

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 infants and children ages 3 and under is also available in the Education Building (past the burial ground behind the sanctuary, in the building on the left). After the children's message, except on the first Sunday of the month when we offer communion, children age 4 to grade 3 are invited to attend Bridges to Worship. A parent is welcome to join them the first time.

Guests

- Please fill out the pew 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

It Is Well With My Soul
Music: Philip P. Bliss, arr. Gary Lanier
Katerina Brewer, flute; Molly Mead, horn; Bryan Holten, piano

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome

Rev. Katherine Stanford

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

▲ Call to Worship *(Responsive)*

David Cucinelli, Quentin Lisecki

Peace! Be Still!
Are you listening?
Really listening?
He stilled the storm to a whisper;
The waves of the sea were hushed.
They were glad when it grew calm.
The peace of God surpasses ALL understanding.
Lord fill us this morning with your peace.
Your spirit is our peace and our path.
Let us worship God!

▲ Hymn 401

Here in This Place

GATHER US IN

▲ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

Alexa Jarecki

God, you asked for our mouths to speak out against injustice, and we gave you a whisper that we might not be accused. You asked for our hands, that we might use them for your purpose. We gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. Sometimes peace is so far away, we cannot even imagine what it would feel like. Forgive us when our resolve falters; help us when our imagination is lacking. Forgive us when we become a people of fear — afraid that sharing will lead to scarcity and that love is a zero-sum game. Help us to remember that you are a God of abundance, and help us plant seeds of peace.

Please join in silent prayer.

▲ Congregational Response 448 *(sung)* Peace of God Be with You

AS-SALAAMU LAKUM

Peace of God be with you. Peace of God be with you.
Salaam, salaam. Peace of God be with you.

▲ Assurance of Pardon

Elizabeth Cahir

▲ Act of Praise 623 *(sung)*

I've Got Peace like a River

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river, in my soul.

Listening for the Word

Scripture Reading

Psalms 46

Charlotte Edwards, Amelia Elias, Mica Olson

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Vivian Kocsis

Children's Anthem *(11:00 AM)*

Shalom

Words and Music: Teresa Jennings

Time With Children

Johann Brewer, Natalie Cavender, Finn McNabb

Bridges to Worship does not meet the first Sunday of each month.

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| <p>▲ Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you. <i>All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.</i></p> | | Maggie Carl |
| <p>Reflection</p> | Philippians 4:4-7 | Brennan Boyle |
| <p>▲ Hymn 378</p> | We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom | MERLE'S TUNE |
| <p>Scripture Reading</p> <p>The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.</p> | Mark 4:35-41 | Leah Peterson |
| <p>Reflection</p> | | Cecily Boyle |
| <p>Anthem</p> | <p>Peace in Christ Words and Music: Nik Day Cecily Boyle, Katerina Brewer, Grace Buchanan, Caroline Cahir, Elizabeth Cahir Maggie Carl, Anette Coats, Charlotte Edwards, Amelia Elias, Molly Mead, Leah Staley</p> | |
| <p>Reflection</p> | | Anette Coats |

Responding to the Word

| | |
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| <p>▲ Affirmation of Faith</p> <p>We believe in God, the Creator of all things, who calls us to plant seeds of peace in the soil of our hearts and communities. We trust in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, who calms our storms and shows us the way of love and reconciliation.</p> <p>We learn to trust in God's power to bring peace amidst chaos. We strive to bless those who persecute us and seek to extend God's love to the marginalized.</p> <p>We commit to following the teachings of Jesus, embracing meekness, mercy, and peacemaking, trusting in God's everlasting love and grace.</p> | <p>Katie Cavender (<i>Montreat Youth Conference 2024</i>)</p> |
| <p>Anthem</p> | <p>Crowded Table Words and Music: Natalie Hemby, Lori McKenna, and Brandi Carlile</p> |
| <p>Invitation to Discipleship</p> | <p>Natalie Cavender and Quentin Lisecki</p> |
| <p>Prayers of the People</p> <p>(Prayer Refrain: sing when prompted)</p> <p>Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, Send us love, send us peace, send us grace.</p> | <p>Henry Welle and Grace Buchanan</p> |
| <p>The Lord's Prayer (<i>unison</i>)</p> <p>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.</p> | |
| <p>Presentation of Tithes and Offerings</p> <p>Offertory</p> | <p>Prayer for Shalom Words and Music: Kyle Pederson, arr. Bryan Holten</p> |

Lucie Matsdorf (11:00)

Prayer of Dedication

Dear God, you give us all we need and more. Now we have returned what we could. Use our offerings to spread your light and peace throughout the world. Amen.

Taking the Word Into the World

Hymn Introduction

▲ Hymn 705

You Are Holy, Prince of Peace

YOU ARE HOLY

*Youth sing through first time, congregation sing second and third times.
Song is divided in high and low voices, choose that part that works for you!
Verses – call and response. Low voices sing the call, high sing the response*

**You are holy (You are holy)
You are mighty (You are mighty)
You are worthy (You are worthy)
Worthy of praise (worthy of praise)
I will follow (I will follow)
I will listen (I will listen)
I will love You (I will love You)
All of my days (all of my days)**

Chorus - Two parts sung at the same time

(Higher voices):

**You are Lord of Lords, You are King of Kings
You are Mighty God, Lord of everything
You're Emmanuel, You're the Great 'I Am'
You're the Prince of Peace, who is the Lamb
You're my living God, You're my saving grace
You will reign forever, You are ancient of days
You're the Alpha, Omega, beginning and end
You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, and Friend**

(Low Voices):

**I will sing to and worship
The King who is worthy
I will love and adore Him
And I will bow down before Him
And I will sing to and worship
The King who is worthy
And I will love and adore Him
And I will bow down before Him**

ALL: You're my Prince of Peace and I will live my life for You!

▲ Benediction

Brennan Boyle, Cecily Boyle, Anette Coats, Vivian Kocsis

▲ Postlude

▲ Please stand as you are able

Today

The memorial service for Dottie Shaw will be held at The View on Saturday, May 10, at 2:00 PM.

Worship Elders are Ruth Brightbill (8:30) and Jeff Beans (11:00) and the **Worship Deacons** are Dave Branding (8:30) and Paul Anderson (11:00).

Today's flowers are arranged by Hannah Phillips. **The flowers are dedicated in honor of** Julia Whitten Zorich and Alexander Zorich's first wedding anniversary. They were married at the Meeting House last April.

The youth hope everyone will join them for lunch at noon in the courtyard following worship at 11:00 AM, as they seek to extend Christ's peace by helping us connect with one another.

Thank you to our youth participants!

Nelson Badwey
Brennan Boyle
Cecily Boyle
Johann Brewer
Katerina Brewer
Grace Buchanan

Caroline Cahir
Elizabeth Cahir
Maggie Carl
Katie Cavender
Natalie Cavender
Anette Coats

David Cucinelli
Charlotte Edwards
Amelia Elias
Alexa Jarecki
Colton Jarecki
Vivian Kocsis

Quentin Lisecki
Lucie Matsdorf
Finn McNabb
Molly Mead
Mica Olson
Leah Peterson

Ezekiel Skugrud
Leah Staley
Henry Welle

Events, Classes and More!

Caregiver Connection

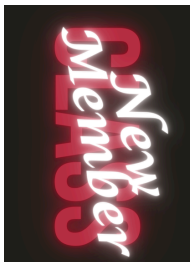
On May 5 at 11:00 AM, in Elliot House Heritage Hall, all who are navigating the blessings and challenges of caregiving are invited to come together for a time of fellowship and support. If you are interested contact Ann Herlin, aherlin@opmh.org.

Men's Fellowship Breakfast



Please join us for a men's fellowship breakfast on Saturday, May 10 in Heritage Hall. We will have a presentation on Artificial Intelligence (AI). For more info, opmh.org/events or Jerry Stalun, jerry.stalun@gmail.com

New Member Class



If you are considering membership at the Meeting House, the first step is to attend a New Member Class, which offers an overview of Presbyterian thought, and the particular mission and ministry of the Meeting House.

You will also get to know our pastors and review expectations regarding membership. Join us May 18 from 9:30-10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP at opmh.org/newmember

Alexandria Heritage Trail Walk with the DRT

The Dismantling Racism Team is sponsoring the Alexandria Heritage Trail Walk to provide an opportunity to learn about African American History of Alexandria. Meet the DRT on May 17 at 10:00 AM at Waterfront Park, 107 N. Union Street. More info at opmh.org/events. Please RSVP to Laurie, lhm917@verizon.net.



Waves of Wonder Summer Camp

June 16-20

Half day (9:00AM-12:30PM) or
full day (9:00AM-4:00PM)

Kids ages 3 (full potty trained) to grade 5

opmh.org/summercamp

Let waves of wonder wash over you as you get out into God's creation at Summer Camp! Through worship and drama, Bible study, art and science explorations, and active games, children will deepen their understanding of the importance of water and be invited to join God in caring for this precious natural resource.

Register by June 1 at opmh.org/summercamp

Half-day: \$125 for the week/Full-day: \$225 for the week

If this is a financial hardship for your family, scholarships are available upon request.

Questions? Noelle, ncastin@opmh.org



Thanks to Carol Stalun and Rob Brewer for fantastic pictures!

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

Children's Sunday School

9:30-10:45 AM, Education Building

Meeting House Youth, Grades 6 to 12

- Sunday Morning Gathering, 9:30 AM, Flounder 1B
- Youth End of Year Celebration, Sunday, May 18, 5:00 - 7:30 PM

Contact Mary Pratt Perry, mpratt@opmh.org, for more info.

Adult Education Class, 9:30-10:30 AM in Heritage Hall, the lowest level of Elliot House

April 27- May 12, The Five Books of Moses

Contact Noelle Castin, ncastin@opmh.org for more info.

More Faith Formation

Centering Prayer, Wednesdays, 7:00 AM, in person and zoom. Contact Vicki, vstones@opmh.org for Zoom link.

Sunday's Coming Bible Study, Thursdays, 10:00 AM, Zoom

This online Bible study usually focuses on the scripture passages being used in worship. Contact Priscilla, priscilla1952@hotmail.com for a zoom link.

opmh.org/adults for more info

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. 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

Youth Sunday Artwork

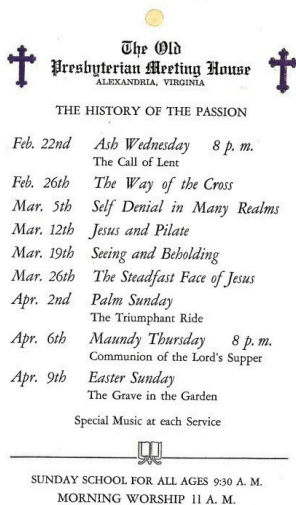


The cross quilt was created by Vivian Kocis, Grace Buchanan, and Henry Welle. They have a passion for art and sewing and wanted to create this hanging for Youth Sunday as a symbol of many pieces coming together to create a whole, referencing our theme of peace, shalom, wholeness. The cross represents the peace of Christ present through the ups and downs of our lives - represented by the rays of various light and dark colors around it. The "peace paintings" on the bulletin cover were painted at the January middle and high school youth retreats. The youth painted these as they prayed about the "storms" of their lives and the world where there is a need for Christ's peace, and then as they added words of peace on top they said prayers of thanks for this peace that passes understanding. Finally, the ribbons throughout the sanctuary represent these prayers of peace and the power and beauty of many things coming together.

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Old Presbyterian Meeting House

No Celebration of Easter in Public Worship from the 1760s until 1950



Two items from our congregation's first ever celebration of the Lenten season and Easter in 1950 – Easter Sunday worship service bulletin (top), and announcement of Lenten season events (bottom)

Can this possibly be true? It most certainly is and along with other Presbyterians here and in Scotland and England, we did not celebrate Easter or observe Lent from the initial conducting of Presbyterian public worships in Alexandria during the 1760s until 1950, which was the first opportunity to do so after our congregation was re-established in 1949. We were not unusual in this practice – our congregation faithfully followed well-established doctrines and practices of the Reformed Protestant denomination.

During the sixteenth century, Protestant reformer John Calvin (1509-1564) sought to reformulate existing Christian worship practices by applying the regulative principle, i.e., by utilizing elements concerning worship that were explicitly found in the Bible and abandoning existing practices not found there. The Westminster Confession of Faith of 1649, formally adopted as the bedrock of Presbyterian beliefs in British Colonial America in 1729, expressed the regulative principle in these terms – “[T]he acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by himself, and so limited to his own revealed will, that he may not be worshipped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representations or any other way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture.” In adopting this principle, our denomination, together with Congregationalists in New England, concluded that the Bible called for observing fifty-two holy days for public worship on Sundays and not celebrating feast days such as Easter or Christmas.

Rev. Samuel Miller, D.D. (1769-1850), influential professor at Princeton Theological Seminary for thirty-six years (and professor of the Rev. Elias Harrison while in seminary), unequivocally declared in his 1836 discourse, *Presbyterianism*, that – “there is no day under the Gospel dispensation commanded to be kept holy except the Lord’s day, which is the Christian Sabbath ... the introduction of fasts and festivals by the early Christians ... was ignoble ... they became the signal for strife, or the monuments of worldly expedient and degrading superstition.” Miller’s discourse, which was reprinted numerous times, represented the policy of the Presbyterian Church from its inception in the early eighteenth century to the late nineteenth century. As our congregation was inactive from 1899 until 1949, we were not involved in the transition that came to incorporate Lent and Easter services into the life of the church.

Three items from our own records demonstrate the transition from non-celebration-to-celebration of Easter. First – on 14 April 1805 [Easter Sunday for some], the Rev. James Muir preached during the forenoon service on texts from Paul’s Letters to the Corinthians and to Timothy on living in faith as a Christian, and performed a baptism; he preached at the afternoon service on texts from the Book of Numbers on the offerings to God by the leaders of the Israelites; and he married a couple at a candlelight service. Second – On 16 April 1865, two days after President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, the Rev. Gilbert M. Hair delivered a standard Lord’s Day sermon in the morning and members attended the town’s memorial service for the late president at Christ (Episcopal) Church in the evening. Third – Led by the Rev. A. Donald Upton, our congregation celebrated the full Lenten season complete “with special music” for the first time, beginning with an Ash Wednesday evening service on 22 February 1950 and concluding with Sunday morning worship on 9 April, “Easter Sunday.” The Presbyterian Church in the U.S., of which our congregation was a member, granted the denomination’s approval to celebrate Easter two months later. Hallelujah!

~ Donald C. Dahmann, History and Archives Committee

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