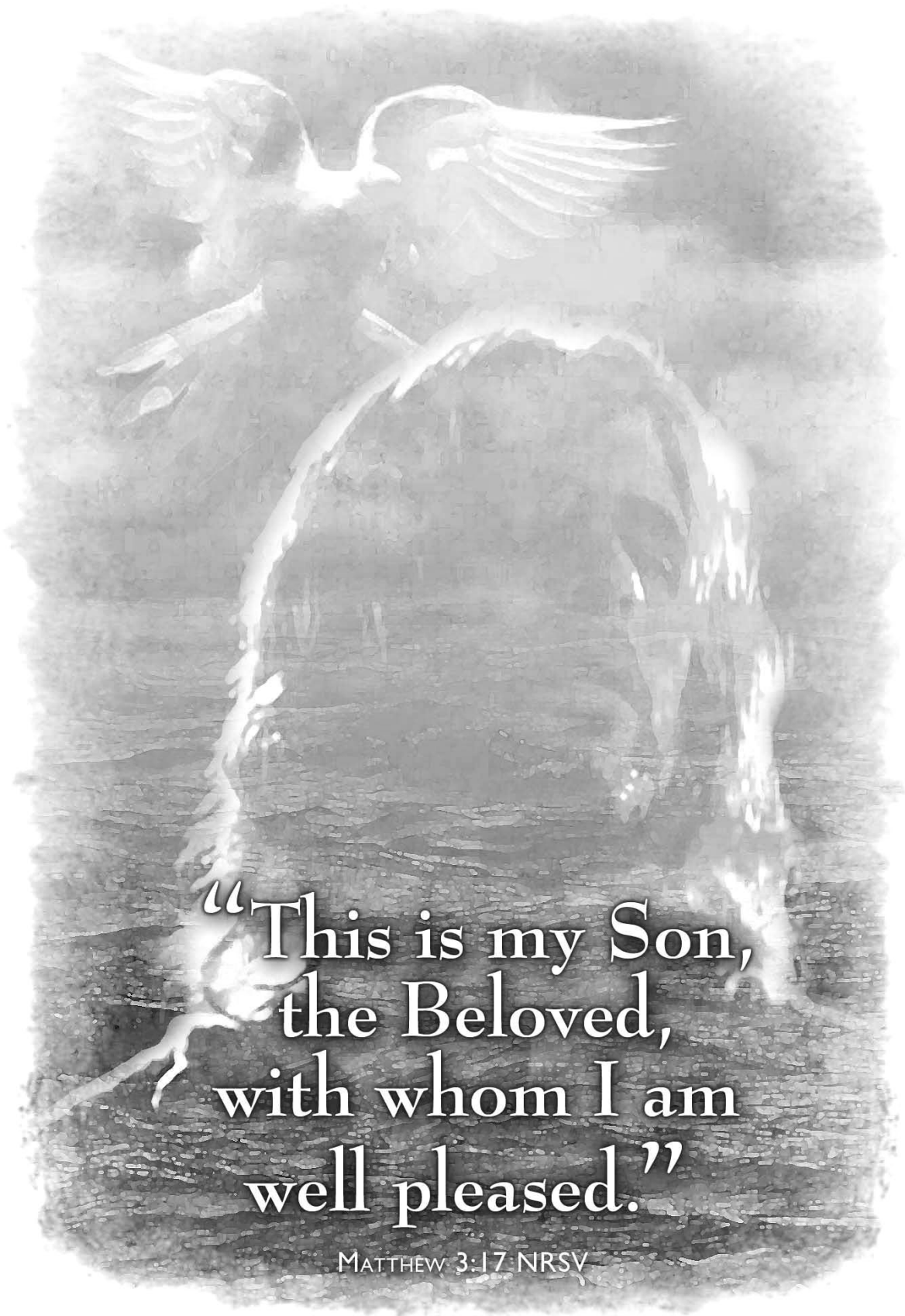


# OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843

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



“This is my Son,  
the Beloved,  
with whom I am  
well pleased.”

MATTHEW 3:17 NRSV

## INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

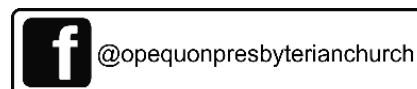
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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:**



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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
Sexton .....	Robert Sydnor
Nursery Supervisor.....	Laurie Carver
Faith Community Nurses.....	Bill Martin, Mike Nutry, Pat Williams

# A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*Baptism of the Lord Sunday*

**January 7, 2024 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

*Renewal of Baptism; Communion*

**\*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 offering plate.

† = All who are able, please stand.

**Bold print = All in unison.**

## ✠ WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ✠

PRELUDE..... *Wade In the Water*

Arranged by: William Heavner

(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. 177 (v. 1, 2, refrain)..... *I Will Come to You*

**"I will come to you in the silence;**

**I will lift you from all your fear. You will hear my voice;**

**I claim you as my choice. Be still and know I am here.**

**I am hope for all who are hopeless;**

**I am eyes for all who long to see. In the shadows of the night,**

**I will be your light. Come and rest in me.**

[refrain] **Do not be afraid, I am with you.**

**I have called you each by name. Come and follow me,**

**I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine."**

†CALL TO WORSHIP

God said, "Let there be light."

**And there was light.**

God's speech

**Is God's action.**

When God creates,

**The creation is good.**

God our maker has done it again.

**God has brought us to a new dawn.**

This is the day the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

†OPENING HYMN No. 156 ..... *Sing of God Made Manifest*

**Sing of God made manifest, in a child robust and blest,  
to whose home in Bethlehem, where a star had guided them,  
magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and profound:  
myrrh and frankincense and gold, grave and God and king foretold.**

**Sing of God made manifest, when at Jordan John confessed,  
“I should be baptized by you, but your bidding I will do.”**

**Then from heaven a double sign – dove-like Spirit, voice divine –  
hailed the true Anointed One: “This is my beloved Son.”**

**Sing of God made manifest, when Christ came as wedding guest  
and at Cana gave a sign, turning water into wine;  
further still was love revealed, as he taught, forgave, and healed,  
bringing light and life to all, who would listen to God’s call.**

**Sing of God made manifest, on the cloud-capped mountain’s crest,  
where the law and prophets waned, so that Christ alone remained:  
glimpse of glory, pledge of grace, given as Jesus set his face  
towards the waiting cross and grave, sign of hope that God would save.**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

## CALL TO CONFESSION

A prophet appeared in the wilderness, calling the people to repent, be baptized, and prepare the way of the Lord. We return to the water to confess our sins, giving thanks for the grace of Jesus Christ, the one who has come to save us.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all glory, you look from heaven and see us as we are – not  
worthy to kneel at your feet, not ready to welcome your way.  
Forgive us, gracious God. In Christ, stoop down to save us; loosen  
the ties that bind us to sin and set us free to love and serve you; in  
Jesus’ name.**

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news of the gospel: as a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God says to each of us: You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased.

## LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

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

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 177 (v. 3, 4) ..... *I Will Come to You*

**"I am strength for all the despairing;  
healing for the ones who dwell in shame. All the blind will see;  
the lame will all run free, and all will know my name.**

[refrain] **Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name. Come and follow me,  
I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine."**

**"I am the Word that leads all to freedom;  
I am the peace the world cannot give. I will call your name,  
embracing all your pain. Stand up, now walk and live! [refrain]**

†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 ✠

CHOIR ANTHEM..... *When the Angels' Song is Silent*

Words & Music by: Mary Kay Beall

*When the angels' song is silent and the star is not so bright, when the stable door stands open in the cold mid-morning light, when the angels' song is silent, and the shepherds have gone home, then the promise of Christmas begins. When the angels' song is silent, and the prophecy's fulfilled, when the swaddling clothes are folded, and the baby's cry is stilled; When the angels' song is silent, and the drama is all done, then the promise of Christmas begins. For the promise is more than a child in the hay, more than shepherds and kings and a glad Christmas Day. Yes, the promise is more than a bright star above. It's a cross! and a tomb! and a Father's great love! When the angels' song is silent and the kings have come and gone, all the world is changed forever, for the echo lingers on. When the angels' song is silent, God is nearer than before, and the promise of Christmas, the wonder of Christmas, the glory of Christmas begins.*

## THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 1:1-5 ..... Pew Bible p. 1

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Mark 1:4-11 ..... Pew Bible p. 812

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "God Speaks"

Pastor David Witt

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

## ✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✠

†HYMN No. 691 ..... *Lord, When I Came into This Life*  
**Lord, when I came into this life you called me by my name;  
today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim.**  
**Within the circle of the faith, as member of your cast,  
I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past.**  
**In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt,  
let your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.**  
**So help me in my unbelief and let my life be true:  
feet firmly planted on the earth, my sights set high on you.**

### RENEWAL OF BAPTISM SERVICE

- †Profession of Faith
- †The Apostles' Creed (Hymnal p. 35)
- †Thanksgiving for Baptism

### OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *Baptized in Water*  
Tune: *Bunessan*; Arranged by: Mark Hayes

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

**We give you thanks, O God, for every blessing and spiritual gift you  
have poured out upon us. Let the gifts of our lives – our time,  
talents, and treasure – be a source of blessing in your world as we  
seek to be Christ's hands, heart, and feet, bringing glory to your holy  
name. Amen.**

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

- Invitation
- Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Hymnal p. 9-10)
- The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal p. 35, we say "debts" & "debtors" in the prayer)
- Words of Institution
- Sharing the Bread & Cup
- Communion Meditation Music..... *Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak  
God, You Spin the Whirling Planets*
- Closing Communion Prayer

## ☞ WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME ☞

†CLOSING HYMN No. 547 (v. 1, 2).....*Go My Children, with My Blessing*

**"Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love's baptismal river  
I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."**

**"Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son's story;  
here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."**

†REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING HYMN No. 547 (v. 3) .....*Go My Children, with My Blessing*

**"Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit's power filled you;  
here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free."**

†POSTLUDE

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### COMMUNION TODAY WILL INVITE YOU FORWARD

We will come forward to the communion table to receive the sacrament this morning. Each section of pews should move to the left as directed by the ushers. Gluten-free bread is available in the center section. Please see an usher for assistance. Please come forward, receive a piece of bread handed to you and eat immediately. Receive a small cup of wine (red) or grape juice (white) and drink immediately, taking your used cup back to your pew and placing it in the cup holder. Return to your seat by the right aisle of your section.

Elders/deacons serving at the 8:30 AM service today are: Susan Ritter, Mike Wygant, Beth Barr, and Steve Bock.

Elders/deacons serving at the 11:00 AM service today are: Marj Praml, Sara Gomez, Ann Smith, Ron Smith, Jennie Wright, and Jack Marquis.

## NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

"Wade In the Water" has its roots in Antebellum African American music and was likely used in signaling and communicating along the Underground Railroad. At the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the Fisk Jubilee Singers of Nashville's historic Black College helped to popularize the song in their national concert tours. Soon after, mainstream hymnals began to include the piece and associate it with baptism. It's third verse declares, "If you don't believe I've been redeemed, Just follow me down to Jordan's stream. God's gonna trouble the waters." Today's offertory is a Gaelic tune that originally set a Christmas Carol. It may be best known in and out of church as "Morning Has Broken" but on this Sunday in January, with its focus on Baptism, the 1981 text found as #482 in our hymnal is a wonderful fit.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sandy Lowry	Bill Robinson	Joyce Griffiths
Charlie Marple Family	Ann Denison	June Windle
Heather & Mark Leonard	Curt & Nancy Budny	Nathan Windle
Maddy Palmer	Marge & Tim Higgins	Mike Shade
Roger Copenhaver	Dan Fleming	Clay Knick
Family	Terry Williams	Rick Ours
Mac McNichols	Nancy Roberts	Tim Loftis
Sandy Widell	Joan Aylor	Lillian Hanks
Patty Klinefelter	Graham Taylor	Katie Happel
Peggy Myer	Norma Windle Albanese	Michael Weller
Carole Schwantes	Stephen Armstrong	Parker Plumb
Nancy Burkley	Lori Jones	Maui
Rick Friedrichsen	Carlene Lemasters	Cindia Stewart
Lynn Rosamila	Valarie Foley	Rich Valenti
Bereaved Israelites &	Dale Barley	Ray Anderson
Palestinians	Cindy Weeks	Nancy Kerns
Jewish & Muslim Victims	José LaMont Jones	Kennedy Ransom
Worldwide	Cindy Correll	Ukraine
Fred Johnston	Douglas Dicks	Ethiopia Church Mekane
Aliah	Carol Nutry	Yesus

## **✠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 7

*Baptism of the Lord Sunday; Renewal of Baptism; Communion*

8:30 AM      Worship – Sanctuary  
9:45 AM      Opie's Playhouse – Memorial Sanctuary  
11:00 AM     Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream

### THIS WEEK

Monday:      9:30 AM      Older Adult Ministry Meeting – Bageant Room  
                  1:00 PM      Disciple Bible Study – Bageant Room  
                  6:00 PM      Windsong – Sanctuary  
                  6:00 PM      MOO – Chick-fil-A  
Tuesday:     9:30 AM      Tuesday Morning Mission – Bageant Room  
                  4:30 PM      Tech Team Meeting – Bageant Room  
                  6:00 PM      Ministry Team Night – Fellowship Hall  
Wednesday: 12:00 PM      Happy Days – Fellowship Hall  
                  4:30 PM      LOGOS (Theme: "A Cold Winter's Night")  
                  7:15 PM      Adult Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary  
Thursday:    10:30 AM     Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary  
                  7:00 PM      Vision Team Meeting – Bageant Room

### NEXT SUNDAY – January 14, 2024

*Scriptures: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; John 1:43-51; Sermon: "Come and See"*

8:30 AM      Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream  
9:45 AM      Faith Formation – Bageant Room  
11:00 AM     Worship – Sanctuary  
12:15 PM     Senior Outreach Ministry  
1:30 PM      Spring Arbor Worship  
2:00 PM      Open House – Julia's new home

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### INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATIONS

For inclement weather notifications about worship cancellations, please check your email, our website ([www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org)), our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/opequonpresbyterianchurch](http://www.facebook.com/opequonpresbyterianchurch)). Notifications will only be sent out if the schedule changes. Please keep in mind weather/road conditions may vary where you live and use your best judgment when deciding whether to drive to attend services or view services online from home. Thank you.

## **OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE MEETS TODAY**

Opie's Playhouse will meet today in the Memorial Sanctuary from **9:45 – 10:45 AM**. All children ages 7 and under and their families are invited to come join us!

## **OLDER ADULT TEAM MEETING**

The Older Adult Planning Team meets **tomorrow** morning at **9:30 AM** in the Bageant Room to share in planning for Happy Days events and other special opportunities for our older adults. The meeting is open to any older adults who would like to come. Morning coffee and goodies provided.

## **MEN OF OPEQUON**

After a festive and Spirit-filled Christmas Party in December, the Men of Opequon (MOO) will re-gather **tomorrow** at **6:00 PM** at the Pleasant Valley Chick-fil-A. This month, we will simply remain at Chick-fil-A for our devotions and discussion. We'll enjoy being together and look at the rest of the year! Happy New Year!

## **JANUARY MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT – TUESDAY**

Our January Ministry Team Night will be this **Tuesday, January 9**, at **6:00 PM** for a pizza and salad dinner, with all teams meeting.

## **HAPPY DAYS GATHERING**

Happy Days is the monthly Older Adult Fellowship Gathering available for all older adults. This month's Happy Days Gathering takes place this **Wednesday, January 10**, at **noon** in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be from the Laurel Center, and we will be presenting a check from our 2023 Coin Jar collection total to them. Happy Days begins with a covered-dish lunch. Rotisserie chicken will be provided along with beverages. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the warmth of one another and the delicious food.

## **LOGOS IS BACK – THIS WEDNESDAY**

After the Christmas and New Year's break, LOGOS resumes this **Wednesday**. The theme is "A Cold Winter's Night" and the dinner menu is Baked Ziti, Breadsticks, and Salad. We look forward to seeing all our LOGOS young people and staff!

## **2024 FLOWER CHART**

The flowers in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings are a beautiful addition to our worship service. To sign-up to provide the flowers for an upcoming worship service in 2024, please click on the "Flower Chart" link at the bottom of our OPC website or the Flower Chart posted in the church office.

## **BEADLES & DOOR GREETERS**

Please take a moment to sign-up to be a Beadle or Door Greeter by contacting the church office or using the link on our website to view the schedule.

## **2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

The 2024 offering envelopes are available in the Gathering Area for you to take home and use beginning next week. If you would like offering envelopes for 2024 and you do not find them there, please contact Ron Smith, Treasurer (703-216-9588 or ronaldsmith1@gmail.com).

## **"STAR WORDS" NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED**

The use of "star words," also called "star gifts," is a prayer practice connected to Epiphany and the new year. At Opequon Church, this is our sixth year of distributing "star words," prayerfully handed out as "God's word to you and for you." These intentional words, we pray, will guide you throughout the upcoming year. We began handing out star words this past Sunday, and people have been talking about them ever since! If you were not present, you can come by the church during normal office hours to pick up a star word or pick one from the baskets in the Gathering Area. We can also mail one to you upon request. We encourage you to place your star word somewhere you will see it regularly throughout the year to allow consistent reflection on how God has moved through, around, or in connection to that word. A special word of thanks to Joanne Berson, who created the perfect yellow stars inscribed with new words on our church's Cricut. We appreciate her knowledge and talents.

## **CHURCH OFFICE/STAFF SCHEDULE THIS WEEK**

- January 8-11: Julia Burkley – out of the office
- January 12-15: Rebekah Witt – out of the office

To reach a staff member or if a pastoral concern arises, contact the church office (540-662-1843 or office@opequonchurch.org) or please note who is away and email one of the pastors directly and we will get back to you in a timely manner.

## CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Session of Opequon Presbyterian Church calls for a meeting of the congregation on **Sunday, January 21, 2024**, at **10:40 AM** in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to approve proposed changes to the church's Deacon/Congregational Care Ministry, changes that have been approved and recommended by Session. Details of the recommended changes are outlined on the first page of OPC's January newsletter. Please be present for this meeting as active participants in the life of Opequon Church, exercising your right and responsibility of membership.

## WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

### 8:30 AM Worship

**Liturgist:** Ellen Cunningham

**Ushers:** Steve Bock, Jim Horner

**Bell Ringer:** Mo Mohler

**Livestream:** Susan Ritter, Rebekah Witt

### 11:00 AM Worship

**Liturgist:** Vern Gamble

**Ushers:** Mike & Fran Jeffries, Mike Nutry,  
Vicki Crites

## WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

### Notes on Today's Music

✎ What did God speak to you through today's music?

### Notes on Today's Prayers

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

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

✎ What "once upon a time" stories do you recall?

✎ Who were the main characters and what did they speak in these stories?

✎ How does God speak in the scriptures this morning?

✎ What does God say? What actions grow out of God speaking?

✎ How does God speak to you today?

✎ What does God say to you? What actions may grow out of God speaking to you?

✎ How will you speak as one claimed by God as a child and called by God as a disciple?