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Old Presbyterian Meeting House

Service for the Worship of God

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2025 | 11:00 AM

Welcome

Welcome to Old Presbyterian Meeting House. We are glad you are worshipping with us today and hope you will explore the many opportunities of learning and serving at the Meeting House. We are a caring community committed to living the greatest commandment of loving God and loving our neighbors. If you are new in town and/or looking for a church home, please accept this welcome as an open invitation to come with us as we worship and serve Jesus Christ!

Children are Welcome in Worship!

Worship is for the whole family of God, and we welcome children with their wiggles and giggles. Children's worship bags, as well as a basket of books, are available in the church entrance; please return them after the service.

Nursery care for children from birth to age 3 is also available in the Education Building (past the burial ground behind the sanctuary, in the building on the left). Our Sunday School offerings for all ages and Bridges to Worship program for children age 4 to grade 3 will resume in the fall.

Guests

- Please fill out the fellowship pad and let us know you are here so we can keep you informed.
- Assistive listening devices and large print hymnals are available at the church entrance. Ask an usher for assistance.
- Restrooms and a changing station are available downstairs. See an usher for directions.
- Please join us for fellowship in front of the Sanctuary following worship.
- After worship stop by the Welcome Table outside the church to find out more about upcoming events and activities.

Pastoral Care

- If you would like to talk to a pastor or notify the pastoral staff of personal concerns, illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths, please call the Church Office, 703.549.6670.
- If you have a prayer request, please place the Prayer Request/Guest card in the offering plate, or contact Rev. Ann Herlin, aherlin@opmh.org.

Find Out More

- If you are interested in becoming a member of Old Presbyterian Meeting House, contact Vicki Stones, vstones@opmh.org.
- We're Online! Live worship at 11:00 AM: opmh.org/live; Recordings: opmh.org/videos
- Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM and Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- To learn more about our church:



@OPMHAlexandria



@opmh_church



opmh.org

Prelude

Meditation on "Spirit"
Music: James K. Manley, 1976, arr. Bryan Holten

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Katherine Stanford

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Introit

"Sing Praises to the Lord" from *The Continental Harmony* (1794)

Words: Psalm 30:4-5

Music: William Billings

Sing praises to the Lord, O ye saints of God.
For his wrath endures for a moment, and in his favor is life forevermore.

▲ Call to Worship *(Please rise in body or in spirit)*

Elder Will Olson

Jesus says, "I am the Way for you."

And so we come to follow the Christ.

Jesus says, "I am the Truth for you."

And so we come to dwell in the Light.

Jesus says, "I am the Life for you."

And so we come to welcome the Holy Spirit!

▲ Hymn 291

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

SPIRIT

▲ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Linda L. Lanam

God of everlasting wholeness, we confess that we continue in ways that break us. You have set us free to serve you, but we serve our own interests. You have delivered us from captivity, but we remain captive to our fear. Forgive us, God of grace. Pour out your spirit of gentleness upon this whole family of believers so that we may rejoice in your peace, to live and serve as one.

Please join in silent prayer.

▲ Congregational Response 544 *(sung)*

Bless the Lord

BLESS THE LORD (TAIZÉ)



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▲ Assurance of Pardon

▲ Act of Praise 591 *(sung)*

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

HALLE, HALLE



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▲ Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Anthem

If Ye Love Me

Words: John 14:15-17, as translated in the Tyndale Bible, c.1522-35

Music: Thomas Tallis

If ye love me, keep my commandments.
And I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may 'bide with you forever;
E'en the sp'rit of truth.

Listening for the Word

Time With Children

Bridges to worship will return in the fall.

Mrs. Noelle Castin

Scripture Reading

John 14:23-29

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Going and Coming

Rev. Dr. Katherine Stanford

Responding to the Word

▲ Hymn 820

Nothing Can Trouble

NADA TE TURBE

First time: choir only (Spanish)

Second and third time: congregation (English)

Fourth time: choir and congregation (Spanish)

The organist concludes with a final repetition or two; please feel free to hum.

▲ Affirmation of Faith (unison)

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*, 1983

We are the people of God. We are a sign of the New World. We are the sisters and brothers of Jesus. We believe in God. We believe in the goodness of God, the presence of God in human history, and the nearness of God's love. We believe in Christ. We believe that God was and is revealed in human life, that out of human suffering may come rescue and healing, that out of death comes new life. We believe in the Eternal Spirit, who moves among God's people and invites the world into God's reign. We believe that the world can change, that peace and wholeness can come, and that the New World can arrive. We are the people of God. We are a sign of the New World. We are the sisters and brothers of Jesus.

Invitation to Discipleship

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer (unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"Proverb" from *The Gift of Music*

Words: Traditional Zimbabwean

Music: Traditional Zimbabwean, arr. Alfred V. Fedak

If you can walk, you can dance.

If you can talk, you can sing.

So you can sing, you can dance.

We can sing, we can dance!

▲ Doxology 609 (sung)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen.

▲ Prayer of Dedication (unison)

We dedicate these gifts to the work of this congregation, weaving a tapestry of compassion and action, faith and fellowship, hope and wholeness. We dedicate these gifts to the work of this congregation, and we affirm our lives within it. Amen.

Sending the Word Into the World

▲ Hymn 773

Heaven Shall Not Wait

HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

▲ Benediction

▲ Choral Response

Amen from "Total Praise"

Music: Richard Smallwood

▲ Postlude

Alegretto from "Spring" (*The Four Seasons*)

Music: Antonio Vivaldi, arr. S. Drummond Wolff

▲ Please stand as you are able

Today

Worship Elder is Will Olson and the **Worship Deacon** is Ann Whaley.

Today's flowers are arranged by Nolan Welle.

Please join us following worship for Fellowship Time outside on the sidewalk hosted by the Deacons.

Upcoming Events

Give with Grace



ALIVE! West End Food Hub
June 3, 5 or 10
10 AM-12 PM

510-F S. Van Dorn Street

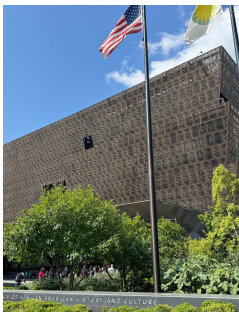
Meeting House member, **Grace O'Grady** will meet you at the **ALIVE!** West End Food Hub and she will show you how we can assist clients by greeting, registering, and introducing them to the food selection process, translating as well as organizing groceries and light cleaning.

Sign up at opmh.org/alive or scan the code here.



Gather with us at Fort Hunt Park on June 8 from 12:30 to 2:30 PM for a fabulous church picnic filled with a Pie Contest and a feast of food shared among friends. We will have fried chicken and you can sign up to bring a scrumptious side dish or dessert! Don't miss out on the: Pie Contest at the Park! We're hosting a Best Pie Contest where you can show off your baking skills and win bragging rights until the next time! **Please sign up and let us know you are coming and if you are entering your best pie: opmh.org/picnic or scan the code above.**

National Museum of African American History Trip



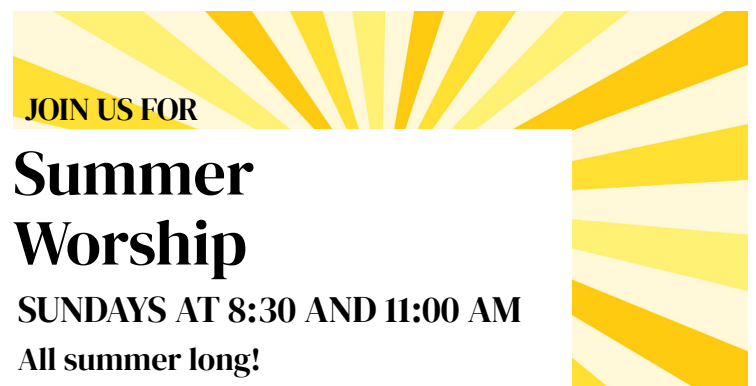
The Dismantling Racism Team is organizing a field trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture on Saturday, June 21. We have a group ticket for 25 people; our entry time is 1:15 PM. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to Beth, beth.roberts.62@gmail.com



You're Invited to Summer Choir!

Enjoy a more casual "come as you are" approach to music this summer. Each Sunday from June 15 through July 27 (except July 6), anyone with an interest in choral singing is welcome to attend a choral rehearsal at 10:00 AM to prepare the music for worship that day and then join us for the 11:00 AM service. Director of Music Bryan Holten will assemble a packet of music that you can pick up ahead of time if you wish. For more information, feel free to contact bholten@opmh.org.

Choir will take a seasonal hiatus in August, but we will still enjoy the musical talents of our staff singers during that time.



For more info about events, opmh.org/events

Ongoing

Sundays

Worship at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM in person and online at 11:00 AM. **** Both services will continue all summer!**

Childcare for infants and toddlers

8:15 AM-12:15 PM, Room 14 – Education Building

Education for all resumes in the fall.

Centering Prayer

Join us on Wednesdays at 7:00 AM, in person and zoom for a time of prayer. Contact Vicki, vstones@opmh.org for Zoom link.

Fellowship Groups

Women's Fellowship, July 15, 6:00 PM, Pizza, salad and a book swap. \$5 donation requested for dinner. For more info, contact Debra McKeown at lawmckeown@aol.com.

Men's Fellowship, Bible and Beer small group meets monthly on Tuesdays, contact Eric Johnson, eric@el-studio.com.

20s30s Fellowship for young professionals (singles and couples). About a dozen people gather monthly for Sunday brunch or early supper. Contact Laura Campbell, laura@convenearchitecture.com.

Infant Toddler Group Parents and kids meet at various places for fellowship and play. Contact Ann Whaley at awhaley@acdsnet.org.

Caregiver Connections Group, led by the Rev. Ann Herlin, welcomes all those providing care – whether locally or long-distance – to spouses, other family members and friends with dementia or other chronic illness. The support group meets every other Monday from 11:00 AM to noon in the Elliott House Parlor. Contact Ann, aherlin@opmh.org.

Ways to Give

1. Place your offering in the offering plates.
2. Give online at opmh.org/give or snap the QR code at right.
3. Text *opmh* to 73256
4. Mail a check to 323 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria, VA 22314.



Leadership

Rev. Dr. Shelly Wood, Pastor, swood@opmh.org
Rev. Dr. Katherine Stanford, Associate Pastor, kstanford@opmh.org
Rev. Ann Herlin, Associate Pastor, aherlin@opmh.org
Dr. Bryan Holten, Dir. of Music and Organist, bholten@opmh.org
Mrs. Noelle Castin, Dir. of Christian Education, ncastin@opmh.org
Mrs. Mary Pratt Perry, Dir. of Youth Ministry, mpratt@opmh.org
Mr. Aaron Siirila, Business Administrator, asiirila@opmh.org
Mrs. Ellen Haas, Administrative Specialist, ehaas@opmh.org
Mrs. Vicki Stones, Communications/Office Mgr., vstones@opmh.org
Mr. David Heiby, Presbyterian Cemetery, cemetery@opmh.org
Mrs. Tania Ryan, Meeting House Cooperative Preschool Dir., taniaryan@aol.com
Ms. Jenny Parker, Clerk of Session, clerk@opmh.org

Contact the Church Office: 703.549.6670, admin@opmh.org

opmh.org/adults for more info

Old Presbyterian Meeting House

Memorial Day 2025

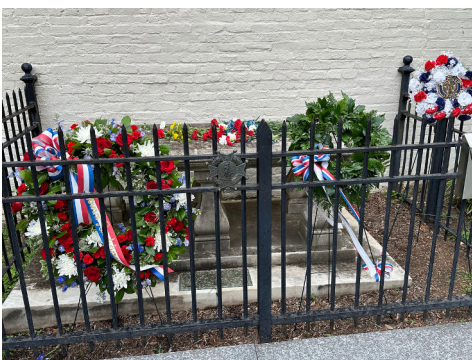


In 1868 General John A. Logan (retired), Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (the veteran's association of the Union army) called for the "strewing of flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land." Meeting House congregation members responded to that call by organizing Alexandria's first Decoration Day (Memorial Day) ceremonies at the Alexandria National Cemetery on the 30th of May.

During this year's Memorial Day, celebrated on Monday, May 26, two local ceremonies will honor service members who have died in the defense of the United States of America — one in the Meeting House churchyard burial ground at the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution and one at the Alexandria National Cemetery.

Ceremonies at the Unknown memorial in the churchyard burial ground begin at 11:00 AM. This event is organized the Knights of Columbus, Assembly 2204 (Patriotic Degree), along with the 1st VA Revolutionary Reenactment soldiers and Cub Scouts Pack 685. They will host a tandem wreath ceremony to honor the unknown soldier of the American Revolution. The ceremony will include opening/closing remarks and prayers, a short talk on the history of the Unknown Soldier, and about 15 men in Continental Army uniform. This will be followed by presentation of Colors by the KofC Assembly 2204 Color guard and reflections by some of our Founding Fathers read by the Assembly's Faithful Navigator.

Ceremonies at the Alexandria National Cemetery, organized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 609, will also begin at 11:00 AM.



Images from 2024 Memorial Day



Images of former president Barack Obama honoring Civil War veterans at Alexandria Memorial Cemetery in 2024. Photographs courtesy of David Heiby.

If you would like to take a tour and hear more about our history, please contact the church office, 703.549.6670 or our Historian, Dr. Don Dahmann, ddahmann@yahoo.com

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323 S. Fairfax Street | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.549.6670 | opmh.org