

# OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843

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



**A threefold cord  
is not quickly  
broken.**

– Ecclesiastes 4:12

## INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

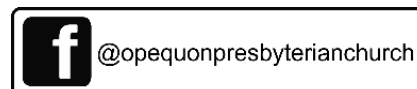
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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
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

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

**April 21, 2024 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

*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..... *Prayer for Peace*

By: Paul Taylor

(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. 413 ..... *Come into God's Presence*

**Come into God's presence singing "Alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia."**

**Come into God's presence singing "Jesus is Lord,  
Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord."**

**Praise the Lord together singing "Worthy the Lamb,  
worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb."**

**Praise the Lord together singing "Glory to God,  
glory to God, glory to God."**

†CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Engage Worship)

Hallelujah Hallelujah. What is your Hallelujah?

**A word so big they couldn't translate it, but took the Hebrew and  
reshaped it. Hallelu – to joyously praise; Jah – God.**

Sometimes it's a cold and broken Hallelujah.

**Deliberately declared as an act of faith - through doubt, through  
tears, through pain, Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah.**

Sometimes Hallelujah is an attitude,

**A deep breath taken, a kindness given, precious time spent,  
practical acts of praise.**

Hold this word high:

**Stand before the Lord of Song, nothing on your tongue but Hallelujah.**

Let us gather together to worship, shouting God's praises

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah!**

†OPENING HYMN No. 733 ..... *We All are One in Mission*

**We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

**A single, great commission compels us from above  
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.**

**We all are called for service to witness in God's name.**

**Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:  
to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace,  
so every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.**

**Now let us be united and let our song be heard.**

**Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.**

**We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,  
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

The Lord says: Come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.  
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess to you our doubts. When our childhood understandings fall away, we feel naked. When our convictions are questioned, we feel ashamed. Guide us into right paths, O God. Guide our feet into the way of peace. Guide our hands to care for others. Guide our hearts to love our neighbors. Call us back to You, O Christ, and renew our faith. When the ground is unsteady, loving God, put us back on right paths by doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with You.**

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The Lord is our chosen portion and our cup. God binds us in, counsels our minds and instructs our hearts. God helps us to stand firm for justice, mercy, and peace. When we fall, God lifts us up, forgives us, and remembers our sins no more. Amen.

## LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

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

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 155 ..... *Raise a Song of Gladness*

**Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.**

**Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!**

†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 bay yah! Someone's dying, Lord, Kum ba yah! Kum ba yah! Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah! 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: Ecclesiastes 4:7-12 ..... Pew Bible p. 538

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 2 Corinthians 8:16-24 ..... Pew Bible p. 941

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 756 ..... *O God of Every Nation*

**O God of every nation, of every race and land,  
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.  
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,  
in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.**

**From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,  
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,  
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,  
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.**

**Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release  
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase;  
when hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard;  
with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.**

**Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,  
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,  
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign  
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.**

SERMON..... Rev. Kristen Harris,  
Palo Duro Presbytery's Mission Co-worker to NOROC

**✧ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✧**

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*  
Arranged by: Tony Esposito

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

**O God who gathers more, and still more, people to your table — a  
table that is not contained by our one church, but extends across  
varied worship spaces, across diverse cultures and communities —  
bless the gifts that each of us bring today. May they strengthen  
bodies and nourish spirits, and be used for your glory. 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 ..... *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*  
African-American Spiritual

**I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!**  
**I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, any time!**

**I'm gonna work...      I'm gonna pray...      I'm gonna sing...**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE (v. 1) ..... *Guide My Feet*  
African-American Spiritual

**Guide my feet while I run this race;**  
**guide my feet while I run this race;**  
**guide my feet while I run this race,**  
**for I don't want to run this race in vain!**

†POSTLUDE

**NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC**

In the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of John's gospel, Jesus says: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you..." Peace between nations; peace between neighbors; peace in our family; peace in our soul—each is worthy of prayer. The title of this morning's prelude prompts us to pray for peace and Paul Taylor's composition aids us in that endeavor. "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" may be a children's song that adults love to sing, or it may be an adult song that children can easily sing. While its roots likely lie among other old spirituals there is no record of it being published before 1927. It caught on quickly. Many well-known singers have released their version. It's been a favorite of folksingers, Bible School openings, and car trips. Although it's found in only a handful of hymnals this simple song of faith and witness is surprisingly ubiquitous. It's fitting that it would be known and sung throughout "... the whole wide world."

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Vonnie Johnston in loving remembrance of her husband, Fred.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Carolynne Pell Family	Alan & Pat Berry	Art Littman
Tom Rader	Vonnie Johnston & Family	Martha Jackson
Parker Plumb	Ann Tufts	Rick Friedrichsen
Oscar Tavenner	Chris Wilfong	Bereaved Israelites & Palestinians
Sheyenne & Dale Ervin	Annemarie Matthews	Jewish & Muslim Victims Worldwide
Jackie Kramer	Joanne Berson	Graham Taylor
Jan Ryan	Mary & Don Royston	Norma Windle Albanese
Families of the Key Bridge Collapse	Wildfire Victims	Stephen Armstrong
Mace Family	Marge & Tim Higgins	Lori Jones
Ritchie Ritter	Cindy Faircloth	José LaMont Jones
Melissa Martin	Carol Nutry	Cindy Correll
Ken Coryell	Charlotte Rosamilia	Douglas Dicks
Godlove Family	Jennie Wright & Family	Tim Loftis
Nathan Windle	Monica Ervin	Katie Happel
Gannon Wilkins & Family	Haiti	Michael Weller
John Massey	Roger Murphy	Cindia Stewart
Dulcie Reed	Kylie McDonald	Rich Valenti
Tom Homan	Liz Martin	Nancy Kerns
Those Suffering from Mental Illness	June Windle	Kennedy Ransom
Bill Robinson	Betty & Gayle DeHaven	Ukraine
Becky Rumor	David André	Ethiopia Church Mekane Jesus
Louis "J.R." Rittmeyer	Emma Kate Hathaway	
	Sandy Widell	
	Mike Shade	

## 🌿 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 21

*Blood Pressure Checks*

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

### THIS WEEK

- Monday:      6:00 PM      Windsong – Sanctuary  
Tuesday:     3:00 PM      TVOR Gathering  
                  5:30 PM      Highland Food Pantry  
                  7:30 PM      Called Session Meeting – Zoom  
Wednesday: 9:00 AM      Older Adult Trip – "American Celebration on Parade"  
                  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 Lunch – Fellowship Hall  
                  11:00 AM     Newsletter Assembly – Bageant Room  
                  2:30 PM      GLOW Planning – Bageant Room  
                  6:00 PM      Fellowship Book Club – Bageant Room  
Friday:        11:00 AM     Java with Julia – Hopscotch  
Saturday:    9:00 AM      Roots & Shoots Garden Planting Day

### NEXT SUNDAY – April 28

*Four Cents A Meal; Ordination & Installation of New Deacons*  
*Scriptures: Psalm 23; John 10:11-18    Sermon: "God's Shepherds"*

- 8:30 AM      Worship with the Ordination & Installation of New Deacons –  
                  Sanctuary & Livestream  
9:45 AM      GIFT Event – Fellowship Hall  
11:00 AM     Worship – Sanctuary

## **WELCOME REV. KRISTEN HARRIS!**

We are delighted to welcome Rev. Kristen Harris to Opequon **today!** Rev. Kristen is the PC(USA) Mission Co-worker for NOROC (New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children) and is truly a bright and shining light, serving the families in Romania with energy and awareness. She will be preaching the Word of God during both services and also share about her and NOROC's work. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall between the two services to learn more about the work Rev. Kristen does!

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION OPENS TODAY**

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 begins today! See the display in the Gathering Area. Registration is also available online at [www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org).

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

So many of our older adults have been recognized as our "Older Adults of the Year." We celebrate those crowned in the past: Roy Bayliss, John Boyd, Frances Smith, Louise Duncan, Bill Robinson, Shirley and Dave Brumble, Rob MacGregor, Ty Headley, Edgar Tufts, Howard Kent, Donna Coffman, Betty Ganoë, Carol Tubbs, Graham Taylor, Carol and Jack Treece, Dick and Gail Crane, Martha Fulton, Becky Proctor, Steve Brown, Edwina Johansen, Betty Chicklo, June Malone, Alan McKay, and Jean Smith. It is time to share your nominations for this year's 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 May 29.

## **ADULT TRIP THIS WEDNESDAY**

Those who have signed up and paid for the trip to American Celebration on Parade this **Wednesday** are asked to meet in the Dell Room at **9:00 AM**. We will share announcements, a brief introduction for the trip, and distribute goody bags.

## **ROOTS & SHOOTS PLANTING DAY**

OPC's Roots & Shoots Planting Day is set for this **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!

## **"GIFT" EVENT – Next 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** in the Fellowship Hall. 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.

## **STAFF SCHEDULE NOTES FOR THIS WEEK**

- April 25-27: Rebekah Witt – GenOn Training
- April 26-27: David & Carole Witt – Continuing Education

To reach a staff member or if a pastoral concern arises, please contact the church office (540-662-1843 or [office@opequonchurch.org](mailto:office@opequonchurch.org)) or email/call one of the available pastors directly and we will get back to you in a timely manner.

## WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

### 8:30 AM Worship

**Liturgist:** Rebekah DesMaraias  
**Beadle:** Carroll Youngblood  
**Ushers:** Terry Hartman, Heide Mohler,  
CeCeS Shaffer, Ruby Shaffer  
**Acolyte:** CeCeS Shaffer  
**Bell Ringer:** Mo Mohler  
**Livestream:** Susan Ritter, Brad Jordan

### 11:00 AM Worship

**Liturgist:** Ann Smith  
**Beadle:** Bill Wellman  
**Door Greeter:** Sheryl Massey  
**Ushers:** Andy Homan, Joel Witt,  
Kevin Reed, Jackson Russell,  
Emily Russell  
**Acolyte:** Jackson Russell

## WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

### Notes on Today's Music

✂ How does today's music share the mission of the church?

### Notes on Today's Prayers

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

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

✂ What helps you remember?

### Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

✂ How did the worship and sermon today reflect the mission of the church?

✂ What did you learn about our connection with Romania?

✂ How does God call us to serve the church in the world?

✂ Where do you feel God's call to you in mission?

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