


OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843

www.opequonchurch.org



I know
who
you are,

the Holy One
of God.

—Mark 1:24

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

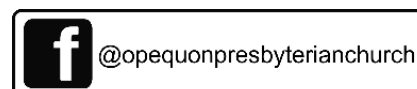
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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
or scan the QR code here:



Follow us on Facebook:



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

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

January 28, 2024 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Four Cents A Meal; GIFT Event

***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..... *O Lord, You Are My God and King*

Tune: Jerusalem; Arranged by: John Ignatowski

(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

†GATHERING SONG No. 407 (v. 1, 4, 5) *Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers*

Spirit divine, attend our prayers, and make this house your home.

Descend with all your gracious powers. O come, great Spirit, come!

Come as the dove and spread your wings, the wings of peaceful love.

And let the church on earth become blest as the church above.

Spirit divine, attend our prayers. Make a lost world your home.

Descend with all your gracious powers. O come, great Spirit, come!

†CALL TO WORSHIP (excerpts from Psalm 111)

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

Holy and awesome is his name.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

all those who practice it have a good understanding.

His praise endures forever.

†OPENING HYMN No. 692*Spirit Open My Heart*

[refrain] **Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open my heart.**

**God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.** [refrain]

**Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory.**
[refrain]

**May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.** [refrain]

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

What a gift it is to be able to be honest with ourselves and our neighbor about when we mess up and when we fall short, because we all do. God calls us to this time of honesty and reflection so we can name our individual and communal brokenness, and then get to respond in action and love. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we know that we are surrounded by things that are not you. We have so many distractions that pull us away from focusing on your call in our lives. These 'false spirits' cloud our judgements, put a fence between neighbor, and put our energy and resources into the things that put a wedge between us and you. We know you are merciful Lord, Call us back, recenter us on your call. Have your spirit descend on us loudly, remembering it is you we need to focus on.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Our God is so merciful and so loving that our God hears us, and reminds us that we are loved and part of our community even when we fall short. It is from this mercy and forgiveness that God calls us forth to also forgive and also love, just as God loves us.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 288 *Spirit of the Living God*

**Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me; mold me;
fill me; use me.**

**Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**

†PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those near you.)

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

COMMISSIONING OF TRUSTEE (11:00 AM)

✠ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ✠

ANTHEM..... *Come Down, Lord*

Come down, Lord; Dwell among us today. Come down, Lord; Send your Spirit, O Lord, we pray. We are gathered in your name, Lord, We are here to lift you up; We are praising who you are, Lord, You're the Life that fills our cup. We're believing all you've taught us, As we live from day to day; We are asking for your blessing, And as one we come to say: Won't you Come down, Lord; Dwell among us today. Come down, Lord; Send your Spirit, O Lord, today. We are in your loving fam'ly, We are one in heart and soul; We rejoice in your salvation, For your Word has made us whole. Bless the infants, bless the children, Bless the young and bless the old; Be our Master be our Shepherd; As we gather in your fold. Come down, Lord; Dwell among us today. Come down, Lord; Send your Spirit, O Lord, we pray. Won't you Come down, Lord; Dwell among us today. Come down, Lord; Send your Spirit, O Lord, we pray. Send your Spirit, O Lord, We pray.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20.....Pew Bible p. 153

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Mark 1:21-28.....Pew Bible p. 812

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "Sorry"

Pastor Tracie Martin

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 181 *Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirits*
"Silence! Frenzied, unclean spirit," cried God's healing, Holy One.
"Cease your ranting! Flesh can't bear it.
Flee as night before the sun."
Lord, the demons still are thriving in the gray cells of the mind:
tyrant voices, shrill and driving,
twisted thoughts that grip and bind.
Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit, in our mind and in our heart.
Speak your word that when we hear it
all our demons shall depart.

SERMON....."Our Unclean Spirits"
Pastor Julia Burkley

✧ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✧

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *There Is a Balm in Gilead*
Arranged by: Robert W. Thygerson

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

Loving Creator, thank you for the privilege of partnering with you and each other in the work of the ministry. We know that you will bless our efforts and contributions for the proclamation of the gospel and the building up of your church. Be pleased with our tithes and offerings today. Affirm your love, grace, and provision for each giver in our midst. Thank you for their heart for the ministry. Let them continue to give with cheerfulness and full trust that you will never fail them in their time of need. 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 ✧

†CLOSING HYMN No. 543..... *God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me*

God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

**Bind to myself the Name of holy,
great cloud of witnesses enfold;
prophets, apostles, angels witness:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

**Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,
flashing of lightning, strength of wind,
dept of the sea to soil of planet:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

**Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

**Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING HYMN No. 539 (v. 1, refrain)..... *We Will Go Out With Joy*

**We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.
We will go out with joy in the Spirit; we will go out with God.**

[refrain] **Alleluia! We will go out with joy. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

†POSTLUDE

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning's prelude is a hymn based on Psalm 145 and set to the classic British tune; "Jerusalem", composed just over a century ago by Hubert Parry. "My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever." (Psalm 145:21) No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul." This morning's offertory is an African American spiritual that offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22) Typical of a spiritual the first verse is a witness, "Sometimes I feel discouraged, And think my work's in vain, But then the Holy Spirit Revives my soul again."

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Judie Birchfield in remembrance of her dad.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Mike Shade | Jewish & Muslim Victims | Joyce Griffiths |
| Liz Martin | Worldwide | June Windle |
| Peggy Myer | Fred Johnston | Nathan Windle |
| Nick Corvino | Aliah | Clay Knick |
| Angie Cain | Curt & Nancy Budny | Rick Ours |
| Art Littman | Marge & Tim Higgins | Tim Loftis |
| Martha Jackson | Dan Fleming | Lillian Hanks |
| Carole Fox | Terry Williams | Katie Happel |
| Georgia Ricketts | Nancy Roberts | Michael Weller |
| Katie Schmidt | Joan Aylor | Parker Plumb |
| Dwayne | Graham Taylor | Maui |
| Jane Holsinger | Norma Windle Albanese | Cindia Stewart |
| Charlie Marple Family | Stephen Armstrong | Rich Valenti |
| Sandy Widell | Lori Jones | Ray Anderson |
| Patty Klinefelter | Carlene Lemasters | Nancy Kerns |
| Carole Schwantes | Valarie Foley | Kennedy Ransom |
| Nancy Burkley | Cindy Weeks | Ukraine |
| Rick Friedrichsen | José LaMont Jones | Ethiopia Church Mekane |
| Lynn Rosamila | Cindy Correll | Yesus |
| Bereaved Israelites & Palestinians | Douglas Dicks | |
| | Carol Nutry | |

✿PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES✿

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

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – January 28

Four Cents A Meal; GIFT Event; **Annual Report Submissions Due**

8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream

9:45 AM GIFT Event – Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary

Monday: 1:00 PM Disciple Bible Study – Bageant Room

6:00 PM Windsong – Sanctuary

Tuesday: 8:30 AM Staff Retreat

5:30 PM Discipleship – Bageant Room

Wednesday: 4:30 PM LOGOS (Theme: “Everything ROUND” Night)

6:15 PM Our Daily Bread – Classroom 2 & Zoom

7:15 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Thursday: 10:30 AM Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary

6:30 PM Sherando Food Pantry

Saturday: 10:00 AM Practice for Youth & Young Adult Family Sunday –
Sanctuary

11:00 AM Crafting with Becky – Fellowship Hall

NEXT SUNDAY – February 4, 2024

Youth & Young Adult Family Sunday; Communion

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39

8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream

9:45 AM Faith Formation – Bageant Room

9:45 AM Opie’s Playhouse – Memorial Sanctuary

11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary

GIFT EVENT – TODAY

Come join the “Once Upon a Star” event **this morning at 9:45 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. It is our monthly intergenerational educational experience. We are focusing on the season of Epiphany. Some comments from those who have experienced GIFT are: “I am so glad this happens at Opequon!” are “GIFT is a time so well spent as I get to know other people in a truly fun atmosphere.” GIFT means “Generations in Faith Together” as all ages combine one Sunday a month for a themed intergenerational experience. Come hear the fascinating story of *Song of the Stars* and enjoy some special Epiphany experiences. It will be a morning of wonder and intrigue. There will be some special morning refreshments (STAR cookies, GOLD coins, and more), and thought-provoking conversation. Your day is bound to be enriched by your time at GIFT.

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE – NEXT SUNDAY (Memorial Sanctuary)

All children ages 7 and under and their families are invited to Opie's Playhouse next **Sunday, February 4**. We will meet in the Memorial Sanctuary from **9:45-10:45 AM**. Opie's Playhouse is an informal playgroup that meets the first Sunday of each month. Toys and snacks are provided. Enjoy a cup of coffee and chat with friends while your children play. Please join us!

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE TOYS NEEDED

We are looking for a few items that can be used for our monthly Opie's Playhouse time. Do you have any GENTLY USED play food, play dishes, baby dolls, or wooden puzzles for YOUNG children that you might be willing to donate to Opequon for Opie's Playhouse? Feel free to talk with Joanne Berson (jfberson@gmail.com) or Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org) if you have any of these items to donate. We would love to hear from you.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING CAN COLLECTION FEBRUARY 4-11

Opequon Youth are collecting soup cans for the Souper Bowl of Caring! Please bring cans type of soup according to where you typically sit in the Sanctuary for worship services: **Choir Side = Vegetable/Beef; Center Section = Chicken Noodle; Window Side = Tomato**. Find the collection spot in the Gathering Area, starting **February 4**. Which section of the Sanctuary will be crowned the winners and bring in the most soup cans?! All donations are due by **February 11** and will be given to the Sherando and Highland Food Pantries. Monetary donations for the pantries are welcome as well. Questions? Ask Rebekah Witt!

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN NEWS

Roots & Shoots is looking for volunteers to pick up produce from the garden during the growing season and deliver to the food pantries. Deliveries happen every Tuesday morning to Highland and the first and third Thursday of each month to Sherando Food Pantry.

We are also in need of a Garden Administrator to keep spreadsheet totals of the produce, be the contact for community groups who want to volunteer, and send info to the church office for the bulletin and newsletter. Grayson Moyer, our long-time Garden Administrator, is graduating from college and moving away. We are so thankful for her dedication and commitment to Roots & Shoots and we wish her the very best! To volunteer to help, contact Dana Kelly (davedana@comcast.net).

2024 MEDICAL MISSION – MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Today is the last day to bring in **over-the-counter medical supplies** (listed below) for our Medical Mission Trip Team to bring to the Dominican Republic. Expiration dates for all donated items MUST be AFTER 3/31/2025. Please place items in the black/yellow tubs in the Gathering Area.

Vitamins (NOT gummy; adult / prenatal / children's; with / without iron)

Acetaminophen (adult / children's)

Ibuprofen / Motrin (adult / children's)

Naproxen / Aleve

Omeprazole / Pantoprazole

Pepcid / Famotidine

Flonase / Nasacort

Moisturizing Eye Drops

Voltaren Gel / Icy Hot

Triple Antibiotic Ointment

Claritin / Zyrtec / Allegra (adult / children's)

Selsun Blue / Dandruff Shampoo

Urine Test Strips

Between **February 4—18**, the team will be collecting the following **non-medical supplies** in the black/yellow tubs located in the Gathering Area:

Baseball Caps

Socks (all sizes)

Sandals (all ages/sizes)

Sneakers (all ages/sizes)

Dish Towels

Toothbrushes (adult & kids)

Nail Files

Glasses (reading or prescription)

Coloring Books

Stickers

To support our team financially, you can donate through our MMI fundraising page: <https://mmiorg.app.neoncrm.com/MMIOPC>.

For more info, check out the special Medical Mission Announcement on Opequon's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/Cv53dfvP4OM>.

STAFF RETREAT

Please note that all staff will be out of the office and attending a Staff Retreat this coming **Tuesday, January 30, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM**. Susan Ritter has graciously agreed to provide office coverage during that time so the office may remain open.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ellen Cunningham

Hospitality Greeter: Ben Brooks

Ushers: Betty Chicklo, June Malone,
Terry Hartman, Virginia & William Barr,
Malayna Bates, Kiah Bly

Acolyte: Virginia Barr

Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler

Livestream: Susan Ritter, Brad Jordan

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Vern Gamble

Ushers: Annemarie Matthews,
Brent Miller, Dennis Boyd,
Ethan Jordan, Kennedy Jordan

Acolyte: Ethan Jordan

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✎ How does today's music connect with the scripture?

Notes on Today's Prayers

✎ Where do I need to focus my prayers this week?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

✎ What happens when we're really sorry?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

✎ Where do you feel challenged by today's scripture?

✎ Where have you felt distanced from God in your life?

✎ What does the act of confession mean to you? The act of forgiveness?

✎ How does naming God, even when things are hard, draw you closer to God and community?