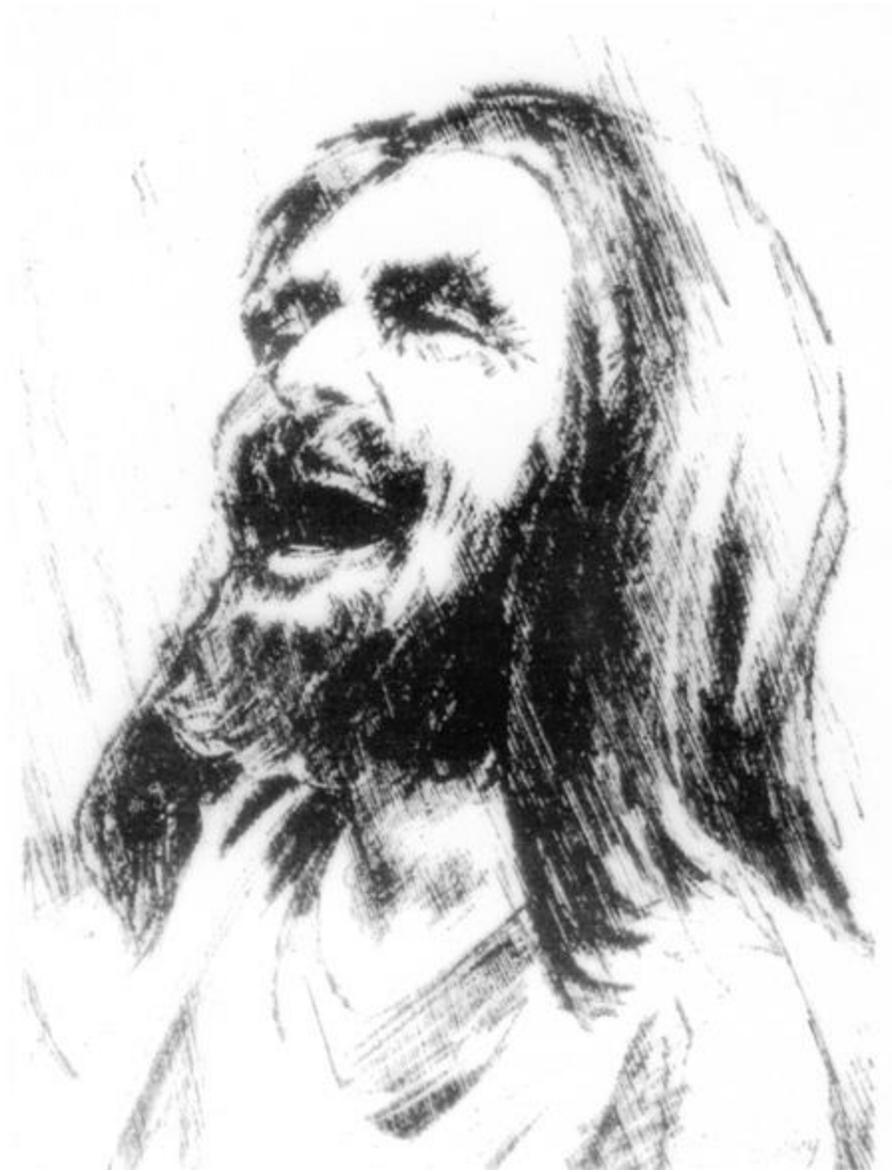


Opequon Presbyterian Church



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!

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 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 ----- Director of Youth & Young Adults



SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

April 8, 2018

8:30 & 11:00 am

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDES *Victory*.....Arr. Elliott
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands Arr. Heavner
Please use this time to prepare your inward spirit 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 *This Is the Day*

This is the day

This is the day

That the Lord has made

That the Lord has made

We will rejoice

We will rejoice

And be glad in it

And be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made

We will rejoice and be glad in it

This is the day

This is the day

That the Lord has made

†CALL TO WORSHIP

O praise to the God of laughter whose humor sends ripples through even the river of death, who turns a mustard seed into a tree.

Like a trickster, you turn our world topsy-turvy.

Joy is loose,

In the wiggles of the children,

The whispers of the youth,

The smiles of the adults.

We praise God for this glorious day.

Let the praise break forth in unlikely places and in silly ways.

Joy and praise fills our hearts, and in our songs

Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people.

†HYMN NO. 234..... *Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

CALL TO CONFESSION

God turns us around, opens our eyes, renews our faith, and even forgives our sins. This is odd behavior for most gods, but not for the One who suffers for us. In joy, and in humility, let us confess our weakness to the God who knows us well and loves us anyway.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of joy, we know that you have blessed us richly. Yet so often, we are down in the dumps over silly little disappointments. You have given us Jesus Christ, raised him from the dead, and promised us eternal life. But we act as though we don't know it! Forgive us, God! Keep us mindful that you always have the last laugh, and that your promise is for true joy in every circumstance, and life forever. Free us from the sadness that comes from pretending to be in charge, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ is raised from the dead! Love wins! Hallelujah! Christ lives and reigns for us! Hallelujah! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

LITANY OF PARDON

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

†THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE –To the tune.. *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*
When we are tempted in our pride to dizzy heights of sin,
beneath our feet, O Lord, provide, a ripe banana skin,
and when we yearn at someone’s head, to let a brickbat fly,
give us the grace to use instead, a well-aimed custard pie.

When cherished institutions stand before your throne of grace,
with good intentions in each hand and egg on every face,
teach us to query grand designs with laughter born of tears,
for deep in earth’s jam-buttu mines your rainbow still appears.

†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 *Lord, I Believe*

I believe in God the Father, Maker of all heav’n earth; and in Jesus Christ, our Savior, God’s own Son, of matchless worth; by the Spirit, of the Virgin Mary, born he in whom I have believed: God Almighty, Three in One. I believe, Lord I believe! I believe, Lord, I believe! Suffered under Pontius Pilate, crucified for me he died. Laid within the grave so silent, gates of hell he opened wide; for the stone sealed tomb was empty; on the third day he arose; into heaven made his entry, mighty conqu’ror of his foes. I believe, Lord, I believe! I believe, Lord I believe! At God’s right hand he is seated, till his coming, as he said; final judgment will be meted to the living and the dead; I confess the Holy Spirit, who was sent through Christ the Son, to apply salvation’s merit: God, the Spirit, Three in One. I believe the church of Jesus, universal, e’er remains; we are one through all the ages, in communion of the saints. I believe, I believe our bodies will be raised, to eternal life in heaven, ever let his name be praised. I believe, Lord I believe!

THE READING OF GOD’S WORD:

FIRST LESSON: Acts 4:32-35 Pew Bible p. 888

GOSPEL LESSON: John 20:19-31Pew Bible p. 883

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

†HYMN To the tune.... *Take Time to be Holy*

Take time to be funny, rejoice in the Lord
Let laughter explode and have fun with God’s Word
For laughter is healing, give strength to the weak
God loves to see smiles, for they lift up the meek.

Take time to be silly, it's good for the soul
Too many are somber, fighting for control.
Let go and let God's love wash over your face
Heavenly transcendence can be your life's space.

For humor is holy, it sanctifies life,
Replenishes hope and oft softens advice
It undercuts sorrow, deflates haughty pride
So smile and hang on, and rejoice in life's ride.

SERMON....."Risis Paschalis"
Rev. Tracie Martin, Parish Associate

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERTORY Bach in F Minor & Gershwin in the Nursery .. Arr. Logan & Summers

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

God of extravagant love, fill our spirits with your love and place upon our hearts your call to serve all in the name of Christ. We ask that you dedicate our gifts and our lives to faithful service and ministry. Amen.

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"We believe with the Bible that "There is a time to weep and a time to laugh."

We believe that Jesus Laughed.

We believe with Chrysostom that "Laughter has been implanted in our souls."

We believe with Aquinas that there is a time for "playful deeds and jokes."

We believe with Luther that "You have as much laughter as you have faith."

We believe with Calvin that "We are nowhere forbidden to laugh."

We believe with Wesley that "A sour religion is the devil's religion."

We believe with Kierkegaard that "Humor is intrinsic to Christianity."

We believe with Dostoevsky that "If a person laughs well, they are a good person."

We believe with Bonhoeffer that "Ultimate seriousness is not without a dose of humor."

We believe with Fred Rogers that “The child is in me still and sometimes not so still.”

We believe with Flannery O’Conner that “Christianity is a strangely cheery religion.”

We believe with Charles Schultz that “Humor is proof that everything is going to be alright with God nevertheless.

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 *The Church’s One Foundation*

**We lack the gift of laughter, faith sits all pale and glum,
Hope dozes on a rafter and love is stricken dumb
Come, Christ, into our drabness, tell us that matchless jest
Of life and resurrection, your sweetest and your best.**

**We know the trick of tumbling, red nose and redder face;
By virtues of our bumbling ours is the jester’s case.
Come, Christ, come down immortal, teach us that matchless jest
Of life and resurrection, your sweetest and your best.**

**You joined our sad profession, made good our foolishness,
Brought clowning into fashion, put on our joker’s dress.
Come, Christ, come holy laughter, to share that matchless jest
Of life and resurrection, your sweetest and your best.**

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak, but he is strong
Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me,
The Bible tells me so.**

†POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 8-15, 2018

TODAY

8:30 am: Morning Worship
9:45 am: Faith Formation Educational Hour
11:00 am: Morning Worship
12:30 pm: Presbyterian Youth Connection – Fellowship Hall
5:30 pm: Covered Dish – Memorial Sanctuary
6:30 pm: Open Door Worship – Memorial Sanctuary

THIS WEEK

Monday: Older Adult Ministry – 9:30 am – Bageant Room
Christian Believer – 3:00 pm – Bageant Room
Sing! Shenandoah-6:00 pm – Sanctuary
Men of Opequon – 6:00 pm – Chick-fil-A
Men of Opequon – 7:00 pm – Bageant Room
Tuesday: Tuesday Morning Mission – 9:30 am
GLOW – 7:00 pm – Bageant Room
Wednesday: Happy Days – 12:00 pm – Fellowship Hall
Sanctuary Choir Practice—7:00 pm
Thursday: Read “Em & Reap” – 7:00 pm -Home of Tandy’s
Scout Troop 1 – 7:00 pm – Assembly Room

NEXT SUNDAY

Morning Worship—8:30 & 11:00 am
Faith Formation Educational Hour—9:45 am
Newcomer’s Meeting with Session – Memorial Sanctuary – 9:45 am
Acts 3:12-19, Luke 24:36-48
Sermon: “Recognizing God’s Work”
Presbyterian Youth Connection – 12:30pm-Fellowship Hall

ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, APRIL 1st

Easter Sunrise – 86 8:30 am—154 11:00 am—212
Maundy Thursday – 68 Good Friday-85

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Chris Lucas
Lynne Mathis
Terry Hartman
Dave Browning
Chuck Phares
Dick Martin
Mary Ruth Joyner
Terry Coffman & Family
Ed Duetsch
Kilbourne Family
Harriet Kibler
Jared Kravitz
Naomi Thomas
Susan Ritter
Ethan & Leah Matthews (twins,
Audrey & Ethan)
Barbara Denmon
Emma Mathis
Juliet Ndofor & Daniel Batcha

Laurie Carver
Teresa Ritenour
Charlie Harmon
Christine Clark
Alice Foley
Scott Lloyd
Kathy Milliser
Susan Graybill
Jennifer Rosedale
Bill Nestor
Mitch Orndorff
Ethiopia
Keith McMurdo
Bill Bland
Harriet Smith
Marjory Journell
Gary Saunders
Norman & Nancy Tisinger
Katie Heavner Baker

Kevin Gano
Ann Held
Larissa Strosnider
Megan McCord
Al Owens
Charles Nicholson
Bruce Metcalf
Gretchen Cooley
Susan Lee
Mark Wilhelm
Frances Pitcock
Gary Strickler
Phyllis Dilley
Jane Lewis
Larry Matthews
Doug Koch
Illubabor Bethel Synod of
Church Mekane Yesus

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

Max Crane, Stephen Crane, Taylor McMurdo, Samuel & Julia Phillips, Brandon Michael, Jared Snawder, Greg Sousa, Michael White, and their families.

Sunday Morning Faith Formation Hour

9:45 am each Sunday

Preschool-5th grade children enjoy lessons and activities from WALK WITH ME.

Come on down to Room 3 and see what is happening each Sunday!

OPEN DOOR WORSHIP TONIGHT

Gather on this Sunday evening in the Memorial Sanctuary for a more casual, yet praise-centered and relationship building time of worship! We truly experience community as we share in teaching, in expressed joys and concerns, in lifting our voices, and in coming to the Table for communion. We will focus on the new life of Christ moving in us and through us to the whole world. While worship begins at 6:30 pm, first gather around tables for a delicious meal at 5:30 pm. Bring some food to share or simply join us because there's always plenty to go around. Our fellowship is rich and uplifting.

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION GRADES 6-12

TODAY-Meet in the Fellowship Hall from 12:30-2:30 pm for an afternoon Easter Egg Hunt. It won't be your normal, easy-to-find search. We will divide into teams and see which one can solve all the riddles that lead to their group's eggs! There may even be some prizes in store for those who come. Lunch provided, but please bring \$2 if you're able.

April 15 – The Olympics may be over in Pyeongchang, Korea but we will have our own competition at Youth Group! Stay after church or come at 12:30pm to the Fellowship Hall for the Olympic Games. Lunch will be provided, but please bring \$2 if you're able. We will finish around 2:30pm.

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

8:30 am

Acolyte: Sydney Burton
Beadle: Tom Tandy
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler
Hospitality: Bill and Lisa Frye
Liturgist: David Witt
Ushers: Alyce Callahan, **Pat Heavner**, Jim Youngblood, Cheyenne Burton, Sydney Burton, Kat Kibler

11:00 am

Acolyte: Paige Clark
Bell Ringer: Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper, AnnMarie Kelly
Hospitality: Betty Ganoe and Debi Hodgson
Liturgist: Robyn Ervin
Live Stream: Bud Proctor
Nametags: Dulcie Reed
Ushers: Jason Hathaway, Kyle Homan, **Bill Robinson**, Jenna Arnoldy, Paige Clark, Reagan Newhouse

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 18-35) NEWS

April 19-Game Night/Card Writing, 7:00-8:30 pm. Let's meet at Rebekah Witt's home, 203 Halifax Court in Stephens City. We will play some games and write cards to people in the South Texas Family Residential Center. This is a part of the Angel to Angel Project that the PC(USA) participates in so detainees are reminded they are loved. Snacks will be provided!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION COMING SOON!

We have flipped the calendar to April, just two months to go,
Hopefully, the March winds will cease to blow.

Watch in the Gathering Area for a new display to appear-
Announcing our great VBS theme of this year!

Get ready to sign up for all the VBS fun,
It is JUNE 10-14, from 5 to 7:30 pm when all is done.

OLDER ADULT MINISTRY TEAM

Meets tomorrow morning, 9:30am in the Bageant Room. The team will be looking at upcoming plans for Happy Days and various day-trip outings. A morning treat and coffee are served along with a great dose of laughter. The meetings are open to all older adults.

MEN OF OPEQUON (MOO)

The monthly MOO gathering will be held tomorrow night, beginning with dinner at the Chick-fil-A (PYR) at 6:00pm; ladies are invited, as always! Then we'll be meeting at the church at 7:00pm in the Bageant Room. This month, Jennifer Moore, Executive Director of The Mosby Heritage Area Association, which dedicates itself to the preservation of Col. Mosby's adventures during the Civil War, will be our guest speaker.

GLOW: God-Loving Opequon Women

The Opequon's women's group, known as GLOW, is back to their monthly gathering of friendship, support, and spiritual nourishment. Last month, we filled 15 Easter Baskets that were donated to Orchard View Elementary School. What a treat for the children that received them! **GLOW meets this Tuesday, April 10 at 7:00pm in the Bageant Room** for some thrilling and hilarious "Minutes to Win It" challenges. We will also be packing the food bags for Orchard View Elementary School. There will be goodies, drinks, much laughter and devotions! Come on out Ladies, you are invited!

HAPPY DAYS GATHERING

Happy Days is the monthly older adult fellowship group which provides a generous dose of joy as we eat together and then have a special program at each gathering. Happy Days is happening **this week on Wednesday, April 11 at noon**. The gathering begins with a covered dish lunch, which is

always an array of most delicious choices. Following lunch, we will enjoy guest speaker, Tim Youmans, from the City Government (one aspect of his presentation will be sharing about history of Winchester street names). It is sure to be very interesting. Come on out and enjoy each other's company, nourish yourself with good food and learn something new too.

BRIDAL SHOWER

The women of Opequon are invited to a bridal shower for Susan Cooper (who will soon be Mrs. Susan Witt). **The event will be in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 21st at 2:00pm.** Susan has requested that you gift her with one of your favorite recipes that you are willing to share. Susan and Joel are registered at Pampered Chef and Target. Join us for food, fun and games! Please RSVP to Betty Chicklo (540-868-8233 or bchicklo@yahoo.com) or June Malone (540-722-9596 or malonejune123@yahoo.com) by April 15th.

LOST AND FOUND

Are you missing any serving plates, trays or kitchen items? Please check the Lost and Found shelf near the coat rack in the Gathering Area.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

(highlighting a different part of worship each month)

Let's think about the **MUSIC** that occurs within a worship service.

- The music helps us to further express ourselves in worship.
- Music allows for US to fully participate in worship.
- Music helps us transition from one part of worship to another.
- We communicate our faith in God and our love for God through music.
- Music offers time for prayer and quiet reflection.
- Music helps set a tone or mood for different times in worship.
- Music expresses joy and is comforting within worship.
- The uses of MUSIC in WORSHIP are endless!

**NOMINATE AN OLDER ADULT FOR
“OPEQUON’S 2018 OLDER ADULT”**

So many of our older adults have been recognized as our “Older Adults of the Year”. We celebrate that those crowned in the past were Roy Bayliss, John Boyd, Frances Smith, Louise Duncan, Bill Robinson, Shirley and Dave Brumble, Rob MacGregor, Ty Headley, Edgar Tufts, Howard Kent, Donna Coffman, Betty Ganoë, Carol Tubbs, Graham Taylor, and Carol & Jack Treece. It is time to share nominations for this year’s older adult of the year. Who would you like to nominate? There are forms available on the Gathering Area table. Share who you nominate and WHY. Nominations are due by May 6 and they may come from anyone in the congregation. Forms may be returned to Carole Witt or dropped in the box provided on the table. The session will review the nominations and make their selection at their May meeting. The 2018 Older Adult of the year will be announced at the Older Adult Luncheon on May 23.



SAVE THE DATE
Memorial Garden
Orientation
April 22 12:30 pm
Lunch Included

THE SESSION—ELDERS

Stephen Brown..... Clerk
David Witt..... Moderator

Class of 2018

Bill Burslem..... Administration Ministry, Building & Grounds Team
Marc DesMarais..... Administration Ministry, Stewardship & Finance Team
Vicki Schmidt-Crites..... Evangelism Team
Graham Taylor..... Mission Ministry

Class of 2019

Mitch Orndorff..... Administration Ministry, Personnel Team
Robin Owens..... Christian Education Ministry
Susanna Shade..... Mission Ministry
Leslie Tucker..... Worship Ministry

Class of 2020

Bill Hopeck..... Administration Ministry, Building & Grounds Team
Becky Proctor..... Fellowship Ministry
Susan Ritter ... Administration Ministry, Technology & Communications Team
Kirsta Weber..... Christian Education Ministry

DEACONS

Debbie Bender..... Class of 2019, Congregational Care Ministry
Dom Cafaro..... Class of 2018, Congregational Care Ministry
Betty Chicklo..... Class of 2019, Congregational Care Ministry
Brenda Hawkins..... Class of 2018, Congregational Care Ministry
June Malone..... Class of 2019, Congregational Care Ministry
Bill Martin..... Class of 2018, Congregational Care Ministry

TRUSTEES

Mac McNichols, Chair..... Class of 2018
George Schember..... Class of 2019
Larry Donovan..... Class of 2020

WORSHIP NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

Where did you find humor in today's music?

Did it detract from the importance of today's worship?

Notes on Today's Children's Sermon

How can we understand the difference between laughing together and laughing at someone?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

Is it OK to laugh in worship? Was it OK when you were a young child?

Does the story of our faith really make sense in today's world?

How do you feel when someone else gets a joke and you do not? How about when someone else seems to understand something about faith and you don't get it?

How helpful might it be to smile when we share our faith?

If joy is a choice, have you made that choice?