

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

August 2025

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

AUGUST WORSHIP

AT-A-GLANCE

Sundays @ 10:00 AM

Sunday, August 3

† 1 Corinthians 11:17-26;
Luke 22:14-23

Sermon: "Sunday Dinner"

Communion

Ice Cream Pie Sunday

Sunday, August 10

† Isaiah 44:1-8;
Luke 18:15-17

Sermon: "Be Like Children"

Baptisms

Blessing of the Backpacks

1:30 PM Spring Arbor Worship

Sunday, August 17

† Isaiah 5:1-7;
Luke 12:49-56

Sermon: "Grapes & Wine"

Blood Pressure Checks

6:30 PM Outdoor Jazz Worship (Picnic Shelter)

Sunday, August 24

† Deuteronomy 6:4-9;
2 Timothy 1:1-7

Sermon: "From Generation to
Generation"

4 Cents A Meal
Rally Day

Sunday, August 31

† Hebrews 13:1-8, 15, 16;
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sermon: "A Bigger Table"
Hymn Sing

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR BILL HEAVNER

William "Bill" Glenn Heavner was our much-beloved organist, friend, co-worker, elder, and disciple of Christ. His music lifted our hearts and enriched our worship for over three decades.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service for Bill Heavner will be held on Saturday, September 13, at 11:00 AM in our Sanctuary; preceded by visitation with the family and one another in the Gathering Area 10:00 AM—10:55 AM. A luncheon in the Fellowship Hall will follow the service.

More details about the luncheon and particular needs will be forthcoming, but you may reach out now to Betty Chicklo and June Malone to offer assistance.

As designated by the Heavner Family, all memorial contributions given in Bill's name will go towards the Opequon Church Building Fund.



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 THIS MONTH. We will gather on Sunday, August 10, at 4:00 PM. We'll meet in the Memorial Sanctuary until 6:00 PM.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor David Witt (540-662-1843 or pastor@opequonchurch.org), who will be facilitating this time of sharing; to help prepare the appropriate resources, please also let him know you would like to attend.





NOTES FROM PASTOR DAVID

Dear Friends,

In June, I had a funeral at Shenandoah Memorial Park at 11:00 AM. We had two people in the hospital that day, so I decided I would go by there to see them before the funeral. I was prepared for the service and I had my schedule mapped out perfectly! When I got dressed that morning, I picked out some black, slip-on dress shoes that I hadn't worn in a while. I entered the medical center, checked in at the front desk, proceeded up the stairs (I never take the elevator!) to the fourth floor, and headed down the corridor. Suddenly, I felt like I had stepped on something; I looked down and discovered that half of the sole of my right shoe had come loose. "Oh, my goodness," I said out loud. A physician was passing me in the hallway and said, "I hate when that happens." I thought to myself, "I wouldn't know. It has never happened to me." Whoa! She then suggested some glue or tape, or more realistically, a rubber band. I inquired if she might have a rubber band—"Let's go to the nurse's station," she said. So, there we went, my shoe flapping on my foot as we walked to the nurse's station to obtain two rubber bands. I stretched them around my shoe and went on to my visits. All was fine until someone said, "Are rubber bands a new fashion statement?" Not exactly, of course, but rather a necessity in a crunch, but not exactly a permanent solution! By the time I got back downstairs and walked to my car in the parking lot, the entire soul was off. Thankfully, I had just enough time to go back home, get another pair of black shoes, and go to the funeral.

What an experience! What a story! What a funny tale! I realized today that I don't think I ever told Bill Heavner this story—he would have loved it. Bill enjoyed hearing stories, and he loved telling them. He was gifted at making people laugh and think. He was skilled in so many ways, good at so many things. I will miss Bill. We all will miss Bill. We are grieving at Opequon. It's a tough time for all of us and especially for Pat and their family. The deep convictions of my heart, the messages I proclaim at memorial services, and the good news of our lives, our faith and hope in Christ, are helping me through this time; the words that I speak and the words I don't have to match my feelings are all very genuine.

One of the songs that Bill often played for us, sometimes at memorial services, is *Lean On Me*. Singer-songwriter Bill Withers's childhood in the coal mining town of Slab Fork, West Virginia, was the inspiration for *Lean On Me*, which he wrote after he had moved to Los Angeles and found

himself missing the strong community ethic of his hometown.

*Sometimes, in our lives we all have pain,
we all have sorrow.
But if we are wise,
we know that there's always tomorrow.*

*Lean on me, when you're not strong,
and I'll be your friend.
I'll help you carry on, for, it won't be long,
'til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.*

*You just call on me brother
when you need a hand.
We all need somebody to lean on.
I just might have a problem
that you'll understand.
We all need somebody to lean on.*

Withers's version is noted for its bridge section: ("Just call on me, brother"), as well as the coda section, where the words, "call me" are repeated a total of 14 times, before the song ends on a cadenza on the strings. Both the contemporary song, *Lean On Me*, and the old gospel song, *Stand by Me*, tell us that people will show up; that they'll show up for us and that we'll show up for them—especially when the wounds are raw and the scars are widespread, and the hurt is too much to bear alone.

I think that is what we are doing at Opequon Church right now: showing up for Bill's family and one another. And I believe that is what we will continue to do as we journey forward, giving thanks, laughing, crying, telling stories, and remembering times shared with Bill. I know that is what I am doing right now.

Together in Christ's Service,

PASTOR TRACIE'S JUST THINKIN'

August is corn chowder month for our family. I like to make it in the morning when it is cool and let it sit in the fridge for at least 12 hours to set. I often cool it with an ice pack or several bottles of frozen water before putting it in the fridge because it is so thick. By August, the corn is plentiful, and the ears are large. It's God's gift to us for living in this Shenandoah Valley, I am convinced.

I seldom use or write recipes, so use your best instincts to make this recipe your own. I have added some comments and thoughts where necessary.

Ingredients:

- At least 6 strips of uncooked bacon, cut into

pieces (That's not enough unless your cholesterol is out of whack. If so, use cubed ham or half bacon/half ham. Turkey bacon is not very good.)

- 2 medium yellow onions, diced (about 1 cup / 140 g)
- 2 stalks of celery (unless you want more)
- 3 or 4 carrots, peeled (enough to make a scant cup, diced or shredded; shredded carrots add a lot more flavor)
- 1 red pepper, diced (about 1 cup / 140 g)
- ½ tablespoon minced garlic (only if you like garlic or if Bill Martin is eating it. If I can skip it, I do; most people do not even notice.)
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour (30 g) or corn starch for thickening
- ¾ teaspoon smoked paprika (just if you like the color; the taste doesn't change much when it's added.)
- 4 cups chicken broth* (946 ml)
- 2 cups of water
- 1 cup whole milk (236 ml)
- 1 cup heavy cream (236 ml)
- 1 pound gold potatoes, diced into 1" cubes (no need to peel, but do remove any shoots; add more if you want)
- 6 ears fresh sweet corn (275 g) (or you may use 2 ½ cups frozen—no need to thaw; or canned—drain before using)
- ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese (or Velveeta)

Note: *You need to know that the measurements are minimums. If it needs more, add more.*

Instructions:

1. Boil or steam fresh corn in 2 cups of water until done. Cut the kernels off the cobs and scrape the cobs into a bowl. Set the corn aside. Save the cobs and corn water to use in the soup. Really! It adds taste.
2. Fry bacon. Now, here I differ with a lot of cooks. I use thick bacon—and a lot of it. Most recipes call for 6 to 8 slices. I use at least half a pound and often more. I fry it to a good crisp, then set it aside, half for the soup, half for garnish when serving. Then I pour off all but 2 or 3 tablespoons of grease into another container.
3. Dice onion and red pepper, celery and carrot. Cook on low heat in bacon grease, stirring frequently until the onions are opaque and the other vegetables are soft-ish... about 6 or 8 minutes.
4. Add potatoes, corn cobs, corn water, and chicken broth. Cook until the potatoes are almost done. Remove the cobs and discard.
5. Add the corn, half the cooked bacon, milk, and cream. Cook gently for about 10 minutes.

6. Add ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese or Velveeta. Cook until the cheese is integrated.
7. Thicken with the flour or cornstarch.
8. Now here's where you can be creative. The soup is finished, unless you want more taste. Salt and pepper to taste. Add another tablespoon of bacon grease for a richer soup. Add paprika if you like it. More cheese is always good.
9. Serve the soup with a topping of crisp bacon and shredded cheese. This is a hearty soup best served with fresh bread or crackers.

*I use Better-Than-Boullion to make my chicken broth, unless I have the bones of 2 rotisserie chickens. If I have chicken bones, I cover them with water and boil them gently for about 2 hours. It's even better if you have the skin and dripping from the bag they come in. Walmart rotisserie chickens are excellent, as well, but they tend to be smaller so you may have to add some additional Better-Than-Boullion to the water. Walmart lemon-chicken rotisserie chickens taste a bit different, but are wonderful. Use the chicken meat for something else or add it for extra protein. The soup is good either way.

—Tracie

EXTENDING OUR EMPATHY & CHRISTIAN LOVE TO...



- ✧ Vern and Phyllis Gamble upon the death of Vern's mother, Dorothy Gamble, on July 5.
- ✧ Pastor David Witt's brother, Ken Witt, his sons, grandchildren, and the Witt family, upon the death of Ken's wife, Jackie, on July 12.
- ✧ Pat Heavner and the family of OPC Organist and member William "Bill" Glenn Heavner, who died on July 16.

*"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

CELEBRATING NEW ARRIVALS



- ✧ Cooper Vincent Dove, son of Adam and Megan Dove and grandson of Karen and Gary Dove, was born on Saturday, July 19. He joins big sister, Ruby Louise.
- ✧ John Reid Matthews, son of Graham and Lauren Reed Matthews, grandson of Lisa and Kevin Reed, was born on June 21.

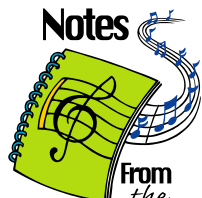
We rejoice in these precious gifts of new life!



WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Jordan Hartman and Carolyn Campbell were married on June 28 at 6 Pastures Farm by Pastor David Witt. May the Lord bless and abide with you, Jordan and Carolyn, in your married life.

Notes



From the Music Director

Our FIRST (August 20) and SECOND (August 27) rehearsals will be held at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

**Beginning with September 3, regular weekly rehearsals will start at 7:15 PM on Wednesdays.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Homan (srh1305@verizon.net).

ADULT CHOIR NEWS

All who are interested in singing are welcome to come join the OPC Adult Choir as we lift our voices together in musical praise!

SUMMER TRAVELS WITH FLAT JESUS!



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

ICE CREAM PIE SUNDAY August 3

Get ready for a special summer treat—a slice of ICE CREAM PIE! Following worship on August 3, an assortment of Ice Cream Pies will be available in the Gathering Area.



YOU + ICE CREAM = God's Goodness!

Each slice will come with a joke or an inspirational saying. Can't wait to serve up a slice for you! Enjoy a slice of summer goodness!



OUTDOOR JAZZ WORSHIP SERVICE

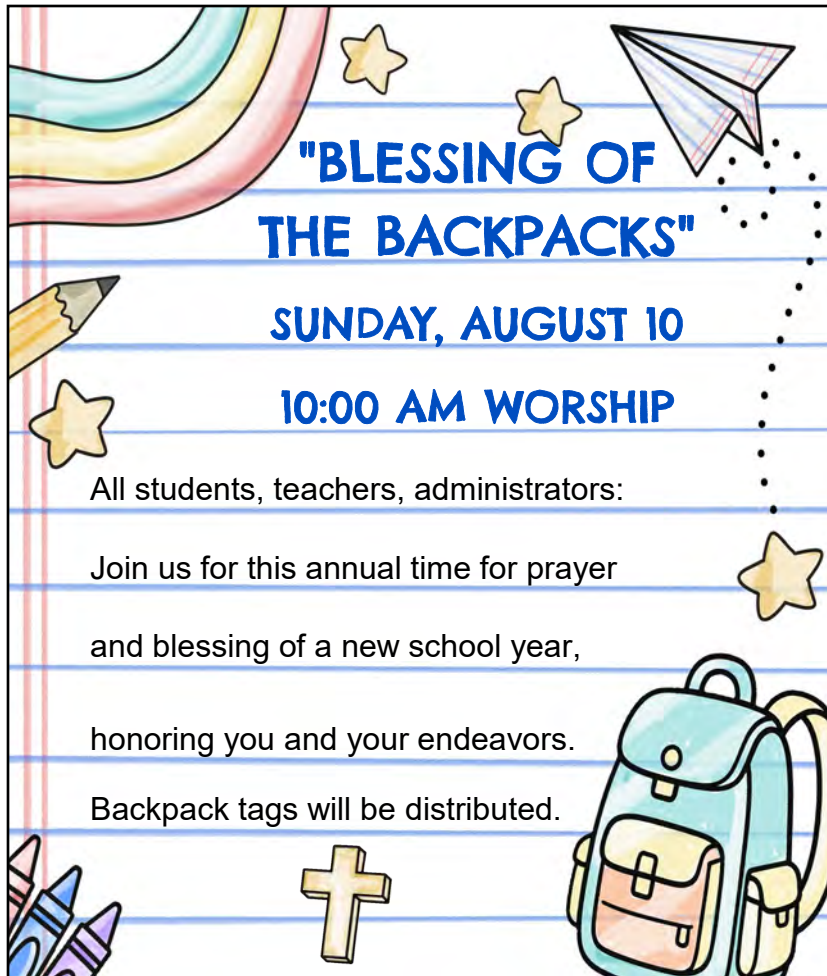
Sunday, August 17

6:30 PM

OPC Picnic Shelter

Special Guest Musicians:
Jazz Ensemble





ABUG TRAINING IN AUGUST

What are ABUGs?

Acolytes, Beadles, Ushers, Greeters, of course!

Are you A BUG now?

Would you like to be A BUG?

Mandatory training for everyone who fulfills the roles of Acolyte, Beadle, Usher, and Greeter (ABUG) will be on:

**Sunday, August 17 @ 11:15 AM
in the Sanctuary**

If you are interested in learning more about serving in one of these roles, you are cordially invited to join us! Training will be led by the Worship Ministry Team and Pastor David Witt.

MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT

Tuesday, August 5 at 6:30 PM
(meetings only—no meal this month)



OPC HYMN SING

**Sunday, August 31
9:30 AM**



Ever wonder what our favorite hymns are here at Opequon Presbyterian Church? Join us in the Sanctuary at 9:30 AM on Sunday, August 31, to find out as we count down OPC's "Top 10 Favorite Hymns of 2025!" We will begin the Hymn Sing with the #10 favorite hymn and count down to OPC's #1 favorite hymn, which will lead us into the morning worship service.

So, who says which 10 hymns are OPC's favorite hymns? **YOU DO!!!**

Please follow these simple steps to cast your "top three favorite" hymns vote...

- * Only hymns from our "Glory to God" Sanctuary hymnal are eligible to be selected for the Hymn Sing.
- * Clearly print the hymn # of your top three favorite hymns on the Hymn Sing form (located next to the ballot box in the Gathering Area).
- * For help with finding a hymn #, check the hymnal's title index. A pdf of the index is available upon request from the office.
- * Please only submit one form per person.

Please put your completed ballot in the marked basket in the Gathering Area or you may email your selections to the church office (office@opequonchurch.org).

Voting closes at the end of the day on MONDAY, AUGUST 18!



THE LATEST IN LOGOS: REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Our new LOGOS year is just around the corner, so it is time to register for LOGOS once again! During the month of August, we offer early bird registration with a discounted fee.

LOGOS is open to all 4-year-olds through 12th grade. It is a midweek miracle that happens each Wednesday, September through March. The overall theme for our 28th year is "CHOOSE JOY," based on John 15:11. September 17 will be our opening night—we are very excited to get started!

A registration and information display is in the Gathering Area. Payment of fees is requested upon registering during this early bird period. Online registration is also available using this link:

<https://forms.gle/16Gmzs7NmGhoyAKE8>

Do you have any specific questions we could answer to help you know more about LOGOS now? PLEASE ASK! Feel free to contact Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org). We hope you will be onboard with us! We look forward to spending Wednesday evenings together.

A LOGOS STAFF ORIENTATION will be held on Wednesday, September 3, at 5:30 PM. All LOGOS Staff are asked to make plans to attend this full orientation of our upcoming LOGOS year.

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE

Opie's Playhouse is the place to be! Since we moved outside in June, we have been having the best time in the summer sunshine!! When we met in July, the kids (and adults!) rode scooters, played ball, painted with water and drew with chalk, all while parents and grandparents had a chance to sit and chat on a beautiful summer day. We enjoyed a big bowl of fruit salad, mini-pastries, ice cold lemonade, and juice boxes.



Please join us when we meet out on the playground again on Sunday, August 3, immediately after worship (11:15 AM—12:00 PM). It's a time of pure summer fun and fellowship for kids and adults. Opie's Playhouse is for all families with young children; big siblings are welcome too. In the event of rain, we will meet in the Memorial Sanctuary. Hope to see you all there!

YOUTH GROUP (Grades 6-12)

August 6 (6:45 PM): Youth Parent Hangout

August 8 (6:00 PM—11:30 PM):
Summer Midnight Gladness

August 24 (2:00 PM—5:00 PM):
Youth Outdoor Party

YOUNG ADULTS

August 22: FEAST Group

MEN OF OPEQUON (MOO) PICNIC

The Men of Opequon (MOO) will have a picnic on Monday, August 11, at 6:00 PM in the Pitcock Memorial Pavilion. Hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, potato chips, condiments, and drinks will all be provided. Please bring a side dish, salad, or a dessert to share. Let's enjoy summer-time fun together. After eating, we'll enjoy and "show off" with some yard games. 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 Dinner Out last month, with a great group of ladies savoring their meals at Café Del Sol.

GLOW will meet this month on Tuesday, August 12, at 6:00 PM at Carole Witt's home (203 Halifax Court, Stephens City) for dinner and "Poolside Stories." The dinner menu includes: Cheeseburger Pie, Barbecue Chicken, Rolls, Deviled Eggs, Fruit, Chips, Green Beans, and Assorted Desserts. \$ donations are welcome to help with the cost of the meal. Join the women for some relaxing time around the little pools, complete with water lights, as we share stories. There is a place for YOU.



FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet in the Bageant Room on Thursday, August 21, at 6:00 PM to discuss *The Jackal's Mistress* by Chris Bohjalian. In this Civil War love story, inspired by a real-life friendship across enemy lines, the wife of a missing Confederate soldier discovers a wounded Yankee officer and must decide what she's willing to risk for the life of a stranger. Geographically based in this area, local areas mentioned in the book.

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

We are in the home stretch of summer. This tends to be the hottest month, and we will get through it, keeping our cool! August will be a great month at Opequon. Exciting things are happening this month.

On Monday, August 4, the Older Adult Planning Team will meet 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. Some morning goodies and coffee are provided.

The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be held on Wednesday, August 13, at NOON in the Fellowship Hall. Rotisserie Chicken and drinks are provided. Bring a covered dish to share as part of the pot-luck lunch. Following lunch, our own Ben Weber will be our guest speaker from Blue Ridge Independence. His presentation will certainly be most enlightening and interesting. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the friendships, a good lunch and all that is shared.

ADULT TRIP TO GREEN VALLEY BOOK FAIR

An adult trip to the Green Valley Book Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, August 27. We will meet at Opequon at 8:30 AM in preparation for leaving. The cost is \$10 a person, plus any spending money for the Book Fair and lunch. If you would like to join the group for this trip, please let Carole Witt know.

SENIOR OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Senior Outreach Ministry will meet Sunday, August 10, at 11:15 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.

FLOWER CHART

We still have a few dates open in October and November if you would like to provide the flowers for an upcoming worship service. Please sign-up on the Flower Chart posted in the church office or click on the "Flower Chart" [link](#) at the bottom of our OPC website.

MONTHLY CCAP COLLECTION

Mission Ministry is collecting tuna fish for CCAP during August. Donations should be placed in the CCAP collection box in the Dell Room.

ANNUAL CCAP DIAPER DRIVE

Each year, CCAP distributes thousands of diapers to poor and needy families in the City of Winchester and Frederick County, and the need is great. To help assist CCAP in addressing this community need, we are doing a Diaper Drive throughout the month of August. Larger diapers (size 3-6) are especially needed. Diaper donations may be put in the Gathering Area.



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**



"OUT OF THE DARKNESS" STEPHENS CITY COMMUNITY WALK FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

The annual "Out of the Darkness" Community Walk for Suicide Prevention in Stephen's City will be held on Saturday, October 14. OPC is once again sponsoring a team to walk and help raise money for suicide awareness and prevention. The Mission Team has committed \$500 toward the event, and we hope to match that with donations for our team.

The route is a pleasant, 1.2 mile walk through Sherando Park. It will begin and end at the Sherando High School Stadium, with a handicap accessible option.

Suicide takes many lives each year and was the 11th leading cause of death in the US in 2021, with an average of 132 per day, as well as 1.7 million reported suicide attempts. It is the second leading cause of deaths in Virginia for both the 10-24 and the 25-35 age groups.

Please register to walk or donate at:

<https://afsp.org/stephenscity>

Or you may also contact OPC's Team Captain, Mike Nutry (gernurse@aol.com). Flyers with more info are located in the Gathering Area.

MISSION HIGHLIGHT

This month's Mission Highlight comes from Heather Burton and is about **Graham Taylor and WATTS:**

I met Graham through volunteering for WATTS. Shortly after our first meeting, Graham became the lead volunteer and TOLD me that I would be his co-lead volunteer. I had no choice but to do it! I don't remember exactly how many years we worked together in this ministry, but over the years, we became good friends.

Graham would call and text me while I was at work (It's frowned upon for teachers to talk on the phone while teaching!), so, he would leave me a voicemail or a text. He always thought I should also be retired! He was an early riser, so he would show up at church by 4:45 AM each day to unlock the door for volunteers and I would take the late-night shift.

He was passionate about finding what the guests needed so they would no longer need to be guests. He would "encourage" them to go to work (just as he "encouraged" me to be his right-hand person). He would take them to work, pick them up from work, and would pick them up or take them to our church whenever they would call him. He broke all of the WATTS volunteer rules, but he didn't care. He wanted to help them, and the guests never took advantage of him. When "Mr. Graham," as they called him, entered the room, they had nothing but love and respect.

When Graham retired from WATTS, he "gave" it to me. Again, I couldn't say no, so here I am. This ministry was a passion of his and having a way to raise money to continue it will make him smile down on us as he is up fishing in heaven!

For more info about OPC's partnership with WATTS, please reach out to Heather Burton (mcpitch5@hotmail.com) or any of our Mission Ministry Team Members.



≡ SAVE THE DATE ≡

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Graham Taylor OPC-WATTS

Concert & Meal Fundraiser Event

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Concert: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

OPC Picnic Shelter

Featuring:
Murphy's Bluegrass Bandits

All Proceeds Benefit WATTS
& Opequon's WATTS Hosting Fund

We're thrilled to host the inaugural Graham Taylor OPC-WATTS Fundraiser, featuring a live outdoor concert by Murphy's Bluegrass Bandits! A delicious Fried Chicken Dinner is available as a pre-order option. Get ready for an evening of music, fun, and heartfelt purpose!

All proceeds benefit Winchester Area Temporary Transitional Shelter (WATTS) and OPC's WATTS Hosting Fund.

Concert: 5:30 PM—6:30 PM

Concert Tickets: \$20 each
(Kids 18 and under are FREE!)

How to Purchase CONCERT TICKETS:

- ✓ **Online**—click on the "giving" section on [OPC's website](#), fill out the payment info and select "GT-WATTS Concert" Fund
- ✓ **Cash/check in the worship offering**—please label with "GT-WATTS Concert"
- ✓ **Church Office**—during normal office hours
- ✓ **At the door**—cash or check only

Optional: Fried Chicken Dinner

****Must be pre-purchased by September 14!**

Dinner Tickets: \$10 each

How to Purchase DINNER TICKETS:

- ✓ **Online**—click on the "giving" section on [OPC's website](#), fill out the payment info and select "GT-WATTS Dinner" Fund
- ✓ **Cash/check in the worship offering**—please label with "GT-WATTS Dinner"
- ✓ **Church Office**—during normal office hours

This is an event you won't want to miss!
Be sure to invite your friends and purchase your tickets early!

GENEROSITY MOMENT

(From Pastor Tracie Martin & the Generosity Team)

August is an interesting month for those of us raised in the north. To us, August is the month of vacation before we "hitch-up" for school and autumn. Down here, August is the month when we "hitch-up" and get going.

I've told this story before. When I was a child, I used to stay at the family farm for fun. Uncle Alvin and Aunt Betty made me so welcome and I got to ride the milk wagon to the creamery in the morning. Yes, a milk wagon pulled by two huge horses. I loved the ride.

Grandma would make sure we all were up early. We would have a big breakfast and then Uncle Alvin and I would go to the barn and hitch the wagon. We would fill the wagon with full milk cans and go to the back door of the kitchen. Remember, this was New York State. The mornings were cool—sometimes even cold. When we got to the back door, Uncle Alvin would slip grain bags over the horses' heads. Aunt Betty would pour him another cup of coffee and I got a cup of tea, heavy with raw "top" milk. We would spend a few minutes together, just being. Then we were off to the creamery, about 12 miles away.

The day would slowly warm as we drove. Often my parents would meet us there to take me home. It was a good way to begin that precious time before we all had to get back to work. Of course, Uncle Alvin worked all year round. Farmers seldom get vacations. For me, however, it was a wonderful change of pace. I relished the clip clop of the horses' hooves and the slow morning progress. I especially loved that last cup of tea.

As we enter the month of August, it feels like a "hitch-up" period for our church family. School will soon begin. Preparations need to be made for LOGOS, Faith Formation, and Team meetings. People who have been on vacation will go back to work. The sun will change its angle and we will see and begin to feel autumn coming. Things we have put off for the summer will resume and OPC's pace will greatly change.

This "hitch-up" period is a good time to catch up on your pledge if you have been away, look at opportunities to volunteer for tasks around the church, get back to... well... everything. Winter will arrive, but not yet. The holidays will come, but not yet. We will all be ready to rise to many occasions, but not just yet. We'll "hitch-up" but before we truly start there will still be time for a deep breath.

DID YOU KNOW...

ABOUT OUR SUPPORT OF CHILDREN IN ETHIOPIA?

Did you know that individuals, couples, families, and groups at Opequon Church sponsor 20 children at the Gore Children's Home in Gore, Ethiopia? This is all part of the "Friends of Gore" program that supports orphaned children or children in need with room and board, medical care, supervision, and tutoring. The children attend the public schools in Gore. Each year, some go to technical school and a few to universities. A full sponsorship of a child for one -year costs \$1,450; ½ sponsorship \$725; and ¼ sponsorship \$365. We are seeking new sponsors who might adopt a child according to these amounts or who would like to contribute to the Friends of Gore Fund in whatever amount works for you. We would like to collect funds this month, which allows the Home to begin planning food purchases and supplies for the 2025-2026 school year. Checks just need to be clearly labeled "Friends of the Gore Home." If you have questions, please reach out to Dr. Bill Burslem (wburslem331@comcast.net).



"OPC PRAYS"

EMAIL GROUP

To participate in our emailed prayer chain, "OPC Prays", as prayer concerns of our congregation are mentioned during the week, please email Winter Brooks (winterbrooks@comcast.net) to be added to the group.



LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will meet in Fellowship Hall on August 18 at noon. The main course will be corn chowder. If you have lost a significant other, and could use a good time with a good lunch, drop in. We ask that you bring a dish to pass or chip in a dollar or two toward expenses. It's a good time shared with friends—come on over. If you have questions or need a ride, contact Pastor Tracie (assocopc@gmail.com) or the church office.

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN UPDATE— "A Season of Transition"

As we transition from cool-weather crops to our summer plantings, there's been a lot of activity in the Roots & Shoots Garden! We've been busy pulling broccoli, harvesting beautiful cabbages, and digging up the last of the spring potatoes. In their place, we're planting a fresh round of beans, beets, carrots, and cucumbers which are ready to soak up the summer sun!

We are still in need of volunteers to help with mowing, both inside the garden and along the outside perimeter behind the fence. If you are able to lend a hand or want to join the garden mowing schedule, we would love to hear from you (sheyenneervin@gmail.com). Every little bit helps keep our garden thriving!

Whether you're planting seeds, pulling weeds, or simply showing up to lend a hand, your work matters, and God sees it. Thank you for helping us grow not just food, but a stronger, more connected community.



Dear OPiE,

How can I help with the new addition process? I want to be part of it, but it all seems like such a big project?

— Wishful

Dear Wishful,

This is a big project and there will be many, many individual tasks to be done as it progresses. We will need people to help choose the furniture for the Fellowship Hall, ideas for colors and decorations, and lots more. Small groups are meeting now to make some recommendations. New small groups will be formed over the progress of construction as well as furnishing. Let the office know if you are interested in doing something specific—or if you just want to be called on when help is needed.

I have suggested to Greg Eisenhauer and the kitchen group that a special place where leftover cookies and cake could be put for sampling might be helpful. Maybe you could start that small group planning? My friends and I would make sure there were no leftover crumbs; we are very careful about crumbs. There would be no need to clean the area—unless sticky frosting were to be used. OPC sends food to people after every foodish event. This could be a great way to expand the outreach. I would caution you that the area should be off the ground. We do not especially want to feed black snakes. They don't eat crumbs, but they do frighten us crumb eaters.

— Your ever-hungry friend, OPiE

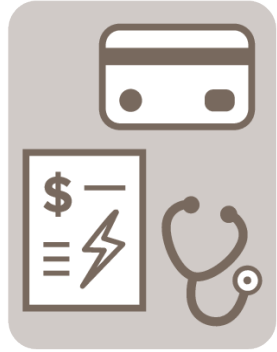
Opequon Presbyterian Church
Financial Summary for the period ended
June 30, 2025

	Annual Budget 2025	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
Income					
410000 Offering Income	882,418	102,374	474,971	407,447	53.8%
420000 Other Income	1,800	68	849	951	47.2%
Total 400000 Income	884,218	102,442	475,820	408,398	53.8%
Expenses					
500000 Personnel Costs					
510000 Installed Pastors	228,422	19,324	113,042	115,380	49.5%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	143,633	13,220	72,930	70,703	50.8%
530000 Administrative Staff	155,104	12,646	75,960	79,144	49.0%
Total 500000 Personnel Costs	527,159	45,190	261,932	265,227	49.7%
600000 Other Ministries					
610000 Christian Education	15,050	2,770	7,223	7,827	48.0%
620000 Congregational Care	2,800	385	720	2,080	25.7%
630000 Evangelism	2,250	(60)	779	1,471	34.6%
640000 Fellowship	3,800	352	2,008	1,792	52.8%
650000 Mission	77,000	4,317	33,500	43,500	43.5%
660000 Worship	8,000	53	1,667	6,333	20.8%
Total 600000 Other Ministries	108,900	7,816	45,896	63,004	42.1%
Total 700000 Church Administration	148,385	(3,673)	82,994	65,391	55.9%
Total Expenses	784,444	49,333	390,821	393,623	49.8%
Net Operating Income (Expense)	99,774	53,109	84,999	14,775	85.2%
920000 Other Income	18,675	1,650	10,931	7,744	58.5%
930000 Other Expenses	118,449	9,706	59,023	59,426	49.8%
Net Other Income (Expense)	(99,774)	(8,056)	(48,092)	(51,682)	48.2%
Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses	0	45,053	36,907		

	6/30/25
Cash	\$ 109,013
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance	\$ 332,565

What is identity theft?

Identity theft happens when someone uses your personal or financial information without your permission. They might steal your name and address, credit card or bank account numbers, Social Security number, or medical insurance account numbers, and use them to



- ▶ buy things with your credit cards
- ▶ get new credit cards in your name
- ▶ open a phone, electricity, or gas account in your name
- ▶ get a job
- ▶ steal your tax refund
- ▶ use your health insurance to get medical care
- ▶ pretend to be you if they're arrested

How will I know if someone steals my identity?

Here are some ways you might find out someone has stolen your identity:

- ▶ **Read your bills.** Do you see charges for things you didn't buy?
- ▶ **Watch your bank account statement.** Are there withdrawals you didn't make? Are there changes you didn't expect?
- ▶ **Check your mail.** Did you stop getting a bill? Did you get a bill for an account you never opened? Or did you get a letter about an employer you don't recognize?
- ▶ **Get your credit report.** Are there accounts or other information you don't recognize? To get your report, call Annual Credit Report at **877-322-8228**, or go to **AnnualCreditReport.com**. Federal law gives you the right to get a free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit bureaus. (The three bureaus also now let you check your credit report once a week for free at **AnnualCreditReport.com**).



If you answer yes to any of these questions, someone might have stolen your identity. →

How do I protect myself from identity theft?

Identity theft can happen to anyone. To lessen the chance someone will steal your identity

- ▶ **Protect documents that have personal information.** Keep official documents like your birth certificate, Social Security card, and account statements in a safe place. Shred any documents that reveal your personal information before you throw them away.
- ▶ **Don't share your Social Security number with someone who contacts you unexpectedly.** Even if they say they're from the Social Security Administration, the IRS, your bank, or another organization you know. They're not. It's a scam.
- ▶ **Protect your information online and on your phone.** Use passwords that are hard to guess. And add multi-factor authentication, like a code you get by text message, for accounts that offer it.
- ▶ **Review your bills.** Look for charges for things you didn't buy, or an unexpected bill. It could be a sign of identity theft.

NURSE NOTES

How do I report identity theft and get help in my language?

If you suspect identity theft, report it to the Federal Trade Commission.

For help in English, go to:

[IdentityTheft.gov](https://www.identitytheft.gov)

For help in Spanish, go to:

[RobodelIdentidad.gov](https://www.robodelidentidad.gov)

You'll get a free personalized recovery plan and next steps.



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
IdentityTheft.gov

November 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					Rebekah Away-Vacation	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rebekah Away-Vacation Communion 10am - Worship & Live Stream @ 11am - Opie's Playhouse @ 11:15am - Ice Cream Pie Sunday	9:30am - Older Adult Ministry 5pm - LOGOS Leadership @ 6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary &	5pm - Tech Team Meeting @ 6:30pm - Ministry Team Night (No	10am - Staff Meeting & Lunch @ 5pm - Discipleship Team @ 6:45pm - Youth Parent Hangout @	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 2:30pm - Planning GLOW @ 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry @	6pm - Youth Summer Midnight	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10am - Baptisms @ Sanctuary 10am - Blessing of the Backpacks 10am - Worship & Live Stream @ 11:15am - Senior Outreach 1:30pm - Spring Arbor Worship @ 4pm - Newcomers Class @	6pm - MOO @ Picnic Shelter 6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary	Winchester City Schools First Day 6pm - GLOW @ Witt's Home 7pm - ART @ Assembly Room 7pm - Vision Team @ Bageant	12pm - Happy Days @ Fellowship	Frederick County Schools First Day 10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 11:15am - Piano Tuner - Eric Olson	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Blood Pressure Checks 10am - Worship & Live Stream @ 11:15am - ABUG Training @ 6:30pm - Jazz Worship @ Picnic	12pm - Life Goes On @ Fellowship 6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary &	6pm - Session Mtg @ Fellowship	David Away 9:30am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry		9:30am - Shenandoah Presbytery
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
4 Cents a Meal Offering 10am - Worship & Live Stream @ 11am - CE Rally Day Reception @ 2pm - Youth Event for Downtown	6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary	3pm - TVOR Gathering 5:30pm - Highland Food Pantry @ 6:30pm - Interior Design Team @	8:30am - Older Adult Trip 6pm - Choir Practice @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 10:30am - WANC Lunch @ 6pm - Fellowship Book Club @		10am - Jubilee Kitchen - Opequon
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:30am - Hymn Sing @ Sanctuary 10am - Worship & Live Stream @	Church Office Closed Labor Day	5pm - Tech Team Meeting @ 6pm - Ministry Team Night @	9:30am - Staff Meeting @ Bageant 5:30pm - LOGOS Staff Orientation 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry @		

PARKING ON SUNDAYS—THANK YOU!

You all have been fantastic in scattering your parking for Sunday services this summer. Thank you! We don't believe there has been a Sunday when we have been fully parked in the back, primarily because people have proactively parked in the circle or in the field along the right side of Opequon Church Lane. We appreciate those who have been able to do this and walk up to the sanctuary building, allowing adequate and plentiful parking for others who may arrive later and/or need to park closely to the building. We are grateful for your cooperation and assistance in working with us to make sure we are hospitable and welcoming for all.

OUR FAMILY APPRECIATES YOU SO MUCH!

We are so grateful to you, our church family, for your support, care, and love in our recent grief. We appreciate the cards, texts, emails, phone calls and personal expressions of empathy in our time of loss. You have overwhelmed us with your kindness. This is what makes Opequon so special!

With Gratitude and Love, Carole and David Witt & Family

STAFF SCHEDULE NOTES

August 1-3: Rebekah Witt - Vacation

August 20-22: David Witt - Rescheduled Vacation

September 1: **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED** (Labor Day)

If a pastoral concern arises during this time, please note who is available and call or email the church office, Pastor David Witt (pastor@opequonchurch.org), or Parish Associate Tracie Martin (assocopc@gmail.com).



A SEPTEMBER SAMPLE TO ANTICIPATE

- ✓ Tuesday, September 2—September Ministry Team Night
- ✓ Wednesday, September 3—LOGOS Staff Orientation
- ✓ Sunday, September 7—Worship Returns to 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
- ✓ Sunday, September 7—August Communion
- ✓ Sunday, September 7—Staff Transitions Forum with Brownen Boswell
- ✓ Saturday, September 13—Memorial Service for Bill Heavner
- ✓ Sunday, September 14—Opie's Playhouse
- ✓ Sunday, September 14—Sunday Faith Formation Returns
- ✓ Wednesday, September 17—28th Year of LOGOS Begins
- ✓ Saturday, September 20—Graham Taylor Memorial Fundraiser
- ✓ Sunday, September 21—"Back to Church" Sunday
- ✓ Sunday, September 21—Youth Families' Kick-Off
- ✓ Sunday, September 28—September GIFT Event
- ✓ Sunday, September 28—"Talk Saves Lives" Workshop

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

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor David R. Witt
Parish Associate Tracie Martin
Church Office Administrator..... Rachel Lesink
Church Finance Administrator Ken Smiy
Director of Christian Education Carole Witt
Director of Youth & Young Adults.... Rebekah Witt
Director of Music Susan Homan
Facilities Coordinator Robert Sydnor
Nursery Supervisor Laurie Carver
Faith Community Nurses Bill Martin,
Mike Nutry, Pat Williams

**OPEQUON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602-2421

Website:

www.opequonchurch.org

Phone:

540-662-1843

Office:

office@opequonchurch.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday
9:00 AM—2:00 PM

Friday
9:00 AM—12:00 PM

* * * * *



SUMMER WORSHIP:
Sundays at 10:00 AM
August