



# The Opequon Spirit

“Prayerfully Equipping Disciples of All Generations to  
be Christ’s Hands, Heart and Feet in the World”

## November 2022

### WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

**8:30 am In-Person**

**11:00 am In-Person & Livestream**

**Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – WOW Service –  
6:30 pm**

Philippians 2:1-11

Drama: “Putting Yourself in Someone Else’s  
Shoes”

All LOGOS Young People Participating

**Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – Stewardship Pledge  
Sunday/All Saints Sunday**

*Daylight Savings Time Ends*

Psalm 145:1-5,17-21, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Sermon: “God’s Fingerprint...and Ours”

Remembering Those Who Have Died

All Saints’ Sunday Communion

Annual Stewardship Walk

**Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – Veteran’s  
Sunday**

Isaiah 12, 65:17-25, Luke 21:5-19

Sermon: “A Glorious Vision”

Veterans’ Day Recognition

Congregational Forum with Special Guest,

Kes Amena – 9:45 am

**Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> – Christ the  
King/Thanksgiving Sunday**

Jeremiah 23:1-6, Colossians 1:11-20, Luke  
1:68-79

Sermon: “Breaking Silence”

Annual Thanksgiving Meal “The Feast” – 12:15  
pm

**Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> –  
Thanksgiving Eve Service**

At Opequon Church & Livestreamed at 7:00 pm

Sermon, the Rev. Gary Heaton

Communion, Special Music

**Sunday, November 27 – First Sunday of  
Advent**

Matthew 24:36-44, Psalm 122

Sermon: “The Unexpected Knock”



**PRAISE REPORT ON  
A SUNDAY  
MORNING AT  
OPEQUON...**

Please notice how  
beautiful the grounds  
are at OPC this year.  
We are so thankful for

those who give their time and expertise.

### **STEWARDSHIP-PLEDGE/ALL SAINTS’ SUNDAY**

**Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 & 11:00 am**

Renew & Re-dedicate Your Commitment  
to Christ and his Church at Opequon!

Celebrate the “Great Cloud of Witnesses”  
in the Communion of the Saints

Special Remembrance of Those Who  
Have Died in the Past Year  
Honoring All Who Have Gone Before Us



**REMEMBER TO VOTE  
Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>  
It’s our privilege and responsibility!**

**NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:** When our family moved here twenty-five years ago, two big ash trees graced the front lawn of Opequon Church. In 1998, the Bageant Room addition was constructed, with a new sidewalk leading to it; that new sidewalk required the removal of one of the trees. The remaining tree, while large, was not looking good. Upon further assessment, it was determined that the tree was dying from the inside out, so it needed to come down. This was personally upsetting to some folks who had grown up at Opequon, who grieved the loss of both trees that framed the church, trees that they had played under as children. In responding to their concern, the session decided that the old ash tree would be replaced by another large tree, what a nurse calls a "specimen tree." You can well imagine that it was a costly purchase. That is one reason why when the tree was not looking good within a few years after being planted, we were disappointed to the point of being disturbed. Upon further consultation with an arborist, it was determined that the tree might have a chance if we cut out the top. So, we did! The tree really looked odd, but ... maybe ... just maybe, with a few prayers, with extravagant hope, the tree might make it. Well now, that tree has not only survived; it has thrived! That tree is the one I see every day, that you see on the front lawn every time you drive up Opequon Church Lane. It was beautiful back in the spring as the light green leaves began to fill out the branches. It was stately all through the summer. And honestly, this fall, it has been the most beautiful, singular tree that I have seen anywhere in our community. Its orange burst of color has glistened in the sunlight against the blue sky.

I can see this tree as a sign of our church...and change...and surviving...and thriving. As Presbyterians, we have been marked by the long-standing motto of our Reformed heritage: "the church reformed and always reforming." For 290 years, I think that reflects Opequon's vision and mission. We are not a static group of people. We are growing and changing all the time; but, sometimes, we must take one step back before we can take two steps forward.

Sometimes we must leave some things behind before we can begin new endeavors. COVID has certainly taught us that, over and over again, as we have struggled to confront the challenges, the change, the new now. Gratefully, prayerfully, joyously, we have like the tree on the front lawn not only survived but thrived. We have reshaped and reconfigured and reformed both what we do and the way we do things. And while the journey has not been easy, we have persevered and branched out in new directions.

In this season of thanksgiving, I rejoice that we are God's fingerprint in the world as we bless and serve others. We are God's people extending hospitality and outreach. We are like a tree that provides shade and witnesses to life in all seasons. I am thankful for you and celebrate our church.

With a Grateful Heart,



**PASTOR JULIA'S MUSINGS:**

Friends,  
Have you ever sat in the sanctuary early in the morning on a Sunday when no one else has arrived yet? When the church is quiet, the lights dim, the bulletins still neatly stacked, and the candles unlit? When the birds are just starting to fly around outside and it's like the world is just starting to wake up. Everything is ready, but nothing has been in motion yet. I did this last Sunday, getting there before anyone else and having some simple quiet time before the hurriedness of Sunday worship.

And I'll tell you what: it felt like the church itself was ready for something, like the sanctuary itself was humming with anticipation and excitement about what is to come. It was quiet, but there was the knowledge that something important was about to happen. It felt... alive. Like God was so loudly in the space that God had to make Godself known.

I feel like this church is buzzing, looking forward to this new season and change that is inherently coming. Buzzing with the excitement

of new members and new faces with us. Buzzing with the knowledge of service in the community. Buzzing with new opportunities and well-loved old ones. God is working in Opequon, loudly, joyfully. What are you most excited about as we move into this new season? Where are you finding joy and newness at the church?

I knew how much this church is doing and how much God is working in the lives of Opequon, but it took me slowing down and sitting in that anticipation before worship for it to hit me in my heart how much God has blessed this church and this community in all that we do. This month, take some time to slow down, sit somewhere in the church in quiet and just reflect on all that we are doing and all that we have to come. Notice where God is calling you in this church.

Thanks be to God for quiet moments and excitement of what is to come.

Blessings,  
Pastor Julia



### **JUST THINKIN'**

As I write this the leaves are changing noticeably each night. There are about 45 days until Thanksgiving, and just over 70 days until Christmas. By Thanksgiving the leaves will be all gone and the silver branches of winter will sparkle in the frost. Plants and many critters will be sleeping. Maybe even Bud the squirrel will hibernate and Bill will no longer need to retrieve the bird feeder daily from the nearby branch.

I watched at a friend's home while a squirrel uncovered a nut in her planter and ran away to put it in another spot. I picture Bud doing the same with seeds as he prepares for the oncoming season. November is the time for wrapping up, for provision, for groundwork. Things done now make winter and spring simpler, safer, more tolerable.

If you think about it, many of us spend so much of our time preparing for or recovering from winter. We harvest gardens, mulch

toward spring, close chinks wherever we might find them, and fix drafts. This year at the church we fixed the roof and repaired the Bagent Room. Winter drips should be no problem at all. Mike Wygant is putting things together to make sure our walks stay ice-free and safe. It's all part of the same need to be ready for the cold winds and storms.

What are we preparing for...really? Are we getting ready to endure winter or to celebrate it? Are we going to sludge and grump through the next few months or dance through them? I think it is up to us.

I am not a skier. I no longer sled or ice skate on purpose, but I love winter here. I like preparing for the Cantata. I have a copy of this year's script and if an alto can find a D, E and F she can keep up. I love the hard work of bringing things together and the celebration of the worship service that contains this music.

I try to attend WOW with the LOGOS kids. While I may not be one of the many volunteers who work every Wednesday, I deeply enjoy being one of the worshippers who smile as the children connect with God their way. Last week's opening song done by the smaller children brought me and those around me to joyful chuckles. The mixture of energetic running and pointing had to have made God laugh out loud.

I find the holidays quite satisfying. I love the food, the cheer, the giving and receiving of surprises.

The services that lead into Thanksgiving deal with important questions such as resurrection, end times, and bring us right up to the crucifixion. Then they pause so we can remember in meaningful ways just why all this matters. Next comes the new year, fresh starts, then we begin to move toward Easter and spring.

Autumn's preparation gently and then quickly leads into winter's celebration. The weather brings snow days when it is not reasonable to travel, but then we do not have to go anywhere because we are prepared. We have

laid aside the tools and provisions needed to make smart decisions practical. We can rest in the wonder of just a few unclenched moments. This congregation's prayerful decisions to work together, to play together, to support each other through this church make the difference between enduring winter or flourishing through it. Your decision to be here, to worship here, to add your gifts to those of the rest of us help us thrive.

Winter is coming. I can hardly wait. Let's unpack our surprises.

*Tracie*

**OCTOBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

- Opequon's pastors were recognized on the Winchester Star's special page in honor of October's Clergy Appreciation Month.
- Mission Ministry reported that Kes Amena, president of the Illubabor Bethel Synod, our Ethiopian partner, will visit on Sunday November 13th.
- The remaining \$500 in OPC's disaster relief fund was sent to Shenandoah Presbytery for Florida Hurricane Assistance.
- Volunteers will be needed for OPC's WATTS week is December 26-January 2, 2023. Volunteers should contact Heather Burton ([mcpitch5@hotmail.com](mailto:mcpitch5@hotmail.com)).
- Evangelism Ministry continues to seek volunteers to serve as greeters and to expand the number of Visitation Teams.
- Fellowship Ministry's Fall events include: a "Bodacious Coffee Hour" on Pledge Sunday November 6th; a fellowship reception following the Thanksgiving Eve Service; and the annual Cookie Exchange on December 11th.
- Buildings and Grounds reported that the roof project is complete and boiler repaired. OPC's garden winterizing process is underway with the Memorial Garden completed and Roots & Shoots' irrigation system in progress. We anticipate that the portable restroom/hand wash station will return to the picnic shelter next season.
- Stewardship & Finance reported that giving to the church has slowed somewhat. The 2023 budgetary process has begun.

- Our Office Administrator, Linda Kessinger has resigned. The Personnel Team will begin a search to fill this position.
  - Worship Ministry seeks volunteers to serve as Ushers and Greeters, with additional needs during the November-December holiday season. Interested members should contact Lisa Reed ([knlreed@verizon.net](mailto:knlreed@verizon.net)) or Fran Jeffries ([mfjeffries@comcast.net](mailto:mfjeffries@comcast.net))
  - Session approved a request for Pastor Julia to serve communion at the Micah 6:8 Faith Formation Class on Thursday, October 20.
  - Christian Education Ministry reported 35 participating in LOGOS. Fall at Opequon will be busy with upcoming GIFT events and *Joyfully* awaiting the daily Advent devotionals on the theme "Advent Adverbs".
  - Visioning Ministry reported that with OPC's Physical Asset map now complete, the next step is to conduct a Community Needs Assessment. Be on the lookout for the Signage Team's new directional signs.
- Ann Smith, Clerk of Session

**NOVEMBER 2022 DOOR GREETERS**

Door Greeters	8:30	11:00
Nov. 6	Ben & Winter Brooks	Jack & Paula Marquis
Nov. 13	Ben & Winter Brooks	Jack & Paula Marquis
Nov. 20	Sheryl Massey Jeannie Wright	Marj Praml Carole Fox
Thanksgiving 7:00 p.m. November 23	Mitch and Pam Orndorff	
Nov. 27	Alyce Callahan Laverne Cooper	Carole & Corine Fox

**CONGRATULATIONS, PASTOR TRACIE!**

On Sunday, October 30, our beloved Pastor Tracie was officially named "Pastor Emerita" of Robinson Elmwood United Church (formerly Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church) in Syracuse, New York. Pastor Tracie and Bill Martin served Robinson Memorial for fourteen years before she retired, and they relocated to Virginia/West Virginia. We are so grateful for Tracie and Bill and all the gifts they share with the Opequon family. And we rejoice with

Tracie as she is honored by the people she served alongside in her native New York. We all are blessed!

### **CONGRATULATIONS, ROBIN EDDY, VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!**

On Sunday, October 23, "Volunteer Appreciation Sunday" at Opequon, Robin Eddy was honored as our 2022 "Volunteer of the Year!" Robin has been a member of the church and the choir for more than forty years. She is an elder, having chaired the Worship Ministry. She continues to serve on that team and facilitates all decorating here at Opequon, from Christmas to Easter to Pentecost, from World Communion to All Saints' Sunday. She also waters all the inside plants.

And, she has served as Opequon's wedding coordinator for many years. We thank you Robin for all you do!



### **WE WELCOME KES AMENA TO OPEQUON!**

Kes Amena serves as the president of the Illubabor Bethel Synod (IBS) of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church of Mekane Yesus (EECMY), our partner church in Ethiopia. Kes Amena will be visiting Opequon from November 11-16. He will bring special greetings in worship on Sunday, November 13 and be the speaker at a special educational forum between the services from 9:45-10:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us to hear his amazing testimony about God's work in Ethiopia, a land experiencing great unrest while the church there embraces and shares the good news. His story is both rich and vital for Christian disciples. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity.

### **ROMANIA ADULT MISSION/WORK TRIP**

The Mission Ministry Team has approved an adult mission/service trip (age 21 & older) to Romania June 8- 19, 2023. People participating in this trip will be working with NOROC (New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children), one of the world-wide ministries OPC supports in its mission budget. The group will

leave from Dulles airport and travel to Bucharest, Romania by plane. Upon arrival we will travel by bus to Tulcea, Romania, The first weekend, we will explore Tulcea and the ministry NOROC has there. We will also visit the Ukraine border and meet some of the refugees who have fled Ukraine and tour the Danube delta, the largest bird sanctuary in Europe. During the week, there will be a variety of work projects and opportunities to interact with youth from the orphanage system. The second weekend, we will go into the interior of Romania and experience some of the wonderful sites in the country before returning to Bucharest for the flight home. The group will be housed in a hotel in Tulcea and in B &B's when traveling. We have applied for a grant from Shenandoah Presbytery to supplement the expenses. Cost of the trip will be \$1,500/ person.

Interested persons need to indicate their commitment by December 31, 2022 so that tickets and other arrangements can be made. The trip will be coordinated by Rich & Carol Schempp. A valid US passport is required. No specific immunizations are required. If you are interested, please contact Rich Schempp at [rschempp2@gmail.com](mailto:rschempp2@gmail.com). Several OPC folk have already indicated their interest. The trip will also be shared with some folk from Palo Duro Presbytery in Texas.



### **THE THANKSGIVING BOXES ARE READY TO BE FILLED**

A LARGE NUMBER of banana boxes has gone out, but a bounty of empty boxes are still waiting for adoption in the hallways and on the porch of Opequon Church. It's time for our annual Thanksgiving food drive for CCAP and Orchard View Elementary School. Banana boxes may be dropped off any Sunday morning or on special drop-off days, Tuesday, November 1, 4:30-6:00 pm and Friday, November 11, 12-1:30 pm. Each box contains a list of needed items, including the need for disposable roasting pans this year.

ALL THANKSGIVING BOXES ARE DUE BACK AT CHURCH BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13. Our goal is to surpass 115 boxes this year as we share and care for those in need within our community. entrance.

**MEN OF OPEQUON THIS MONTH**

The Men of Opequon (MOO) will gather for dinner on Monday, November 14 at 6:00 pm at the Chick-fil-A on Pleasant Valley Road. We'll then return to the church for our monthly program at 7:00 pm, which this month will focus on the theme of



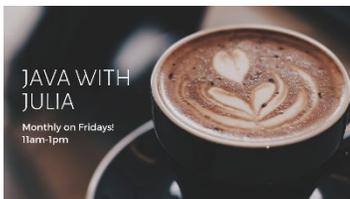
“Gratefulness” and Thanksgiving. Dessert will be provided. We are grateful for the men facilitating our annual Paddy Run Day and hosting the November Ministry Team Night. All men are wanted, needed, and invited!

**MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT DINNER MENU**

MOO is the Ministry Team night dinner host, and our menu for Tuesday, November 1 is Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, and Fruit.

**JAVA WITH JULIA**

Come and join Pastor Julia one Friday of the month from 11 am-1 pm for coffee or tea and conversation! We will gather at different local coffee shops around Winchester monthly for casual conversation as a way to get to know one another. Come and go as you need, but please RSVP to [pastorjulia@opequonchurch.org](mailto:pastorjulia@opequonchurch.org)



by the Sunday before. Location might shift slightly depending on how many people can come!

Schedule through the end of the year:  
 October 28: Espresso Bar  
 November 18: Hopscotch Cafe  
 December 16: Hideaway Café

**I DON'T THINK WE'VE MET...**

Are you seeing people you haven't officially met yet at OPC? Evangelism's Nametag Ministry seeks to encourage getting to know

others and to greet them by name. Your help is greatly appreciated by wearing your nametag every Sunday! If you don't have a nametag, or it's lost, please place your name on the small blue clipboard in the basket on the Nametag Table in the Gathering Area. Also, there's no need to refile yours after worship because we have faithful volunteers who do that and keep them in good order! Just place it in that same basket, or a receptacle by the doors. We want the Opequon Spirit and hospitality to be a place where "everybody knows your name!"

**TIME TO STAND OR NOT**



According to the Mayo Clinic orthostatic hypotension — also called postural hypotension — is a form of low blood

pressure that happens when standing after sitting or lying down. Orthostatic hypotension can cause dizziness or lightheadedness and possibly fainting.

Orthostatic hypotension can be mild. Episodes might be brief. However, long-lasting orthostatic hypotension can signal more-serious problems. It's important to see a health care provider if you frequently feel lightheaded when standing up.

Occasional orthostatic hypotension is usually caused by something obvious, such as dehydration or lengthy bed rest. The condition is easily treated. Chronic orthostatic hypotension is usually a sign of another health problem, so treatment depends on the cause. The most common symptom of orthostatic hypotension is lightheadedness or dizziness when standing after sitting or lying down. Symptoms usually last less than a few minutes.

Orthostatic hypotension signs and symptoms include:

- † Lightheadedness or dizziness upon standing
- † Blurry vision
- † Weakness
- † Fainting (syncope)
- † Confusion

When standing from a sitting or lying position, gravity causes blood to collect in the legs and belly. Blood pressure drops because there's less blood flowing back to the heart. Orthostatic hypotension occurs when something interrupts the body's process of dealing with the low blood pressure. Many conditions can cause orthostatic hypotension, including:

- † Dehydration. Fever, vomiting, not drinking enough fluids, severe diarrhea and strenuous exercise with a lot of sweating can all lead to dehydration. Dehydration decreases blood volume. Mild dehydration can cause symptoms of orthostatic hypotension, such as weakness, dizziness and fatigue.
- † Heart problems. Some heart conditions that can lead to low blood pressure include extremely low heart rate (bradycardia), heart valve problems, heart attack and heart failure. These conditions prevent the body from quickly pumping more blood when standing up.
- † Endocrine problems. Thyroid conditions, adrenal insufficiency (Addison's disease) and low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) can cause orthostatic hypotension. So can diabetes, which can damage the nerves that help send signals that control blood pressure.
- † Nervous system disorders. Some nervous system disorders, such as Parkinson's disease, multiple system atrophy, Lewy body dementia, pure autonomic failure and amyloidosis, can disrupt the body's ability to control blood pressure.
- † Eating meals. Some people have low blood pressure after eating meals (postprandial hypotension). This condition is more common in older adults.

A common complication, especially in older adults is falling as a result of fainting. Maintaining adequate hydration and blood sugar may help to reduce orthostatic blood pressure. However, if you are experiencing any of the symptoms or tend to have orthostatic hypotension opt to sit during the church service and let your doctor know.



November's words for you are: "Life goes on with a smile and a song!" We are enjoying a beautiful Fall! Take a moment to look at some of the vivid color in the trees. This month the Older Adult Planning Team will meet on Monday, November 7, at 9:30am in the Bageant Room to plan for Happy Days gatherings and other older adult events. The meeting is open to any older adult who would like to come. A tasty morning treat will be provided. This month's Happy Days gathering takes place on Wednesday, November 9 in the Fellowship Hall, beginning at Noon. It is like a "COMEDY DAY" as we enjoy comedian Jeanne Robertson in video format. Everyone is invited to bring something UNIQUE from home to set on the tables as our decorations. Can you imagine the fun conversations that will occur about all the unique items! There will be a covered dish luncheon with Rotisserie Chicken provided. Get ready for lots of healthy laughter and fun!



**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 a roaring Bonfire right outside the church with roasted hot dogs and s'mores. GLOW will meet this month on **Tuesday, November 8 at 6:00pm for a 'Harvest of Blessings' Night. Dinner will be included. The menu is Parmesan Crusted Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Rolls, Cranberry Salad, Fruit, and Dessert.** We will enjoy a devotion and an evening of *THANKFULNESS!* Come enjoy a special fall evening with the ladies. All women are invited.



## THE LATEST IN LOGOS

We continue to count our blessings each Wednesday on the Amazing Race of Faith in this 25th year of LOGOS. We love all the young people and staff that make each Wednesday evening a joyous time. We were thrilled to be able to have our BRING A FRIEND night with 12 extra friends that shared WHEEL OF FORTUNE night with us. This month we will enjoy the themes "Under the Sea Night", "Super Hero Night" and our very special "Teacher Night". (Invitations for LOGOS young people to use will be provided) LOGOS is held on Wednesdays, 4:30-7:15pm. It is open to all K-12 young people. Come see that "LOGOS is one of the best things happening at Opequon!" Let us share these special Wednesday evenings with your child or youth! On November 2, LOGOS time will also include 'Worship on Wednesday' (WOW) in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. LOGOS young people will be sharing in worship that evening. Everyone is invited to worship with us that evening. For more information about LOGOS, contact Carole Witt at 540-662-1843 or [dce@opequonchurch.org](mailto:dce@opequonchurch.org).



## OBJECT LESSON FOR KIDS THIS MONTH

This month's children's lesson is titled "FOOTBALL". Football

and Fall go together! This lesson points out all the gear that football players wear for protection and relates that to aspects of faith in our own lives. God provides protection for us, just like all the gear a player wears provides protection to them during a game. Older preschool and Elementary-age children will receive this lesson in the mail. Look for it to arrive in your mailbox very soon. Your own football stickers come with the lesson. Enjoy!

## GIFT EVENT- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 9:45AM- FELLOWSHIP HALL

GIFT means "Generations in Faith Together", providing a time for all ages to come together for a themed intergenerational experience. The theme this month is "The Waiting Room", a perfect focus as we begin Advent and WAIT for Christmas. A fun morning full of activity for all ages with some yummy treats too. Bet you can hardly WAIT for this event to happen! Your day is bound to be enriched by your time at GIFT.

## THANKSGIVING FEAST MEAL DONATIONS NEEDED

The annual Thanksgiving Feast is on Sunday, November 20 for our whole congregation. Our Opequon Youth host this event & appreciate your help in donating needed items for a Thanksgiving meal. Please visit the sign up sheet in the Gathering Area. As the youth serve you a full turkey dinner on the day of the Feast, they appreciate your monetary donations that go completely towards their Christmas service project. Plan to come & be a part of this great time of gratitude. Questions about donations or the meal? Ask Rebekah Witt. Thank you!

## SENIOR OUTREACH MINISTRY



Join us in spreading kindness to our neighbors who live in low-income housing on November 13 at 12:15pm. Let Rebekah Witt know if you'd like to participate. 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

**November 6**-Bonfire & Youth & Young Adult Sunday Preparation, 4:30pm-7:30 PM

**November 13**-Senior Outreach Ministry, 12:15 PM  
**November 20**-Setup & Serve Thanksgiving Feast Meal, 10:30am-2:30 PM



## YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18-35

November 6-Youth & Young Adult Sunday Prep-  
4:30 PM-7:30 PM

### ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Our focus for the Advent Devotional this year is ADVENT ADVERBS. We are providing a list of ADVERBS for people to select from and write a daily devotion based on that word. The list of available Advent Adverbs that remain are listed below. All Advent writings on the Advent Adverbs are due in electronic form to Carole Witt by November 15. Let Carole Witt know what word you would like to write about! (dce@opequonchurch.org)

Patiently	Unexpectedly	Abidingly
Happily	Faithfully	Joyfully
Humbly	Truly	Lovingly
Graciously	Amazingly	Loyally
Obediently	Quickly	Excitedly
Worshipfully	Tenderly	Peacefully

### THE SOUND OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC IS IN THE AIR

Please join the Adult Choir for the Christmas Cantata! Sunday, December 18 at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM Worship. ALL ARE WELCOME!



Rehearsal schedule times are:

Wed 11/30 – 7:15 PM  
 Sun 12/4 – 12:30 PM (Bring a brown bag lunch and plan to stay after the 11:00 AM Worship service).  
 Wed 12/7 – 7:15 PM  
 Wed 12/14 – 7:00 PM

We will be singing a beautiful Cantata by Lloyd Larson, "The Gift." Come, be a part of this beautiful musical piece.

For more information, contact Susan Homan, [srh1305@verizon.net](mailto:srh1305@verizon.net) or 540-664-8781.

## LIFE GOES ON



Life Goes On will NOT meet in November. Their next meeting will be December 12. We will enjoy a potluck type lunch and fellowship. Then we will watch the next episode of *The Chosen*. Please bring something to share or a dollar or two to throw into the pot. Contact Tracie (315-247-5969, or 304-856-2080) or call the office if you need a ride.

### CRAFTING WITH BECKY

We will be making a rag tree decoration for Christmas on Saturday, December 3 at 11:00 a.m. in the Bageant Room. If time permits, we will also make a Swedish Star ornament. Sign-up is required and a nominal fee will be collected to cover the cost of supplies. If you would like to attend, please let Becky know by November 23. You may contact her at [beckyproc@comcast.net](mailto:beckyproc@comcast.net) or calling 540-868-8149 (this is not a text phone).

### CIRCLE OF CONVERSATION



The new monthly Circle of Conversation fellowship program meets via Zoom at 1:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, Come join the next gathering on Tuesday, November 1, at

1:00 PM. The hour-long program will follow the format of the "Snacking and Chatting with the Pastor" program that originated during the pandemic, with time for conversation followed by prayer. Becky Proctor, Edwina Johansen, and Peggy Myer alternate as Zoom Hosts.



### FAIR TRADE EQUAL EXCHANGE

Remember to stop in and pick up some great tasting coffee and a chocolate bar to enjoy! You will find these items in the kiosk located in the Gathering Area.



## Highland Food Pantry's Annual Fundraiser: "Men on a Mission" Saturday, November 5

The hunger crisis in our community is very real

and continues to grow. Despite the Covid pandemic, the Highland Food Pantry has remained open to serve food insecure folks in the Winchester area. For the first time since the pandemic began, The Highland Food Pantry will resume its signature fundraising event, "Men on a Mission," on Saturday, November 5th, in First Presbyterian Church's Fellowship Hall. How can you support this fundraiser?

**1. Become a sponsor and make a donation!** No amount is too small. You can mail a check to P.O. Box 1762, Winchester, VA 22604, or visit the pantry's website at [highlandpantrywinc.com](http://highlandpantrywinc.com) to make a one-time or recurring online contribution.

**2. Love to cook? Dig out your favorite recipe and come join the team!** We are now recruiting chefs, so men—please step up and truly make this a great "men on a mission." Chef forms and information are available on the pantry's website.

**3. Attend this beloved community-wide event!** 100% of the proceeds from ticket sales is used to purchase food for distribution at the pantry. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased from Barbara Rupert, OPC's liaison to the Highland Food Pantry. Contact her at [bfrupert@gmail.com](mailto:bfrupert@gmail.com) or 540 247-6951 for tickets.

### ROOTS & SHOOTS NEWS

So far **for the 2022 season, the garden has produced over 1,500 pounds!** We are so thankful to everyone who has helped us reach that number! If you would like to help us have an even more successful next season, consider donating to our **SeedMoney campaign, starting on November 15th at noon.** The more money we raise between then and December 15th, the greater of a grant we receive. To find it, go to

[seedmoney.org](http://seedmoney.org) and search for "OPC Roots & Shoots Garden". We would greatly appreciate donations and shares of the page to help us reach our goal when the time comes!



### BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

We will be taking blood pressures on Sunday, November 20, 2022.



Please remember in prayer the family of Joan Leonard who died on Sunday, October 9, 2022. Joan was the mother of Mark (Heather) Leonard.

*"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*

It is exciting to discover how many of us have decided to leave our marks, our fingerprints, at Opequon church. Thank you to the brave souls who delivered our Generosity Moments in worship. Many, many thanks to you for pledging to support our church next year. Look for further updates as the year progresses.



-The Stewardship and Finance Teams



Congratulations to Cheryl and Dave DeCeault, on the birth of their granddaughter Lucy May Strakoff, October 8, 2022, the daughter of Krista and Ryan Strukoff.

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

	Annual Budget (2022)	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
<b>Income</b>					
410000 Offering Income	763,270	74,993	544,964	218,305	71.4%
420000 Other Income	700	59	1,471	(771)	210.1%
<b>Total 400000 Income</b>	<b>763,970</b>	<b>75,052</b>	<b>546,435</b>	<b>217,535</b>	<b>71.5%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>500000 Personnel Costs</b>					
510000 Installed Pastors	189,664	16,530	126,463	63,201	66.7%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	125,975	10,511	97,004	28,971	77.0%
530000 Administrative Staff	129,220	11,199	94,123	35,097	72.8%
<b>Total 500000 Personnel Costs</b>	<b>444,859</b>	<b>38,240</b>	<b>317,590</b>	<b>127,270</b>	<b>71.4%</b>
<b>600000 Other Ministries</b>					
610000 Christian Education	13,500	847	8,104	5,396	60.0%
620000 Congregational Care	2,000	0	440	1,560	22.0%
630000 Evangelism	2,900	0	952	1,948	32.8%
640000 Fellowship	3,580	123	879	2,701	24.5%
650000 Mission	65,750	5,667	51,550	14,200	78.4%
660000 Worship	7,000	261	3,610	3,390	51.6%
<b>Total 600000 Other Ministries</b>	<b>94,730</b>	<b>6,897</b>	<b>65,536</b>	<b>29,194</b>	<b>69.2%</b>
<b>Total 700000 Church Administration</b>	<b>119,144</b>	<b>(43,090)</b>	<b>64,127</b>	<b>55,017</b>	<b>53.8%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>658,733</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>447,252</b>	<b>211,481</b>	<b>67.9%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income (Expense)</b>	<b>105,237</b>	<b>73,005</b>	<b>99,183</b>	<b>6,054</b>	<b>94.2%</b>
920000 Other Income	15,540	1,401	13,164	2,376	84.7%
930000 Other Expenses	117,717	9,732	108,978	8,739	92.6%
<b>Net Other Income (Expense)</b>	<b>(102,177)</b>	<b>(8,331)</b>	<b>(95,814)</b>	<b>(6,363)</b>	<b>93.8%</b>
<b>Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>64,675</b>	<b>3,369</b>	<b>(309)</b>	
Adjust for Mortgage Prepay from 2021 Cash Surplus			20,000	(20,000)	
Adjust for temp loan from Reserves for Roofing Project		(60,000)	(60,000)	60,000	
<b>Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses After Adjustments</b>	<b>\$ 3,060</b>	<b>\$ 4,675</b>	<b>\$ (36,631)</b>	<b>\$ 39,691</b>	<b>-1197.2%</b>

9/30/22

Cash (adjusted for temp loan from Reserves for Roofing Proj)  
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance

\$ 102,684  
\$ 597,589

**Notes:** September results include a transfer of \$60,000 from the Reserve Fund to cover partial payments of the ongoing major roof project, resulting in the negative balance for the '700000 Church Administration' line item since the vendor payments have not yet been paid. The payments for the roof project are anticipated to be made in late October or early November.

<b>Sunday</b> 	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>1</b>	<b>Wednesday</b> <b>2</b>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>3</b>	<b>Friday</b> <b>4</b>	<b>Saturday</b> <b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>Daylight Savings Time Ends Stewardship, All Saints Sunday, Communion</b> <b>8:30 A</b> In Person Worship <b>9:45 A</b> Bodacious Fellowship <b>9:45 A</b> Faith Formation <b>11:00 A</b> In Person & Livestream Worship <b>4:30 P</b> Youth Bonfire	<b>7</b> <b>9:30 A</b> Older Adult Ministry Meeting <b>5:00 P</b> Logos Mtg <b>6:00 P</b> Windsong	<b>8</b> <b>9:30 A</b> Tuesday Morning Mission <b>6:00 P</b> GLOW	<b>9</b> <b>12 Noon</b> Happy Days <b>4:30</b> LOGOS <b>6:15 P</b> Our Daily Bread Class <b>7:15 P</b> Choir Practice	<b>10</b> <b>10:30 A</b> Tai Chi	<b>11</b> <b>12:00 PM</b> Thanksgiving Box Dropoff	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Thanksgiving Boxes DUE</b> <b>8:30 A</b> In Person Worship <b>9:45 A</b> Faith Formation <b>11:00 A</b> In Person & Livestream Worship <b>12:15 P</b> Senior Outreach <b>1:30 P</b> Spring Arbor Worship	<b>14</b> <b>6:00 P</b> Windsong <b>6:00 P</b> MOO	<b>15</b> <b>10:00 A</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 P</b> Session	<b>16</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <b>12:00 P</b> 4midable Music <b>4:30 P</b> LOGOS <b>6:15 P</b> Our Daily Bread Class <b>7:15 P</b> Choir Practice	<b>17</b> <b>10:30 A</b> Tai Chi <b>6:30 P</b> Sherando Food Pantry	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Blood Pressure Checks</b> <b>8:30 A</b> In Person Worship <b>9:45 A</b> Faith Formation <b>11:00 A</b> In Person & Livestream Worship <b>12:15 P</b> The Feast	<b>21</b> <b>6:00 P</b> Windsong	<b>22</b> <b>2:30 P</b> TVOR Gathering <b>5:30 P</b> Highland Food Pantry	<b>23</b> <b>6:00 P</b> KMC & OPC Choir Rehearsal <b>7:00 P</b> Thanksgiving Eve Service @ OPC	<b>24</b> <b>THANKSGIVING</b>  <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27 1<sup>ST</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> <b>4 Cents A Meal Offering</b> <b>8:30 A</b> In Person Worship <b>9:45 A</b> GIFT Event <b>11:00 A</b> In Person & Live Stream Worship	<b>28</b> <b>6:00 P</b> Windsong	<b>29</b> <b>11:30 A</b> Staff Luncheon	<b>30</b> <b>4:30 P</b> LOGOS <b>6:15 P</b> Our Daily Bread Class <b>7:15 P</b> Choir Practice			

Opequon Presbyterian Church  
 217 Opequon Church Lane  
 Winchester, VA 22602-2421

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

"The Opequon Spirit" is the monthly newsletter of:  
 Opequon Presbyterian Church  
 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

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
- Ken Smiy ..... Financial Administrator
- Robert Sydnor..... Sexton
- Laurie Carver .....Nursery Supervisor
- Patty Klinefelter, Bill Martin,  
 Mike Nutry, Pat Williams .....Faith Community Nurses

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**126th ANNUAL KERNSTOWN COMMUNITY  
 THANKSGIVING WORSHIP  
 In-Person Worship  
 Livestreamed Worship**

Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 pm  
 Kernstown United Methodist Church &  
 Opequon Presbyterian Church worship together  
 at Opequon  
 Special Music, Communion  
 Pastor Gary Heaton Preaching  
 Evening Offering for WATTS

**DECKING THE HALLS IN DECEMBER – CIRCLE THE DATES!!**

- ☛ Youth "Midnight Gladness" – Friday, December 2nd
- ☛ Advent Communion – Sunday, December 4th – 8:30 & 11:00 am
- ☛ Christmas Cookie Fellowship Event – Sunday, December 11th
- ☛ "Blue Christmas" Service of Healing & Wholeness – Sunday, December 11th – 3:00 pm
- ☛ GLOW Christmas Dinner – Tuesday, December 13th
- ☛ Christmas Caroling with LOGOS – Wednesday, December 14th
- ☛ Sanctuary Choir Christmas Cantata – Sunday, December 18th
- ☛ Christmas Breakfast – Sunday, December 18th
- ☛ Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship – Saturday, December 24th  
 Family, 5:00 pm; Traditional, 7:00 pm
- ☛ Annual Service of Lessons & Carols – Sunday, December 25th – 10:00 am
- ☛ Opequon's Hosts WATTS – Monday, December 26th – Monday, January 2nd

