



# The Opequon Spirit

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

## MAY 2022

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE THIS MONTH

**8:30 am In-Person Morning Worship**

**11:00 am In-Person & Livestreamed Worship**

### **Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> – OLDER ADULT SUNDAY/APPLE BLOSSOM**

Scripture: Acts 9:1-6, John 21:1-19

Sermon: "While Cleaning Up..."

Communion In-Person and at Home

**Honoring and Celebrating Our Older Adults!**

### **Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> – MOTHER'S DAY/ CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY**

Scripture: Psalm 23, John 10:22-30

Sermon: "Belonging, Believing, and Becoming"

**Honoring Those Who Are Moms to Us! Celebrating Families!**

### **Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-6,

John 13:31-35

Sermon: "Love Wins!"

### **Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> – PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY**

Scripture: Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5,

John 14:23-29

Sermon: "Hope and Peace for a Broken World"

**WOW Worship @ 6:00 PM – Pitcock Picnic Shelter**

### **Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – MEMORIAL SUNDAY**

Scripture: Revelation 22 (selected verses), John 17:20-26

Sermon: "Light, Life, and Love"

**Remembering Those Who Served & Died**

#### **OLDER ADULT SUNDAY, MAY 1<sup>st</sup>**

Celebrate the gift of generations at Opequon!

Give thanks for our multi-generational congregation!

Older adults share, serve, and sing!

We are so blessed!

(Remember to wear pink & green too, for Apple Blossom!!)

#### **MOTHER'S DAY CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY MAY 8<sup>th</sup>**

As families, come together for worship.

Honor the women of Opequon.

Give thanks for our faith community.

Renew your commitment as families.

Glorify God!

#### **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

Remember and honor those who have served and gone before us!

Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Special Music



## **NOTES FROM THE PASTOR: "The New Now"**

Dear Friends in Christ,

For five years, I drove to a meeting in Harrisonburg each month with my good friend and colleague, Rich Reifsnnyder, the former pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Winchester, one of Opequon's "daughter congregations." We enjoyed the fellowship and the opportunity to share in lively conversation. I always joked that I drove, and Rich talked; but the truth is we both talked a lot and I drove because I love to drive! I recall when First Church was celebrating their bicentennial in 2000. As Opequon did when we marked our 275th anniversary in 2011, First Presbyterian commissioned a piece of music, a new hymn. Rich noted that not only the lyrics were new but also the tune. Many tunes are available in our hymnbook, and are used and reused, including two named Winchester Old and Winchester New; both are named for the ancient English city of Winchester in Hampshire. To distinguish this brand-new hymn from both the lyrics and tune from the former, the composer and the church determined that the new tune should be called "Winchester Now." Rich explained how they felt this captured a new era, a new century of service, and a new and present opportunity for ministry. I have been thinking about "Winchester now" recently. As Opequon Church, "The Mother Church of the Valley," the oldest congregation west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, celebrates 290 years of ministry, I believe we are living into the "new now." Since the pandemic began in March of 2020, we have used a variety of words to describe our experience and rhythm, words like "pivot, flexible, resilient, perseverance, connected, virtual, Zooming, livestreaming, curbside pick-up, in-person worship, the new normal ..." But as we venture forward in the world and here at Opequon, I am convinced that we must seize the day (in Latin, *carpe diem!*), grateful for each moment and living and serving in the "new now" of the present. We recently approved the call of

Julia Burkley as our new associate pastor. Julia will bring enthusiasm and energy, gifts and insights, and serve as a faithful colleague and teammate on our church staff, helping us to be stronger, wider, and bolder in our witness and service. We have just gathered for a full week of Holy Week services and other events and almost 400 people attending three different Easter services. Our spaces and more importantly, our spirits were "full to the brim." The new now felt good. While we will continue to pivot and persevere, we will gain strength from our heritage. We will embrace what God is up to in our lives and community, responding to God's call. And we will journey onward, as the people of Opequon, set forth on a course of discipleship, living into the new now of the world. As I have reminded you so many times during the pandemic, Jesus is our friend and companion. Jesus keeps us steady; and, Jesus, as the Lord of the Dance, will continue to teach us to dance to new rhythms that will be just as faithful as the old rhythms. I invite you and yours to come and dance with us, full to the brim with God's lavish love and overflowing grace, as we embrace and uplift the new now.

Together in Christ's Service,

*David*

### **JUST THINKN'**

Have you noticed that things at Opequon Presbyterian are beginning to feel more "usual"?

For me it began to come together when the choir was able to take off our masks to sing. Then we began to see more and more of our live-stream congregation worshipping in person. Then we shared the peace with handshakes and near-hugs.

Don't get me wrong. I am not at all complaining about the restrictions and safety measures we have taken as a congregation. COVID is and was real.

The rules were instituted for valid reasons and I applaud Session for taking the heat and doing everything possible to keep us safe. Still, there would be something wrong with us all if we did not feel at least a bit of respite as restraints lessen and controls become less wieldy.

Of course, we do need to remember that there are and probably will long be people within our congregation who will need to remain on alert because of their own, personal restrictions. Still, it was good to see so many of us in the sanctuary during Holy Week and especially on Easter morning.

So, what do we do now? May brings Apple Blossom, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. How are we as a congregation going to welcome newcomers and returning longtimers? How are we to make sure we have not lost that OPC welcome? How can we regroup and move forward with enough care that concerned worshippers are comforted and those who just want to feel free are encouraged to do exactly that? While I have no doubt this congregation will find its way, I do have a suggestion.

Let's continue to welcome anyone who comes through the door. Welcome is such a great word! It carries no implications of regret that someone did not come last week. It shows our delight at being together right now, today. It hints at a future connection but truly "Welcome" is a word best used in the present tense.

I will never forget the words of a Pastor whose church Bill and I attended years ago. A woman had worked for some time to get her husband to attend worship. I do not remember why he did not and the reason is not important to the story. When he was greeted as he left, this Minister, trying to be funny, said, "When you next drive by the church, make sure to come and visit, or when they carry you in, the Lord may ask, who is it." Does it surprise you to learn that the husband did not return? That Pastor did not last very long, either.

Sounds silly, doesn't it, but as I have visited

and communicated with folks throughout the pandemic, I have learned that all too many of us humans are willing to feel uncomfortable about our isolation for the past months. Some of us fear ridicule if we choose to continue wearing masks. Some of us are simply unsure how to go about returning. Some have simply lost the habit.

This summer can be our summer of welcome. We already are welcoming new members. We welcome visitors each Sunday and often even during the week. We will soon welcome our new Associate! As we return to activities we have not been able to enjoy, it is as if each one of us is new. I rather like that idea because it allows me to be who I am right now. The field is open! I can try things I did not try before COVID! I can choose not to do things I did previously! I can try something new! I can choose to reenter carefully or with complete abandon. I can do ... I can be... a new thing...several new things! What fun! Of course, there is one change at OPC that will continue its impact. When COVID hit, we were already using live-streaming, but had not experienced its full impact. Over the past two years, we have developed a virtual congregation that must be considered and welcomed, too. Because we were not completely new to live-streaming, our online worship had fewer bumps and warts than some. Because we have excellent worship, OPC congregants shared our services with family and friends, unfettered by their locations. We do not know just how many people worship with us long-distance. We know only a bit about people who worship with us from their homes because of illnesses or other constraints. It is imperative that we continue to welcome these less visible children of God.

Somehow, we must keep our welcome open, continuous, and real. We can and will do this. It is who we are. It demonstrates Whose we are. As the Mother Church of the Valley, we need to continue to make all of God's children welcome... ..and we ill do just that.

*Grace*

## **MAY USHERS**

### **May 1<sup>st</sup>**

8:30 AM – Graham Taylor, Steve Bock, Jim Horner

11:00 AM – Mike & Fran Jeffries, Vicki Crites, Mike Nutry, Joshua Batcha, Adelyn Astorino, Aubrey Astorino

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** 8:30 AM – Mike & Wendy Wygant, Pat Williams, Alex Plumb

11:00 AM – Bill Robinson, Kyle Homan, Jason Hathaway, Vern Gamble, Elise Buonocore, Paige Hughes, Jordan Hughes

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** 8:30 AM – Terry Hartman, Heide Mohler

11:00 AM – Andy Homan, Joel Witt, Lucas Brown, Noah Cutrona, Alex Sardelis

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** 8:30 AM – Betty Chicklo, June Malone, Linda Butler

11:00 AM – Annemarie Matthews, Carolyn & Gary Rutherford, Tucker Birchenough, Greer Birchenough, Grace Eberle

**May 29<sup>th</sup>** 8:30 AM – Steve Bock, Graham Taylor

11:00 AM – Mike Nutry, Jaxson Hughes, Payton Hughes, Derek Madagan

## **MAY DOOR GREETERS**

**May 1<sup>st</sup>** 8:30 AM – Karen Winters, Becky Myers

11:00 AM – Jack & Paula Marquis

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** 8:30 AM – Becky Myers, Pat Williams

11:00 AM – Jack & Paula Marquis

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** 8:30 AM – Karen Winters, Becky Myers

11:00 AM – Jack & Paula Marquis

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** 8:30 AM – Karen Winters, Becky Myers

11:00 AM – Jack & Paula Marquis

**May 29<sup>th</sup>** 8:30 AM – Becky Myers, Pat Williams

11:00 AM – Jack & Paula Marquis

**WE NEED DOOR GREETERS** at 11:00 to substitute if needed and ushers at 11:00 for May 29. Contact Fran or Mike Jeffries at [mfjeffries@comcast.net](mailto:mfjeffries@comcast.net) or 540-665-5801 if you can help out.

## **SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

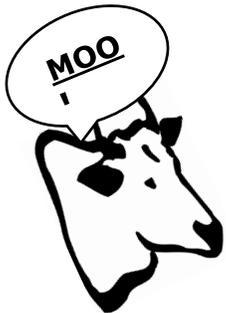
### **April 19, 2022 Stated Meeting**

- Session met with Hazel Spriggs and Becky Myers and welcomed them into the fellowship of Opequon Presbyterian Church.
- Christian Education/DCE and Worship highlighted the events of April, including a well-attended Lenten GIFT event, Holy Week's Outdoor Experience, and Holy Week services that culminated in a Family Easter Event and three joyous Easter Sunday services - indeed, Opequon was "*Full to the Brim*".
- Congregational Care Ministry: Deacons have resumed several activities paused by pandemic rules, including requests for home communion visits and return of blood pressure checks on April 24<sup>th</sup> to continuing on the third Sunday each month thereafter.
- The Lupton Limo will be available for transportation to attend Betty Dobler's funeral at Woodrow Union Church, PawPaw. WV on Saturday, May 21 at 11:00 am.
- Opequon's workday for the Church Grounds and Roots & Shoots is May 7, weather permitting. All volunteers are welcome.
- Mission Ministry: Planning for OPC's Mission Fair to be held August 7th in participation with our community partners is underway. The purpose of the Mission Fair is to highlight the many diverse mission activities OPC participates in, as well as engage volunteer spirit and provide awareness. Watch for future updates with more details.
- Session elected Bill Burselm and Ron Smith to serve as the designated Commissioners to attend the special Called Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery's for the purpose of concurring with an overture from the Presbytery of the Western Reserve to the General Assembly expressing deep concern for Ethiopia and their current situation. The meeting will be held virtually Tuesday April 26th, 2022, at 9:30am via Zoom.
- Evangelism is still seeking members for the Evangelism Team, as well as new volunteers to serve as hospitality greeters, especially at the 11:00am service
- Fellowship Ministry plans include several upcoming events in May/June:
  - Sunday May 22nd WOW (Wonderful Outdoor Worship) service will begin at the picnic shelter and continue the

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month throughout June, July and August.

- Sunday June 5th - Pentecost and Recognition of High School graduates.
- Sunday June 26th Garden Picnic coinciding with June WOW service.
- Building and Grounds had a busy March/April that included completion of phase 1 installation of outdoor parking lights (phase 2 is sidewalk lighting) and emergency sewer pump replacement. The Holy Grounds Workday is scheduled for May 7th (9:00-12:00). On the recommendation of Buildings and Grounds, Session approved the following:
  - Rental of two handicap accessible portable restroom units from May-Sept 2022 to be located adjacent to the pavilion picnic shelter area.
  - Proposal from Shallow Creek Electrical Services to remove/replace the garden control pump panel needed for the two newly installed pumps and verify that installation of an interior sewer alarm system can be incorporated with new control panel.
- Stewardship & Finance reported that the first quarter 2022 income was good and in line with expectations.
- Technology & Communication continues to create DVDs of weekly worship for four congregants, including an out-of-town member.
- Personnel and Administration is preparing to welcome Opequon's new Associate Pastor, Julia Hughes Burkley, arriving June 27, 2022.

Ann C.M. Smith, Clerk



### **MEN OF OPEQUON LEARN ABOUT FREDERICK COUNTY THIS MONTH**

The monthly MOO gathering will be held on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. This month, we'll welcome our own Jay Tibbs, Frederick County's Assistant County Administrator, who will share about our community, its

growth and development. You won't want to miss this timely theme and Jay, a very

engaging speaker, who we are very fortunate to have with us. We look forward to having a great group in attendance. We'll still gather at the Pleasant Valley Road Chick-fil-A at 6:00 pm and return to the Fellowship Hall of the church for our 7:00 pm gathering with Jay.



### **MOO SPONSORS ROYALS BASEBALL OUTING FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH**

The Men of Opequon invite women and men, girls and boys to the Winchester Royals game on Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at Bridgeforth Stadium in Jim Barnett Park. The cost for the evening is \$15 per person and will cover dinner (\$10 Royals concession food voucher) and admission. We have a reserved area for dinner, behind home plate. The picnic dinner begins at 6:00 pm. The first pitch is 7:00 pm. Contact Bill Bender with questions and to register at [benderwilliam61@gmail.com](mailto:benderwilliam61@gmail.com). This is the best buy in town! Take me out to the ballgame!



### **COME TO OUR ADULT CLASS AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

We will focus on "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR" and have a great time together!

**Register by June 12!**

VBS Dates: June 20-23

Class Time: 5:30-6:30 pm Monday night;  
6:30-7:30 pm Tuesday-Thursday nights  
Join us for dinner at 6:45 pm Monday night;  
5:45 pm Tuesday-Thursday nights

**See registration information in the Gathering Area, go to [www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org) and click the "All Generations" tab, or use this direct link <https://forms.gle/pStmKxE7gX3Q2Sei6>**



**“CIRCLES OF FAITH”  
SUMMER WORSHIP  
SERIES COMING IN JUNE**

Beginning on Sunday, June 12, worship this summer will focus on the theme “Circles of Faith,” based on Hebrews

12:1, “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.” It promises to be a very engaging, shared time as we celebrate our ever-widening circle of faith in our living God. We invite you to be present as much as you can with all you can to serve God and to share with one another.



**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS**

We will taking blood pressures on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>

**SLEEP BETTER**

The following is an article that was published by WhatHealth at <https://www.whathealth.com/awareness/event/bettersleepmonth.html>. May is Better Sleep Month. Refreshing sleep is of huge importance when staying healthy. Better Sleep Month is supported by the Better Sleep Council (BSC), which aims to raise awareness about the benefits of better sleep and how poor sleep can disrupt our lives. As with diet and exercise, sleep is crucial to our physical, emotional and mental health.

Inadequate sleep can lead to an increase in blood pressure and stress hormone production; the body can become stressed when it does not get enough sleep. The consequences of poor sleep include reduced concentration, mood swings, irritability, stress, and a weakened immune system. The release of stress hormones can also make it harder to sleep, perpetuating an unhealthy sleep cycle. In severe cases, poor sleep may be linked to serious problems including narcolepsy,

insomnia, restless leg syndrome and sleep apnea. Better Sleep Month helps to make more people aware of these problems; advice from a suitable health professional should be sought if any of these consequences are experienced.

**Psychological & Physical Factors Affect Sleep**

There are many physical and psychological factors which can cause poor sleep; stress is a common cause. Worries such as elder care, childcare, family conflicts, problems with personal relationships, financial concerns & other anxieties can all interrupt healthy sleep patterns. Physical factors which can affect sleep include pain, excess sweating, need to urinate, noise (including snoring by a bed partner) and light levels. Stress can elevate blood pressure; heart attack and stroke are well documented risks of high blood pressure.

Gender can also play a role in sleep disturbance. Michael Breus, Ph.D author of 'Beauty Sleep: Look Younger, Lose Weight, and Feel Great Through Better Sleep', believes that women are generally more sleep deprived than men.

Further factors which disrupt sleep include excitement, depression, anxiety, and caffeine intake close to bedtime; environmental factors include, room temperature, light levels, humidity, bedding and noise.

**Achieving Better Sleep Through Lifestyle Changes & Stress Reduction**

In many cases, better sleep can be achieved through changes to our lifestyle and the way we think about things. Counseling can help address any personal problems which are causing stress; relaxation techniques may be taught to counteract the effects of stress. There is recent evidence which suggests achieving better quality sleep may be more important than increasing the number of hours sleep. The National Sleep Council, which supports Better Sleep Month, have reported that people

who sleep between 6 and 7 hours a night actually live longer than those who sleep for 8 hours.

### Sleep Deprivation Has a Big Impact On Productivity

During 2008 Better Sleep Month, the BSC conducted a survey on sleep and productivity in the workplace. Their results showed that the main consequences of lack of sleep in the workplace include a huge decline in quality of work, judgment and concentration. It's estimated that poor sleep costs US businesses about \$150 billion through absenteeism and lost productivity.

### How Much Sleep Is Needed?

Many experts believe that between 7.5 and 8.5 hours of sleep a night is optimal. However, better sleep does not refer to just the length of time we sleep. Six hours of deep refreshing sleep is more beneficial than 8 hours of light interrupted sleep.

### Tips To Get Better Sleep:

- establish a consistent sleep schedule by sleeping at the same time each day of the week (including weekends).
- relax before sleeping. Prior to sleep, limit any stimulating activities such as exercise and work. Perform activities that you may find relaxing such as reading.
- create an optimal sleeping environment. Your place of sleep should be dark, ventilated and of an appropriate temperature. Black out blinds can help seal out light in area. If possible, remove any distractions such as computers and TVs from the room. Ensure your bedding is of adequate quality and there is enough space in the bed if you share the bed with a partner (or a pet!).
- a healthy lifestyle consisting of exercise and a healthy diet can contribute towards better sleep. Avoid alcohol,

nicotine and caffeine close to bedtime. Whilst alcohol may help some people to relax, it can disrupt sleep throughout the night.

**Matthew 11: 28** "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."



### SENIOR OUTREACH MINISTRY

Join us in spreading kindness to our neighbors who live in low-income housing on May 8 at 12:15pm. Let Rebekah Witt know if you'd like to participate or make a hot food item that we can provide. Donations welcome: Canned soup, paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap & sponges, canned vegetables, pudding cups, fruit cups, and 2-in-1 shampoo & conditioner.



### MICAH 6:8 FLINT WATER CRISIS DOCUMENTARY STUDY

The Micah 6:8 Faith Formation Class will be back in action on Thursday, May 5 at 7:00pm. We will be studying the Flint Water Crisis by watching a documentary produced by

Story Productions through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This study will be held each Thursday in May through Zoom and in person. Please contact Rebekah Witt if you are interested in participating!

### YOUNG ADULTS AGES 18-35

FEAST Group & Games-May 20 at 6:45pm



**YOUTH GROUP  
GRADES 6-12**  
**May 8**-Senior Outreach  
 Ministry 12:15pm  
**May 15**-Progressive  
 Dinner, 4:30pm-7:30pm  
**May 22**-Let's Make A  
 Meal, 10:45am-1:00pm



**A "GIFT" EVENT-  
SUNDAY, MAY 22,  
9:45AM IN THE  
FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
 GIFT stands for  
**"Generations in Faith  
Together"** and it truly is a

**FAITH** Formation  
 gift to have all ages and stages together during the Sunday morning educational hour (known as FAITH FORMATION) at 9:45am. This month we will enjoy a special story with a message for us all; **Babbit and Joan, a Rabbit and Phone.** Discover how everything changes the day the phones go on strike! Through this charming tale and interactive activities, we will see that new possibilities can open up when we allow ourselves some moments away from the phone screen. Special carrot treats provided: Sweet Carrot Bread and Carrot Shaped Sugar Cookies! Everyone is invited.



**OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS**  
 May is known as OLDER ADULT MONTH! We celebrate having 175+ older adults as part of the ministry of Opequon. You make a great difference. As May begins, the Older Adult Planning Team will meet on Monday, May 2, at 9:30am in the Bageant Room to plan

for Happy Days gatherings and other older adult events. This meeting is open to any older adult who would like to come. Later this month, the **Happy Days Event will be held on Wednesday, May 11 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.** Happy Days is a monthly older adult fellowship time with lunch and then a program.

**We celebrate retuning to our COVERED DISH LUNCH this month with Rotisserie Chicken being provided. Bring your favorite covered dish lunch item to share with others.** We will be kicking off an exciting "ACTIVE AGING" week with a sampling of some of the fun activities that will be provided for the following week. All things can be done at home, at your convenience, on your time schedule. There will be different daily challenges, jokes, activities & opportunities to win prizes and more. All older adults are invited to come and join in this fantastic fellowship time as we share together in the Fellowship Hall & kick-off to a great week in celebration of you.



**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 worked together on Random Acts of Kindness. GLOW will meet this month Tuesday, **May 10 at 6:00pm** in the Dell Room for "**A Recipe Swap**". Bring ONE of your most favorite recipes (all on one side of a page in black ink). We will enjoy a devotion, refreshments, some fun games, and the recipe sharing of our own most enjoyed items to eat. A healthy dose of laughter will be provided too. Give yourself the treat of an evening with the ladies. All women are invited.



**THE LATEST IN LOGOS**  
 Since our LOGOS year ended on March 30, the LOGOS Leadership Team has met to review all the evaluation feedback from children, youth

and adults that we received. We are setting goals for the new LOGOS year and discerning what we need to focus on in our planning. With our 25<sup>th</sup> year coming up, you can be sure that some tremendous things will happen as we celebrate that great milestone! We are beginning to think about our overall theme for LOGOS and will be putting some real dates on the calendar. Stay tuned for all the news and information.

**OBJECT LESSON FOR KIDS THIS MONTH**

This month's children's lesson is titled "QUESTIONS KIDS ASK".

It is a great lesson that focuses on some of the most interesting questions that children might want to ask God or about God.

The format of the lesson provides for quality family time as everyone shares in hearing the questions and answers that are part of it. The lesson may stir up even more questions that someone in the family may want to talk about. Discover that asking questions is a GOOD THING! Older preschool and Elementary-age children will receive this lesson in the mail. Look for it to arrive in your mailbox very soon. Enjoy!



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL-ONE OF OUR GREATEST SUMMER EVENTS!**



Children ages 4 years through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to Vacation Bible School, June 20-23; 5:00-7:30pm each evening. Dinner is included each night. The theme is "BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS" as

we learn the fascinating story of JOSHUA, one of God's great leaders. A special track especially designed for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders is available too. Invite a friend to come along.

**Registration is open this month and ends on June 12.** The registration form is available at the display in the Gathering Area as well as online. Follow the instructions below.

**Registration will not be available after June 12.**

**FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH REGISTRATION:**

Go to [opequonchurch.org](http://opequonchurch.org) and click the "All Generations" tab. Scroll down to the section about Children and click where it says, "Click here to register by June 12!" Or, you may click this direct link to the registration form...<https://forms.gle/HiuLmuqsAPyHHddm7>  
For Adults:

Go to [opequonchurch.org](http://opequonchurch.org) and click the "All Generations" tab. Scroll down to the section about Adult Small Groups and click where it says, "Register by June 12 by clicking this link." Or, you may click this direct link to the registration form...<https://forms.gle/pStmKxE7gX3Q2Sei6>



**4 – MID – ABLE – MUSIC**  
Come to the sanctuary at noon on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month for an hour of 4-Mid-Able-Music. The first 3

MID's are for the middle of the day, in the middle of the week, in the middle of the month. The 4<sup>th</sup> MID is the wondrous MIDI in our sanctuary organ. The ABLE means come and go as you are able to this very informal hour of MUSIC. **Begins this month on Wednesday, May 18.**

**CHURCH WORK DAY**

Please join us Saturday, May 7th at 9:00 AM weather permitting for a church ground work day. Please bring gloves, trowels, etc. We have already requested perfect sunny weather for a



morning of "playing in the dirt." We plan to pull weeds, edge flower beds, spread mulch and possibly do some plantings. Please bring a shovel and or garden rake if you can. Everyone is welcome to come help keep our church property beautiful. Please contact Carolyn Rutherford at 540-327-1553 or Mike Wygant at 540-327-4498 if you have any questions.



**CRAFTING WITH BECKY**

Join us for an in-person craft class to make a patriotic door wreath. The class will be held Friday, June 3, at 10 a.m. and registration is

required. The cost would be \$10. All supplies are provided for you to assemble the wreath. Proceeds from this craft will go to our Senior Outreach Ministry.

The class will be held in Fellowship Hall or the Picnic Shelter, weather permitting.

If you work and cannot attend on Friday, June 3, a Saturday class can be arranged. Crafters must register with payment by May 18. Please contact Becky Proctor for questions and registration, 540-868-8149 or [beckyproc@comcast.net](mailto:beckyproc@comcast.net).



**FELLOWSHIP SUMMER BOOK CLUB-**

The Fellowship Team is hosting a summer book club for Jun-July-Aug. You can sign up on the bulletin board just

outside of the sanctuary. Our first book selection is *The Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn. For our first meeting we will meet at our picnic shelter here at Opequon on Thursday June 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm. Light refreshments will be provided! Please join us for a time of conversation and fellowship as we explore our first book of the summer! Any questions please contact Shannon Brannon at [jsbrannon@comcast.net](mailto:jsbrannon@comcast.net) or 540-539-3269.

We are hoping those that sign up will help us pick the next selection for July!



**DO NOT FORGET TO APPLY FOR THE LOIS G. CHAMMINGS AND THE RACHEL BAYLISS SCHOLARSHIPS**

**RACHEL BAYLISS SCHOLARSHIP**

Attention graduating high school seniors and students pursuing college, technical school or further education: applications are now being accepted for the Rachel Bayliss Scholarship. The Google application link is

<https://forms.gle/fpnpPjv5UL14oZGY9>

**Applications are due Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.**



**GORE HOME FOR CHILDREN IN GORE ETHIOPIA**

For some years Opequon members have been major supporters of the

Gore Home for Children in Gore Ethiopia. The Home is an outreach of our partner, the Illubabor Bethel Synod, in the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, the largest Protestant church in Ethiopia. The Home supports about 50 children who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend school. The children range from the primary grades through high school, and some have completed high school and now attend technical schools or college. Many are orphans, some having lost both parents, some only one, but a widow is often not able to support a child in school in Ethiopia. A few live in areas without local secondary schools. The children live within dormitories in a protected compound in Gore, attend public schools, have health care, school supplies, clothing, tutoring assistance, and receive three meals a day. Housemothers and the staff supervise the students. Opequon members currently sponsor over 40% of the students

living in the Home, the remainder being sponsored by other churches and individuals in Shenandoah Presbytery. Each summer the director of the Home has a list of needy prospective students and replaces those who have completed their schooling. The capacity of the Home is approximately 60 students, so there is a need for additional sponsors. A full sponsorship for the 2022-2023 school year is \$1200. We try to collect this amount by early summer so that the funds may be sent to Ethiopia before the school year begins in September. Sponsors are given the name and pictures of their individual student and we are attempting to increase direct contact between sponsors and students. Partial sponsorships are welcomed, and we often pair up several sponsors to fully fund a student. Funds should be sent to OPC, clearly labeled for Friends of the Gore Home and may be sent as a single donation or in increments. Please contact Pastor David Witt or Bill Burslem ([wburslem331@comcast.net](mailto:wburslem331@comcast.net)) if you have questions or need additional information. Many thanks to our current faithful sponsors. We hope you will prayerfully consider helping a child in our partner church's area.



**"Snackin' & Chattin'"**  
 Wednesday, May 4  
 12:00-12:45 pm  
 Have a snack at home/in office  
 Talk & Pray with Others  
 via ZOOM

**DOBLER MEMORIAL SERVICE TRANSPORTATION**

The memorial and celebration of life service for Betty Dobler will be held on Saturday, May 21 at 11:00 am at the Woodrow Union Church in Paw Paw, WV. Opequon will provide transportation on our church bus for those who would like to attend. Heather Burton will be the driver. The bus will leave Opequon Church at 9:30 am and then make a stop at the front entrance of the Village at Orchard View (TVOR). To ride the bus, please reserve a seat in advance so we know how many to

expect; please call Linda Kessinger in the church office at 540-662-1843 or email her at [office@opequonchurch.org](mailto:office@opequonchurch.org).

~ Please ~  
**Save the Date**  
**July 10, 2022**



We're going to celebrate! July marks a quarter of a century that Pastor David and his family have been at Opequon! You won't want to miss all that's being planned in their honor to mark the 25 years they've shared their lives and faith with us as we serve God together! Stay tuned!

**LIFE GOES ON**

Life Goes On is a gathering of singles who have lost their spouses. We meet on the third Monday of the month. We have been meeting at various restaurants in the area. This month we will meet on May 16, but we will meet at the church in the Bageant Room. Please either bring lunch from home or get take-out and bring it with you. There will be a crock pot of soup, bread and iced tea available. Just bring whatever else you might want. We will gather at noon, just as usual. A topic for conversation will be where and how we will meet in the future. Gathering at the church makes sure we all can be heard. See you there.





**WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY**

To Ben, Kirsta, and Bo Weber and Mitchell Skowbo, the Family of Cheryl Weber, upon Cheryl's death on April 12, 2022. Cards may be sent to Ben and Kirsta Weber at 241 Gravenstein Court, Winchester, VA 22602.

To Dave, Dana, James, and AnnMarie Kelly, the Family of Howard Kelly, upon Howard's death on April 12, 2022. Cards may be sent to Dave and Dana Kelly at 161 Rose Hill Circle, Winchester, VA 22602.

*"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*

**THE FAIR TRADE EQUAL EXCHANGE** Coffee, Tea and Chocolate needs a table attendant for the fourth Sunday of the month. The table will be set up ahead of time. The attendant will not need to exchange money or make change. All supplies with instructions will be available. IT'S EASY PEASY, LEMON SQUEEZY! Call Marj at 540-327-2667 if interested.



**A Mother's Day hymn**  
Sing praise to our Creator God!  
Earth prospers from the way  
God "mothers" each new child into  
This world day after day.

God fabricates in motherhood  
A channel from above  
That longs to share with every child  
God's comfort, grace and love!

Sing praise to our Creator God,  
Who "mothers" us from birth!  
Providing what we truly need  
Throughout our lives on earth.



**COLORING PAGE**

Enlarge, print and color this image.



LOVED  
Beyond  
MEASURE



**Opequon Presbyterian Church**  
**Financial Summary for the period ended**  
**March 31, 2022**

	Annual Budget (2021)	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
<b>Income</b>					
410000 Offering Income	763,270	84,440	205,695	557,575	26.9%
420000 Other Income	700	52	154	546	22.0%
<b>Total 400000 Income</b>	<b>763,970</b>	<b>84,492</b>	<b>205,849</b>	<b>558,121</b>	<b>26.9%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
<b>500000 Personnel Costs</b>					
510000 Installed Pastors	189,664	11,121	34,190	155,474	18.0%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	125,975	10,874	31,155	94,820	24.7%
530000 Administrative Staff	129,220	10,119	30,449	98,771	23.6%
<b>Total 500000 Personnel Costs</b>	<b>444,859</b>	<b>32,114</b>	<b>95,795</b>	<b>349,064</b>	<b>21.5%</b>
<b>600000 Other Ministries</b>					
610000 Christian Education	13,500	932	2,217	11,283	16.4%
620000 Congregational Care	2,000	88	94	1,906	4.7%
630000 Evangelism	2,900	0	0	2,900	0.0%
640000 Fellowship	3,580	35	39	3,541	1.1%
650000 Mission	65,750	3,317	16,400	49,350	24.9%
660000 Worship	7,000	543	993	6,007	14.2%
<b>Total 600000 Other Ministries</b>	<b>94,730</b>	<b>4,915</b>	<b>19,744</b>	<b>74,986</b>	<b>20.8%</b>
<b>Total 700000 Church Administration</b>	<b>119,144</b>	<b>13,629</b>	<b>39,168</b>	<b>79,976</b>	<b>32.9%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>658,733</b>	<b>50,658</b>	<b>154,707</b>	<b>504,026</b>	<b>23.5%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income (Expense)</b>	<b>105,237</b>	<b>33,833</b>	<b>51,142</b>	<b>54,095</b>	<b>48.6%</b>
920000 Other Income	15,540	1,826	4,448	11,092	28.6%
930000 Other Expenses - includes \$20k mortgage prepay in JAN	117,717	9,378	49,752	67,965	42.3%
<b>Net Other Income (Expense)</b>	<b>(102,177)</b>	<b>(7,553)</b>	<b>(45,305)</b>	<b>(56,872)</b>	<b>44.3%</b>
<b>Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,060</b>	<b>\$26,281</b>	<b>\$5,837</b>	<b>(\$2,778)</b>	<b>190.8%</b>

	<u>3/31/22</u>
Cash	<u>\$183,877</u>
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance	<u>\$642,664</u>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Communion &amp; CCAP Offering</b> <b>Older Adult Sunday</b> <b>8:30 A</b> In Person Worship <b>9:45 A</b> Faith Formation <b>11:00 A</b> In-Person Worship & Livestream	<b>2</b> <b>9:30 A</b> Older Adult Ministry <b>6:00P</b> Windsong <b>7:00 P</b> VBS Team Meeting	<b>3</b> <b>10:00 A</b> Staff Meeting <b>6:30 P</b> Ministry Team Night	<b>4</b> <b>12 P</b> Snack & Chat <b>5:00 P</b> LOGOS Leadership Mtg. <b>6:30 P</b> Choir Practice <b>7:00 P</b> Discipleship Meeting	<b>5</b> <b>10:30 A</b> Tai Chi <b>6:30 P</b> Sherando Food Pantry <b>7:00 P</b> Micah 6:8 Flint Story <b>7:00 P</b> Vision Team Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <b>9:00 A</b> Church Grounds Work Day <b>9:00 A</b> Roots & Shoots Planting
<b>8</b> <b>Mothers Day</b> <b>8:30 A</b> In Person Worship <b>9:45 A</b> Faith Formation <b>11 A</b> In Person Worship & Live Stream Worship <b>12:15 P</b> Senior Outreach Ministry <b>1:30 P</b> Spring Arbor	<b>9</b> <b>6:00 P</b> Windsong <b>6:00 P</b> MOO	<b>10</b> <b>10:00 A</b> Tuesday Morning Mission <b>6:00 P</b> GLOW	<b>11</b> <b>12 Noon</b> Happy Days <b>6:30 P</b> Choir Practice	<b>12</b> <b>10:30 A</b> Tai Chi <b>7:00 P</b> Micah 6:8 Flint Study	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 Blood Pressure Checks</b> <b>8:30 A</b> In Person Worship <b>9:45 A</b> Faith Formation <b>11 A</b> In Person & Live Stream Worship <b>12:15 P</b> Safety Team Meeting <b>4:30 P</b> Youth Prog. Dinner	<b>16</b> <b>12 Noon</b> Life Goes On <b>6:00 P</b> Windsong	<b>17</b> <b>10:00 A</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 P</b> Session Meeting	<b>18</b> <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <b>12 Noon</b> Music <b>6:30 P</b> Choir Practice	<b>19</b> <b>10:30 A</b> Tai Chi <b>6:30 P</b> Sherando Food Pantry <b>7:00 P</b> Micah 6:8 Flint Story	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <b>11:00 A</b> Betty Dobler Service <b>4:00 P</b> Coy Memorial Service
<b>22</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>2:00 P</b> Recital <b>6:00 P</b> WOW-Wonderful Outdoor Worship	<b>23</b> <b>6:00 P</b> Windsong	<b>24</b> <b>5:30 P</b> Highland Food Pantry	<b>25</b> <b>6:30 P</b> Choir Practice	<b>26</b> <b>10:30 A WANC</b> <b>10:30 A</b> Tai Chi <b>7:00 P</b> Micah 6:8 Flint Study	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>8:30 A</b> In Person Worship <b>9:45 A</b> Faith Formation <b>11 A</b> In Person & Live Stream Worship	<b>30</b> Church Office Closed <b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>31</b>				



2022

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

NONPROFIT ORG  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 WINCHESTER VA  
 PERMIT 85

**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

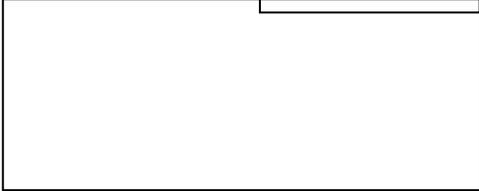
Faith Formation at 9:45 am

Office Hours are 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Monday thru

Thursday & 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Friday

David Witt..... 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  
 Linda Kessinger..... Office Administrator  
 Ken Smiy..... Financial Administrator  
 Robert Sydnor..... Sexton  
 Laurie Carver..... Nursery Supervisor  
 Patty Klinefelter, Bill Martin, Lori Henley,  
 Mike Nutry, Pat Williams..... Faith Community Nurses

Artwork courtesy of NewsletterNewsletter.com  
 subscription & pixabay.com



**Inside This Issue**

Calendar .....p. 15  
 Christian Education .....p. 5  
 Fellowship .....p. 5  
 Health Ministry .....p. 6  
 Just Thinkin' .....p. 3  
 Pastor's Notes .....p. 2  
 Worship.....p. 1



**JUNE WILL BE JUMPING @ OPEQUON!**

- ✓ Pentecost Sunday & Honoring Graduates – June 5
- ✓ Opequon @ Winchester Royals – Monday, June 6 (sponsored by MOO)
- ✓ Summer Worship @ 10:00 am begins Sunday, June 19
- ✓ Father's Day – Sunday, June 19
- ✓ Vacation Bible School – June 20-23
- ✓ "Picnic in the Garden" & WOW Service – June 26
- ✓ Julia Burkley Begins Her Ministry with Opequon – June 27