



# The Opequon Spirit

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

## August 2022

### SUMMER WORSHIP THIS MONTH "Circles of Faith"

**Sunday, July 31 – 10:00 am Worship Only**  
**Five Pillar Focus:**  
**"Radical Hospitality"**  
Hebrews 13:1-2,15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14  
Conversation with All Ages: "All Are Invited!"  
Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering

**Sunday, August 7 – 10:00 am Worship Only**  
**Five Pillar Focus:**  
**"Worship Enhancement"**  
Psalm 150, Hebrews 10:19-25  
Sermon: "Here I Am to Worship"  
Annual Blessing of the Backpacks

**Sunday, August 14 – 10:00 am Worship Only**  
**Five Pillar Focus:**  
**"Sharing Good News"**  
Isaiah 52:7-10, Matthew 28:16-20  
Sermon: "Good News Travels Faster"

### ORDINATION & INSTALLATION SERVICE for Julia Hughes Burkley – 4:00 pm

**Sunday, August 21 – 8:30 & 11:00 am**  
**Worship**  
**Five Pillar Focus:**  
**"Community Engagement"**  
Luke 4:16-21  
Sermon: "Mission Matters"  
Mission Fair – 9:30 & 11:00 am –  
Gathering Area

### Sunday, August 28 – 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship

**Five Pillar Focus:**  
**"Member Engagement"**  
Ephesians 4:1-16, Luke 11:5-13  
Sermon: "Servant Work"  
Four Cents a Meal  
Rally Day – 9:45 am – Fellowship Hall

### WONDERFUL OUTDOOR WORSHIP – JOIN US FOR THE LAST WOW SERVICE FOR 2022

"Circles of Faith" Celebration – "End of Summer"  
Pitcock Shelter – Fellowship Time  
2 Corinthians 5:16-21, John 14:1-6  
Reflection: "In Christ Alone"



It's a Luau!  
Come dressed in your  
Hawaiian best and enjoy  
summer's bounty!  
**Sunday, Aug. 28 – 6:00  
pm**

### STAFF SCHEDULES THIS MONTH:

Julia Burkley.....August 5-8, Vacation  
David & Carole Witt..... August 18-19, Vacation

If a pastoral concern arises during this time,  
please contact Pastor David Witt, (540) 931-  
2390, [pastor@opequonchurch.org](mailto:pastor@opequonchurch.org), or Associate  
Pastor Julia Burkley, (914) 523-6030,  
[pastorjulia@opequonchurch.org](mailto:pastorjulia@opequonchurch.org), or Parish  
Associate Tracie Martin, (304) 856-2080, [tracie-  
martin@juno.com](mailto:tracie-martin@juno.com).

## NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:

"Grace, Gratitude, and Generosity"

"Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks, because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son...and now, let the weak say we are strong, let the poor say we are rich, because of what the Lord has done for us...give thanks, give thanks, give thanks!"

Dear Friends in Christ,

During the pandemic, I have thought very often about this song that we sing in worship. A grateful heart. I am grateful for life...family...friends...health...home. I am grateful for God's grace...God's Son...God's call...Christ's Church...Opequon Church. I am grateful for hope...joy...love...forgiveness. I have learned so much during the pandemic about our journey of life and faith, about perseverance and resilience. But most of all, I have been taught to have a grateful heart and have been called to practice generosity with the gifts entrusted to me – time, talent, and treasure. For years, these are the things I have thought about during the offering each Sunday as I have contemplated my stewardship, placing my pledge in the plate and thinking about what I will do to serve in the new week ahead.

But, along with others, I have discovered in recent years that both the thrust and the logistics of our Sunday morning offering have changed. When the pandemic began, we weren't able to gather for worship in person; while Bill Heavner continued to play an offertory selection so beautifully each week for livestream, we were encouraged to think about God's grace and our gratitude. and then, to give generously by sending or dropping off our offering, donating online, or coordinating with our bank for regular contributions. And despite tough times, thankfully, people renewed their faith, remained dedicated, and gave consistently. Now that we're back to in person worship, our new rhythm remains, with many people giving online or giving according to new

patterns. That means that during Sunday morning worship, the offering plate doesn't always get passed, people in the pew "wave off" the ushers, and the ushers are left to wonder whether they should hand off the plate or not?

Our Worship and Stewardship/Finance Teams have discussed and explored the topic of the offering recently and concluded that the offering is an integral and essential part of worship. We give as an act of thanksgiving and dedication, as a response to Christ's call, as a practice of discipleship. There is something tangible as I receive the offering plate, hold it in my hand, and pass it on to others. In fact, the act of offering may be the most distinctly physical and spiritual experience within worship. To that end, we are now committed to several initiatives to enhance this opportunity...

1. Offering plates will be passed within the pews. Please receive it and pass it on.
2. New laminated cards, called "Giving Cards," are in each of the pew racks. As you may have given online or according to a different pattern that week, please take a card from the pew rack and place it in the offering as it is passed.
3. Those giving cards will be dedicated and prayed over as tangible reflections of our commitment to Christ and His Church and will recirculate each week.
4. A unison Prayer of Dedication will be shared each Sunday following the Doxology so that we all will join in dedicating our particular gifts.

We hope that by reclaiming both the old patterns and seizing the new rhythm, we will all grow in our faith and worship, sharing grace, gratitude, and generosity.

With a Grateful Heart,



## NOTES FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Dear church family,

It has been such a great first month of ministry with you all! I have felt so much energy and love as I start to integrate with you all, and I truly feel so at home. I have loved the moments of laughter over Bunco, the times of prayer and reflection, the music and song, and simply being with you all in sacred moments throughout the week. Thank you for your open arms, and for welcoming me so well into this family of God. As I get to know all of you, and would love for you to stop in. I am in the office weekday morning but Mondays. Additionally, though I have certainly had amazing conversations with many of you all, I would love to get to know you one on one. I am always up for a coffee, walk or meal, and please reach out to me if you would like to set up a time! Getting to know you all has been such a blessing in my life, and I cannot wait to deepen relationships with you all.

Now for an exciting invitation: my ordination and installation as Associate Pastor at Opequon Presbyterian Church is at 4 pm on August 14th. This is the service that I will be ordained as Minister of the Word and Sacrament and is a momentous moment of my call to serve God and this church. To say that I am humbled and excited and nervous and jittery is an understatement. There aren't really words to describe the anticipation I have of this service as I welcome friends and family from all seasons of my life to witness God's call in my life to be ordained and installed to this congregation. This is going to be an extremely sacred moment in both my personal and ministerial life, and I want to personally extend an invitation for you all to join me. You all are the congregation who I

have the privilege of being with in my first call, and it would mean so much for me to have you all surrounding me on this occasion. A quick note that we will be requesting masks for non-leaders to support an immunocompromised family member, and I so appreciate your hospitality in making him feel welcome and safe. It would mean so much to see you all there!

In Christ's ministry,

### **JUST THINKN'**

We celebrated 25 years and we did it well. Congratulations to all of us. While we were not able to surprise the Witts, (how would you even do that?), we had a great day and we partied hardy and well. No one walked away hungry, (again, how would that even be possible?) and I think we all left the church grounds feeling like something good had occurred.

### **Now what?**

It's August. It's hot. Meetings and gathering will slowly resume. We will get ready for school, take last vacations, and anticipate coming brisk breezes.

### **What does all that entail?**

Lucky for us, I still have a Magic 8 Ball from my childhood. I remember it being on target then. Let's ask it for answers. Where are we now? Where are we going? What can the future hold in store?

### **Q. Will we continue to enjoy having Pastor Julia in our midst?**

#### **Magic 8 Ball: "It seems likely."**

So far, Pastor Julia has put herself forward to meet and greet us in a generous, open way. I see nothing that tells me she will change. Even OPiE seems to have accepted that she will be staying and transitioned pretty well into his position with the sanctuary Teddy Bears. I have heard, however, that OPiE has tried to get Jackson, her fluffy dog, to join his critter pack. Jackson has demurred so far, but one never knows what the future will bring. OPiE can surely be forgiven for confusing Jackson with a stuffed animal, but he doesn't look or sound

much like a bear.

**Q. Will the church continue to welcome visitors and new folks?**

**Magic 8 Ball: "The answer is, yes."**

If we continue to genuinely welcome and integrate visitors, they will come and many will stay. Remember, Hospitality Greeters are still an important aspect of our welcome, and Mary Himelright is looking for more of them as the new season approaches. The Evangelism Team will even train them to help them get started. Everyone likes to be part of a winning team, and OPC is surely a church family of friendly, welcoming, diverse people with positive attitudes. We even have our priorities straight. God comes first, so we prayerfully live as Christ's hands, heart, and feet in the world.

**Q. Will the choir add new members?**

**Magic 8 Ball: "It is certain."**

Choir is one of the most fun small groups in OPC. The music is taught well and with a sense of humor. Neither Susan (Music Director), nor Bill (organist), nor the singer next to you (could be me), minds going over things until we all are confident. It's a great way to make a joyful noise, and many of us do not even read music. Rehearsals are fun. The people are fun. Choir is fun. Sometimes the basses even know what page we're on...lol.

**Q. Will it snow for Christmas Eve?**

**Magic 8 Ball: "Sources say, no."**

We do have plenty of time for that forecast to change. I wonder if we will have a drive through Christmas Eve, Eve service again this year? The Magic 8 Ball is silent on that topic.

**Q. When will we stop using personal Communion sets in the sanctuary?**

**Magic 8 Ball: "....."**

I'm not surprised that even the Magic 8 Ball has no idea. This is a tough one. We have many members of the congregation who need to protection of the sealed bread and juice. We have many others who are ready to truly break bread. If it were up to me (it's not), I might try offering both at some time to see how that works. However, Session will need to make the decision,

**Q. Will Pastor David wear robes again?**

**Magic 8 Ball: "It seems likely."**

For reasons I have never understood, this is the perennial question for some of our folks. A few have already started asking, even though it is hotter than anything on most Sundays. Maybe Pastor Julia in her new robes is the stimulus? Maybe the COVID years when robes were the least of our concerns have had an effect? All I know is that David does wear robes when he feels he should. Right now, during a heat wave, I am willing to let this question go until things cool down.

*Grace*

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

**June 28, 2022 Stated Meeting**

On the recommendation of Christian Education team Session approved an offering collection during LOGOS-WOW services to be split between Evan's Home and Kid's Club of Shenandoah Valley.

- The Visioning and Buildings and Grounds Teams initiated the Physical Asset Mapping project, a recommendation arising from the Leadership Retreat, including expanded signage at OPC.
- The Evangelism team is updating the New Member bulletin board and held the 1<sup>st</sup> Newcomers Social gathering for 2021 new members. Pastor Witt will begin another 2<sup>nd</sup> session Newcomer class on Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup> and Aug 7<sup>th</sup>.
- On the recommendation of Stewardship & Finance working with Worship Team OPC will initiate a new offering process that uses laminated *Giving Cards* available in the pews, encouraging a return to passing the plate. The *Giving Card* is a reusable two-sided card that includes the many diverse ways of offering tithes and gifts as we respond to

God's Word. Session approved the recommendation.

- Stewardship & Finance recommended implementing a *Confidentiality and Privacy Policy* written to safeguard personal information entrusted to Opequon Presbyterian Church. Session approved the recommendation.
- Technology and Communications continues to explore the needs and available options to improve audio-visual and livestreaming technology at Opequon, including review of the current proposal received from consultant Miller, Beam and Paganelli, Inc.
- Worship Team: Session approved the recommendation to purchase two new banners: a communion banner and baptism banner. The Worship Team's recommendation to transfer \$500 from Memorial Bequest Fund to Flower Fund was also approved.
- The Safety Team, chaired by Pat Williams, received Session approval to purchase/install a video camera/monitor at the door entrance by the Dell room; the system will function like RING doorbell technology.
- Serving as OPC's elder-commissioners, Beth Barr and Mike Wygant attended the Shenandoah Presbytery of over 100 churches that met in-person May 24, 2022.
- Session was supportive and approved a request to use space at OPC on Tues/Thurs. from 3:00-5:00pm for Afghan Refugee Adult English Learners Class. The classes will be led by a professor from Laurel Ridge Community College; these details have been worked out.
- Faith Formation will resume after the summer worship schedule returns to two services.

- Ministry Teams and Session did not meet in July.

Warm regards,  
Ann C.M. Smith

**AUGUST 2022 DOOR GREETERS**

Door Greeters	<b>10:00</b>	
August 7	Shannon Brannon/ Fran Jeffries	
August 14	Marj Praml/Heather Burton	
	<b>8:30</b>	<b>11:00</b>
August 21	Sheryl Massey/ Pat de Butts	Carolyn and Gary Rutherford
August 28	Sheryl Massey/ Pat de Butts	Carolyn and Gary Rutherford



**"CIRCLES OF FAITH"  
SUMMER WORSHIP  
SERIES CONTINUES**

Our summer series, "Circles of Faith," is based on Hebrews 12:1, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." Share in this engaging time as we celebrate our ever-widening circle of faith in our living God with a few surprises. We invite you to be present as much as you can with all you can to serve God and to share with one another.



**MEN OF OPEQUON PICNIC  
THIS MONTH**

The Men of Opequon (MOO) will meet at the Pleasant Valley Chick-fil-A **on Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 pm. We will then gather at the church (Fellowship Hall) with Pastor Tracie sharing with us about "God's Fingerprint." All men are invited!



### **THANK YOU FROM THE WITT'S**

Our hearts continue to overflow with gratitude for the overwhelming "25

Reasons for 25 Seasons" celebration on July 10. We feel humbled and honored as a family. Everything was perfect and so enjoyable. We laughed, we cried, we reminisced, we visited, we worshiped, we ate, and we remembered. It was a day full of joy and love. It was a day when the church came together. We are so thankful for all the effort and talent put forth by the leaders, the committee, and the whole church. Thank you for the cards, gifts, and well-wishes, all so heartfelt. And thank you for the most generous gift to Carole and David and the 25-day sabbatical that will be used during the next year. We are so thankful for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and everyone who participated in making it such a grand and memorable day for our family. We feel very appreciated.

Carole, David, Joel & Susan, Rebekah, Ryan & Elizabeth, Dabney & James

### **A BIG "THANK YOU" FROM US TO YOU.**

25 Reasons for 25 Seasons was a great success because so many people came, worshipped, set up, cleaned up, decorated, cooked, prayed, and just were there in any way. You are the absolute best and we celebrated well because you took part. This was a huge undertaking and we accomplished what we set out to do. We celebrated a great Pastor, an amazing family, and our wonderful church family. Now, on to the next 25 or more years.

The Planning Team



### **BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**

We will be taking blood pressures on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.



### **Jennifer Caffelle, updated: October 28, 2021 noted 50 back to school jokes.**

To lighten the mood of the return to school you can share these jokes in the morning as you are getting

ready or put them in your child's lunch box. Have fun sharing her jokes.

### **On the first day of school, what did the teacher say her three favorite words were?**

June, July, and August

1. **Why did the echo get detention the first day?**  
It kept answering back
2. **Why was the cafeteria clock behind on the first day?**  
It kept going back four seconds
3. **What is a snake's favorite subject?**  
Hiss tory
4. **What did the Buffalo say at school drop-off?**  
Bison
5. **Why do calculators make great friends?**  
You can count on them
6. **What did the triangle say to the circle?**  
You're pointless
7. **Why does the math book always look sad?**  
They are full of problems
8. **What's the difference between a teacher and a train?**  
One says "spit out that gum!" the other says "chew, chew, chew"
9. **Where does a surfer go to school?**  
Boarding school
10. **What is a math teacher's favorite dessert?**  
Pi
11. **Why does a music teacher need a ladder?**  
To reach the high notes

12. **What did the math book say to the history book?**  
Boy, I'm full of problems
13. **Where do kids in New York learn multiplication tables?**  
Times Square
14. **What did the pen say to the pencil?**  
What's your point?
15. **What kind of meals do math teachers eat?**  
Square meals
16. **Why did the teacher marry the janitor?**  
Because he swept her off her feet
17. **Why did the kid eat his homework?**  
Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake
18. **Where do pencils go on vacation?**  
Pencil-vania
19. **What room can a student never enter?**  
A mushroom
20. **What does a book do when it gets cold?**  
It puts on a jacket
21. **Why is glue bad at math?**  
It always gets stuck on the problems
22. **Why did the kid cross the playground?**  
To get to the other slide
23. **Children in what grade have the greenest thumbs?**  
Kindergarten
24. **Why did the teacher jump into the pool?**  
He wanted to test the water
25. **What is the smartest bug?**  
A spelling bee
26. **What did the spider make online?**  
A website
27. **What flies around the school at night?**  
An alpha-bat
28. **Why can't you do a math test in the jungle?**  
Because there are too many cheetahs
29. **What did the bully have for lunch?**  
A knuckle sandwich
30. **What do librarians take with them when they go fishing?**  
A bookworm
31. **Why did the M&M go to school?**  
Because it really wanted to be a smartie
32. **Why didn't the sun go to college?**  
Because it already had a million degrees
33. **Why does a teacher wear sunglasses?**  
Because her students are so bright
34. **What's the king of school supplies?**  
The ruler
35. **Why is history the sweetest subject?**  
Because it's full of dates
36. **Why did the boy steal a chair from the classroom?**  
Because the teacher told him to take a seat
37. **What happened when the teacher tied all the kid's shoelaces together?**  
They had a big class trip
38. **How do you make seven even?**  
Take away the 's'
39. **Why can't pirates learn the alphabet?**  
They keep getting lost at C
40. **Why don't fish go on vacation?**  
Because they're always in a school
41. **Why can't a nose be 12 inches long?**  
Because then it would be a foot
42. **What do you get when you cross a teacher with a calculator?**  
Someone you can always count on
43. **Why did the kid study on an airplane?**  
He wanted a higher education
44. **Why did the square and triangle go to the gym?**  
To stay in shape
45. **What does a thesaurus eat for breakfast?**  
A synonym roll
46. **What did the ghost teacher say to his class?**

Watch the board, and I'll go through it again

**48. Why did the student bring scissors to school?**

Because he wanted to cut class

**49. What do you call a student with a dictionary in his pocket?**

Smartie pants

**50. How did the music teacher get locked out of her classroom?**

Her keys were on the piano

Isaiah 54:13 "All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children."

<https://www.familyeducation.com/entertainment-activities/50-back-to-school-jokes-for-kids>



Supplies Needed

**OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Join us in spreading kindness to our neighbors who live in low-income housing on August 14 at 11:15am. Let Rebekah Witt know if you'd like to participate or make a hot food item that we can provide. Donations welcome: Canned soup, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap & sponges, canned vegetables, pudding cups, fruit cups, and 2-in-1 shampoo & conditioner.



**YOUTH GROUP GRADES 6-12**

**August 14**-Senior Outreach Ministry 11:15am

**August 20**-Youth Pool Party 4:00pm-7:00pm



**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP**

**YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18-35**

Progressive Dinner-August 21



**OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS**

Happy August! There is still some summer season to enjoy and there is always an excuse for an afternoon summer nap!

Go ahead and take one! The lazy, hazy days of summer lend themselves to a slower pace and

some well-deserved down time! There are still things taking place at OPC, especially for you. Right as this month starts, the Older Adult Planning team will meet on Monday, August 1, at 9:30am in the Bageant Room to plan for Happy Days gatherings and other older adult events. This meeting is open to any older adult who would like to come. A refreshing summer treat will be served. The following week, Happy Days (the older adult fellowship group) will meet on Wednesday, August 10 at NOON in the Fellowship Hall. The time will begin with the well-liked covered dish lunch. Rotisserie Chicken and drinks will be provided. Bring a favorite covered dish item to add to the array of delicious food. The guest speaker is Bronwen Boswell from Shenandoah Presbytery. Bronwen is a dynamic and greatly enjoyed speaker. She will be offering great insight into the work of our Presbytery and she may even sing a song for us. Come enjoy this monthly social gathering. Sign-up sheets for two local trips coming up this fall will be available at Happy Days. Lastly, we look forward to celebrating all older adults at our annual Older Adult Luncheon on September 7!



**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 we enjoyed thrilling games of BUNCO in the Dell Room as we laughed through it all. GLOW will meet this month Tuesday, August 9 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall for "TACO BAR NIGHT". Meat, Drinks, and Hard Taco Shells provided. Contact Carole Witt for any items that may still be needed. Give yourself the treat of an evening with the ladies. All women are invited.



**THE LATEST IN LOGOS**

Would you like your child or youth to flourish in an encouraging environment? Would you like your child or youth to develop strong, trusting relationships with other adults outside your family? Would you like your child or youth to participate in experiences that make a difference in their lives? We have a GREAT opportunity right here at Opequon that responds to any 'YES' answers to the previous questions! It is our LOGOS Ministry that is about to begin its' 25th year at Opequon! All K-12th grade young people are invited to participate in this coming LOGOS year with the theme "Running the Race of Faith; 25 years and Going!" Registration with our early bird discount is now Available through August 31. You can register in person at the display in the Gathering Area or online ([www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org)). It has been said that LOGOS is a 'heck of a deal'! You can be sure that some tremendous things will happen during our 25th year as we celebrate this great milestone! Stay tuned for continual updates and current news about LOGOS.

**LOGOS STAFF ORIENTATION**

A LOGOS Staff Orientation gathering will be held on Wednesday, August 31 at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. It is a LOGOS FIESTA! A full Taco Bar Dinner will be provided along with dessert and beverages. Dinner will be followed by some Pinata fun, table games and a handful of information about our upcoming year at LOGOS. All LOGOS staff are asked to attend.



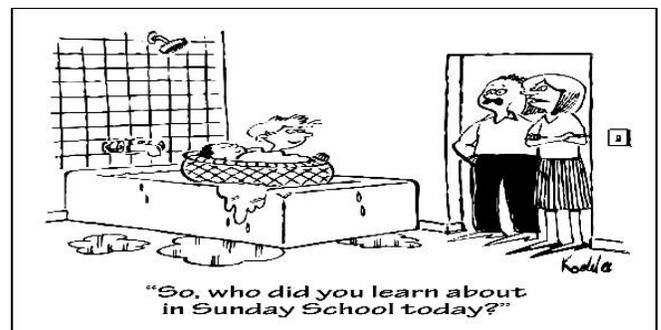
**OBJECT LESSON FOR KIDS THIS MONTH**

This month's children's lesson is titled "FOOTPRINTS". This thought-provoking lesson helps us all to think about where we leave our footprints and what footprints we are following. Fun activities are included! It is based on some verses from Luke 8. Older preschool and

Elementary-age children will receive this lesson in the mail. Look for it to arrive in your mailbox very soon. Enjoy!

**CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION FOR FAMILIES**

An orientation to share about the upcoming Confirmation year will be held on two occasions to allow for convenience to families. If you have any interest in your 8-9th grade young person participating in Confirmation, please attend ONE of these orientation times: Sunday, August 7 at 11:30am or Wednesday, August 10 at 7:00pm. The orientation will last one hour and is for parents and potential Confirmation students.



**Days to Celebrate in August**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 National Girlfriends Day	2 National Ice Cream Sandwich Day	3 National Watermelon Day	4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day	5 Work Like a Dog Day	6 National Root Beer Float Day	7 International Beer Day every First Friday
8 International Cat Day	9 National Rice Pudding Day	10 National S'mores Day	11 Son and Daughter Day	12 Baseball Fans Day	13 National Filet Mignon Day	14 National Creamsicle day
15 National Relaxation Day	16 National Bratwurst Day	17 National Black Cat Appreciation Day	18 National Fajita Day	19 National Potato Day	20 National Bacon Lovers Day	21 National Spumoni Day
22 National Bao Day	23 National Sponge Cake Day	24 National Waffle Day	25 National Whiskey Sour Day	26 National Dog Day	27 National Banana Lovers Day	28 Red Wine Day
29 Lemon Juice Day	30 National Toasted Marshmallow Day	31 Eat Outside Day				

**The RALLY DAY 'GIFT' EVENT!**  
**Theme: SEEK & YE SHALL FIND**

A favorite day in the life of the church is often RALLY DAY. Join in & see for yourself why this is true! It is a kick-off to a fresh new year!

**Sunday, August 28, 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall**

Children, youth, adults will be sharing in one fantastic time-

**\*Have some fun with our own FAMILY FEUD GAME, step into the 'PHOTO BOOTH', and enjoy great conversation with other wonderful OPC folks all while enjoying some muffins & fruit!**



**TOP TEN REASONS  
WE LOVE  
THE WITT FAMILY**

**10. You embody the Opequon Spirit**

Anyone who enters Opequon Presbyterian Church for the very first time feels it. It has been said over and over again - there is just a certain spirit and warmth about Opequon. Well, you David and Carole have taught us to be that way. So many have said that it was you David that was the deciding factor as to whether they would return again next week. Many of us on our first visit received that knock on the door either a few days later or a few hours after church ended - there you were with your booming voice and warm heart thanking us for joining you in worshiping God that day. It made a difference for so many of us and now we want to do the same for others. The Opequon spirit didn't just happen and I don't know exactly

when it began but it was 25 years ago when it was revived and blossomed into who we believe we are and can be for others.

**9. You believe our faith is best served beyond these walls and grounds**

Dick Crane's sign says it all as we are leaving Opequon - "You are now entering the mission field" but David has helped us understand what that means and how we can each do that either by representing Opequon or through our own lives. He served as the first president of Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter, better known as WATTS, and brought that ministry to Opequon. Thirteen years later, we are still a favorite spot for our guests. Many of them return year after year and David is like Norm from Cheers. He's the guy everyone knows and loves.

Along with WATTS, there have been countless other missions David and the Witt family have spearheaded or supported. Some, but not all, include, Motel Ministry, Friends of the Gore Home, the Teddy Bear Ministry, Senior

Outreach, CCap, Roots and Shoots, the Afghan Refugees, the Blanket Drive, supporting missionaries both locally and globally as well as providing food bags for Orchard View Elementary.

### **8. You love and support us**

In 25 years, you have seen a lot of heartache with your church family. You have sat with us through some of the toughest times of our lives. You have prayed with us, held us and checked in on us. You have sat in hospitals with us, grieved with us and helped us plan services to say goodbye. So many tears you have witnessed, so much unbelievable sadness you have encountered through us and yet you keep reminding us that God is for us and loves us and that life can be so incredible if we stay the course, love one another and believe that what He tells us is true.

### **7. You have shared your family with us**

When you were called to Opequon, you and Carole had been married for 11 years. Joel was 8, Ryan 6 and Rebekah just 4. We have watched your family grow up and grow bigger and you have taken us on that journey. Yours and Carole's love for one another and for your children and grandchildren is beautiful. You have such a team mentality. Each of you are important to your family and each of you represents something special. We have been honored to be witnesses of your love for one another.

### **6. Your gifts and talents go beyond measure**

We have learned from you. David, many agree that your thoughtful and God inspired sermons have left us knowing to whom we serve and belong. Our faith has grown, and you have taught us through your words about an Awesome God that loves us and desires for us to be in relationship with not only Him but with each other. You have led us in many studies - Lent studies, Advent studies, discipleship, and so many faith formation and Sunday School classes where you challenge us to be thinkers and allow us to question and doubt. We have explored the Bible with you, learned how those old, old stories relate to our own lives and have been

drawn closer to God and his word through your teaching. And, Carole, oh creative and marvelous Carole. Your tireless work to educate people of faith at all ages has not been unnoticed. We so very appreciate all the hard work it takes to keep us engaged and entertained, but you do it. Through leading us all through GIFT Events, planning for LOGOS, all the older adult ministry outings and lunches and activities - we have become a fun-loving family of God. We don't know how you do it all, but we love it and are very thankful for all the opportunities you give us to be together in our faith. Now your children are following in your footsteps and using the gifts God gave them to expand our family of faith.

And by the way...you make a really good loaf of bread and some of the most incredible chocolate chip cookies.

### **5. For your great sense of humor**

We are people that enjoy laughing and love having a good time. Thank you for allowing us to do so and participating with us some many times over the years. David, you have made us laugh more than we can count and Carole, though you get teased by so many of us, you take it in stride. You both enjoy life and make us feel like life is a lot of fun.

### **4. For LOGOS**

There are so many ministries that Opequon cherishes but I don't think any are more cherished and talked about than LOGOS. Nearly 25 years ago, you and Carole told us about this mid-week, multi-generational ministry that you had experienced and convinced a few people to go to a training to learn more about it. I'm not sure what it was like calling that first staff, but I'm sure there were a few questions and doubts. You began it in January as a trial and it was a great success, and it keeps going. My own personal experience started the year Ben was going into kindergarten and we had just started going to Opequon. I was at church LOGOS Sunday and was so moved not just by the sweet faces of young people but the adults that were celebrating the six months of bonding and relationship building. I signed Ben up the

next year and joined the staff in the Ark. Just a few years later, David sat in my living room with a piece of paper in hand talking casually about ... I'm not even sure about what. All I could think about was that paper in his hand. He eventually got to the point and said that I was being called to be a Co-Director of LOGOS. After a couple weeks of prayer, I said yes. It was life changing for me. I made some of the most important connections with people during that time and I will forever cherish it. Carole and David, I hope you understand the impact LOGOS has had on so many lives - children, youth and adults. We are closer to one another and closer with God because of those special Wednesday nights together here at Opequon.

### 3. For being Christ Centered

You continue to remind us of our common purpose. Though it's great to get together and fun to eat together and to play together, none it would matter if we weren't doing it in the name of God. You teach us through your sermons, prayers, faith formation lessons, conversations and through your actions that God still and will always matter most. We are here in this place because Christ brought us here. None of this is by accident and you and your family keep this mantra going by leading us along the way. You serve Christ with so much enthusiasm and passion it makes us want to do the same. We are better Christians because of your constant leadership.

### 2. For remembering who we are

This one should probably be the number 1 reason we love the Witt family due to the fact when sending out this question more people said this than anything else. It is so true. You know our names, our extended families' names, our dog's names. You never forget. It's uncanny and we are not sure how you do it other than you must stay up at night studying the directory.

But seriously, it means a lot. We know we are on your hearts, and you keep us in your prayers. We matter to you and that matters to us.

### 1. For Love

You know the meaning of it. You embody it. You live it out daily. We love because God first loved us. It's a simple but huge truth in our lives and David, Carole, Joel, Ryan, Rebekah, Susan, Elizabeth, Dabney and James we thank you for loving an awesome God and loving us because of it.



### FAIR TRADE EQUAL EXCHANGE UPDATE

All stock on SALE! Available on August 21 Mission Fare Bring your checkbook or cash (exact change please) or pay online for purchases. Coffee, Tea and Chocolate needs a table attendant for the fourth Sunday of the month. The table will be set up ahead of time. The attendant will not need to exchange money or make change. All supplies with instructions will be available. IT'S EASY PEASY, LEMON SQUEEZY! Call Marj at 540-327-2667 if interested.



### LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will meet in the Fellowship Room (or the Bageant Room if that works better for the schedule) on August 15 at noon. Come, bring something to pass, or a few bucks to toss in the basket for next time. There is always enough for everyone and their best friends. We will have lunch, chat, and who-knows-what until we are finished.

Tracie and Martha



Please keep Nancy Grubb in your prayers. Her lifelong friend, Virginia Crowe, passed away on July 21, 2022.

*"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord. "Those who believe in me shall live, even though they die; and those who live and believe in me shall never die." John 11:24-25*

**Opequon Presbyterian Church**  
**Financial Summary for the period ended**  
**June 30, 2022**

	Annual Budget (2021)	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
<b>Income</b>					
410000 Offering Income	763,270	78,705	378,269	385,000	49.6%
420000 Other Income	700	535	1,241	(541)	177.3%
<b>Total 400000 Income</b>	<b>763,970</b>	<b>79,240</b>	<b>379,511</b>	<b>384,459</b>	<b>49.7%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>500000 Personnel Costs</b>					
510000 Installed Pastors	189,664	15,417	72,298	117,366	38.1%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	125,975	10,478	63,192	62,783	50.2%
530000 Administrative Staff	129,220	10,656	61,901	67,320	47.9%
<b>Total 500000 Personnel Costs</b>	<b>444,859</b>	<b>36,550</b>	<b>197,391</b>	<b>247,468</b>	<b>44.4%</b>
<b>600000 Other Ministries</b>					
610000 Christian Education	13,500	1,819	6,176	7,324	45.7%
620000 Congregational Care	2,000	0	371	1,629	18.6%
630000 Evangelism	2,900	169	769	2,131	26.5%
640000 Fellowship	3,580	204	381	3,199	10.6%
650000 Mission	65,750	3,867	34,307	31,443	52.2%
660000 Worship	7,000	298	1,672	5,328	23.9%
<b>Total 600000 Other Ministries</b>	<b>94,730</b>	<b>6,357</b>	<b>43,676</b>	<b>51,054</b>	<b>46.1%</b>
<b>Total 700000 Church Administration</b>	<b>119,144</b>	<b>8,828</b>	<b>80,374</b>	<b>38,770</b>	<b>67.5%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>658,733</b>	<b>51,735</b>	<b>321,441</b>	<b>337,292</b>	<b>48.8%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income (Expense)</b>	<b>105,237</b>	<b>27,505</b>	<b>58,070</b>	<b>47,167</b>	<b>55.2%</b>
920000 Other Income	15,540	1,417	8,494	7,046	54.7%
930000 Other Expenses	117,717	9,732	78,899	38,818	67.0%
<b>Net Other Income (Expense)</b>	<b>(102,177)</b>	<b>(8,315)</b>	<b>(70,405)</b>	<b>(31,772)</b>	<b>68.9%</b>
<b>Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>19,190</b>	<b>(12,335)</b>	<b>15,394</b>	
Adjustment for Mortgage Prepay from 2021 Cash Surplus			20,000	(20,000)	
<b>Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses After Adjustments</b>	<b>\$ 3,060</b>	<b>\$ 19,190</b>	<b>\$ 7,665</b>	<b>\$ (4,606)</b>	<b>250.5%</b>

	<u>6/30/22</u>
Cash	<u>\$ 170,287</u>
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance	<u>\$ 620,239</u>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>9:30 A</b> Older Adult Ministry <b>5:00 P</b> LOGOS Leadership Meeting <b>6:00 P</b> Windsong	<b>2</b> <b>10:00 A</b> Staff Meeting <b>4:30 P</b> Tech Team Meeting <b>6:30 P</b> Ministry Team Night	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>10:30 A</b> Tai Chi <b>6:30 P</b> Sherando Food Pantry <b>7:00 P</b> Vision Team	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 CCAP Offering</b> <b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b> <b>10:00 A</b> In Person & Livestream Worship <b>11:30 A</b> Confirmation Orientation <b>5:30 P</b> Newcomers Class	<b>8</b> <b>6:00 P</b> Windsong <b>6:00 P</b> MOO Chick-fil-A <b>7:00 P</b> Moo Fellowship Hall	<b>9</b> <b>6:00 P</b> Glow	<b>10</b> <b>12 Noon</b> Happy Days <b>7:00 P</b> Confirmation Orientation	<b>11</b> <b>10:30 A</b> Tai Chi	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>10:00 A</b> In Person & Live Steam Worship <b>11:15 A</b> Senior Outreach <b>1:30 P</b> Spring Arbor <b>4:00 P</b> Julia's Ordination & Installation	<b>15</b> <b>12 Noon</b> Life Goes On <b>6:00 P</b> Windsong <b>6:00 P</b> Safety Meeting	<b>16</b> <b>10:00 A</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 P</b> Session Meeting	<b>17</b> Newsletter Deadline <b>12 Noon</b> Formidable Music <b>6:00 P</b> Choir Practice & Picnic <b>7:00 P</b> Discipleship Meeting	<b>25</b> <b>10:30 A</b> Tai Chi <b>6:30 P</b> Sherando Food Pantry	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>1:00 P</b> Set Up Mission Fair <b>4:00 P</b> Youth Pool Party
<b>21 Blood Pressure Checks</b> <b>8:30 A</b> In Person Worship <b>10:00 9:30 A</b> Mission Fair <b>11:00 A</b> In Person & Live Stream Worship <b>12:15 P</b> Senior Outreach <b>4:30 P</b> YA Progressive Dinner	<b>22</b> <b>6:00 P</b> Windsong	<b>23</b> <b>5:30 P</b> Highland Food Pantry	<b>24</b> <b>6:30 P</b> Choir Practice	<b>25</b> <b>10:30 A</b> WANC <b>10:30 A</b> Tai Chi <b>6:30 P</b> Book Club	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>9:30A</b> Shenandoah Presbytery
<b>28 4 Cents A Meal Offering</b> <b>8:30 A</b> In Person Worship <b>9:45 A</b> Rally Day <b>11:00 A</b> In Person & Live Stream Worship <b>6:00 P</b> WOW-Wonderful Outdoor	<b>29</b> <b>6:00 P</b> Windsong	<b>30</b> <b>11:30 A Staff Luncheon</b>	<b>31</b> <b>5:30 P</b> LOGOS Staff Orientation <b>6:30 P</b> Choir Practice			

Opequon Presbyterian Church  
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 217 Opequon Church Lane Winchester, VA 22602-2421  
 Phone: 540-662-1843  
[www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org)

Newsletter deadline is the Wednesday after the Stated Session Meeting.

Sunday Worship at 8:30 am and 11:00 am

Faith Formation at 9:45 am

Office Hours are 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Monday thru

Thursday & 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Friday

David R.Witt ..... Pastor  
 Julia H. Burkley ..... Associate Pastor  
 Tracie Martin ..... Parish Associate  
 Carole Witt ..... Director of Christian Education  
 Rebekah Witt ..... Director of Youth & Young Adults  
 William Heavner ..... Organist  
 Susan Homan ..... Director of Music  
 Linda Kessinger ..... Office Administrator  
 Ken Smiy ..... Financial Administrator  
 Robert Sydnor ..... Sexton  
 Laurie Carver ..... Nursery Supervisor  
 Patty Klinefelter, Bill Martin, Lori Henley,  
 Mike Nutry, Pat Williams ..... Faith Community Nurses

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**Inside This Issue**

Calendar .....p. 15  
 Christian Education .....p. 8  
 Fellowship .....p. 4  
 Health Ministry .....p. 6  
 Just Thinkin' .....p. 3  
 Pastor's Notes .....p. 2  
 Worship.....p. 1



**SAVE THESE SEPTEMBER DATES:**

September Communion – Sunday, September 4  
 Faith Formation Restart – Sunday, September 4  
 September Ministry Team Night with Dinner –  
 Tuesday, September 6  
 LOGOS Begins – Wednesday, September 14  
 Youth Kick-off – Sunday, September 18  
 Formidable Music – Wednesday, September 21  
 GIFT Event – Sunday, September 25

**SAVE THE DATE  
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16**

ANNUAL CAMP PADDY RUN DAY  
 Enjoy fall beauty, soup/chili, hiking, fellowship!