



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

September 2026

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

**Sunday Morning
Worship Times:
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

September 6

† Exodus 12:1-14;
Matthew 18:15-20
Sermon: "Remembering
and Reconciling"

* Communion

September 13—

Grandparents Day

† Genesis 50:15-21;
Matthew 18:21-35
Sermon: "Transformed by
God"

1:30 PM Spring Arbor Worship

September 20—

Back to Church Sunday

† Jonah 3:10-4:11;
Matthew 20:1-16
Sermon: "God's Great
Reversal"

* Blood Pressure Checks

September 27—

Stewardship's Popping Sunday

† 2 Corinthians 2:14-17
Joshua 5:9-12
Sermon: "Celebrate!"

* 4 Cents A Meal

* GIFT Event (9:45 AM)

MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT

Tuesday, September 1

6:00 PM Meal: Chicken Tetrazzini, Green Beans, Bread, Drinks,
Pie & Other Desserts (including a gluten-free option)
(provided by the Vision Team)

6:40 PM Devotions & Team Meetings



SUNDAY MORNING

ADULT FAITH FORMATION RESUMES...

On Sunday, September 6 with a study called,
"Cross Borders," from our popular *Follow Me:*
Biblical Practices for Faithful Living curriculum.

This Faith Formation Class will be facilitated by Ann Denison and David Witt, meeting in the Bageant Room at 9:45 AM each week. Crossing borders is about actions we take to reach out to others who are different from us in order to love them and build bridges of understanding and justice. Jesus encountered many borders in his ministry. Over and over again, we find Jesus crossing those human-erected borders and walls, challenging them in the name of love and justice. He even called out his own political and religious leaders for enforcing unjust borders, which, in part, led to his crucifixion. This practice shows how we, as followers of Jesus, are pushed, pulled, invited, and commanded by God to embrace the fullness of humanity. We will focus on four aspects of crossing borders: leave your comfort zone, embrace relationships, challenge exclusion, and speak God's language of love.

Explore what crossing borders means for followers of Jesus—think about joining us—and plan on being present on September 6.



BLESSING OF THE PETS

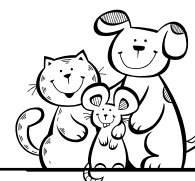
Sunday, September 27

2:00 PM—4:00 PM

You and your critters are invited to join us
for a special Blessing of the Pets in the Picnic Shelter
on Sunday, September 27, at 2:00 PM.

Please bring cats in their carriers
and dogs on their leashes.

Goody bags await your blessed pets!





NOTES FROM PASTOR DAVID:

"Catching Up!"

"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

—Hebrews 10:24-25

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I sit down to write these notes, yellow school buses are rumbling down the roads again, ripening apples are weighing down tree branches, and summertime heat is being replaced by cooler evening breezes. Labor Day, a holiday initiated to honor America's labor work force, this year is just around the corner, serving as a rite of passage between summer and fall. The patterns and rhythm of life are changing as we plunge into a new season. The month of September also traditionally marks a renewal of programs and ministries within the church's life as opportunities grow and flourish. After three months of one Sunday worship service along with engaging fellowship times, on September 6, we return to our two worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 AM. From "The Parabaloosa" theme of Rally Day to the start-up of choir practice, the DISCIPLE study, Logos, small groups and a host of activities and events, we are ready to go!

September also represents a "catching up" time in the church. Since many of us have been on the go, enjoying new places and new adventures, we may have missed something or somebody. Maybe you have seen the riddle: "CH_RCH — what is missing?" The answer: "U" — YOU! So, the first part of catching up is catching up with relationships, catching up with one another, getting acquainted and reconnected, checking in on how the person in the pew next to me (or the one who is not there!) is doing. Next, you and I may need to catch up on the news: "What's been happening at church? What's going on this month? What have they been doing?" While people have been away, the work of the church has continued. "Did I miss something?" we may want to ask ourselves. And then, we may want to inquire, "How can I be a part of that? What can I do to help?" In addition, while building needs and expenses have kept pace and sometimes even risen, financial giving lags during our summer pace. There is some catching up to be done when it comes to our overall financial stewardship. Finally, but most importantly, when we get out of our weekly routines and daily disciplines, our spiritual practices may also get out of kilter.

We may not have maintained our quiet time with God each day or fed upon God's word or connected with God through worship, prayer, and praise. We may not only need to get our batteries recharged; we may need an engine tune-up as well! All of this contributes to our need to "catch up." I know I need to catch up myself; I imagine you may, too. I would love for us to do it together!

Together in Christ's Service,

David

PASTOR TRACIE'S JUST THINKIN'...

I am convinced that God made the month of September because of soup. September is the last month for fresh corn chowder and the only month when fresh corn is big enough to make that chowder well. It is the best month to harvest fresh potatoes for clam chowder and vegetable soup. Think about the beautiful carrots, beans, and onions of September! Now, try to tell me that God isn't a soup fan.

Soup is medicinal. It makes your sinuses clear. It helps with a sore throat. Chicken soup made from scratch would cure almost anything.

Soup is soothing. It calms the nerves when you make it as well as when it is tasted. Chopping carrots is especially helpful when one is angry or frustrated. That 'whack' sound really helps. Chopping onions allows one to cry without being obvious. Pulling the strings on celery helps a person become calm and careful. Making soup beats counting to ten every time!

For many Christian traditions, soup is a metaphor for hospitality and mercy. I have read of soup being characterized as a sacrament of enough. I can understand that sacramental concept because I remember the story of "Stone Soup" where a starving village found enough ingredients to feed the entire community one bit at a time.

Jacob and Esau made soup a symbol of the danger of acting too quickly without thinking about long term consequences. Gideon used soup to prove that God was with the Israelites against the Midianites. Elisha cleansed soup of poison to show God's protection and care. Cooks have used soup for years to make sure everyone was fed.

I love to make bean soup. I start the night before by soaking dried beans. In the morning, I rinse them, add onion, celery, fresh peppers, ham broth, and begin simmering. Later additions are carrots, sometimes potatoes, and whatever seasoning the

finished product will need. White pepper adds a slow burn, Carol Nurty taught me that. Salt is needed but only a little. Cubed ham or chopped bacon or both pretty much finish things off. When the beans are soft and the soup tastes almost great, I add a can of refried beans or a batch of home made bean paste, bring things to a boil one last time, and put the pot on the porch. September provides a porch temperature that is perfect for aging soup. If it is cold enough, I leave it out overnight. If the temperature will not fall below 40 degrees, I put the cooled pot in the fridge just before I go to bed. Good soup needs that overnight rest. Three, pound bags of dried beans will make about 8 quarts of soup. That just fills the soup pot I got from Carol Treece years ago.

When September ends, my freezer and others are full enough to last until the holidays hit with their own soup requirements. Think cream-of-shrimp or seafood chowder on Christmas Eve after worship. Soup is biblical, comforting, and sets a tone for whatever comes next. Thank God.

—Tracie

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM AUGUST 2026

- ✂ Vision Ministry: Opequon's community outreach continues to support local schools, staff, and students with our prayers and distribution of school supplies and clothing donations from "Undie Sundays" with our partner, Bright Futures.
- ✂ Mission Ministry: Tickets sales are open for the Annual Graham Taylor fundraiser event September 26, 2026, to benefit Opequon's Mission Ministry Fund. Murphy's Bluegrass Bandits are returning to perform and this should be another great outdoor event (and worthy cause!) at the Pitcock Shelter.
- ✂ Session approved two Shenandoah Presbytery Mission Grant applications for submission, requesting support for the Dominican Republic Medical Mission Trip in March 2027 (\$16,000 request) and Christian Education's Blessing Box (\$500 request).
- ✂ Fellowship Ministry: Interested in participating in a FEAST Group? A new Eclectic Palate FEAST Group is being organized by Diana Hecht and the new Friday Lunch Bunch Group is seeking a contact person. Contact the church office if you are interested in either of these FEAST Groups. Blessing of the Pets is scheduled for Sunday September 27, (2-4 PM) in the Pitcock Shelter.

- ✂ Buildings & Grounds Ministry: Session approved the expenditure of \$9,140.00 from the Reserve Fund to address several outside issues (e.g. hazardous walkway, fence post rot, sump pump drainage) in need of repair/replacement at the Manse based on a recent insurance inspection.
- ✂ Check out the beautifully restored and re-dedicated Memorial Sanctuary, with the new Dossal Cloth mounted on the front wall. Thanks to Robert Sydnor, who located the original rod, Byron Elvira's group for assistance in hanging the new Dossal Cloth, and to Jack Marquis and Jennie Wright, for their time, skills, and vision that contributed to the design and completion of the project.
- ✂ Stewardship & Finance Ministry: Session approved the transfer of \$5,678 from Reserve Fund to cover costs of the Fellowship Hall window replacement project. Session approved June and July 2026 financial reports. A Building Loan Cash Flow projection model prepared by Treasurer Ron Smith is under Session review, as we move into the 2027 Budget Planning Cycle, beginning in September.
- ✂ Technology & Communications Ministry is seeking new volunteers. Susan Ritter is developing an archive of livestream video from past worship services.
- ✂ Personnel & Administration Ministry: Doug Joyner and Ann Smith will conduct a 90-minute Boundaries Training for church leadership, based on content required by Presbytery. The first session for Elders/Deacons is scheduled for October 26, 2026, preceded by staff training. The team will present a ministry framework for Session consideration in September that draws on the CAT, leadership retreat, Steps to Tomorrow, pastoral workload discussions, and efforts to strengthen distributed leadership. This framework is integral for Session discernment about current and future personnel needs.
- ✂ Worship Ministry: Recognition and thanks to Cynthia Millard for her past coordination of the Beadle/Greeter program! The team seeks a new Beadle/Greeter Coordinator to replace her.
- ✂ Christian Education Ministry: Faith Formation Classes resume in September, including a new 12-week Disciple 1 course on the Old Testament led by Paster Tracie Martin. The Logos 29th year begins September 23 with theme, "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart."
- ✂ Congregational Care Ministry & Deacons: Session approved a recommendation for the formation of a new team of Pastoral Assistants, consisting of previously ordained non-clergy

(i.e., Elders or Deacons), to supplement the visits already being made by the Pastors. As previously ordained non-clergy, they will be called, trained, examined and approved by Session, and commissioned in worship to serve as Pastoral Assistants for one-year renewable terms.

- ✂ Session voted to receive newcomer Diana Hecht into the fellowship of Opequon Presbyterian Church by letter of transfer from Bloomery Presbyterian Church, Bloomery, WV. Welcome Diana!

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

EXTENDING OUR EMPATHY AND CHRISTIAN LOVE TO...



- ✂ The Boyd-Walker family, upon the death of Sharon Stivers Boyd on July 21.
- ✂ June Windle and family, upon the death of her son and Opequon member, Nathan Edward Windle, on July 29.
- ✂ Amy Gray and family, upon the death of her mother, Jeannie Rathman, on July 29.
- ✂ Nancy Budny and family, upon the death of her brother, Peter Lamb, on August 4.
- ✂ Mike Birchenough and family, upon the death of his mother, Sylvia Meyer, on August 11.

*"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*

BUILDING CAMPAIGN RECEIPTS

Building campaign receipts now total \$1,296k through July 2026, which is 81% of the total amount pledged. Note that some pledged gifts have been received in full and will not be evenly spread over the 3-year giving period. The total also includes gifts that were not pledged.



Dear OPiE,
 Recently I found a faucet running with no one in the room. I turned it off, but should I say something to someone? Does this happen often? — Drip-Stopper

Dear Drip-Stopper,

As you know, I patrol the church building every night, trying to make sure there are no crumbs needing clean-up. Sadly, the people who do fellowship times and meals are a bit too neat for my taste. It's almost as if they want me to starve!

I have noticed, however, that some of you humans are less concerned about other aspects of our church campus. It is not unusual for me to find a faucet dripping or even running a stream. Church equipment is sometimes used on things it was not designed for; sometimes it is left running or even broken. Dishes that need washing are left in sinks. Stuff is just not always treated kindly.

Now, I am aware that we have Robert, Jack, and the whole Building and Grounds Team working to keep things in place, but even they can't do everything! They purchase and repair equipment. Ken and Ron get the bills paid. Things get cleaned up and put in place. The overall condition of the church buildings is actually pretty good. Still, some of the smaller details are becoming larger, probably because of carelessness and rushing.

You humans pay for what this church needs. When you miss turning off faucets, the water bill goes up. When you break church equipment, the church must pay for its replacement. It is so easy to get in a hurry and forget something. May I humbly suggest that you spend less time dealing with a few cookies or part of a sandwich and start checking things that I cannot clean up? I have tried to turn the faucets. They are too heavy for me. I can clean up a sandwich just fine, however.

— Your Friend, OPiE

GIFT EVENT—

Generations In Faith Together

We have the GIFT of being with all ages for an educational experience at 9:45 AM on Sunday, September 27 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 will serve "BLT'S" that morning. We will be treated to the story *God Gave Us Sleep* that morning too. There is much in store as we enjoy a relaxed, enjoyable and restful time together.

LET'S SUPPORT OUR KIDS & YOUTH

Did you know that our young people are involved in all sorts of activities outside of the church building? We have amazing artists, athletes, writers, musicians, actors, and more! Would you like to be on an email list of activity schedules so that you can show up to support our families in all that they do? Let Rebekah Witt know at rwitt@opequonchurch.org! Let's continue to nurture relationships with our families outside of the church walls. If your child or youth has a schedule that you'd like to share, please reach out to Rebekah.

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE

As summer comes to an end, Opie's Playhouse will return to its normal time of 9:45—10:45 AM on the first Sunday of the month. Our next gathering will be on Sunday, September 6, outside on the playground if it's nice out, or inside in the Memorial Sanctuary if it's not. We have missed having our whole group of friends together during our busy summer months and are looking forward to playing together soon! Whether inside or outside, Opie's Playhouse is a time of fun and fellowship for all families with young children. Hope to see you there!



LOGOS STAFF ORIENTATION

The LOGOS STAFF ORIENTATION will be held on Wednesday, September 9 at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. A full dinner will be provided along with a full orientation of our upcoming Logos year. It's an evening of Food, Fun, and lots of important Facts about Logos. All Logos staff are asked to attend. The dinner menu includes Make Your Own Chef Salad, Fruit, Deviled Eggs, Rolls, and Dessert.



THE LATEST IN LOGOS

September has come again and that means the opening of a new Logos year. This is year #29 for Logos at Opequon! 29 years is amazing. Each year is planned and prepared with much enthusiasm and integrity. The doors open to the new Logos year on Wednesday, September 23! We are excited to welcome all the Logos participants and the Logos staff. Everyone is a very important part of it all. Everyone matters! The opening night theme is "Old Opequon Night". There are so many great weekly themes for us to experience in the coming Logos year. Logos is a midweek ministry for Preschool through High School age young people held on Wednesdays (4:30—7:15 PM) from September through March. The focus of Logos is loving God and loving one another.

REGISTRATION is OPEN with our discount rate available through September 15. Registration is available online or at the Logos display in the Gathering Area. Payment of fees is requested upon registering. As each young person is registered, their name will be entered for a prize drawing of a BIRTHDAY BASKET. The prize drawing will take place on September 16.

We hope your children and youth will be joining us for our holy hilarity Wednesday evenings during this upcoming Logos year. If you have any questions about our Logos ministry, reach out to Carole Witt at dce@opequonchurch.org.

NEW CONFIRMATION YEAR COMING UP

A Confirmation Class is beginning this month with the first class session on Wednesday, September 23, and Confirmation Sunday already scheduled to be April 11, 2027. Confirmation is open to any young person in 8th grade or beyond. Confirmation Class is 6:15—7:15 PM on Wednesdays. You can meet all the Confirmation students by seeing their photos on the Bulletin Board above the water fountains outside the sanctuary. Enjoy their personal quotes too! Questions about Confirmation, ask Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org).

YOUTH: GRADES 6-12

September 20 (9:00 AM): Youth Families Breakfast

YOUNG ADULTS: AGES 18-35

September 27 (5:00 PM): Yard Games

MEN OF OPEQUON (MOO) INVITATION

TO: All MOO Participants
FROM: Mitch Orndorff
RE: MOO Get-Together
DATE: Monday, September 14, 2026

You are all invited to an off-site meeting this month if you would care to come.

Each of you are invited to join us for our monthly gathering on Monday, September 14, meeting at 4:30 PM at the church.

We will depart at 4:30 PM in the church bus/van/private car if needed and travel 45 minutes to Capon Springs and Farms Resort, in Capon Springs, WV.

When we arrive, we will gather at the campfire to be given an overview of the resort and some background on Hampshire County, WV. Our host, at this point, will either be Jonathan Bellingham or Tom Austin, both members of the founding family.

At 6:00 PM, we will bus/van up the hill to the pavilion on the golf course to enjoy a provided Pit Barbeque Chicken Dinner, including salad, vegetables, homemade rolls, and pie with ice cream. Iced tea, lemonade, and water will be available.

Following dinner, a lifetime friend, Pastor Mike Funkhouser will offer devotions and provide background on neighboring Wardensville and Hardy County, WV.

We recommend that we stay long enough for sunset on the golf course following the flag lowering. It's awesome.

Please RSVP to me by text or phone (540-539-7337) by noon on Monday, September 7! We do have a sponsor for dinner, but I must give them a firm count, no exceptions.

I hope you can join us. Looking forward to sharing Wild & Wonderful West Virginia with you,

Mitch Orndorff

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, Opequon women had a Summer Fun Night at Carole Witt's home.

This month, Opequon women will meet on Tuesday, September 8, at 6:00 PM at the church for our annual BUNCO NIGHT. As the 'ticket to play', ladies are invited to bring a non-perishable food item for our Blessing Box. Bunco requires no skill but provides opportunity for loads of laughs, great conversation and the chance to win a prize. This dice rolling game is learned in a matter of minutes! All Opequon Women are invited. There is a place for you at the Bunco tables. Drinks and refreshments provided.

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

You made it through the dog days of summer and now we have a new season of Fall ready to begin. The days will start cooling off but everything at Opequon is heating up!

This month begins with the Older Adult Planning Team meeting on Monday, September 14, at 9:30 AM in the Bageant Room. This meeting is one week later than usual due to the Labor Day Holiday. Older Adult planning meetings are for discussing and planning programs for Happy Days and other special events. The meetings are open to any older adult who would like to attend. You are welcome to come join in. Some morning goodies and coffee are provided.

The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be held on Wednesday, September 9, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall beginning with a covered dish lunch. Chicken and drinks are provided. Please bring a covered dish item to share. Our theme for this Happy Days Event is "Back to School-Class is in Session". After lunch, we will enjoy some 'school days fun' such as a new kind of spelling test, a couple fun word problems, a class picture and more. Everyone will be a class star! All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the friendships as we meet together as a school class.

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

FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

September's book is *The Third Act of Theo Gruene* by Talya Tate Boerner (available for free on Kindle Unlimited). We will meet at 6:00 PM on September 24 in the Bageant Room.

LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On is a gathering of people who have lost a spouse or significant other. We meet for lunch in Fellowship Hall at noon on the third Monday of the month. The main dish is provided. You are asked to bring a dish to pass or to chip in a dollar or two toward expense. The discussions are good; we laugh a lot. Please plan to join us on September 21—no reservations needed.

SOMETHING NEW ON THE OPC WEBSITE!

We're excited to share something new with you! The Mission page on OPC's website has been updated and improved, making it easier than ever to learn about how Opequon supports local and global mission efforts through volunteering, donating, and praying. Whether you're already involved in one of our mission efforts or simply curious about how our church is making a difference, we invite you to take a look and explore the new Mission page, located under "Get Involved" on [our website](#), and check out our current local and global mission projects and ministry partners, see new photos, and learn about ways to connect and get involved. We are grateful for the generosity, service, and partnership of our OPC family as we continue serving as God's hands, heart, and feet to those in our community.



SENIOR OUTREACH

Senior Outreach Ministry will gather on Sunday, September 13, at 12:15 PM, by the church office door to load up the totes for the Shenandoah Senior Apartments in Winchester. Donations of paper towels or bath tissue are always welcome.

COLLECTIONS FOR CCAP

Throughout September, we will be collecting peanut butter and jelly in the Dell Room for CCAP. Thank you for your contributions and supporting our community!



UNDIE SUNDAYS & MORE!

To recap the recent "**Stronger Together**" community school panel that was hosted by the Vision Team in May, Bright Futures will need donations for the coming school year. Thank you for all the donations of new underwear and socks that we have received so far. We will continue to collect items throughout the school year. Several item needs were identified at the meeting, so each month we will ask for different items. The tote will remain in the Gathering Area to collect any items you wish to donate. The items needed are for elementary school through high school.

Thank you to everyone who has seen the need and dropped items off in the tote so far. This is just one of the many simple ways we can help to make life better for the teachers, staff and children.

For the month of September, we are collecting donations of leggings for the girls, children's sizes to adult. These can be gently used, so check the thrift stores.

Please also continue to pray for the teachers and students. Notes of encouragement to the schools are always welcome. Each week, a different local school will be selected to be held up with prayer.

This month, we will pray for the teachers and students at these schools:

- September 6—Dowell J. Howard Center
- September 13—Shihadeh Innovation Center
- September 20—Daniel Morgan Middle School
- September 27—Frederick County Middle School

ANNUAL GRAHAM TAYLOR CONCERT & MEAL FUNDRAISER EVENT

Location

- ▶ OPC Picnic Shelter
- ▶ Some seating available
- ▶ Bring your own lawn chairs/blankets
- ▶ In the event of rain, dinner will be moved to the Fellowship Hall and concert to the Sanctuary.

Parking

- ▶ Please park in the church parking lots first.
- ▶ Overflow parking will be in the lot by the Picnic Shelter.

About the Band

- ▶ Murphy's Bluegrass Bandits from Winchester is led by Murphy Hicks Henry, a long-time performer and developer of The Murphy Method. The band has been together since early 2022 and has performed at a variety of venues in Winchester/Northern Shenandoah Valley and in Fairfax County.
 - ♪ Murphy Hicks Henry: guitar, fiddle, lead & harmony vocals
 - ♪ Matt Occhuzzo: guitar, lead & harmony vocals
 - ♪ Doug Sherburne: banjo, bass vocals
 - ♪ Kathy Holliday: bass, lead & harmony vocals
- ▶ Murphy's Bluegrass Bandits are graciously donating their time and music to support this fundraising event. As a thank you, a "tip jar" will be available for those who wish to show their appreciation to the band.

Proceeds

- ▶ All proceeds benefit OPC's Mission Ministry Fund.
- ▶ For information about OPC's partnership with organizations in our local community, please contact any of the OPC Mission Ministry Team Members.

Saturday, September 26
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm



CONCERT FEATURING: **Murphy's Bluegrass Bandits**

Performing: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

CONCERT TICKETS: \$20 each

(label payment as "GT Concert")

Kids 18 & Under are FREE!

- ✓ **Pay Online:** scan the QR code or click "giving" on OPC's website
- ✓ **Pay by Cash/Check:** in the worship offering or in the church office
- ✓ **Pay at the Door:** cash or check only

OPTIONAL: Fried Chicken Dinner

DINNER TICKETS: \$10 each

(label payment as "GT Dinner")

Must be pre-purchased by September 13!

- ✓ **Pay Online:** scan the QR code or click "giving" on OPC's website
- ✓ **Pay by Cash/Check:** in the worship offering or in the church office

Purchase Tickets:



opequonchurch.org



ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN:

Growing, Giving, & Grateful

Our garden has been absolutely beautiful this season, and we couldn't be more grateful for the abundance it has been producing! From the flowers blooming throughout the garden to the fresh vegetables making their way into our community, it has truly been a joy to watch everything grow. And after a summer of sunshine, we are especially grateful for all the rain!

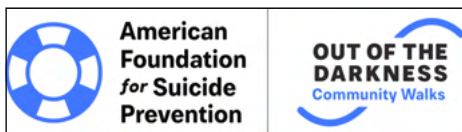
We're also incredibly excited to share that we have officially donated over 200 pounds of fresh produce so far this year! What started as little seeds in the soil has turned into something that is making a real difference in our community and that is only possible because of the people who continue to pour their time and love into this garden.

We're also looking forward to participating in United Way's Day of Caring on Friday, September 18! We can't wait to welcome even more helping hands into the garden and spend the day working together to keep this special place growing.

A HUGE thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who have helped plant, weed, water, harvest, donate, and care for this garden. We truly couldn't do it without you! And if you've ever thought, "I'd love to help, but I don't know anything about gardening..." come anyway! We always have something that needs to be done, and we'd love to have you. Whether you have a green thumb or have never touched a garden bed before, there is a place for you here. If you're interested in volunteering or lending a helping hand, please reach out to Sheyenne Ervin (sheyenneervin@gmail.com)! We'd love to have you be part of what we're growing together.



*Here's to growing good things,
feeding our community,
and doing it together!*



"OUT OF THE DARKNESS"

**Stephens City Community Walk for Suicide Prevention
Saturday, October 10**

The annual family-friendly "Out of the Darkness" Community Walk for Suicide Prevention event will be held on October 10 at Sherando High School in Stephens City. Gates open at 9:00 AM and the walk will begin at 10:00 AM. The route is a pleasant, 1.2 mile walk through Sherando Park, with a handicap accessible option.

OPC's Mission Team sponsoring a team to walk and help raise money for suicide awareness and prevention. Mission has committed \$500 toward the event, and we hope to match that with additional donations for our team. (*see flyers in Gathering Area for more info*)

- ⇒ Here is the link for anyone who wishes to join or support Team OPC:
<https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/teams/398416>
- ⇒ Or contact our Team OPC Captain:
Sheyenne Ervin (sheyenneervin@gmail.com)

Opequon Presbyterian Church
Financial Summary for the period ended
July 31, 2026

	Annual Budget 2026	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
Income					
410000 Offering Income	961,041	50,868	564,086	396,955	58.7%
420000 Other Income	2,100	224	1,900	200	90.5%
Total 400000 Income	963,141	51,092	565,986	397,155	58.8%
Expenses					
500000 Personnel Costs					
510000 Installed Pastors	160,114	13,314	91,630	68,484	57.2%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	259,866	17,619	124,434	135,432	47.9%
530000 Administrative Staff	167,195	13,642	94,746	72,449	56.7%
Total 500000 Personnel Costs	587,175	44,574	310,809	276,366	52.9%
600000 Other Ministries					
610000 Christian Education	15,650	938	8,239	7,411	52.6%
620000 Congregational Care	2,800	113	1,674	1,126	59.8%
630000 Evangelism	6,050	5	1,098	4,952	18.1%
640000 Fellowship	4,250	173	2,177	2,073	51.2%
650000 Mission	79,219	4,662	45,734	33,485	57.7%
660000 Worship	8,000	209	3,312	4,688	41.4%
Total 600000 Other Ministries	115,969	6,100	62,233	53,736	53.7%
Total 700000 Church Administration	160,200	12,175	112,605	47,595	70.3%
Total Expenses	863,344	62,849	485,647	377,697	56.3%
Net Operating Income (Expense)	99,797	(11,757)	80,339	19,458	80.5%
920000 Other Income	18,650	1,697	12,676	5,974	68.0%
930000 Other Expenses	118,447	9,708	69,872	48,575	59.0%
Net Other Income (Expense)	(99,797)	(8,011)	(57,197)	(42,600)	57.3%
Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses	0	(19,768)	23,142		

	7/31/26
Cash	\$ 112,284
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance	\$ 220,000

REMEMBER OPC IN YOUR WILL!

We can and do make an ongoing difference in people's lives...

Thank you for your generous support of our missions and ministries!

Got questions? Contact our Treasurer, Ron Smith (703-216-9588 / ronaldsmith1@gmail.com).



GENEROSITY / STEWARDSHIP MOMENT:

From Little Kernels, Come Great Things!

(From Pastor Tracie Martin & the Generosity Team)

They all look alike in the bag or bottle; oblong, yellow kernels with a darker spot, hard enough to break your teeth, a thin covering that will likely get stuck in your teeth. Still, each one is an opportunity.

Add heat and a little bit of oil, cover your pot and stand back! Popcorn is explosive! Each kernel will burst into a muncher's dream. Add a bit of seasoning, some salt, and crunch away.

You might notice that each popped piece is slightly individual. Some are round with an almost lacy edge, some look like tiny hats, some look like my aunt's head after a perm. Some barely pop at all and keep much of their original shape. Only the cracks show that they have reacted to their environment. Some, sadly, do not pop at all, and they lay at the bottom of the bowl, waiting to be discarded. A friend, however, who used to eat anything, reminded me that even the un-popped kernels have a tip that is tenderized by the heat and filled with flavor. It seems that nothing in a popcorn bowl is wasted.

This year, as we explore stewardship and generosity for our church, we will use popcorn as a vehicle. Popcorn begins as a single seed, planted in the ground. Given water, good soil and light, it grows to a tall, strong plant sporting several ears filled with new kernels of corn. Each kernel holds the possibility of popping and magnifying itself greatly. All it takes is proper treatment and a bit of time. Does this process sound familiar to you?

The Opequon Presbyterian Church is a lot like a bowl of popcorn, each kernel at one stage of pop or another. We are each individual children of God, working toward similar goals. We want to make a positive difference in our world. We want what we do to matter to God, to others, and to ourselves. We all share some aspects of our environment, but not all of them. Together we make a marvelous gathering; together we fill the bowl!

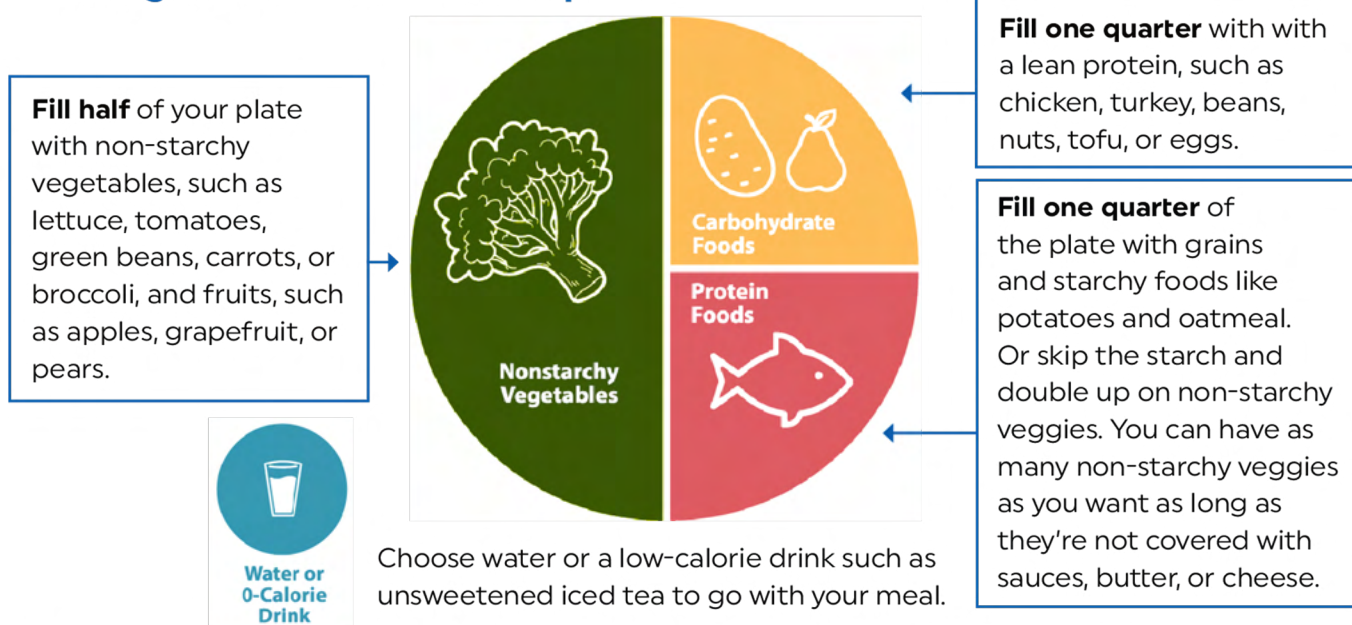
Think of the many different flavors of popcorn? Are you kettle corn—salty and sweet, caramel corn—covered with a thin, crunchy shell, or movie style popcorn—lush with butter? Do you gather in a tight group like a popcorn ball or prefer to form smaller chunks like caramel corn? Are you cheesy, coming off on everything? Where do you fit in the OPC snacks?

We will try different styles of popcorn... including a type Jesus might have made. Get ready to see what POPS at worship on September 27! This is going to be fun!

Master the Skills of Food Measurement: Portion Sizes and Food Labels

Size it up: get a handle on portion size. Most of us don't know just how much we're eating. One way to help manage portion size is by using the plate method.

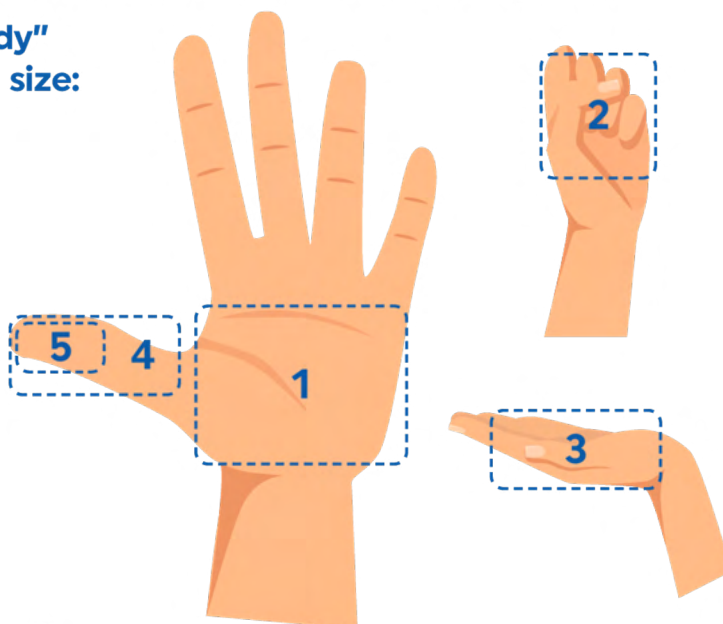
Using a basic 9-inch dinner plate:



We don't always eat off a plate, right? We eat out of bowls, fast-food packaging, or takeout boxes and containers. However, it's really the same idea. You want to make sure your meal has a good proportion of vegetables, not too much fat, and not too many starchy foods.

If you're not using a plate, this "handy" guide will help you estimate portion size:

- 1. 3 ounces of meat, fish, or poultry**
Palm of hand (no fingers)
- 2. 1 cup or 1 medium fruit**
Fist
- 3. 1-2 ounces, ¼ cup of nuts or pretzels**
Cupped hand
- 4. 1 tablespoon**
Thumb (tip to base)
- 5. 1 teaspoon**
Thumb tip (tip to 1st joint)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
		5pm - Tech Team Meeting @ 6pm - Ministry Team Night @	9:30am - Staff Meeting @ Bageant 6pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry @		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Communion 8:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary 9:45am - Faith Formation @ 9:45am - Opie's Playhouse @ 11am - Worship & Live Stream @	Church Office Closed Labor Day 5:30pm - Windsong @ Memorial	9:30am - Tuesday Morning Mission 11am - Retired Teachers @ Picnic 1pm - Disciple Faith Formation 6pm - GLOW @ Bageant Room & 7pm - Vision Team @ Assembly	12pm - Happy Days @ Fellowship 5:30pm - Logos Staff Orientation @ 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 7pm - ART Team Meeting @		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary 9:45am - Faith Formation @ 9:45am - Medical Mission Trip 11am - Worship & Live Stream @ 12:15pm - Senior Outreach 1:30pm - Spring Arbor Worship @	9:30am - Older Adult Planning 4:30pm - MOO Trip-Church Bus 5pm - Logos Leadership Team @ 5:30pm - Windsong @ Memorial	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 12pm - DCF Luncheon @ 1pm - Disciple Faith Formation 6:30pm - Session Meeting @	8:15am - Adult Trip-Church Bus 9:30am - Staff Meeting 4:30pm - Discipleship Team @ 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	9am - WANC Tea @ Youth Spot 10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 10:30am - WANC Meeting @ 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Blood Pressure Checks 8:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary 9am - Youth Families Breakfast & 9:45am - Faith Formation @ 11am - Worship & Live Stream @ 12:30pm - Retreat Planning Team	12pm - Life Goes On @ Fellowship 5:30pm - Windsong @ Memorial	1pm - Disciple Faith Formation 3pm - TVOR Gathering 5:30pm - Highland Food Pantry @	4:30pm - Logos 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 10:30am - WANC Lunch @ 6pm - Fellowship Book Club @		5pm - Graham Taylor Memorial
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4 Cents a Meal Offering Stewardship Popping! 8:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary 9:45am - GIFT Event @ Fellowship 11am - Worship & Live Stream @ 2pm - Blessing of the Pets @ 4pm - Newcomers Class @ 5pm - Young Adult Yard Games @	5:30pm - Windsong @ Memorial 7pm - Astronomy Club @ Assembly	1pm - Disciple Faith Formation	4:30pm - Logos 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry @ 7pm - ART Team Meeting @		



MEDICAL MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING

Have you ever thought about going on a Medical Mission Trip? Come to the Fellowship Hall on September 13 at 9:45 AM for an interest meeting and learn how you can serve with the Medical Ministry International in the Dominican Republic!

Opequon's Top 10 Favorite Hymns of 2026

10th Favorite = Hymn # 616
Our God is An Awesome God

9th Favorite = Hymn # 649
Amazing Grace

8th Favorite = Hymn # 664
Morning Has Broken

7th Favorite = Hymn # 705
You Are Holy

6th Favorite = Hymn # 840
It Is Well with My Soul

5th Favorite = Hymn # 39
Great Is Thy Faithfulness

4th Favorite = Hymn # 701
Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)

3rd Favorite = Hymn # 488
I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

2nd Favorite = Hymn # 769
For Everyone Born

OPC's #1 Favorite =
Hymn # 69
Here I Am, Lord



OUTSTANDING OCTOBER DATES TO NOTE:

- ♦ Sunday, October 4—
World Communion Festival & Bread-Basket Buffet
- ♦ Sunday, October 4—
World Communion Offering
- ♦ Tuesday, October 6—
October Ministry Team Night
- ♦ Saturday, October 10—
AFSP "Out of the Darkness" Walk
- ♦ Sunday, October 11—
Pastor Appreciation Day
- ♦ Sunday, October 11—
Car Vacuuming Fundraiser
- ♦ October 16-18—
Youth Retreat at Massanetta Springs
- ♦ Sunday, October 25—
Reformation Sunday
- ♦ Sunday, October 25—
Volunteer Appreciation
- ♦ Sunday, October 25—
October GIFT Event
- ♦ Sunday, October 25—
Chili Cook-Off
- ♦ Wednesday, October 28—
Tables & Treats ("Trunk & Treat")



A BIG SAVE THE DATE ANNOUNCEMENT!

There are some big plans in the making for a wonderful CHURCH RETREAT EVENT. The dates are March 12-14, 2027 to be held right here at Opequon Church. A planning team is shaping up but there is already exciting tidbits to share. The theme for the retreat is "A TIME FOR EVERYTHING" and our guest speakers at the retreat will be Scott and Laura Stolte. The Stolte's were members of OPC, Scott serving as an Elder. Scott is now a Pastor in NJ. Laura is an educator working at the University level. They are excited to return to OPC for this event. The Church Retreat is open to all ages and stages of life. We will enjoy thrilling times together and then we all get to sleep in our own beds to return for more doses of great times. It is the participants at the retreat that will make it so special. We hope you will be able to attend. Our last CHURCH RETREAT was in 2011! How great that we are going to offer this experience some 15 years later!

**** 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
Organist/Pianist.....	Garrett Jones
Facilities Coordinator.....	Robert Sydnor
Nursery Supervisor.....	Laurie Carver
Faith Community Nurses	Bill Martin, Patty Klinefelter, 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

Sunday Worship Services:

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM