

The Opequon Spirit

*"Prayerfully Equipping Disciples of All Generations
To be Christ's Hands, Heart, and Feet in the World!"*



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

July 2026

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

SUMMER WORSHIP IN JULY:

"Time to Bloom!"

**10:00 AM ONLY
Each Sunday**

Fellowship Time Follows

July 5—Independence Day Weekend

*"Hymnody Over the Past
250 Years"*

† Psalm 33:13-19;
Matthew 11:25-30

* Communion

* Special Music

July 12

† Psalm 65;
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Sermon: "Sowing
Seeds"

1:30 PM Spring Arbor Worship

July 19

† Psalm 139:1-12;
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Sermon: "Growing in
God's Light"

* Blood Pressure Checks

July 26

† Romans 8:26-39;
Matthew 13:31-33, 49-52
Sermon: "Be the Light"

* 4 Cents A Meal

* Lemonade on the Lawn

WORSHIP MANNERS & HOSPITALITY NOTES

- ❖ Remember to pick up your nametag in the Gathering Area.
- ❖ Enjoy greeting and visiting with your friends **before worship begins (that's before the organ/piano prelude) and after the service during the Fellowship Time.** We are blessed to see each other each Sunday.
- ❖ Look around the Sanctuary for guests or people you may not know. Warmly greet them by saying, "Hi! My name is _____." and then let them talk. You DON'T need to say, "I've never met you before." or "Are you new here?" Simply introduce yourself.
- ❖ Note that worship begins with the prelude. Please find a seat, sit down, and quietly listen to the musical prelude, preparing your heart and mind to serve God through worship.
- ❖ Please refrain from bringing drinks and/or food into the Sanctuary.
- ❖ Please silence all cell phones, pagers, and any other electronic devices **before entering the Sanctuary.**

SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES CONTINUES IN JULY



Worship this summer continues to focus on the theme "Time to Bloom!" We'll consider how the process of blooming includes plants but more than just plants and flowers—ideas bloom, yeast blooms, relationships blossom, and our faith, discipleship, and church blooms, blossoms, and grows.

How will we bear God's fruit through our lives? How will this bloom, this expansion, bless others? We hope you will be present as much as you can with all you can to serve God and to share with one another during July and August at 10:00 AM worship and at other summer events.

A Prayer for Summertime...

Loving God, Creator of all times and places, we thank you for the gift of summertime, the days of light, warmth and leisure. Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us everywhere we look: the multi-colored flowers, the deep blue of the sky, the tranquil surface of lakes, the laughter of children at play, people strolling in parks, families gathered around picnic tables and the more time to spend with family and friends. As we open our eyes and ears to the landscape of nature and people, open our hearts to receive all as a gift. Give us that insight to see you as the Divine Artist. Help us to realize and appreciate that you are laboring to keep all in existence. Warm our souls with the awareness of your presence. Let all the gifts we enjoy this summer deepen our awareness of your love so that we may share this with others and enjoy a summertime of re-creation. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.



NOTES FROM PASTOR DAVID:

"Recalling 1976... Celebrating 2026"

Dear Friends in Christ,

I graduated from 8th grade middle school and began high school in 1976. I turned fourteen in September of that year. I enjoyed many personal adventures. But beyond my own experiences, the USA was celebrating our bicentennial! It was a memorable year, especially in New Jersey, smack dab in the middle of two historic cities immersed in the early beginnings of our nation, Philadelphia and New York. Our little colonial village, my home of Ringoes, was chosen as the location for our county's bicentennial parade because we were the oldest settlement in Hunterdon County. Ringoes developed around John Ringo's Tavern, the site for many Revolutionary War-related meetings of the Hunterdon Chapter of the Sons of Liberty formed in 1766. The parade was held on June 5, 1976, included more than 150 units, and lasted over four hours! It was thrilling for this thirteen-year-old. I also remember going to Trenton (20 miles south of my home) to visit the "American Freedom Train," a spectacular traveling exhibit that toured all 48 contiguous United States between April 1975 and December 1976 to celebrate the nation's Bicentennial. Featuring twelve display cars, it drew over 7 million visitors who waited in long lines to see 500+ priceless historical artifacts. And I can't forget the national Independence Day events on July 4th: the parades, the fireworks, Operation Sail of tall ships in New York Harbor, the gift of the Bicentennial Bell (replicating the Liberty Bell) from Queen Elizabeth on behalf of the British people. One memory after another was created, and, from what I recall, the whole country was united in honoring America and our heritage, from January 1 to December 31 and beyond.

This year, the USA celebrates 250 years—the Semi-Quincentennial—since the Declaration of Independence declared America's freedom. I can't believe it has been 50 years since the Bicentennial—wow, I'm getting old!! But I am no less thankful for our freedom, our abundance, and the gifts of our democratic republic. This 250-year-old adventure that some have called the "American experiment" is still strong in its origins, though we are challenged daily by a lack of unity, polarizing politics, and distrust of those who may hold differing perspectives on how we live out our freedom and work together for the common good. So, let me lift up both scripture and some historic notes from our past:

"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

—2 Chronicles 7:14

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another."

—Galatians 5:13-15

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness... And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

—Declaration of Independence

"The unity of government which constitutes you one people is ... a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very liberty which you so highly prize."

—George Washington's Farewell Address

"With malice toward none with charity for all with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right let us strive on to finish the work we are in to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan ~ to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

—Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

—U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, 1942/1954

Let us join in celebrating freedom while praying for peace, unity, liberty, and justice for all. And I hope you will join us for 10:00 worship on Sunday, July 5th, as we remember and give thanks for our faith and the music that has shaped us (see Pastor Tracie's notes!).

With a Grateful Heart,

David

PASTOR TRACIE'S JUST THINKIN'...

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead, who never to himself has said, this is my own, my native land? This is my native land." This line is from Sir Walter Scott's poem "My Native Land" and celebrates love for one's homeland and condemning those who lack patriotic feeling. I remember singing it in school choir. It filled me with joy and pride. Ms. Bowman directed us in a red, white and blue outfit. We rocked.

This month the USA will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence...

The **Declaration of Independence**, signed on July 4, 1776, was a pivotal document in world history, formally asserting the American colonies' separation from British rule and establishing the principles of liberty, equality, and self-governance. Composed primarily by Thomas Jefferson and endorsed by 56 signers, it laid the foundation for the United States as a sovereign nation and inspired democratic movements worldwide.

(source: www.gilderlehrman.org/declaration-independence)

The Declaration was more than a political statement; it represented the **culmination of colonial resistance** against British taxation and control, reflecting the colonists' desire for freedom from religious persecution, class restrictions, and oppressive governance. Its adoption marked the beginning of the **American Revolution**, during which a small, determined army overcame the might of the British Empire, ultimately establishing the United States as a republic U.S. Department of State."

(source: www.state.gov/freedom-250)

How does the Church celebrate in 2026? Pastor David and I have discussed this question repeatedly. Do we ignore the anniversary? Heavens no! What aspect of our country's 250 years do we highlight? The wars? Politics? Presbyterian history? How do we, a purple church, celebrate this important time while worshipping God and remembering?

On July 5, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together. We will also explore how faith and hymnody have interacted throughout the years and how hymnody has strengthened and taught our faith. We will sing some of the old hymns. We will recognize hymns written at the very beginning of our country's history that are still sung regularly today. We'll talk about how hymns have impacted children's faith and how they have comforted those on the front line. We will thank God for everything about the USA that is good and faithful and commit to God the things we might regret. We will pray for our country's present and future.

250 years is a long stretch—especially for a democracy. Let's pray, praise, and commit ourselves to what God would fashion for our country's future and our own.

—Tracie

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY 19, 2026

- ✂ The Christian Ed Team thanks Rebekah DesMarais and Melanie Palmer for their service on the team.
- ✂ Deacons and Congregational Care will complete a kitchen spring cleaning in June.
- ✂ Vision Team's Stronger Together panel was well attended and provided valuable insights and ideas for reflection.
- ✂ The CAT Team small group gatherings (Lake Frederick; Orchard Ridge; Choir) continue to provide helpful perspectives; additional small groups with families and other members are planned.
- ✂ Mission Team will support Dr. Catherine "Katie" Wolf's missionary work with "Friends for Health in Haiti" (\$3,000) in 2026.
- ✂ On Mission Trip Sunday, August 9, 2026, the Mission Team plans to share about past mission trips, including Youth, NOROC, and Dominican Republic Teams.
- ✂ Evangelism Ministry expresses its sincere appreciation to Mary Himelright for her many years of dedicated service on the team as Evangelism Chair (2 terms), coordinating the Name Tag and Hospitality Greeting Team Ministries, and the many birthday cards and personal notes sent to OPC members over the past decade.
- ✂ Building & Grounds was busy in May with several projects, including the manse lease renewal; completion of the Sanctuary lighting project and painting of Memorial Sanctuary; and emergency coordination with city inspectors to repair a suspected leaky gas valve/pipe in the ceiling above the choir hall.
- ✂ Session approved the May Financial Report as Session voted to authorize Jim Youngblood and Doug Joyner with input of Treasurer Ron Smith to formally solicit, negotiate, and gather bids for loans from qualified financial institutions to fund the Opequon's building expansion project, with the understanding that all final loan agreements and contracts shall be brought back to this Session for final review and approval.

✂ On June 4, Session approved two recommendations by email vote:

- 1) Purchase of two replacement HVAC systems for installation in Memorial Sanctuary
- 2) Granting permission to Shenandoah Presbytery to use Opequon's physical address as required to permit them to request a Winchester PO Box due to their shift to a totally virtual office.

Ann C.M. Smith, Clerk of Session, Opequon Presbyterian Church

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALYCE CALLAHAN!

Congratulations to Alyce for being selected as the 2026 Older Adult of Opequon! It was very exciting to honor and crown Alyce at the Older Adult Luncheon on May 27.

Alyce shares her gifts and leadership readily through Opequon's Older Adult Ministry and Logos. She does things with sincerity and gentleness. She is kind, helpful, and joyful. She leads Happy Days gatherings and facilitates the Older Adult Team meetings. Alyce also organizes "Take Them a Meal" and often makes some of the meals herself that go out to others. Alyce is fully dedicated to Opequon and makes OPC a better place. Alyce participates in GLOW and can often be seen taking photographs of things happening at Opequon. Her photos are part of many different slide shows and postings that are done to promote Opequon's ministry. Alyce is an ordained Deacon and serves on the Congregational Care Team. She also serves as an usher and helps with memorial and funeral service receptions and luncheons. What a busy and giving person she is. Alyce is completely deserving of this honor.

Congratulations Alyce!



EXTENDING OUR EMPATHY AND CHRISTIAN LOVE TO...



- ✂ Amy Tubbs, Ann Nordeen, and their family upon the death of their mother, and OPC member and Elder, Carol Jane Seidel Tubbs, on May 31.
- ✂ Gary DuBrueher, upon the death of his father, Ray N. DuBrueher, on June 19.
- ✂ Bob McNichols, Katherine Loftis, Melissa Cardon, and their family upon the death of their father and OPC member and Elder, Dr. Gerald "Mac" McNichols, on June 27.

"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 11:25-26

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Congratulations to our college graduates:

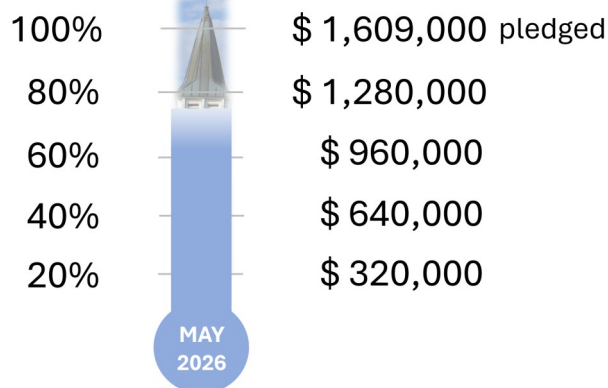
- ❖ Cheyenne Burton
- ❖ Sydney Burton
- ❖ Ainsley DesMarais
- ❖ Paige Hughes



We celebrate with you and your families as you journey into your next adventure.

BUILDING CAMPAIGN RECEIPTS

Building campaign receipts now total \$1,226k through May 2026, which is 76% of the total amount pledged. Note that some pledged gifts have been received in full and will not be evenly spread over the 3-year giving period. The total also includes gifts that were not pledged.



NO MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT THIS MONTH!

Next Ministry Team Night:
Tuesday, August 4 at 6:30 PM
(no meal)

CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Opequon's Nominating Committee—Elder Co-Chairs Ron Smith and Ben Brooks, Deacon Debbie Bender, and Congregational Representatives Allison Blake, Steve Bock, Mary Elson, and John White—will be meeting in August. They will begin a season of prayer and discernment as they look to nominate four individuals to serve as Ruling Elders on Session, four individuals to serve as Deacons, and one individual to serve as Trustee. If you have any names to suggest to them for consideration, please contact any of these members or put a note in the drop box at the church.

BULLETIN DELIVERY REMINDER

Congregational Care will not be delivering the weekly bulletins during the summer and they will be mailed instead. We will resume the deliveries again in September.

RECIPES STILL NEEDED!

We are still collecting recipes for Opequon's "A Place at the Table Cookbook!" Do you have a recipe that you want to be included in the cookbook? Handwritten or typed recipes may be placed in Marj Praml's mailbox near the church office or you may also email your recipes to Cindy Sousa (casousa260@gmail.com). Visit display in the Gathering Area for more details.

TRAVEL WITH "FLAT JESUS" THIS SUMMER!

Every age and stage are invited to choose a "Flat Jesus" picture from the back of the Sanctuary, color, and cut it out. Wherever you go—pool, park, vacation, camp, beach, walk, work, practice, etc.—bring along "Flat Jesus!" Take a picture with "Flat Jesus" and send it to Rebekah Witt (rwitt@opequonchurch.org) so we can see all the wonderful things you are doing!

DISCIPLE

BECOMING DISCIPLES
THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY?

In recent years we had great success with a Disciple Fast Track Study which is adapted from the widely renowned Disciple Bible Study. The fast track is a viable option for busy people seeking to fit a comprehensive study of the bible into their schedule. It is 24 weeks, broken down into two 12-week sessions. Each weekly session includes video insights from engaging presenters and wonderful group conversation all within 75-90 minutes. We are gauging interest in beginning a new Disciple Fast Track class.

If you would like more information or are interested, please let Carole Witt know.
(dce@opequonchurch.org)



LEMONADE ON THE LAWN

Join us on July 26,
after the worship service,
for a fresh cold glass
of lemonade and some
catching up with each other!

We invite you to wear yellow
for "Lemonade Sunday!"



GENEROSITY / STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

(From Pastor Tracie Martin & the Generosity Team)

Have you noticed? How could you miss it? There's a lot going on at OPC. Vacation Bible School was fun—just plain fun. It has been years since I tried to corral little people who had just eaten spaghetti and BIG brownies. I may have even lost weight.

The Congregational Care Team has, twice again, provided hands-on comfort for grieving families. The services for Carol Tubbs and Jean Steidel were well done. The music, the receptions, the services... all accomplished their jobs and helped people we care about in personal ways.

The Choir is off for the summer, but we still have great music. Some of us go away on vacation, but the grounds are still watered, the community is still supported, and OPC keeps chugging along.

I know I sound like a cheerleader who has only learned a couple of cheers, but when a group of people keep achieving good things by working together in pretty much the same ways—it should be noticed. This church congregation truly lives as a church family. We worship together, but we also play together. We laugh together. Then, we go out and invite others to join the fun. The churchy word for it is "evangelism." The everyday word is "invitation." The OPC word is "welcome!"

It is such fun to worship together each summer, to meet and greet people whose schedules usually fit the "other" service. Sure, parking gets crowded, so does the Sanctuary, but we all make it work. And, there is always room for visitors.

Each Sunday, the Gathering Area is filled with conversation and laughter. I especially appreciate the Fellowship Times we have started to hold this summer. As one visitor said to me a few years ago, "It's like a reunion walking in here." I think they were correct. It is a reunion of the hands, heart, and feet of Christ; church family at its best. We come together, share ideas and information, then we go out and do our best. Together, we keep our campus repaired and working, share all sorts of Good News, and serve our God.

Thank you! You are a great congregation, filled with wonder-filled people. We have many differences, but our common love and respect for each other and Christ shows. You support each other and the church. We reinforce each other and the church. We teach each other and our children. We share our time, talents, and treasure in meaningful ways. And it works!



Dear OPiE,
I missed the big building meeting. What did we learn?
— Sorry

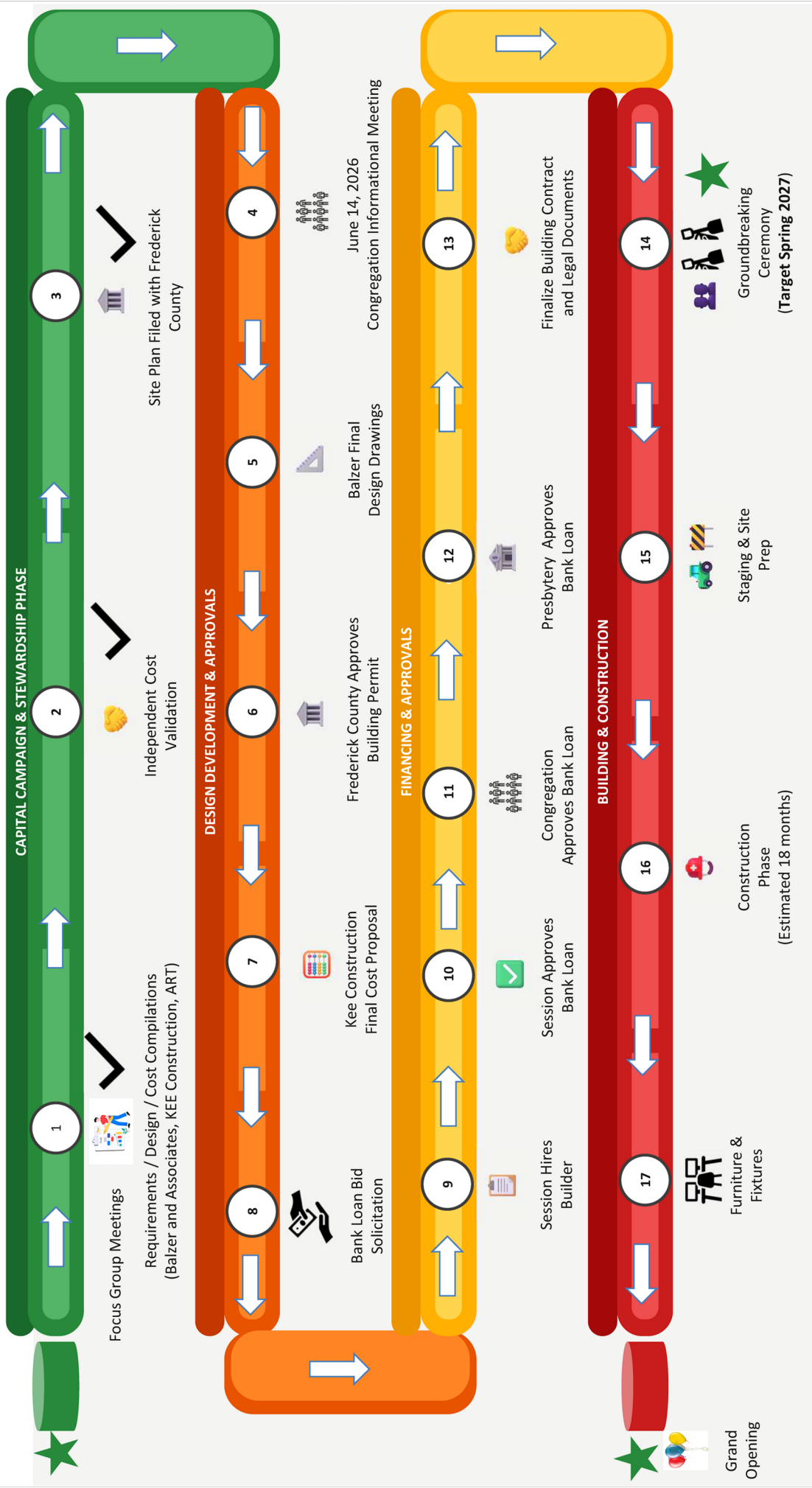
Dear Sorry,

We learned a lot. I have been aware of many meetings and lots of talking going on, but most of that has been invisible to folks who do not look for cookie crumbs in gathering rooms. There are so many things that need to be decided and scheduled and approved before the construction workers with their wonderful lunch boxes arrive and start digging and building.

One thing that has helped me figure out what's happening, and when, is the chart they put in the back hallway. It shows each step toward groundbreaking. There are a lot of steps still to go, but a surprising lot has also been accomplished. Pledges are still being paid and made. Some of them are quite astonishing! Right now, it looks like the groundbreaking should happen in spring of 2027. That's in less than a year. I can smell the bologna sandwiches already!

— Your friend, OPiE

Proposed Steps to Groundbreaking and Beyond



MEN OF OPEQUON THIS MONTH

The Men of Opequon (MOO) will gather this month on Monday, July 13, at 6:00 pm for dinner at the Chick-fil-A on Pleasant Valley Road. Then, we'll reconvene at the church at 7:00 PM for an ice cream social. Please join us, gentlemen!

Coming in August: MOO Picnic on Monday, August 10, at 6:00 PM in the Pitcock Picnic Pavilion.

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. Last month, Opequon women had an Ice Cream Sundae night along with Ice Cream Bingo. There were many delicious Sundae creations and many winners of BINGO prizes.

This month, Opequon women will meet on Tuesday, July 14, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a TACO BAR and a fun study of "EVE" led by Pastor Tracie. Come for this nourishing and insightful time as we laugh and learn together. We look forward to welcoming Opequon women for a delightful evening. All Opequon women are invited.

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

It's warm and getting hotter outside. Happy Summer! Give yourself time to relax this month and have some 'lazy' summer days. This month begins with the Older Adult Planning team meeting on Monday, July 6, at 9:30 AM in the Bageant Room. This meeting is for discussing and planning programs for Happy Days and other special events. The meeting is open to any older adult who would like to attend. You are welcome to come join in. Some morning goodies and coffee are provided.

The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be held on Wednesday, July 8, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate America's 250th Birthday. We will enjoy some patriotic songs, patriotic poems, and of course some good wholesome jokes. Chicken and drinks are provided for lunch. Please bring a covered dish item to share. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the friendships, and this great celebration.

An Adult Lunch outing is planned for Wednesday, August 26, at NOON at Roma in Stephens City. Contact Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org) if you are interested in joining the lunch bunch that day!

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE

Summertime is the best time to be at Opie's Playhouse! Kids (and adults!) get to play outside under beautiful blue skies. Come on out to the playground and join the fun on Sunday, July 5, 11:15 AM—12:00 PM. There will be scooters and balls and bubbles and more! It's a time of pure summer fun and fellowship. Opie's Playhouse is for all families with young children. Big siblings are welcome too! Stop by on the way to the car...you might make a new friend. In the event of rain, we will meet in the Memorial Sanctuary. Hope to see you there!



THE LATEST IN LOGOS

Brand new information...

The theme for our upcoming 29th year is... **"GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART."** We are very excited about this theme and how it

will help shape our Logos year. We are planning out weekly themes based on ideas given by our young people and ideas from the Logos Leadership Team. We are working on goals set for the new year and we are earnestly calling forth individuals to serve in the Logos Ministry. Logos is a midweek ministry for Preschool through High School age young people held on Wednesdays (4:30 PM—7:15 PM), from September through March. The focus of Logos is loving God and loving one another.

As the leadership team meets regularly during this time, we truly hold all our young people and congregation members in our hearts as we work to provide the best Logos experience possible. Keep watching for more news about the next Logos year.

YOUTH: GRADES 6-12

July 1: Massanutten Water Park Trip

July 5-10: High School Mission Trip

July 13: Youth/Children's Parent & Caregiver Hangout

July 14-17: Middle School Conference

YOUNG ADULTS: AGES 18-35

July 18: Pool Party

PARENT & CAREGIVER HANGOUT

We offer a lot of opportunities for our youth and children to have fun together, but don't always give parents and caregivers a chance to connect. Carrie and Steve Rockwell would love for you to join us at their house on Monday, July 13, at 6:30 PM. Let Rebekah Witt know if you need the address. This is a casual hangout for parents & caregivers to come together! Snacks and drinks will be provided. Youth and children are welcome to come hangout together as well. Please let Rebekah know if you plan to be there. (rwitt@opequonchurch.org)

LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will not meet in July. We will gather again in August—same time, same place.

NEW FEAST GROUP OPPORTUNITIES:

Friends Eating And Sharing Together!

FEAST Groups typically gather once a month to share lunch or dinner together at a restaurant, park, OPC's Picnic Shelter, or sometimes at a group member's home on a rotating basis.

We are currently forming the following new groups:

- Eclectic Food Palate Group
- Lunch Bunch
- Adult Singles

Think you might be interested? Stop by the Gathering Area for more info!

FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

We will gather in the Bageant Room on July 23 at 6:00 PM to discuss *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans.

Looking ahead, the book selection for next month is *The Resistance Daughter* by Joanne Kormylo.

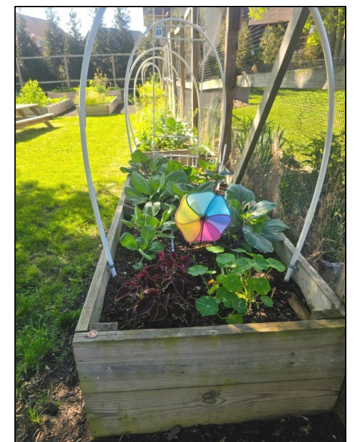
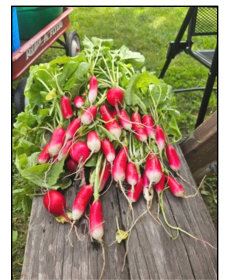
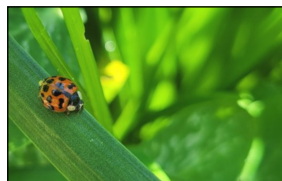
ROOTS & SHOOTS UPDATE

The Roots & Shoots Garden continues to flourish, and we're grateful to share that our rainwater harvesting project is now complete! This new system will help us care for the garden and steward God's gifts well for years to come.

If your home garden is producing more than you can use, we would be delighted to help share the abundance. Roots & Shoots gladly accepts donations of fresh produce, which we pass along to local food pantries to bless our neighbors in need.

The vegetables aren't the only things growing at Roots & Shoots! We hope our volunteer family will continue to grow too! Whether you are an experienced gardener or have never even planted a seed, we would love to have you join us. No green thumb is required—just a willing heart and a desire to serve!

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this garden thrive. Together, we are growing food, building community, and sharing God's love one harvest at a time.



STRONGER TOGETHER

On May 21, the Vision Team hosted a community school panel to discuss practical ways churches and community partners could reduce student stress, build trust, and strengthen our support for local schools. The panel consisted of a statistician, a member of the health department, two school nurses, a teacher, and a guidance counselor.

The needs are great, but we came away knowing the simple ways we, as a congregation, can be of help. Praying for the teachers, staff, and the children was a strong request. The teachers need encouragement and small tokens of appreciations such as donuts and coffee in the mornings are greatly appreciated. There is a very large need for clothing for the children. Many come to school in soiled clothing that has not been washed and shoes that no longer fit or are falling apart.

What can we do as a congregation? As a first step, the Vision Team will be putting out a box to collect new underwear and socks to donate to Bright Futures for the coming school year. In the future, we will be partnering with other teams to donate shoes, t-shirts, leggings, and sweatpants. We will make sure that all articles of clothing are delivered to the Bright Futures warehouse.

This is just one of the many simple ways we can help, but it can go a long way to make life better for the children and the teachers.

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT... OUR SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN IN ETHIOPIA?

Did you know that individuals, couples, families, and groups at Opequon Church sponsor 20 children at the Gore Children's Home in Gore, Ethiopia? This is all part of the "Friends of Gore" program that supports orphaned children or children in need with room and board, medical care, supervision, and tutoring. The children attend the public schools in Gore. Each year, some go to technical school and a few to universities. A full sponsorship of a child for one-year costs \$1,550; ½ sponsorship \$775; a ¼ sponsorship \$390. We are seeking new sponsors who might adopt a child according to these amounts or who would like to contribute to the Friends of Gore Fund in whatever amount works for you. We would like to collect funds this month, which allows the Home to begin planning food purchases and supplies for the 2026-2027 school year. Checks just need to be clearly labeled "Friends of the Gore Home." If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor David Witt.

SENIOR OUTREACH

Senior Outreach Ministry will gather on Sunday, July 12, at 12:15 PM, by the church office door to load up the totes for the Shenandoah Senior Apartments in Winchester. Donations of paper towels or bath tissue are always welcome.

COLLECTIONS FOR CCAP

Throughout July, we will be collecting school supplies in the Dell Room for CCAP. Thank you for your contributions and supporting our community!

MARTIN'S ROUND-UP PROGRAM

(From Nancy Picklap & the Mission Team)

Are you aware of Martin's Round Up Program? Its purpose is to give any cents Martin's customers contribute over the cost of their groceries to charitable organizations. Sometimes you might be rounding up \$0.01 (if your final bill ends in \$0.99) or as much as \$0.99 (if your final bill ends in \$0.01). Either way, the rounding up portion of the amount you pay to Martin's on your grocery visit is going to a worthy cause.

The recipient organizations change quarterly and are determined by Martin's corporate office. The stores are notified of the new recipients quarterly.

For the period January through March 2026, our local charity, Bright Futures, received \$40,000. This gift is a great boost to an organization that aids school children in our city and county public schools with clothing, food and supplies. For the period April through June 2026 the donations benefit the Children's Miracle Network.

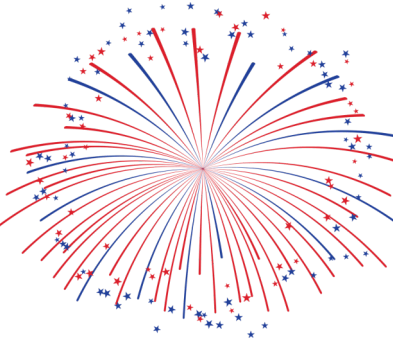
Please consider rounding up when you buy groceries at Martin's! I estimate that each time I visit Martin's and round-up, I only add an extra \$5 to \$10 per month onto my grocery bill. Can you imagine the amount of the gift each charitable organization might receive if we all did this? It could be fabulous!

Do all the funds go to local charities? Perhaps not, but when I spoke to Martins representatives, they felt that at least 3 out of 4 giving campaigns per year are distributed locally. Please consider the positive ramifications this simple act on your part has on our community. Remind your cashier that you want to round up before they ring you up! Thank you for your consideration!

Opequon Presbyterian Church
Financial Summary for the period ended
May 31, 2026

	Annual Budget 2026	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
Income					
410000 Offering Income	961,041	62,596	411,101	549,940	42.8%
420000 Other Income	2,100	350	1,439	661	68.5%
Total 400000 Income	963,141	62,945	412,539	550,602	42.8%
Expenses					
500000 Personnel Costs					
510000 Installed Pastors	160,114	12,921	64,734	95,380	40.4%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	259,866	18,152	88,743	171,123	34.1%
530000 Administrative Staff	167,195	13,289	67,514	99,681	40.4%
Total 500000 Personnel Costs	587,175	44,363	220,992	366,183	37.6%
600000 Other Ministries					
610000 Christian Education	15,650	1,613	5,761	9,889	36.8%
620000 Congregational Care	2,800	0	1,360	1,440	48.6%
630000 Evangelism	6,050	550	1,138	4,912	18.8%
640000 Fellowship	4,250	373	1,668	2,582	39.2%
650000 Mission	79,219	8,512	37,410	41,809	47.2%
660000 Worship	8,000	23	3,039	4,961	38.0%
Total 600000 Other Ministries	115,969	11,071	50,376	65,593	43.4%
Total 700000 Church Administration	160,200	32,898	83,920	76,280	52.4%
Total Expenses	863,344	88,332	355,288	508,056	41.2%
Net Operating Income (Expense)	99,797	(25,386)	57,251	42,546	57.4%
920000 Other Income	18,650	1,641	9,318	9,332	50.0%
930000 Other Expenses	118,447	9,706	49,942	68,505	42.2%
Net Other Income (Expense)	(99,797)	(8,065)	(40,624)	(59,173)	40.7%
Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses	0	(33,451)	16,627		

	<u>5/31/26</u>
Cash	<u>\$ 145,471</u>
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance	<u>\$ 237,679</u>



NURSE NOTES:

FIREWORKS SAFETY

Summer = Barbecues, Parades, & Fireworks

Fireworks start an average of 19,000 fires each year!

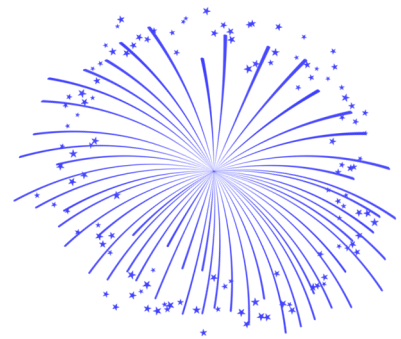
Never allow young children
to handle fireworks

Only use fireworks
away from people, houses,
and flammable material

Always keep a bucket
of water nearby
to fully extinguish all
fireworks that don't go off
or in case of a fire

Never use fireworks while
impaired by drugs or alcohol

Only light one device at a time and
maintain a safe distance after lighting



Older children should
only use fireworks under
close adult supervision

DID YOU KNOW SPARKLERS...

- ♦ Burn at about 2,000 degrees
- ♦ Account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks-related injuries
- ♦ Can quickly ignite clothing



Never point
or throw fireworks
at another person

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
		Kitchen Closed (deep cleaning)	Youth Water Park Trip (Church Van) 9:30am - Staff Meeting @ Bageant	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry @	Church Office Closed Independence Day (substitute)	Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
High School Mission Trip (Church Van in Use)						
Comunion 10am - Worship & Live Stream 11:15am - Fellowship Time @ 11:15am - Ople's Playhouse @	9:30am - Older Adult Planning 5:30pm - Windsong Open House @		12pm - Happy Days @ Fellowship	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10am - Worship & Live Stream 11:15am - Fellowship Time @ 12:15pm - Senior Outreach 1:30pm - Spring Arbor Worship @	5:30pm - Windsong Open House @ 6pm - MOO Meal @ Chick-fil-A 6:30pm - Parent & Caregiver 7pm - MOO in FH @ Fellowship	Massanetta Middle School Conference (Church Van in Use) 4pm - Discipleship Team @ 6pm - GLOW @ Fellowship Hall	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:30am - Staff Meeting	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry		11am - Young Adult Pool Party
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Baptism Blood Pressure Checks 10am - Worship & Live Stream 11:15am - Fellowship Time @	5:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary			10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 10:30am - WANC Lunch @ 6pm - Fellowship Book Club @		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
4 Cents a Meal Offering 10am - Worship & Live Stream 11:15am - Lemonade on the Lawn	5:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary 7pm - Astronomy Club @ Assembly	5:30pm - Highland Food Pantry @		10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial		

Dear Opequon Church & Scholarship Committee,

I am so honored to have received the Rachel Bayliss Scholarship. It will certainly help with my tuition as I further my education at James Madison University.

—Alex Sardelis

Dear Opequon Friends,

Thank you so much for all the prayers, thoughts, cards and phone calls during my cancer treatments. You certainly helped keep my spirits up.

Also thank you for taking the time and effort to deliver the meals. They were greatly appreciated.

I feel so blessed to be a member of such a wonderful congregation. You truly are special!

—Vern Gamble

Opequon's Generations Sunday

Celebrating Our Roots...

And Our Branches!

Sunday, August 23, 2026

10:00 AM

Join us for worship and fellowship in celebration of the Pillars, Generations, and Families of Opequon!



SAVE THESE AUGUST DATES:



- ♦ Sunday, August 2 – August Communion & Annual Blessing of the Backpacks (10:00 AM)
- ♦ Sunday, August 2 – "Ice Cream Cake" Sunday (11:15 AM)
- ♦ Tuesday, August 4 – August Ministry Team Night (6:30 PM)
- ♦ Sunday, August 9 – "Mission Trip Sunday" (10:00 AM)
- ♦ Sunday, August 16 – Summer Hymn Sing (9:30 AM)
- ♦ Sunday, August 23 – "Generations Sunday" (10:00 AM)
- ♦ Sunday, August 30 – Rally Day (10:00 AM)

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE: Annual Graham Taylor Concert & Meal Fundraiser Event

Featuring:

Murphy's Bluegrass Bandits

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

OPC Picnic Shelter



CONCERT TICKETS:

\$20 each

(label as "GT-Concert")

Kids 18 & under are FREE!

Purchase Tickets:



opequonchurch.org

Optional:

Fried Chicken Dinner:

\$10 each

(label as "GT-Dinner")

Dinner tickets must be purchased by September 13!

*All Proceeds Benefit
OPC's Mission Ministry Fund*



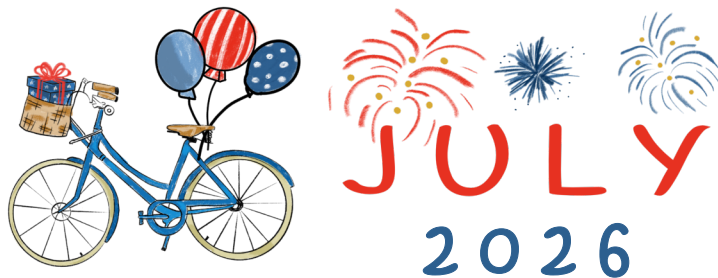
**** The deadline to send newsletter submissions to the church office the 15th of each month. ****

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602-2421
www.opequonchurch.org

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CHURCH STAFF

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 Adults Rebekah Witt
Director of Music Susan Homan
Organist/Pianist Garrett Jones
Facilities Coordinator..... Robert Sydnor
Nursery Supervisor..... Laurie Carver
Faith Community Nurses ... Bill Martin, Mike Nutry, Pat Williams

**OPEQUON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602-2421

Website:

www.opequonchurch.org

Phone:

540-662-1843

Office:

office@opequonchurch.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday
9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Friday
9:00 AM—12:00 PM



SUMMER WORSHIP:

(in-person & livestreamed)

Sundays at 10:00 AM

July—August