

## **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
Associate Pastor	Julia H. Burkley
Parish Associate	Tracie Martin
Church Office Administrator	Rachel Lesink
Church Finance Administrator	Ken Smiy
Director of Christian Education	
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	

## **INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS**

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.

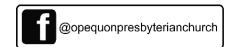
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- 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 <a href="https://www.opequonchurch.org/giving">www.opequonchurch.org/giving</a> or scan the OR code here:



#### Follow us on Facebook:



#### A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Day of Resurrection, Easter Sunday

## April 20, 2025 - 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Communion; Special Music; One Great Hour of Sharing

\*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.

 $\dagger$  = All who are able, please stand.

**Bold print = All in unison.** 

#### **SOURCE OF SECULOR SECUENCIA SECULOR SECULOR SECULOR SECULOR SECULOR SECULOR SECULOR SECUENCIA SECULOR SECULOR SECUENCIA SECUENCIA**

PRELUDE ...... Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

Arranged by: Gilbert M. Martin

(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

By: Joel Raney

#### **†CALL TO WORSHIP**

Dear friends, we have known grief.

We have known loss.

We have known the long road, tired and winding.

We have whispered prayers on bended knees.

We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.

But today -

## today we know hope.

Today we know life.

# Today we know the joy of Alleluias.

Today we know that death does not have the last word.

# Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

It is Easter. May hope and joy find you. And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day.

## Alleluia! Amen.

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia! who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured. Alleluia! Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia! Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

(Please be seated for prayer.)

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Faithful friends, today is a joyful day! If I were to ask you what parts of today's service feel joyful, you'd probably say the music, the passing of the peace, the flowers in the sanctuary. You might say the children's sermon, or the crowded room. But it's unlikely that any of you would name the prayer of confession, because the prayer of confession has a reputation for being somber and serious. But perhaps the prayer of confession can feel like a fresh page. Maybe the prayer of confession can allow us to start again. When we move closer to God, we are always met with grace, mercy, and abundant love. And my friends, *that* is joyful. That feels like Easter, doesn't it? So join me in the prayer of confession. It's a joyful day. That joy doesn't stop here. Let us pray together, then in personal silence:

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told the apostles [of the resurrection]. But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."

Forgive us, God, when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it. Forgive us, God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope. Forgive us, God, when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors. In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Peter. Show us how to hold onto hope. Show us how to run toward you.

(Moments Of Silent Prayer – *Live Into Hope*)

#### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of Faith, at first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid. Peter was the only exception. Fortunately, Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days. God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we're grieving, when we're shouting and when we're silent, when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear. God's grace exists for us on the best days, the worst days, and every day in between. Thanks be to God for this good news! Alleluia! Amen.

[refrain]

Joy comes with the dawn; joy comes with the morning sun; joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song, joy comes with the dawn.

Weeping may come; weeping may come in the night, when dark shadows cloud our sight. [refrain]

Sorrow will turn, sorrow will turn into song, and God's laughter make us strong. [refrain]

We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and give praise, to the One who brings us grace. [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.

# **9- WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ◆**

ANTHEM	
Christ is risen! Sing alleluia! Celebrate this day of days. Sing aloud your hymns of gladness; sing your joyous hymns of praise! Christ is risen! Sing alleluia! King of kings whom we adore. Death is conquered, sin is defeated. Jesus lives forevermore. Where, O grave, is your victory? Where, O death is your evil sting? Christ is risen, he is risen! He is risen from the dead. 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 and comes to bring good news to this and ev'ry age; till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise. Christ is risen! Sing alleluia! Sing your joyous hymns of praise!	
THE READING OF GOD'S WORD  OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 126	
CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES" "Celebrate Easter – Alleluia!" Nursery (Infants – Age 4)	
†HYMN No. 250	
There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.	
In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.	
SERMON"Hope Amidst the Mourning" Pastor David Witt	
See WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD	
OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS OFFERTORY MUSIC	

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

We praise you, O God, and give you thanks that you have given us such joy, such grace, and such hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let our lives be proof of that good news. Let all our words and actions, our love and service, offerings and gifts, bear witness to your resurrection power; for the sake of our living Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

In the dark before dawn, we believe that God is alive. In the midst of our grief, we believe the Spirit is at work. In the chaos of our broken world, we believe that love is on the loose. For no stone could keep God at bay, and no violence could keep God's love from us. So today we sing, *Alleluia!* For somewhere in between our belief and doubt, hope lives. Christ has died, and Christ has also risen. Thanks be to God! Amen.

#### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Hymnal p. 9-10, spoken response)

The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal p. 35, we say "debts" and "debtors" in the prayer)

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!

Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.

In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend. Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" God and the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.

He is the King of creation. [refrain]

Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen. [refrain]

We have been crucified with Christ.

Now we shall live forever. [refrain]

Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior. [refrain]

Closing Communion Prayer

#### Solution Solutio

†CLOSING HYMN No. 238...... Thine Is the Glory

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won. Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded graveclothes where thy body lay.

[refrain] Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom. Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting. [refrain]

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. [refrain]

**†CHARGE & BLESSING** 

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

#### **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: Winter Brooks, Ben Brooks, Gretchen Rusch, Dave Rusch, Nancy Picklap, and Tom Tandy.

Elders/Deacons serving at the 11:00 AM service today are: Lisa Reed, Bill Deck, Sabra Veach, Mitch Orndorff, Carole Witt, and Nick Sardelis.

#### **NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC**

This morning's prelude is #234 in our hymnal. The text comes from the writings of 7<sup>th</sup> Century poet, John of Damascus. The final verse begins: "Alleluia!" Now we cry to our King Immortal, who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal. The stirring Eastertide tune was written by Arthur Sullivan, the composer of "Onward Christian Soldiers". Outside of church, he is best known for his comic operettas, as half the team of Gilbert and Sullivan. The offertory is drawn from Handel's 1741 Oratorio, "Messiah." Do you find it interesting that this classic work is a decade older than the City of Winchester, founded in 1752, but a decade younger than Opequon Church, founded in 1732?

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#### PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

McIntosh/Collins Family JoAnn McCleese & Family

Kim Freas

Jayne Frank & Family

Jayne Hayes

Tennessee & Kentucky Wanda Morris Family

Jay Russell Family

John Capehart

Ted Jacks Family

Jeff Erhardt & Family Lance Pearce Family

Kim Brathwaite Family

Tim Higgins

Ann Cartwright Lynne Rosamilia

Ginger Kyle & Family Lynne Bryar Johnson

Nate Gina

Kim McDonald
Jane Bell Family

Wildfires & Earthquake

Victims

Meredith Beattie

Johansen

Bill Dunlap Littman Family

Betty Chicklo & Family

Walter & Elaine Aikens

All Struggling with

Mental Illness

Eddy Strosnider

Bart Robertson

Mike Butler

Fred Rathel

Rick Ours

Kourtney Haake

Danny Lingo

Paula & Mac McNichols

Nancy Pitcock

Judy Gaines Chick Dorofee

Charles "Skip" Schempp

**Curt Budny** 

**Federal Government** 

Workers

Bill Robinson

June & Nathan Windle

Gary & Mary Ann

Johnson

Cora Helen Anderson

Judy Orndorff

Katie Happel

**Matthew Ours** 

Bereaved Israelites &

**Palestinians** 

Jackie Witt

Tim Loftis

Those Suffering from

Mental Illness

Mike Shade

Jewish & Muslim Victims

Worldwide Cindy Correll

Douglas Dicks

Nancy Kerns

Kennedy Ransom

Ukraine

Ethiopia Church Mekane

Yesus

## **∞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, Brandon Michael, Michael White, Ben Jensen, Gavin Eanes, Eli Keaton

#### **SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK**

## **TODAY – April 20**

Day of Resurrection, Easter Sunday Communion; Special Music; One Great Hour of Sharing

6:00 AM Easter Sunrise Worship Service – Pitcock Picnic Shelter

6:45 AM Easter Breakfast – Fellowship Hall

8:30 AM Easter Sunday Worship Service – Sanctuary & Livestream

9:45 AM Family Easter Event – Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM Easter Sunday Worship Service – Sanctuary

#### **THIS WEEK**

Monday: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (Easter Monday)

Tuesday: 3:00 PM TVOR Gathering

5:30 PM Highland Food Pantry

6:30 PM Young Adult Bowling – Northside Lanes

7:00 PM Session Meeting – Bageant Room

Wednesday: 5:30 PM LOGOS Youth Extension

6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Thursday: 10:30 AM Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary

10:30 AM WANC Lunch – Fellowship Hall

6:00 PM Fellowship Book Club – Bageant Room

Friday: 11:00 AM Java with Julia – Hopscotch Cafe Saturday: 1:00 PM Roots & Shoots Garden Work Day

## **NEXT SUNDAY – April 27**

4 Cents A Meal

Scriptures: John 20:19-31; Revelation 1:4-8 Sermon: "Here's My Hand"

8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream 9:45 AM Faith Formation – Bageant Room

11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary

4:30 PM Youth Mission Trip Meeting – First Presbyterian Church

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

We encourage everyone to give to One Great Hour of Sharing, which will be received and dedicated during worship **today**. Special envelopes are available in the bulletins and Gathering Area. OGHS fish banks added to the display in the Gathering Area will be dedicated as well.

#### **GET YOUR DIRECTORY PHOTO TAKEN TODAY**

Still need to have your directory photo taken? We will be set up to take photos in the Dell Room **after both services TODAY**. If you need to schedule a time for us to come to your home and take your directory photo, contact Debbie Bender (540-336-7689) or Alyce Callahan (586-801-0279).

## **LENT COLORING POSTER**

YOU DID IT! The Lent Coloring Poster is complete! It is vibrant and beautiful. Thank you to everyone who helped add some color to it. It is framed and ready to be hung in the building. You can see it on display in the Gathering Area. Well done!

# **FAMILY EASTER EVENT – TODAY (9:45 AM)**

The annual Family Easter Event will take place **today** at **9:45 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. Children and families are invited to come enjoy a breakfast of hardboiled eggs, a variety of breads, fruit cups, and cereals, followed by a telling of *The Easter Story* through a progressive art project along with some other fun. And of course, there'll be a COLORFUL EGG HUNT for children of all ages to collect eggs. Children are asked to bring a basket or bag to collect their eggs. A goodie bag will be given to each child at the end of this fun event.

## **OLDER ADULT CHOIR FOR OLDER ADULT SUNDAY**

Calling all young at heart, older adults...

Come sing in the choir on **Older Adult Sunday, May 4**, during the **8:30 AM** and **11:00 AM** worship services! Rehearsal will be on **Wednesday, April 30**, at **4:00 PM** in the Sanctuary. Got any questions? Please contact Susan Homan (540-665-8781 or srh1305@verizon.net).

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025**

We are excited about the summer already! VBS plans are in the making with our theme "Compassion Camp – Changing the World through Loving Kindness." VBS will be **June 16 – 19 (Monday – Thursday), 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM**, for ages 4 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. An adult class is offered as well and will be using a study titled, "Appreciate These Things; 8 Ways of Cultivating Compassion." Stop by the display in the Gathering Area to volunteer to help with our Compassion Camp VBS and to also register for VBS. Registration is open now until June 9.

# NOMINATE AN OLDER ADULT FOR "OPEQUON'S 2025 OLDER ADULT OF THE YEAR"

So many of our older adults have been recognized as our "Older Adults of the Year" and we celebrate those crowned in the past: Roy Bayliss, John Boyd, Frances Smith, Louise Duncan, Bill Robinson, Shirley Brumble, Dave Brumble, Rob MacGregor, Ty Headley, Edgar Tufts, Howard Kent, Donna Coffman, Betty Ganoe, Carol Tubbs, Graham Taylor, Carol Treece, Jack Treece, Dick Crane, Gail Crane, Martha Fulton, Becky Proctor, Steve Brown, Edwina Johansen, Betty Chicklo, June Malone, Alan McKay, Jean Smith, and Phil Hunter.

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 table in the Gathering Area. Share who you nominate and **WHY**.

**Nominations are due by May 11** 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 2025 Older Adult of the Year will be announced at the Older Adult Luncheon on May 28.

#### **GARDEN WORK DAY**

All are welcome to come and help lend a hand in the Roots & Shoots Garden for Planting Day this **Saturday, April 26 (1:00 PM – 3:00 PM)**.

## **OPC ROOTS & SHOOTS NEWS**

The Roots & Shoots Leadership Team would like to thank Beth Eisenhauer for serving as the Garden Administrator this past year. We are so grateful for her service and dedication. Beth has accepted the call to serve as a Deacon and is on two very important OPC Committees, which are requiring much of her time and effort. The Garden Gals (Dana Kelly, Robin Owens, and Joelle Cafaro) are ready to welcome a new Garden Administrator to keep spreadsheet totals of produce, be the contact for community groups who want to volunteer, and send info to the church office for bulletin and newsletter. Those interested should contact Dana Kelly (davedana@comcast.net).

"The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul." —Alfred Austin

#### **VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED**

Congregational Care and the Deacons are reaching out to ask for volunteers who would be willing to occasionally drive members to medical appointments. This would be on an as-needed basis, with at least several days notice. If you are willing to help provide rides as the need arises, please contact Robin Cooke (980-328-5131 or robincooke67@gmail.com).

#### **WATERCOLOR EXHIBIT TO BENEFIT "MOVE-IN MINISTRY"**

OPC member Karen Winters' art is being featured at a Watercolor Exhibit, **through May 5**, at the Shenandoah Lodge in Lake Frederick. A percentage of sales will go towards OPC's new mission project "Family Promise Move-in-Ministry." See the announcement cards in the Gathering Area and the Dell Room for more details.

#### FRIENDS OF THE GORE HOME IN ETHIOPIA

We are seeking scholarship donors for the students at The Gore Home. The Gore Home is an outreach of our partner synod in Ethiopia. It supplies dormitory style housing, complete with house mothers, three meals a day, supervised study hall time, medical care, and tutors. It primarily serves orphans, whose remaining family cannot support them. The students attend public school in the town of Gore, Ethiopia. The cost of a full scholarship is \$1,550 per year; however, we are asking for \$1,450 for the coming school year. Partial scholarships will be combined as appropriate. We want to collect the funds by early summer so that the Home may plan appropriately for the coming school year. The Gore Home can easily house 60 students and there are currently only about 40 there. OPC is the largest source of funds for the Home in the Shenandoah Presbytery, with sponsoring over 40% of the current students. Please thoughtfully and prayerfully consider helping to sponsor a student at the Gore Home. Please direct any questions about this program to Bill Burslem (wburslem331@gmail.com).

# **STAFF SCHEDULE NOTES**

April 21: Church Office Closed (Easter Monday)

April 25: Rachel Lesink (out of the office)

April 25 – May 3: David & Carole Witt (vacation)

#### **WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY**

8:30 AM Worship

**Liturgist**: Dale Ervin **Beadle**: Jim Horner

**Door Greeters**: Helen & Rex Ritchie

**Ushers**: Terry Hartman, Heide Mohler, Larry Donovan, Virginia Barr, Malayna Bates, Claire

Gaines

**Acolyte**: Virginia Barr **Bell Ringer**: Mo Mohler

**Livestream**: Susan Ritter, Sam Sherman

Building Stewards: Betty Chicklo, June Malone

11:00 AM Worship

**Liturgist**: Lance Astorino **Beadle**: Ann Denison

**Door Greeters**: Bonnie Pitzer,

Cindy Millard

**Ushers**: Andy Homan, Joel Witt, Kevin Reed, Hudson Homan, Bo Weber, Joshua

Batcha

Acolyte: Hudson Homan

#### **WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS**

# **Notes on Today's Music**

How does the music today witness to the hope and joy of resurrection and new life?

# **Notes on Today's Prayers**

> Where do I need to focus my prayers this week? For whom and for what do I need to pray?

## **Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages**

> Why is today a special day for "Alleluia's?"

## **Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon**

- >> What grief have you experienced, either recently or on your life and faith journey?
- > What do you imagine the women are thinking and feeling as they come to the tomb?
- How do you think they felt when they saw the stone moved away? How would you feel?
- > Has grief ever led you to feel paralyzed, isolated, or distrustful of others?
- ≥ Conversely, are there times when grief has led you into deeper trust and connection with others?
- Have you ever received news that felt too good to be true? What did you do in response?
- > How can the act of remembering ultimately lead us to hope?
- >> What stories and experiences shared and remembered on Easter bring you hope and joy today?



Christ is Risen!