

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843

www.opequonchurch.org



First Sunday in Lent

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

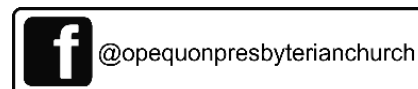
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries	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

February 18, 2024 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Wandering Heart" Worship Series; Blood Pressure Checks

***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.....*Our Refuge and Strength*
(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 392 (v. 1, 2)*Jesus, We Are Here*
Jesus, we are here; Jesus, we are here;
Jesus, we are here; we are here for you.
Savior, we are here; Savior, we are here;
Savior, we are here; we are here for you.

†CALL TO WORSHIP
Come in. Feel your feet on the floor. Settle your worries. Take a deep breath.
Dust the cobwebs from your ears. Relax the tension in your jaw, for Christ is here.
God never stops seeking us.
We have been found.
Let us find God in return.
Let us worship the God of deep waters.

†OPENING HYMN No. 415 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*
Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.

[refrain] **I will arise and go to Jesus;
he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.**

**Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome;
God's free bounty glorify,
true belief and true repentance,
every grace that brings you nigh.** [refrain]

**Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
if you are tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.** [refrain]

**Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth
is to feel your need of him.** [refrain]

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

In our scripture passage for today, we will read about Jesus calling Peter to be a disciple. In the story, Peter is in the presence of the Lord for quite some time before he realizes it. Jesus crawls into Peter's boat. He tells him to head toward deep water. Together, they let the nets down. And it is only when the boat threatens to sink, due to the extreme abundance of fish, that Peter turns to Jesus and truly sees who's in his boat. Sometimes we miss what's right in front of us. Fortunately, Christ keeps crawling into our boats anyhow. So join me in the prayer of confession, not out of fear, but out of a desire to finally see who's right in front of us. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow you, and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter. Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised to find you in our midst. Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own. Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves. Forgive us

for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat. Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, Peter didn't exactly make a good first impression when Jesus got into his boat. He questioned dropping his nets, as they hadn't caught any fish all night. He was oblivious to who Christ was for quite some time, and once he realized the Lord standing in his boat, he quickly deemed himself unworthy. And even still, Jesus called Peter a disciple and a friend. Church family, hear and believe this good news: You can make a thousand bad impressions. You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes, and assume you know better. And even still, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart. That is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in that.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 441 *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love. Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.

Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin! How I love you! Look up upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

All the sins I have committed, to my Savior now I bring.

I bow down with tears of anguish; Christ forgives and so I sing:

Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin! How I love you! Look up upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.

†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.....*Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing*

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry 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 up on it, Mount of Thy redeeming love. Here I raise mine 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, Wand'ring 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 Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter, Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above; seal it for Thy courts above.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 25:1-10.....Pew Bible p. 436

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 5:1-11.....Pew Bible p. 836

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES....."We Follow Jesus"

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN..... *You Sought Me*

**My bones and head were bent down low
When you approached me on your own
You sought me out and called my name
My life would never be the same**

**A chance encounter by the lake
I thought this must be some mistake
That someone wrapped in holiness
Would willingly embrace this mess.**

**I tried to tell you, "Leave me be—
I'm not sure what you see in me."
And yet you chose my net to fill
With all my faults you call me still.**

**When I begin to doubt my worth
Remind me I was formed from earth
The very good creation of
My God who seeks me out in love.**

SERMON....."Jesus Sought Me"

Pastor David Witt

☞ **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD** ☞

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *Be Thou My Vision*

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

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we are humbled as we try to do what is right and to walk in your ways. Receive, we ask, these offerings, and use them for your own good purposes in the church, in the community, and in the world. We pray in the powerful name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

†THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in a God of abundance—
a God who sees possibilities where I cannot,
and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.
I believe in a God who comforts—
a God who says, "Do not be afraid;"
a God who joins me in life's deep waters.
I believe in a God who invites—
a God who says, "Follow me," and, "You will be fishers of people."
I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—
a God of second chances and boundless mercy;
a God who calls us by name.
We believe. Help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray. 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. 418..... *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.**

[refrain] **"Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me?** [refrain]

**O for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned,
he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.** [refrain]

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING HYMN No. 748..... *Go with Us, Lord*

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true
our lives may be our gift to you.**

†POSTLUDE

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

This morning is not the first time Donald Callender's stirring composition "Refuge and Strength" has led us into worship here at OPC. A handwritten notation on the music indicates it was played as a prelude here 33 years ago and has resurfaced every year or two since. Interestingly, over those years, it has been performed on three successive sanctuary organs by the same organist. The composer notes it was inspired by Psalm 46 – "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." While the familiar hymn, "Be Thou My Vision" is just a little over one hundred years old it feels ageless. It wasn't until 1919 that the translation of a 6th century Irish poem was combined with the ancient folk melody that came to be called Slane, named for a hill closely associated with the 5th century saint, Patrick.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Carole and David Witt in loving memory of David's mother, Burneice Witt.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Mareda Jobson	Angie Cain	Carlene Lemasters
Winnie Rothstein	Art Littman	Valarie Foley
Zuri Jackson	Martha Jackson	Cindy Weeks
June Windle	Carole Fox	José LaMont Jones
Cole Owens	Georgia Ricketts	Cindy Correll
Jason Poteat	Katie Schmidt	Douglas Dicks
Mackenna Newcomb	Carole Schwantes	Carol Nutry
Jim Leigh	Nancy Burkley	Joyce Griffiths
Martha & Richard Fischer	Rick Friedrichsen	Nathan Windle
Betty & Gayle DeHaven	Lynn Rosamila	Clay Knick
Gary Allen	Bereaved Israelites & Palestinians	Rick Ours
Robin Gail	Jewish & Muslim Victims Worldwide	Tim Loftis
Carolynne Pell	Fred Johnston	Lillian Hanks
David André	Aliah	Katie Happel
Tom Crosby	Curt & Nancy Budny	Michael Weller
Jenna Marquis Boyer	Marge & Tim Higgins	Parker Plumb
Brian Daniska	Dan Fleming	Maui
Barbara Sawford	Terry Williams	Cindia Stewart
Peggy Myer	Nancy Roberts	Rich Valenti
Emma Kate Hathaway	Joan Aylor	Ray Anderson
Bill Pursel	Graham Taylor	Nancy Kerns
Sandy Widell	Norma Windle Albanese	Kennedy Ransom
Mike Shade	Stephen Armstrong	Ukraine
Liz Martin	Lori Jones	Ethiopia Church Mekane Jesus

✠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 – February 18

*First Sunday in Lent; Worship Series: "Wandering Heart;"
Blood Pressure Checks*

- 8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
9:45 AM Faith Formation – Bageant Room
9:45 AM Baja Mission Trip Info Session – Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary
6:00 PM Taizé Contemplative Worship – Memorial Sanctuary

THIS WEEK

- Monday: 12:00 PM Life Goes On – Fellowship Hall
 1:00 PM Disciple Bible Study – Bageant Room
 4:00 PM Safety Team – Dell Room
 6:00 PM Windsong – Sanctuary
Tuesday: 11:30 AM Staff Appreciation Lunch
 7:00 PM Session Meeting – Bageant Room
Wednesday: 12:00 PM Music At Noon – Sanctuary
 4:30 PM LOGOS (Theme: Spoon Hanging 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
 10:30 AM WANC Lunch – Fellowship Hall
 5:30 PM Discipleship Team Meeting – Gathering Area
 6:00 PM Fellowship Book Club – Bageant Room
Friday: 11:00 AM Java With Julia – Hopscotch
 7:00 PM Young Adult FEAST Group – Fellowship Hall
Saturday: 5:00 PM Covered-Dish Dinner – Fellowship Hall
 6:00 PM Talent Show – Fellowship Hall

NEXT SUNDAY – February 25

*Second Sunday in Lent; "Wandering Heart" Worship Series;
Four Cents A Meal*

Scriptures: Psalm 22: 23-31; Matthew 13:22-33 Sermon: "Stepping into the Storm"

- 8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM Lenten Prayer Breakfast – Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
12:00 PM Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Celebration of Ministry –
 Sanctuary & Zoom
4:00 PM Newcomers' Class – Memorial Sanctuary

FAITH FORMATION LENTEN STUDY BEGINS

Our Lenten study, "Make Disciples," begins **today** at **9:45 AM** as a part of the Faith Formation Hour. The 55-minute classes (in-person and Zoom) will be facilitated by Pastor David and Ann Denison.

LENTEN CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP

All are welcome to a special Lenten Taizé Contemplative Worship Service **tonight** at **6:00 PM** in the Memorial Sanctuary. We will join in song, silence, and prayer as we reflect, pray, and gather together in community as we begin our walk with Jesus to the cross.

LENT JIGSAW PUZZLE PROJECT

During Advent our challenge was to "Walk to Bethlehem" by Christmas. This Lent, our challenge is to complete the Lent Jigsaw Puzzle by Easter! The puzzle table is set up in the Gathering Area. Everyone is invited to work on it and fit some pieces in. We will watch the picture come alive through the weeks of Lent. Surely, we can complete it by Easter Sunday. Please take care to keep all puzzle pieces on the table. Thank you.

LENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

A Lent Devotional, titled "Wandering Hearts and Beyond," is available for you to use during this new season of Lent. Daily readings focus on keeping our hearts connected to God and one another. Take a booklet home today and spend a few quiet moments each day as you read it. Copies are available in the Gathering Area and Dell Room.

A Children's Lent Booklet, titled "Put Your Heart Into It," is available for young ones. This will help children focus on putting their heart into loving family, friends, home, God, and more. These will be distributed at LOGOS to all young people and copies are available in the Gathering Area and Dell Room.

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP: Non-Medical Supplies Needed

Today is the last day to bring in donations of non-medical supplies for the Medical Mission Team's upcoming trip to the Dominican Republic. Please place your donations of the following 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 the 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>.

BAJA MISSION TRIP INFO MEETING – TODAY

The Presbytery has been sending a team to Baja from throughout the region for more than 20 years and OPC sent entire build teams for four years up to the time of the pandemic. Our last trip was in 2019. Come find out all about the Baja Mission Trip at the info meeting **today** at **9:45 AM** (between worship services) in the Fellowship Hall.

Applications to participate will be available at the meeting and are due back by **March 24** so we can communicate our total to the Presbytery. If you have questions prior to the meeting, you can ask any of the following people about their experiences from previous trips: Pastor David, Joel Witt, Robin Owens, Jim and Natalie Youngblood, Denise Weidele, or Bill and Pam Bayliss.

LIFE GOES ON

After a brief but necessary hiatus, Life Goes On will gather **tomorrow** at **noon** in Fellowship Hall. The main course will be beef stew. If you need a ride, please contact Pastor Tracie or the church office. Please plan to bring a side to pass or chip in a couple of bucks toward expenses. See you tomorrow!

FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

Fellowship Book Club will meet this **Thursday, February 22**, at **6:00 PM** in the Bageant Room to discuss the book *Great Small Things* by Jodi Picoult.

OPC SUPPER & TALENT SHOW –SATURDAY

YES – the OPC Potluck Supper and Talent Show will be held next **Saturday, February 24!** The Potluck Supper will start at **5:00 PM**, followed by the Talent Show at **6:00 PM**. Fellowship is providing the venue, drinks, and desserts. Please come to enjoy 13 (YES – 13!) amazing acts! This should be a fun night with lots of OPC talent, good food, and fun! Call/text Marj Praml (540-327-2667) to let us know if you'd like to help out in any way.

LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST EVENT

The Christian Education Team is sponsoring a Lenten Prayer Breakfast for everyone next **Sunday, February 25** at **9:45 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy the great variety of breakfast casseroles, muffins, and fruit. We will also experience some great prayer activities such as “praying in color,” “whole body prayer,” and a “finger labyrinth” prayer. This is a wonderful occasion for the whole family and all ages. Come join us around the tables.

FAIR TRADE UPDATE

Coffee, tea and candy has arrived and the kiosk restocked! Between services next Sunday, our Coffee Mission Team will have a special display in the Gathering Area – and may even have a few surprises to offer! We look forward to sharing the Fair Trading/Equal Exchange Mission with our OPC friends.

A “SOUPER” THANK YOU!

Thanks to your generous support for Sherando and Highland Food Pantries through the Souper Bowl of Caring, the window side collected 232 cans of tomato soup, the center section with 239 cans of chicken noodle soup, and the choir side with 232 vegetable/beef soup. Congratulations to the center section for bringing in the most cans! Onelife Fitness Gym also added 70 soup cans to our collection. The grand total was 773 soup cans collected, which was a lot more soup than we collected last year!

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION – NEXT SUNDAY

The Session of Opequon Presbyterian Church calls for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Celebration of Ministry next **Sunday, February 25, 2024** at **12:00 PM** (both in-person in the Sanctuary and via Zoom). The Zoom link will be made available the week before.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the written 2023 Annual Report to the Congregation (available today), which will include statistical and financial reports, ministry team reports, staff reports, and the 2024 church calendar.

The congregation will be asked to elect new Deacons as nominated by the 2023 Nominating Committee (Debbie Bender, Betty Chicklo, Trish Crawford, Mary Ann Johnson, June Malone, Judy Moody, Brian Steffens) and four Representatives to the church's 2024 Nominating Committee. Please prepare to nominate four individuals.

In addition, the Annual Meeting of the Corporation (Opequon Presbyterian Church, Inc.) will occur, with a report by the Trustees on investments in 2023 and the corporation's and Trustees' organization in the current year.

The meeting will be called to order immediately at the conclusion of the 11:00 AM service. All active members of Opequon are encouraged to participate in this meeting, exercising both the privilege and responsibility of church membership, as we give thanks for our ministry and mission as the called people of God.



WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ellen Cunningham

Beadle: Ben Brooks

Door Greeters: Ben & Winter Brooks

Ushers: Terry Hartman, Heide Mohler, LJ Strosnider

Acolyte: LJ Strosnider

Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler

Livestream: Susan Ritter, Brad Jordan

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: John Sherman

Beadle: John Hess

Ushers: Andy Homan, Mike Nutry, Kevin Reed, Joshua Batcha, Daniel Batcha, Jaxson Hughes

Acolyte: Joshua Batcha

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✂ How did today's music witness to how God seeks us?

Notes on Today's Prayers

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

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

✂ How will you follow Jesus this week?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

✂ What is the beginning of your faith story?

✂ What are the first things you were taught about God?

✂ When was the first time you felt God's presence? When has God sought you out?

✂ What do you imagine about Peter's faith story?

✂ What are his hopes and dreams? What are his daily challenges?

✂ What are his impressions of Jesus?

✂ Have you ever pivoted your life in order to follow a new calling?

✂ What did you leave behind? How did that new path unfold? Where was God along the way?

✂ How will you follow Jesus this week?

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Liturgy by: Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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