



Image by John Pommerer, age 11

Old Presbyterian Meeting House

Service for the Worship of God

6th Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2026 | 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, serving and community building 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 and Nursery Care

Worship is for the whole family of God, and we welcome all children. Children's worship bags, as well as a basket of books, are available in the church entrance.

Nursery care for infants and children ages 3 and under is available in the Education Building (past the burial ground behind the sanctuary, in the building on the left). A restroom and changing station are available downstairs in the Sanctuary.

Guests

If you'd like to stay connected, please fill out a Guest card from the pew and place it in the offering plate or scan the QR code here. We also have a Welcome Table outside on the sidewalk after worship. Stop by for a gift and join us for fellowship in front of the Sanctuary following worship.



An usher can help with assistive listening devices and large print hymnals.

Our choir rehearses on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:45 AM. Please refrain from talking in the sanctuary during their rehearsal time.



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opmh.org



@oldpresbyterianmeetinghouse

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.



Ongoing

Worship at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM in person and online at 11:00 AM.

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 Group Sunday evenings: Middle School 4:30 - 6:30

PM; High School 6:00-8:00 PM

Adult Education, Elliot House

9:30-10:30 AM, see website for details

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

Mr. Paul Browne, Clerk of Session, clerk@opmh.org

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

opmh.org for more info

Prelude

"Meditation" from *Songs without Words*, Op. 67, No. 1
Music: Felix Mendelssohn

Gathering Around the Word

Welcome

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Introit

"Antiphon" from *Five Mystical Songs* (excerpt)

Words: George Herbert

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Let all the world in every corner sing,
My God and King.

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

George Perry

Leader: Sing to God a new song,

People: for God has done marvelous things!

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth,

People: for God is still doing marvelous things!

Leader: Break into joyful song!

People: Sing praises with lyre and melody and trumpets!

Leader: Sing to God a new song!

People: Let us worship.

▲ Hymn 2

Come, Thou Almighty King

ITALIAN HYMN

▲ Prayer of Confession *(unison)*

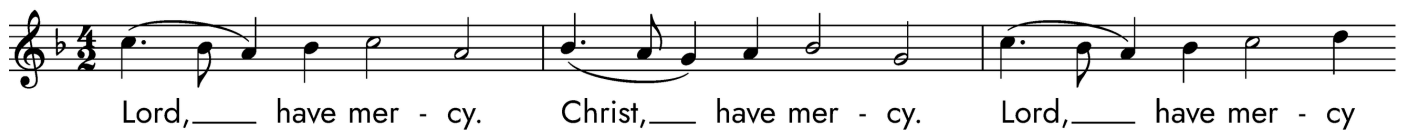
Rev. Ann Herlin

Loving God, we do not always keep your commandments; we fail to love you; our conscience is not clear. Wash us in the water of life, that we may live again through the grace and mercy of Jesus, our resurrected Savior. Amen.

Please join in silent prayer.

▲ Congregational Response *(sung)*

KYRIE ELEISON (ORTHODOX)



Words: Traditional liturgical text
Music: Russian Orthodox chant

▲ Assurance of Pardon

▲ Act of Praise *(sung)*

HALLE, HALLE

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah!_____

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▲ Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

Sacred Solo

“Alleluia” from *Exsultate, Jubilate*, K. 165 (1773)

Words: Anonymous, attrib. Venanzio Rauzzini

Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Rachel Ackerman Bowe, voice and Bryan Holten, organ

Time With Children

Recognition of Faith Formation Leaders

Noelle Castin

Bridges to Worship does not meet this Sunday

Proclaiming the Word

Scripture Lesson

1 John 4:7–21

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

“Perfect love casts out fear.”

People: Thanks be to God.

1 John 4:18 (NRSV)

Sermon

The Recklessness of Love

Rev. Dr. Shelly Wood

Responding to the Word

▲ Hymn 693

Though I May Speak

GIFT OF LOVE

Invitation to Discipleship

Moment of Recognition

Celebrating Tania Ryan's 25th year
at Meeting House Cooperative Preschool

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

Rev. Dr. Katherine Stanford

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

If Ye Love Me

Words: John 14:15-18

Music: Philip Wilby

Meeting House Choir with Dr. Bryan Holten, *organ*

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter. That he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of Truth. And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

▲ 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)*

Pour your Spirit upon these gifts, O God. Send them into the world as a sign and song of your joyous work of love. Use them to call and welcome into your house of love all who are your friends and our brothers and sisters. Amen.

Taking the Word Out into the World

▲ Hymn 14

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

▲ Benediction

▲ Choral Response

Alleluia No. 2 from *Easter Rounds*
Music: Paul Ayres

▲ Postlude

Epilogue on "Dix"
Music: William H. Harris

▲ Please stand as you are able

Faith Formation Leaders

Rachel Ackerman Bowe	Helen Febres	Debra McKeown	Caroline Surratt
Paul Anderson	Martha Gibson	Carly Mulvihill	Dara Surratt
Priscilla Andre-Colton	Art Guarinello	Jenna Mulvihill	Emily Surratt
Katina Barnes	Mary Hill	Kent Myers	Jill Thomas
Jim Beall	Hannah Hurley	Will Olson	Raven Thompson
Martha Beall	Caitlin Jennings	Jenny Parker	Mirna Toscano
Scott Boggess	Kelly Johnson	Jordyn Phelps	Andrea Tracey
Ruth Brightbill	Chuck Jones	Bob Phillips	Jennifer Veech
Rob Brewer	Jamie Jones	Chris Pommerer	Amitha Wall
Paul Browne	Atilla Kocsis	Lizzie Powell	Laine Welle
Meredith Check	Linda Lanam	Claire Pratt	Nolan Welle
Lily Church	Cleve Lisecki	Lisa Seestedt	Margaret Whitesides
Brian Comey	Wendy Matney	Jenn Smar	Ben Williams
Sandy Davis	Ellen McCrary-Mayer	Kim Hutchison-Smith	Alex Zorich
Judi Elmore			

Today

Worship Elder is Jennifer Veech and the **Worship Deacon** is Dave Heiby.

Today's flowers are dedicated by Ashley Chamberlain in memory of her father, Richard Williams.

Today's flowers are arranged by Margaret Whitesides.

Please join us following worship outside in the courtyard for Fellowship Time.

Upcoming Sunday Adult Education

May 17, 9:30-10:30 AM

Called by Name: Reading Ruth with a Naga Tribal Woman

Facilitator: Sengel Scholar Watikumla Aier

Watikumla Aier, the current Sengel Scholar at Union Presbyterian Seminary (UPSem), will share her research and knowledge she's gleaned from studying the book of Ruth from a tribal feminist lens as a post exilic text, with characters undergoing migration. Watikumla is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from UPSem, with a focus on Old Testament Biblical Studies/Hebrew Bible. She is a native of Nagaland, in the northeast sector of India.

The Sengel Scholar program was established with Union Presbyterian Seminary and Yale Divinity School in support of post-graduate studies for individuals from emerging countries. This program was established in honor of long-time Meeting House pastor and his wife, William and Marian Sengel.

Upcoming Events

Submit your Graduate's Info



We want to recognize our graduates on May 17. Please send your name, school and degree **by May 10** to Vicki, vstones@opmh.org

Celebrations Garden Party

You're invited to a garden party **Saturday, May 16** from 5–7 PM sponsored by the Celebrations team! Join us in the Michener's Garden for an evening of good company and good food. We'll gather to reconnect, relax, and celebrate together. Sign up at opmh.org/events.

Music Sunday

On May 17, both the 8:30 and 11:00 AM worship services will feature the Meeting House Choir, soloists, and organ in presenting Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*. At once delightfully enigmatic and deeply religious, the work focuses on the joy of creation singing its praises to God. We will also present a few favorites from the past season. Join us for this fitting celebration of Eastertide!

Alexandria History Tour

Join our Dismantling Racism Team for a tour led by Dave Heiby, historian, on **Sunday, May 17, at 2:00 PM**: "From Enslavement to Justice: How African Americans Forced Change in Alexandria." This tour examines how African Americans—both enslaved and free—forced legal, social, and moral change in Alexandria, from slavery and segregation to emancipation, military service, burial rights, and the long struggle for justice and recognition. Using burial grounds as primary historical sources, the tour highlights resistance, resilience, and reform across generations.

Meet at the corner of Wilkes Street and Hamilton Avenue. Wear good walking shoes for about a 90 minute one mile walk. Rain or shine except for extreme weather. RSVP at opmh.org/events for more details and cancellation information.

Step Inside Our Story

On Memorial Day, **Monday, May 25** at 11:00 AM, there will be a wreath ceremony to honor the unknown soldier of the American Revolution and celebrate the country's 250th anniversary in the Meeting House burial ground. In addition, you are invited to join us anytime between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM, for an open house. As you walk through the Meeting House, we'll share stories from the past—from the early days of our nation to the generations who have worshiped here—and explore how this vibrant community of faith continues its work today.

For more info about events, opmh.org/events

JOIN US FOR

Summer Worship

SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM
MAY 31 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6

Church Picnic and Pie Contest

Gather with us at Fort Hunt Park, Area B on **Sunday, June 7** from 11:30 AM - 1:30 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 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 baking your best pie! Sign up at opmh.org/picnic

Volunteers Needed!



Summer Camp is just around the corner, and we're looking for volunteers to help any or all days throughout the week. Join us for a morning, an afternoon, a full day, or a mix and match based on your availability!

Come be part of a joyful week filled with fun, learning, and fellowship as we explore what all living things need, using Psalm 104 as our grounding text. Your time and presence will make a meaningful difference in creating a memorable experience for all involved. If interested, please contact Noelle: ncastin@opmh.org.



Celebrating 25 Years - Mrs. Tania Ryan

The Meeting House Cooperative Preschool (MHCP) was established in 1953. The preschool is a half day program and is a mission of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

Tania Ryan has been MHCP's Director for the past 25 years. Prior to that, she was the Director of the Lower School at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School for ten years. She began her career as a kindergarten teacher in the District of Columbia's Public Schools.

In her 25 years at MHCP, Tania has served over two thousand students and hundreds of families. Tania's strong leadership skills, deep passion for early childhood education, effective communication with parents and staff, and the ability to foster a loving and nurturing school environment for her students, families and staff are some of the reasons why the preschool continues to flourish under her leadership.

Tania's impact on her parents and students fosters a relationship that goes well beyond the preschool years. Even after "graduating" from MHCP, many parents continue to seek Tania's advice and wisdom throughout their child's school years. Many past students find their way back to MHCP. They return to volunteer, complete their senior year project, join the staff or swing by just to say hi. Anyone who has been part of the MHCP community knows it's not just a preschool. Tania creates a supportive and lasting community for her parents, students and staff.

Below are some of the things that MHCP current and alumni students love best about Ms. Tania....

"I like Ms. Tania because she let me wear a cape to school for an entire year. I'm not sure what I was thinking or why I needed it, but she respected my 2-years old decisions." (Teddy, alumni)

"It was always fun eating breakfast for dinner with Ms. Tania!" (Maddie, alumni)

"Ms. Tania is so generous. She is always sharing her snacks with everyone. If you don't have one, you know that she will always give you one." (Charlotte, alumni)

"Ms. Tania is never grumpy with kids or mad and makes the school a happy place." (Sam, alumni)

"She always says good morning to me." (Ella, current student)

"I love that she is a really nice principal. And I love that she lets me come back and visit." (James, alumni)

"She always wore pajamas with us on pajama day." (Bobby, alumni)

"Ms. Tania was very kind and understanding, especially when I made a mistake and had to go to the office." (Charlie, alumni)

"Ms. Tania always made preschool fun!" (Claire, alumni)

"I wonder if the principal's office in high school has a hug, a snack and a comfy spot to draw a picture waiting for me." (James, alumni)

Outside of the preschool, Tania enjoys cooking, reading, playing pickleball and spending time with her grandchildren, Henry and Caroline.