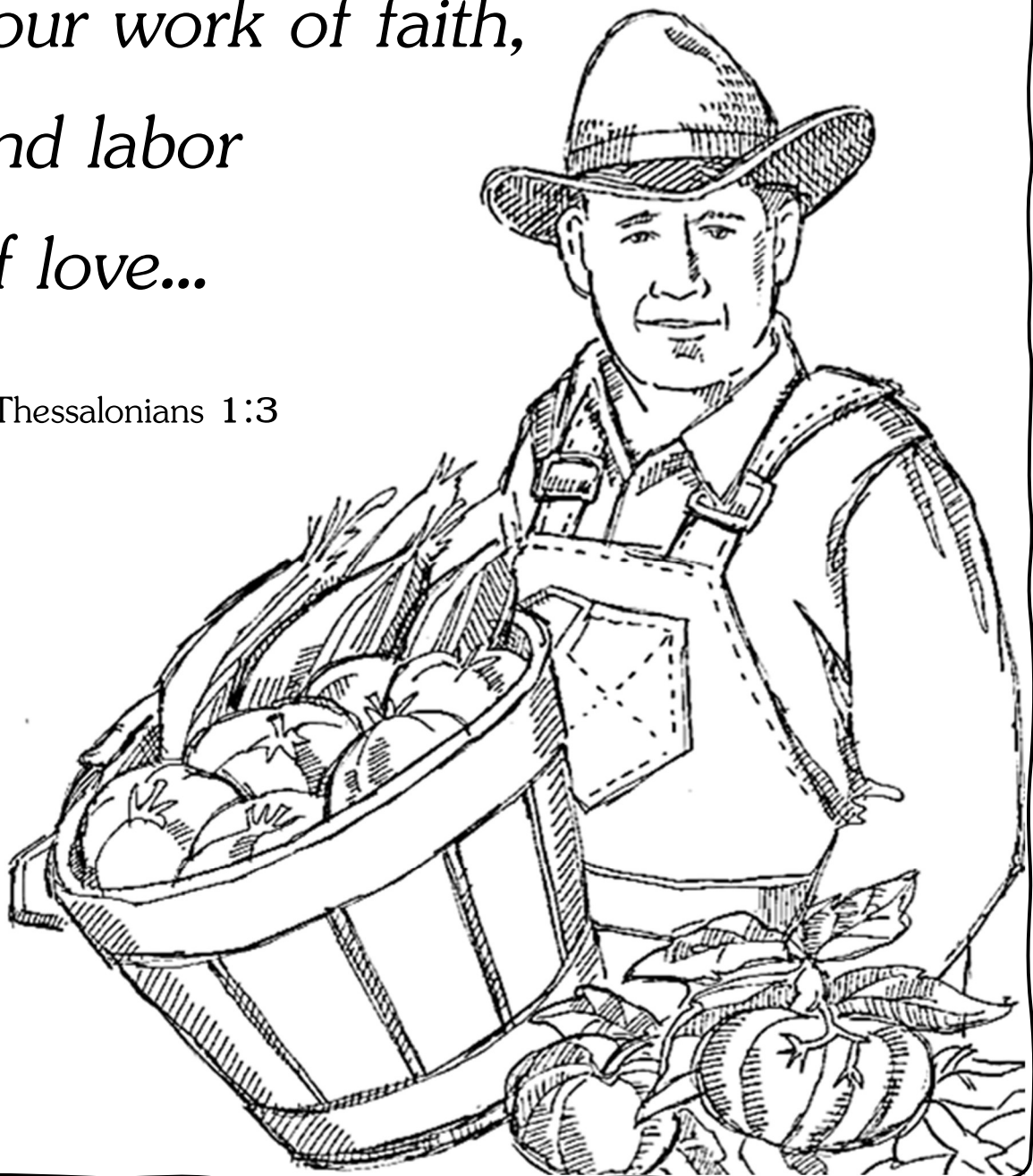


# OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 18, 2026 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

*Remembering  
without ceasing  
your work of faith,  
and labor  
of love...*

1 Thessalonians 1:3



# OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane  
Winchester, VA 22602

[www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org)

540-662-1843

[office@opequonchurch.org](mailto: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 &amp; 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

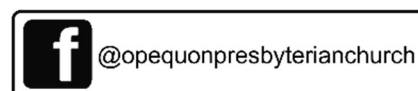
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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](http://www.opequonchurch.org/giving)  
or scan the QR code here:



Follow us on Facebook:



## A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost – Blood Pressure Checks*

- ☞ **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.....*Journey On*  
By: Stephen Flaherty

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTES FOR MISSION ..... WATTS  
Heather Burton

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG No. 401 (v. 1, 4) ..... *Gather Us In*

**Here in this place the new light is streaming;  
now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings  
brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken;  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away:  
here in this place the new light is shining;  
now is the kingdom and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever;  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

†CALL TO WORSHIP

In this place,  
**friends and strangers meet, the broken are mended,  
and the weary welcomed.**

In this moment,  
**the ordinary becomes miraculous, and life is on pause.**  
**This is God's time.**

In this sanctuary,  
**God's goodness is revealed. Our doors open with kindness.**  
**Our lives join together.**

†OPENING HYMN No. 12 ..... *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**  
**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:  
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**  
**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.**  
**In all life thou livest, the true life of all.**  
**We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**  
**Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.**  
**Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.**  
**All praise we would render; O help us to see**  
**'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

God has chosen us, but we frequently fail to choose God's will for our lives.  
Let us go before God, seeking forgiveness and peace, first in our unison  
prayer of confession, then in personal silence.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of justice and truth, you ask us to give to you the things that  
are yours. If we are honest, we know we hold so much back. We  
have promised you our obedience, but we often fulfill our own  
desires first. We have promised you our worship, but we give our  
attention to idols instead. We have promised to do your work in the  
world, but we put it last on the list of priorities. Have mercy on us  
and forgive us. Increase our generosity that we might give freely,  
grateful for all of the gifts you have given us.**

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

The good news remains true: God has chosen us, forgives us, and walks beside us, helping us become imitators of Christ. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Alleluia!

## LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 438 (v. 1-2)..... *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.**

**Let the water and the blood from thy wounded side which flowed  
be of sin the double cure, cleanse from guilt and make me pure.**

**Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands.**

**Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone. Thou must save, and thou alone.**

†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 ✠

ANTHEM.....*Sheltered in God's Hands*

By: Lloyd Larson

*I'm sheltered in God's hands, guided by his perfect holy plan; the hands that made the blind to see, the hands that set the captive free. I'm protected by His hands, that healed the lame at His command. And as I run life's race I'm anchored in God's grace, I'm sheltered in His hands. Lord, I surrender all I am and hope to be; I long to serve and follow You where'er You lead. Lord, take my life and guide me as I seek Your way. Though trials come, I'll serve You as I walk each day. I'm sheltered in God's hands, sheltered in God's hands, guided by His perfect holy plan; the hands that made the blind to see, the hands that set the captive free. I'm protected by His hands, I'm in His hands, the hands that healed the lame at His command. And as I run life's race I'm anchored in God's grace; I'm sheltered in His hands. He leadeth me, He leadeth me, by His own hand He leadeth me! His faithful foll'wer I would be, for by His hand He lead He leadeth me. I'm sheltered in God's hands, guided by His perfect holy plan; the hands that made the blind to see, the hands that set the captive free. I'm protected by His hands, I'm in His hands, the hands that healed the lame at His command. And as I run life's race I'm anchored in God's grace; I'm sheltered in His hands, sheltered in God's hands.*

## THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 33:12-23 .....Pew Bible p. 70

NEW TESTAMENT READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 .....Pew Bible p. 959

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "By Your Side"

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 644 ..... *Give Thanks, O Christian People*

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for workers of our day  
who heed the call to service and make it their life's way  
to go to feed the hungry, to tend to those in need,  
to work for equal justice, till all God's folk are freed.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for leaders of our years  
who live to share with others our joy when Christ appears,  
to teach the ones who seek light, to guide the faltering feet,  
to lead the followers forward our living Lord to meet.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for all who love the Lord,  
who live each day believing in God's eternal Word:  
to share Christ's love in living, to witness with each deed,  
to use the talents given to plant the gospel seed.**

**Give thanks, O Christian people, for life in fellowship  
with all who trust our Savior their serving to equip:  
to ease another's burdens, to cope in joy and stress,  
to magnify God's message and Christ's great love confess.**

SERMON..... "Life as the Example of Faith"  
Pastor David Witt

### ✧ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✧

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *He Leadeth Me*  
Arranged by: Heather Sorenson

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

**We trust you, Lord God, to multiply the blessings these gifts  
represent, as we pour out your love and grace on those who long to  
hear your word to them, to see your power at work within them, to  
feel your comfort beside them, through the generous gifts of your  
Spirit. Amen.**

†THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32–33)

**The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ  
has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves  
the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and  
women commits the church to work for every form of human well-  
being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human**

suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice. In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So, to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

## 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. 546..... *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;  
fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

**Thanks we give and adoration  
for your gospel's joyful sound;  
may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.**

**Savior, when your love shall call us,  
from our struggling pilgrim way,  
let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.**

POPPIN' INTROIT ..... *Popcorn* By: Paul Harris  
STEWARDSHIP POPS

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 748..... *Go with Us, Lord*  
**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way  
through this and every coming day,  
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.**

†POSTLUDE

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Kitty Hockman Nicholas and Robin Hockman Eddy in loving memory of Kitty Bonnett Hockman, a lady with Southern love and kindness for all.

## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Ben Barnes & Family  
Hanley Ervin Family  
Pope Leo XIV  
Cindy Sousa  
Cheryl DeCeault  
Sara Frey  
Katie Happel  
Dale & Marsha Barley  
Vickie Forrest & Family  
Family of David Jarvis  
Gwen Moyer  
Pat DeButts  
Will St. Pierre  
Michelle Peterson  
Carol Fries  
Joan Patton  
Clayton Carbaugh  
John Gavett  
Al Schollenberger  
James (Jim) Goulding  
Gary Rutherford  
Vern Gamble

Hazel Spriggs  
Chick Doroffee  
David Hofmann  
Nepal Disaster  
Harry Brooks  
Kathy Ludwig  
June Windle  
Rick Ours  
Judy Gaines  
Jessica Brogler  
Bill Gesell  
Lorin & Bill Goulart  
Kraig Hawkins  
Roger Callis  
Tim & Katherine Loftis  
Jim Keeler  
Marcia Jaureguizar  
Lyn Warren  
Linda Swiger  
Mike Shade  
Mo & Heide Mohler  
Marge & Tim Higgins

Susan Arthur  
Tammy Mowery Earhart  
Dan Cammer  
Middle East War  
Lori Jones & Stephen  
Armstrong  
Mike & Trish Crawford  
JoAnne Farrell  
Judy Camper  
David Lewis  
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☞

Caleb Smith, 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 Admiral Richard E. Byrd Middle School in Frederick County, VA

## SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

### TODAY – October 18

*Blood Pressure Checks*

|          |                                       |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 8:30 AM  | Worship – Sanctuary                   |
| 9:45 AM  | Faith Formation – Bageant Room & Zoom |
| 11:00 AM | Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream      |
| 12:30 PM | Retreat Planning Team – Bageant Room  |
| 5:00 PM  | Young Adult Bonfire                   |

### THIS WEEK

|            |          |                                             |
|------------|----------|---------------------------------------------|
| Monday:    | 12:00 PM | Life Goes On – Fellowship Hall              |
|            | 5:30 PM  | Windsong Rehearsal – Memorial Sanctuary     |
| Tuesday:   | 1:00 PM  | Disciple Faith Formation – Bageant Room     |
|            | 6:00 PM  | Windsong Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall        |
|            | 6:30 PM  | Session Meeting – Bageant Room              |
| Wednesday: | 9:30 AM  | Staff Meeting – Bageant Room                |
|            | 4:30 PM  | Logos (Theme: Under the Sea Night)          |
|            | 6:15 PM  | Confirmation Class – Bageant Room           |
|            | 7:15 PM  | Choir Practice – Sanctuary                  |
| Thursday:  | 10:30 AM | WANC Lunch – Fellowship Hall                |
|            | 10:30 AM | Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary/Picnic Shelter |
|            | 6:00 PM  | Fellowship Book Club – Bageant Room         |

### NEXT SUNDAY – October 25

*Reformation Sunday; Volunteer Appreciation Sunday; 4 Cents A Meal  
Scriptures: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Matthew 22:34-46 Sermon: "Got Love?"*

|          |                                             |
|----------|---------------------------------------------|
| 8:30 AM  | Worship – Sanctuary                         |
| 9:45 AM  | GIFT Event – Memorial Sanctuary             |
| 11:00 AM | Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream            |
| 12:15 PM | Chili Cook-Off – Fellowship Hall            |
| 1:30 PM  | Scouting "Duty to God" – Memorial Sanctuary |

## CHURCH RETREAT PLANNING TEAM

The Church Retreat Planning Team will be meeting **TODAY** at **12:30 PM** in the Memorial Sanctuary. We are grateful for the 13 members of this team who are working to plan for the ALL-CHURCH RETREAT to be held March 12-14, 2027, with the theme "A Time For Everything". We will look forward to sharing all the exciting plans with the congregation as we invite everyone to participate in this great event.

## LIFE GOES ON

We will gather **tomorrow** at **noon** in Fellowship Hall and the main course will be some sort of soup or chili. Debbie Bender will join us to discuss mobility and movement – especially falling. Please bring a dish to pass or to chip in a buck or two towards expenses.

## **THANKSGIVING BANANA BOXES ARE HERE!**

Help us fill banana boxes with donations of Thanksgiving food for families in need. Each box contains a list of items needed and should be returned by **November 15**.

## **TABLES & TREATS – Wednesday, October 28 (5:00 – 5:45 PM)**

All are invited to come in costume and enjoy going table-to-table, play some games, and collect treats! We are also looking for a few more people to decorate a table with a fun theme, provide a simple activity, and hand out "treats" to the children. Contact Susan Homan (shoman@opequonchurch.org) or Wendy Wygant (wygant766@yahoo.com) to help make "Tables & Treats" the sweetest night of fall!

## **HELP NEEDED FOR THE OCTOBER 25 CHILI COOK-OFF!**

We still need 8 pots of chili, 2 pans of cornbread, and 3 judges for the Chili Cook-Off! Sign-up today in the Gathering Area or call Marj Praml (540-327-2667) right away!

## **"GOD'S DREAM" – GIFT EVENT NEXT SUNDAY (9:45 AM)**

GIFT Events are intergenerational experiences that are held between the two morning worship services on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month. They are joyful, interactive, and very relaxed. Each GIFT event has its' own theme and no two GIFT events are alike. Come try it out next **Sunday at 9:45 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. There is a place at the table waiting for YOU. The theme is 'God's Dream'. This inspirational story will delight you along with the fun activities at your table and some delicious Apple Crisp, Muffins, and Applesauce. Your presence is a GIFT!

## **4<sup>TH</sup> FRIDAY OF THE MONTH FEAST GROUP**

On **October 30**, we will meet at **12:00 Noon** at Glory Days on Featherbed Lane, Winchester. Please contact Marj Praml (540-327-2667) if you would like to come.

## **PREPARING FOR ADVENT!**

You probably don't want to think about Advent yet. Of course, we haven't even had Thanksgiving! However, in preparation for Advent, we need to begin some things now. For 23 years now, we will again produce and author our own Advent Devotional. We cannot do it without YOU. We need writers! The theme of our Advent Devotional is "ADVENT INSPIRATIONS". Would you be willing to share your thoughts on meaningful Advent memories, traditions, seasonal wisdom or encouragement? Your reflections will help make our annual Advent Devotional a treasured possession. You are invited to be a writer and contribute to this year's Advent Devotional. Let Carole Witt know you are willing to write something. (dce@opequonchurch.org) All submissions are due to Carole by **November 15**.

## **ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN**

We are so grateful to share that our garden has donated over 600 pounds of fresh produce to local food pantries this season! Thank you to everyone who has helped make this possible. Interested in volunteering? We'd love to have you join us! To learn more, contact Sheyenne Ervin (sheyenneervin@gmail.com).

## WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

### 8:30 AM Worship

**Liturgist:** Rebekah DesMarias

**Beadle:** Carroll Youngblood

**Door Greeters:** Pam Olsen, Gretchen  
Rusch, Dave Rusch

**Ushers:** Terry Hartman, Shannon Brannon,  
Kathy Hoffman, Conner Link, Henry Link

**Acolyte:** Conner Link

**Building Stewards:** Betty Chicklo,  
June Malone

### 11:00 AM Worship

**Liturgist:** Kyle Homan

**Beadle:** Judy Moody

**Door Greeters:** Tiny Sizemore,  
Bonnie Pitzer

**Ushers:** Andy Homan, Joel Witt, Kevin  
Reed, Max Riley, Olive Wakeman,  
Rhodes Wakeman

**Acolyte:** Max Riley

**Livestream:** Susan Ritter, John White

## WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

### Notes on Today's Music

✂ How did the music today direct us to our God who holds on to us, who calls us, and who leads us?

### 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

✂ When has someone recently been by your side to help you? How did it make you feel?

✂ How is God by your side?

### Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

✂ When was the last time you received or wrote a thank you note? To whom/from whom? How did it make you feel?

✂ What specific verbal "thank you" recently brightened or lifted your day?

✂ What was the apostle Paul's thank you to the Thessalonians?

✂ What does it mean to be an "imitator of Christ?" Who has influenced your life by the way that person "imitates" Christ, and how?

✂ What needs to happen within you to help you become an imitator of Christ?

✂ How do you show the world how to live?

Songs reprinted / streamed with permission obtained from CCLI with Church Copyright License® #1622560 and CCLI Streaming Plus License™ #CSPL142660: "Go with Us, Lord" Mary Jackson Cathey, Thomas Tallis. Words: © 1990 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Music: Public Domain. | "He Leadeth Me" William B. Bradbury; arr. Heather Sorenson © 2019 Lorenz Corporation (admin. by Music Services). All rights reserved. | "Popcorn" Paul Harris © 1988 Faber Music, Ltd. All rights reserved.

Songs reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #742171: "Here in This Place" (Gather Us In) Text & Music: Marty Haugen; © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. | "Give Thanks, O Christian People" Mary Jackson Cathey © 1981, 1986 admin. The Pilgrim Press. All rights reserved. | "Sheltered In God's Hands" Lloyd Larson © 2026 CandelaWorks Music (ASCAP), a division of Jubilate Music Group, LLC. All rights reserved.

All other music for this service is found in the public domain.

A banner image with a red background and a blue border. On the left, there is a yellow cloud shape with a blue outline containing the text "Sharing Good News" in red. On the right, the text "The 2027 Stewardship Campaign" is written in white. In the center, there is a pile of white popcorn.

## Sharing Good News

## The 2027 Stewardship Campaign

Regular popcorn is usually savory, with butter, cheese, or salt as the main flavors. Kettle corn, by contrast, is sweet-first with a salty balance, making it more like a candy-popcorn hybrid. "Sharing the Good News" is a lot like making kettle corn. You find yourself within a mixture of people. Once they realize that you are an active Christian, they begin looking at you a bit differently... some with approval, some with questions, some with concern that you might start proselytizing or "getting weird."

Active evangelism is not for everyone, but when sharing faith is done well, it can build strong relationships. Kettle corn is like the Christian sharing the Good News because it's a tangible, communal, and joyful way to invite others into a life-transforming relationship with God and each other.

### HOW TO MAKE KETTLE CORN

#### *Ingredients:*

- ▶ **½ cup popcorn kernels**
- ▶ **¼ cup white sugar**
- ▶ **¼ cup vegetable oil**
- ▶ **¼ teaspoon salt** (or seasoning salt)

#### *Directions:*

1. Place the oil in the pot.
2. Add 2 or 3 of the popcorn kernels and heat on medium until they pop.
3. Add the popcorn kernels, salt, and sugar.
4. Begin popping the popcorn – constantly shaking the pot like crazy to avoid burning the sugar.
5. Remove the pot from the heat when the popping has slowed.
  - ♦ *Do not wait until the popping stops or things will burn.*