All Saints Sunday



Opequon Presbyterian Church

November 1, 2026 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH **www.opequonchurch.org**
217 Opequon Church Lane 540-662-1843
Winchester, VA 22602 office@opequonchurch.org

Pastor ..... David R. Witt
Parish Associate ..... Tracie Martin
Church Office Administrator ..... Rachel Lesink
Church Finance Administrator ..... Ken Smiy
Director of Christian Education ..... Carole Witt
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries ..... Rebekah Witt
Director of Music ..... Susan Homan
Organist/Pianist ..... Garrett Jones
Facilities Coordinator ..... Robert Sydnor
Nursery Supervisor ..... Laurie Carver
Faith Community Nurses ..... 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:

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A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost – Communion

- **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..... *Improvisation on "When the Saints Go Marching In"*

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS
GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG (v. 1, 3)..... *We Will Glorify*

We will glorify the King of kings, we will glorify the Lamb;
We will glorify the Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.

He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth, he is Lord of all who live;
He is Lord above the universe, all praise to him we give.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

What kind of love has God given us?
A love that proclaims we are God's very own.
What kind of promise has God given us?
God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.
What kind of future has God given us?
God will lead us to springs of life-giving water.
Blessing and glory,
wisdom and thanksgiving,
honor and power and might
be to our God, forever and always!

†OPENING HYMN No. 826..... *Lift High the Cross*

[refrain] **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim**
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God. [refrain]

All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died. [refrain]

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally.

[refrain] **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim**
till all the world adore his sacred name.

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory. [refrain]

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

It is hard to believe that a day will come when there will be no more hunger or thirst, no more tears or death. As we remember our loved ones, we cannot help but doubt. God is big enough to handle that doubt, so let us pray, first in unison confession, then in personal silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of eternal life, we gather in gratitude for all the saints of the ages and our lives. We also confess our sorrow as we ache from their absence. We hear you call us blessed when we mourn, but we do not find the comfort you promise. Be with us in our remembrance and strengthen us until the day we join them, singing your praises in the great multitude.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

See what love our Creator has given us: we are children of God. Our heavenly Parent loves us, forgives us, and is with us through every trial.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 443 (v. 1, refrain, 2) ..... *There Is a Redeemer*

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

[refrain] **Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,**
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain. [refrain]

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

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

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

On this All Saints' Sunday, we celebrate our great communion with the saints and especially honor the memory and lives of those who have died in the past year and joined the Church Triumphant:

Betty May Sacra (December 13, 2025)
Robert "Bob" Olshen Caldwell (December 26, 2025)
William "Bill" Lee Robinson (February 11, 2026)
Betty "Jean" Smith (February 20, 2026)
Virginia "Ginny" McClure (February 27, 2026)
Darrell George Griffiths (March 2, 2026)
Mary Ellen Goodman Neff (March 30, 2026)
Darlene Miller (April 11, 2026)
Donna Jean Steidel (April 26, 2026)
Betty Hanna Hess (May 1, 2026)
Carol Jane Seidel Tubbs (May 31, 2026)
Dr. Gerald "Mac" McNichols (June 27, 2026)
Gary W. McDowell (July 8, 2026)
Sharon Stivers Boyd (July 21, 2026)
Nathan Edward Windle (July 29, 2026)
June Marshall Windle (October 18, 2026)
William "Bill" E. Gesell (October 27, 2026)
Ewell "Mo" Mohler (October 28, 2026)

~ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ~

ANTHEM..... *Tribute to the Saints* (By: Lloyd Larson) Rich Smith, trumpet

[ALL] **For all the saints who from their labors rest, who Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Thou wast their rock, their fortress and their might; Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight; Thou in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia!**

O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle; they in glory shine. Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia! And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Allelu, alleluia! Alleluia!

[ALL] **From earth's wide bounds and ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the countless host, singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia!**

Alle, alleluia! Amen!

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Revelation 7:9-17..... Pew Bible p. 999
EPISTLE READING: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13..... Pew Bible p. 959

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "Love at Work in You"

†HYMN No. 730 ..... *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear,
and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake,
the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least,
why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

SERMON....."Remembering the People" Pastor David Witt

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *"Largo" from "New World Symphony"* By: Antonin Dvorak; Arr. Ken Bible

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

Giver of all good gifts, how can we thank you for your never-ending love? Even our very lives are not enough. Accept these offerings as tokens of our gratitude and signs of our hope in the realm you have promised, the kingdom for which we wait. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation
Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Hymnal p. 9-10, spoken response)
The Lord's Prayer (Hymnal p. 35, we say "debts" and "debtors" in the prayer)
Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread & Cup
Communion Music..... *Crossing the Bar* By: Gwyneth Walker
Closing Communion Prayer

~ WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME ~

†CLOSING HYMN No. 732..... *Rejoice in God's Saints* (Tune: LYONS)

Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,
their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.

Some march with events to turn them God's way;
some need to withdraw, the better to pray;
some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:
our world is their parish; their purpose is God.

Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,
who bear someone's cross, or shoulder their own;
they share our complaining, our comforts, our cares:
what patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!

Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
In loving, in living, they prove it is true:
their way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.

POPPIN' INTROIT .....*Popcorn*
By: Paul Harris

STEWARDSHIP POPS

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. (v. 3, refrain) ..... *There Is a Redeemer*

When I stand in glory, I will see his face;
there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place. [refrain]

[refrain] **Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son,**
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

†POSTLUDE

COMMUNION TODAY WILL INVITE YOU FORWARD

Elders/Deacons serving at the 8:30 AM service today are: Terry Hartman, Carroll Youngblood, Nancy Picklap, Doug Joyner, Gretchen Rusch, and David Rusch.

Elders/Deacons serving at the 11:00 AM service today are: Marj Praml, Jack Marquis, Robin Cooke, Bill Thomasson, Carole Witt, and Lance Astorino.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Cindy Millard in honor and loving memory of her father – Calvin Knott (b. October 21), mom – Almira Knott (b. December 19), and first husband – Bernie Cloud (b. November 24).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill Deck
Rebecca Agbayani
Heide Mohler & Family
Bill Gesell Family
Eugene Smith Family
Mike Witt
Kim Meyers
John Douglas McLain
Grayson Redford
Doug Bunkers
Kathy Franks
Kim Bowers Pangle
Anne Aisenberg
Pat DeButts
Brenda Steffens
June Windle Family
Cindy Sousa
Cheryl DeCeault
Sara Frey
Aliah Farquhar
Mary Hood
Ben Costello
Ben Barnes & Family
Pope Leo XIV
Katie Happel
Dale & Marsha Barley
Gwen Moyer
Will St. Pierre
Carol Fries
Joan Patton
Clayton Carbaugh
Al Schollenberger
Gary Rutherford
Vern Gamble
Chick Doroffee
Nepal Disaster
Rick Ours
Judy Gaines
Lorin & Bill Goulart
Kraig Hawkins
Roger Callis
Tim & Katherine Loftis
Jim Keeler
Marcia Jaureguizar
Lyn Warren
Linda Swiger
Mike Shade
Marge & Tim Higgins
Susan Arthur
Tammy Mowery Earhart
Dan Cammer
Middle East War
Lori Jones & Stephen Armstrong
Mike & Trish Crawford
JoAnne Farrell
Judy Camper
David Lewis
All Struggling with Mental Illness
Nancy Kerns
Jewish & Muslim Victims Worldwide
Cindy Corell
Katie Wolf
Ukraine
Ethiopia Church Mekane Yesus

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES

Caleb Smith, 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 Apple Pie Ridge Elementary School in Frederick County, VA

In Remembrance:

William "Bill" E. Gesell *(October 29, 1939 – October 27, 2026)*

Ewell "Mo" Mohler *(May 30, 1936 – October 28, 2026)*

"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 11:26-26

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – November 1

All Saints' Sunday; Communion

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM Car Vacuuming Fundraiser – Parking Lot & Curb
8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM Opie's Playhouse – Memorial Sanctuary
9:45 AM Faith Formation – Bageant Room & Zoom
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
1:30 PM Spring Arbor Worship

THIS WEEK

Monday:	9:30 AM	Older Adult Planning Team – Bageant Room
	12:30 PM	Visitation for June Windle – Gathering Area
	1:00 PM	Memorial Service for June Windle – Sanctuary
		Fellowship Meal – Fellowship Hall
	5:30 PM	Windsong Rehearsal – Memorial Sanctuary
Tuesday:	**Election Day – Please Vote!**	
	1:00 PM	Disciple Faith Formation – Bageant Room
	5:00 PM	Tech Team – Bageant Room
	6:00 PM	Ministry Team Night – Fellowship Hall
Wednesday:	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting – Bageant Room
	4:30 PM	Logos (Theme: Choc-o-Lot Night)
	6:30 PM	WOW ("Worship on Wednesday") Service – Sanctuary
		All Logos Young People Participating
	7:15 PM	Choir Practice – Sanctuary
	8:00 PM	Christmas Cantata Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Thursday:	10:30 AM	Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary
	6:30 PM	Sherando Food Pantry
Friday:	7:30 PM	Will Schwantes' Senior Concert Watch Party – Fellowship Hall

NEXT SUNDAY – November 8

Stewardship Dedication & Pledge Sunday; Fudge Festival; Veterans' Day Recognition
Scriptures: Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25; Matthew 25:1-13 Sermon: "We Will Serve the Lord!"

8:30 AM Worship & Baptism – Sanctuary
9:45 AM Faith Formation – Bageant Room & Zoom
10:45 AM Congregational Meeting
11:00 AM Worship, Baptism, & New Members – Sanctuary & Livestream
12:15 PM Senior Outreach Ministry
1:30 PM Scouting "God + Me" Class – Memorial Sanctuary

CAR VACUUMING FUNDRAISER – Today

The Youth will have shop vacs ready as you pull up to the church parking lot curb **TODAY, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM**! Come see the satisfaction that comes from a freshly vacuumed carpet. Please remove small objects from the floor of your vehicle. Donations will support Youth Mission Trips & Camps/Conferences. Thank you!

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE

Opie's Playhouse is a monthly gathering specially planned for children and caregivers. Join us **today** at **9:45 AM** in the Memorial Sanctuary for toys, snacks, and juice for our little ones, and coffee and conversation for our adults. We will roll out the carpets, bring in the toys, and the fun begins!

OLDER ADULT PLANNING TEAM

The Older Adult planning team meets **tomorrow** morning at **9:30 AM** in the Bageant Room. This team discusses plans for Happy Days events, day trips, and special events. Any older adult is invited to be part of the meeting. Morning goodies and coffee are provided.

MUSIC RECITAL WATCH PARTY

Will Schwantes is hosting his Senior Degree Recital on **Friday, November 6**, at the University of Delaware's Gore Recital Hall. This is a culmination of his experiences and time spent at the University of Delaware, and he's eager to share it with you through a livestream watch party in OPC's Fellowship Hall. Doors open at **7:30 PM** and livestream of the concert will begin at **8:00 PM**. You may also watch it at: www.youtube.com/live/kAsZNQ_VNLg?is=TDdJ9ydYbT5aY2xa

THANKSGIVING BANANA BOXES

We still have many banana boxes waiting to be filled with donations of Thanksgiving food for local families in need! Boxes contain a list of items needed and should be returned by **November 15**. Return your filled boxes to the church on a Sunday, **Monday, November 9 (5:00 PM – 6:00 PM)**, or on **Friday, November 13 (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)**. Helpers will be available to accept and unload your boxes.

PREPARING FOR ADVENT!

You probably don't want to think about Advent yet. Of course, we haven't even had Thanksgiving! However, in preparation for Advent, we need to begin some things now. For 23 years now, we will again produce and author our own Advent Devotional. We cannot do it without YOU. We need writers! The theme of our Advent Devotional is "ADVENT INSPIRATIONS". Would you be willing to share your thoughts on meaningful Advent memories, traditions, seasonal wisdom or encouragement? Your reflections will help make our annual Advent Devotional a treasured possession. You are invited to be a writer and contribute to this year's Advent Devotional. Let Carole Witt know you are willing to write something. (dce@opequonchurch.org) All submissions are due to Carole by **November 15**.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ellen Cunningham
Beadle: Sven Thulin
Door Greeters: Winter Brooks, Sheryl Massey
Ushers: Steve Bock, Jim Horner, Mike Butler, Caleb Garcia
Acolyte: Caleb Garcia
Building Stewards: Ben Brooks, Winter Brooks

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: David Pelfrey
Beadle: Alan Berry
Door Greeters: Pat Heavner, Judy Moody
Ushers: Mike Jeffries, Fran Jeffries, Mike Nutry, Joshua Batcha, Jaxson Hughes, Tommy McCann
Acolyte: Joshua Batcha
Livestream: Susan Ritter, Brad Jordan

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✍ How did the music today honor the saints and God's call to lead worthy lives?

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

✍ How will God's love work in you this week? What will you share?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

✍ Who are you remembering today? What "precious memories" do you have?
✍ Who are the saints who have formed you? If they are living, have you ever talked with them about how their lives have shaped your own?
✍ Did they give you advice? What difference did their love make in how you received their advice?
✍ Which specific promise in Revelation (no hunger, no thirst, no scorching heat, or wiped tears) resonates most deeply with the trials we experience today?
✍ How does the image of a Lamb at the center of a throne acting as a shepherd speak to you?
✍ How does living a life worthy of God challenge your daily actions?
✍ How can you cultivate a heart that allows God's word to actively "work" inside you rather than just treating it as information?
✍ How will you "mean to be a saint" this week in your walk with God?

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CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Session of Opequon Presbyterian Church calls for a meeting of the congregation next **Sunday, November 8**, at **10:45 AM** for the purpose of hearing the report of the Nominating Committee and proceeding to elect new officers. The committee will nominate the following: four Ruling Elders (**Rebekah DesMarais, Andy Homan, Jack Marquis, Sheyenne Ervin**); five Deacons (**Debbie Bender, Ben Brooks, Mary Elson, Judy Gaines, Judy Moody**); and one Trustee (**Thom Picciuto**). Nominations may also be made from the floor with the prior consent of the person nominated. Please join us for this opportunity of electing leadership as you exercise your privilege and responsibility as members of Opequon Church.



Making popcorn balls requires **multiple steps and ingredients** – popped corn, binder, and shaping – to create something new and cohesive. This reflects how a church community is built from diverse individuals whose gifts and stories are woven together into a unified whole. The act of making them together fosters collaboration and shared purpose. In the "popcorn parable," kernels respond at different times and in different ways. This mirrors the reality of a church where people join, grow, and contribute at different stages of life. The community's engagement is about welcoming all "kernels" – whether early, late, or still unresponsive – and giving them space to "pop" in their own time.

HOW TO MAKE POPCORN BALLS

Ingredients:

- **7–8 cups popped popcorn** (about ½ cup unpopped kernels)
- **¾ cup white sugar**
- **¾ cup brown sugar** (or white sugar)
- **½ cup water**
- **½ cup light corn syrup** (or molasses for a richer flavor)
- **¾ cup butter**
- **1 teaspoon vanilla extract**
- **½ teaspoon salt**

Directions:

Keep popped popcorn warm in a 200°F oven while preparing syrup. In a 2-quart saucepan, stir together the sugar, corn syrup, water, butter, and salt. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil. Continue cooking without stirring until temperature reaches 270°F on a candy thermometer or until a small amount of syrup dropped into very cold water separates into threads, which are hard but not brittle. Remove from heat. Add vanilla and stir just enough to mix through the hot syrup. Slowly pour over popcorn, stirring to coat every kernel. Cool just enough to handle. Using buttered hands, shape into balls. Cool on foil or buttered wax paper. Wrap in plastic wrap; tie with a ribbon.