

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 30, 2026

A parabalooosa:



Time to "Rally" & Bloom!

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

<i>Pastor</i>	David R. Witt
<i>Parish Associate</i>	Tracie Martin
<i>Church Office Administrator</i>	Rachel Lesink
<i>Church Finance Administrator</i>	Ken Smiy
<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	Carole Witt
<i>Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries</i>	Rebekah Witt
<i>Director of Music</i>	Susan Homan
<i>Organist/Pianist</i>	Garrett Jones
<i>Facilities Coordinator</i>	Robert Sydnor
<i>Nursery Supervisor</i>	Laurie Carver
<i>Faith Community Nurses</i>	Bill Martin, Patty Klinefelter, Mike Nutry, Pat Williams

To reach a staff member or if a pastoral concern arises, contact the church office or note who is out of the office and email one of the pastors directly and we will respond in a timely manner.

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

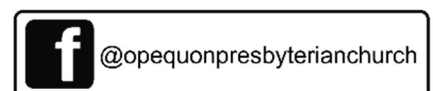
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **We encourage you to share requests for prayer.** You may do so by completing the pink form found in the pew rack and placing it in the offering.
- **Trust your children to the care of our dedicated, loving workers!** The nursery rooms are located through the Gathering Area, down the Gallery and through the Dell Room. An usher will be happy to escort you. Our nursery ministry cares for infants and children under the age of 5.
- **Worship Bags are available for children ages 3 – kindergarten.** These bags are in the back of the Sanctuary. Please return the bag and supplies to the basket when you are leaving.
- **Restrooms and a coat rack** are located off the Gathering Area, just outside the Sanctuary.
- **Large-print hymnals, Bibles and bulletins** are available from an usher.
- **Personal hearing assistance devices** are available from an usher if you would like to use one.
- **Transportation can be provided to worship.** Call the church office before 12:00 PM on Friday.

Access our Online Giving at
www.opequonchurch.org/giving
or scan the QR code here:



Follow us on Facebook:



A 10:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Fourteenth Day After Pentecost – Rally Day; Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering

- ☞ **Thank you for silencing your phones before we begin the Worship Service.**
- ☞ **As the music of the Prelude begins, we invite you to take a moment to quietly focus your heart and prepare your inward spirit for the worship of God.**
- ☞ Please complete the Friendship Folder and pass it along during the greeting.
- ☞ PRAYER REQUEST forms are inside the pew holders – please place in the offering plate.

† = All who are able, please stand.

Bold print = All in unison.

☞ WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ☞

PRELUDE..... *Improvisation on Dolly Parton's "Coat of Many Colors"*

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG..... *In the Secret*

**In the secret, in the quiet place,
in the stillness you are there.**

**In the secret, in the quiet, hour I wait, only for you,
'cause I want to know you more.**

[refrain] **I want to know you, I want to hear your voice,
I want to know you more.
I want to know you, I want to seek your face,
I want to know you more.**

**I am reaching for the highest goal,
that I might receive the prize.**

**Pressing onward, pushing ev'ry, hindrance aside,
out of my way, 'cause I want to know you more. [refrain x2]**

†CALL TO WORSHIP

God created us to begin as small babies.

We each grow and are transformed from these small beginnings.

God uses each of us in significant ways and has a plan and purpose for us all.

**May we embrace God's love and work in us, so God's goodness will
impact and flow to others.**

God offers hope in the transforming power of our lives and faith.

Give us patience to see greatness from our small beginnings.

†OPENING HYMN No. 36 *For the Fruit of All Creation*
For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.
In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
In our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.
For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We often see small as insignificant, lacking value and having limited impact. We yearn for big and grand experiences that focus on us and provide us with self-satisfaction. We miss the extraordinary in the ordinary. So, we come before God with honesty in word and reflection. As the phrases are read aloud, personally and silently share your own confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (silently confess as the liturgist reads the prompts aloud)

A small thing I ignored this week was...

I thought I was better than someone else when...

I was impatient when I was waiting for...

I missed an opportunity to show kindness when...

I neglected to thank God for...

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Our God of mystery, our God of life, forgives us and transforms our limited vision when we misjudge ourselves, when we misjudge others, when we misjudge God.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 705 *You Are Holy*

[Men]

**You are holy;
you are mighty;
you are worthy,
worthy of praise.
I will follow;
I will listen;
I will love you
all of my days.
I will sing to
and worship
the King who
is worthy.
I will love and
adore him;
I will bow down
before him.
I will sing to
and worship
the King who
is worthy.
I will love and
adore him;
I will bow down
before him.**

[Women]

**You are holy;
you are mighty;
you are worthy,
worthy of praise.
I will follow;
I will listen;
I will love you
all of my days.
You are the Lord of lords;
you are the King of kings;
you are mighty God,
Lord of everything.
You're Emmanuel;
you're the great I AM;
you're the Prince of Peace,
who is the Lamb.
You're the living God;
you're my saving grace;
you will reign forever;
you are Ancient of Days.
You are Alpha, Omega
Beginning and End.
You're my Savior, Messiah,
Redeemer, and Friend.**

[all] **You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for you!**

†PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those near you.)

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

☞ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ☞

PERSONAL PARABLEAnn Denison

ANTHEM..... *Simple Praise*

By: Craig Courtney & Pamela Martin

For a canvas of colors, for a concert of sound; for the unfolding seasons, the earth spinning round. For the birth of each sunrise, for the sky set ablaze; for these simple gifts, we give simple praise. Simple praise for the Giver, and thanks to the One who has given us breath and given His Son. To the Giver of blessings for all of our days, our days, for these simple gifts, we give simple praise. For the love of a mother, for the touch of a hand; for the deeper emotions we can't understand. For the lessons we learn from the trials we face; for these simple gifts, we give simple praise. The heart of the Giver, the hand of the One from whom ev'ry blessing of living has come; for measureless mercy and limitless grace, for these simple gifts we give simple praise.

PERSONAL PARABLE (written by: Will Schwantes)David Schwantes

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 3:1-15Sheyenne Ervin, Laurel Hathaway,
Sarah Pelfrey, Kirsta Weber

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50 *The Message*

†HYMN No. 771 (v. 1, 5) *What Is the World Like*

What is the world like when God's will is done?

Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive:

roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun.

This is how God moves us each to believe.

These are the stories that Jesus imparts,

filled with the Spirit who joins us as one.

Born through our voices, our hands, and our hearts,

this is a new world where God's will is done.

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "The Marvelous Mustard Seed"

Grace Eberle

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

WONDERING TOGETHER Pastor David Witt

☞ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ☞

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *Witness*

Traditional Spiritual; Arranged by: Jack Halloran

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

Holy God, we dedicate our lives to you this day and seal that promise by way of this offering. We give out of the abundance of our hearts that the treasure of your kingdom may be shared with many. Thank you for giving us grateful hearts and a spirit of generosity for the flourishing of your ministry in the world. Through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

FAITH FORMATION MOMENTS Carole Witt,
Director of Christian Education

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Hymnal p. 35, we say "debts" and "debtors" in the prayer)

✠ WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME ✠

†CLOSING HYMN No. 250..... *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 468..... *Lord, Be Glorified*

**In my life, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.**

†POSTLUDE

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The arrangement in the Sanctuary this morning was designed by Tracie Martin. We are so grateful for all her gifts and talents.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Dale Barley
June Windle
Rick Ours
Judy Gaines
Jessica Brogler
Cathy Ludwig
Mary Scott
Connie Byrne
Robin Owens
Bill Gesell
Lorin & Bill Goulart
Barbara Koehler Family
Mid-West Flood Victims
Victims of Shootings in
 Kansas & at Virginia
 State University
Andrew Callahan
Johnny Clark Family
Terisa Pierce & Shante
Gary Rutherford
Sandy Widell
Mike & Sara
 Birchenough & Family
Susan Youngblood
Callie Veach
Kraig Hawkins
Roger Callis
Cheryl & Bob
Lincoln & Family

Cora Helen Anderson
Nancy Budny & Family
Mike Pyles
Todd Young
Tyler McDonald
Ben Costello
Marlie Racca
Tim & Katherine Loftis
Tony Bennett
Jim Keeler
Hazel Spriggs
Jennifer Riggelman
Katie Happel
Don Black
Marcia Jaureguizar
Mark McKee
Chick Doroffee
Darcus Breneman
Lyn Warren
Carol Schempp
Venezuela
Linda Swiger
Bud & Becky Proctor
Xavier
Mike Shade
Karen Lemons & Family
Bonnie Triplett
Vern Gamble
Al Schollenberger

Cheri Norris
Mo & Heide Mohler
Marge & Tim Higgins
Susan Arthur
Tammy Mowery Earhart
Dan Cammer
Middle East War
Jolissa Matthews
Riley Fitzgerald
Lori Jones & Stephen
 Armstrong
Mike & Trish Crawford
Lynne Rosamilia
JoAnne Farrell
Judy Camper
David Lewis
David DesMarias
Megan Tschappat
Charlotte Rosamilia
All Struggling with
 Mental Illness
Nancy Kerns
Jewish & Muslim Victims
 Worldwide
Cindy Corell
Katie Wolf
Ukraine
Ethiopia Church Mekane
 Jesus

❧ **THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES** ❧

Kaylynn Tavenner, Robert Littman, Cameron Lloyd, Cameron Andrew Veach,
Kayleen Paquette, Kelly Klimek, Jacob & Tiffani Peoples, Sawyer Phillips,
Joshua Blake, Max Crane, Andrew Crane, Thomas Crane, Jacob Heavner,
Samuel & Julia Phillips, Michael White, Ben Jensen, Gavin Eanes

❧ **OUR SCHOOL OF THE WEEK** ❧

Staff & Students at Millbrook High School in Frederick County, VA

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – August 30

Rally Day; Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering

10:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
11:15 AM	Rally Day Fellowship Time – Gathering Area
3:00 PM	Windsong Practice – Memorial Sanctuary
4:30 PM	Confirmation Orientation – Fellowship Hall

THIS WEEK

Monday:	5:30 PM	Windsong Practice – Memorial Sanctuary
Tuesday:	5:00 PM	Tech Team – Bageant Room & Zoom
	6:00 PM	Ministry Team Night – Fellowship Hall
Wednesday:	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting – Bageant Room
	6:00 PM	Choir Practice – Sanctuary
Thursday:	10:30 AM	Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary/Picnic Shelter
	6:30 PM	Sherando Food Pantry

NEXT SUNDAY – September 6

Communion; CCAP

Scriptures: Exodus 12:1-14; Matthew 18:15-20

Sermon: "Remembering and Reconciling"

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Bageant Room
9:45 AM	Opie's Playhouse – Playground
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream

RALLY DAY CELEBRATION AS PART OF WORSHIP

Today we are kicking off a new educational year at Opequon. This celebration has been known as RALLY DAY for many years. Thank you for being present for worship and participating in a variety of ways. The Summer worship theme of "TIME TO BLOOM" continues to guide our worship today as we consider how very small things can become very significant as they bloom. Enjoy a great reception of food and beverages in the Gathering Area following worship.

OPC T-SHIRTS

OPC t-shirts proclaiming our "Hands, Heart, & Feet" motto are available for purchase **TODAY!** If you do not have one yet, stop by our table in the Gathering Area. The light blue shirts are available for \$20 each and come in sizes ranging from Youth XS to Adult 4XL. Please contact Ben Brooks (bbrooks@wcps.k12.va.us) with any questions.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

A new Confirmation Class will start this September for any young person in 8th grade or beyond. The class will meet on **Wednesday evenings, 6:15 – 7:15 PM**, beginning September 23. **A Confirmation Orientation will be held this afternoon at 4:30 PM in the Bageant Room.** Parents and Confirmation students are asked to attend the orientation. Details of the Confirmation experience will be shared.

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE MEETS NEXT SUNDAY (9:45 AM)

As summer comes to an end, Opie's Playhouse returns to its normal time of **9:45 – 10:45 AM** on the first Sunday of the month. Our next gathering will be next **Sunday, September 6**, outside on the playground if it's nice out, or 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 REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Our 29th Logos year is set to begin **in just 3 ½ weeks on September 23!** Our opening night theme is "Old Opequon Night"! Logos is a midweek ministry for young people ages 4 through High School. Each week is full of holy hilarity and an abundance of great relationships with one another. Registration is available now with an early bird discount. Registration is available at the display in the Gathering Area and online as well at opequonchurch.org. As each young person is registered their name will be entered for a BIRTHDAY BASKET prize drawing. We invite all young people to be part of the lively and worthwhile Wednesday evenings beginning in September. Questions – please ask Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org).

ADULT TRIP TO VA SAFARI PARK

An adult trip to the VA 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. A few spaces are still available.
(dce@opequonchurch.org)

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN UPDATE

The Roots & Shoots Garden continues to thrive! This past week, we were blessed to harvest and donate 50 pounds of fresh produce between the Sherando and Highland Food Pantries. It is such a joy to see the garden growing abundantly. As we enjoy the beauty and abundance of the garden, we are reminded that "great things grow when we come together." Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who continue to give their time, energy, and love to help the garden flourish. We are always grateful for more helping hands, whether you have a green thumb or are simply willing to lend a hand! Please contact Sheyenne Ervin (sheyenneervin@gmail.com).

CONCERT & MEAL FUNDRAISER TICKETS

Tickets are on sale for the Annual Graham Taylor Concert & Meal Fundraiser Event featuring Murphy's Bluegrass Bandits on **September 26**. All proceeds benefit OPC's Mission Ministry Fund. Concert tickets are \$20 each (kids 18 and under are FREE). Optional fried chicken dinner tickets are \$10 each and **must be purchased by September 13**. Place payments in the offering or through online giving on the OPC website and indicate "GT-Concert" or "GT-Dinner."

***See full ticket purchasing and event details in the August/September newsletters!*

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!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE REMINDER...

Today is the Last Sunday of Summer Worship.

Next Sunday = 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship Resumes!

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

Liturgist: Sarah Pelfrey

Beadle: Bill Thomasson

Door Greeters: Becky Myers,
Jeannie Wright

Hospitality Greeter: Ben Brooks

Ushers: Jordan Hartman, Terry Hartman,
Adelyn Astorino, Aubrey Astorino,
Henry Link

Acolyte: Adelyn Astorino

Livestream: Susan Ritter, Brad Jordan

Building Steward: Jack Marquis

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

- ✂ How does today's music direct us to the mysterious, silent work of God in the earth and in our lives?

Notes on Today's Prayers

- ✂ Where and for whom do I need to focus my prayers this week?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

- ✂ What do you imagine when you hear "The Marvelous Mustard Seed?"
- ✂ What lesson does Jesus want to teach us through this story?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Wondering

- ✂ How have you felt like the small mustard seed in the story?
- ✂ What are some small things that are really important?
- ✂ What can one tiny seed do?
- ✂ What happens if no one plants that seed?

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