

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 27, 2026 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM



The 2027
Stewardship
Campaign

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

<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

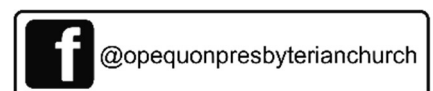
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost – Stewardship's Popping Sunday; 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..... *One World*

By: Shay Healy & David Downes

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 (from Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16; *The Message*)

Listen, dear friends, to God's truth, bend your ears to what I tell you.
I'll let you in on the sweet old truths, stories we heard from our fathers,
counsel we learned at our mother's knee.

**We're not keeping this to ourselves,
we're passing it along to the next generation –
God's fame and fortune, the marvelous things he has done.**
The Ephraimites, armed to the teeth, ran off when the battle began.
They were cowards to God's Covenant, refused to walk by his Word.
**They forgot what he had done –
marvels he'd done right before their eyes.**

He performed miracles in plain sight of their parents in Egypt, out on the
fields of Zoan. He split the Sea and they walked right through it;
**He piled the waters to the right and the left. He led them by day
with a cloud, led them all the night long with a fiery torch.**

He split rocks in the wilderness, gave them all they could drink from
underground springs;

**He made creeks flow out from sheer rock, and water pour out like a
river.**

†OPENING HYMN No. 410 *God Is Calling through the Whisper*

**God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.**

Flash of lightning, crash of thunder;

hush of stillness, rush of wonder:

God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling – can you hear?

**God is calling through the voices of our neighbors' urgent prayers,
through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.**

Place of hurt or face of needing;

strident cry or silent pleading:

God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling – can you hear?

**God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.**

Lift of joy and gift of singing;

days and nights our praises bringing:

God is calling – and we hear!

God is calling – and we hear!

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we say we are sinless, we fool only ourselves and we are unable to
speak the truth. In our brokenness, let us be honest and profess what
separates us from God and one another, trusting in God's unchanging desire
to forgive and renew.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we confess that we have not allowed your grace to
set us free. We hear tales of prophets, warriors, and saints and we
know that we are not as strong as they were. We see those around
us serving and giving gladly, and we fear we cannot do the same.**

We know you have given us time, treasure and talent, but we measure our own gifts against those who seem more gifted; we turn ourselves inward, rather than reaching out. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a people powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek good for all your people. God, make us thanks and faith filled. We ask this in Jesus' name.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Listen! Here is good news:

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of all generations."

- to forgive us in our follies and foibles-to accept us as we are
- to set us free from evil's power and make us what we were meant to be.
- to empower us to reach outside ourselves.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE (refrain)..... *Because He Lives*

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone,
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!**

†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..... *Healing River*

By: Fran Minkoff, Fred Hellerman, & Mark Hayes

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 17:1-7Pew Bible p. 56

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Philippians 2:1-13Pew Bible p. 954

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES....."POP!"

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 722 *Lord, Speak to Me*

**Lord, speak to me that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children, lost and lone.
O lead me, Lord, that I may lead
the wandering and the wavering feet.
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed
your hungering ones with manna sweet.
O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach
the hidden depths of many a heart.
O fill me with your fullness, Lord,
until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word,
your love to tell, your praise to show.
O use me, Lord, use even me,
just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.**

SERMON....."POP!"

Pastor Tracie Martin

✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✠

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *The Prayer*

By: Carole Bayer Sager & David Foster

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

**Giving God, we have so many reasons to thank you. Your generosity,
grace, and mercy are astounding, and we pray that the gifts we
return in worship and throughout our lives might be used in your
name. Receive our treasure, but also our talents and time.
Strengthen us to recognize your blessings, to be grateful, and to
respond accordingly by sharing them in Christ's name. 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 *Count Your Blessings*

By: Johnson Oatman, Jr. & Edwin O. Excell

**When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.**

[Refrain] **Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.**

**Are you ever burdened with a load of care?
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days go by. [refrain]**

**When you look at others with their lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, money cannot buy
Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high. [refrain]**

**So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end. [refrain]**

STEWARDSHIP POPS (commentary based on KJV) *Popcorn*

By: Paul Harris

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE *Freely, Freely*

By: Carol Owens

**Freely, freely you have received; Freely, freely give.
Go in my name and because you believe,
Others will know that I live.**

†POSTLUDE

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Nancy Lloyd in loving memory of Louis and Eleanor Martino and William and Lenora Lloyd.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Lisa Crudele & Jessica	Harry Brooks	Bonnie Triplett
Jodi & Bill Deck & Family	Kathy Ludwig	Cheri Norris
Carol Fries	Colton Heavner	Mo & Heide Mohler
Joan Patton	June Windle	Marge & Tim Higgins
Clayton Carbaugh	Rick Ours	Susan Arthur
Jaclyn, Taylor, & Bennett Beaubien	Judy Gaines	Tammy Mowery Earhart
John Gavett	Jessica Brogler	Dan Cammer
Al Schollenberger	Robin Owens	Middle East War
Allison Rivera	Bill Gesell	Lori Jones & Stephen Armstrong
James (Jim) Goulding	Lorin & Bill Goulart	Mike & Trish Crawford
Gary Rutherford	Mid-West Flood Victims	JoAnne Farrell
Dale Barley	Sandy Widell	Judy Camper
Carolyn Hartman	Kraig Hawkins	David Lewis
Vern Gamble	Roger Callis	All Struggling with Mental Illness
Hazel Spriggs	Cora Helen Anderson	Nancy Kerns
Chick Doroffee	Tim & Katherine Loftis	Jewish & Muslim Victims Worldwide
I-81 Crash Victims	Jim Keeler	Cindy Corell
Westwood School / Waynesboro	Katie Happel	Katie Wolf
David Hofmann	Marcia Jaureguizar	Ukraine
Nepal Disaster	Lyn Warren	Ethiopia Church Mekane
Brenda's Family	Carol Schempp	Jesus
	Linda Swiger	
	Bud & Becky Proctor	
	Mike Shade	

☞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 Frederick County Middle School in Frederick County, VA

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – September 27 (Stewardship's Popping Sunday)

4 Cents A Meal; GIFT Event

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM	GIFT Event – Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
2:00 PM	Blessing of the Pets – Picnic Shelter
4:00 PM	Newcomers Class – Bageant Room
5:00 PM	Young Adult Yard Games – Picnic Shelter

THIS WEEK

Monday:	10:30 AM	School Notes Group – Bageant Room
	5:30 PM	Windsong Practice – Memorial Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	Astronomy Club – Assembly Room
Tuesday:	9:30 AM	Newsletter Crew – Bageant Room
	1:00 PM	Disciple Faith Formation – Bageant Room
Wednesday:	9:30 AM	Staff Boundary Training & Lunch – Bageant Room
	4:30 PM	Logos (Theme: Rainbow Night)
	6:15 PM	Confirmation Class – Bageant Room
	7:15 PM	Choir Practice – Sanctuary
Thursday:	10:30 AM	Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary/Picnic Shelter
	6:30 PM	Sherando Food Pantry

NEXT SUNDAY – October 4 (World Communion Sunday)

Scriptures: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Philippians 3:4-14; Sermon: "Laying Aside Our Selfishness"

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
9:30 AM	Bread Basket Buffet – Gathering Area
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Bageant Room & Zoom
9:45 AM	Opie's Playhouse – Memorial Sanctuary
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream

'GIFT' EVENT – Generations in Faith Together – TODAY!

We have the GIFT of being with all ages for an educational experience **today** at **9:45 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. The theme is "BLT" day – 'Best Lounging Time' as we focus on rest and sabbath that we all need. And guess what, we are serving "BLT'S" this morning. We will be treated to the story **God Gave Us Sleep** plus a silly MadLib story too. There is much in store as we enjoy a relaxed, enjoyable and restful time together. You are invited!

BLESSING OF THE PETS

You and your critters are invited to join us for a special Blessing of the Pets in the Picnic Shelter **today** at **2:00 PM**. Please bring cats in their carriers and dogs on their leashes. Goody bags await your blessed pets!

MEET OUR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

We are blessed to have a Confirmation Class of 9 young people who began some class sessions this week. Wouldn't you like to know who our Confirmation students are? You can see pictures of the entire class on the bulletin board by the coatrack outside the sanctuary. Enjoy the quotes from each of the students too!

BREAD BASKET BUFFET – NEXT SUNDAY

Each year on World Communion Sunday, the Christian Education Team hosts 'Bread Basket Buffet;' a time to enjoy various breads and spreads between the services and learn some tidbits about bread too. This year, we are making and serving **HOMEMADE SOFT PRETZELS** for the Bread Basket Buffet! Maybe you will smell them baking, but hopefully you will taste their goodness as you eat one. The Soft Pretzel Buffet will be in the Gathering Area beginning at **9:30 AM**. Coffee and Juice will be available too.

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE

Join us for playtime in the Memorial Sanctuary on **Sunday, October 4, 9:45—10:45 AM**! Opie's Playhouse is a monthly gathering specially planned for children and caregivers. There are toys, snacks and juice for our little ones, and coffee and conversation for our adults. We roll out the carpets, bring in the toys, and the fun begins. We hope to see you there!

AFSP "OUT OF THE DARKNESS" WALK

Our Mission Team is sponsoring a team to walk and help raise money for suicide awareness and prevention at the family-friendly Community Walk for Suicide Prevention on **October 10**. For details or to join and/or support our team visit: <https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/teams/398416> or contact Team OPC Captain Sheyenne Ervin (sheyenneervin@gmail.com).

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN UPDATE

We're so thankful for a wonderful United Way Day of Caring and everyone who came out to help! Our garden continues to thrive, and we're excited to have donated over 300 pounds of fresh produce to our local food pantries so far this season. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers! To get involved with the garden, contact Sheyenne Ervin (540-447-6063 / sheyenneervin@gmail.com). We'd love to have you join us!

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

To provide flowers for an upcoming worship service, please sign-up for one of the available dates by clicking on the "Flower Chart" link on our website or by contacting the church office. Most of the Sundays in October are currently open.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Rich Schempp

Beadle: Edwina Johansen

Door Greeters: Ellen Cunningham, Sheryl Massey

Ushers: Betty Chicklo, June Malone, Alyce Callahan, Bailey Rockwell, Camden Saunders

Acolyte: Bailey Rockwell

Building Steward: Jack Marquis

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ann Denison

Beadle: Ray Jones

Door Greeters: Bill Wellman, Maureen Wellman, Bonnie Pitzer

Ushers: Annemarie Matthews, Dennis Boyd, Pat Heavner, Dakota Davis, Hudson Homan, Cam Riley

Acolyte: Dakota Davis

Livestream: Susan Ritter, John White

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

- ✂ In what ways did today's music help you remember something important?
- ✂ How often do you count your blessings?

Notes on Today's Prayers

- ✂ Is there a way that prayer helps you remember important things? Important people?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

- ✂ Does your family enjoy popcorn often? When? With whom?
- ✂ What makes your family "pop" with excitement?
- ✂ What about OPC makes you "POP?"

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

- ✂ What emotions do you feel when we talk about stewardship?
- ✂ Is giving "I have to" or "I get to" for you?
- ✂ Any ideas why?
- ✂ What would you add to your church life if you could find the time?

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FROM LITTLE KERNELS, COME GREAT THINGS!



This week, we begin thinking about giving for 2027. Our stewardship theme this year is POPCORN. Why popcorn? The sermon will get us started, but the end of the service will add to your understanding.

Stewardship is only one aspect of the Christian life, but it is an important one. Your generosity towards the Opequon Presbyterian Church makes sure we have a strong foundation from which to launch our outreach to fellow Christians, our community and the world.

This year, there are many situations that make our stewardship outreach especially important. Not the least of these is our building expansion. Without strong support of the general fund, which pays for utilities, salaries, many mission outreaches, and so much more, the steady church growth that has identified OPC for years would be impossible.

We are a generous church family. We have a job to do as Christ's heart, hands, and feet. Let's get 'er done! Let's have some fun with it and let 'er POP!!!

