



# 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

## May 2025

[www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org)

540-662-1843

[office@opequonchurch.org](mailto:office@opequonchurch.org)

### WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

#### **Sunday, May 4**

*Older Adult Sunday; Apple Blossom Sunday*

† Psalm 30; John 21:1-19

Sermon: "While Doing the Breakfast Dishes"

Communion; Older Adult Choir;  
Honoring & Celebrating Our  
Older Adults!

#### **Sunday, May 11**

*Mother's Day; Christian Family Sunday*

† Psalm 23; John 10:22-30

Sermon: "Faithful Followers"

Honoring Those Who Are Moms  
to Us & Celebrating Families!

**1:30 PM Spring Arbor Worship**

#### **Sunday, May 18**

*"A Place At The Table" Dedication Sunday*

† Psalm 148; John 13:31-35

Sermon: "Let Us Build a House"

Fellowship Receptions (following  
each service); Blood Pressure  
Checks

#### **Sunday, May 25**

*Memorial Sunday*

† Revelation 21:1-6, 22—22:5;

John 14:23-29

Sermon: "Reminded to  
Remember"

4 Cents A Meal; GIFT Event  
Remembering Those Who  
Served & Died

Special Pre-Service Music at  
8:15 AM & 10:45 AM



### **OLDER ADULT SUNDAY**

**Sunday, May 4**

Celebrate the gift of  
generations at Opequon!

Give thanks for our  
multi-generational  
congregation!

Older adults share,  
serve, and sing!

We are so blessed!

**Remember to wear PINK &  
GREEN for Apple  
Blossom!**

### **MOTHER'S DAY & CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY**

**Sunday, May 11**

As families, come together  
for worship. Honor the  
women of Opequon. Give  
thanks for our faith  
community. Renew your  
commitment as families.  
Glorify God!

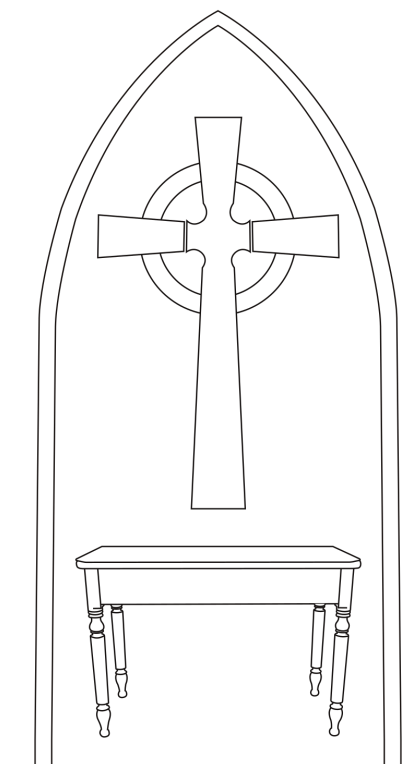
### **MEMORIAL SUNDAY**

**Sunday, May 25**

**8:15 AM & 10:45 AM**

Remember and honor those  
who have served and gone  
before us!

Special Pre-Service  
Patriotic Music



**A Place at the Table**

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DEDICATION SUNDAY**

**Sunday, May 18  
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

Celebrate the heritage,  
ministry, and vision of  
Opequon Church!

Special Music

Dedication of Our OPC  
Capital Campaign Gifts



## NOTES FROM PASTOR DAVID:

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you may recall from years past, we celebrate Older Adult Month each May at Opequon Church. May is also "Wills Emphasis Month," but having a will and being a faithful steward of God's gifts is not only an older adult emphasis; it makes sense for all adult generations. Opequon Church has been the beneficiary of generous bequests from wills over the years. The most startling and incredible bequest was received in the fall of 2016 from the Estate of Eugene and Frances Lupton.

I knew the Lupton's well and visited with them many, many times in their farmhouse out on Middle Road. They always welcomed me with warm smiles and gracious hospitality as we shared about family, neighbors, the church, and the Frederick County community that they loved so dearly. They were "salt of the earth" people, faithful stewards of the land they farmed and the resources entrusted to them by our good Lord. Eugene was a member of Opequon Church for almost forty years and, while Frances retained her membership at Relief United Methodist Church (I believe for more than 85 years!), she usually accompanied him to worship on Sunday mornings, at least two or even three times a month. When Mr. Lupton began to experience declining health, he pro-actively planned his funeral down to the last detail—hymns, scripture, other music, and even what I was supposed to focus on in what he called, "my sermon." He also instructed me that, while we were in the process of building a new sanctuary, he wanted his funeral in the old sanctuary. The hard-working, persevering Mr. Lupton surpassed all medical forecasts and, after being admitted to hospice care and then being discharged from hospice care, he lived for several years. And he also changed his mind about his funeral: it would be held in the "new sanctuary," he told me; and so it was, with every one of his details maintained. His funeral was the first one held in the sanctuary, a new place of worship that he grew to appreciate and love.

The Lupton's were extremely generous to their two churches in their bequest, dividing \$1.3 million between the two! They set before us an example of Christian discipleship and stewardship through their lives and in their deaths. Their witness to the grace and goodness of God is a challenge to us, to think and act generously, to take seriously our worship, nurture, fellowship, and service as active Christians in the world. Through their bequest, we were able to build our Endowment Fund, preserving the legacy of Opequon in the years ahead; to fulfill the goal of our then OPC 280 Fund,

in order to maintain and improve our property; to purchase our church bus, empowering our ministries to all ages and expanding our LOGOS transportation ability; and to grow our outreach beyond the walls of the church, challenging all teams to initiate projects that would expand our hearts and extend our ministry in serving Christ in our community. Most recently, money from the Lupton bequest fully paid for the "A Place at the Table" Celebration Dinner we had on April 4.

I am grateful to have had the privilege of knowing and spending time with the Lupton's. I rejoice in their generosity and the generosity of the members and friends of Opequon Church in empowering our discipleship and mission. The current Capital Campaign is an opportunity for everyone to participate. And remembering Opequon Church in your will is a thoughtful and faithful choice that will allow our congregation to grow and build into the future.

Together in Christ's Service,

*David*

## PASTOR JULIA'S MUSINGS

Friends in Christ,

As we wrap up another Lenten season and Holy Week, I'm still not fully ready to leave the room where Jesus sits with his disciples before his death and resurrection. What I have never thought about that room is the full scene. Obviously, the disciples were sitting there with Jesus, but I wonder, who set the table? Who cleaned the room beforehand? After? Who else might have been doing the quiet work to make things happen? Who else was listening and part of the conversation but not named?

What is amazing about the church is that, from as long back as we can go—all the way back to that upper room, it has always been a community event. There have always been people involved. I think about all that goes on at our church behind the scenes. The folks that bake cookies at home to make sure they are ready for a memorial celebration; the teams who pick up the communion bread and fill up the little cups with wine and juice; the people who make sure the kids bags are stocked and the library cart is filled; the people who come together to get the newsletters mailed each month; the people who get here early to turn on lights and open doors; the people who do things that we don't even know about to make sure God can be worshipped and people are loved. Each and every one of you is called to come forward and do works, such as these, in the world.

Just like in the bible, there are people who do the work to make it happen now. So, thank you for doing the work to make this church function. You are appreciated, you are seen, and you are loved.

Blessings,

*Julia*

## PASTOR TRACIE'S JUST THINKIN'

*"May, May, May...she lives in Mayfair, so gay.*

*Fellows say she's flirting all day.*

*Now if you ask May to settle down and share your lot...*

*Well May may fall in love with you; and May may not."*

My grandfather used to sing this WWI song as he planted geraniums in the local cemetery for Memorial Day. We had a huge, green wheelbarrow full of soil and plants, some shovels, and water. We moved from grave to grave, planting what had been pre-arranged by friends or family. Something was left on each veteran's grave, however, whether pre-ordered or not.

My grandmother had a clothesline in her basement that was perfectly situated for overwintering geraniums. She would pull up the best bloomers just before the first killing frost, prune each of them carefully, and hang them on her line. They would struggle and die. The line looked dismal, dry, dead.

Then, in late February, during the very week that forsythia could be cut for forcing, small green shoots would appear. Grandma would begin misting the dried plants with rainwater. When the shoots had enough leaves, she cut them from the plant, dipped them in a white powder called Rootone, and planted them at the greenhouse. These were her "free" plants, grown to decorate the graves of men and women who had fought for their country but had no one to remember them. Grandpa called them "resurrection plants." Grandma preferred "remembrance plants." As long as my grandparents were able to get to the cemetery, those people were remembered.

I was told that they began doing this after a discussion with Werner Hertz, a German Jew who settled in Windsor just after WWII. Werner told Grandpa that eternal life lasted as long as one was remembered. As a life-long Presbyterian, Grandpa's belief system and Werner's differed in several ways, but Grandpa believed in making sure. "After all, who speaks the final word for God? Why not respect someone else's belief?" All it cost was a few of grandma's free plants, rain barrel water, and a little time. I wonder how many Christians today live their lives with such respect for others' ideas. I wonder what our world would be like if more of us did.

*—Tracie*

## SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM CALLED SESSION MEETINGS

- ✂ At the Called meeting **March 30, 2025**, Session met with three newcomers, Amanda and Justin Jenkins and Carol Fries, and welcomed them into the fellowship of Opequon Presbyterian Church.
- ✂ On **April 6, 2025**, Session met with members of the 2024-25 Confirmation Class, their covenant partners, and class leadership. Each confirmand shared their statement of faith, responding to three questions:
  1. What does it mean to me to believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior?
  2. How has my Confirmation experience made a difference in my faith growth?
  3. How will my faith impact my daily life and the contributions I make to the church?
- ✂ After hearing the faith statements, Session welcomed these ten young Christians into the fellowship of Opequon: Adelyn Astorino, Virginia Barr, Joshua Batcha, Malayna Bates\*, MacKenna Bell, Caleb Garcia, Jaxson Hughes\*, Paige Littman, Jackson Russell\*, and Camden Saunders. They were received by Profession of Faith during the 11:00 AM service on Sunday, April 6. With the approval of Session, three of the confirmands (\*) were also baptized during the Confirmation service.

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

## WELCOME THROUGH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM



Through the waters of baptism, we welcomed Camille Hartley Orndorff into the baptized membership of Opequon Church on Sunday, March 30. Camille is the daughter of Casey and Kieran Orndorff.

We also welcomed three of our Confirmation students, Malayna Bates, Jaxson Hughes, and Jackson Russell, into the baptized membership of Opequon Church on Sunday, April 6.

May Camille, Malayna, Jaxson, and Jackson be blessed by the grace and steadfast love of God and may we, as their church family, remember and uphold the promises of nurture and care we have made to them and their families.

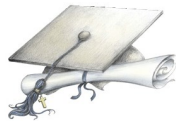


## NEW OPEQUON MEMBERS WELCOMED IN APRIL



- ❖ Kim McDonald, Transfer of Membership from Relief United Methodist Church (Winchester, VA)
- ❖ Cathy Plumb, Transfer of Membership from Sandy Bottom Christian Church (Lynchburg, VA)
- ❖ H. Murray Shantz, Transfer of Membership from First Presbyterian Church (Winchester, VA)
- ❖ Izzy Cruz, Transfer of Membership from Congregational United Church of Christ (Fairmont, MN)
- ❖ Pauline Cruz, Transfer of Membership from Congregational United Church of Christ (Fairmont, MN)
- ❖ Bruce Lehnhard, Re-Affirmation of Faith
- ❖ Kathi Lehnhard, Re-Affirmation of Faith
- ❖ Thom Picciuto, Transfer of Membership from Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (Winchester, VA)
- ❖ Melanie Picciuto, Transfer of Membership from Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (Winchester, VA)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!



Opequon's 2025 High School Seniors will be honored during the morning worship service on Sunday, June 1, right after graduation ceremonies occur at the end of this month. The Christian Education Team is privileged to highlight this special milestone in their life. We wish them happiness and fulfillment in the next chapter of life. Congratulations to:

Emma Abell ----- James Wood High School  
 Jedidiah Bell ----- Sherando High School  
 Jackson Hepner ----- Sherando High School  
 Emma Roark ----- James Wood High School  
 Brayden Rockwell ----- Millbrook High School  
 Sam Sherman ----- James Wood High School

## GRADUATE CARD SHOWER

Congratulations to our high school graduates! We invite you to shower Emma Abell, Jed Bell, Jackson Hepner, Emma Roark, Brayden Rockwell, and Sam Sherman with cards. Please bring the cards to Opequon by Sunday, May 25. Write their first and last name on the front. You may put them in Rebekah Witt's mailbox near the Church Office. Thank you!



## EXTENDING OUR EMPATHY & CHRISTIAN LOVE TO...



- ☞ Wendy Littman and family upon the death of her husband and OPC member, Arthur Littman, on March 25.
- ☞ Ann and Ron Smith and family upon the death of Ann's brother, Don Morrison, on March 25.
- ☞ Ray Ferguson and family upon the death of his wife and OPC member, Patricia Anne Ferguson, on March 31.
- ☞ Helen & Rex Ritchie and family upon the death of Helen's sister, Nellie Louise McCabe, on March 22.
- ☞ Sabra Ganoe Veach, Jeff Ganoe, Kevin Ganoe, and their family upon the death of their uncle, Jim Ganoe, on April 2.
- ☞ Daryl and Jennifer Bell and family upon the death of Daryl's mother, Jane Bell, on April 3.
- ☞ Julie Pearce and family upon the death of her husband and OPC member, Lance Pearce, on April 10.

*"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

## STAFF SCHEDULE NOTES

- Through May 3: Julia Burkley - continuing ed
- Through May 4: David & Carole Witt - vacation
- May 2: Church Office Closed (Apple Blossom)
- May 8-13: Tracie Martin - vacation
- May 9-10: Julia Burkley - vacation
- May 23-26: Tracie Martin - vacation
- May 26: Church Office Closed (Memorial Day)

*Note: If a pastoral concern arises, please note who is away and contact Pastors David Witt, Julia Burkley, or Tracie Martin directly as needed.*

## MAY MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT

**Tuesday, May 6**

6:00 PM Meal: Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Salad, Bread, & Assorted Desserts

6:45 PM Devotions & Team Meetings



Dear OPiE,  
I looked at the pictures from the architects and two courts are pictured.  
Why are we building two basketball courts?  
—Sincerely, Wondering

Dear Wondering,

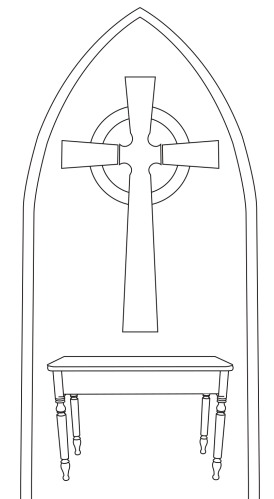
Those drafts show the two places where our architects suggest moving the basketball court. It has not been easy to find places that are safe and appropriate as well as near the church building. We will have one basketball court eventually... somewhere.

Dear OPiE,  
I am ready and willing to pledge to the Capital Campaign. Where can I get a pledge card?  
—Ready & Willing

Dear Ready & Willing,

The easiest way to get a pledge card is to attend one of the small group gatherings scheduled for the next few weeks. We have a lot of them scheduled all over our local area, including several here at the church.

Why hold small groups when we have been talking about this project forever? I sneaked into a meeting recently where the discussion was about just that. There are a few reasons... First, the details of what is being considered keep changing, for many good reasons. The Architectural Review Team is carefully trying to do the best job possible for the best price possible. This means that they are constantly reviewing what costs what and where things might be tightened a bit to make more aspects of what we want possible. Second, prices keep changing. Our US economy is very fluid right now. Prices and availabilities are changing all the time. The presenters at the small groups will have the latest facts. Third, the small groups will give you a chance to ask any questions you want. If the presenters don't have the information needed to answer, they will find it and get it to you.



A Place at the Table

## MAKING A PLACE AT THE TABLE: Prayers for Our Capital Campaign

(Written by: Lois Roy)

Our God, who was and is and is to be, we praise you for your nurture for the last almost 300 years. You've sustained us through sunshine and storms, war and peace, growth and contraction and growth again, and brought us to the church community that we know today.

Some of us have come to this community by being born into families already established here. Others of us have come by curiosity or research or invitation. But, no matter how we found this community, we found that there was a place for us. We squeezed into pews. We gathered around picnic tables under the shelter. We found a group where we could make music and worship together, or support each other, or serve the community, or serve with a mission trip into the wider world. We found a community that knows and shares the meaning of service and fellowship and spiritual growth. You are the God of today, working in our lives.

You are also the God of tomorrow. We look ahead five years and ask, "Who will our community include? Who will our church serve? How will the world change? How will we change? What will we keep and cherish?" In twenty years, when our children are adults, what will the church be to them? Will we have set a path that makes space for their steps and the steps of their children? Will our generosity and imagination and foresight allow for "others" to become "us"? We can't know all the details now, but we do know that you have been blessing us, answering our prayers, giving us direction, providing a firm foundation so that we can confidently live into the future of Opequon Presbyterian Church.

We praise you and ask for your blessing on our work. In Jesus's name, Amen.

## SPRING WORSHIP WALKS

Join Pastor Julia Burkley and "Pastor Pup" Jackson for three upcoming Worship Walk opportunities. We will walk intentionally, with time for conversation but also reflection on God's beautiful creation. Please let Julia know ([pastorjulia@opequonchurch.org](mailto:pastorjulia@opequonchurch.org)) if you plan to attend or have any questions! Kiddos and dog-friendly doggos are more than welcome to come along! All of these walks will be on gravel or pavement and relatively flat.

- **Friday, May 16:** Museum of the Shenandoah Valley—meet in the main parking lot at 1:00 PM (RSVP by May 14)
- **Sunday, May 25:** Sherando Park—meet in the Sherando Park Outdoor Fitness Gym parking lot (off of Warrior Drive) at 2:00 PM (RSVP by May 23)
- **Friday, June 6:** Strasburg River Walk—meet at OPC at 12:30 PM to drive together or the River Walk parking lot at 1:00 PM (RSVP by June 4)

## NOMINATE AN OLDER ADULT FOR "OPEQUON'S "2025 OLDER ADULT OF THE YEAR"

So many of our older adults have been recognized as our "Older Adults of the Year" and we celebrate those crowned in the past: Roy Bayliss, John Boyd, Frances Smith, Louise Duncan, Bill Robinson, Shirley Brumble, Dave Brumble, Rob MacGregor, Ty Headley, Edgar Tufts, Howard Kent, Donna Coffman, Betty Gano, Carol Tubbs, Graham Taylor, Carol Treece, Jack Treece, Dick Crane, Gail Crane, Martha Fulton, Becky Proctor, Steve Brown, Edwina Johansen, Betty Chicklo, June Malone, Alan McKay, Jean Smith, and Phil Hunter.

It is time to share your nominations for this year's Older Adult of the Year. Who would you like to nominate? There are forms available on the table in the Gathering Area. Share who you nominate and **WHY**.

**Nominations are due by May 11** 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 2025 Older Adult of the Year will be announced at the Older Adult Luncheon on Wednesday, May 28.



## OLDER ADULT CHOIR

The Older Adult Choir will sing during both services on Older Adult Sunday, May 4. All interested older adults are welcome to join us! Got Questions? Contact Susan Homan ([srh1305@verizon.net](mailto:srh1305@verizon.net)).



## OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

The April showers are bringing May flowers! A beautiful month is before us. The month of May is known as Older Adult Month. We celebrate with all older adults! Thank you for being a vital part of Opequon's personality. Exciting things are happening this month. Sunday, May 4, is Older Adult Sunday, with a special Older Adult Choir sharing an anthem.

On Monday, May 5, the Older Adult Planning Team meets 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.

The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be held on Wednesday, May 14, at NOON in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a covered-dish lunch with Rotisserie Chicken and drinks provided. You are invited to bring a covered dish for the luncheon. Following lunch, our own Susan Homan will be leading us in some simple chair exercise and sharing some healthy habits beneficial to all of us. It is sure to be very enjoyable. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the friendships and the delicious food.

## OLDER ADULT LUNCHEON

The annual Older Adult Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 28, beginning at 11:30 AM with entertainment by singer Dave Smith in the Sanctuary. The luncheon will follow at 12:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The luncheon will be fully prepared for you as a token of appreciation for you. The menu includes: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Rolls, Peas, Tossed Salad, Texas Sheet Cake, and Pound Cake.

RSVP's from older adults are requested. **Please RSVP to Carole Witt** ([dce@opequonchurch.org](mailto:dce@opequonchurch.org) or 540-662-1843). The luncheon time includes: doses of laughter, door prizes, and the crowning of our 2025 Older Adult of the Year.

## "GIFT" EVENT—Sunday, May 25 at 9:45 AM (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 9:45 AM. The theme for this special time is "A Sneak Peak into Summer," with wonderful surprises of the season! Come enjoy some good food, good company and a good morning experience. Everyone is invited.

## ITEMS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

There are a number of ways you are invited to contribute to our VBS week at Opequon. As part of the week, the children and youth will be assembling LOVING KINDNESS KITS with various items. You will see items listed below that we will be collecting now through June 15. Items may be placed in the bin provided in the Gathering Area. We are very grateful for your generosity. There is also a chart in the Gathering Area for various food items needed for our VBS meals. You are invited to sign-up on the chart for anything you would like to contribute. **Items needed for LOVING KINDNESS KITS include:**

- Boxes of Band-Aids
- Small Neosporin Tubes
- Small Packages of Wet Wipes
- Self-Adhesive Wrap
- Boxes of Cake Mix
- Cans of Icing
- Birthday Hats
- Birthday Napkins
- Birthday Candles
- Tissue Packs
- Small Cans of Soup (with a pull tab)
- Small Packs of Crackers
- Small Boxes of Tea Bags

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025: VOLUNTEER To Help / REGISTER Your Loved Ones

Vacation Bible School planning has ramped up now that Spring has arrived and Summer is just around the corner. We are planning a super time for those warm evenings of summer and VBS fun. Our fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School is scheduled to happen **June 16-19** (Monday—Thursday), 5:00 PM—7:30 PM. This year's exciting theme is, "**COMPASSION CAMP, CHANGING THE WORLD WITH LOVING KINDNESS!**" Vacation Bible School is for 4-year-olds through 8th grade, with an adult class as well. The adult class will be using a study titled "Appreciate These Things—8 Ways of Cultivating Compassion." Registration is available now through June 9. Registration can be done at the display in the Gathering Area or online. Invite your friends now to come along with you to VBS. We want you to be part of it all!

### For Online VBS Children & Youth Registration:

Go to [www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org) and click the "All Generations" tab at the top. Scroll down to the CHILDREN section and click on the link next to "Register here" or you may use this direct link: <https://forms.gle/sR8pNMKQY1k9iktW7>

### For Online VBS Adult Class Registration:

Go to [www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org) and click the "All Generations" tab at the top. Scroll down to the ADULT SMALL GROUPS section and click the link by "Register for Adult VBS here" or you use this direct link: <https://forms.gle/vsgms6pnCrxtS5qd7>

Volunteers are also needed to help make Vacation Bible School happen. There are many different roles to fill, so see what a good match for you might be. Volunteer forms are available at the VBS display. You are likely to have a great time volunteering!





## OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE

Opie's Playhouse is a time of fun and fellowship planned especially for our families with young children. We fill the room with toys for children elementary age and under, and provide snacks, juice, and coffee. You are also welcome to drop-off your children at during this hour of supervised playtime while you attend Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation Class.

Come to the Memorial Sanctuary for Opie's Playhouse on May 4, 9:45 AM—10:45 AM. We hope you will come play with us!



## THE LATEST IN LOGOS

LOGOS is in its 'off-season,' but it is NOT off our minds. The LOGOS Leadership Team continues to realize the great value and impact LOGOS brings to OPC and is working to plan for the new LOGOS year. The kick-off date for our 28th year is Wednesday, September 17, 2025! We will have a new overall theme and all new weekly themes for another exciting year. Reviewing evaluations from this past LOGOS year will help guide us in our planning. We are privileged to have a strong leadership team that works hard for the whole LOGOS Ministry. The LOGOS Leadership Team Members are: Ben Barnes, Erin Deptula, Abigail Ervin, Michelle Hammer, Susan Homan, Lynn Metheny, David Witt, Wendy Wygant, and Carole Witt. If you have any specific questions on your mind to help you know more about LOGOS—PLEASE ASK! Feel free to contact Carole Witt ([dce@opequonchurch.org](mailto:dce@opequonchurch.org)). We hope you can be onboard with us as we begin again in September! We miss one another right now each Wednesday, but LOGOS year #28 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.

## YOUNG ADULTS

May 6: Cook/Serve the Ministry Team Night Meal

## FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

The Book Club gathering for this month has been rescheduled to May 29. We will meet at 6:00 PM in the Bageant Room and discuss both *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi and *The Soul of a Woman* by Isabel Allende.

## IN HONOR OF OUR MOTHERS & FATHERS

The Christian Education Team is purchasing a professionally made banner that is appropriate for use with funerals, as a gift to the church in honor of all Opequon women and mothers and all men and fathers. The banner will have a royal blue background, with the message of "Well done, Good and Faithful servant." We are pleased to get this gift for use when needed at Opequon. A very happy Mother's Day and Father's Day to all!



## MEN OF OPEQUON (MOO)

The monthly MOO gathering will be held on Monday, May 12, beginning at 6:00 PM with dinner at Chick-fil-A. 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 our own Mike Nutry, a beekeeper at home and at OPC. Mike has great insights to share about bees that will leave you saying, "Wow!" We hope you will join us. All men are invited.

## 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 enjoyed 'breakfast for dinner' last month along with some beneficial chair yoga.

GLOW will meet this month on Tuesday, May 13, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Our theme will be "AN ICE CREAM SOCIAL NIGHT". Ice Cream and drinks will be provided. All OPC women are invited to bring your favorite ICE CREAM TOPPING to share with others as we build our own ice cream treats. We will also make a lovely ice cream cone birthday card. Bring \$1.00 to help with the cost of supplies. Come enjoy some ice cream dessert along with a host of great fun! Make plans to grace us with your presence.



## JAVA WITH JULIA

Swing by Hopscotch Café for Java with Julia on Friday, May 23, any time between 11:00 AM—1:00 PM!



## LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will meet on May 19 at noon in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to bring a dish to share or to chip in a couple of dollars toward the main course. Contact Tracie Martin or the church office if you need a ride. Life Goes On is a gathering of people who have lost their significant other. We typically meet on the third Monday every month for lunch and conversation.

## APRIL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ Sherando Food Pantry: May 1 & 15 (6:30 PM)
- ▶ Senior Outreach: May 11 (12:15 PM)
- ▶ Highland Food Pantry: May 27 (5:30 PM)

## MISSION HIGHLIGHT

This month's Mission Highlight comes from Carol Schempp and focuses on our **Dominican Republic Trip**. Please join us in supporting this important mission:



*Thanks for your support of OPC's delegation to the Dominican Republic! Four of our members, Mike Nutry, Carol Nutry, Brenden Nutry, and Carol Schempp, traveled to Dajabon, DR in March to participate in a medical mission experience sponsored by Medical Mission International.*

*During our time there, we served the populations of ten different villages with medical care and health education with our hands, hearts, and feet. Sometimes the "getting there" was the hardest part of the day since we were in a mountainous area with lots of hills and curves!*

*Over forty people made up the staff for this project and included others from all around the United States, Canada, and the Dominican Republic. Members of the staff who did not have medical or surgical training were able to provide services that enabled our medical staff to care for the medical needs of the patients. It was a wonderful example of how God's uses each one of us, no matter what our skills are! We carried with us, not only medications to dispense at no cost to the patients, but also hats, toys, and dresses made by members of OPC.*

*Your prayers for our safety and well-being were very much appreciated also. We plan to share our experiences with you with videos, photos and personal stories from our trip, so be on the lookout for that date announcement!*

## MONTHLY CCAP COLLECTION

Our Mission Ministry is collecting boxes of macaroni and cheese for CCAP throughout the month of May. Donations should be placed in the CCAP collection box in the Dell Room.

## SENIOR OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Senior Outreach Ministry will meet Sunday, May 11, at 12:15 PM, by the church office door to load up the totes which will be brought to the Shenandoah Senior Apartments on Wilson Blvd, in Winchester. Donations of paper towels or bath tissue would be helpful.

## DRIVERS NEEDED

Congregational Care and the Deacons are reaching out to ask for volunteers who would be willing to drive members to medical appointments on an as-needed basis, with at least several days notice. If you are willing to add your name to the contact list Congregational Care is compiling, please reach out to Robin Cooke (980-328-5131 or [robincooke67@gmail.com](mailto:robincooke67@gmail.com)).

## GARDEN WORK DAY NEWS

OPC's Roots & Shoots has several upcoming Garden Work Days planned. If you're able to come and help with the fence work, top-off the garden beds, plant, water, and/or whatever other garden tasks need to be done, feel free to lend a hand! We will keep you updated though the bulletins and church emails as workdays are planned.

A "Sunday in the Garden" Work Day will be on June 22 (11:15 AM—12:15 PM). Please come by after the worship service and give us a hand in the garden. We would love to see you in the Roots & Shoots Garden!

## UPDATED GARDEN REQUEST

Roots & Shoots is still in need of a Garden Administrator to keep spreadsheet totals of produce, be the contact for community groups who want to volunteer, and send info to the church office for the bulletin and newsletter.

We are also looking for some volunteers to help mow the garden throughout the season.

If you are interested in helping with either of these roles, please contact Dana Kelly ([davedana@comcast.net](mailto:davedana@comcast.net)).

## OPC NURSE NOTES: Keeping Your Food Safe (Part 2)

- ◆ **Cold Perishable Food** should be kept in the cooler at 40 °F or below until serving time: Once you've served it, it should not sit out for longer than 2 hours, or 1 hour if the outdoor temperature is above 90 °F. If it does—discard it. Foods like chicken salad and desserts in individual serving dishes can be placed directly on ice, or in a shallow container set in a deep pan filled with ice. Drain off water as ice melts and replace ice frequently.
- ◆ **Hot Food** should be kept hot, at or above 140 °F. Wash hands and surfaces often. Wrap it well and place it in an insulated container until serving. Hot foods should not sit out for more than 2 hours, or 1 hour in temperatures above 90 °F. If food is left out longer, throw it away to be safe.

### 4 Simple Steps to Follow

#### 1. **CLEAN**—Wash Hands & Surfaces Often

- ⇒ Wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food and also after using the bathroom, changing diapers, and handling pets.
- ⇒ Wash your cutting boards, dishes, utensils, and counter tops with hot soapy water after preparing each food item.
- ⇒ Consider using paper towels to clean up kitchen surfaces. If using cloth towels, launder them often in the hot cycle.
- ⇒ Rinse fresh fruits and vegetables under running tap water, including those with skins and rinds that are not eaten. Scrub firm produce with a clean produce brush.
- ⇒ With canned goods, remember to clean lids before opening.

#### 2. **SEPARATE**—Separate Raw Meats From Other Foods

- ⇒ Separate raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs from other foods in your grocery shopping cart, grocery bags, and refrigerator.
- ⇒ Use one cutting board for fresh produce and a separate one for raw meat, poultry, and seafood.
- ⇒ Never place cooked food on a plate that previously held raw meat, poultry, seafood, or eggs unless the plate has been washed in hot, soapy water.
- ⇒ Don't reuse marinades used on raw foods unless you bring them to a boil first.

#### 3. **COOK**—Cook To The Right Temperature

- ⇒ Color and texture are unreliable indicators of safety. Using a food thermometer is the only way to ensure the safety of meat, poultry, seafood, and egg products for all cooking methods. These foods must be cooked to a safe minimum internal temperature to destroy any harmful bacteria.
- ⇒ Cook eggs until the yolk and white are firm. Only use recipes in which eggs are cooked or heated thoroughly.
- ⇒ When cooking in a microwave oven, cover food, stir, and rotate for even cooking. If there is no turntable, rotate the dish by hand once or twice during cooking. Always allow standing time, which completes the cooking, before checking the internal temperature with a food thermometer.
- ⇒ Bring sauces, soups and gravy to a boil when reheating.

#### 4. **CHILL**—Refrigerate Foods Promptly

- ⇒ Use an appliance thermometer to be sure the temperature is consistently 40° F or below and the freezer temperature is 0° F or below.
- ⇒ Refrigerate or freeze meat, poultry, eggs, seafood, and other perishables within 2 hours of cooking or purchasing. Refrigerate within 1 hour if the temperature outside is above 90° F.
- ⇒ Never thaw food at room temperature, such as on the counter top. There are three safe ways to defrost food: in the refrigerator, in cold water, and in the microwave. Food thawed in cold water or in the microwave should be cooked immediately.
- ⇒ Always marinate food in the refrigerator.
- ⇒ Divide large amounts of leftovers into shallow containers for quicker cooling in the refrigerator.

*Learn more on the OPC Faith Community Nurses' Bulletin Board in the hallway or online at:*  
[www.fda.gov/food/buy-store-serve-safe-food/handling-food-safely-while-eating-outdoors](http://www.fda.gov/food/buy-store-serve-safe-food/handling-food-safely-while-eating-outdoors)

**Opequon Presbyterian Church**  
**Financial Summary for the period ended**  
**March 31, 2025**

	Annual Budget 2025	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
Income					
410000 Offering Income	882,418	84,542	248,637	633,781	28.2%
420000 Other Income	1,800	167	387	1,413	21.5%
Total 400000 Income	884,218	84,709	249,024	635,194	28.2%
Expenses					
500000 Personnel Costs					
510000 Installed Pastors	228,422	18,449	56,460	171,962	24.7%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	143,633	12,147	33,986	109,647	23.7%
530000 Administrative Staff	155,104	12,939	38,394	116,710	24.8%
Total 500000 Personnel Costs	527,159	43,535	128,839	398,320	24.4%
600000 Other Ministries					
610000 Christian Education	15,050	1,146	2,716	12,334	18.0%
620000 Congregational Care	2,800	0	139	2,661	4.9%
630000 Evangelism	2,250	0	149	2,101	6.6%
640000 Fellowship	3,800	615	1,202	2,598	31.6%
650000 Mission	77,000	2,817	19,200	57,800	24.9%
660000 Worship	8,000	202	690	7,310	8.6%
Total 600000 Other Ministries	108,900	4,780	24,095	84,805	22.1%
Total 700000 Church Administration	148,385	11,949	32,913	115,472	22.2%
Total Expenses	784,444	60,264	185,847	598,597	23.7%
Net Operating Income (Expense)	99,774	24,445	63,177	36,597	63.3%
920000 Other Income	18,675	1,626	6,050	12,625	32.4%
930000 Other Expenses	118,449	9,703	29,686	88,763	25.1%
Net Other Income (Expense)	(99,774)	(8,078)	(23,636)	(76,138)	23.7%
Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses	0	16,367	39,541		

3/31/25

Cash	<u>\$ 113,476</u>
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance	<u>\$ 357,876</u>



## Charitable Estate Planning—Leaving a Legacy

*(From Pastor Tracie Martin for the Stewardship & Finance Team)*

I have recently been involved in conversations about leaving a legacy. This could be because of the Capital Fund Campaign; it could just as easily be because most of the people I see often are my age or older. Many of us are invested in the future in one way or another. All of us are concerned with some aspects of legacy.

Legacy is important. When I am gone, will anyone notice? Will it matter to anyone outside of my immediate family? Who will take over the things I have enjoyed doing at our church? Will there be an OPC? How long will our church last? Opequon can surely survive me, but there are others who contribute so much more. Can OPC survive them? How?

This conversation is one for all ages, not just those of us who are retired. Ensuring the future of a healthy, thriving congregation is important to the future of our faith. I have participated in the closing of several churches... I know... I have cried with lost congregations. Some were larger and wealthier than Opequon when they began to die.

Every May, the Stewardship & Finance Team tries to provide the congregation with information about Charitable Estate Planning, which is one means of working to ensure that the church you love will be there for future generations. It all begins with having a will.

Approximately 68% of Americans, or roughly two out of three adults, do not have a will, according to a 2024 survey by Caring.com. Why not? Well, the most common reasons include: "Haven't gotten around to it," "It's not urgent," "I don't have a lawyer," "It's just too much of a bother," or "My estate won't be large anyway."

Without a will, the distribution of your estate—no matter how small or large—is determined by the laws of your state. It's the state's decisions, which may not include all the people you would like to bless, and it will not include any charities or religious organizations you wish to support.

The word "bequeath" comes from an Old English word that means "to say; to speak; to exhort." Making a bequest to the church in your will is a simple, effective way to speak into the future of your faith community and encourage growth for the long-term. You can give different kinds of gifts to the church, including a dollar amount, real estate, stocks, business interests, artwork, or copyrights or royalties. In some cases, giving to the church can even have tax benefits. You don't have to be wealthy to bless the church with a gift in your will. Small amounts can be put to good use right away or invested so they grow in the years to come. The success of OPC has always hinged on a group effort. Her future depends on us all.

If you would like more information, please look for our Charitable Estate Planning brochure located in the pew racks and Dell Room or visiting the "Giving" page of our website.

Our OPC church family is an extraordinarily generous congregation. We see that every day... in time that is given, in the unique talents of each of us, and in the giving of our treasure, both this year and for the future. Generous living is about approaching each day with an open heart, an open mind, and an open hand. Numerous studies have shown that churches have a positive economic, social, educational, and physical impact on their communities. You can be a part of that positive influence for years to come by making a bequest to our church.

If you would like more information, please contact:  
Ron Smith, OPC Treasurer (703-216-9588 or [ronaldsmith1@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldsmith1@gmail.com)).

**\*\*This calendar is subject to change. The most current schedule is on the OPC website here: [www.opeonchurch.org/get-involved](http://www.opeonchurch.org/get-involved)**

**MAY 2025**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
David and Carole Vacation						
Julia Continuing Ed						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Julia Continuing Ed	9:30am - Older Adult Ministry 11am - CC Small Group @	5pm - Tech Team Meeting @ 6pm - Ministry Team Night @	9:30am - Staff Meeting @ Bageant 5:30pm - LOGOS Youth Extension 6:30pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry @	Church Office Closed	
Communion	5pm - LOGOS Leadership Meeting			Tracee Away		
Older Adult Sunday	5:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary &			10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 4pm - VBS Team Meeting @ 5pm - Discipleship Team Meeting	Julia Away	
8:30am - Worship & Live Stream @						
9:45am - CC Small Group @						
9:45am - Faith Formation @						
9:45am - Opie's Playhouse @						
11am - Worship @ Sanctuary						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Tracee Away			12pm - Happy Days @ Fellowship 5:30pm - LOGOS Youth Extension 6:30pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9am - WANC Tea @ Youth Spot 10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 10:30am - WANC Meeting @ 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry	1pm - Worship Walk @ Museum of	11am - Crafting with Becky @
Mother's Day	5:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary & 6pm - MOO @ Chick-fil-A 7pm - MOO in FH @ Fellowship	9:30am - Tuesday Morning Mission 11am - Private Event @ Picnic 6pm - GLOW Fellowship Hall @ 7pm - ART @ Assembly Room 7pm - Vision Team @ Bageant				
8:30am - Worship & Live Stream @						
9:45am - Faith Formation @						
11am - Worship @ Sanctuary						
12:15pm - Senior Outreach						
1:30pm - Spring Arbor Worship @						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Blood Pressure Checks	12pm - Life Goes On @ Fellowship 5:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary & 6pm - Safety Team Meeting @	9:30am - Sherandoah Presbytery 7pm - Session Mtg @ Bageant	9:30am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Music at Noon @ Sanctuary 6:30pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 10:30am - WANC Lunch @ 1pm - At Home Communion Server	Tracee Away 11am - Java With Julia @	
Dedication Sunday						
8:30am - Worship & Live Stream @						
9:45am - Faith Formation @						
11am - Worship @ Sanctuary						
3pm - Piano Studio Recital @						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Tracee Away		3pm - TVOR Gathering 5:30pm - Highland Food Pantry @	11:30am - Older Adult Luncheon @ 6:30pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 6pm - Fellowship Book Club @		10am - Jubilee Kitchen - Opequon - 11am - Chicklo Memorial @ 12:15pm - Chicklo Reception @
4 Cents a Meal Offering	Church Office Closed					
8:30am - Worship & Live Stream @	Memorial Day					
9:45am - GIFT Event @ Fellowship						
11am - Worship @ Sanctuary						
1pm - Worship Walk @ Sherando						

## SOME NOTES OF THANKS...

To the Men of Opequon:

*Thanks to the men who sponsored the Sunrise Breakfast under the direction of Kyle and Andy Homan. We are grateful! The men also cooked up "some grub" in the church kitchen for our April Ministry Team Night! A standing ovation. Both morning and evening meals were scrumptious!!*

Mulch Madness Thanks:

*Thank you "VERY MULCH" to all the volunteers that came out and helped with Mulch Madness on April 5! A special thanks goes to our Building & Grounds Team, Steve & Heather Burton, Kieran Orndorff, Bill Bender, Pastor Julia Burkley, Basil Clark, and Pauline & Izzy Cruz for all their hard work!*

Thank You Car Vacuuming Folks:

*A huge thanks to everyone who stopped by the Car Vacuuming Fundraiser on March 30 to support Youth attending Mission Trips & Camps/Conferences! We enjoyed seeing so many people and the weather turned out perfectly. Thanks to the youth, leaders, and other volunteers who pitched in to make it a success!*

From Ann & Ron Smith:

*Thank you to everyone for the support, prayers, and cards of sympathy in the passing of Ann's brother, Donald C. Morrison.*

With Sincere Appreciation from Betty Chicklo:

*To My Opequon Church Family, Thanks to each and every one of you for your cards of encouragement during the illness and passing of my husband, Matthew (Buddy) Chicklo. Your outpouring of love, caring, and friendships mean the world to me. I am truly blessed.*

Thank You & Happy Easter – Love, Heidi McMurdo:

*Thank you to OPC for sending the April edition of the newsletter! I could not read it fast enough. Truly, it held my attention for 2 hours... and I am a fast reader! Thank you for the update on ALL the business of each committee, class, LOGOS, garden details, mulch work, drivers to appointments, children's activities, Easter hunts, choir, peppy songs, smiles, clapping our hands and—smiles, smiles everywhere. To our and your God be the glory! Don't change—keep it going! What a team!!! Thanks to the Lord for OPC—we miss each of you! We miss the excitement, daily. Your work there is beautiful and so needed—everywhere! Your team hears the Almighty and follows Him—it's beautiful. Praise God for each of you!!*

*P.S. Thank you for loving and praying for our Kourtney. She is back on chemotherapy, two places in her lungs. She's a trooper; she works hard to keep going. She and her husband are beautiful Christians. I appreciate every prayer and truly she does, also. Thank you, thank you!*

## JUNE WILL BE JUMPING @ OPEQUON!

- ✓ Summer Worship @ 10:00 AM Only Begins—Sunday, June 1
- ✓ Honoring Our High School Graduates—Sunday, June 1
- ✓ VBS Staff Orientation—Monday, June 2
- ✓ June Ministry Team Night—Tuesday, June 3
- ✓ Pentecost Sunday & June Communion—Sunday, June 8
- ✓ Father's Day—Sunday, June 15
- ✓ Vacation Bible School—June 16-19
- ✓ "Sunday in the Garden"—June 22
- ✓ Youth Hershey Park Trip—June 25
- ✓ "Picnic in the Garden" & WOW Service—June 29



**REMEMBER:**  
**Summer Worship**  
**@ 10:00 AM Begins**  
**Sunday, June 1**  
and continues through  
Sunday, August 31!

**\*\* 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](http://www.opequonchurch.org)

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### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor ..... David R. Witt  
Associate Pastor ..... Julia H. Burkley  
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 ..... William Heavner  
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](http://www.opequonchurch.org)

Phone:

540-662-1843

Office:

[office@opequonchurch.org](mailto:office@opequonchurch.org)

#### Church Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday,  
9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Friday,  
9:00 AM—12:00 PM

#### Sunday Worship Services:

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM