OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 8, 2026 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM



Stewardship Dedication & Pledge Sunday

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:

Follow us on Facebook:
@opequonpresbyterianchurch

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost – Fudge Festival; Veterans' Day Recognition

- **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.

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† = All who are able, please stand. **Bold print = All in unison.**

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE..... *Brothers In Arms* By: The Dire Straits/Mark Knopfler

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS
GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VETERANS' DAY RECOGNITION

HYMN No. 338 (v. 1, 2).....*O Beautiful for Spacious Skies*

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw;
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG..... *Come, Now Is the Time to Worship*

[refrain] **Come, now is the time to worship.**
Come, now is the time to give your heart.
Come, just as you are to worship.
Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day every tongue will confess you are God.
One day every knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains
for those who gladly choose You now. [refrain]

†CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather for worship today to celebrate our gifts.
We are celebrating the gifts we give to this church,
the pledges we are making for the upcoming year.

We gather for worship today to celebrate our community.
We are celebrating the love and support that we give to one another; the constant quest that we are on to be united by God's grace.
We gather for worship today to celebrate our future.
We are celebrating a future full of outreach, a future full of service, a future full of worship, and a future full of growth.
We are celebrating a future with hope.
We gather for worship today to celebrate our visions.
We are celebrating the visions of those who have come before us, the visions that brought us to where we are today,
and the visions that we see today for the future.
Let us gather in celebration!
Let us worship God!

†OPENING HYMN No. 694 ..... *Great God of Every Blessing*

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

God has entrusted us with every breath, every moment, and every resource. Yet, too often, we live as if we are owners rather than stewards—hoarding our time, misusing our talents, and ignoring the needs of the world around us. Acknowledging our shortcomings, let us bring our honest confession before our merciful God, first in unison, then in personal silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we long to be faithful stewards of your abundant grace, to serve each other in love and humility, to serve your world with wisdom and energy. Forgive us when we hesitate and hold back,

when we stumble over pride, when our words and actions are not guided by love. Turn our hearts toward your claim and call when our vision is too small and too timid. Restore our energy when it is gone. We acknowledge, sometimes, many times, O God, our efforts fail. But your abundant grace is strong and eternal and will guide us forward. Give us courage for the living of these days and for the sharing of our gifts.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

God has not given up on us. God will not let us go. As we have been shown boundless grace and mercy, let us turn from the chains of the past and go forth as faithful stewards of reconciliation, love, and peace.

LITANY OF PARDON

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

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 705 ..... *You Are Holy*

[Men]

You are holy;
you are mighty;
you are worthy,
worthy of praise.
I will follow;
I will listen;
I will love you
all of my days.
I will sing to
and worship
the King who
is worthy.
I will love and
adore him;
I will bow down
before him.
I will sing to
and worship
the King who
is worthy.

[Women]

You are holy;
you are mighty;
you are worthy,
worthy of praise.
I will follow;
I will listen;
I will love you
all of my days.
You are the Lord of lords;
you are the King of kings;
you are mighty God,
Lord of everything.
You're Emmanuel;
you're the great I AM;
you're the Prince of Peace,
who is the Lamb.
You're the living God;
you're my saving grace;
you will reign forever;
you are Ancient of Days.

I will love and adore him; I will bow down before him.

You are Alpha, Omega Beginning and End. You're my Savior, Messiah, Redeemer, and Friend.

[all] **You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for you!**

†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..... *Come, All Christians, Be Committed (with "Take My Life and Let It Be")*
Arranged by: Lloyd Larson

Come, all Christians, be committed to the service of the Lord; make your lives for Him more fitted, tune your hearts with one accord. Come into His courts with gladness, all your sacred vows renew, turn away from sin and sadness, be transformed with life anew.Of your time and talents give now, they are gifts from God above, to be used by Christians freely to proclaim His wondrous love. Come again to serve the Savior, tithes and off'rings with you bring; in your work, with Christ find favor, and with joy His praises sing. Come in praise and adoration, all who on Christ's name believe; worship Him with consecration, grace and love will you receive. For His grace give Christ the glory, for the Spirit and the Word, and repeat the gospel story until all His name have heard. Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Come, all Christians, be committed to the service of the Lord.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD
OLD TESTAMENT READING: Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25 .....Pew Bible p. 187
NEW TESTAMENT READING: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15.....Pew Bible p. 942

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "Everything We Have Is a Gift"
Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 712 ..... *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought*

**As those of old their first-fruits brought of vineyard, flock, and field
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,
so we today our first-fruits bring, the wealth of this good land:
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.**

**A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give,
to make our life an offering that all may truly live.
The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.**

**In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today,
to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way.
O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,
help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.**

SERMON ..... "Now Is the Time…" Pastor David Witt

~ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ~

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN #488.....*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

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

(Written by the Rev. Teri Peterson, Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church, Crystal Lake IL)

Creator of all, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it. You have entrusted us with gifts – time, talent, energy, money – and asked us to use them to build your kingdom. With thanks and praise we respond to your call. We bring these gifts you have given, returning your generosity, paying it forward. We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears, our dollars and our hours. We commit ourselves to work for your world, to love and serve wherever you call. We ask your blessing on this, your church, as we seek to follow you with heart, mind, and soul. Bless also these gifts, our investment in your future, that they may multiply in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (8:30 AM)..... Clara Jane Carlone

RECEPTION & RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00 AM)

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. 697 (v. 1-5)..... *Take My Life*

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.

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

CHARGE & BLESSING
†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 697 (v. 6) ..... *Take My Life*

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

†POSTLUDE

WELCOME THROUGH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

We welcome Clara Jane Carlone into the baptized membership of Opequon Church this morning. Clara is the daughter of Meagan and Tom Carlone. May Clara be blessed by the grace and steadfast love of God and may we, as her church family, remember and uphold the promises of nurture and care we have made to her and her family.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We rejoice today as we welcome new members into the Opequon Church family. May God bless and enrich their lives as we share the journey of faith and service together. Please reach out and get to know our new members:

- **Karen Adams**, Transfer of Membership from Presbytery of Shenandoah
- **Tim Adams**, Transfer of Membership from Presbytery of Shenandoah
- **Lisa Crudele**, Re-Affirmation of Faith
- **Diana Hecht**, Transfer of Membership from Bloomery Presbyterian Church in Bloomery, WV
- **David Pelfrey**, Transfer of Membership from Burke Presbyterian Church in Burke, VA

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SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Bill and Maureen Wellman in honor of all our veterans.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill Deck
Bill Bender
Nelson Gustin Family
Felicitas Smith
Rich Coyle
Michelle Peterson
Pam Schwantes Family
Rick Friedrichsen
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
Cindy Sousa
Cheryl DeCeault
Sara Frey
Aliah Farquhar
Mary Hood
Ben Costello
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 Bass-Hoover Elementary School in Frederick County, VA

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – November 8

Stewardship Dedication & Pledge Sunday; Fudge Festival; Veterans' Day Recognition

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

THIS WEEK

Monday:	5:00 PM	Banana Box Drop-Off
	5:00 PM	Windsong Rehearsal – Memorial Sanctuary
	6:00 PM	GLOW & MOO Dinner/Game Night – Fellowship Hall
Tuesday:	9:30 AM	Tuesday Morning Mission – Bageant Room
	11:30 AM	Retired Teachers Meeting & Party – Fellowship Hall
	1:00 PM	Disciple Faith Formation – Bageant Room
	5:00 PM	Logos Leadership Team – Bageant Room
	7:00 PM	Vision Team – Bageant Room
Wednesday:	12:00 PM	Happy Days – Fellowship Hall
	4:30 PM	Logos (Theme: American Spirit with Grateful Hearts Night)
	6:15 PM	Confirmation Class – Bageant Room
	7:15 PM	Choir Practice – Sanctuary
	8:00 PM	Christmas Cantata Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Thursday:	10:30 AM	Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary
Friday:	12:00 PM	Banana Box Drop-Off

NEXT SUNDAY – November 15 *(Blood Pressure Checks)*

Scriptures: Psalm 90:1-12; Matthew 25:14-30 Sermon: "Enter into the Joy!"

*** Deadline for December Newsletter Submissions ***

8:30 AM	Worship & Baptism – Sanctuary
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Bageant Room & Zoom
11:00 AM	Worship & New Members – Sanctuary & Livestream
12:15 PM	"The Feast" Thanksgiving Meal – Fellowship Hall

LOST & FOUND NOTICE

Our Lost & Found is overflowing! Look through the items located on the table near the elevator and reclaim anything that belongs to you or your family.

*****All items not claimed by Thanksgiving will be donated.***

THANKSGIVING BANANA BOXES – One More Week!

All banana boxes are due back to the church by next **Sunday, November 15**! Helpers will also be available this week to accept and unload your filled boxes **tomorrow (5:00 PM – 6:00 PM)** and **Friday (12:00 PM – 1:00 PM)**.

GLOW (God-Loving Opequon Women) AND MOO (Men of Opequon)
We are continuing our tradition of OPC Men and Women joining together this month. GLOW and MOO will meet **tomorrow, Monday, November 9**, at **6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall for Dinner and some healthy competition as we play PICTIONARY. The main course for dinner is Lasagna provided by the GLOW Planning Team. Women are asked to bring a salad or bread. The men are asked to bring a dessert and drinks. An evening devotion will ground us before the game competition between the men and women. All Opequon Women and Men are invited.

HAPPY DAYS GATHERING
The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be held this **Wednesday, November 11**, at **12:00 noon** in the Fellowship Hall beginning with a covered-dish lunch. Rotisserie Chicken and drinks are provided. Please bring a covered dish item to share. Our guest speaker for Happy Days is our own Bill Bender who will share about MEDICARE. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy this nourishing and informative time.

PREPARING FOR ADVENT!
Advent is heading our way, and we will find ourselves in the midst of Christmas preparations. This will be our 23rd year of authoring 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 or Christmas experiences, share words of wisdom that you live by during Advent or anything that particularly inspires you during the season? 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**.

THE FEAST THANKSGIVING MEAL & BUILDING CELEBRATION
Next Sunday, November 15 (12:15 PM)
Enjoy your first Thanksgiving meal of the year with your Opequon Church Family in the Fellowship Hall! The Youth will serve the food while you sit back to enjoy fellowship with one another. This is the Youth's fundraiser for their Christmas Service Project during their Midnight Gladness event in December. Monetary donations will gladly be accepted as they support families with gifts around the holidays. Get to know the Youth as they welcome you. No reservations required. We look forward to seeing you there! Questions? Ask Rebekah Witt!

We will also CELEBRATE and recognize three substantial unexpected, unpledged, bequests to the Capital Campaign and recent developments from the Architectural Review Team on the building expansion.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ellen Cunningham
Beadle: Sven Thulin
Door Greeters: Winter Brooks, Sheryl Massey
Ushers: Mike Wygant, Wendy Wygant, Norie Noll, Richard DeHaven, Kolton Kramerage, Evan Sickels, Abigail Sickels
Acolyte: Kolton Kramerage
Building Steward: Jim Youngblood

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: David Pelfrey
Beadle: Alan Berry
Door Greeters: Pat Heavner, Judy Moody
Ushers: Marj Praml, Kyle Homan, Vern Gamble, Adelyn Astorino, Aubrey Astorino, Jackson Russell
Acolyte: Adelyn Astorino
Livestream: Susan Ritter, Rebekah Witt

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

- How did the music today uplift our call to serve as stewards of God's many gifts?

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 you take care of God's gifts to you?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

- What does "now is the time" say to you?
- Why do you think Paul uses the farming terminology of "sowing" and "reaping" to explain financial stewardship?
- What does it mean practically to sow "sparingly" versus "bountifully"?
- How does changing our view of giving from a somber obligation to a joyful privilege alter our response to ministry needs?
- How does acknowledging God as the origin of our resources protect us from the false belief that our wealth is purely self-made?
- How will your generosity and commitment to this church and its mission be salted with your gifts of time, talent, and treasure?
- What is the indescribable gift, and how does it serve as both the foundation and the motivation for Christian giving?
- When have you had to actively trust God's provision while making a sacrifice of radical generosity?
- How will you and your household serve the Lord this week?



This season's popcorn pledging has been fun!

We hope we have buttered you up enough that your generosity and commitment to this church and its mission is salted with your gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Today, we dedicate our pledges and end the campaign with popcorn – as well as our traditional fudge to sweeten the pot. 2026 has been a full year and we have asked a lot from you. Growing a congregation is not an easy task. Growing our building is not easy either, but the OPC congregation has responded faithfully. We are well-seasoned, and ready to pop into whatever God asks of us in the coming year.