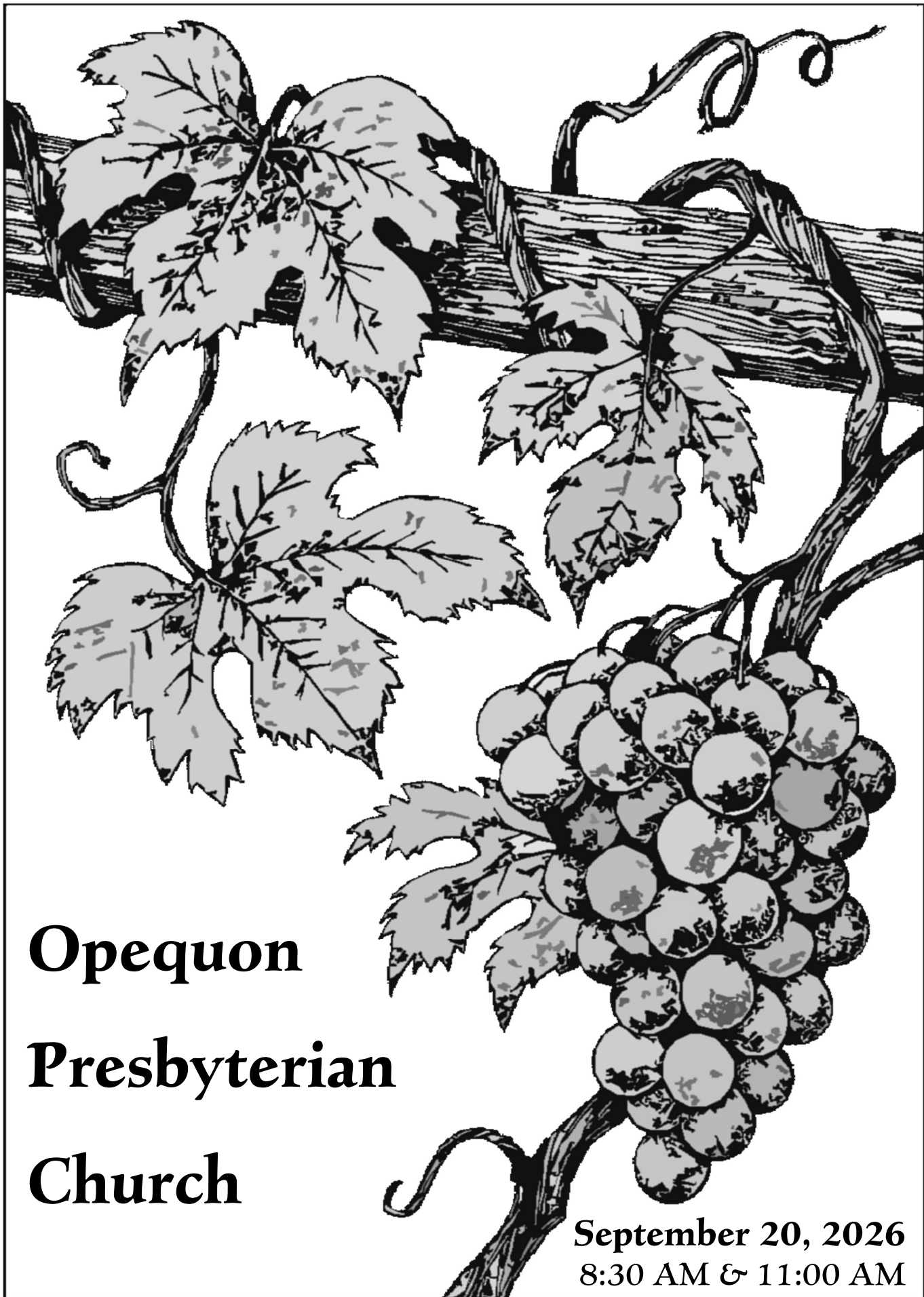




**Opequon
Presbyterian
Church**

**September 20, 2026
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

<i>Pastor</i>	David R. Witt
<i>Parish Associate</i>	Tracie Martin
<i>Church Office Administrator</i>	Rachel Lesink
<i>Church Finance Administrator</i>	Ken Smiy
<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	Carole Witt
<i>Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries</i>	Rebekah Witt
<i>Director of Music</i>	Susan Homan
<i>Organist/Pianist</i>	Garrett Jones
<i>Facilities Coordinator</i>	Robert Sydnor
<i>Nursery Supervisor</i>	Laurie Carver
<i>Faith Community Nurses</i>	Bill Martin, Patty Klinefelter, Mike Nutry, Pat Williams

To reach a staff member or if a pastoral concern arises, contact the church office or note who is out of the office and email one of the pastors directly and we will respond in a timely manner.

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

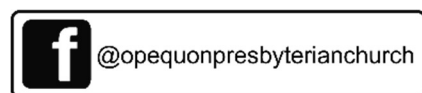
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **We encourage you to share requests for prayer.** You may do so by completing the pink form found in the pew rack and placing it in the offering.
- **Trust your children to the care of our dedicated, loving workers!** The nursery rooms are located through the Gathering Area, down the Gallery and through the Dell Room. An usher will be happy to escort you. Our nursery ministry cares for infants and children under the age of 5.
- **Worship Bags are available for children ages 3 – kindergarten.** These bags are in the back of the Sanctuary. Please return the bag and supplies to the basket when you are leaving.
- **Restrooms and a coat rack** are located off the Gathering Area, just outside the Sanctuary.
- **Large-print hymnals, Bibles and bulletins** are available from an usher.
- **Personal hearing assistance devices** are available from an usher if you would like to use one.
- **Transportation can be provided to worship.** Call the church office before 12:00 PM on Friday.

Access our Online Giving at
www.opequonchurch.org/giving
or scan the QR code here:



Follow us on Facebook:



A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost – Back to Church Sunday; Blood Pressure Checks

- ☞ **Thank you for silencing your phones before we begin the Worship Service.**
- ☞ **As the music of the Prelude begins, we invite you to take a moment to quietly focus your heart and prepare your inward spirit for the worship of God.**
- ☞ Please complete the Friendship Folder and pass it along during the greeting.
- ☞ PRAYER REQUEST forms are inside the pew holders – please place in the offering plate.

† = All who are able, please stand.

Bold print = All in unison.

☞ WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ☞

PRELUDE..... *In a Place of Miracles*

By: Alan Menken; From: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG..... *Mighty Is Our God*

***Mighty is our God, mighty is our King;
Mighty is our Lord, ruler of ev'rything.
Glory to our God, glory to our King;
Glory to our Lord, ruler of ev'rything.
His name is higher, higher than any other name.
His pow'r is greater, for he has created ev'rything. [*repeat]
Mighty is our God, mighty is our King;
Mighty is our Lord, ruler of ev'rything.
Glory to our God, glory to our King;
Glory to our Lord, ruler of ev'rything, ruler of ev'rything.**

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

God's greatness is unsearchable.

From generation to generation, we sing of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

†OPENING HYMN No. 645..... *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

**Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,**

**the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!**

**What God's almighty power has made
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
by morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.
Within the kingdom of God's might,
lo! all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory!**

**The Lord is never far away,
but, through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing,
as with a mother's tender hand
God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory!**

**Thus all my toilsome way along
I sing aloud thy praises,
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;
both soul and body, take your part: to God all praise and glory!**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We try to live our lives in a manner worthy of Christ. We try to stand firm in God's Spirit, but our human self-interest gets the better of us. In humility and faith, let us confess our sin, first in unison prayer, then in personal silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of generosity, we find ourselves bitter when faced with your abundant grace. We believe ourselves more deserving than others. We nurse our anger and resentment at those you forgive, instead of rejoicing in the abundant love you show. Forgive us when we wish your grace was scarce. Forgive the double standards we hold. Help us to know that we are all in need of your grace and help us rejoice as we all gratefully receive your mercy.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

The grace of God is boundless, poured out freely for all of us.

We will receive this gift of forgiveness and trust God to transform our lives!

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 614 *Great Are You, Lord*

**Great are you, Lord: you are holy and just;
by your power we trust in your love.**

**Great are you, Lord: you are faithful and true;
by your mercy you prove you are love.**

Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory!

Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.

**Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice;
we lift up our voice: great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!**

†PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those near you.)

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

✠ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ✠

ANTHEM..... *Holy Manna*

By: Joel Raney

Lord! Shower us with holy manna, Lord, shower us from above. We gather here to sing hosanna, we gather to share your love. We have gathered here to worship and adore the Lord, our God. Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the Word? All is vain unless the spirit of the Holy One comes down. Christians pray, and holy manna will be showered all around. Lord! Shower us with holy manna, Lord, shower us from above. We gather here to sing hosanna, we gather to share your love. Lord! Shower us with holy manna, Lord, shower us from above. Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new. Christ will call us home to heaven, at his table we'll sit down; Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around. O Lord! Shower us with holy manna, Lord, shower us from above. We gather here to sing hosanna, we gather to share your love. We gather to share God's love!

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11Pew Bible p. 753

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 20:1-16Pew Bible p. 801

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "It's Not Fair!"

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 649 *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*
**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**
**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!**
**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**
**The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.**
**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

SERMON..... "God's Great Reversal"
Pastor David Witt

✧ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✧

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *And the Father Will Dance*
By: Mark Hayes

†THE DOXOLOGY (Hymnal No. 606) & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Almighty God, we offer you these gifts and our hearts alongside
them. May they be blessed to do your bidding. May our expectations
of what is right and what is wise always be governed by your unruly
love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

†THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Hymnal p. 35) *The Apostles' Creed*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Hymnal p. 35, we say "debts" and "debtors" in the prayer)

✧ WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME ✧

†CLOSING HYMN No. 722..... *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak*

**Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone.**

**As you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children, lost and lone.**

**O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet.**

**O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.**

**O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.**

**O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.**

**O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 748..... *Go with Us, Lord*

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.**

†POSTLUDE

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given in honor and celebration of Pastor David's birthday this Friday!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Allison Rivera	Lorin & Bill Goulart	Susan Arthur
James (Jim) Goulding	Mid-West Flood Victims	Tammy Mowery Earhart
Gary Rutherford	Johnny Clark Family	Dan Cammer
Dale Barley	Sandy Widell	Middle East War
Carolyn Hartman	Kraig Hawkins	Jolissa Matthews
Joan Patton	Roger Callis	Lori Jones & Stephen
Vern Gamble	Cora Helen Anderson	Armstrong
Hazel Spriggs	Tim & Katherine Loftis	Mike & Trish Crawford
Chick Doroffee	Tony Bennett	Lynne Rosamilia
Angel Creagh Family	Jim Keeler	JoAnne Farrell
I-81 Crash Victims	Katie Happel	Judy Camper
Westwood School /	Don Black	David Lewis
Waynesboro	Marcia Jaureguizar	David DesMarias
David Hofmann	Mark McKee	Megan Tschappat
Nepal Disaster	Darcus Breneman	Charlotte Rosamilia
Brenda	Lyn Warren	All Struggling with
Harry Brooks	Carol Schempp	Mental Illness
Kathy Ludwig	Linda Swiger	Nancy Kerns
Colton Heavner	Bud & Becky Proctor	Jewish & Muslim Victims
June Windle	Mike Shade	Worldwide
Rick Ours	Karen Lemons & Family	Cindy Corell
Judy Gaines	Bonnie Triplett	Katie Wolf
Jessica Brogler	Al Schollenberger	Ukraine
Connie Byrne	Cheri Norris	Ethiopia Church Mekane
Robin Owens	Mo & Heide Mohler	Yesus
Bill Gesell	Marge & Tim Higgins	

✿ **THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES** ✿

Kaylynn Tavenner, Robert Littman, Cameron Lloyd, Cameron Andrew Veach,
 Kayleen Paquette, Kelly Klimek, Jacob & Tiffani Peoples, Sawyer Phillips,
 Joshua Blake, Max Crane, Andrew Crane, Thomas Crane, Jacob Heavner,
 Samuel & Julia Phillips, Michael White, Ben Jensen, Gavin Eanes

✿ **OUR SCHOOL OF THE WEEK** ✿

Staff & Students at Daniel Morgan Middle School in Winchester, VA

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – September 20

Back to Church Sunday; Blood Pressure Checks

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Youth Families Breakfast & Games – Fellowship Hall
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Bageant Room & Zoom
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
12:30 PM	Retreat Planning Team – Bageant Room

THIS WEEK

Monday:	12:00 PM	Life Goes On – Fellowship Hall
	5:30 PM	Windsong Practice – Memorial Sanctuary
Tuesday:	1:00 PM	Disciple Faith Formation – Bageant Room
	3:00 PM	TVOR Gathering
	6:30 PM	Highland Food Pantry
Wednesday:	4:30 PM	Logos (Theme: Old Opequon Night)
	6:15 PM	Confirmation Class – Bageant Room
	7:15 PM	Choir Practice – Sanctuary
Thursday:	10:30 AM	Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary/Picnic Shelter
	10:30 AM	WANC Lunch – Fellowship Hall
	6:00 PM	Fellowship Book Club – Bageant Room
Saturday:	5:00 PM	OPC's Annual Graham Taylor Concert & Meal
		Fundraiser Event – Picnic Shelter

NEXT SUNDAY – September 27

Stewardship's Popping Sunday; 4 Cents A Meal; GIFT Event

Scriptures: 2 Corinthians 2:14-17; Joshua 5:9-12 Sermon: "Celebrate!"

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM	GIFT Event – Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
2:00 PM	Blessing of the Pets – Picnic Shelter
4:00 PM	Newcomers Class – Bageant Room
5:00 PM	Young Adult Yard Games – Picnic Shelter

LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will gather for lunch at **noon tomorrow** – no reservations needed. The main dish will be a surprise. Please plan to bring a dish to pass or chip in a buck or two towards expenses. One topic for discussion will be how we can support local schools as a church.

LOGOS BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY

A brand new Logos year is beginning this Wednesday as we welcome children and youth to this midweek miracle! We give thanks with grateful hearts for the staff of 58 who will help make it all happen each week. Our opening night's theme is "Old Opequon" Night and we will award the registration BIRTHDAY BASKET door prize to a winner. We are excited about our 29th year of Logos at OPC!

FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

We will gather and discuss *The Third Act of Theo Gruene* by Talya Tate Boerner on **Thursday** at **6:00 PM** in the Bageant Room.

ANNUAL GRAHAM TAYLOR CONCERT & MEAL FUNDRAISER EVENT

It's almost time for our Annual Graham Taylor Concert & Meal Fundraiser Event, featuring a live outdoor concert by Murphy's Bluegrass Bandits! Join us this **Saturday, September 26**, at **5:00 PM** in the OPC Picnic Shelter! All proceeds benefit OPC's Mission Ministry Fund. (*See newsletters for full event details!*)

❖ **Concert Tickets** = \$20 each; kids 18 and under are FREE!

(label payment as "GT-Concert")

- ♦ Pay Online: click "giving" on OPC's website
- ♦ Pay by Cash/Check: in the worship offering or in the church office
- ♦ Pay at the Door: cash or check only

NEW FEAST GROUPS

We are excited about making the umbrella of FEAST Groups wider. All are welcomed at the table. If you are interested in joining one (or both) of these new groups, please reach out to the appropriate contact.

- Friday Lunch Bunch will meet at Chili's (200 Featherbed Lane in Winchester) this **Friday** at **noon**. Contact Marj Praml (540-327-2667).
- Eclectic Palate – Contact Diana Hecht (diana.hecht@pawpawtracks.com).

'GIFT' EVENT – Generations In Faith Together

We have the GIFT of being with all ages for an educational experience next **Sunday, September 27**, at **9:45 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. The theme is "BLT" day – 'Best Lounging Time' as we focus on rest and sabbath that we all need. And guess what, we will serve "BLT'S" that morning. We will be treated to the story **God Gave Us Sleep** that morning too. There is much in store as we enjoy a relaxed, enjoyable and restful time together.

BLESSING OF THE PETS – Next Sunday

You and your critters are invited to join us for a special Blessing of the Pets in the Picnic Shelter on **September 27** at **2:00 PM**. Please bring cats in their carriers and dogs on their leashes. Goody bags await your blessed pets!

AFSP "OUT OF THE DARKNESS" WALK

This annual family-friendly Community Walk for Suicide Prevention will be held at Sherando High School on **Saturday, October 10**. Our Mission Team is sponsoring a team to walk and help raise money for suicide awareness and prevention again this year. Join and/or support our team at:

<https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/teams/398416>

or contact Team OPC Captain Sheyenne Ervin (sheyenneervin@gmail.com).

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Rich Schempp

Beadle: Jim Horner

Door Greeters: Ellen Cunningham,
Sheryl Massey

Ushers: Terry Hartman, Shannon
Brannon, Kathy Hoffman, Jace
Hartman, Jaden Hartman

Acolyte: Jace Hartman

Building Steward: Terry Hartman

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ann Denison

Beadle: Ed Painter

Door Greeters: Bill Wellman, Maureen
Wellman, Bonnie Pitzer

Ushers: Andy Homan, Joel Witt, Kevin
Reed, Wyatt Ervin, Shiloh Ervin, Sierra
McGunnigle

Acolyte: Wyatt Ervin

Livestream: Susan Ritter, Brad Jordan

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✂ How did the music today witness to God's gifts, grace, and guidance that often surprise us?

Notes on Today's Prayers

✂ Where and for whom do I need to focus my prayers this week?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

✂ When did you feel that something wasn't fair? What did you do? Did you learn anything?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

- ✂ Think about a day when you were thankful and showed it. Compare it with a day when you wanted to grumble or complain. What was the difference?
- ✂ When and what has God provided for you?
- ✂ How do you feel about God's grace and unconditional love? Regarding yourself? Regarding others?
- ✂ Are you ever resentful of God's generosity toward the "undeserving?" Can God be unfair?
- ✂ How does Jesus' idea of equality – "The Great Reversal" – surprise you?
- ✂ How does generosity change your concept of fairness?
- ✂ How does God's provision and generosity invite us to think about our own lives?

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