoy time with your family throughout this holiday season. We will be back in the swing of things with a youth event on Sunday, January 8, 2017. That evening will be "MOVIE and PIZZA NIGHT". Come enjoy a feature presentation along with pizza, popcorn, candy, and drinks.

WORM SUNDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN

Sunday morning workshops for preschool-5th grade will begin again on Sunday, January 8, 2017. The workshop that morning will celebrate the ARRIVAL OF THE WISE MEN! Workshops are held at 9:45 am, offering children interactive, hands-on experiences as they explore lessons of faith. All children are welcome.

THESE DAYS DEVOTIONALS

The January-March issue of These Days, daily devotions, is available in the Gathering area. This issue features devotions focusing on "The Wonderful Ways of God," "Moving Mountains," and "Looking to See, Listening to Hear." Pick up a copy while supply lasts.