

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843

www.opequonchurch.org



Third Sunday of Easter

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

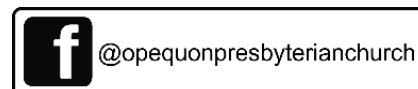
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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:



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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

April 14, 2024 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

***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..... *Fantasia on "Puer Nobis"*

Arranged by: Lani Smith

(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

MINUTES FOR MISSION

"Dominican Republic Medical Mission"

SPECIAL MUSIC *Hope Will Arise*

Words & Music by: Andra Moran & Ben Grace

Rebecca & Max Agbayani

Easter morning, Sunday dawning, love is shining bright. Flowers waking, Earth is shaking, resonating life. Now the stone is rolled away. He is risen from the grave! We are Easter people now; turning power upside down. In the valley of the shadow, we're the candle in the window, saying Hope will rise again. Everybody, hear the story. Grace is given free. All together, true forever. There's nowhere Love can't reach. So let the walls be broken down. Revolution all around.

Can you feel it rising now, springing up from the frozen ground. Can you hear the echoes sound...

In the broken pieces, healing, in our unbelief, believing, saying Hope will rise, Hope will rise, Hope will rise again!

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Fear hung over the disciples as a dark cloud.

Huddled in the upper room, they spoke in soft whispers, afraid of the sound of their own voices.

Lightning flashed in their souls.

Christ, the Risen Lord, was standing with them, eating with them, talking with them.

Where doubt had reigned, hope now grew.

Where fear and panic had laid claim, faith was again planted.

How joyful it is, to celebrate this good news of God's love!

We are called to be Easter people! Let us worship our God of new life.

†OPENING HYMN No. 246 *Christ Is Alive!*

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.**

**In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

The One who calls us to repent, hears us. In trust that our Creator knows us through and through, let us open our hearts to the healing of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, you give to us your greatest gift, Your Son Jesus Christ, as we still don't understand what is going on. You call us to be people of courage and hope; and yet we run and hide, doubting and fearing. You challenge us to proclaim our faith; but we huddle in darkness whispering our words of discouragement. Shake us up, Lord! Forgive us when we seem to need prodding over and over again. Help us to see the presence of Jesus in our lives; and remind us of all that He taught us, to help us to live as disciples, serving you by serving others. Change us! Remold us! Make us truly the disciples you have called us to be.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Do not be afraid. The Light of God has vanquished the darkness! Christ is risen! Doubts are erased. Rejoice! God's love is poured upon you, now and forever.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE..... *Oh How He Loves You and Me*

O how he loves you and me! O how he loves you and me!

He gave his life. What more could he give?

O how he loves you; O how he loves me;

O how he loves you and me!

Jesus to Calv'ry did go; his love for sinners to show.

What he did there brought hope from despair.

O how he loves you; O how he loves me;

O how he loves you and 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.

✠ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ✠

ANTHEM..... *There Is a Redeemer*

Words & Music by: Melody Green; Arranged by: Mary McDonald

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son; precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One. Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son, and leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done. Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names; precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain. When I stand in glory, I will see His face; there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place. Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son, and leaving Your Spirit till Your work on earth is done. Thank you, O my Father, for giving us Your Son, and leaving Your Spirit till Your work on earth is done. There is a Redeemer, a Redeemer!

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 3:12-19 Pew Bible p. 887

GOSPEL READING: Luke 24:36b-48..... Pew Bible p. 861

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "I Wonder..."
Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 254 *That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright*

**That Easter day with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the apostles saw their risen Lord.**

**He bade them see his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide,
the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again.**

**From every weapon death can wield,
your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide
in this our joyful Eastertide.**

SERMON..... "Let's Get Real!"
Pastor David Witt

✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✠

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*
Arranged by: Robert Thygerson

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

**Lord God, we offer to you only a portion of what you have given us.
All that we have is from your creative hand. All that we can give
away, we do through Jesus' love. All our renewal comes from the
Holy Spirit's wisdom. Deal graciously with these gifts so that others
may have joy; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

RECEPTION & RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00 AM)

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. 295..... *Go to the World!*

**Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!" Alleluia. Alleluia.**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 240 (refrain) *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

[refrain] **Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.**

†POSTLUDE

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

The melody heard in this morning's prelude can be traced to the 14th Century but there is strong evidence that it may be much older and have roots in an ancient folksong. Sometime around 1600, the German composer, Michael Praetorius, arranged the tune in the typical hymn form we still use. Today's middle hymn uses Praetorius' arrangement to set one of the earliest hymn texts written for a specific season of the Christian year. The organist's interpretation of Lani Smith's arrangement is meant to harken back to the melody's folk roots. The tune is light and joyous and perfect for whistling or humming as you go about your day. In 1747, Charles Wesley began one of his 6500 hymn texts with: "Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling," and in today's offertory, it is paired with the well-known Welsh tune, *Hyfrydol*.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Becky's Crafters in honor of our new members.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Godlove Family
Nathan Windle
Gannon Wilkins &
Family
John Massey
Dulcie Reed
Tom Homan
Those Suffering from
Mental Illness
Bill Robinson
Becky Rumor
Louis "J.R." Rittmeyer
Alan & Pat Berry
Faye Myers
Vonnie Johnston &
Family
Ann Tufts
Chris Wilfong
Parker Plumb
Annemarie Matthews
Joanne Berson
Mary & Don Royston
Wildfire Victims

Marge & Tim Higgins
Cindy Faircloth
Carol Nutry
Melissa Martin
Charlotte Rosamilia
Jennie Wright & Family
Tom Rader
Monica Ervin
Haiti
Roger Murphy
Kylie McDonald
Liz Martin
Ken Coryell
June Windle
Betty & Gayle DeHaven
Carolynne Pell
David André
Emma Kate Hathaway
Sandy Widell
Mike Shade
Art Littman
Martha Jackson
Rick Friedrichsen

Bereaved Israelites &
Palestinians
Jewish & Muslim Victims
Worldwide
Graham Taylor
Norma Windle Albanese
Stephen Armstrong
Lori Jones
José LaMont Jones
Cindy Correll
Douglas Dicks
Joyce Griffiths
Tim Loftis
Katie Happel
Michael Weller
Cindia Stewart
Rich Valenti
Nancy Kerns
Kennedy Ransom
Ukraine
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 – April 14

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
9:45 AM	Medical Mission Forum – Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM	Worship & Reception of New Members – Sanctuary
12:15 PM	Senior Outreach Ministry
1:30 PM	Spring Arbor Worship
4:00 PM	Spring Forward Event – Fellowship Hall

THIS WEEK

Monday:	* DEADLINE FOR MAY NEWSLETTER *
	12:00 PM Life Goes On – Fellowship Hall
	5:30 PM Windsong – Sanctuary
	5:00 PM LOGOS Leadership Team – Bageant Room
Tuesday:	10:00 AM Staff Meeting – Bageant Room
	4:30 PM VBS Team Meeting – Bageant Room
	7:00 PM Session Meeting – Bageant Room
Wednesday:	12:00 PM Music At Noon – Sanctuary
	4:30 PM Our Daily Bread – Bageant Room
	5:30 PM LOGOS Youth Extension – Fellowship Hall/Youth Spot
	6:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Thursday:	10:30 AM Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary/Picnic Shelter
	10:30 AM WANC Meeting – Fellowship Hall
	6:30 PM Sherando Food Pantry

NEXT SUNDAY – April 21

Blood Pressure Checks

Scriptures: Ecclesiastes 4:7-12; 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
9:45 AM	NOROC Forum with Rev. Kristen Harris – Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary

MEDICAL MISSION FORUM

This past March, seven Opequon members traveled to the Dominican Republic for a Medical Mission Trip. They spent the week traveling to different villages around the Dominican Republic, serving local communities and giving much needed medical care. It was a full week, filled with many memories, and they want to share with us what they did! Join us in the Fellowship Hall at **9:45 AM today** as the team shares about their experience!

STAFF SCHEDULE NOTES FOR THIS WEEK

Julia Burkley is on vacation April 17-20. Rebekah Witt is attending a GenOn Training April 18-20. If a pastoral concern arises, please contact the church office (540-662-1843 or office@opequonchurch.org) or email/call one of the available pastors directly and we will get back to you in a timely manner.

VISIT FROM NOROC'S REV. KRISTEN HARRIS – NEXT SUNDAY

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Kristen Harris, the PC(USA) Mission Co-worker for NOROC, to Opequon next **Sunday, April 21**, to preach the Word of God in both services and also share about her and NOROC's work. She is truly a bright and shining light, serving the families in Romania with energy and awareness. We also ask you to join us in the Fellowship Hall between the two services to learn more about the work Rev. Kristen does!

NOMINATE AN OLDER ADULT FOR OPEQUON'S "2024 OLDER ADULT OF THE YEAR"

It is time to share nominations for this year's Older Adult of the Year. Who would you like to nominate? There are forms available on the Gathering Area table. Share who you nominate and **WHY**. Nominations are **DUE BY MAY 8** and they may come from anyone in the congregation. Forms may be returned to Carole Witt or dropped in the box provided on the table. The Session will review the nominations and make the selection. The 2024 Older Adult of the Year will be announced at the Older Adult Luncheon on **Wednesday, May 29**.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPENS NEXT WEEK

In just two months, the fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School will be here! You know how the saying goes, "Proper planning prevents poor performance". Our VBS Team knows how important planning is – **WE ARE PLANNING FOR THE SUPER VBS WEEK NOW!** VBS will be held June 9-12, 5:00-7:30 PM. The theme is "Something Old, Something New, Something Changed, A Family GREW!" Our featured focus is on Abraham and Sarah. Registration for this sensational summer event will begin next Sunday! Registration will be available online and in the Gathering Area.

"GIFT" EVENT – Sunday, April 28, 9:45 AM (Fellowship Hall)

GIFT stands for "Generations in Faith Together" and it truly is a gift to have all ages and stages together during the Sunday morning educational hour (known as FAITH FORMATION) at 9:45 AM. The theme for this GIFT experience is "REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE." Enjoy clips from the classic LION KING movie and ponder some important quotes as we emphasize how we are all God's children. Come enjoy some good food, good company and a good morning experience. Everyone is invited.

ROOTS & SHOOTS PLANTING DAY

OPC's Roots & Shoots Planting Day is set for **Saturday, April 27, 9:00 AM – noon**. Come on out and help us sow the seeds to feed the hungry in our community! You can also just come out and relax and soak up the beauty of God's earth as we put our worker bees into action. You really don't have to do anything but pray for a healthy growing season and a bountiful harvest. Bring your coffee or tea, soak up some sunshine, and praise the Lord for the sunshine, rain, and pollinators! We donated a pound of spring kale to the CCAP Freedge this week and are soooo excited to begin the garden season this year!

"MULCH" THANKS!

"Mulch Madness" was a great success! Many helpful hands made short work on a BIG job! In about two hours time, the OPC gardens, playground, and Memorial Garden were covered with fresh mulch and it looks great. Special thanks for all the dedication and hard work goes out to: Dave Rusch, Carroll and Jim Youngblood, Max and Rebecca Agbayani, Bud Proctor, Kieran Orndorff, Julia Burkley, Dave Schwantes, Brent Miller, Dennis Boyd, Greg Eisenhauer, Jack Marquis, and Mike and Wendy Wygant. Thank you, thank you and thank you to all!

WELCOME TO THE OPEQUON FAMILY

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We rejoice today as we welcome new members to the Opequon Church family. May God bless and enrich their lives as we share the journey of faith and service together. Please reach out and get to know the following new members:

- ❖ Cheryl Mortland, Transfer of Membership from Trinity Lutheran Church (Stephens City, VA)
- ❖ Dan Mortland, Transfer of Membership from Trinity Lutheran Church (Stephens City, VA)
- ❖ Robert Edwin "Ed" Painter, Re-Affirmation of Faith
- ❖ Lois Roy, Transfer of Membership from Manassas Presbyterian Church (Manassas, VA)
- ❖ Marsha Bennett, Transfer of Membership from Market Street United Methodist Church (Winchester, VA)
- ❖ John White, Re-Affirmation of Faith

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Audrey Saunders
Beadle: Carroll Youngblood
Ushers: Mike & Wendy Wygant, Alex Plumb, Mike & Trish Crawford, Bailey Rockwell, Brayden Rockwell
Acolyte: Bailey Rockwell
Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler
Livestream: Susan Ritter, Rebekah Witt

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ann Smith
Beadle: Bill Wellman
Door Greeter: Sheryl Massey
Ushers: Marj Praml, Kyle Homan, Jason Hathaway, Vern Gamble, Abby Beach, Yogi Beach, Luca Deptula
Acolyte: Abby Beach

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✂ How does today's music witness to the ongoing gift of new life in Christ's resurrection?

Notes on Today's Prayers

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

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

✂ Have you ever been confused or scared by something but then felt better when you could understand?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

- ✂ What does it mean to you to "get real?"
- ✂ How does Jesus "get real" with the disciples and with us?
- ✂ What part of Jesus' visit would seem most exciting to you?
- ✂ In what places in our lives do we recognize God's work? In what places in our lives do we not recognize God's work?
- ✂ How will you "be real" and "get real" this week as a follower of Jesus?

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