"Well done,
good and faithful
servant!"

Matthew 25:21, NIV



OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 15, 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:

Follow us on Facebook:
@opequonpresbyterianchurch

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost – 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.....*I'm Not Afraid of Anything* By: Jason Robert Brown

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS
GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG No. 710 ..... *We Lift Our Voices*

We lift our voices; we lift our hands;
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands;
Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices; we lift our hands;
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! Share the joy of the Lord!
We delight in God's goodness and the abundant gifts we have been given.
Praise God, who entrusts each person with unique treasures, time, and abilities.
Not to bury them in fear, but to invest them in love.
Open your hearts to the Master's call, lifting your voices, your hands, and your lives to the Lord.
Come, let us worship God together!

†OPENING HYMN No. 612 ..... *We Praise You, O God*

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers:
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us.
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

As children of God, we come to God in our joys, in our sorrows, in our fears, and in our guilt. Knowing that God loves us and embraces us, let us bring our confessions to God, first in unison prayer, then in personal silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you are generous in the many ways you have gifted us. We have so many blessings for which to be grateful. Yet we are often motivated by fear rather than our trust in you. We hold onto what we have, afraid we will never have enough. We become focused on protection rather than your call to welcome and love others. We see our blessings as our own, rather than seeing your care in each gift. Forgive us, God of grace. Forgive us and restore us to your vision for the world.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (based on 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)

"God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us. Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up…" in the knowledge that in Jesus Christ we are enriched, we are loved, we are forgiven.

LITANY OF PARDON

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

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 647 ..... *Give Thanks*

__Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.__ [repeat]

*__And now let the weak say, "We are strong";__
__let the poor say, "We are rich__
__because of what the Lord has done for us!"__ [* repeat]

__Give thanks. Give thanks.__

†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.....*Here I Am, Lord (with "Have Thine Own Way, Lord")*
Arranged by: Mary McDonald

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin, My hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the potter. I am the clay. Mold me and make me after Thy will; while I am waiting, waiting, Lord. Here I am, Lord. It is I, Lord! Here I am, Lord. It is I, Lord! I have heard You calling in the night. I will go, Lord, where You lead me. I will hold Your people in my heart. I will hold Your people in my heart. Here I am, Lord! Here am I!

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD
OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 90:1-12.....Pew Bible p. 476
NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 25:14-30 .....Pew Bible p. 807

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "Using Our Gifts"
Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 716 .....*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*
__God, whose giving knows no ending,__
__from your rich and endless store,__
__nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,__
__costly cross, grave's shattered door:__
__gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;__
__thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.__

__Skills and time are ours for pressing__
__toward the goals of Christ, your Son:__
__all at peace in health and freedom,__
__races joined, the church made one.__
__Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.__
__Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.__

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

SERMON......"Enter into the Joy!"
Pastor David Witt

~ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ~

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS
OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *Can We Sing the Darkness to Light?* By: Kyle Pederson

†THE DOXOLOGY (Hymnal No. 606) & PRAYER OF DEDICATION
God of the harvest, you are continually planting the seeds of your love in our world and in our lives. As we bring our gifts to you, may they be seeds of your grace, peace, and hope, planted deeply in our community. Through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

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. 687..... *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*
Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.

†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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We rejoice today as we welcome new members to 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:

- **Diane Hewett**, Transfer of Membership from Altavista Presbyterian Church in Altavista, VA
- **Coy "Davis" Hewett**, Transfer of Membership from Altavista Presbyterian Church in Altavista, VA

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Becky and Bud Proctor in honor and celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary.

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PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Ken Johansen
Irma Whitmire
Brenna Hathaway
Robin Eddy
Britta Albright Sharbaugh
Christy Bombatch
Maximus Serros
Don Gibson
Ty Bennett & Family
Rick Henry
Tim & Darlene Davis
Shooting Victims in AL
Gail Crane
Bill Deck
Bill Bender
Felicitas Smith
Rich Coyle
Michelle Peterson
Rick Friedrichsen
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 Armel Elementary School in Frederick County, VA

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – November 15

Blood Pressure Checks

*** Last Day for December Newsletter Submissions ***

8:30 AM Worship – 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
3:30 PM Officer Training – Bageant Room

THIS WEEK

Monday:	12:00 PM	Life Goes On – Fellowship Hall
	4:30 PM	Discipleship Team – Bageant Room
	5:30 PM	Windsong Rehearsal – Memorial Sanctuary
	6:00 PM	Safety Team – Bageant Room
	6:00 PM	Pastoral Assistant Orientation – Fellowship Hall
Tuesday:	9:30 AM	Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting – Augusta Stone Presbyterian *Jack Marquis, Elder Commissioner*
	1:00 PM	Disciple Faith Formation – Bageant Room
	6:30 PM	Session Meeting – Bageant Room
Wednesday:	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting – Bageant Room
	4:30 PM	Logos (Theme: School Spirit & Teacher Night)
	6:15 PM	Confirmation Class – Bageant Room
	7:15 PM	Choir Practice – Sanctuary
	8:00 PM	Christmas Cantata Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Thursday:	9:00 AM	WANC Tea – Youth Spot
	10:30 AM	WANC Meeting – Fellowship Hall
	10:30 AM	Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary
	6:30 PM	Sherando Food Pantry

Friday – Sunday: "Keep Awake" High School Youth Retreat – Massanetta Springs
Saturday: 10:00 AM Survivor Day Event – Fellowship Hall

NEXT SUNDAY – November 22 (Christ the King Sunday)

4 Cents A Meal

Scriptures: Psalm 100; Matthew 25:31-46 Sermon: "Room at the Table"

8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM Faith Formation – Bageant Room
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
12:30 PM Church Retreat Planning Meeting – Fellowship Hall
2:30 PM Windsong Rehearsal – Sanctuary
6:00 PM Thanksgiving Worship – Memorial Sanctuary
Thanksgiving Reception – Bageant Room

"THE FEAST" THANKSGIVING MEAL & BUILDING CELEBRATION

Enjoy your first Thanksgiving meal of the year with your Opequon Church Family in the Fellowship Hall at **12:15 PM today**! 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.

ROOTS & SHOOTS: Annual SeedMoney Campaign

As the growing season winds down, garden tasks are beginning to slow, and we are preparing to put the Roots & Shoots Garden to rest for the winter. However, our annual SeedMoney Campaign starts **today, November 15**! Your support helps us continue growing not only fresh produce, but also our mission of serving and caring for our neighbors.

https://givebutter.com/opc-roots-and-shoots-garden-2026

PREPARING FOR ADVENT!

Advent is heading our way, and we will find ourselves in the midst of Christmas preparations. We will be excited again this year to offer an Advent Devotional authored by many of you! **Please be reminded that submissions for the devotional are due to Carole Witt today.** The theme of our Advent Devotional is "ADVENT INSPIRATIONS". You are invited 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. Please send your written thoughts to Carole Witt at dce@opequonchurch.org. All submissions are due **TODAY**. Thank you.

BEDTIME BLESSINGS & PRAYER BOOKLETS

A Bedtime Blessings & Prayer Booklet is available for children, youth, and families to take and use at home. There are prayers included that have been written by some of our own families along with a variety of other prayers and ideas for some meaningful family time. Please help yourself to a booklet. They can be found in the Gathering Area.

130th ANNUAL KERNSTOWN COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP
Sunday, November 22 @ 6:00 PM (OPC Memorial Sanctuary)
Kernstown United Methodist Church and Opequon Presbyterian Church will worship together at the Thanksgiving Service next **Sunday** in OPC's Memorial Sanctuary. The scriptures will be Psalm 133:1-3; Ephesians 4:1-6 and Pastor Victor Gomez will preach about "One Table, One Lord, One Thanksgiving." We will also have communion, special music, and an evening offering for WATTS.

SURVIVOR DAY EVENT – November 21 (10:00 AM – 2:00 PM)
The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is hosting International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day (Survivor Day) in OPC's Fellowship Hall to provide an opportunity for friends and family of those who have died by suicide to come together for connection, healing, and hope. This marks our 8th year hosting this event in Winchester. Our program will feature: an AFSP video screening followed by a counselor-led discussion, a shared lunch, a memory craft, a candlelight service, and guidance on navigating the upcoming holidays and supporting one another. Thank you for your continued support of suicide awareness and for helping us bring hope to our community. Contact Winter Brooks (540-664-8750) with any questions. Please register using this link:
https://survivor-day-winchester-virginia-seusa.isosld.afsp.org/

ECLECTIC FEAST GROUP
There are six spots available for our next outing at Everest Indian Restaurant (419 Gateway Dr, Ste 1 in Winchester) on **December 11** at **6:00 PM**. Anyone that would like to join us is welcome! To reserve your spot, contact Diana Hecht (304-359-6155 / diana.hecht@pawpawtracks.com).

NOROC ADULT (21+) MISSION SERVICE TRIP
Register **today** for the June 17-29, 2027 Adult Mission Trip to Romania! The cost is $2,300 per person and registration deadline is **December 15**. For details, contact Rich Schempp (806-790-1749 / rschempp2@gmail.com).

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ellen Cunningham
Beadle: Sven Thulin
Door Greeters: Winter Brooks, Carolyn Hartman
Ushers: Terry Hartman, Kathy Hoffman, Shannon Brannon, CeCe Shaffer, Ruby Shaffer
Acolyte: CeCe Shaffer
Building Steward: Mike Nutry

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: David Pelfrey
Beadle: Alan Berry
Door Greeters: Kay Picciuto, Cindy Millard
Ushers: Andy Homan, Joel Witt, Kevin Reed, Greer Birchenough, Joshua Lilly, Madelyn Estep
Acolyte: Greer Birchenough
Livestream: Susan Ritter, Sheyenne Ervin

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

- How did the music today focus on our dynamic relationship with God and how we are called to be God's instruments in the world?

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 use the gifts of God this week?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

- What kind of gifts have been entrusted to you and me?
- What gifts have you buried?
- What is the "joy of your Master?"
- What kind of things does Jesus like to do in the world?
- What does it look like practically to be "faithful with a little" in your current season of life, job, or family?
- How are you living a life in gratitude to God for all you have been given?
- How will you follow up and do something this week?