



The Opequon Spirit

"Prayerfully Equipping Disciples of All Generations to be
Christ's Hands, Heart and Feet in the world"

April 2023

WORSHIP IN APRIL:

8:30 am In-Person & Livestream
11:00 am In-Person

SUNDAY, APRIL 2nd – Palm Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2,19-29,
Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon: "Who Is This?!"

Communion, CCAP

SUNDAY, APRIL 9th – The Day of Resurrection

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Sermon: "Daring Faith"

Communion, One Great Hour of Sharing

SUNDAY, APRIL 16th – The Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Sermon: "Christ's Peace"

SUNDAY, APRIL 23rd – The Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

Sermon: "On Our Walk"

4 cents a Meal Offering

New Member Sunday, Baptism (11:00 AM)

SUNDAY, APRIL 30th – The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Psalm 23, Acts 2:42-47,
John 10:1-10

Sermon: "Shepherding People"

Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering

LOOKING INTO HOLY WEEK...

Sunday, April 2 – **Palm/Passion Sunday,**
8:30 & 11:00 am, Parade of Palms

Thursday, April 6 - **Maundy Thursday**
Communion Worship, 7:00 pm,
Fellowship Hall

Friday, April 7 – **"Music Reflections"**
12:00 Noon, Reflection & Meditation in the
Sanctuary, with Music & Readings

Friday, April 7 – **Good Friday Tenebrae**
Worship, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary, Good Friday
Liturgy & Music

Sunday, April 9 – **The Day of Resurrection**
Easter Sunrise Worship, 6:15 am
Pitcock Memorial Shelter

Breakfast, 7:00 am
Fellowship Hall

**Resurrection Day Worship, 8:30 &
11:00 am**

Communion,
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

BRING FLOWERS FOR EASTER CROSSES

We will have two "flowering crosses" outside for Easter: the traditional one at the Pitcock Shelter for the sunrise service and the newer one, in the island outside the porch entrance to the Gathering Area. We added this newer one during the pandemic as a welcoming sign of new life. So, we invite you to bring fresh flowers to decorate one or both of the crosses, bringing flowers to the 6:15 AM Sunrise Service or bringing flowers to the 8:30 and 11:00 AM services.

NOTES FROM PASTOR DAVID:

“Second Chances & New Life”

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's time for another true confession with a story of embarrassing moments! One Saturday afternoon back in January, Carole and I went to see *A Man Called Otto* at the Alamo (if you didn't see the movie, it is a good one, but be prepared for some surprises and emotions!) We were sitting in the middle of the first row of the upper section, the large walkway for the staff right in front of us. As usual, I ordered the bottomless bowl of popcorn. We were about 25 minutes into the movie, stainless steel popcorn bowl in my hand, when I sensed a piece of popcorn on my sweater. When I reached down to retrieve it, oops, whoa, everything went cattywampus! I knocked the bowl upside down and it went cascading, clang clang, on the floor in front of me, then down to the lower aisle, popcorn spewing out everywhere! Oh my goodness, what a humiliating experience. Our server came running immediately, picking up the bowl and telling me she would bring me another one. At that point I wasn't really interested in having more popcorn, but she soon delivered one. But no one, no one ever came to sweep up the debris, so throughout the movie, the staff trampled over spilled popcorn again and again, a constant reminder of my mishap. The guy in theater 4 who caused a commotion may have been the talk of the Alamo that day! Carole and I have now returned to the Alamo twice since then, sitting in the same seats. I have had the bottomless bowl of popcorn each time and behaved myself. I have tightly hugged onto the bowl and ignored any errant popcorn. All has gone well with my second and third chances, and thankfully, I haven't been thrown out of the theater for causing a disturbance.

When I read the post-resurrection stories about Jesus meeting his disciples, I celebrate second and third chances. You can recall with

me where the twelve disciples were at the foot of the cross of Christ: nowhere to be found! While the women were there, the disciples had fled, as those who had denied and betrayed Jesus. Yet, after Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to both the women and the disciples, ministering to them, offering peace. In particular, we discover that Peter, who had denied knowing Jesus three times, now is blessed and called by Jesus (John 21) to go forward, feeding Jesus' sheep, extending Jesus' ministry. Through a restored relationship with his Savior and Master, Peter is given a second chance, maybe even a third, his humiliation and embarrassment set aside in favor of the new life and reconciliation Jesus brings.

In this season of new life, of hope and grace, of second chances and forgiveness, we meet the risen Jesus, who invites us to go forward, to feed his sheep, to extend his ministry. What an honor and privilege to share together in celebrating our decision to follow Jesus and to live into our faith. I invite you to experience the drama, the stories, the encounters of Holy Week and post-resurrection by joining us for worship throughout this month.

Easter Blessings,



PASTOR JULIA'S MUSINGS

Friends,

As spring begins to spring, storms rip through the valley, creeks fill, and dew coats new leaves in the mornings, the words 'God's living water' are almost inescapable in my mind. I see this water everywhere I go.

My dog especially is drawn to this water. Every time we walk a path that goes by a stream, he pulls me to the side, determined to get his feet wet. He looks back at me, with a huge grin on his face, trying to convince me to let him jump in. His faith that the water indeed will be a fun

time, will quench his thirst, will bring him joy is something to admire.

There's a lot of joy to be found in the water of Christ.

We are brought into this water in our baptisms, the moments that claim us as Christ's own in a larger community of believers.

We remind ourselves of these waters every time we participate in confession, every time we remember our baptisms, every time we claim ourselves of Christ's own.

We can be reminded of these waters every time we see water in creation, in raindrops on windows and trickling waterfalls.

And we are called to respond to these waters, every day.

I wonder, what would happen if we see the living water of Christ with the same joyful abandon as a Goldendoodle who sees a stream? What if we pulled our lives to the side for just a second to embrace the joyfulness that that water of Christ brings?

As you see water around you this month, think about what the living waters of God have given you. Embrace that joy with abandon. And realize that it's calling you to do something, every day.

Let us rejoice in God's living water.

Blessings,
Pastor Julia



JUST THINKIN'

Something about getting ready for Easter this year makes me want a pair of patten-leather shoes, the shiny black ones with a MaryJane strap. Sadly, I also want a pair of white socks with lace at the top. I don't think they make those in my size.



It's fun to remember the Easters of childhood. They started early in the morning. The three of us, me, my brother and my sister, filled our baskets but could not eat anything until after church. Sometimes we snuck a taste, but Mom and Dad seemed not to notice.

If the weather was good, we walked the three blocks to the church, joined by others in an Easter Parade. If it was snowy or Grandma was with us, we drove. We all had something new to wear. The women always had new hats; we were Episcopalians, after all.

Easter meant a lot of work for a family of florists. We had spent the previous week making corsages for all ages. Adult women ordered orchids, roses, carnations, and a few could even afford gardenias. I was not fond of gardenia corsages as even the lightest brush of a misplaced finger would leave a brown mark and make the bloom unusable. Grandma made the gardenia corsages because she was the least likely to ruin things. I began with carnations and progressed through roses to orchids. I especially liked the cattleyas.

What I truly loved was making the children's carnation bunnies. These had chenille ears and hair bows; bow ties for the boys. Stems from dried starflowers made the whiskers. Pink berries made the nose. I could make dogs, cats, and even chicks out of carnations. It was neat to see them ready for delivery on Saturday morning.



Easter lilies were abundant and easily grown in the greenhouse. Each lily was wrapped in foil, dressed in a bright bow, and plucked.

Plucking meant taking the yellow stamens out before they could stain the white blooms with a yellow ring. That job took small fingers.

After the family greenhouse closed for good, Easter changed for all of us. Easter dinner became more important. We had more energy. We no longer had to nudge Dad awake for the sermon.

We began to celebrate Easter Sunday as holy. I remember our Confirmation teacher explaining the importance of Peter and the cock crowing, the horrid details of crucifixion, and (surprisingly) the importance of Mary, who discovered Jesus in the garden. Grandpa asked us questions at Easter dinner and truly listened to our responses. I began to think about Jesus rather than corsages. I began to take Him seriously.

So here I am, Easter is looming, and I am distracted by shoes and socks. As a pastor, even a retired pastor, I cannot escape the very human preparations. Still, the quiet experience of entering the sanctuary, seeing it ready for our Resurrection celebration, knowing that "He is risen indeed" still moves me. The child-like sense of wonder is still there...patent leather shoes or not.

Tracie

**APRIL MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT MEAL
TUESDAY, APRIL 4 – 6:00 PM**

- Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwiches
- Potato Chips, Mixed Vegetables
- Tossed Salad
- Texas Sheet Cake

STAFF SCHEDULE (APRIL)

Since several of our full-time church staff work all day Sunday, they each have a day off during the week. Please respect this day and remember that they are "technology free" (i.e., do not expect responses to texts and emails). There are also additional days this month which some of our staff will be out of the office.

Pastor Julia Burkley – off on Mondays

*April 10-12 – Continuing Education

Pastor David Witt – off on Fridays

*April 28-May 6 – Vacation

DCE Carole Witt – off on Tuesdays & Fridays

*April 28-May 6 – Vacation

If a pastoral concern arises during these times, please note who is away and call Pastors David, Julia, or Tracie as needed.

**SUPPORT HIGHLAND FOOD PANTRY
ON PANCAKE DAY**

Great news: The Highland Food Pantry has been selected as the major benefactor of the upcoming Kiwanis Club Community Pancake Day! It's scheduled for Saturday, April 29, from 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM, at the Jim Barnett Park War Memorial Building in Winchester. This year will feature both dine-in and carry-out options. Tickets are \$7.00 in advance and \$8.00 at the door. Highland Food Pantry volunteers are assisting with the event as well as helping to sell tickets: if you'd like to purchase some, they will be available for pick up on April 9, 16, and 23 in the Gathering Area between services. Just contact Barbara Rupert (barrup53@gmail.com or 540 247-6951) and let her know how many tickets you'd like. Thanks for supporting both the Kiwanis Club and the Highland Food Pantry by attending this long-standing and beloved community event.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

- ✓ Rev. Tracie Martin, Parish Associate, shared a Prayer of Thanksgiving for the gift of the lives and love of Opequon members who died in 2022: Robert Franklin Walker, Elizabeth "Betty" Dobler, Stephen "Steve" Vess, Elinor "Ellie" May Lingo, Leroy Ward Edwards, and Mary Louise "Mary Lou" Thomas.
- ✓ The annual Statistical Report reflects an active membership as of January 1, 2022, of 522. Over the year, there were 34 gains and 35 losses, resulting in an active membership of 521 as of December 31, 2022.
- ✓ Those officers who have completed their recent terms were thanked and honored: Elders Katherine Newhouse, Mitch Orndorff, Lisa Reed, and David Schwantes, who is now serving a new term; Deacons Alyce Callahan, Bill Martin, and Graham Taylor, who is now serving a new term; and Trustee George Schember.
- ✓ We ended 2022 with a slight net deficit of \$ 12,685, primarily because a payment of \$20,000 was made in January 2022 to pay down the mortgage.
- ✓ Treasurer/Elder Ron Smith presented the 2023 church budget, totaling just under \$ 791,000.
- ✓ Ann Denison, Mike Jeffries, Shannon Brannon, and Linda Bock were elected as congregational representatives to the Church Nominating Committee.
- ✓ A celebration of Opequon's ministry in 2022 video, prepared by Debbie Bender, with photos from Debbie, Alyce Callahan, and Rebekah Witt, was shown.
- ✓ George Schember, Chair of the Trustees and President of Opequon Presbyterian Church Inc. reviewed the investments and presented the slate of corporate officers

who were then elected: Travis Morgan, President, Laverne Cooper, Vice President, Bill Bayliss, Secretary, and Ron Smith Treasurer.

- ✓ The congregation encircled the sanctuary and sang the Doxology.

March 21, 2023 Stated Meeting

- Session met with eight newcomers and welcomed the following into the fellowship of Opequon Presbyterian Church: Bob Aylor, Marsha and Dale Barley, Michelle Hammer, Karen Popielski, Rex & Helen Ritchie, and Bettye Stirn.
- On behalf of OPC, Session welcomed the arrival of Rachel Lesink as our new Office Administrator on March 13, 2023.
- Technology and Communications will purchase an additional wireless hand-held microphone, especially essential for LOGOS worship leadership.
- Personnel and Administration: Session approved a COVID/Illness policy for Opequon church staff, to be included in the Employee Handbook currently under revision.
- Worship Team announced the return of summer WOW services on June 25, July 23, and August 23 at 6:00pm. The portable restroom with handwashing station will be available in the picnic shelter area beginning April 1st.
- Christian Education (CE) Ministry: Upcoming May/June planned events include confirmation of our three confirmands on Sunday, May 21 (11:00 AM) and recognition of High School graduates on Sunday, June 4 (10:00 AM). LOGOS will be continued for our middle and high school youth during April and May (5:30-7:00pm).
- Session approved CE's recommendation to extend the nursery care age up to 5 years.
- Youth and Young Adult Director Rebekah Witt is busy coordinating plans for a Youth Mission weekend in Craigsville, VA (June 30-July 2).

- Visioning Ministry – Building on Opequon’s physical asset mapping last fall, the Vision Team convened a guest panel discussion on March 9th to provide insight about community needs in Winchester. Three invited community leaders representing health, housing, and education shared their insight on these topic areas. The panel summary combined with further input gathered from Opequon members at the Potato Bake event will serve to guide the discussion as Opequon’s leadership works to identify and discover community needs and new ways to utilize OPC’s “physical assets” at the 2023 Leadership Retreat April 22nd.
- Mission Ministry: An initial payment (\$600) will be sent to Presbytery to reserve OPC’s commitment goal of 6 participants for the Baja Mission trip.
- Roots and Shoots planting day and blessing of the garden is set for Saturday, May 13 (9 AM-Noon) with rain date May 20 (9 AM-Noon). Please join us.
- Evangelism: A Newcomers’ Social for all 2022 and 2023 new members will be held in Fellowship Hall on April 23 (4:00-5:00 PM).
- Buildings and Grounds was busy in March. The ceiling tile project is finally done, and the installed new lighting in the Gathering Area shines brightly! Tracie’s new desk is assembled in the Bageant Room. Thanks to the many Opequon “hands” assisting in *March Mulch Madness* on Saturday March 18! Annual cleanup was completed from the battlefield wall to OPC Memorial Garden. Funds approved to begin the sanctuary sidewalk lighting project are being spent.
- Stewardship & Finance reported that giving has been strong in the first quarter and excess cash will be placed in a high yield money market account until needed. The Manse lease renewal (due June 1) is under discussion.
- Safety Monitor training led by the Safety Team was held on March 20 for fourteen people. Historically, the major issues addressed by the Safety Team have been for medical issues.
- The Clerk reported that OPC’s 2022 minutes were deemed complete at the Shenandoah Presbytery Reading/Review hosted at Opequon on Saturday, March 18.

Ann C.M. Smith, Clerk

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is one of the four church-wide special offerings sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is highlighted during Lent, received and dedicated on Easter. This year marks the **74th Anniversary** of the first OGHS, begun as American Christians recognized the need to respond to the worldwide devastation caused by World War II. In March 1949, a national broadcast on a Saturday evening asked Americans to give generously the next morning in their churches; a remarkable assembly of national leaders and celebrities gave their efforts to the broadcast, and more than 75,000 churches responded the next day. Today, our contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing are divided equally among the **Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People**. When it come to Easter Sunday, let there be no mistake about our commitment to feed the poor and help the afflicted as we respond to the new life received in and through Christ. We encourage everyone to give to OGHS. Special envelopes are available beginning April 2.

Family Easter Event

Easter Sunday brings the annual Family Easter Event, April 9, at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall. Children and families are invited to come enjoy the Incredible Egg Drop demonstration, the Easter story told through M&M's, a short video, and participate in the COLORFUL EGG HUNT. Children are asked to bring a basket or bag to collect their eggs in. A goodie bag is given to each child as we end this fun event.



OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE



Our new Sunday morning playgroup has gotten off to a wonderful start! Fellowship Hall is transformed each time we meet into a giant playroom full of toys. The children just love to come

and play and make new friends. And the adults enjoy having a cup of coffee and getting to know other parents while their children explore.

Opie's Playhouse will meet again on April 2nd from 9:45 to 10:45 am. We invite all babies and children ages 7 and under and their parent and caregivers to join us anytime during the hour. Older siblings welcome too! We hope you come to play!

Our Daily Bread Adult Bible Study:

Are you craving a deeper dive into the Bible? Do you want to talk in depth with others about the texts for the upcoming Sunday? Our Daily Bread will take a three-week hiatus starting 3/29, and will resume back on 4/19 at a new time: Wednesdays at 5 pm in the assembly room! Looking forward to seeing you there.

Watercolor Exhibit to Benefit

OPC Mission Disaster Relief Efforts

Member Karen Winters has a solo Watercolor Art Exhibit on display at Lake Frederick from April 24 through May 15. Twenty-five percent of the art proceeds will benefit



disaster relief efforts through OPC. A "Meet the Artist" reception is scheduled for April 26 from 4:00-6:00 pm at Shenandoah Lodge / Regions 117, 180 Bald Eagle Drive, Lake Frederick. You are invited to the reception or to view the more than 40 watercolors anytime during the 3 week-long exhibit. The lodge is open Sundays 9-3, Mon-Tue 9-5, and Wed- Sat 9-9.

Karen has donated her artwork for live and silent auction items at several of OPC's previous fundraisers, and last year enhanced the fencing with her art at our Roots & Shoots Garden.

STEWARDSHIP



The end of March and the beginning of April finishes the first giving quarter for our church. Where have you put your fingerprints at Opequon Church this quarter? A quick walk around the building reveals a lot. The stained ceiling tiles have been replaced. Things look so much better. Pastor Tracie now has a desk again. While shoveling snow has not been a concern, the absence of ice and slush gives us a good sense of things getting ready to grow again. Our Holy Grounds group's work last autumn is very visible. Roots and Shoots Garden has begun to wake from winter slumber. Workdays have already begun. The building is spiffy and clean even with constant use. The Administrative desk, recently filled by volunteers, is now occupied by Rachel. We are happy to welcome her, meet her, and to help her get to know us. Fellowship Time followed worship as we ordained and installed new officers, craft

classes are held monthly with creative results, and the annual Potato Bake was well done, well attended, and staffed by our resident leprechaun.

All of this is to say that the church is doing well. Visitors are visiting; many return. Faith Formation is ongoing; Confirmation is coming up soon. Our world is awakening; Easter is near. Your fingerprints are all over Opequon Church. Your participation makes things work. Your support makes many aspects of our church family life possible...sometimes even easy. Your stewardship of time, talents, and energy is noteworthy. Our faith-lives matter to God, to the community, and to each other. A new season is coming. Come out and join in. Find your place and help plan the fun. Bring a friend. Leave your fingerprints all over God's world, and especially OPC.

Older Adult Happenings

Wishing a happy heart grows within you this month! Happy Spring! There are happy times happening at Opequon, especially for you. The Older Adult Team meets to discuss plans for Happy Days gatherings and other events. New faces are always welcome to the meetings. This team will meet on Monday, April 3, at 9:30 am in the Bageant Room. A tasty morning treat will be provided.

This month's Happy Days gathering takes place on **Wednesday, April 12 in the Fellowship Hall, beginning at Noon.** We are having our own Apple Blossom Festival at Happy Days! Wear some pink and green and have fun at this Spring event. There will be a photo booth, the singing of the Apple Blossom song, Apple Blossom trivia and the **GREAT APPLE DESSERT CONTEST!** We will begin with a potluck luncheon (Rotisserie Chicken provided) and then enjoy the festivities. Bring your favorite covered dish. If you plan to bring a dessert, we are asking for



ONLY APPLE DESSERTS which will be part of the contest. The winner of the Apple Dessert will be crowned as KING or QUEEN of our Apple Blossom event. All older adults are welcome!

A local trip touring Winchester to learn about historical and special places is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 10:00am. George Schember is our historical guide. This trip is full but if you would like to meet the group for lunch at Piccadilly Pub that day, please let Carole Witt know.

Nominate an OLDER ADULT for "Opequon's 2023 Older Adult of the Year"

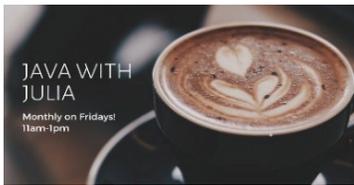


So many of our older adults have been recognized as our "Older Adults of the Year". We celebrate that those crowned in the past are Roy Bayliss, John Boyd, Frances Smith, Louise Duncan, Bill Robinson, Shirley and Dave Brumble, Rob MacGregor, Ty Headley, Edgar Tufts, Howard Kent, Donna Coffman, Betty Gano, Carol Tubbs, Graham Taylor, Carol and Jack Treece, Dick and Gail Crane, Martha Fulton, Becky Proctor, Steve Brown, Edwina Johansen, and Betty Chicklo and June Malone. It is time to share nominations for this year's older adult of the year. Who would you like to nominate? There are forms available on the Gathering area table. Share who you nominate and **WHY**. Nominations are due by May 7 and they may come from anyone in the congregation. Forms may be returned to Carole Witt or dropped in the box provided on the table. The session will review the nominations and make the selection. The 2023 Older Adult of the Year will be announced at the Older Adult Luncheon on May 17.



GLOW: God-loving Opequon Women

GLOW is Opequon's multi-aged women's group that meets monthly to build friendships and enjoy heart-warming activities together. GLOW had a terrific evening last month with a 'Welcome Back Bash'. There was great food, great laughter, and great fun. GLOW will meet this month on Tuesday, April 11 at 6:00pm for **DINNER OUT** at Alto De Jalisco. Treat yourself to dinner out and enjoy great conversation at the tables with friends. GLOW is open to all ladies of Opequon. Treat yourself to a little time with the 'girls'.



JAVA WITH JULIA

Hello all! I look forward to seeing you all anytime between 11:00 am –

1:00 pm for Java with Julia! Let us get out into the community and meet with one another!

April 21: Trip to Community Cup and More (see below!):

*please note that we will no longer be meeting on April 29th

May 26th:

Hideaway Cafe:

141 S Loudoun St, Winchester, VA 22601

June 30th:

Hopscotch Cafe

250 Millwood Ave, Winchester, VA 22601

August 25th:

Espresso Bar and Cafe

165 N Loudoun St, Winchester, VA 22601

TRIP TO COMMUNITY CUP COFFEE AND MORE

There's an exciting new ministry in the area! Community Cup Coffee and More is a coffee house and meeting place in Martinsburg, WV that creates a safe place for all to come, be in conversation and enjoy a cuppa something with friends and the community. Started out of

Shenandoah Presbytery, this coffee shop is redefining what it means to be church and will eventually bring in a full-time chaplain! And here's the exciting news: we get to go and check it out and talk with them! Meet at Opequon at **12:15 pm on April 21**, and we'll take the church van up to Martinsburg to grab a cup of coffee or tea and a locally sourced pepperoni roll as we talk with some of the founders and learn about this incredible space.

To share numbers with our hosts, please RSVP to Pastor Julia by Sunday, April 16!



CHILDREN are WELCOME in WORSHIP

Children learn how to worship by worshipping alongside parents and all of us. We make promises in Baptisms to nurture children in faith and teaching them; showing them how to worship is an important part of that process. There are normal challenges for children as they try to get through a whole worship service. So, there are things to help parents and children during this time...

PUPPETS, PEW DOODLE CARDS, and A VIEW FROM THE PEW PAGES all provide some ways to help children during worship. A big bin of puppets is in the back of the sanctuary for children to take one and use during worship. The puppet can sing, pray,



listen to the choir, and even join a child during the conversation with all ages. It has been great to see puppets being used during worship time. Pew Doodle Cards are available. Children can see the shape on their card and try to look for other things of that same shape in the

sanctuary. And View from the Pew picture pages offer the children an opportunity to see different things in the Sanctuary from where they are sitting. Children's bibles and children's worship bags are also available. All of these demonstrate that children are welcome here and are invited to make worship time meaningful for them as they worship WITH us.

NURSERY AGE SHIFT

Opequon has a wonderful nursery with paid caregivers dedicated



to our youngest children each Sunday morning. The nursery is a bright, cheery place with many great toys. The nursery age limit is shifting slightly to help accommodate parents who do have young children. Children from birth through age 3 are invited to be in the nursery at any time during worship. When a child turns 4, they are invited to be in the nursery after the Conversation with All Ages that occurs part way through Sunday morning worship. This helps children aged 4 experience some time in the sanctuary and then some time to be able to play as worship continues. This also helps transition children for when they turn 5 to be able to stay more readily in the sanctuary for the full worship time.

A "GIFT" EVENT- SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 9:45 AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

GIFT stands for "Generations in Faith Together" and it truly is a gift to have all ages and stages together during the Sunday morning educational hour (known as FAITH FORMATION) at 9:45am. The theme for this morning is "GOD'S COMING TO VISIT". Imagine how this news would spread like lightning and we would wonder when will God arrive? Come explore the



nature of God's presence even when God may not appear in the ways we expect, but God is with us. There will be good food and good company. Everyone is invited.

SENIOR OUTREACH MINISTRY

Join us in spreading kindness to our neighbors who live in low-income housing on April 2 at 12:15pm. Please note the date change because of Easter. Let Rebekah Witt know if you'd like to participate. Donations welcome: Canned soup, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap & sponges, canned vegetables, pudding cups, fruit cups, and 2-in-1 shampoo & conditioner.

APRIL GATHERING WITH THE MEN OF OPEQUON

The Men of Opequon's (MOO) April gathering will begin with dinner at Chick-fil-A on Monday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m. We will then travel to the church for our meeting at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, where we will share devotions and prayer and enjoy a special presentation by a member of the Winchester Police Department. All men are invited. **Also, all men: please join the prep/cooking/serving team for the Easter Sunrise Breakfast on April 9. Be in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 AM!**



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

We will be taking blood pressures on Sunday, April 16, 2023.

FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

Fellowship Book Club will meet in the Bageant Room on April 27th at 6:00 PM. The book selection for April is Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah and the selection for May is The Wiregrass by Pam Webber (local author).





The Latest in LOGOS

We ran the race of faith as we

persevered through our 25th LOGOS year which concluded on March 29. It was a fantastic year full of so much to be thankful for, especially the 50+ young people from age 4 through high school that we were privileged to spend time with each Wednesday evening. We also celebrate our SPOON HANGING Competition winners this year: Joshua Batcha and Bo Weber! They were amazing at hanging a spoon from their nose for a LONG time! We appreciate evaluation comments from our LOGOS young people, parents and LOGOS staff as we begin now to plan for the new LOGOS year that will begin in September. It has been said that "LOGOS is one of the best things happening at Opequon!" We aim to keep that going year after year. LOGOS year #26 is on the horizon and we have our eyes on it. We look forward to growing stronger each year in our love for God and one another. For more information about LOGOS, contact Carole Witt at 540-662-1843 or dce@opequonchurch.org.

EMAIL LIST? Do you want to be in the know regarding upcoming Fellowship Ministry Team events. You can be put on an email list and choose what event that you want to be part of. Just send an email to Marj at teachandwritemp@gmail.com or call or text her at 540-327-2667.

THE OPC COFFEE HOUSE/OPEN MIC

will be held on Sunday, April 30th from 6-7:30 pm. Coffee and tea will be provided. A snack or dessert item would be appreciated. If you are able, please try to bring in your food items by 5:30 pm. That will allow the set-up team time to prepare the food tables and allow the entertainers to eat before they perform. At least 8 singing groups or solo acts and a magician will provide entertainment.



FYI - At the recent Potato Bake, the Visioning team asked several questions. What about OPC makes you proud as a Peacock? What are our Squirrels, or distractions? What Dinosaurs could we eliminate? What could be our "Next Eggs" or future plans? We discovered that the people at this event have a lot of good ideas.



FAIR TRADE EQUAL EXCHANGE

Remember to stop in and pick up some great tasting coffee and a chocolate bar to enjoy! You will find these items in the kiosk located in the Gathering Area.



We are proud of our commitment to radical hospitality. Many people mentioned that. We also value our music at worship and our commitment to Faith Formation. The history of Opequon, our beautiful grounds, our staff, and our community involvement all got regular notice. The mission emphasis, many activities offered, and support of the congregation were also noted. What we saw was that we are proud of many things and we are not afraid to speak about them.

THE FLOWER CALENDAR



The **2023** Flower Calendar is available. You can link from the OpequonChurch.org website (flowers) or call the office @ 540-662-1843.



Under the topic of Squirrels, or distractions, we noted both good and tough distractions. Our busy-ness was noted as both good and tough, our many activities pleased a large number of respondents. Worship music was also noted as a good Squirrel. The presence of children and babies seems to distract us in very good ways. We find difficulty hearing in the sanctuary tough.



Dinosaurs included both personal issues and corporate concerns such as whether to dress up or not and repeated "rote" rituals. Sunday school for children as opposed to other things that engage children and families at other times was mentioned. Building issues were front and center. Our responses here especially demonstrated a need to communicate in many ways, repeatedly.

There will need to be a lot of discussion about our Dinosaurs, but it was interesting to note that even here the responses were generally upbeat and hopeful.

Next Eggs, or hopes for the future, centered around the hope for continued growth in several demographics



and the building. It seems many of us at this event are ready to consider enlarging Fellowship Hall, the kitchen, and the choir alcove. There were many specific ideas mentioned here, such as better lighting in the parking lot, increasing our outreach to youth and young families, accessibility, and – of course – a better sound system.

What we have gathered from this source of information so far is that OPC is still a congregation on the move. The Visioning Team

will spend time with these post-its, take in more information, and think and pray about it. Look for more results soon.

Want to add your two cents? Drop your ideas in Pastor Tracie's box at the church office or email her at assocopc@gmail.com.

Dear OPC,
This thank you is long overdue, but it is sent with great love to all OPC. Thanks for all the visits, kindnesses, food and prayers for Jeanette and myself from back in 2022. It has been a long period of adjustment for both of us. Being separated for so long after so many years together has been very hard. I continue to adjust to my lifestyle change and with God's help, will eventually make it however long it takes.



Our thanks, God's blessings,
Jeanette and Jim Baccary

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Announcing the theme for this Summer's VBS: **LIGHTS-STORIES-ACTION: STARRING**

YOU AND JESUS! VBS nights will be based on Parables-stories told by Jesus. We invite children ages 4 through 8th grade to kick off their summer with **VBS, June 11-14, 5:00-7:30 pm** each evening. There is so much to look forward to! Members of the Planning Team are Winter Brooks, Sharon Beach, Layne Link, Linda Shimer, Rebekah and Carole Witt. Registration will begin later this month on April 23. We hope to have your children and YOU as part of VBS this summer!

LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On is a monthly gathering of people who have lost a spouse or partner. We meet on the third Monday of the month at noon in Fellowship Hall for lunch and laughter. This month we will meet on April 17th. A main dish is provided; those who can bring a dish to pass. Those who no longer cook chip in a dollar or two and we sometimes purchase that main dish. Right now, we are also viewing *The Chosen*, an excellent series about the life of Jesus. If you have not tried *The Chosen*, you are really missing something. Contact Tracie (315-247-5969, or 304-856-2080) or call the office if you need a ride.



We extend our Christian love and empathy to the family of Carol Treece, a long-time member of Opequon Church, who died on Friday, March 17. Carol, along with her husband Jack, was a member of the choir for more than 35 years and served Opequon as an elder, teacher, and Christian Education and Fellowship Team member. She coordinated Food for Families. She was an original member of the LOGOS Leadership Team. Arrangements for a celebration of life service are pending until after Easter. Please pray for Jack and Carol's children, Diana and Brad Treece. Cards may be sent to Jack Treece at 148 Jeb Drive, Winchester, VA 22602.

Our hearts also go out to Allison and Chip Blake and family upon the death of Allison's father, Terry Caldwell, on Friday, March 17. Terry died after a long illness, surrounded by family in the Mayo Clinic hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. Please pray for Allison's mother, Brenda, and Allison, Chip, and their children, Joshua and Kristin. Arrangements for a celebration of life service are pending. Cards may be sent to Allison and Chip Blake at 1045 Heth Place, Winchester, VA 22601.

CRAFTER GATHERING – APRIL 15, 11 AM – 2 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Becky Proctor is taking a break, so there will be NO formal class. Bring ANY craft you wish to work on, your lunch, and a beverage for a time of sharing. Questions? Contact Susan Ritter, smatthiasritter@gmail.com or 540-869-5231.



MAY DIAPER DRIVE

The Mission Ministry Team has approved a diaper drive for CCAP during the month of May 2023. Diapers should be left in the Gathering Area of the church. Diapers in size

5 & 6 are requested. Diapers are some of the most requested and needed items by CCAP clients. Thanks for considering this request.

Opequon Presbyterian Church
Financial Summary for the period ended
February 28, 2023

	Annual Budget 2023	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
Income					
410000 Offering Income	790,095	48,256	137,159	652,936	17.4%
420000 Other Income	800	369	429	371	53.6%
Total 400000 Income	790,895	48,625	137,588	653,307	17.4%
Expenses					
500000 Personnel Costs					
510000 Installed Pastors	211,683	18,081	35,445	176,238	16.7%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	131,138	10,832	22,348	108,790	17.0%
530000 Administrative Staff	123,314	10,718	20,924	102,390	17.0%
Total 500000 Personnel Costs	466,135	39,631	78,718	387,418	16.9%
600000 Other Ministries					
610000 Christian Education	13,500	828	1,615	11,885	12.0%
620000 Congregational Care	2,000	299	472	1,528	23.6%
630000 Evangelism	2,750	0	0	2,750	0.0%
640000 Fellowship	3,550	6	416	3,134	11.7%
650000 Mission	69,750	12,433	15,142	54,608	21.7%
660000 Worship	7,000	188	637	6,363	9.1%
Total 600000 Other Ministries	98,550	13,754	18,282	80,268	18.6%
Total 700000 Church Administration	125,085	11,399	27,040	98,045	21.6%
Total Expenses	689,770	64,784	124,039	565,731	18.0%
Net Operating Income (Expense)	101,125	(16,159)	13,549	87,576	13.4%
920000 Other Income	16,900	2,537	4,055	12,845	24.0%
930000 Other Expenses	118,025	9,916	19,920	98,105	16.9%
Net Other Income (Expense)	(101,125)	(7,379)	(15,864)	(85,261)	15.7%
Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses	-	(23,538)	(2,315)	2,315	

	<u>2/28/23</u>
Cash	<u>\$ 209,960</u>
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance	<u>\$ 559,312</u>



LOIS G. CHAMMINGS SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is open to any Opequon Presbyterian Church

(OPC) 2022 graduating high school senior student, or any current student pursuing a post-high school education. This includes anyone affiliated with OPC who is working to obtain an associate's degree, four-year degree, technical school certification, or anyone who would benefit from a hand-up as they work their way through a continuing education.

Lois Chammings was born in Paterson, NJ, and was a resident of Stillwater, NJ since 1959. She received her master's in education from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Lois was a sixth-grade teacher at Stillwater Elementary School, retiring in 2004 after 35 years of service. As a member of Harmony Hill United Methodist Church, she held numerous positions in the church. She was also a member of the 4-H Advisory Council, a member of the 4-H Foundation, secretary for the Sussex County State Fair, the agriculture and forage director of the Sussex County State Fair, and a trustee to Chaps and Breeches in Stillwater. She was also a member of the Sussex County Retired Educators Association, a life member of the Stillwater Historical Society, and a member of the Sunshine Singers. Lois was an avid gardener and farmer as well.

Above all, she was an amazing mother, wife, sister, daughter, aunt, mentor, public servant, and friend to so many. The Birchenoughs would like to honor her life in a meaningful and impactful way.

-Mike and Sara Birchenough

Application Period: 3/27/23 – 5/1/23

Format: Essay – be concise

How to Apply: Email submissions to wvubirch@yahoo.com

Approximate Award: \$2,000+

Questions:

1. What are your current or future plans for post-high school education?
2. What profession do you plan to seek after graduation/certification?
3. How do you plan to pay for your education?
4. How would the Chammings Scholarship benefit your education?
5. How have/will you serve your community and pay it forward?



RACHEL BAYLISS SCHOLARSHIP TAKING APPLICATIONS

The Claytor and Bayliss families established the Rachel

Bayliss Scholarship Fund more than twenty-five years ago to support Opequon youth in their college or vocational endeavors. This fund has been supplemented by additional contributions and through regular donations by Happy Days in memory of older adults after their death. Thousands of dollars have been awarded through the years to well-deserving young people.

Scholarship applications ARE NOW AVAILABLE to both graduating high school seniors and current college students; please contact the church office by calling 540-662-1843 or emailing office@opequonchurch.org to request an application.

ALL APPLICATIONS FOR THE RACHEL BAYLISS SCHOLARSHIP MUST BE RETURNED TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SUNDAY, APRIL 30.

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

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
WINCHESTER VA
PERMIT 85

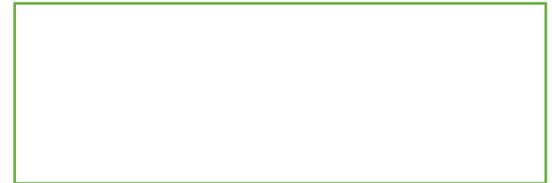
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"The Opequon Spirit" is the monthly newsletter of:

Opequon Presbyterian Church
217 Opequon Church Lane Winchester, VA 22602-2421
Phone: 540-662-1843 www.opequonchurch.org
Newsletter deadline is the Wednesday after the Stated Session Meeting.

Sunday Worship at 8:30 am and 11:00 am
Office Hours are 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday thru Thursday & 9:00 am to 12:30 pm Friday

David R. Witt Pastor
Julia H. Burkley Associate Pastor
Tracie Martin Parish Associate
Carole Witt Director of Christian Education
Rebekah Witt..... Director of Youth & Young Adults
William Heavner Organist
Susan Homan Director of Music
Rachel LesinkOffice Administrator
Ken Smiy Financial Administrator
Robert Sydnor Sexton
Laurie Carver Nursery Supervisor
Bill Martin, Mike Nutry,
Pat WilliamsFaith Community Nurses



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar..... insert
Christian Education.....p.7
Finance..... p. 14
Health Ministry..... p. 10
Pastor's David's Notes..... p.2
Pastor Julia's Musings.....p.2
Just Thinkin'.....p.3
Worship.....p.1

MAY DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR...

Tuesday, May 2 – May Ministry Team Night
Sunday, May 7 – Older Adult Sunday/Apple Blossom Sunday
Saturday, May 13 – "Roots & Shoots" Planting Day
Sunday, May 14 – Mother's Day/Christian Family Sunday, Baptism (11:00 AM)
Wednesday, May 17 – Annual Older Adult Luncheon (11:30 AM)
Sunday, May 21 – Confirmation Sunday (11:00 AM)
Sunday, May 28 – Pentecost Sunday, GIFT Event (9:45 AM)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2023			29 4:30P LOGOS 7:15P Choir Practice	30 10:30A Tai Chi 4:00P VBS Team Meets 6:30P Sherando Food Pantry 7:00P Micah 6:8	31 12 NOON Music Reflections - Sanctuary	1
2 Palm Sunday Communion 8:30A Worship 9:45A Faith Formation 9:45A Opie's Playhouse 11:00A Worship 12:15P Senior Outreach 1:30P Spring Arbor	3 9:30A Older Adult Ministry Planning 6:00P Windsong	4 10:00A Staff Mtg 4:30P Tech Team 6:00P Ministry Team Night	5 5:30P Youth LOGOS Ex. 6:00P Choir Practice	6 Maundy Thursday 10:30A Tai Chi 6:30P Sherando Food Pantry 7:00P Maundy Thursday Worship	7 Good Friday 12 NOON Music Reflections Sanctuary 7:00P Good Friday Worship	8
9 Easter Sunday 6:15A Sunrise Worship 7:00A Breakfast 8:30A Worship 9:45A Family Easter Event 11:00A Worship	10 Church Office Closed 6:00P MOO @ Chick-fil-A 6:00P Windsong 7:00P MOO Fellowship Hall	11 9:30A Tuesday Morning Mission 5:45P Youth Bowling 6:00P GLOW at Jalisco	12 12:00P Happy Days 6:00P Choir Practice 6:15 P Confirmation	13 10:30A Tai Chi	14	15 11:00A – 2:00P Crafter Gathering Fellowship Hall 2:00P Widell Service (Omps)
16 Blood Pressure Checks 8:30A Worship 9:45A Faith Formation 11:00A Worship	17 12:00P - Life Goes On 6:00P Windsong@ Sanctuary	18 10A Staff Meeting 7:00P Session Meeting	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 10:00A Adult Trip 5:00P Our Daily Bread Faith Formation 5:30P Youth LOGOS Ex. 6:00P Choir Practice 6:15P Confirmation 6:30P Discipleship Team	20 10:30A Tai Chi 6:30P Sherando Food Pantry	21 12:30P Trip to Community Coffee. And More	22 8:30A Leadership Retreat
23 4 Cents-A-Meal Offering 8:30A Worship (New Members) 9:45A GIFT Event 11:00A Worship (Baptism) 4:00P Newcomers Social	24 6:00P Windsong	25 2:30P TVOR 5:30P Highland Food Pantry 7:00P Young Adult Bowling	26 5:00P Our Daily Bread Faith Formation 5:30P Youth LOGOS Ex. 6:00P Choir Practice 6:15P Confirmation	27 10:30A WANC 10:30A Tai Chi 6:30P Fellowship Book Club	28	29 10:00A – Jubilee Kitchen
30 8:30A Worship 9:45P Safety Monitor Training 9:45P Medical Mission Forum 9:45A Faith Formation 9:45A Medical Mission Forum 11:00A Worship 6:00P Church Coffeehouse	1 6:00P Windsong	2 10:00A Staff Meeting 4:30P Tech Team 6:00P Ministry Team Night	3 5:00P Our Daily Bread Faith Formation 5:30P Youth LOGOS Ex. 6:00P Choir Practice	4 10:30A Tai Chi 6:30P Sherando Food Pantry 7:00P Vision Team	5 Church Office Closed Happy Apple Blossom!!	6 