

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 18, 2025 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM



**BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD
who takes away the sin of the world!**

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

<i>Pastor</i>	David R. Witt
<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 & Young Adult Ministries</i>	Rebekah Witt
<i>Director of Music</i>	Susan Homan
<i>Organist/Pianist</i>	Garrett Jones
<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 children under the age of 5.
- **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:



@opequonpresbyterianchurch

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Second Sunday After Epiphany – Blood Pressure Checks

- ☞ **Thank you for silencing your phones before we begin the Worship Service.**
- ☞ **As the music of the Prelude begins, we invite you to take a moment to quietly focus your heart and 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 the offering plate.

† = All who are able, please stand.

Bold print = All in unison.

☞ WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ☜

PRELUDE..... *Make Them Hear You*
By: Stephen Flaherty

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG No. 743 *O God, You Are My God*

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

O God, you are my God, and I will ever praise you.

I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in your ways.

And step by step you'll lead me, and I will follow you all of my days.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

To those who want to follow him

Jesus asks, "What are you seeking?"

Teacher, we do not seek worldly power,

but a better way to live.

"What are you seeking?"

Teacher, we do not seek worldly wealth,

nor the prizes of paradise,

but simply to be with you.

"What are you seeking?"

Teacher, we do not seek worldly praise or fame,

only that you call us by name.

Let us worship God as seekers.

†OPENING HYMN No. 410 *God Is Calling through the Whisper*
**God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;
hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?**
**God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing;
strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling – can you hear?
God is calling – can you hear?**
**God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing;
days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling – and we hear!
God is calling – and we hear!**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSiON

Like the early disciples, we are curious about this Jesus, this Son of God. We may be tempted to stay away, for we know we are not worthy of him. But Jesus does not care about worth, wealth and power. Jesus seeks those who would follow honestly, willing to face their failures in order to grow closer to God. In that spirit, let us turn to Christ, confessing our sin together in unison prayer, then in personal silence.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

God of the ages, we do not always wait with patience. We do not always sing your praises. We do not always recognize your work in our lives. We would rather take the credit for ourselves. We would rather take the easy way out. We would rather step on others if it means more for ourselves. Forgive us for all the ways we forget you. Help us delight in doing your will. Help us to trust in you and return us to the path of righteousness.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

The Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world. The Lamb of God takes away the sins of each and every one of us. Christ has mercy on us, forgiving our sins. Alleluia!

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 519 (x2)..... *You Are My Strength When I Am Weak*
You are my strength when I am weak;
you are the treasure that I seek; you are my all in all.
When I fall down, you pick me up;
when I am dry, you fill my cup; you are my all in all.
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is your name!

†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..... *God Is Calling Us*

Words & Music by: Natalie Sleeth

If the song's to be sung, we must sing it! If the love's to be shared, we must bring it! For God is calling us now, indeed, to go where there is need! If the Word's to be heard, we must speak it! If the peace is to come, we must seek it! For God is calling us now, indeed, to go where there is need! Now we may not see the harvest of the seeds we sow today, but in faith and trust, move ahead we must, knowing God will lead the way! If the job's to be done, we must do it! With the help of the Lord, we'll get through it! For God is calling us now, indeed, to go where there is need! Someone's crying, Lord, Kum ba yah! Someone's dying, Lord, Kum ba yah! Kum ba yah! Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah! Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah! O Lord, Kum ba yah! If the song's to be sung, we must sing it! If the love's to be shared, we must bring it! For God is calling us one by one until the work is done! Kum ba yah, my Lord, Kum ba yah, Kum ba yah! For God is calling us one by one, until the work is done! Oh, it may be far from easy, but we need to lend a hand, for there comes a call to us, one and all: "Go and serve throughout the land!" If the job's to be done, we must do it! With the help of the Lord, we'll get through it! For God is calling us, one by one, each and all of us, one by one, God is calling us, ev'ry one until the work is done! O Lord, Kum ba yah!

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 49:1-7 Pew Bible p. 592
NEW TESTAMENT READING: John 1:29-42 Pew Bible p. 862

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "Come and See"
Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 163 *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

**Wild and lone the prophet's voice
echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice,
bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized;
cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's control."
"Bear the fruit repentance sows:
lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those;
set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power,
burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God's store."
With such preaching, stark and bold,
John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold words
of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John to behold the Lamb of God.**

SERMON..... "And Then What?"
Cindy Corell, *Global Ecumenical Liaison for Mission*

♪ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ♪

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *There Is A Redeemer*
By: Melody Green

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

God of glory, as people brought gifts to the infant Jesus, we bring our gifts to you. May these gifts be used to lift up those who are oppressed, to bring deliverance to those who are in need, to support those who are poor, and to help those who are in trouble. Through Christ, the Lamb of God, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & 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. 720..... *Jesus Calls Us*

**Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth
saying, "Christian, follow me."**

**Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."**

**In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."**

**Jesus calls us: by thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 468 (v. 1) *In My Life*

**In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.**

†POSTLUDE

WELCOME CINDY CORELL

During both worship services today, we extend a warm welcome to Cindy Corell, our Global Ecumenical Liaison. Global Ecumenical Liaisons serve as bridges between PC (USA) and other constituencies both locally and globally.

Cindy lives in Staunton not far from where she grew up in Augusta County. She served 12 years as a mission co-worker walking alongside partners in Haiti, and later in the Dominican Republic. Now serving in the US, she is excited to connect with Presbyterians as we serve God and God's people together.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Becky's Crafters who wish you all God's Blessings in the coming New Year.

In Remembrance:

Betty May Sacra

January 15, 1928 - December 13, 2025

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.

*"Those who believe in me shall live, even though they die,
and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."*

- John 11:26-26

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Denise Weidele	Tim Loftis	Krista Strukoff
Ray Klinefelter	Lisa Frye	(DeCeault)
Pat Young	Carol Tubbs	David Lewis
Mike & Trish Crawford	Ken Johansen	Sara Frey
Jordan Hartman	Andrew Wolfe	David DesMarias
Scarlett Kibler	Ruth Eisenberg	Megan Tschappat
David Cohen	Bonnie Pitzer	Pastor Kristin
June & Nathan Windle	Lynne Rosamilia	Whitesides
Patricia Brannon	Jeanne Crosby	Judy Orndorff
Carol Nutry	Cor & Agnes	Lori Jones & Stephen
Al & May Schollenberger	Kameran	Armstrong
Sharon Miller	Sue Friedrichsen	Charlotte Rosamilia
Paul Thompson Family	JoAnne Farrell	Susan Arthur
Krista Bowen	Caroline Hastreiter	Bill Gesell
Mason Lance	Doris Smith & Family	Susan Kelican
Dave Cohen	Jessica Wise	All Struggling with Mental Illness
Krystal & Quinn Place	Michelle Whiteman-	Bereaved Israelites & Palestinians
Carole Walker Family	McKee	Mike Shade
Kay Caldwell & Family	Jamaica	Jewish & Muslim Victims Worldwide
Gary Johnson	Paulette Fazio	Cindy Corell
Sharon Miller	Katie Happel	Nancy Kerns
Rick Ours	Joyce Williamson	Kennedy Ransom
Krista Hartenbach	Judy Camper	Ukraine
Victims of Shootings in Australia & at Brown University	Candi Gardner	Ethiopia Church
Ann Denison	Roger Murphy	Mekane Yesus
Judy Gaines	Bill Robinson	
	Darrell Griffiths	
	George Schwantes	
	Carole Schwantes	

♪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,
Michael White, Ben Jensen, Gavin Eanes, Eli Keaton

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – January 18

Blood Pressure Checks

8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM Coffee & Conversation with Cindy Corell – Gathering Area
9:45 AM Faith Formation – Bageant Room
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream

THIS WEEK

Monday: 12:00 PM Life Goes On – Fellowship Hall
 1:30 PM Grief Support Group – Pastor Tracie Martin's Office
 6:00 PM Safety Team – Bageant Room
 6:00 PM Windsong – Sanctuary

Wednesday: 9:30 AM Staff Meeting – Bageant Room
 4:30 PM Logos (Theme: Opposites Night)
 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Thursday: 10:30 AM Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary
 10:30 PM WANC Lunch – Fellowship Hall
 6:00 PM Fellowship Book Club – Youth Spot
 6:45 PM Micah 6:8 Faith Formation – Bageant Room

Friday: 11:00 AM Crafting with Becky – Assembly Room
 5:30 PM Medical Mission Team Packing Party – Fellowship Hall

Saturday: 11:00 AM Crafting with Becky – Assembly Room

NEXT SUNDAY – January 25

4 Cents A Meal

ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSIONS DUE

Scriptures: Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4:12-23 Sermon: "Fishing for People"

8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM GIFT Event – Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP DONATIONS THROUGH TODAY

A team from OPC is going on a Medical Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic in March, and they need your help collecting supplies to take with them! **Through the end of today**, the team is collecting **OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICAL SUPPLIES** in the Gathering Area. For the list of items needed, see the newsletter or the flyer by the collection tubs. The expiration date of donated items must be AFTER 3/31/2027, otherwise they will be rejected. If you would prefer to support the team financially, visit: <https://mmiorg.app.neoncrm.com/OPC>

LIFE GOES ON

We will meet **tomorrow** at **noon** in the Fellowship Hall and the meal will be American Goulash.

STAFF SCHEDULE NOTES

January 19-25: David Witt – Continuing Education

January 20-24: Rebekah Witt – Continuing Education

SEWING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

If you want to help sew some dresses for young girls and/or patient medication bags for our team to take on their Dominican Republic Medical Mission Trip, please contact Jane Vandertoorn (540-313-2112 / jmvdt5@gmail.com).

GIFT EVENT – Next Sunday, January 25 (9:45 AM)

GIFT stands for 'Generations in Faith Together,' so it is a time when all ages come together for an intentional experience of learning, sharing, and enjoying one another. You can count on there being loads of fun and a very happy atmosphere. This month's GIFT event theme is "LIKE ME." This is a story about disabilities and God's image in each of us. Come be a part of this heartwarming experience that always proves to be inspiring. We will be enjoying muffins, fruit, and hardboiled eggs! There is a place for You at the table!

GATHERING TO REMEMBER SHAW PATERSON

Opequon Church will host a gathering on **Monday, January 26, 6:00 – 8:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall, to share fond remembrances of former member Shaw Paterson who died in October. Her husband, Drew, invites all who knew and loved Shaw to come and celebrate her life over a shared, catered meal. To have a general sense of dinner numbers, please let Pastor David know if you would like to attend (pastor@opequonchurch.org). We are so glad we can participate in this special celebration of Shaw's life and be present to support Drew in his time of grief.

NEW TUESDAY FAITH FORMATION CLASS

A new Tuesday Faith Formation class, focusing on angels, begins on **February 3 at 1:30 PM** in the Bageant Room. We will be referencing the book *A Study of Angels* by Edward P. Myers, Ph D., available through Amazon and bookstores. Please let Tracie know as soon as possible if you would prefer the church to order a copy of the book for you. While the book is not essential, it will be used to direct our study.

THESE DAYS DAILY DEVOTIONAL

A limited supply of the January – March issue of These Days Daily Devotional is available in the Gathering Area. Help yourself to a copy while supplies last.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Brian Steffens
Beadle: Ben Brooks
Door Greeters: Becky Proctor, Helen & Rex Richie
Ushers: Terry Hartman, Shannon Brannon, Tim & Kathy Hoffman
Building Stewards: Jack Marquis

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Lynn Metheny
Beadle: Bill Wellman
Door Greeters: Nancy & Richard Lloyd
Hospitality Greeter: Janice McMullin
Ushers: Andy Homan, Joel Witt, Kevin Reed, Will Baker
Acolyte: Will Baker
Livestream: Susan Ritter, Rebekah Witt

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

» How does the music today witness to the different ways in which we are called?

Notes on Today's Prayers

» Where and for whom do I need to focus my prayers this week?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

» When would you like to invite someone to "come and see?"

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

» What is the significance of "the Lamb of God?"
» How did John the Baptist know Jesus?
» What did John the Baptist testify about Jesus?
» What are Jesus' central questions? What do those questions reveal?
» What does "come and see" mean?
» Who are the first disciples? How are they invited to follow Jesus?
» What does this passage teach us about following Jesus?

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