

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 28, 2025

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM



INVESTMENT GOES BOTH WAYS

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

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

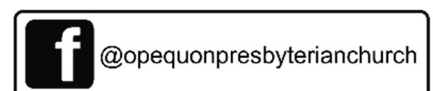
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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 toddlers to age four.
- **Worship Bags are available for children ages 3 – kindergarten.** These bags are in the back of the Sanctuary. Please return the bag and supplies to the basket when you are leaving.
- **Restrooms and a coat rack** are located off the Gathering Area, just outside the Sanctuary.
- **Large-print hymnals, Bibles and bulletins** are available from an usher.
- **Personal hearing assistance devices** are available from an usher if you would like to use one.
- **Transportation can be provided to worship.** Call the church office before 12:00 PM on Friday.

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



Follow us on Facebook:



A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost – 4 Cents a Meal; Stewardship Emphasis Begins

- ☞ **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

Karen Snyder

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT
THE CHURCH BELL RINGS
GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

†GATHERING SONG No. 413 *Come into God's Presence*
Come into God's presence singing,
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."
Come into God's presence singing,
"Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lord."
Praise the Lord together singing,
"Worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb, worthy the Lamb."
Praise the Lord together singing,
"Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God."

†CALL TO WORSHIP

The church today has too many rules and too many people who are just hypocritical. I want to follow Jesus, though it would take too long and be too hard –

But God, what a chance!

My friends don't understand why I give my money to my church. I want to stand up for what I believe in, and yet it would take too long, and be too hard –

But God, what an opportunity!

I want to be true to my commitment when I joined the church. I want to help people who are less fortunate and visit shut-ins; sadly, it would take too long and be too hard –

But God, what possibilities!

I want to be sincere in my prayer life, setting aside time for study and private meditation. That is just not practical today. A time for quiet with all I have to do? Really? It would take too long and be pretty much impossible –

But God, what a prospect! As we gather for worship, let us open our hearts to the possible. O God, what a chance!

†OPENING HYMN No. 714 *God of the Fertile Fields*

**God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land, be clothed and fed.**

**We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you all that you give;
help us in love to share, teach us like you to care
for people everywhere, that all may live.**

**As grows the hidden seed,
to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows.
Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused your love bestows.**

**God of the countryside,
dear to the Christ who died to make us one:
we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We come to worship to remember and to acknowledge Jesus the Lord and Sovereign of our lives. We come to worship to renew our affirmation and commitment, always willing to listen and to pay attention to those whose needs are great. In our moments of honest reflection, we realize how often we fall short of our goal. In that knowledge, let us confess our shortcomings to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that far too often we do not want a savior who makes demands. We would prefer Jesus to be subject to us, rather than the other way around. We are not keen for a redeemer who has any claims on our time, talent, or treasure. We have our own plans and agendas, after all. We are happy for Jesus to rubberstamp them for us, but a savior to whom we owe allegiance and obedience? Not just now. Forgive our foolishness, O God! Forgive our arrogance and self-centeredness. We know that everything we have and everything we are is a gift from you, but we are forgetful, rebellious and stubborn. Thank you for not giving up on us. We ask for forgiveness and restoration, not because of anything we have or have not done, but only for the sake of Christ our Lord.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Through the crucified body and blood of Jesus, we have been given a pardon from God. "For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14). Let us then approach this gift of grace with confidence, humility, and joy in serving. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 647 *Give Thanks*

***Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.** [* repeat]

***And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!"** [* repeat]

Give thanks. Give thanks.

†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..... *You Are My All In All / Fairest Lord Jesus*

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Jeremiah 32:1-3, 6-15Pew Bible p. 643

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 16:19-31Pew Bible p. 851

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "The Eagle and the Wren"
Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 753 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.

**Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.

**Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**

**O, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love, with all my soul.**

Make me a channel of your peace.

**It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

SERMON..... "Investments"
Pastor Tracie Martin

☞ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ☞

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN No. 488 *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

"I was there to hear your borne cry; I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child

with a faith to suit you well;

in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."

**"When you heard the wonder of the Word,
 I was there to cheer you on.
 You were raised to praise the living Lord
 to whom you now belong.
 If you find someone to share your time
 and you join your hearts as one,
 I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."**

**"In the middle ages of your life,
 not too old, no longer young,
 I'll be there to guide you through the night,
 complete what I've begun.
 When the evening gently closes in
 and you shut your weary eyes,
 I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise."**

**"I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.
 I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."**

†THE DOXOLOGY (Hymnal No. 606) & PRAYER OF DEDICATION
**Accept these gifts we offer, gracious God. We dedicate this offering
 and ourselves to you, the giver of all good gifts, and pray that we
 would be a scattering of seeds in good and fertile soil. Use both the
 work of our minds and hand, as well as the giving of our resources,
 so that the gospel may bloom and its roots grow deep, both in this
 place, and throughout the world, through Christ our Lord. Amen**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (8:30 AM) Lorenzo Alexander Agbayani

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. 69 *Here I Am, Lord*
 I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
 All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
 Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? [refrain]**

[refrain] **Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?** [refrain]

**I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?** [refrain]

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 69 (refrain) *Here I Am, Lord*
**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

†POSTLUDE

WELCOME THROUGH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

We welcome Lorenzo Alexander Agbayani into the baptized membership of Opequon Church this morning. Enzo is the son of Rebecca and Max Agbayani. May he be blessed by the grace and steadfast love of God and may we, as his church family, remember and uphold the promises of nurture and care we have made to him and his family.

In Remembrance:

*Curt Budny
November 25, 1941
—
September 20, 2025*

*Ray Ferguson
February 24, 1933
—
September 24, 2025*

"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 11:26-26

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Nancy Lloyd in loving memory of Louis and Eleanor Martino and William and Lenora Lloyd.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Scarlett Kibler	Marcia & Mike	Lori Jones & Stephen
Ray Ferguson Family	Jaureguizar	Armstrong
Nancy Budny & Family	Rose Marie Denmead	Ken Johansen
Joyce Allen	Eric Denmead	Charlotte Rosamilia
Judy Smith	David DesMarias	Israel/Iran Conflict
Mischell Longfellow	Aaron Snyder	Jeff Erhardt
Candi Gardner	Krista Bowen	Clay Knick
George Schwantes	Everett Myers	Susan Arthur
Alyce Callahan	Gaza Famine	Karen Lemons
Al & May Schollenberger	Brenda Steffens	Bill Gesell
Homan Family	Ellie Cammer Family	Suellen Knowles
Rick Ours	Cathy Jones	Susan Kelican
Paula & Mac McNichols	Sparky Gomez	All Struggling with
Bill Howard	Judy Gaines	Mental Illness
Braxton McKee	Megan Tschappat	June & Nathan Windle
Mike Crawford	Diane Mulholland Chesi	Bereaved Israelites &
Sylvia Morgan	Ray Chesi	Palestinians
Mark Everly	Tom Mulholland	Tim Loftis
Jane Holsinger	Pastor Kristin Whitesides	Mike Shade
Art Friedrichsen	Lauren Spears	Jewish & Muslim Victims
Travis Carr	Abi Callahan	Worldwide
Laura Boynton	Bill & Sandy Sardelis	Cindy Correll
David Lewis	Danny Lingo	Douglas Dicks
Amanda Flaugh	Judy Orndorff	Nancy Kerns
Cindy Millard	Katie Happel	Kennedy Ransom
Violence in America	Dave Johnson	Ukraine
Bill Robinson	Lyn Warren	Ethiopia Church Mekane
Sara Frey		Yesus

✠PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES✠

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, Brandon Michael, Michael White,
Ben Jensen, Gavin Eanes, Eli Keaton

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – September 28

4 Cents a Meal; Stewardship Emphasis Begins

8:30 AM	Worship & Baptism – Sanctuary & Livestream
9:45 AM	GIFT Event – Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
3:00 PM	"Talk Saves Lives" Presentation – Fellowship Hall

THIS WEEK

Monday:	11:00 AM	Ray Fergusen's Memorial Service – Memorial Sanctuary
	6:00 PM	Windsong – Sanctuary
Wednesday:	8:30 AM	Backpack Program – Bageant Room
	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting – Bageant Room
	4:30 PM	LOGOS (Theme: Bring Your Family Night)
	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Thursday:	10:30 AM	Tai Chi – Picnic Shelter / Memorial Sanctuary
	6:30 PM	Sherando Food Pantry
	6:45 PM	Micah 6:8 Faith Formation – Bageant Room

NEXT SUNDAY – October 5

World Communion Sunday; Bread Basket Buffet; Peacemaking & Global Witness Offering
Scriptures: Psalm 137; Luke 17:5-10 Sermon: "Showing Greater Faith"

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
9:30 AM	Bread Basket Buffet – Gathering Area
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Bageant Room
9:45 AM	Opie's Playhouse – Playground / Memorial Sanctuary
10:45 AM	Called Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary

GIFT EVENT – TODAY at 9:45 AM (Fellowship Hall)

GIFT means "Generations in Faith Together" as all ages come together one Sunday a month for a themed intergenerational experience. The theme this morning is **"Let's Wonder – Be Curious."** We all have questions to ask. We all have questions to answer. Being CURIOUS and WONDERING can be fascinating. Did you know that the Bible records over 300 questions of Jesus?! No worries, we can't answer all those at one time, but we can wonder and be curious ourselves. Come enjoy some refreshments and thought-provoking conversation along with lots of laughter woven throughout. Your day is bound to be enriched by your time at GIFT. Everyone is invited!

"TALK SAVES LIVES" PRESENTATION

Join us in the Fellowship Hall **today** at **3:00 PM** for a presentation of AFSP's signature program to learn about some practical steps to help save lives. Together, we can make a difference in keeping ourselves and our community safe.

BREAD BASKET BUFFET – NEXT SUNDAY

The Christian Education Team is hosting the annual Bread Basket Buffet in conjunction with World Communion Sunday. A variety of breads and spreads will be available in the Gathering Area **beginning at 9:30 AM next Sunday**. Come taste and see that the Lord is good.

SCHEDULE NOTE FOR THIS WEEK

September 30: David Witt – Continuing Education (out of the office)

OFFERING ENVELOPE MYSTERY

Would the person who is currently using **Offering Envelope #65** please contact our Treasurer, Ron Smith (703-216-9588 or ronaldsmith1@gmail.com)? Thank You!

CALLED MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Session of Opequon Presbyterian Church calls for a meeting of the congregation on **Sunday, October 5**, at **10:45 AM** for the purpose of hearing the report of the Nominating Committee and proceeding to elect new officers: four ruling elders; four deacons; and one trustee. The Church Nominating Committee will be nominating the following people who have been called to serve:

Class of 2028 – Ruling Elders on Session

Robin Cooke, V. Douglas Joyner, Bill Thomasson*, Jennie Wright*

Class of 2028 – Deacons

Heather Burton*, Trish Crawford*, Kathy Hoffman*, Paula Marquis

Class of 2028 – Trustee

Bill Bayliss*

(* = Second Term)

Nominations may also be made from the floor with the prior consent of the person nominated. Please join us for this opportunity of electing leadership as you exercise your privilege and responsibility as members of Opequon Church.

"OUT OF THE DARKNESS" STEPHENS CITY COMMUNITY WALK

This annual walk for suicide prevention will be on **Saturday, October 11**. Detailed flyers are in the Gathering Area. Register **today** to walk with OPC's team or donate online (<https://afsp.org/stephenscity>) or contact Mike Nutry (gernurse@aol.com).

INTEREST MEETING: Medical Mission Trip

Have you ever thought about going on a Medical Mission Trip? Come to the Fellowship Hall on **October 12** at **9:45 AM** for an interest meeting and learn how you can serve with the Medical Ministry International in the Dominican Republic!

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ben Brooks

Beadle: Betty Chicklo

Door Greeters: June Malone, Joan & Grant Patton

Ushers: Betty Chicklo, June Malone, Alyce Callahan,
Bailey Rockwell, Camden Saunders

Acolyte: Bailey Rockwell

Livestream: Susan Ritter, Brad Jordan

Building Stewards: Betty Chicklo, June Malone

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Pauline Cruz

Beadle: Shirley Tomblin

Door Greeters: Bonnie
Pitzer, Kathi Lehnhard

Ushers: Annemarie Matthews,
Dennis Boyd, Dakota Davis,
Hudson Homan, Cam Riley

Acolyte: Dakota Davis

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

- ✂ How did today's music witness to the strength and power of God made known through the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives?
- ✂ Was there a phrase that you will remember throughout the week?

Notes on Today's Prayers

- ✂ Who would you want us to pray for? Do you pray for them often?
- ✂ What would your prayers be for them?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

- ✂ Who helps you when you want to do something important?
- ✂ Who can you help?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

- ✂ Do you have investments? Of money? In people? In a group or church or club? What sort of investments might they be?
- ✂ What do you invest in your family? Who invests in you?

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