Thanks Giving

Giving God Thanks

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 22, 2026 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH **www.opequonchurch.org**
217 Opequon Church Lane 540-662-1843
Winchester, VA 22602 office@opequonchurch.org

Pastor ..... David R. Witt
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/Pianist ..... Garrett Jones
Facilities Coordinator ..... Robert Sydnor
Nursery Supervisor ..... Laurie Carver
Faith Community Nurses ..... Bill Martin, Patty Klinefelter, 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

Christ the King Sunday – 4 Cents A Meal

- **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.

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† = All who are able, please stand. **Bold print = All in unison.**

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE.....*All Good Gifts*
By: Stephen Schwartz

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS
GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT
†GATHERING SONG No. 336 (v. 1-2) ..... *We Gather Together*

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name: he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!

†CALL TO WORSHIP
Grace and peace to you from the God who is, and who was and who is to come…
And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glory now;
For life and health his cross was borne; to him our lives we vow.
The highest place that heaven affords
Is his by sovereign right.
Yet here for us the Lord of lords
Is pleased to grant his light.

†OPENING HYMN No. 265 ..... *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head;
his name, like sweet perfume, shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We come to worship to remember and to acknowledge Jesus the Lord and Ruler of our lives. We come to worship to renew our affirmation and commitment, always willing to listen and to pay attention to those whose needs are great. In our moments of honest reflection, we realize how often we fall short of our goal. In that knowledge, let us confess our shortcomings to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that far too often we do not want a savior who is in charge. We would prefer Jesus to be subject to us, rather than the other way around. We are not keen for a redeemer who has any claims on us and certainly not one who makes demands of us. We have our own plans and agendas, after all. We are happy for Jesus to rubberstamp them for us, but a savior to whom we owe

allegiance and obedience? No thanks. Forgive our foolishness, O God! Forgive our arrogance and selfishness. We know that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from you, but we are forgetful, rebellious and stubborn. Thank you for not giving up on us. We ask for forgiveness and restoration, not because of anything we have or have not done, but only for the sake of Christ the King. Amen.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Through the crucified body and blood of Christ, we have been given a pardon from God. "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14). Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, proclaiming Jesus as Lord of all. Amen.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 643 (v. 3) ..... *Now Thank We All Our God*
All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

†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.....*Grateful Praise* By: Mark D. Edwards

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD
OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 100 .....Pew Bible p. 481
NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 25:31-46.....Pew Bible p. 807

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "Room for One More?"

†HYMN No. 367 ..... *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*
Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.

God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;
from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there forever purified, in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home!

SERMON....."Room at the Table"
Pastor Tracie Martin

~ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ~

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS
OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *Over the Sea to Skye*
Traditional Irish Melody; arr. Joseph Martin

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

O God, we come before you with grateful hearts, reflecting on the gifts you have so graciously given us. Just as the Israelites brought their first fruits as an offering of thanksgiving, we, too, bring our lives, our time, our talents, and our resources to you in humble gratitude. May we never forget that every blessing we enjoy comes from your hand. Teach us to live with open hearts, giving freely of ourselves, trusting in your continued provision. 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. 769..... *For Everyone Born*

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,

a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead, [refrain]

[refrain] **and God will delight when we are creators of justice**
and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair, [refrain]

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong, [refrain]

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live, [refrain]

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free, [refrain]

†CHARGE & BLESSING
†CLOSING RESPONSE No. No. 769 (refrain) ..... *For Everyone Born*
and God will delight when we are creators of justice
and joy, compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

†POSTLUDE

HARVEST DISPLAY

We are so grateful for the beautiful harvest display on the historic Communion Table and around the Sanctuary. We thank Allison Blake, Robin Eddy, Mary Elson, Corine Fox, and Jennie Wright for sharing their creative gifts in decorating our Sanctuary for this season of Thanksgiving. We also thank Robert Sydnor for transporting all the decorations.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Wendy Ganoe
Fran Jeffries
Family of Xavier Taylor
Marsha Barley & Family
Grace Durham
Anna Kemp
Jason Popp
John Hale
Ken Johansen
Irma Whitmire
Brenna Hathaway
Britta Albright Sharbaugh
Christy Bombatch
Maximus Serros
Don Gibson
Ty Bennett & Family
Rick Henry
Tim & Darlene Davis
Shooting Victims in AL
Gail Crane
Bill Deck
Rick Friedrichsen
Mike Witt
Kim Meyers
John Douglas McLain
Doug Bunkers
Pat DeButts
Brenda Steffens
Cindy Sousa
Cheryl DeCeault
Sara Frey
Aliah Farquhar
Katie Happel
Carol Fries
Joan Patton
Clayton Carbaugh
Al Schollenberger
Gary Rutherford
Vern Gamble
Chick Doroffee
Nepal Disaster
Rick Ours
Judy Gaines
Lorin & Bill Goulart
Kraig Hawkins
Tim & Katherine Loftis
Jim Keeler
Marcia Jaureguizar
Lyn Warren
Linda Swiger
Mike Shade
Marge & Tim Higgins
Susan Arthur
Dan Cammer
Middle East War
Lori Jones & Stephen Armstrong
Mike & Trish Crawford
JoAnne Farrell
Judy Camper
David Lewis
All Struggling with Mental Illness
Nancy Kerns
Jewish & Muslim Victims Worldwide
Cindy Corell
Katie Wolf
Ukraine
Ethiopia Church Mekane Yesus

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES

Caleb Smith, Kaylynn Tavenner, Robert Littman, Cameron Lloyd, 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

OUR SCHOOL OF THE WEEK

Staff & Students at Frederick Douglas Elementary School in Winchester, VA

In Remembrance:

Dale Barley

August 14, 1946 – November 17, 2026

"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

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – November 22 (Christ the King Sunday)
4 Cents A Meal

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Bageant Room
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
12:30 PM	Church Retreat Planning Meeting – Fellowship Hall
2:30 PM	Windsong Rehearsal – Sanctuary
6:00 PM	**Thanksgiving Worship – Memorial Sanctuary**
	Thanksgiving Reception – Bageant Room

THIS WEEK

Monday:	5:30 PM	Windsong – Memorial Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
	7:00 PM	Astronomy Club – Assembly Room
Tuesday:	3:00 PM	TVOR Gathering
	5:30 PM	Highland Food Pantry
Thursday:	**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** (Happy Thanksgiving!)	
Friday:	**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** (Thanksgiving Holiday)	

NEXT SUNDAY – November 29 *(1st Sunday of Advent)*
Scriptures: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; Mark 13:24-37
Sermon: "Until the Dawn: Cry Out!"

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM	GIFT Event – Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM	Called Session Meeting – Bageant Room
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
3:00 PM	Elder Training – Bageant Room

CHURCH RETREAT PLANNING TEAM

The Church Retreat Planning Team is meeting **today** at **12:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. This team of 13 people is planning for and working towards the ALL-CHURCH RETREAT to be held March 12-14, 2027. Our retreat theme is "A Time for Everything". There will be so much more shared with you in the coming months.

130th ANNUAL KERNSTOWN COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Sunday, November 22 @ 6:00 PM (OPC Memorial Sanctuary)
Kernstown United Methodist Church and Opequon Presbyterian Church will worship together at the Thanksgiving Service **TONIGHT** in OPC's Memorial Sanctuary. Pastor Victor Gomez will preach about "One Table, One Lord, One Thanksgiving." We will also have communion, special music, and an evening offering for WATTS.

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN: Annual SeedMoney Campaign
Our annual SeedMoney Campaign helps us continue growing not only fresh produce, but also our mission of serving and caring for our neighbors. Support the garden's campaign here: https://givebutter.com/opc-roots-and-shoots-garden-2026

'GIFT' EVENT – Generations in Faith Together – Next SUNDAY
We have the GIFT of being with all ages for an educational experience next **Sunday, November 29**, at **9:45 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. The theme is **"The Pumpkin Patch Parable"** which is a story of how a simple pumpkin can turn into a glorious sight. In the same way, God's transforming love can fill each of our hearts with joy and light. There is ALWAYS good food, good company, and GIFT is ALWAYS a GOOD EXPERIENCE! GIFT events are for everyone. The atmosphere is pleasant, welcoming, and uplifting. The best part of it all is YOU! There is much in store as we enjoy a relaxed, enjoyable and positive time together.

BEDTIME BLESSINGS & PRAYER BOOKLETS
A Bedtime Blessings & Prayer Booklet is available for children, youth, and families to take and use at home. There are prayers included that have been written by some of our own families along with a variety of other prayers and ideas for some meaningful family time. Please help yourself to a booklet. They can be found in the Gathering Area.

CALLING ALL OPC BAKERS!
This year's Cookie Reception is coming up fast! Bring your baked goods and recipe to display to the pantry on **December 6** – WE WILL PLATE THEM! Remember to label your carrier so it can be returned to you. Any questions? Contact Marj Praml (pramlmarjory550@gmail.com). This will be a great time of fellowship with cookies and punch!

ECLECTIC FEAST GROUP
There are six spots available for our next outing at Everest Indian Restaurant (419 Gateway Dr, Ste 1 in Winchester) on **December 11** at **6:00 PM**. Anyone that would like to join us is welcome! To reserve your spot, contact Diana Hecht (304-359-6155 / diana.hecht@pawpawtracks.com).

NOROC ADULT (21^{+}) MISSION SERVICE TRIP
Register **today** for the June 17-29, 2027 Adult Mission Trip to Romania! The cost is $2,300 per person and registration deadline is **December 15**. For details, contact Rich Schempp (806-790-1749 / rschempp2@gmail.com).

WATTS VOLUNTEERS
Many hands are needed for when we host WATTS! To help out, fill out and return a WATTS Volunteer Blue Sheet (in the Gathering Area) or go online: www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CAAAD2CA64-67067802-opequon

WATTS VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
A WATTS Volunteer Orientation will be on **December 10** at **7:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. If you will be volunteering during WATTS Week, or are interested in finding out more about helping, please plan to attend this important training.

WATTS SUPPLIES NEEDED
To view the list of item donations needed for WATTS Week, visit the Amazon Wish List online at: www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1DZ06MA778V1H?

IMPORTANT END-OF-YEAR GIVING DEADLINES
Opequon can – and does - make a difference in people's lives! As 2026 comes to a close, please consider your year-end giving: Is your General Fund pledge up to date? Did you get a Christmas bonus from your employer and wish to make a special donation to Opequon? Did you have a wonderful year, and now realize that when we give, others are blessed and God is glorified? God blesses us when we give generously (2 Corinthians 9:6). Simply write "General Fund" or "Capital Campaign" on your check. Checks can always be left during the week in the church office.

To receive credit on your 2026 year-end giving statement, please note the following deadlines for receipt of gifts…

Online Giving:
must be made online by December 24, 2026.

Cash, Checks, & Bank Bill Pay Payments:
must be received by December 31, 2026.

PLEDGING FOR 2027
Thank You to everyone who has already turned in a pledge card for 2027 – we are indeed a generous congregation. If you have not already done so, please help us by turning in your pledge card as soon as possible. The total amount pledged becomes the 'backbone' for the Stewardship & Finance Team to determine what we can budget for general fund spending next year. Every pledge of estimated giving, whether large or small, is so helpful in our budgeting process. Pledge cards are available in the Sanctuary, or you can **easily pledge on the church website**: just click on "Giving," scroll down to the "Pledge Now" 2027 Stewardship Campaign image, and click on the tasty popcorn!

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ellen Cunningham
Beadle: Sven Thulin
Door Greeters: Winter Brooks, Sheryl Massey
Ushers: Betty Chicklo, June Malone, Alyce Callahan, Kyleigh Kramerage, Knox Kramerage
Acolyte: Kyleigh Kramerage
Building Stewards: Steve Burton, Heather Burton

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: David Pelfrey
Beadle: Alan Berry
Door Greeters: Pat Heavner, Judy Moody
Ushers: Annemarie Matthews, Dennis Boyd, Pat Heavner, Paige Littman, Oliver Bayliss
Acolyte: Paige Littman
Livestream: Susan Ritter, Nick Jenkins

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

- How did today's music witness to the strength and power of God made known through the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives?

Notes on Today's Prayers

- Is there a special form of language that should be used for prayer?
- Did you have time to add your own, personal prayers to the public ones?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

- How can you make room when things feel crowded?
- What do you feel when there is no room for you?
- How do you feel if someone makes room?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

- Where have you experienced being left out? Not chosen?
- Are there places where the Church could learn from this scripture?
- What does it mean today to declare Christ as King? How would you rephrase that statement?
- Do you think of yourself as a sheep or a goat? What's the difference?

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