

The Opequon Spirit

*"Prayerfully Equipping Disciples of All Generations
To be Christ's Hands, Heart and Feet in the World!"*



Opequon Presbyterian Church
217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602-2421

September 2024

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

AT-A-GLANCE

**Regular Sunday
Morning Worship:**

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Sunday, September 1

† Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9;
James 1:17-27

Sermon: "When Our Faith
Goes to Work"

Communion; CCAP

1:30 PM - Spring Arbor Worship

Sunday, September 8

† Isaiah 35:4-7;
James 2:1-17

Sermon: "Putting Action to
Our Words"

Sunday, September 15

Back to Church Sunday

† Proverbs 1:20-33;
James 3:1-12

Sermon: "Using Our Words
Wisely"

Blood Pressure Checks

Sunday, September 22

† Psalm 54;
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Sermon: "Wisdom and a
Friend"

4 Cents A Meal

Sunday, September 29

† Genesis 1:1-6, 26-31;
1 Peter 4:8-11

Sermon: "United in Love"
Baptism (11:00 AM)

WORSHIP WALKS

Pastor Julia Burkley and Pastor Pup Jackson will be offering two worship walk opportunities this fall to get outside and experience God in nature. Friday, September 20, at 1:00 PM, we will walk at Third Battle of Winchester, and on Friday, October 18, at 1:00 PM we will walk at Cool Spring Battlefield (off of Route 7). During these times, we will walk and talk about God in the world around us and have some time for prayer in nature. All ages welcome!

Please RSVP to Pastor Julia (pastorjulia@opequonchurch.org) by the Monday prior to each walk. We will meet at Opequon Church and take the church bus to the walk location, or you are welcome to meet us there. (Pastor Julia will send you the details after you RSVP!)

A couple of notes about the trails themselves:

- Third Battle is a 2.5 mile walk that is mostly gravel and dirt, with little elevation change.
- Cool Spring Battlefield is a 3 mile walk that is mostly paved, with an option to walk down a dirt path to a waterfall or sit at a bench and enjoy the view of the river.
- We will walk slowly both times; the goal is to be accessible and enjoy the scenery around us.
- Dog and people friendly dogs (Jackson is a true evangelist) are more than welcome, but we ask for you to meet us there!

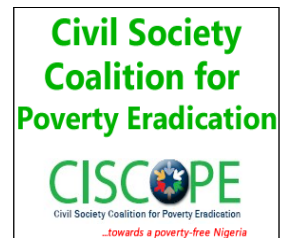
Please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Julia with any questions!



CONVERSATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER: Peter Egwudah

On Sunday, September 15, you are invited to join OPC's Mission Team at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall, for a unique opportunity to talk with Peter Michael Egwudah, an International Peacemaker from Nigeria, who is visiting Shenandoah Presbytery!

Peter works for the Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication (CISCOPE). CISCOPE primarily supports the population affected by natural or human induced disaster across communities in Nigeria. It also harnesses and amplifies the voice of the vulnerable poor in decision making processes that affect their lives and livelihood. During this conversation, we will hear from Peter about his work and be able to engage in dialogue.





NOTES FROM PASTOR DAVID

"Perfect Pickles!"

Dear Friends in Christ,

In early August, Carole and I traveled up to Lancaster County to drive serene, country roads, watch a musical, shop, and eat some great Amish food. It was a quick, but thoroughly enjoyable two days. As we walked through the shops of the 70-year-old Kitchen Kettle Village, Carole went on to the country store while I ducted into the Jam & Relish Kitchen to see what they were cooking and taste a few samples, always a welcome treat. Of course, the relish, salsa, jams, and pickles were piled high for the crowds on this summer's day. As I looked over the sweet chunk pickles, I found several varieties, including the "pickle of the day," those labeled "Perfect Pickle Chips." I asked the host standing there amid the waiting jars, what makes these pickles perfect and how they differ from the adjacent sweet pickles, which I had purchased before. She told me that they are sweet, but with a twist, with a perfectly balanced hint of dill and garlic, perfect as an accompaniment to sandwiches. She used the word "perfect" several times! Of course, I couldn't resist first sampling and then purchasing a jar. They are tasty and downhome good.

It's certainly challenging to find a perfect recipe, a perfect balance of ingredients, and a perfect satisfaction when cooking and baking. Often, it's about trial and error, samples, and test tastes. In life, you and I know that days and seasons are not perfect, for us as individuals or within communities. We struggle on our journeys, to seek, to remain faithful, to aspire, to serve, to love. Though we are not perfect, while life is not perfect, the scriptures instead describe us as "cracked pots," as those who have value and something to give and share as we point to our living God, despite our falling far short of perfection.

"Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. It started when God said, 'Light up the darkness!' and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful. If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay jars of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us." (2 Corinthians 4:5-7, *The Message*) As those who are less than perfect, you and I can find strength, affirmation, and encouragement in these words of the apostle Paul.

We have just completed our summer worship series, "I Want to Know You... Faith Practices That Are Fruitful." As we have explored together, we have experienced a thoughtful and uplifting weekly experience of God's goodness and grace shaping our daily walk with the Lord. And while you and I know we are not perfect, our faith practices have reminded us that God is working within our cracked nature to bless and send us forth, refreshed and renewed as disciples. We begin the fall together (back to 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM worship!) as a community of faith, committed to finding the recipe, the balance of ingredients, and maybe even the satisfaction that will help us accomplish the chief end of humanity, "to glorify God and enjoy God forever."

With a Grateful Heart,

David

PASTOR JULIA'S MUSINGS

Friends in Christ,

I don't know about any of you, but about once every two years, a weird thing happens: All a sudden, I become obsessed with sports. And I don't mean football or baseball, I mean gymnastics, white water kayaking, speedwalking, horse jumping, women's rugby, and any other obscure sport that is not normally on TV, but is SO fun to watch.

If it hasn't become clear—I LOVE the Olympics. Like deeply love the Olympics.

As I had it on as much as I possibly could this past month, I became more and more aware how amazing of a representation of God's kingdom the Olympics are. And I don't mean in athletic prowess; I for sure hope that God's kingdom welcomes people who are a tad less athletically gifted. I saw God's kingdom in the people from all the world coming together, in the comradery and community, in the diversity of cultures, and people coming together from all different perspectives.

I see God's kingdom in people from North and South Korea taking a selfie together, in the Turkish sharpshooter winning silver with no frills, in athletes encouraging each other and lifting each other up. I see God's kingdom in the variety of food in the Olympic village that cater to everyone, in the underdog coming out on top, in the laughter of diver Tom Daley as he knits a "Paris 24" sweater on the sidelines with his family, in the joy of simply being together.



I see God's kingdom in strangers coming together and becoming friends.

I wonder what would happen if that same comradery to stranger around the world transcended just the Olympics every two years. I wonder what would happen if we remember that we are all part of God's kingdom and not all that different from one another.

There is a lot to learn from coming together. And I think we ought to do more of it!

Blessings,

Julia



It's applesauce season. Living in the Shenandoah Valley during applesauce season is such a delight. Right now, we are cooking Ginger Golds. Soon it will be Fujis. The smells, feeling and memories apple sauce season brings are just a pleasure.

I grew up in New York state. We lived near Courtland, home of the Courtland apple, but our family also had Macintosh and Granny Smith apples in good numbers. The men picked the apples. The women "did" them.

My grandmother, Great Aunt Dena, and I spent hours on the back porch of Grandma's family home peeling apples. The back porch time began when the peas came in and continued through green beans, berries of all sorts, and, finally, apples. The last effort was end-of-the-year spaghetti sauce, when we picked everything just before the first killing frost and made sauce.

We would sit on the porch facing the Susquehanna River with our produce, our favorite knives, and baskets or bowls. We talked and talked, listened to stories from each generation, and managed to solve every conceivable world problem. My grandfather used to say that earth would be a better place if more people snapped beans on the porch. I am convinced he was correct.

At first, we would compete to see who could peel the longest peel without breaking it. Later, we cut the apples into quarters. The first method was more fun, but the second was more efficient.

Aunt Dena had been a one-room schoolhouse teacher. She told stories of riding the train to the schoolhouse and walking through snow up to her knees to get there first and start the fire. Grandma said that snow got deeper and deeper every time Aunt Dena told the story. Aunt Dena's reply was always a "harrumph."

Grandma told stories about family members. Great Uncle Lester, who was a Baptist minister and drove like the Lord was in the side seat; Great Uncle George, who died from an appendix surgery performed on his own kitchen table; and Great Grandfather Thomas, who (according to family tradition) designed the "Don't Tread on Me" flag during the revolution. I knew Uncle Lester and Aunt Margaret. Mom would not let me ride with Uncle Lester... ever!

I talked about what I was reading and how frustrating my brother could be. As I grew, I asked questions about dating, becoming a woman, all those secret things one assumes one's mother could never understand.



Today, I make applesauce with two friends. We work in an air-conditioned kitchen, but the rest of the process is generations old. We all consider ourselves blessed to have found friends who know the true secrets of applesauce. Don't miss any seeds, stir often to avoid scorching, add nothing but apples to the pot, and share. Share stories... share our lives... share our laughter. Talk about family, faith, and hopes for the future.

When we are ready to portion the applesauce, we all thank God for freezers and electricity. Modern times no longer require the heat of the canning process. Our applesauce is perfect every year. Our stories get even better.

—Tracie

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM AUGUST 20, 2024

- ART (OPC's Architectural Review Team) will form six focus groups to assist in the process: Staff, Building & Grounds, Technology, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and Music. Mitch Orndorff will head the Capital Campaign to support this project. ART and the Vision Team have introduced the FAQ document at August 18, 2024 worship, which will be updated regularly and posted at the website for easy reference.

- ✂ Mission Team shared that the elimination of the Valley Assistance Network has had a negative impact on our neediest communities. Family Promise is trying to fill needs where they are able. Mission has many presentations coming (check upcoming fall 2024 events below).
- ✂ Evangelism Team has created an Opequon Presbyterian Church T-shirt for purchase. Look for details coming soon.
- ✂ Evangelism and Fellowship Teams are collaborating to provide a new directory for Opequon Presbyterian Church. Watch for opportunities to update your photos!
- ✂ Building & Grounds Team has been taking on lots of emergencies and improvements to the grounds: determining the cause of flooding during storm Debby, discovering wiring right under the concrete at the front porch entrance, replacing the concrete walks and entrances to the front of the church with no steps up or down, and providing space in the Sanctuary for the Audio Visual operation. A motion was approved to cover the cost of sealing the new concrete so that salt will not deteriorate the new concrete.
- ✂ The Technology Team's Wi-Fi upgrade is being installed.
- ✂ Session moved and voted in favor of replacing the copier with a newer machine under our existing contract. Session approved the June and July 2024 Financial Reports.
- ✂ Session approved the recommendation from Personnel Team to adopt the Covenant Package for Employees that Work 20-30 or more hours per week (a revised PC USA benefit offering).
- ✂ Session approved the recommendation from Worship Team for communion to be served during the upcoming Worship on Wednesday service November 6, 2024.
- ✂ Christian Education Ministry continue to expand learning opportunities. Session approved a new Young Adult Class Study from Fresh Outlook Bible Studies and Youth Fundraising ideas that include a Wall of Envelopes, car vacuuming and notecards that feature the beautiful sunsets seen at Opequon Presbyterian Church.
- ✂ Deacons and Congregational Care Ministry will need volunteers to assist with Nathan Windle's transportation trips to dialysis in September. To sign up, contact Winter Brooks at winterbrooks@comcast.net or the church office.
- ✂ Discipleship Team's Homecoming Sunday was a big success and a lot of fun for all!
- ✂ Upcoming Fall 2024 Events include:

- September 15, 2024 - visit with International Peacemaker from Nigeria Peter Michael Egwudah
- September 18, 2024 - Logos 2024-2025 begins
- October 6, 2024 - Bread Basket Buffet
- October 6, 2024 - 10 AM presentation from the NOROC Team
- October 12, 2024 - Out of the Darkness Walk
- October 13, 2024 - 9:45 AM Presentation from the Youth Mission Team
- October 13, 2024 - Blessing of the Pets at the Picnic Shelter
- October 27, 2024 - Chili Cook Off after the 11 AM Service
- November 27, 2024 - Thanksgiving Eve Service Reception (Gathering Area)
- December - Cookie Exchange (TBD)
- ✂ Session voted to move the November Ministry Team Night to MONDAY, November 4, 2024 (due to Election Day falling on our regular Tuesday meeting night).

*Susan Ritter, Acting Clerk of Session for Ann C.M. Smith,
Opequon Presbyterian Church*

EXTENDING OUR EMPATHY AND CHRISTIAN LOVE TO...



- ✂ Cheryl Mortland and family upon the death of her sister, Andrea Ruth Stark, who died on July 16.
- ✂ Jason Hathaway and family upon the death of his mother, Emma Kate Hathaway, who died on August 7.
- ✂ Alyce Callahan and family upon the death of her sister, Georgeanne Susan Gurko, who died on August 12.
- ✂ Betty Ganoe and family upon the death of her sister, Velma Catherine Webster Doman, on August 19.
- ✂ Phyllis Gamble and family upon the death of her mother and long-time member of Opequon, Wanda Good Royston, on August 21.

*"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 11:25-26*

HYMN SING TALLY RESULTS:

Opequon's Top 10

Favorite Hymns of 2024

10th (Tie) Favorite = Hymn # 8
Eternal Father, Strong to Save

10th (Tie) Favorite = Hymn # 721
Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

10th (Tie) Favorite = Hymn # 438
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

9th Favorite = Hymn # 1
Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

8th Favorite = Hymn # 826
Lift High the Cross

7th Favorite = Hymn # 177
You Are Mine

6th Favorite = Hymn # 39
Great Is Thy Faithfulness

5th Favorite = Hymn # 649
Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

4th Favorite = Hymn # 625
How Great Thou Art

3rd Favorite = Hymn # 450
Be Thou My Vision

2nd Favorite = Hymn # 488
I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

OPC's #1 Favorite = Hymn # 69
Here I Am, Lord

NEW CONTACT INFO?

Have you moved recently? Have you gotten a new home and/or cell phone number? Has your old phone number been cancelled? Do you have a new email address?

Please help us ensure we have your accurate contact info before we print our next membership directory by contacting the church office (office@opequonchurch.org or 540-662-1843)!

Yes—you heard correctly! Plans are underway for a new OPC Photo & Membership Directory! More details will be shared later in the month as they become available!

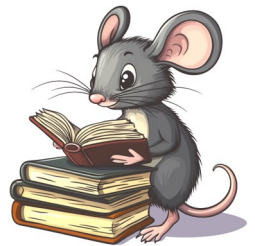


LET'S SUPPORT OUR KIDS & YOUTH

Did you know that our young people are involved in all sorts of activities outside of the church building? We have amazing artists, athletes, writers, musicians, and more! Rebekah Witt is collecting activity schedules so that we can show up and support our families in all that they do. Be on the lookout for communication from Rebekah about how you can continue to nurture relationships with our families outside of the church walls! If your child or youth has a schedule that you'd like to share, please reach out to Rebekah (rwitt@opequonchurch.org).

CHURCH LIBRARY CART

Every first Sunday of the month, our Church Librarian, Winter Brooks, features library books on a cart in the Gathering Area. We invite you to take a look and see if there is something that you would like to borrow. Enjoy the wonderful messages that authors bring your way!



ADULT CHOIR NEWS

All who are interested in singing are welcome to come join the OPC Adult Choir as we lift our voices together in praise Sunday mornings! Regular weekly rehearsals will be at 7:15 PM each Wednesday. If you have any questions, contact Susan Homan (srh1305@verizon.net).

MUSIC AT NOON

On September 18, the noon hour will be filled with the music of our sanctuary organ and piano. All are welcome to come and go as their schedules allow. This time of eclectic, informal "just music" repeats each month on the third Wednesday from noon to 1:00 PM. You are also welcome to any invite friends, family, neighbors outside our church family to come too!



SEPTEMBER MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT

Tuesday, September 3

- 6:00 PM Meal: Sloppy Joes, Hash Brown Potato Casserole, Green Beans, Chips, Cucumber and Tomato Salad, & Assorted Puddings for Dessert (Oreo, Banana, French Vanilla, & Chocolate)
- 6:45 PM Devotions & Team Meetings



OPC STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

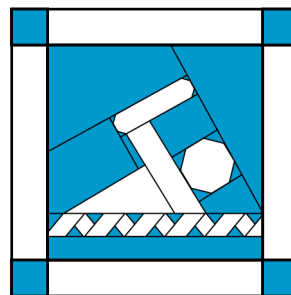
Laurie Carver

Nursery Supervisor

Laurie Carver is our Nursery Supervisor here at Opequon and has been at OPC for 20 years! She and her husband, Rob, have four adult children and five grandchildren. They also have two canine kids, Brewster and Rex. She has dedicated her time, talents, love, and nurturing to our little ones in our Nursery. We are so grateful for her dedication! If you have not yet met Laurie, take a moment to stop by our Nursery on Sundays to say hello and introduce yourself.

Some fun facts about Laurie:

- ❖ Q: What is your favorite movie or TV show?
A: Ghosts
- ❖ Q: What hobbies do you enjoy?
A: Quilting & Gardening
- ❖ Q: What is your favorite snack or food?
A: Coffee
- ❖ Q: Do you have a favorite sports team?
A: Swimming & Figure Skating
- ❖ Q: What is a fun fact about yourself that people may not know?
A: My kids were competitive swimmers and I officiated at High School Swim Meets.



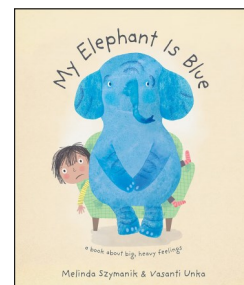
SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FAITH FORMATION RESUMES...

on Sunday, September 1, with a study called, "Worship God," from our popular *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living* curriculum. This Faith Formation Class will be facilitated by Ann Denison and David Witt, meeting each Sunday at 9:45 AM in the Bageant Room and via Zoom. This study is based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers.

Worship is the primary way to follow Jesus and other faith practices flow from this communal activity. Worship, usually Sundays, the Lord's Day, is the source for how we make choices about our lives and our behaviors, how we treat neighbor and stranger, how we care for resources of land and sea, and how we learn and grow into our baptismal identity as Christ's own body in the world. Together, we will learn that worshiping God involves disciples (and seekers!) gathered then sent out and then gathered again, creating an ebb and flow of the communal to individual and societal and back again to communal. Think about joining us and being present with us on September 1.

GIFT EVENT—Sunday, September 29 (9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall)

"GIFT" means **"Generations in Faith Together"** as all ages come together one Sunday a month for a themed intergenerational experience. The theme this month is "My Elephant Is Blue." This inspiring and hopeful children's book focuses on mental health and big heavy feelings. What a relevant topic for us all as we face a busy, and sometimes demanding, fall of events and responsibilities. Come enjoy some refreshments, this tender story, and thought-provoking conversation. Your day is bound to be enriched by your time at GIFT.



CHECK OUT THE NEW GROUP AT OPEQUON CHURCH!

A new Prayer and Praise Group, "Sacred Spaces," begins Monday, September 9, in the Memorial Sanctuary. We will meet weekly, 7:00 PM—8:30 PM. It will be led by Penny and Rich Smith. You are cordially invited to join us!

There is currently prayer at Opequon in the services and in other groups. I rejoice to see this. Sacred Spaces will be an intentional time to seek God together by considering Scripture, singing, and praying with some guidance and we will also have an open time to pray together.

There is power in prayer. Prayer and praise together lead us into God's presence. It is in God's presence, together, that we grow in faith and in trust in God.

Together in Sacred Spaces, each week we will consider the Scriptures that guide our faith. There will be a time of singing too, a natural lead in to prayer. And we will pray, seeking the Holy Spirit to help us and trusting Him to lead and guide us in prayer. I am excited to experience God's blessings together!

Come as God leads: weekly or occasionally, for all or part of each meeting. We look forward to being with you. See Rich and Penny Smith for more information or if you have any questions.

Blessings!
Penny Smith

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

A new Confirmation class begins this month. We are so excited to have over 10 young people who will be participating in a Confirmation Journey. Confirmation is open to all 8th grade youth and beyond that have the desire to participate. Class sessions will be held on various Wednesdays through December, 6:20 PM—7:15 PM. A retreat experience, along with several other additional enhancing activities, will occur during January—April. If you would like to know more details and specifics, please reach out to Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org) or Rebekah Witt (rwitt@opequonchurch.org).

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE



We are excited to announce that Opie's Playhouse is now open to all children elementary age and under! Our hope is that more families will feel welcome to join in the fun that happens the first Sunday of every month! And, with Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation classes starting up in September, we would also like to invite those who are interested to drop-off your children at Opie's Playhouse for an hour of supervised playtime while you attend class. (On the second and third Sundays of the month, the Nursery will be available to all elementary age children and under during the Faith Formation hour). And don't forget—all ages are invited to come to the GIFT Events offered on the fourth Sunday of each month!

Opie's Playhouse is a time of fun and fellowship especially planned for our families with young children. Toys and light refreshments and snacks are provided. The children have been having so much fun playing outside that we are going to continue meeting outside for as long as we can. Our next Opie's Playhouse will be on September 1, 9:45 AM—10:45 AM. We can't wait to see you on what should be a beautiful September morning. In the event of rain, we will be in the Memorial Sanctuary. Come play with us!



THE LATEST IN LOGOS

The 27th year of LOGOS at Opequon begins this month on September 18 with an opening theme of "Australian Outback Night!" LOGOS is open to all 4-year-olds through 12th grade. It is a midweek miracle that happens each Wednesday, September through March. The overall theme for this year is "ALL AROUND THE WORLD" with "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands" as our theme song. We are so excited to get started with this new year. We celebrate having new and returning staff, along with new young people and returning young people. A registration info display is in the Gathering Area and registration is also available on OPC's website. Payment of fees is requested upon registering.

Do you have any specific questions we could answer to help you know more about LOGOS? PLEASE ASK! Contact Joanne Berson (opequonlogos@gmail.com) or Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org). We hope you will be onboard with us! We look forward to spending Wednesday evenings together.

THE LOGOS STAFF ORIENTATION will be held on Wednesday, September 4, at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. A full dinner will be provided along with a full orientation of our upcoming LOGOS year. All LOGOS Staff are asked to attend.

YOUTH: GRADES 6-12

September 15 (12:30 PM—2:30 PM)
Youth Families' Kick-Off!

September 30 (7:00 PM)
Youth Parent Hangout at the Weber's Home

YOUNG ADULTS: AGES 18-35

September 27 (6:30 PM)
Frisbee Golf at Sherando Park

MEN OF OPEQUON GATHERING

The Men of Opequon (MOO) will meet on Monday, September 9, at 6:00 PM around the fire pit at the home of Mitch and Pam Orndorff (399 Windsor Lane, Winchester, off Cedar Creek Grade). We'll enjoy roasting hot dogs and toasting some marshmallows for S'mores. You are invited to bring any side dish or desserts you would like beyond the hot dogs and S'mores. Let's enjoy this gathering and sharing conversation while gathered in a circle. So we can have a general number of who to expect so we can prepare, please RSVP to Pastor David Witt by talking with him, calling him, or emailing him (pastor@opequonchurch.org). All men are invited! (rain date = Tuesday, September 10)



GOD-LOVING OPEQUON WOMEN

GLOW is our multi-aged women's group that meets monthly to build friendships and enjoy some heart-warming activities together. What a great summer evening we had last month at a Backyard Bash at Carole Witt's home. This month at GLOW is BUNCO Night on Tuesday, September 10, at 6:00 PM. (Refreshments and drinks provided.) The 'ticket to play' is a box of Kleenex tissues. These will be very beneficial for OPC as the colder months are ahead of us. BUNCO is a simple, fun, easy to learn game of rolling dice. If you have never played, you can learn in a matter of minutes. All women are invited to come give yourself a little time with the girls.



LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will meet on September 16 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Life Goes On is a fellowship lunch for those who have lost their significant other. Please plan to bring a dish to pass or to chip in a couple of bucks toward expenses. Gluten-free food is always provided. If you need a ride or have any questions, please contact Pastor Tracie (assocopc@gmail.com) or the church office.

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

Goodbye to another summer and WELCOME SEPTEMBER. Some cooler temperatures are hopefully on their way. Get ready to embrace the Fall. There is much to embrace through the ministry of Opequon. The Older Adult Team will meet on Monday, September 9, at 9:30 AM in the Bageant Room to discuss plans for Happy Days programs, day outings and other special events. The meeting is open to any older adult who would like to join us. The older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be gathering on Wednesday, September 11, at NOON in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a favorite dish, if you are able, for the pot-luck luncheon. Rotisserie Chicken and drinks are provided. Our guest speaker this month is from the Adult Care Center. The presentation is sure to be enlightening about this local agency which provides opportunities for people in our community. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the friendship of one another and the delicious food.

An adult CHRISTMAS TRIP to Riverside Theater to see "Christmas Spectacular" is set for Wednesday, December 11, and a few spots remain available. We will meet at 9:00 AM for an introduction to the day and then load up. The cost for the trip is \$90, which includes lunch, show, transportation, goody bag, and tip. If you would like to join the group for this trip, contact Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org).



JAVA WITH JULIA

Swing by Hopscotch Café on Friday, September 27 for Java with Julia, any time between 11:00 AM—1:00 PM!

FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

The Fellowship Book Club will not be meeting this month. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 24. (The selection currently pending and will be announced in the October newsletter.)

SENIOR OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Senior Outreach Ministry will meet on Sunday, September 8. We will meet at 12:15 PM by the church office door to load up the totes for the trip to the Shenandoah Senior Apartments on Wilson Blvd., in Winchester. Donations of paper towels and snack packs of apple sauce, mixed fruit, and pudding would be appreciated.

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP INFO SESSION

September 22 @ 9:45 AM

Have you ever thought about going on
a Medical Mission Trip?

Come learn more about serving with
Medical Ministry International
in the Dominican Republic
at our upcoming info session
on September 22, at 9:45 AM
in the Fellowship Hall!

ALL are welcome!

NO experience necessary!

March 1-15, 2025 (1 week or 2 weeks)

Help us to provide Primary Care, Dental,
Surgical, and Integrated Health Services!

<https://www.mmi.org/dominican-republic/>

COLLECTION FOR CCAP THIS MONTH



During the month of September, the Mission Ministry Team is collecting peanut butter and jelly for CCAP. Thank you for your contributions and supporting our community!

"OUT OF THE DARKNESS" COMMUNITY WALK



The 10th annual Out of the Darkness Community Walk for Suicide Prevention will be held on Saturday, October 12 in Stephen's City. OPC is sponsoring a team again to walk and raise money for suicide awareness, education, and prevention.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, so this is a great time to start thinking about being part of OPC's team. Through education and awareness, we can recognize risk factors and prevent many suicides from occurring. The OPC Mission Team has committed \$500 toward the event. Our goal is to match, and hopefully surpass, that amount with donations for our team. Last year, Team Opequon was 3rd out of 58 teams in total donations with nearly \$2,000 raised!

The walk, which begins at 10:00 AM, winds through Sherando Park, beginning and ending at the Sherando High School Stadium with a program commemorating those lost to suicide. There is also a handicap accessible option. Suicide takes many lives each year and is the 11th leading cause of death in the US with nearly 50,000 deaths by suicide, in addition to 1.6 million suicide attempts. It is the second leading cause of deaths in Virginia in both the 10-24 and the 25-34 age groups.

Please consider walking or donating in the name of Team Opequon! You can register to walk or donate to our team at:

www.afsp.org/stephenscity

This link will bring up the Stephens City homepage where you can then follow the prompts to register or donate. As part of the registration process, one option is to join a team. Insert "Team Opequon 24" in that space. Flyers with more info are located in the Gathering Area. For more info, contact our Opequon Team Captain, Carol Schempp (carolschempp2604@gmail.com).

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN NEWS

The summer growing season has proven to be challenging for 2024. Drought, high temperatures, local construction, hungry squirrels and insects have taken their toll. While our produce totals are lower than expected, we have still managed to support our local food pantries and Hope in Action by providing 523 pounds of fresh vegetables as of mid-August.

We are so very grateful for Alan McKay. He came to the rescue when power outages and surges due to construction next door ruined the irrigation pump, which then caused the new one to run hot. He was able to remedy the situation quickly, while volunteers hand-watered the beds.

If you missed us on the front page of the Winchester Star on July 26, the article and pictures can be found in their archives. The well-written story resulted in an increase of community interest. Some visitors came to tour the garden and share tips and a few have also become volunteers! Thank you to Miss Kitty Nicholas for contacting the paper to suggest coverage.

We look forward to being a project site for the United Way Day of Caring on September 20. Many hands make light work! The Garden Team appreciates the community for showing their support once again for this fun and special day.

The fruits of labor by our Italian honey bees became available in August. These vital creatures are truly a joy and blessing in the garden. Special thanks to our beekeeper, Mike Nutry, for his care, diligence and generosity. We hope ya'll enjoy the honey!



GENEROSITY MOMENT

(From Pastor Tracie Martin & the Generosity Team)



Have you ever watched a single drop of water fall into a pond?
There is a quick splash and then the water begins to ripple out and away.
As it spreads—it looks like a fingerprint!

We have spent several years talking about fingerprints...

We've spent time with the fingerprint of God, a work of art and faith that is scriptural as well as inspiring. We have spent time looking at our own fingerprints on our church, our local community, and our world. We have considered Opequon Church's fingerprints as our church reaches out through our missions as well as sharing our faith. Our individual fingerprints and our combined fingerprints make a difference in God's world.

We touch a place or situation and our touch spreads,
like the ripple from a drop of water...
what we do keeps moving forward...
nothing stays the same...
things change...



As we look toward 2025, we can see possibilities opening in front of us. Our church has grown in numbers, energy, and scope. Our outreach is valued far and wide. Our worship draws visitors; our welcome helps them stay. Our worship is engaging. Our music draws people in. In short, we are a healthy congregation that works hard to serve our God and follow Christ, our Savior.

All of this is made possible by a congregation that gives generously of our time, talents, and treasures. We are a church family that truly enjoys working and serving together. Over the next few weeks, we will explore what and where God is calling us to action. We are part of a valuable movement. Let's have fun exploring it together!

CHURCH OFFICE STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES

To reach a staff member or if a pastoral concern arises, contact the church office (**540-662-1843** or **office@opequonchurch.org**) or note who is out of the office and email one of the pastors directly and we will get back to you in a timely manner. If you email a staff member and do not hear back within a couple business days, please call us to verify the message was received.



Pastor, David Witt-----	pastor@opequonchurch.org
Associate Pastor, Julia Burkley -----	pastorjulia@opequonchurch.org
Parish Associate, Tracie Martin -----	assocopc@gmail.com
Church Office / Office Administrator, Rachel Lesink-----	office@opequonchurch.org
Finance Administrator , Ken Smiy -----	ksmiy@opequonchurch.org
Director of Christian Education, Carole Witt -----	dce@opequonchurch.org
Director for Youth & Young Adult Ministries, Rebekah Witt-----	rwitt@opequonchurch.org
Director of Music, Susan Homan -----	srh1305@verizon.net
Organist, Bill Heavner-----	heavner@comcast.net
Facilities Coordinator, Robert Sydnor -----	sexton@opequonchurch.org

IMPORTANT: Messages sent via our church database (ex/ OPC's Tuesday/Friday Messages) use an outgoing-only "notifications@onrealmmail.org" address. **Please do NOT send any messages to notifications@onrealmmail.org — we cannot receive them!** Also, please note that the sender's name appearing next to that notifications address does change based on who is sending the message.

THANK YOU FOR AN INCREDIBLE DAY!



Wasn't Homecoming Sunday amazing! From start to finish, it was a day filled with the best possible spirit, the Holy Spirit, moving amongst all of us. From welcome to worship, from parade to picnic, what a grand day! We thank our Discipleship Team, chief sponsors of the day, for all their planning, promotion, and hard work to pull this day together: Susan Witt, Mary Himelright, Linda Shimer, Debbie and Bill Bender, Pam and Mitch Orndorff, Julia Burkley, and Carole and David Witt. We thank our staff and all those who prepared for worship and then led the celebration. We thank all the teams for delectable desserts, pies, and cakes overflowing in abundance. And we thank everyone who helped decorate, greet, park, march, pick-up, set-up, clean-up, and offered their gifts in any way. It was an incredible day.

We are grateful!



THANK YOU

Dear Opequon Family,

We can't thank you enough for phone calls, food, grief bag, cards, and most of all prayers during our mother and grandma's illness and passing. You made us feel loved and heard. We are so thankful for you all!



Love,
Jason, Laurel,
Brenna, & Jack
Hathaway

THANK YOU

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

Hospitality Indeed!

We felt welcomed and loved the moment we were on the property. Thank you Opequon Church, "Mother Church of the Valley" staff and members. You truly know how to "practice what you preach". What a blessing to hear a sermon on God's love and the importance of Hospitality and truly experience it at the same time.

Members of our family attended the service yesterday to listen to Sarah Brill accompany the choir on her flute. Sarah is a sophomore at Millbrook High School and plays flute in the band. She attended Logos for many years. Our family has roots at Opequon as our parents raised us in the church and we have many fond memories. We visited the part of the church that we remember and reminisced. I remember singing in the choir, candlelight services, Sunday School, Halloween parties, dinners and such in the fellowship hall, Vacation Bible School and helping in the nursery. There are many more wonderful memories. Opequon was the church where my relationship with the Lord started and I'm thankful that the ministry continues to serve this community. Tears fell throughout the service as I thought about how happy my mother and father would be knowing the seeds they planted continue to grow.

Our family has a "family chat" where we text each other so we can keep in touch. Andy Seymour sent this text to all the family Sunday evening: "It was a really special time for me to be at Opequon Church with the incredible history and the love that I saw today for your family. So touching when the pastor spoke of the Smith family that were attending to support Sarah playing with the choir. Jayne leaned over in tears and said to me how proud her mom and dad would be to see all of us there today. That's when I shared a few tears with her, and I was so proud to be in God's house with you all."

Thank you Opequon, so much for opening up your arms, loving us, ministering to us, and making us part of the family. What a beautiful Homecoming.

Love and Blessings,
Andy & Jayne Seymour & Family,
The Steve Brill Family, Jim Smith & Eleanor



FRIENDS OF THE GORE HOME UPDATE

The Friends of the Gore Home wishes to thank all the sponsors of the Home for their support for their upcoming school year. We recently wired \$26,000 to the Home in Metu, Ethiopia as scholarship support for approximately 22 students for the 2024-2025 school year. We expect to receive an account of present and new students before the new school year begins in late September.

Opequon Presbyterian Church Financial Summary for the period ended July 31, 2024

	Annual Budget 2024	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
Income					
410000 Offering Income	843,003	53,155	496,956	346,047	59.0%
420000 Other Income	1,600	50	1,267	333	79.2%
Total 400000 Income	844,603	53,206	498,223	346,380	59.0%
Expenses					
500000 Personnel Costs					
510000 Installed Pastors	219,432	17,889	127,690	91,742	58.2%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	144,436	11,842	84,132	60,304	58.2%
530000 Administrative Staff	146,818	12,085	82,730	64,088	56.3%
Total 500000 Personnel Costs	510,686	41,816	294,552	216,134	57.7%
600000 Other Ministries					
610000 Christian Education	14,100	1,379	7,425	6,675	52.7%
620000 Congregational Care	2,800	(120)	394	2,406	14.1%
630000 Evangelism	1,900	0	1,005	895	52.9%
640000 Fellowship	3,800	110	71	3,729	1.9%
650000 Mission	73,575	4,108	39,758	33,817	54.0%
660000 Worship	7,000	99	2,010	4,990	28.7%
Total 600000 Other Ministries	103,175	5,577	50,663	52,512	49.1%
Total 700000 Church Administration	129,632	8,958	99,109	30,523	76.5%
Total Expenses	743,493	56,351	444,324	299,169	59.8%
Net Operating Income (Expense)	101,110	(3,145)	53,899	47,211	53.3%
920000 Other Income	17,625	1,618	12,872	4,753	73.0%
930000 Other Expenses	118,735	9,927	69,756	48,979	58.7%
Net Other Income (Expense)	(101,110)	(8,309)	(56,884)	(44,226)	56.3%
Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses	0	(11,454)	(2,986)		

7/31/24

Cash
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance

\$ 111,654

\$ 424,098

**This calendar is subject to change. The most current schedule is on the OPC website here: www.opeonchurch.org/get-involved

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>1</div> <div>Communion</div> <div>8:30am - Worship & Live Stream</div> <div>9:45am - Faith Formation @</div> <div>9:45am - Opie's Playhouse @</div> <div>11am - Worship @ Sanctuary</div> <div>1:30pm - Spring Arbor Worship @</div>	<div>2</div> <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div> <div>8am - Garden Work @ Roots &</div>	<div>3</div> <div>5pm - Tech Team Meeting @</div> <div>6pm - Ministry Team Night @</div>	<div>4</div> <div>9:30am - Staff Meeting @ Bageant</div> <div>5:30pm - LOGOS Staff Orientation</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>5</div> <div>10:30am - Tai Chi @ Shelter/Mem</div> <div>6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry @</div> <div>7pm - ART @ Assembly Room</div> <div>7pm - Vision Team @ Bageant</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div>8am - Breakfast Feast Group @</div>
<div>8</div> <div>8:30am - Worship & Live Stream</div> <div>9:45am - Faith Formation</div> <div>11am - Worship @ Sanctuary</div> <div>12:15pm - Senior Outreach</div>	<div>9</div> <div>8am - Garden Work @ Roots &</div> <div>9:30am - Older Adult Ministry</div> <div>6pm - MOO @ Orndorffs</div> <div>6:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary</div> <div>7pm - Sacred Spaces @ Memorial</div>	<div>10</div> <div>9:30am - Tuesday Morning</div> <div>11am - Private Event @ Picnic</div> <div>1:30pm - Faith Practices Faith</div> <div>6pm - GLOW Bageant and Dell</div>	<div>11</div> <div>12pm - Happy Days @ Fellowship</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>12</div> <div>10:30am - Tai Chi @ Shelter/Mem</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <div>8am - Breakfast Feast Group @</div> <div>9:30am - Shenandoah Presbytery</div>
<div>15</div> <div>Blood Pressure Checks</div> <div>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</div> <div>8:30am - Worship & Live Stream</div> <div>9:45am - Faith Formation</div> <div>11am - Worship @ Sanctuary</div> <div>12:30pm - Youth Families' Kickoff</div> <div>5pm - International Peace Maker</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Carole & David Away</div> <div>8am - Garden Work @ Roots &</div> <div>12pm - Life Goes On @ Fellowship</div> <div>6pm - Safety Team @ Bageant</div> <div>6:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary</div> <div>7pm - Sacred Spaces @ Memorial</div>	<div>17</div> <div>1:30pm - Faith Practices Faith</div> <div>7pm - Session Mtg @ Bageant</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Rebekah Away-GenOn Board Meeting</div> <div>9:30am - Staff Meeting</div> <div>12pm - Music at Noon @</div> <div>4:30pm - LOGOS</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Carole, Rebekah and David Away</div> <div>8am - Breakfast Feast Group @</div>
<div>22</div> <div>Carole, Rebekah and David Away</div> <div>4 Cents a Meal Offering</div> <div>8:30am - Worship & Live Stream</div> <div>9:45am - Faith Formation</div> <div>9:45am - Medical Mission Trip</div> <div>11am - Worship @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>23</div> <div>8am - Garden Work @ Roots &</div> <div>6:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary</div> <div>7pm - Sacred Spaces @ Memorial</div>	<div>24</div> <div>1:30pm - Faith Practices Faith</div> <div>3pm - TVOR Gathering</div> <div>5:30pm - Highland Food Pantry @</div>	<div>25</div> <div>9am - HCNSV @ Bageant Room</div> <div>4:30pm - LOGOS</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>26</div> <div>10:30am - Tai Chi @ Shelter/Mem</div> <div>10:30am - WANC Lunch @</div>	<div>27</div> <div>11am - Java With Julia @</div> <div>6:30pm - Young Adult Frisbee Golf</div>	<div>28</div> <div>8am - Breakfast Feast Group @</div>
<div>29</div> <div>8:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary</div> <div>9:45am - GIFT Event @ Fellowship</div> <div>11am - Worship & Live Stream @</div>	<div>30</div> <div>8am - Garden Work @ Roots &</div> <div>6:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary</div> <div>7pm - Sacred Spaces @ Memorial</div> <div>7pm - Youth Parent Hangout @</div>	<div>1</div> <div>1:30pm - Faith Practices Faith</div> <div>5pm - Tech Team Meeting @</div> <div>6pm - Ministry Team Night @</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9:30am - Staff Meeting @ Bageant</div> <div>4:30pm - LOGOS</div> <div>6:30pm - WOW (Worship on</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary</div>	<div>3</div> <div>10:30am - Tai Chi @ Shelter/Mem</div> <div>6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry @</div> <div>7pm - ART @ Assembly Room</div> <div>7pm - Vision Team @ Bageant</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Julia Away</div>	<div>5</div> <div>9am - Crafting with Becky @</div>

STAFF SCHEDULES THIS MONTH

Church Office Closed:

- September 2—Labor Day

David Witt:

- September 16-18, 21-22—Vacation

Carole Witt:

- September 16-18, 21-22—Vacation

Rebekah Witt:

- September 18-20—GenOn Board Meeting
- September 21-22—Vacation

If a pastoral concern arises during these times, please note who is away contact the church office or one of the available pastors by phone or email.

Church Office:

540-662-1843 or office@opequonchurch.org

Pastor David Witt

pastor@opequonchurch.org

Associate Pastor Julia Burkley

pastorjulia@opequonchurch.org

Parish Associate Tracie Martin

assocopc@gmail.com



COMING IN OCTOBER...

WORLD COMMUNION CELEBRATION

Sunday, October 6
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

"Bread-Basket Buffet" – 9:30 AM

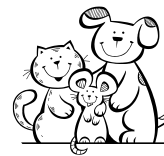
Watch the bulletins for details!



OUTSTANDING OCTOBER

DATES TO NOTE:

- October 1: Ministry Team Night
- October 6: World Communion Sunday
Bread Basket Buffet Sunday
Peace & Global Witness Offering
Opie's Playhouse
Romania Mission Trip Forum
- October 13: Youth Mission Trip Forum
Blessing of the Pets
- October 19—20: Youth Lock-In
(Massanetta Springs)
- October 27: Reformation Sunday
October GIFT Event
Chili Cook-Off
- October 30: Trunk & Treat



SAVE THE DATE: Blessing of the Pets

You and your critters are invited to join us for a special Blessing of the Pets on Sunday, October 13, 2:00 PM—4:00 PM, in the Picnic Shelter! Details coming soon.

SAVE THE DATE: **CHILI COOK-OFF** **OCTOBER 27—12:15 PM**

Are you ready for OPC's Fellowship Chili Cook-Off?

Bring your favorite chili recipe to be judged or just come and enjoy a meal and fellowship on October 27 (after the 11:00 AM worship service)!

If you are interested in making some chili or being a judge, please contact Marj Praml (pramlmarjory550@gmail.com).

More details will be shared in the bulletins as the date gets closer.



**** The deadline to send newsletter submissions to the church office the 15th of each month. ****

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602-2421
www.opequonchurch.org

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"The Opequon Spirit" is the monthly newsletter of:

**OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602-2421

Website: www.opequonchurch.org

Phone: 540-662-1843

Office: office@opequonchurch.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday, 9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Friday, 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

Weekly Worship Services:

Sunday, 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor David R. Witt
Associate Pastor Julia H. Burkley
Parish Associate Tracie Martin
Church Office Administrator Rachel Lesink
Church Finance Administrator Ken Smiy
Director of Christian Education Carole Witt
Youth & Young Adult Director Rebekah Witt
Director of Music Susan Homan
Organist William Heavner
Facilities Coordinator Robert Sydnor
Nursery Supervisor Laurie Carver
Faith Community Nurses Bill Martin,
Mike Nutry, Pat Williams