

**Years of Worshipping Together** This Kernstown Community Thanksgiving service, tonight 129 consecutive years strong, reflects a wonderful story. The Opequon Church building was destroyed twice during the 1800's, first when it was occupied and desecrated internally during the Civil War and again when a fire destroyed the sanctuary in 1873. During both of those periods, the Opequon Church continued to gather for worship, welcomed by the Methodists of Kernstown. In 1897, after 24 years of meeting together at Kernstown, the current Memorial Sanctuary at Opequon was constructed, completed in October of that year. As an expression of gratitude for its hospitality, the Opequon congregation invited the Kernstown congregation to share in worship in the newly completed sanctuary on the evening before Thanksgiving. That tradition has continued and expanded over the years, with the choirs combining for special music, communion being served, and the guest pastor preaching while the host pastor plans the service. Join us for a time of fellowship following the service in our fellowship hall. Our meeting tonight for the 127<sup>th</sup> time is a visible expression of our unity as Christians and of our shared commitment to mission in our community and beyond. We are grateful for one another, the ties that bind us, and pledge to work together in demonstrating discipleship through love for God and neighbor.



Kernstown UMC

Advent Theme "Be Present"

"Presence of the Past" Concert ~ Dec 14 at 7 pm  
*Love offering benefits Winchester Rescue Mission*

"Christmas Presence" Cantata ~ Dec 21 at 10:30 am



"Reclaim Christmas" ~ Christmas Eve  
Candlelight/Communion Service ~ Dec 24 at 7pm

"Two Wise Guys Celebrate the Three Wise Guys"  
Piano/Cello Concert ~ Jan 4 at 2 pm  
*Love offering benefits The Laurel Center*

Kernstown United Methodist Church  
Worship 10:30 Sundays  
Rev. Dr. Victor Gómez 540-662-2432 | [pastor@kernstownumc.org](mailto:pastor@kernstownumc.org)  
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# 129<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service



Opequon Presbyterian Church & Kernstown United Methodist Church

November 26, 2025 , 7:00 pm

*\*Stand as able; bold print-all respond*

Prelude	(Prepare your hearts for worship)	David Landrum
Ringling of the Bell		
Greeting		Rev. Dr. Gómez

**\*Call to Worship**

We come, for God gathers us here, with that community called faith:  
**where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.**  
We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:  
**where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;**  
**where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.**  
We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:  
**where the imprisoned model justice, where the sick are cradled in God's peace.**

*written by Thom Shuman, posted on Lectionary Liturgies website [lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2008/11/reign-of-Christ](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2008/11/reign-of-Christ)*

**\*Hymn 694 (UMH) Come, Ye Thankful People, Come**

Lighting of the Altar Candles

**\*Affirmation of Faith 881 (UMH) Apostles' Creed**

**\*Gloria Patri 70 (UMH)**

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and Your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what You say to us today. Amen.

Psalter	Psalms 100	Lorraine Shelton
Epistle Lesson	Philippians 4:4-9	Ben Brooks
Combined Choir Anthem	Gratitude	
<b>*Hymn 131 (UMH)</b>	<b>We Gather Together</b>	



\*Gospel Lesson

John 6:25-35

Pastor David Witt

Sermon

*Grace, Gratitude, Generosity*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Dr. Gómez

Lord’s Prayer: 894 (UMH)

*Ecumenical text*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*Give Thanks*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say, “I am strong”; let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.” Give thanks.*

Offertory Prayer

Rev. Dr. Gómez

The Lord’s Supper Page 12 (UMH)

Pastor David Witt & Rev. Dr. Gómez

Prayer after Communion

Rev. Dr. Gómez

\*Hymn 102 (UMH)

*Now Thank We All Our God*

\*Benediction

Pastor David Witt

\*Postlude

*(Rejoice in the music of the Lord)*

David Landrum

CCLI # 11408803

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (red)

**Thank you** for your offering. Tonight’s offering will support WATTS (Winchester Area Temporary Transitional Shelter) for our community. WATTS provides a warm, safe, overnight shelter for our guests experiencing homelessness. Opequon hosts WATTS for one week each year and Kernstown Church serves as a partner in hosting by serving dinner one evening. Thank you for your generosity in support of this much-needed ministry! Checks should be made payable to WATTS.

*Please join us for refreshments in the fellowship hall.*

Happy Thanksgiving