

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester,
VA 22602 540-662-1843
www.opequonchurch.org



"From Generation to Generation"

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. Our workers are masked and fully vaccinated for COVID.
- **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.

- **Online giving may be accessed by using this QR code:**



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David R. Witt.....	Pastor
Julia H. Burkley	Associate Pastor
Tracie Martin	Parish Associate
Laurie Carver.....	Nursery Supervisor
William Heavner	Organist
Susan Homan.....	Director of Music
Patty Klinefelter, Bill Martin, Mike Nutry, Pat Williams.....	Faith Community Nurses
Ken Smiy	Finance Administrator
Sherry Bean	Office Administrator
Robert Sydnor	Sexton
Carole Witt.....	Director of Christian Education
Rebekah Witt	Youth & Young Adult Director

SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 11, 2022

8:30 & 11:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent Youth and Young Adult Sunday WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD AND THE LIGHT

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

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

† All who are able, please stand. **Bold print**—all respond

INTROIT *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

Jenna Arnoldy, soprano

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENTS FOR MISSION Carol Schempp

GATHERING SONG No. 92 (vv. 1,3) *While We Are Waiting Come*

CCLI#1622560

**While we are waiting come; while we are waiting come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.**

**Come Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come.
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting come.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

†CALL TO WORSHIP

When we get caught up in the chaos of the season

Hold on, don't give up! Our God is on the way.

At the end of a long rough day

Hold on, don't give up! Our God is on the way.

When darkness fills the sky, and it feels so cold outside

Hold on, don't give up! Our God is on the way.

In times of sorrow, when life has you down

Hold on, don't give up! Our God is on the way.

When we witness injustice

Hold on, don't give up! Our God is on the way.

As Christmas draws near

Hold on, don't give up! Our God is on the way!

**A-Wake! A-Wake and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold, the child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.**

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near, yet, fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of the anthems rolls to shatter all hate and violence.**

**In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.**

**Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless;
love be our song and love our prayer, and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.**

(Please be seated for prayer)

CALL TO CONFESSION

A series of experiments by Princeton psychologists, Janine Willis, and Alexander Todorov, taught the world that it only takes a tenth of a second for us to form an impression of a stranger. In other words, it only takes a tenth of a second for us to look at someone's face and determine a stereotype about who they are. With decisions happening that quickly, it is not hard to imagine why we might need this moment of confession. The prayer of confession is an opportunity to slow down. We take that tenth of a second and give it room to breathe. We reflect on the decisions that we've made this past week and we ask for God's mercy to be in all of them. And without fail, God wiggles God's self into the cracks of our lives, and we are made better for it. So, with that confidence, let us go to God in prayer:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt. A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge. Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way.

MOMENTS OF SILENT PRAYER *Jesus Loves Me*
Adelyn Astorino, violin

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Family of Faith, hear this good news: We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance. We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community. We who feel alone, are seen, held, and known. This is the good news of the gospel. No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way, God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love. Thanks be to God! Amen.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

†THE RESPONSE OF PRAISE NO. 88 (vv.1,6 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
CCLI# 1622560

O come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O 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

ANTHEM *Joseph's Song*
Will Schwantes, tenor

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD:

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10 Pew Bible p. 578

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25 Pew Bible p. 783

Betrothed; a love declared, a future promised to Mary, my beloved.

But then a shock; a scandal. A baby, not mine, for Mary my beloved.

A dilemma: what could I do but walk away quietly and
spare the shame and disgrace of Mary my beloved.

But then, in the night appeared an angel with a message.

"Do not fear! Marry Mary, your beloved.

"A baby sent from God. A savior, Jesus.

God's chosen servant is Mary my beloved.

If God is in it, I cannot walk away.

It won't be easy, but it's exactly where I want to be. *Engage Worship*

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES "Moments of Joy"

†HYMN *A Better Way*
CCLI#1622560

**When Joseph learned of Mary's state he pondered her disgrace
He calculated all the shame the scandal would create
but not content to see her stoned he offered her some grace**

Refrain: **Oh there is a better way, God's better way Oh there is a better
way, God's better way.**

**He planned to leave her quietly and not create a scene,
but Mary still would grow with child; What then would her fate be?
When Joseph went to sleep that night an angel intervened [Refrain]**

**Said Gabriel, "Joseph, do not fear to make Mary your wife
she bears inside her womb the hope of ever lasting life.
The son that she will bear to you is Jesus the Messiah" [Refrain]**

**Like Joseph woke from sleep to find his pathway had been changed
still here today God calls us all to choose the better way
beyond our wildest dreams is still a calling that remains [Refrain]**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Love Came Down at Christmas*
Will Schwantes, piano

†THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

We thank you, God, for the joys in our lives-like time with friends and family, enjoying your creation and the smiles of others. We are grateful for these blessings and remember that they come from you. We hope these offerings will help us serve your mission in our community and world. Amen

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges. We believe in a God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost. We believe in a God who believes in us— believes that we can make a difference, that we can choose grace over comparison, love over hate, peace over war. And so we strive to live our lives in love. We strive to listen as Joseph listened, and to be the people that God calls us to be. It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. This we believe. Amen.

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 NO. 127 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
CCLI# 1622560

**Hark! the herald angels sing. Jesus, the light of the world.
"Glory to the newborn King, Jesus, the light of the world.**

Refrain: **We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.**

**Joyful all you nations, rise. Jesus, the light of the world.
Join the triumph of the skies. Jesus, the light of the world.** [Refrain]

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord; Jesus, the light of the world.** [Refrain]

**Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Jesus, the light of the world.
Hail, the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the light of the world.** [Refrain]

†CHARGE AND BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE NO. 384 (v.1) *Soon and Very Soon*
CCLI#1622560

**Soon and Very Soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and Very Soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and Very Soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the King!**

†POSTLUDE

Prayers & Liturgy Written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC
| sanctifiedart.org. & EngageWorship.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS
December 11-18, 2022

TODAY

3rd Sunday of Advent, Youth and Young Adult Sunday
Christmas Cookie Exchange

8:30 AM	Morning Worship (In Person & Live Stream)
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Assembly Room
11:00 AM	Morning Worship (In Person)
12:15 PM	Senior Outreach Ministry
1:30 PM	Spring Arbor Worship
3:00 PM	Blue Christmas Service – Memorial Sanctuary

THIS WEEK

Monday:	Windsong – 6:00 PM – Sanctuary
Tuesday:	Tuesday Morning Mission – 9:30 AM – Bageant Room GLOW (God – Loving Opequon Women) – 6:00 PM Fellowship Hall
Wednesday:	Happy Days – 12:00 Noon – Fellowship Hall LOGOS – 4:30 PM – Fellowship Hall – “Singing in the Streets” Christmas Caroling in Neighborhoods – 4:30 PM Choir Practice – 7:00 PM – Sanctuary
Thursday:	Tai Chi – 10:30 AM – Memorial Sanctuary Christmas Caroling to Homebound – 4:00 PM
Friday:	Java with Julia – 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Hideaway Café
Saturday:	Windsong Christmas Concert – 7:00 PM – Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY

4th Sunday of Advent, Choir Cantata “The Gift”
The Candle of Love, Christmas Joy Offering
Morning Worship – 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Christmas Breakfast – 9:30 AM – Fellowship Hall

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Carol Tubbs Sharon Sargent Family Thomas Shade Family Jim Dunbar & Family Pat deButts Kennedy Ransom Edgar Tufts Vicki Earnshaw Family Baby Jailyn Steven Kish Lambert Twins WMC ED Staff Kait Rusch Maralee Muscato Myra Gail Beck Family Melvin Reed Colorado Shooting UVA Community UI Community Annie Aisenberg Karen Lemons & Family	Robin Owens Hospital Staff Gwen Berryman Brett Long Chesapeake Shooting Marj Rowe Our Lawmakers Jane Willard Kenneth Carper & Family Rich Friedrichsen Kathy Tobin Rich Valenti Ray Anderson Daniel Crites David Lipkin Barbara Donegan Jack & Carol Treece Jim & Jeanette Baccary Curt Budny Tim Loftis Jane Lewis Doug Koch	Dick & Sandy Widell Kurt Hawkins Raya Jeffcoat Carol Ferrante Parker Plumb Tim Bullis Sandy Johnson Caregivers Caroline Hastreiter Nadine DeHaven Ellen Neff Mary Lou Thomas Brenda & Terry Caldwell Ukraine Afghanistan Casey Carr Michael Weller Ethiopia Nancy Kerns Racial Injustice Mike Shade E.E.C.M.Y. Church Mekane Yesus Dennis Wakeman
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PRAY FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY SERVICE

Sawyer Phillips, Joshua Blake, Max Crane, Andrew Crane, Thomas Crane, Edison Gomez, Jacob Heavner, Samuel & Julia Phillips, Brandon Michael, Michael White, Ben Jensen, Gavin Eanes and their families.

SERVANTS IN MINISTRY

<p style="text-align: center;">8:30 Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Beadle – Amaya Shook</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ushers – Amaya Shook, Camden Saunders, Cole Owens, Graham Taylor, Steve Bock, Jim Horner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Acolyte – Camden Saunders</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Greeters – Trish and Mike Crawford</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Livestream – Susan Ritter; Brad Jordan</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11:00 Worship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Beadle – Kat Kibler</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ushers – Kat Kibler, Finn Berson, Fran & Mike Jeffries, Mike Nutry, Vicki Crites</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Acolyte – Finn Berson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Greeters – Pam Olsen, Bonnie Pitzer</p>
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BLUE CHRISTMAS

You are invited to a service of healing and wholeness, **TODAY at 3:00 pm in the Memorial Sanctuary**. This time of worship will include prayer, scripture reading, reflective music, and remembrance of our loved ones. The recorded service will be available later on the Opequon YouTube Channel. If you want to bring a candle or candle holder. To help you remember for the Blue Christmas Service, please bring them with you to the service.

GLOW: God-loving Opequon Women

GLOW is Opequon's multi-aged women's group that meets monthly to build friendships and enjoy heart-warming activities together. GLOW will meet this **Tuesday, December 13 at 6:00pm for a covered dish dinner and a fun Christmas Thieves Gift game**. Many thanks to women who signed up to bring various items. **Roasted Pork and Beef Tips are provided**. We will enjoy a devotion and an evening of Christmas Joy! **Bring a wrapped gift item (\$10 value) for the Thieves game**. Come enjoy a special evening with the ladies. All women are invited.

HAPPY DAYS GATHERING

This month's Happy Days gathering takes place this **Wednesday, December 14** in the Fellowship Hall, beginning at Noon. It is a "CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION" with a potluck luncheon (Rotisserie Chicken provided) and then a **Christmas THIEVES GIFT GAME**. Bring a wrapped gift item for the game. (\$10 value) In this game, you are allowed to STEAL! Come enjoy the fellowship of the season.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING THIS WEEK

Two special, unique opportunities are coming up this week to spread Christmas joy and cheer. We will gather this **Wednesday at 4:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall to go out with our LOGOS young people and carol in the Woodbrook and Cross Creek neighborhoods. We'll return for a soup and sandwich supper about 6:15 pm. Questions? Speak with Carole or David Witt.

MORE CAROLING

We will meet this **Thursday at 4:00 pm** in the Gathering Area to journey out into the community to carol to our homebound members. We'll return to the church to share hot cocoa and cookies. Questions? Speak with Julia Burkley or Tracie Martin.

JAVA WITH JULIA FRIDAY, 11 AM – 1 PM, Hideaway Café

Join Pastor Julia for coffee, tea, and conversation.

ROOTS & SHOOTS

The SeedMoney campaign runs until **December 15th!** The direct link is <https://donate.seedmoney.org/7768/opc-roots-shoots-garden> or you can search for "OPC Roots & Shoots Garden" on the SeedMoney website. We are so thankful for those who have already donated and supported our campaign! Please consider donating or sharing the page to help us raise \$500 more and reach our goal!

SHERANDO FOOD PANTRY CHRISTMAS BOXES

If you are filling a Food Box for Sherando Food Pantry, **return filled boxes on 12/15 between 9 and 11 AM.** If these times do not work for you or if you need boxes or the list, please let Bill Burslem know and he will have some empty boxes at his house, (331 Ridge Ave, Winchester) and can return filled boxes to the Pantry. wburslem331@comast.net

WINDSONG PRESENTS "SONGS OF THE SEASON" ON SATURDAY

Windsong, the women's a cappella chorus that practices weekly at Opequon will present "Songs of the Season" this Saturday, December 17 in our sanctuary at 7:00 pm. Donations will benefit Bright Futures. Come and be blessed!

THE CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST! NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 – 9:30AM

The Christian Education Team is hosting the annual Christmas breakfast IN PERSON. The CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST menu includes Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Cinnamon Buns, and Fruit, all fixed fresh for you that morning. You get to indicate the particular items you would like, and they will be served fresh to you. Breakfast is a very important meal of the day – start your day off right during the holiday season by eating a warm meal the morning of December 18. No reservations are required. Monetary donations are appreciated.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

Did you know that Opequon has been the AUTHOR of its' own Advent Devotional book for MANY YEARS? Don't miss out on the daily readings in this year's Advent Devotional that have been written by US! Devotionals are available in the Gathering Area. It features an introduction, a daily ADVENT ADVERB, and prayers. Please help yourself to a copy of the 2022 Advent Devotional.

CHILDREN'S ADVENT BOOKLETS The title is 'From Generation to Generation' with many ideas and ways to connect with parents and grandparents to discover and learn what Advent was like for them as children. These booklets were distributed at LOGOS and are also available in the Gathering Area.

OPEQUON CHURCH LIBRARY

Did you know that Opequon has a Church Library? It is filled with books for all ages, DVDs, CDs, and other resources! Check out what books are being featured in the Gathering Area during the Cookie Exchange. You're welcome to take a look at the library, which is just down the spiral stairs. Questions? Ask our Librarian, Winter Brooks!

PLEASE GET YOUR PLEDGE IN NOW

Your support helps us reach out in many, ways to many, people. Pledge cards available in the pew racks or in the office; you may also send an email to **financialadmin@opequonchurch.org**. God's generosity to us is truly reflected in the many fingerprints we leave in the congregation, the local community, and in God's world. Join with us in making a difference, empowering our ministry.

WORSHIP NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

- What difficult situations have you been through that are followed by moments of joy?
- How can you bring other people joy?

Notes on Today's Scripture

- What would have happened if Joseph wasn't open to the divine presence entering into his dreams? How can you invite God into your dreams like Joseph?
- What options do you see, which God is calling you to look beyond, for a better way?
- What choices can you make each day to bring forth God's Holy Way?
- How will we, as a community of believers, choose to pass on our courageous faith and joy to future generations?

- **Notes on Today's Prayers**

- How will you let God be part of making choices?

