

GENERATIONS SUNDAY

*Celebrating Our Roots...
And Our "Blooming" Branches!*



August 23, 2026

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH www.opequonchurch.org

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<i>Pastor</i>	David R. Witt
<i>Parish Associate</i>	Tracie Martin
<i>Church Office Administrator</i>	Rachel Lesink
<i>Church Finance Administrator</i>	Ken Smiy
<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	Carole Witt
<i>Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries</i>	Rebekah Witt
<i>Director of Music</i>	Susan Homan
<i>Organist/Pianist</i>	Garrett Jones
<i>Facilities Coordinator</i>	Robert Sydnor
<i>Nursery Supervisor</i>	Laurie Carver
<i>Faith Community Nurses</i>	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

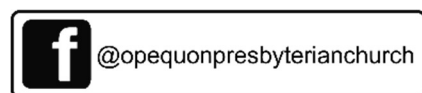
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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:



A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Thirteenth Day After Pentecost – 4 Cents A Meal

- ☞ **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..... *Ode to Joy* (Arr. by: Tom Birchwood)
Susan Homan, piano
Garrett Jones, organ

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS
GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG No. 406 (x2)..... *We Are Standing on Holy Ground*
**We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around;
let us praise Jesus now;
we are standing in his presence on holy ground.**

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

**Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth,
from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

We will not hide these truths from our children;

we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.

From generation to generation,

we will proclaim your greatness and sing of your steadfast love!

Come, let us sing, O Church, in joy;

come, let us join, O Church, in song!

Come, let us worship our living God as one family of many

generations, united by Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

†OPENING HYMN No. 305 *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*
Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!
Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!
Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,
as we in mission magnify the Crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!
Come sing, O church in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION (based on Psalm 78)

The scriptures invite us to listen to God's enduring instruction, to acknowledge our generational failures to remember God's wondrous deeds, and to turn away from our stubborn and unfaithful hearts. Let us confess our sin, first in unison prayer, then in personal silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Psalm 78)

Almighty God, we know we are called to remember your glorious deeds so that we might set our hope in you. Yet we confess we are often like our ancestors – a stubborn and rebellious generation. We have hidden your mighty acts behind our silence. We have failed to pass down a steadfast faith, and our spirits have not remained faithful to you. Lord, forgive our forgetfulness. Forgive our unsteadiness of heart. Cleanse us from our rebellion and renew a right spirit within us.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (based on Psalm 78)

Our hope is anchored in God's unchanging character and faithfulness. No matter how fragile or rebellious we may be, the Lord invites each generation to place their trust in God's faithfulness.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE..... *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

Lord, I lift your name on high;

Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I'm so glad you're in my life;

I'm so glad you came to save us.

***You came from heaven to earth to show the way,**

from the earth to the cross my debt to pay;

from the cross to the grave, from the grave to sky;

Lord, I lift your name on high. [* repeat]

†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..... *From Generation to Generation*

By: Lynn Shaw Bailey

Generations of Narrators –

The Youngblood, Hartman, Gaines, Heavner, Bayliss, Bender, Deptula, & Witt Families

From father to daughter, from mother to son, God's story of love is passed on. From hearts of the faithful, the truth of God's Word has been made known. From generation to ev'ry generation, we have heard the story. From ages past to days that come at last, we find hope in God's grace and glory. God's faithfulness will always endure, God's love is sure. The saints of the ages have answered the call. God's story of love has been told. The gift of salvation is given for all, both young and old.

[ALL] **O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.**

And our eternal home! From generation to ev'ry generation, we have heard the story. From ages past to days that come at last, we find hope in God's grace and glory. God's faithfulness will always endure, God's love is sure. From generation to ev'ry generation, God's love is sure.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 17:1-8Pew Bible p. 11

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2Pew Bible p. 977

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "Something Old, Something New"

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 301 *Let Us Build a House*

**Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
safely live, a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and
visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

[refrain] **all are welcome; all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are
strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as
witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:** [refrain]

**Let us build a house where love is found in water,
wine, and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through
Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:** [refrain]

**Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the
wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the
stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:** [refrain]

**Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and
visions heard, and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and
laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:** [refrain]

SERMON..... "Roots & Branches"
Pastor David Witt

REMEMBERING & CELEBRATING THE GENERATIONS

Hymn No. 326 (v. 1)..... *For All the Saints*
**For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

PRAYERFULLY NAMING THE PILLARS OF OPEQUON & OUR LIVES

Hymn No. 326 (v. 3).....*For All the Saints*

**O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

RECOGNIZING THE GENERATIONS

Hymn No. 326 (v. 5).....*For All the Saints*

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

☞ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ☞

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *The Poet Sings*
By: Z. Randall Stroope

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

Lord, we incline our ears to your instructions. We recognize the sacred duty we have to not conceal your glorious deeds, your strength, or the wonders you have done from the children and the generations to come.

Today, we dedicate ourselves – our hearts, our words, our actions, our gifts – to teaching your truth and sharing your good news. As we have received this legacy from past generations, may the children yet to be born rise up and declare your goodness to their own children.

Give us grace to hope unwaveringly in you, that we may keep your commandments, doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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. 306.....*Blest Be the Tie that Binds*
**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.
From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE*Draw the Circle Wide*
Words by: Gordon Light; Music by: Mark A. Miller

**Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.
No one stands alone, we'll stand side by side.
Draw the circle, draw the circle wide.**

*** Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song: no one stands alone.
Standing side by side, draw the circle,
draw the circle wide. [repeat *]**

†POSTLUDE

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Ben and Winter Brooks in loving memory of their son, Steven DeHaven.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Mary Scott
 Connie Byrne
 Robin Owens
 Bill Gesell
 Lorin & Bill Goulart
 Barbara Koehler Family
 Mid-West Flood Victims
 Victims of Shootings in
 Kansas & at Virginia
 State University
 Andrew Callahan
 Johnny Clark Family
 Terisa Pierce & Shante
 Gary Rutherford
 Sandy Widell
 Mike & Sara
 Birchenough & Family
 Susan Youngblood
 Callie Veach
 Kraig Hawkins
 Roger Callis
 Cheryl & Bob
 Lincoln & Family
 Cora Helen Anderson
 Nancy Budny & Family
 Dale Barley
 Mike Pyles
 Todd Young
 Tyler McDonald

Ben Costello
 Marlie Racca
 Tim & Katherine Loftis
 June Windle
 Tony Bennett
 Jim Keeler
 Hazel Spriggs
 Jennifer Riggelman
 Katie Happel
 Don Black
 Marcia Jaureguizar
 Mark McKee
 Chick Doroffee
 Darcus Breneman
 Lyn Warren
 Carol Schempp
 Venezuela
 Linda Swiger
 Bud & Becky Proctor
 Xavier
 Mike Shade
 Karen Lemons & Family
 Bonnie Triplett
 Vern Gamble
 Al Schollenberger
 Cheri Norris
 Mo & Heide Mohler
 Marge & Tim Higgins
 Susan Arthur

Tammy Mowery Earhart
 Dan Cammer
 Middle East War
 Rick Ours
 Jolissa Matthews
 Riley Fitzgerald
 Lori Jones & Stephen
 Armstrong
 Mike & Trish Crawford
 Judy Gaines
 Lynne Rosamilia
 JoAnne Farrell
 Judy Camper
 David Lewis
 David DesMarias
 Megan Tschappat
 Charlotte Rosamilia
 All Struggling with
 Mental Illness
 Nancy Kerns
 Jewish & Muslim Victims
 Worldwide
 Cindy Corell
 Katie Wolf
 Ukraine
 Ethiopia Church Mekane
 Jesus

❧ **THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES** ❧

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 Sherando High School in Frederick County, VA

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – August 23

Generations Sunday – Celebrating the Pillars of Opequon; 4 Cents A Meal

- 10:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
11:15 AM Fellowship Time – Gathering Area, Dell Room, & Bageant Room
Dedication of Memorial Sanctuary Enhancements
4:00 PM Newcomers' Class – Memorial Sanctuary

THIS WEEK

- Monday: 5:30 PM Windsong Practice – Memorial Sanctuary
7:00 PM Astronomy Club – Assembly Room
Tuesday: 3:00 PM TVOR Gathering
5:30 PM Highland Food Pantry
Wednesday: 10:30 AM WANC Small Group Meeting – Youth Spot
12:00 PM Older Adult Roma Lunch – Roma (Stephens City)
6:00 PM Choir Practice – Sanctuary
Thursday: 10:30 AM Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary/Picnic Shelter
10:30 PM WANC Lunch – Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM Fellowship Book Club – Bageant Room
Friday: 9:30 AM Newsletter Crew – Bageant Room
Saturday: 10:00 AM Jubilee Kitchen – First Presbyterian

NEXT SUNDAY – August 30

Rally Day; Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering

Scriptures: Exodus 3:1-15; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50 Sermon: "A Parabaloosa"

- 10:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
11:15 AM Rally Day Fellowship Time – Gathering Area
3:00 PM Windsong Practice – Sanctuary
4:30 PM Confirmation Orientation – Fellowship Hall

NEWCOMERS' CLASS

Are you new to Opequon Church or our community? Would you like to know more about the heritage, mission, and vision of Opequon Church? Do you have some questions about what, where, when, why, and how we do things within this faith community? Would you like to become a member of Opequon? If you said "yes!" to any of these questions, you are cordially invited and encouraged to attend our upcoming Newcomers' Class in the Memorial Sanctuary **tonight at 4:00 PM**. If you have questions, please contact Pastor David Witt (pastor@opequonchurch.org or 540-662-1843), who will be facilitating this time of sharing. To help us prepare the appropriate resources, please also let him know you would like to attend.

FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

Book Club will gather in the Bageant Room this **Thursday** at **6:00 PM** to discuss *The Resistance Daughter* by Joanne Kormylo.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

A new Confirmation Class will start this September for any young person in 8th grade or beyond. The class will meet on **Wednesday evenings, 6:15 – 7:15 PM**, beginning September 23. A Confirmation Orientation will be held on Sunday, August 30, at 4:30 PM. Parents and Confirmation students are asked to attend the orientation. Details of the Confirmation experience will be shared.

LOGOS REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Our 29th Logos year is set to begin on September 23! The exciting theme for the year is "Give Thanks With A Grateful Heart". Logos is a midweek ministry for young people ages 4 through High School. Each week is full of holy hilarity and an abundance of great relationships with one another. **Registration is available now** with an early bird discount. Registration is available at the display in the Gathering Area and online at opequonchurch.org. As each young person is registered, their name will be entered for a BIRTHDAY BASKET prize drawing. We invite all young people to be part of the lively and worthwhile Wednesday evenings beginning in September. Questions – please ask Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org).

ADULT TRIP TO VA SAFARI PARK

An adult trip to the VA Safari Park near Natural Bridge is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 16**, meeting at Opequon at **8:15 AM**. This is a drive through wilderness where we will see animals from the church bus windows. The cost is \$20 plus lunch. If you would like to go on this trip, please let Carole Witt know. A few spaces are still available. (dce@opequonchurch.org)

CONCERT & MEAL FUNDRAISER TICKETS

Tickets are on sale for the Annual Graham Taylor Concert & Meal Fundraiser Event featuring Murphy's Bluegrass Bandits on **September 26**. Concert tickets are \$20 each (kids 18 and under are FREE). Optional fried chicken dinner tickets (\$10 each) must be purchased by September 13. Place payments in the offering or through online giving and indicate "GT-Concert" or "GT-Dinner." All proceeds benefit OPC's Mission Ministry Fund. (*details in August newsletter*)

UNDIE SUNDAYS

Donations of new underwear, socks, and sports bras for Bright Futures to deliver to local K-12 students in need may be placed in the Gathering Area.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

Liturgist: Sarah Pelfrey

Beadle: Shirley Tomblin

Door Greeters: Linda Butler,
Kirsta Weber

Building Stewards: Betty Chicklo,
June Malone

Ushers: Fran Jeffries, Mike Jeffries, June
Malone, Betty Chicklo, Jasper Kirby-Yoder,
Bo Weber, Tucker Birchenough, Oliver
Bayliss, Luca Deptula

Acolyte: Jasper Kirby-Yoder

Livestream: Susan Ritter, John White

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✂ How did the music today witness to generations sharing the journey of life and faith?

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 does "something old and something new" work together to be a stronger church? What imprint will you leave?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

✂ When did you first experience having "roots and wings?"

✂ How do the scriptures read this morning witness to having roots and wings?

✂ How does the covenant promise to Abraham and Sarah continue through the generations?

✂ What guidance is the great cloud of witnesses giving us today?

✂ How do the roots and branches of Opequon Church make a difference in our lives and within our community?

✂ What will we tell generations today and generations to come?

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