

# OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843

[www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org)



Baptism of the Lord Sunday

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<i>Pastor</i> .....	David R. Witt
<i>Associate Pastor</i> .....	Julia H. Burkley
<i>Parish Associate</i> .....	Tracie Martin
<i>Church Office Administrator</i> .....	Rachel Lesink
<i>Church Finance Administrator</i> .....	Ken Smiy
<i>Director of Christian Education</i> .....	Carole Witt
<i>Director of Youth &amp; Young Adult Ministries</i> .....	Rebekah Witt
<i>Director of Music</i> .....	Susan Homan
<i>Organist</i> .....	William Heavner
<i>Facilities Coordinator</i> .....	Robert Sydnor
<i>Nursery Supervisor</i> .....	Laurie Carver
<i>Faith Community Nurses</i> .....	Bill Martin, Mike Nutry, Pat Williams

To reach a staff member or if a pastoral concern arises, contact the church office or note who is out of the office and email one of the pastors directly and we will respond in a timely manner.

## INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

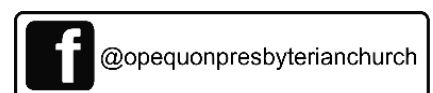
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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 four.
- **Worship Bags are available for children ages 3 – kindergarten.** These bags are in the back of the Sanctuary. Please return the bag and supplies to the basket when you are leaving.
- **Restrooms and a coat rack** are located off the Gathering Area, just outside the Sanctuary.
- **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.

**Access our Online Giving at**  
[www.opequonchurch.org/giving](http://www.opequonchurch.org/giving)  
**or scan the QR code here:**



**Follow us on Facebook:**



# A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*Baptism of the Lord Sunday*

**January 12, 2025 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

*Renewal of Baptismal Vows; Bake Sale*

**\*Thank you for taking the time to silence your phones before we begin the Worship Service.**

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

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

† = All who are able, please stand.

**Bold print = All in unison.**

## ✠ WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ✠

PRELUDE..... *Allegro Maestoso with Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Arranged by: Jeff Perks

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

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTES FOR MISSION ..... Dominican Republic Team

†GATHERING SONG No. 413 ..... *Come into God's Presence*

**Come into God's presence singing "Alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia."**

**Come into God's presence singing "Jesus is Lord,  
Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord."**

**Praise the Lord together singing "Worthy the Lamb,  
worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb."**

**Praise the Lord together singing "Glory to God,  
glory to God, glory to God."**

†CALL TO WORSHIP

There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God.

Do you ever feel that way?

**Yes. We do.**

The world can be a harsh place; we often need that reminder. Well then, let us care for one another. Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.

Church, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

**Friend, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.**

Let us worship the God who knows our names.

Let us worship the God who calls us beloved. Amen.

†OPENING HYMN No. 475 ..... *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
**Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging  
love!**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Our scripture passage for today tells the story of Jesus being baptized. The Gospel of Luke tells us that the sky opened up and the voice of God was heard saying, "You are my Son, whom I love; with whom I am well-pleased" (Luke 3:22). Friends, I don't think that's the only time God has said words like that. If I understand the promise of scripture, then I believe God delights in you. God created you. God loves you with the same passion that we hear God express in today's scripture. So, trusting that good news, trusting that we are beloved, let us go to God in prayer. For we know that the one who listens, listens with love. What greater gift exists than that? Let us pray.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, from the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced "good" with "not enough." Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us. For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news.**

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Family of faith, God's grace and understanding is deeper and wider than we could possibly imagine. So say these words of grace with me:

**Our story begins with belovedness. Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall, God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us. We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 399 (x 3)..... *God Welcomes All*

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it never ends.**

†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..... *Gather by the River to Pray*

Arranged by: Pepper Choplin

*As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way; and who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord, show me the way. As I went down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way; and who shall wear the starry crown? Good Lord, show me the way. O brother, let's go down, let's go down, come on down. O brother, let's go down, down to the river to pray, down to the river to pray. Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God? Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down; grace our spirits will deliver and provide a robe and crown. Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God. Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod, with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God. So let's go down to the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way that we shall wear the starry crown. Good Lord, show us the way. Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river; gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God, that flows by the throne of God, that flows by the throne. I went down to the river to pray, Ere we reach the shining river that flows by the throne of God.*

## THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 43:1-7 .....Pew Bible p. 585

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22.....Pew Bible p. 834

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES....."Splish Splash"

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 476 ..... *Crashing Waters at Creation*

**Crashing waters at creation, ordered by the Spirit's breath,  
first to witness days beginning from the brightness of night's death.**

**Parting water stood and trembled as the captives passed on through,  
Washing off the chains of bondage: channel to a life made new.**

**Cleansing water once at Jordan closed around the One foretold,  
opened to reveal the glory ever new and ever old.**

**Living water, never ending, quench the thirst and flood the soul.  
Wellspring, source of life eternal, drench our dryness; make us whole.**

SERMON..... "Trust in Our Belovedness"  
Pastor Julia Burkley

**✧ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✧**

**RENEWAL OF BAPTISM SERVICE**

†Renewal of Baptismal Vows

†The Affirmation of Faith

**I believe that the God I see in scripture is a God of love. I believe that God created me and delights in that creation. I believe the psalmist who says, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139) I believe that, just as God called Jesus "beloved," God extends this same term of endearment to us. I believe that no matter our earthly challenges, nothing could strip me of that sacred title. I could fail every test, miss every goal, drop every ball, and I would still be God's beloved. Therefore, I cling to this promise like a rock in the storm. I anchor myself with this good news, allowing the anxiety of the day to roll over me as best I can, because I know where I belong. I am a child of God. I am beloved. I strive to live this way. Amen.**

†Thanksgiving for Baptism

**OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS**

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *Wade In the Water*  
Arranged by: William Heavner

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

**Lord of all creation, you have raised us to new life through water and the Spirit. May your Spirit of justice and peace always rest upon us so that we may dedicate ourselves to the work, prayers and gifts we offered.**

**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** ☞

†REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

(During this song, we invite you to come forward to the font in remembrance of your baptism.)

†Hymn No. 482..... *Baptized in Water*

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;  
heirs of salvation, trusting the promise,  
faithfully now God's praises we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;  
one with his rising, freed and forgiven,  
thankfully now God's praises we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign of Christ our King;  
born of the Spirit, we are God's children;  
joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 192 (v. 1, refrain) .... *Lord, the Light of Your Love Is Shining*

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us;  
set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me; shine on me.**

[refrain] **Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.**

†POSTLUDE

**NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC**

In this morning's prelude, Handel's well-known "Water Music Suite" (circa 1717) is intertwined with a classic shape note tune from 1813. "Allegro" indicates the music should be bright and move along quickly. "Maestoso" marks a portion of the music that should be triumphant and victorious. Perks' arrangement accomplishes its goal.

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Karen Tufts Hillyard, Elizabeth Tufts Brown, Robert Tufts, and their families in loving memory of their parents, Edgar and Ann Tufts, and in celebration of their lives.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

California Wildfires

New Orleans

Rick Ours

Tibet Earthquake

June Windle

Robin Cooke

Jerry Metheny

Bill Thomasson

Buddy Chicklo

Fishman Family

Scott Driskill

Buddy Chicklo

Danny Lingo

Duval Family

Karen Lemon & Family

Chrystal Baker

Laurie Cocina

Dottie Riggelman

Deb Friedman

Gail Crane

Juliet Batcha

Kacie Kramerage

Chin We

Beth

Jane Bell

Masy Gray

Melody Martin

Gary & Mary Ann

Johnson

Mary Margaret Rinehart

& Family

Ellen Cunningham

Susan Homan

Bill Dunlap

Tammy Nicholson

Rusch Family

Liam, Coraline, &

Bentley

Jake Fleming

Denise Weidele

Curt Budny

Bettye Stirn

Norman Madagan

Peggy Clark

Lynne Rosamilia

Cora Helen Anderson

Chick Dorofee

Judy Orndorff

Richard & Pat Young

Ellen Neff

Gail Walsh

Tracie Martin

Bill Robinson

Art & Wendy Littman

Katie Happel

Matthew Ours

Bereaved Israelites &

Palestinians

Kourtney Haake

Jackie Witt

Tim Loftis

Nathan Windle

Those Suffering from

Mental Illness

Mike Shade

Jewish & Muslim Victims

Worldwide

José LaMont Jones

Cindy Correll

Douglas Dicks

Nancy Kerns

Kennedy Ransom

Ukraine

Ethiopia Church Mekane

Yesus

## ☞PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES☞

Cameron Andrew Veach, Kayleen Paquette, Kelly Klimek, Jacob & Tiffani Peoples, Sawyer Phillips, Joshua Blake, Max Crane, Andrew Crane, Thomas Crane, Jacob Heavner, Samuel & Julia Phillips, Brandon Michael, Michael White, Ben Jensen, Gavin Eanes, Eli Keaton



## SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

### TODAY – January 12

*Baptism of the Lord Sunday; Renewal of Baptismal Vows; Bake Sale*

8:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Bageant Room
10:35 PM	Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
12:15 PM	Senior Outreach Ministry
1:30 PM	Spring Arbor Worship

### THIS WEEK

Monday:	9:30 PM	Older Adult Planning Team – Bageant Room
	5:00 PM	LOGOS Leadership Team – Bageant Room
	6:00 PM	MOO – Chick-fil-A (Pleasant Vally Rd)
	6:00 PM	Windsong – Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	Focus Groups – Fellowship Hall
Tuesday:	9:30 AM	Tuesday Morning Mission – Bageant Room
	10:00 AM	ART – Assembly Room
	5:00 PM	Discipleship – Bageant Room
Wednesday:	6:00 PM	Ministry Team Night – Fellowship Hall
	* <b>FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> *	
	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting – Bageant Room
	12:00 PM	Happy Days – Fellowship Hall
	12:00 PM	Music at Noon – Sanctuary
	4:30 PM	LOGOS (Theme: Winter Wonderland Night)
Thursday:	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
	10:30 AM	Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary
	9:00 AM	WANC Tea – Youth Spot
	10:30 AM	WANC Meeting – Fellowship Hall
Saturday:	6:30 PM	Sherando Food Pantry
	2:00 PM	Leadership Event – Fellowship Hall

### NEXT SUNDAY – January 19

*Blood Pressure Checks*

*Scriptures: Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11 Sermon: "God's Audacity to Show Up"*

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Bageant Room
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
4:00 PM	Newcomers' Class – Bageant Room

## **BAKE SALE TO SUPPORT YOUTH**

Be sure to check out the Bake Sale items in the Gathering Area **today!** Proceeds go towards supporting our Youth who will attend the 2025 Massanetta Middle School Conference and High School Summer Mission Trip. Thank you for your generosity.

## **STAFF "OUT OF THE OFFICE" SCHEDULE**

Today: David, Carole, & Rebekah Witt – Out of Town

## **OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICAL SUPPLIES COLLECTION**

A team from OPC is going on a MEDICAL MISSION TRIP to the Dominican Republic in March. Between **January 12 – 19**, they will be collecting OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICAL SUPPLIES to take with them. The list of needed items is in the January newsletter and also by the in the black and yellow tubs in the Gathering Area. **The expiration date of donated items must be AFTER 3/31/2026**, otherwise they will be rejected. If you would prefer to support the team with a financial donation, go to [www.mmi.org](http://www.mmi.org) and click on the "DONATE NOW" button. Please put "Opequon Presbyterian Church March 2025 DR Team" in the message box.

## **MEN OF OPEQUON (MOO)**

MOO will gather **tomorrow** at **6:00 PM** at Chick-fil-A (Pleasant Valley). We'll investigate the year of 2025 and talk about plans.

## **OLDER ADULT TEAM MEETING (rescheduled)**

The Older Adult Planning Team WILL meet **tomorrow** morning at **9:30 AM** in the Bageant Room. This meeting is rescheduled from last Monday when we had the snowstorm. It is open to any older adult who would like to join in the planning for Happy Days gatherings, special outings, and other special events. Morning refreshments and coffee are provided.

## **HAPPY DAYS GATHERING (rescheduled)**

The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' meets this **Wednesday, January 15**, at **NOON** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a covered dish for the potluck lunch. Rotisserie chicken and drinks will be provided. Following lunch, a guest speaker from Wheels for Wellness will share with us and we will present them with a check from our 2024 Coin Jar. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the warmth inside and the delicious food.

## **MUSIC AT NOON**

This **Wednesday**, the **noon** hour will be filled with the music of our sanctuary organ and piano. Church members, neighbors, and guests are invited to come and go as their schedules allow for this time of "just music." Feel free to pass along this invitation to those outside our church family. All are welcome!

## **NEWCOMERS' CLASS – NEXT SUNDAY**

Are you new to Opequon Church or our community? Would you like to know more about the heritage, mission, and vision of Opequon Church? Do you have some questions about what, where, when, why, and how we do things within this faith community? Would you like to become a member of Opequon? If you said "yes!" to ANY of these questions, you are cordially invited and encouraged to attend our next Newcomers' Class sessions that will begin at **4:00 PM** on **January 19** and **26** in the Bageant Room. If you have questions, contact Pastor David Witt (540-662-1843 or pastor@opequonchurch.org), who will be facilitating this time of sharing.

## **MATTHEW BLACK COMING IN CONCERT**

Join us for a cozy night of soup, bread, and hear some amazing music from Matthew Black on **Saturday, January 25**, at **5:00 PM** in the Memorial Sanctuary! Please bring a non-perishable food item for our Blessing Box. A goodwill offering will be accepted to support Matthew's music. *(see details in the January newsletter)*

## **GIFT EVENT – January 26 (9:45 AM)**

GIFT stands for 'Generations in Faith Together' and GIFT Events are a time when all ages come together for an intentional experience of learning, sharing, and enjoying one another. GIFT Events are held once a month at **9:45 AM**, between the two morning worship services. You can count on there being food, loads of fun, and very happy atmosphere. This month, the GIFT Event will be on **Sunday, January 26** and the theme will be "What Do You Need to Be Warm?" As we experience the coldest season of the year, what brings you warmth? Maybe, most importantly, it is the reassurance that you belong. You're invited to this great intergenerational time.

## **LAST CALL FOR DIRECTORY PHOTOS!**

Don't miss being included in OPC Photo Directory! Photos will be taken in the Dell Room after the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM services on the following Sundays: **January 12, February 23, and March 16**. Photos will also be taken at TVOR on **Tuesday, February 25**, at **3:00 PM**. Questions/comments? Contact Debbie Bender (540-336-7689) or Alyce Callahan (586- 801-0279).

## **2025 FLOWER CHART**

The flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings are a beautiful addition to our worship service. Sign-up to provide flowers for a worship service on the Flower Chart posted in the church office or click the "Flower Chart" link on our website.

## **STAR WORDS**

We have begun distributing new star words for the year! For those who may have missed worship last Sunday, you may pick one up in the Gathering Area by the nametags or we can mail you one upon request.

## WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

### 8:30 AM Worship

**Liturgist:** Tracie Martin  
**Beadle:** Bud Proctor  
**Door Greeters:** Dale & Marsha Barley  
**Ushers:** Mike & Wendy Wygant, Mike & Trish Crawford  
**Bell Ringer:** Mo Mohler  
**Livestream:** Susan Ritter, John White  
**Building Stewards:** Max & Rebecca Agbayani

### 11:00 AM Worship

**Liturgist:** Ron Smith  
**Beadle:** Ann Denison  
**Door Greeters:** Bonnie Pitzer, Chris Armstrong  
**Ushers:** Marj Praml, Kyle Homan, Jason Hathaway, Vern Gamble

## WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

### Notes on Today's Music

✂ How does the music today help us to remember our baptism?

### Notes on Today's Prayers

✂ Who can you reach out to and pray for this week?

### Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

✂ When do you get to touch water in your life?

✂ How do you like to play with water?

### Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

✂ How do you like to play with water?

✂ Is there a body of water that you feel the most at home in?

✂ Have you witnessed a baptism at the church? How do those baptisms make you feel? What do you remember?

✂ When do you feel connected and beloved by God?

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