

The Opequon Spirit

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



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

August 2026

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

WORSHIP IN AUGUST:

10:00 AM—Sundays
"Time to Bloom!"

August 2—Brownie Sundae Sunday

† Psalm 17:1-7, 15;
Matthew 14:13-21
Sermon: "Working for an
Abundant Community"
* Communion
* Blessing of the Backpacks

August 9—Mission Trip Sunday

† Isaiah 49:1-6; Acts 1:6-8;
Matthew 28:16-20
Sermon: "Mission Live
Testimonies"
* Mission Trip Food Fest

1:30 PM Spring Arbor Worship

August 16

† Genesis 45:1-15;
Matthew 15:10-28
Sermon: "Even Jesus Had a Bad
Day or Two"
* Blood Pressure Checks

August 23—Generations Sunday *Celebrating the Pillars of Opequon*

† Genesis 17:1-8; Psalm 78:1-8;
Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-3
Sermon: "Roots & Branches"
* 4 Cents A Meal
* Special Fellowship Time &
Dedication of Memorial Sanctuary
Enhancements

August 30—Rally Day

† Exodus 3:1-15;
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50
Sermon: "A Parabaloosa"
* Habitat for Humanity Paint Can
Offering

Opequon's Generations Sunday

Celebrating Our Roots...

And Our Branches!



Sunday, August 23

10:00 AM Worship

Join us for worship and fellowship in
celebration of the Pillars, Generations,
and Families of Opequon!



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 2
10:00 AM Worship

All students, teachers, administrators:
Join us for this annual time for prayer
and blessing of a new school year,
honoring you and your endeavors.
Backpack tags are ready for distribution.



NEWCOMERS' CLASS

Are you new to Opequon Church or our
community? Would you like to know more about
the heritage, mission, and vision of Opequon
Church? Do you have some questions about
what, where, when, why, and how we do things
within this faith community? Would you like to become a member
of Opequon? If you said "yes!" to any of these questions, you are
cordially invited and encouraged to attend our upcoming
Newcomers' Class THIS MONTH. We will gather in the Memorial
Sanctuary on Sunday, August 23 and Sunday, September 13 at
4:00 PM and meet until 6:00 PM.

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



NOTES FROM PASTOR DAVID:

"Pillars of the Generations"

*"One generation shall extol your works to another
and shall declare your mighty acts."*

—Psalm 145:4

Dear Friends in Christ,

Pillars... A pillar is a sturdy vertical support used in construction, such as a column or post.

Figuratively, it refers to a fundamental principle, core belief, or priority, like our five pillars of vision and mission: radical hospitality, worship enhancement, membership engagement, sharing good news, community engagement. Pillars are also essential people who provide critical support to a community or organization. They are reliable and provide essential emotional or physical support during a crisis. They can be both central and upfront figures or understated, integral, and steadfast models. Earlier this year, Tracie and I began discussing the possibility (and the need!) of celebrating the "pillars of Opequon" sometime this year. Tracie had this experience at her former church. As we are aware and have felt deeply, some of our long-time members have died over the past few years, members who have been examples within their multi-generational families and pillars of Opequon Church. In addition to that great cloud of witnesses, we persevere and serve today, building on the foundation laid before us and thankful for one another and our multi-generational community of faith, the pillars who continue to support and serve. As it says in Hebrews 12, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us..."

On Sunday, August 23, we will gather for a uniquely reflective, celebratory, and intergenerational experience as we give thanks and honor the pillars of Opequon, past, present, and future. We have invited and are inviting the various generations of families to be present as we look back so we can look forward, claiming our heritage while embracing the call of our faith and

ministry today and tomorrow. Our one summer worship service at 10:00 AM will be followed by a progressive fellowship time in the Gathering Area and beyond that will lead us to a dedication service of the enhancements to the 1897 Memorial Sanctuary that have taken place this year. I hope you will be present and will bring the generations along with you as we honor the pillars, celebrate the journey, and praise the Lord!

Together in Christ's Service,

David

PASTOR TRACIE'S JUST THINKIN'...

I like brain candy. I watch silly things on TV before going to bed. I love old "B" movies like "Day of the Triffids" where I can retreat from the world. So, it's no surprise that I play Candy Crush to relax.

For those of you who do not waste time on video games, Candy Crush consists of a screen of candies that can be matched in threes, fours, and fives to form more powerful candies that explode and crush jellies and such to win the game. There is absolutely no social redeeming factor to Candy Crush. There are, however, haptics.

Haptics are those little buzzes and vibrations on one's phone that tell us we have done something good. Some haptics have sound. Some have bigger buzzes than others. The best Candy Crush haptics are accompanied by a basso profundo voice saying "sweet." What's not to love?

There is a lot going on at OPC and some of it has required a certain amount of processing. Candy Crush is not always enough escapism and playing things on my phone for too long can make me dizzy (Yes, dizzier than usual.) So, I have begun to uncover a different, more satisfying set of haptics; haptics of God.

My God haptics are pretty much like game haptics. They happen quickly. They make me feel like something good has happened. They would be easy to miss if I were not looking for them, but they have real impact.

Last night, following a hard funeral, I sat for a bit on the back porch. The yard was filled with lightning bugs. I mean there were over a hundred spots of light blinking off and on. God's haptic.

At the McNichols funeral, the choir led the congregation in a chorus of "Draw the Circle Wide." The congregation responded with energy and passion. "Sweet!"

As I have begun to look for God's haptics, I am surprised at how many of them there are just waiting to be noticed. Recently, Rachel contacted

a composer asking for permission to use his music at a service that would be livestreamed. He thanked us for asking permission and replied in the affirmative. Then, he sent her a note thanking her and the church for being so professional in handling the request. God and the composer's haptic.

There are, of course, many different names for God's haptics. Some call them "God winks," blessings, surprises, gifts. The name doesn't matter. What matters is that we keep noticing them and letting them tell us that we have done well—we have succeeded. Or, if we have not fully succeeded, we have tried—we have done our best and, with encouragement, we will try again.

Collecting God's haptics is not difficult, but it does take intention. As my mother used to say... often..."Joy is a choice." It's easy to get so caught up in details that we miss that subtle buzz, but if we catch it? "Very Sweet."

—Tracie

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2026

- ✂ Deacons/Congregational Care Ministry: Kitchen Spring Cleaning is underway.
- ✂ Steps to Shovels in the Gound: Check out the colorful timeline in Gathering Hall area showing progress and next steps to groundbreaking. A detailed finance package was sent to solicit bids from different loan providers based on estimated total build costs of \$4.6 million, and capital campaign pledges received to date of approximately \$1.9 million. Session reviewed the analysis of OPC Capital Campaign Loan Reduction Scenarios prepared by Treasurer Ron Smith and approved two Finance recommendations to supplement the funding available for the construction project:
 - Authorize up to \$50,000 from Reserve Fund to be allocated to the Building Campaign (i.e. parking lot drainage and fire panel updates).
 - Authorize up to \$300,000 from the Endowment Fund to be allocated to the Building Campaign.
- ✂ Vision Ministry is soliciting "Undie Sunday" donations of underwear, socks, and other clothing for school distribution in cooperation with our mission partner, Bright Futures.
- ✂ Mission Ministry is busy organizing for Mission Trip Sunday on August 9, 2026 (10:00 AM service) and the Annual Graham Taylor Fundraiser on September 26, 2026 (5:00 PM). Save the dates!

- ✂ Evangelism Team shares Christ's love through the ministry of WELCOME. From greeting guests and helping with name tags, to extending hospitality and connecting with new members, every act of kindness helps build a welcoming church family. Interested volunteers please contact Ben Brooks (bbrooks@wcps.k12.va.us).
- ✂ Fellowship Ministry: Don't forget to submit your favorite recipes for inclusion in the 290th Commemorative Cookbook: "A Place at the Table!"
- ✂ Buildings & Grounds: Session approved the June replacement of two 30+ year-old air conditioning units under the Memorial Sanctuary at an estimated \$27,000 expense. The Manse inspection includes six items requiring attention by October 1, 2026.
- ✂ Stewardship & Finance: Session approved the May Financial report and update of the Project Bid Policy. Shenandoah Presbytery's request to use OPC's physical address to apply for Winchester P.O. Box was approved by Session.
- ✂ Technology & Communications: With the increased threat from email scams and fraudulent requests targeting churches, all OPC staff were assigned Opequon email addresses for official church business.
 - * **Remember:** Our pastors, staff, and church leaders will never ask you to purchase gift cards, send cash, or provide passwords by email. If you receive a request like this, please contact the church office to verify it before responding.
- ✂ Our Worship Ministry will hold the 2026 Thanksgiving Service with Kernstown Methodist on Sunday, November 22, at 4:00 PM in the Memorial Sanctuary.
- ✂ Christian Education Ministry welcomes Sheyenne Ervin to the team. Thanks to all who helped make VBS another successful year. A new Thanksgiving banner was purchased.
- ✂ Session approved Pastor David's requested vacation dates (July 20—August 1, 2026 and Thursday August 13, 2026) and Continuing Education time (September 21-23, 2026).
- ✂ Session approved the July 19, 2026, Baptism of Sutton Elizabeth Barber, infant daughter of Brett and Ashleigh Hodgson Barber.
- ✂ The NOROC application for a Moffett Grant (\$5,000) was approved for submission by Session to be cosigned by the Clerk.

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

EXTENDING OUR EMPATHY AND CHRISTIAN LOVE TO...



- ☞ Janet McDowell and family, upon the death of her husband and online Opequon worship attendee, Gary McDowell, on July 8.

"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

WELCOMED THROUGH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM



Through the waters of baptism, we welcomed Sutton Elizabeth Barber into the baptized membership of Opequon Church on July 19. May she be blessed by the grace and steadfast love of God and may we, as her church family, remember and uphold the promises of nurture and care we have made to her and her family.

OPC HYMN SING

August 31 (9:30 AM)

Count down OPC's "Top 10 Favorite Hymns of 2026" with us on Sunday, August 16 at 9:30 AM in the Sanctuary! We will begin with the #10 most voted hymn and count down to OPC's #1 favorite hymn, which will lead us into the morning worship service.



Vote for your "top three favorite" hymns by following these simple steps...

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

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

**Voting closes at the end of the day on
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9!**



MISSION TRIP SUNDAY

Opequon Church has been enriched and empowered through the years as we have sent out mission teams near and far to bless and be blessed. We have sent them out in the power of prayer and through the strength of the Spirit.

On Sunday, August 9, a special team of worship leaders and mission trip participants will lead and share with us from their experiences, from North Carolina to West Virginia, from the Dominican Republic to Romania to Ethiopia. Special music and testimonies will be featured, along with delectable treats following worship at a national and global food fest.

Don't miss out on this unique celebration of mission through worship and fellowship— all beginning at 10:00 AM.



NEWCOMERS' SOCIAL

- **WHO:** All 2025–2026 Newcomers, New Members & Families Are Invited!
- **DATE:** Sunday, August 16
- **TIME:** 4:00 – 5:30 PM
- **LOCATION:** OPC's Picnic Shelter

All those new to Opequon from 2025-2026 are invited to bring their families and join this special time of refreshments and fellowship sponsored by OPC's Discipleship Team!

Please RSVP to:
office@opequonchurch.org
by August 12

GENEROSITY / STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

(From Pastor Tracie Martin & the Generosity Team)

Summer has its own rhythm, doesn't it? Folks are traveling, schedules shift, and life feels a little different. Around the church, though, there is still plenty happening. We are sprucing up the campus, taking care of repairs that are easier to manage this time of year, and getting ready for the program year ahead. Like many churches, we can see giving slow down a bit in the summer, even though the bills keep coming.

That makes your faithfulness all the more encouraging. I have served congregations where summer created real headaches for finance leaders, but OPC continues to do well because so many of you keep up with your pledges. Thank you. Your generosity is one more way we care for one another and help keep OPC strong for the wider community.

And speaking of generosity, what a gift the "clean the kitchen" crew has given us! The kitchen is spic and span—thanks to a wonderful group that jumped in, worked hard, and then did even more. Special thanks to Mary Ann Johnson, who pulled it all together.

I hope August brings you some rest, some fun, and a few good stories to bring back with you. I am looking forward to all that is ahead. I think the rest of this year is going to be full of good things.



Dear OPiE,

I know there was a gathering to talk about the new addition in June. I wish I had attended. How are things going? It feels like so much is still up in the air? Help me understand.
— Concerned

Dear Concerned,

In a way, you are right... there is still a lot being discussed and decided. It's not actually "up in the air," however. There is so much going on at Opequon Church, it's hard to keep up. Behind the scenes; however, good steps are being made.

There was a meeting of the finance people recently. Supper was served, so I attended (under cover). There were lots of crumbs and leftovers. It was a great meeting. What I heard was that the finance people are confident that we will have all the interest we need from lenders as we move forward. Of course, folks are still working on closing the gap between what we wish we could afford and what is realistic.

I have heard several discussions that tell me the commitment to all three aspects of our building, the Fellowship Hall, Music Center, and Kitchen is still in place. We need all three if we are to continue the path God has set for us. Still, there will have to be some compromises. We have always known that this was true, but now we are facing the reality. While we all wish compromise was not necessary, I need to remind you that this is not the same situation we faced with the sanctuary and rocks. We will need to make some changes, but I have heard nothing about the elimination any of our primary objectives. Every discussion I hear is about how we will fulfill them. Many ideas are on the table. While I personally think everyone involved in these discussions might have better ideas if there were more cookies available while they think the people working together are coming up with some excellent ideas.

I do know that things move more slowly in the summer for obvious reasons. Still, it looks like our pledges are being fulfilled well. Many are coming in ahead of schedule. While things might feel somewhat unsettled just now, the pieces are coming together. We will all know more soon. (And I can't wait to clean up after the groundbreaking!)

— Hungry As Ever, OPiE

MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT

Tuesday, August 4 at 6:30 PM

(meetings only—no meal this month)

FOOD NEEDED FOR GENERATIONS / PILLARS SUNDAY

For our progressive Fellowship Time on Sunday, August 23, after 10:00 AM worship, we invite you to bring finger foods—sandwiches, home baked cookies, brownies, or cheese & crackers—all pre-plated on a platter—for placement on a table. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area to let us know what you will bring that morning. **DO NOT BRING FOOD IN ADVANCE.** Look for the signs that morning for the designated drop-off locations.

PARENT & CAREGIVER HANGOUT

We offer a lot of opportunities for our Youth and Children to have fun together, but don't always give parents & caregivers a chance to connect. Gretchen, Andy, and Hudson Homan would love you to join us at their house on Wednesday, August 5, at 6:30 PM. Let Rebekah Witt know if you need the address. This is a casual hangout for parents and caregivers to come together! Snacks and drinks will be provided. Youth and children are welcome to come hangout together as well. Please let Rebekah know if you plan to be there at rwitt@opequonchurch.org.

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE

Summertime is the best time to be at Opie's Playhouse! Kids (and adults!) get to play outside under beautiful blue skies. Come join the fun out on the playground on Sunday, August 2, from 11:15 AM to 12:00 PM. There will be scooters and balls and bubbles and more! And this particular Sunday is extra special! It's Brownie Sundae Sunday and a wonderful treat will be served up in the Gathering Area. Bring your ice cream out to the playground to enjoy with your friends. Opie's Playhouse is for all families with young children. Big siblings are welcome too! In the event of rain, we will meet in the Memorial Sanctuary. Hope to see you there!



NEW CONFIRMATION YEAR COMING UP

A Confirmation Class will be held beginning this fall with the first class session on Wednesday, September 23. Confirmation Sunday will be April 11, 2027. Confirmation is open to any young person in 8th grade or beyond. Confirmation students and parents are invited to a Confirmation Orientation. Please choose one of the dates to attend: Thursday, August 6, at 6:30 PM or Sunday, August 30, at 4:30 PM. All the details of the Confirmation experience will be shared at the orientation. Questions about Confirmation, ask Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org)



THE LATEST IN LOGOS

Have you heard that our theme for this coming Logos year is **"GIVE THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART!"** We can all work at being **THANKFUL**

PEOPLE each day. We have planned out weekly themes too. A sneak peek shows these themes this year: "Old Opequon Night", "October Olympics", and "School Spirit Night" to name just a few. 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** begins this month with access online or at the Logos display in the Gathering Area. Discount registration fees run until September 15. As each young person is registered, their name will go into a 'thankful heart' for a **BIRTHDAY BASKET** prize drawing that 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.

The Logos Leadership Team meets regularly to prepare for the new Logos year. We truly hold all our young people and congregation members in our hearts as we work to provide the best Logos experience possible. Keep watching for more news about the next Logos year.

YOUTH: GRADES 6-12

August 5: Youth/Children's Parent & Caregiver Hangout

August 7: Summer Midnight Gladness

YOUNG ADULTS: AGES 18-35

August 21 (6:30 PM): Frisbee Golf & Ice Cream

MEN OF OPEQUON (MOO) PICNIC

The Men of Opequon (MOO) will have a picnic **on Monday, August 10**, at the Pitcock Memorial Pavilion at 6:00 pm. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided, along with rolls, potato chips, condiments, and drinks. Please bring a side dish, salad, or a dessert to share. Let's enjoy summer-time fun together. All men are invited!



GLOW: God-Loving Opequon Women

GLOW is Opequon's multi-aged women's group that meets monthly to build friendships and enjoy heart-warming activities together. Last month, Opequon women had a TACO BAR night followed by a most interesting study on EVE led by Pastor Tracie.



This month, Opequon women will meet on Tuesday, August 11, at 6:00 PM at Carole Witt's home in Stephens City. A full summer picnic dinner provided with drinks and desserts. Please bring a small \$ donation towards dinner. The menu includes BLT sandwiches, Shrimp Salad, Chicken Salad, Chips, Fruit, Deviled Eggs, and Desserts. We will enjoy some Human TIC TAC TOE, Summertime conversations, and a Beach Ball Challenge. There will be a special token for each woman. Come for this deliciously fun summer evening as we laugh and enjoy each other's company. All Opequon women are invited.

FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

We will gather in the Bageant Room on August 27 at 6:00 PM to discuss *The Resistance Daughter* by Joanne Kormylo.

LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will pause for August due to schedule conflicts. Our next meeting will be on September 21 at noon in Fellowship Hall. The main dish will be a surprise, because I have no idea what to make yet.

Life Goes On is a ongoing gathering of people who have lost their significant other. We have lunch and just chat. Sometimes we share resources; sometimes we just laugh a lot. Please think about joining us if you are feeling lonely. We ask that you bring a side dish to pass or chip in a couple of bucks toward expenses. No reservation needed—just come.

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

Are you keeping cool this summer? Be careful on the really hot days! Drink plenty and stay hydrated. Continue to treat yourself to some 'lazy' summer days.

This month begins with the Older Adult Planning Team meeting on Monday, August 3, at 9:30 AM in the Bageant Room. This meeting is for discussing and planning programs for Happy Days and other special events. The meeting is open to any older adult who would like to attend. You are welcome to come join in. Some morning goodies and coffee are provided.

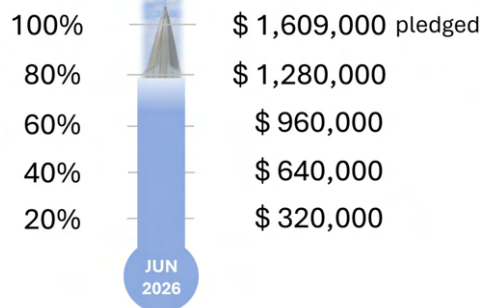
The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be held on Wednesday, August 12, at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall beginning with a covered dish lunch. Chicken and drinks are provided. Please bring a covered dish item to share. Following lunch, our own Sarah Pelfrey will be sharing a program on 'physically moving safely' This will certainly be beneficial for us all. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the friendships, and this worthwhile time together.

An Adult Lunch Outing is planned for Wednesday, August 26, at NOON at Roma in Stephens City. Contact Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org) if you are interested in joining the lunch bunch that day!

An additional 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)

BUILDING CAMPAIGN RECEIPTS

Building campaign receipts now total \$1,276k through June 2026, which is 79% 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.



SENIOR OUTREACH

Senior Outreach Ministry will gather on Sunday, August 9, 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 August, we will be collecting tuna fish in the Dell Room for CCAP. Thank you for your contributions and supporting our community!

ANNUAL CCAP DIAPER DRIVE

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

UNDIE SUNDAYS

To recap the recent community school panel that was hosted by the Vision Team in May, Bright Futures will need donations for the coming school year. They are asking for our help with donations of **new** underwear, socks, and sports bras. A tote has been put out in the gathering area to collect these items, and they will be delivered later in August. The items needed are for elementary school through high school. We need more undies for the girls. We also need socks for when the colder weather sets in. Please continue to pray for the teachers as the school year begins. Notes of encouragement and coffee and donut deliveries to the schools are always welcome. 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 and the children.

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN UPDATE

Summer is in full bloom at the Roots & Shoots Garden! Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and God's abundant blessings, we've donated approximately 150 pounds of fresh produce to our local food pantries so far this year. It is a joy to know that the fruits of our labor are helping nourish members of our community.

The garden is also bursting with beautiful flowers that are blooming throughout the space. They add so much color and beauty, creating a warm, welcoming place for everyone who visits.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended our annual church garden picnic! Even with the rain, it was a wonderful afternoon filled with delicious food, laughter, and meaningful fellowship. We are so grateful for everyone who came out and helped make it such a special time together.

Volunteers are always welcomed and greatly needed! Whether you can help with weeding, mowing, watering, harvesting, or any other garden tasks, there is always a place for you in the garden. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to lend a hand.

We are also collecting used coffee grounds to use as a natural soil amendment. If you'd like to contribute, coffee grounds can be dropped off at the garden gate anytime.

If you'd like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Sheyenne Ervin (540-447-6063 or sheyenneervin@gmail.com). We'd love to have you join us as we continue growing fresh food, cultivating community, and serving our neighbors.

LOCAL MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY:

Intergenerational Harvest of Hope

September 25-27, 2026

Join others from the Shenandoah Presbytery for a weekend at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, led by the Society of St. Andrew, to introduce people to their gleaning ministry. The cost is \$50/person (or \$100/family) thanks to the Presbytery Committee on Mission & Outreach covering the additional cost. Please reach out to Robin Owens or Rebecca Agbayani with any questions.

For more information and to sign-up, visit: <https://endhunger.org/get-involved/overnight-camps/>

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



Opequon Presbyterian Church
Financial Summary for the period ended
June 30, 2026

	Annual Budget 2026	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
Income					
410000 Offering Income	961,041	102,117	513,218	447,823	53.4%
420000 Other Income	2,100	238	1,676	424	79.8%
Total 400000 Income	963,141	102,355	514,894	448,247	53.5%
Expenses					
500000 Personnel Costs					
510000 Installed Pastors	160,114	13,582	78,316	81,798	48.9%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	259,866	18,071	106,815	153,051	41.1%
530000 Administrative Staff	167,195	13,590	81,104	86,091	48.5%
Total 500000 Personnel Costs	587,175	45,243	266,235	320,940	45.3%
600000 Other Ministries					
610000 Christian Education	15,650	1,540	7,301	8,349	46.7%
620000 Congregational Care	2,800	201	1,561	1,239	55.7%
630000 Evangelism	6,050	(45)	1,093	4,957	18.1%
640000 Fellowship	4,250	336	2,004	2,246	47.1%
650000 Mission	79,219	3,662	41,072	38,147	51.8%
660000 Worship	8,000	64	3,103	4,897	38.8%
Total 600000 Other Ministries	115,969	5,757	56,134	59,835	48.4%
Total 700000 Church Administration	160,200	16,760	100,680	59,520	62.8%
Total Expenses	863,344	67,761	423,048	440,296	49.0%
Net Operating Income (Expense)	99,797	34,594	91,846	7,951	92.0%
920000 Other Income	18,650	1,661	10,979	7,671	58.9%
930000 Other Expenses	118,447	10,223	60,165	58,282	50.8%
Net Other Income (Expense)	(99,797)	(8,562)	(49,186)	(50,611)	49.3%
Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses	0	26,032	42,660		

	<u>6/30/26</u>
Cash	<u>\$ 185,919</u>
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance	<u>\$ 228,841</u>

SOME NOTES OF THANKS...

PARKING ON SUNDAYS— THANK YOU!

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

Dear Opequon Family,

Thank you for the outpouring of love, support, and continuous prayers during our grandson Luke's hospitalization and passing. We find peace in knowing that he is in heaven with Jesus.

With Deepest Appreciation,
Dave & Cheryl DeCeault
Krista & Ryan Strukoff

What a lovely surprise finding a lovely begonia on my doorstep! Than you so much for the kindness and thoughtfulness! It is lovely to get such surprises and I am so enjoying my flowers. Thank you also for the prayer the church family has prayed on my behalf. I know it has helped make me feel better—safe and cared for.

—Joanne Farrell

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and support as our journey continues. We are thankful to be back home in Winchester and closer to everyone. But trust us, we felt your prayers and support from afar. We also are thankful for the Livestream Team who keeps us connected each and every Sunday.

With Grateful Hearts,
Becky & Bud Proctor

Dear David, Tracie, & OPC Friends,

Thank you so much for your concerns and prayers during my recent illness. Also, the meals you delivered weekly were greatly appreciated. We are so blessed to have you in our lives.

—Joan & Grant Patton

THANK YOU FOR SO MUCH KINDNESS AND ENCOURAGEMENT!

I am so very appreciative for so much kindness, care, and encouragement expressed and extended to me and David before, during and after my recent surgery. We felt surrounded by so many prayers and loving thoughts. Your care made a great difference to us. As I recovered from the surgery in the following weeks, I received so many terrific cards that put repeated smiles on my face as I read your thoughtful messages to me. I loved EVERY SINGLE CARD! It was so nice getting so much uplifting mail! Thank you! Thank you! What a difference you make in our lives. Much love to you all.

—Carole Witt

Dear OPC Family,

This is a long overdue thank you for your kindness, prayer, concern, and compassion following my June 3rd knee replacement surgery. We appreciate the lunches brought to us by congregational care and the morning and afternoon mission groups. It was lovely sitting outside on our front porch with David a couple times when he delivered lunch, and came to visit, as well as other members of our OPC family who came by. Your thoughtful cards and continued prayers were very much appreciated. We are so blessed to be a part of OPC. We are grateful for all of our OPC friends who feel more like family, all of the opportunities to serve as Christ's hands, heart, and feet in the world, and the genuine outpouring of care and concern.

Thank You From The Bottom Of Our Hearts,
Robin & Al Owens:

Summertime Safety Tips



In most of the U.S., extreme heat is a long period (2 to 3 days) of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees.

Heat Stroke Signs

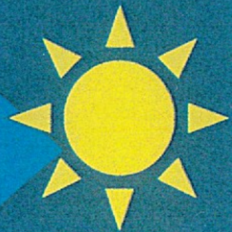
- Extremely high body temperature (above 103 °F)
- Red, hot and dry skin with no sweat
- Rapid, strong pulse
- Dizziness, confusion, or unconsciousness

Heat Cramp Signs

- Muscle pains or spasms in the stomach, arms, or legs

Heat Exhaustion Signs

- Heavy sweating
- Paleness
- Muscle cramps
- Nausea, Dizziness, Fainting
- Fast or weak pulse



Humidity increases the feeling of heat as measured by a heat index

IF YOU ARE UNDER AN EXTREME HEAT WARNING

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| | |
| Find air conditioning, if possible. | Check on family members and neighbors. |
| | |
| Avoid strenuous activities. | Drink plenty of fluids. |
| | |
| Watch for heat illness. | Watch for heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. |
| | |
| Wear light clothing. | Never leave people or pets in a closed car. |

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Blessing of the Backpacks Communion 10am - Worship & Live Stream 11:15am - Brownie Sundae Sunday 11:15am - Opie's Playhouse @	9:30am - Older Adult Planning 5:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary	5pm - Tech Team Meeting @ 5:30pm - Congregational Care 6:30pm - Ministry Team Night @	9:30am - Staff Meeting @ Bageant 6:30pm - Parent & Caregiver	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 11am - CRE Committee (OWL in 6:30pm - Confirmation Orientation 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry @ 7pm - ART Team Meeting @	6pm - Youth Summer Midnight	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mission Trip Sunday 10am - Worship & Live Stream 11:15am - Fellowship Time @ 12:15pm - Senior Outreach 1:30pm - Spring Arbor Worship @	5:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary 6pm - MOO Picnic @ Picnic Shelter	Winchester First Day of School 6pm - GLOW @ Carole & David Wri 7pm - Vision Team @ Bageant	Frederick County First Day of 12pm - Happy Days @ Fellowship	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial		NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Blood Pressure Checks 10am - Worship & Live Stream 11:15am - Fellowship Time @ 4pm - Newcomers' Social @ Picnic	12pm - Life Goes On @ Fellowship 5:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary 6pm - Safety Team Meeting @	6:30pm - Session Meeting @	9:30am - Staff Meeting 6pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry	6:30pm - Young Adult Frisbee Golf	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
4 Cents a Meal Offering Generations Sunday 10am - Worship & Live Stream 11:15am - Fellowship Time @ 4pm - Newcomers Class @	5:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary 7pm - Astronomy Club @ Assembly	3pm - TVOR Gathering 5:30pm - Highland Food Pantry @	10:30am - WANC Meeting @ 12pm - Older Adult Roma Lunch @ 6pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial 10:30am - WANC Lunch @ 6pm - Fellowship Book Club @		10am - Jubilee Kitchen - Opequon
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Rally Day 10am - Worship & Live Stream 11:15am - Rally Day Fellowship 4:30pm - Confirmation Orientation	5:30pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary	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 @ 7pm - ART Team Meeting @		

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).

A SEPTEMBER SAMPLE TO ANTICIPATE:

- ♦ Tuesday, September 1 September Ministry Team Night
- ♦ Sunday, September 6—Worship Returns to 8:30 & 11:00 AM; September Communion
- ♦ Sunday, September 6—Opie's Playhouse
- ♦ Sunday, September 6—Sunday Faith Formation Returns
- ♦ Wednesday, September 9—LOGOS Staff Orientation
- ♦ Sunday, September 20—"Back to Church" Sunday
- ♦ Sunday, September 20—Youth Families Breakfast & Games
- ♦ Wednesday, September 23—29th Year of LOGOS Begins
- ♦ Saturday, September 26—"Graham Taylor Memorial"
Concert & Meal Fundraiser Event
- ♦ Sunday, September 27—September GIFT Event
- ♦ Sunday, September 27—"Stewardship Popping!"
- ♦ Sunday, September 27—Blessing of the Pets



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.

**** 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



SUMMER WORSHIP:
(in-person & livestreamed)
Sundays at 10:00 AM

August