

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!

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 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 ----- Youth & Young Adult Director



SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 30, 2018

8:30 & 11:00 am

Christmastide Sunday

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

O Come, All Ye Faithful..... arr. Smith

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

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

PRAYER REQUEST forms are inside the pew holders – please place in offering plate.

†All who are able, please stand.

Bold print—all respond.

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

GATHERING SONG NO. 141 (vv. 1, 4)..... *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

CALL TO WORSHIP

O, that our tongues were like bells to ring out the joy

And our hands like drums to beat a holy rhythm.

O, that our voices sounded like the heavenly choir,

And our feet were young enough to dance through the night.

O, that our knees were strong enough to kneel forever in wonder,

And our hearts could forever ponder the joy and share the love.

Holy God, take who we are and what we have to offer.

**And raise us this morning to sing, along with the choir of
angels, in exultation and joy.**

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

(Please be seated for prayer)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Because we have passed through the waters of baptism, we dare to bare our souls before God and reveal the bitterness that dwells in our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In Jesus Christ, God saved us, not because of any good works that we have done, but according to God’s mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. People of God, rejoice!

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

† THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 147 (w. 1, 6) *The First Nowell*

† PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those next to you)

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

“And also with you.”

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN “All Because a Child was Born”

Nursery (Ages Infant – Age 3)

† CAROL NO. 140 *Once in Royal David’s City*

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 5:2-4Pew 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, 38Pew Bible p. 831

The angel Gabriel visits the blessed Virgin Mary.

Special Music *Mary, Did You Know?*

Will Schwantes, violin; Susan Homan, piano; Bill Heavner, organ

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

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Special Music *Joseph's Song*

David Witt, soloist

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

The angels share good news of great joy.

Carol No. 128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

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

The shepherds go to the manger.

Carol No. 114 (vv. 1, 2)..... *Away in a Manger*

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

The Wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

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

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

St. John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.

Carol No. 119 (vv. 1, 2)..... *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

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

†CAROL NO. 143 (w. 1, 4).....*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

**Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**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 NO. 136 (Refrain)

.....*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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 30, 2018-January 6, 2019

TODAY

- 8:30 am: Morning Worship, Lessons & Carols,
Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering
- 9:45 am: Mission Morning—Memorial Sanctuary
- 11:00 am: Morning Worship, Lessons & Carols,
Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering
- 7:00 pm: WATTS

THIS WEEK

- Monday: Church Office Closes at Noon
WATTS—7:00 pm
- Tuesday: Happy New Year!—Church Office Closed
WATTS—7:00 pm
- Wednesday: Staff Meeting—9:30 am—Bageant Room
Choir Party—6:00 pm—Home of McNichols
WATTS—7:00 pm
- Thursday: WATTS—7:00 pm
- Friday: WATTS—7:00 pm
- Saturday: WATTS Clean-Up—8:00 am
Memorial Service for Larry Matthews—12:00 Noon
Visitation—11:00 am, Reception Follows Service

NEXT SUNDAY— Epiphany Sunday

- Morning Worship—8:30 & 11:00 am
- Faith Formation Educational Hour (For All Ages)—9:45 am
Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12
Sermon: "Opening Our Treasure Chests"
Communion
- Presbyterian Youth Connection (High School Only)—12:30 pm
Visioning Team—12:30 pm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Myrt Nissen
Gil Barrington
Hamp Hylton Family
Annemarie Matthews & Family
Cherry Nickens
Crystal Nicola
Joyce Braithwaite
Families of Children, Youth &
Young Adults with Special Needs
Pat York
Rick Bean
Jim Butler
Kim Levy James
Estella Noelle James
France
Brad Metheny
Bob Weber
Dave Weir
Taylor Eadie & Family
Barton Goodeve
Dan Zbur
Isaiah Truman

Matthew Chicklo
Paul Ferrante
Tamatha Hasse
Tracie Martin
Richard Warren
Gary & Donna Crawford
Charles Thomas
Emilie Roberts
Kate Beaman
Dianna DeWitt
Gloria Trabes
Lee Ruple
Doug Sensabaugh
Jill Waryu
Reed Dailey
Claire Judy
Mary Ann Johnson
Tom Gano
Thelma Cameron
Susan Lee
Russell Brink
Disaster Relief Agencies

Terry Payne
Dick Crane
Nathan Windle
Kes Mersha
Heather Leake
Mary Flagg
Ashley Tiberio
Ed Duetsch
Robbie Richman
Deana Shade
Cherie Wubbe
Larissa Strosnider
Megan McCord
Frances Pitcock
Jane Lewis
Doug Koch
Illubabor Bethel Synod of
Church Mekane Yesus
Rachel & Michael Weller
Doug Dicks

PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

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

PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION GRADES 6-12

- **January 6**-High Schoolers will meet with college-age students from 12:30-2:30 pm to hear about what post-graduation life is like. Come with questions and receive some advice. Lunch provided. No meeting for middle school
- **January 20**-Ice skating will be from 12:30-5:00 pm. Please let Rebekah Witt know if you'd like to attend. The cost will be \$5 per person, which includes skates. We will make sandwiches at church before leaving for the rink in Hagerstown.

ATTENDANCE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23RD:

8:30—120 Faith Formation—140 11:00—240

Christmas Eve Services

5:00—173 7:30—260 11:00—23

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The Photo Directories have arrived. Courtesy copies are available to all who were photographed for the directory as well as all new members in 2018. If you wish to purchase a directory, they are available for \$4.00 each, which will help defray the cost of printing. The directories are available in the Gathering Area following both 8:30 and 11:00 worship services.

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

8:30

Beadle: Leslie Tucker
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler
Greeters: Debbie & Bill Bender
Hospitality: Nancy Grubb
Liturgist: Mike Butler
Ushers: Bob Gaines, Jordan Hartman, Lance Pearce

11:00

Hospitality: Carole Fox, Martha Fulton
Liturgist: Kevin Reed
Livestream: Susan Ritter
Nametags: Dulcie Reed
Ushers: Nick Sardelis, Chris Seaton, Vern Gamble

MISSION MORNING EVENT TODAY

We will join our efforts together this morning during the educational hour (9:45 am) to share in a special hands-on project that will benefit WATTS. We will all gather in the Memorial Sanctuary (there are no separate classes today) for this service project time being facilitated by the Hands-Heart-Feet class.

PLEASE PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR 2019!

“Making a Difference” was the theme for this year’s stewardship emphasis. Dedication Sunday was last month; however, you can still drop your

completed pledge card in the Joash box in the Gathering Area or mail it in before the end of December. If you have a Time/Talent Survey, please place it in the CAT hat. Thank you!

2018 PLEDGE DONATIONS

All donations for 2018 need to be in the church office by **10:00 am on tomorrow**, in order to be deposited by year end. Please drop off your pledges/donations in the church office.

2019 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 Richard at 540-662-1843 or office@opequonchurch.org. If you are interested in giving electronically through your financial institution's bill pay system, please let Cathy know so she can issue you a different number.

APPLE BLOSSOM PRAYER BRUNCH

Through our older adult ministry, we are sponsoring an outing to the annual Apple Blossom Prayer Brunch on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at 11:00am. The event will be held at Shenandoah University Event Center and participants provide their own transportation. Would you like a seat at OPC's reserved tables? Sign up on the sheet found in the Gathering Area or let Carole Witt know ASAP (see her in person, email her at dce@opequonchurch.org, or call 662-1843). Tickets are \$25 a person, due to Carole by January 9.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE VILLAGE

Enjoy the display of Gingerbread Houses in the Gathering Area this morning. These were all created by LOGOS families and LOGOS staff after our Christmas Caroling outing the week before Christmas. The details and creativity on each are amazing. This was a terrific project that everyone worked together to complete.