

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 16, 2026



Time to Bloom!

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

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

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

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

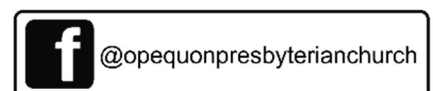
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

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

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



Follow us on Facebook:



A 10:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost – Hymn Sing; 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.

☞ SUMMER HYMN SING ☞

The results are in! We joyfully begin our Summer Hymn Sing with our #10 most voted for hymn from the *Glory to God* hymnal and countdown to our #1 most favorite hymn of 2026.



☞ WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ☞

PRELUDE.....OPC's #1 Favorite "Glory to God" Hymn of 2026

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG No. 353 (v. 1, refrain, 2)..... *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

**My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.**

[refrain] **On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.**

**When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil** [refrain]

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship God our Creator!

Who desires everyone to discover a relationship of love.

Come, let us praise the one mediator between God and humankind!

Jesus Christ, who sympathetically intercedes for us in so many ways.

†OPENING HYMN No. 321 (v. 1, 2, 5) *The Church's One Foundation*

**The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
She is his new creation by water and the word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

So often when we speak of sins, we think of things that are morally reprehensible or socially unacceptable. If we think of sin as anything keeping us from living openly with God and others, anything preventing us from being the creature God intended, we realize that much of our sin is legal or socially acceptable. Let us confess those sins before God and before each other.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, touch and easily understand. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy, you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in things which seem so hard to understand. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our questions when it seems hard to trust Your Son. Continue to surprise us and to offer us opportunities to know you in many ways, through Christ our Lord.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, our God has poured out grace upon grace, freely, in great abundance, even on you, even on me, although we never earned it and don't deserve it. In Christ we are made new; all your sins and mine crumble away. In Christ we are forgiven, lavished with gift upon gift, and released into hope to live for praise and for glory.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 634 (v. 1, refrain) *To God Be the Glory*

To God be the glory; great things he has done!

**So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

[refrain] **Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory: great things he has done!**

†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 ✠

SPECIAL MUSIC *Pray for the People*

By: Pepper Choplin
Jennie Wright

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 67 Pew Bible p. 460

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 15:21-28 Pew Bible p. 797

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES "Getting Cranky"

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 188 (v. 1, refrain) *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.**

[refrain] **Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

SERMON..... "Dogs"
Pastor Tracie Martin

✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✠

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *This Little Light of Mine*
By: Howard Helvey

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

**Generous God, here are our gifts of time; here are our gifts of
talents; here are our gifts of treasure; building stones for your
kingdom, awaiting shaping and placing within your loving purpose,
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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. 343..... *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

**Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.**

**In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds fraught with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.**

**From tender childhood's helplessness,
from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
your heart has never known recoil.**

**The cup of water given for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the sweet compassion of your face.**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE *I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

African-American Spiritual

I'm gonna live so *(live so)*

God can use me, anywhere, Lord, any time!

I'm gonna live so *(live so)*

God can use me, anywhere, Lord, any time! *(anytime)*

I'm gonna sing so *(sing so)*

God can use me, anywhere, Lord, any time!

I'm gonna sing so *(sing so)*

God can use me, anywhere, Lord, any time! *(anytime)*

†POSTLUDE

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Jeanne and George Schember in celebration and honor of their 61st wedding anniversary.

OPEQUON'S GENERATIONS SUNDAY



***Celebrating Our Roots...
And Our Branches!***

**Next Sunday,
August 23, 2026**

10:00 AM

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

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sandy Widell
 Mike & Sara
 Birchenough & Family
 Robin Owens
 Bill Gesell
 Susan Youngblood
 Callie Veach
 Kraig Hawkins
 Roger Callis
 Cheryl & Bob
 Lincoln & Family
 Cora Helen Anderson
 Nancy Budny & Family
 Dale Barley
 Mike Pyles
 Todd Young
 Tyler McDonald
 Ben Costello
 Marlie Racca
 Gary & Carolyn
 Rutherford
 Tim & Katherine Loftis
 June Windle
 Tony Bennett
 Jim Keeler
 Hazel Spriggs
 Jennifer Riggelman
 Katie Happel
 Don Black

Marcia Jaureguizar
 Mark McKee
 Chick Doroffee
 Lorin & Bill Goulart
 Darcus Breneman
 Lyn Warren
 Carol Schempp
 Venezuela
 Don Ratcliff
 Darlene Kent
 Ben Weber
 Linda Swiger
 Kimberley Meyers
 Bud & Becky Proctor
 Xavier
 Rich Reifsnyder
 Annemarie Matthews
 Mike Shade
 Karen Lemons & Family
 Bonnie Triplett
 Vern Gamble
 Al Schollenberger
 Cheri Norris
 Betty Ganoe
 Mo & Heide Mohler
 Marge & Tim Higgins
 Susan Arthur
 Tammy Mowery Earhart
 Dan Cammer

Middle East War
 Roger Murphy
 George & Carole
 Schwantes
 Rick Ours
 Jolissa Matthews
 Riley Fitzgerald
 Lori Jones & Stephen
 Armstrong
 Mike & Trish Crawford
 Judy Gaines
 Lynne Rosamilia
 JoAnne Farrell
 Judy Camper
 David Lewis
 David DesMarias
 Megan Tschappat
 Charlotte Rosamilia
 All Struggling with
 Mental Illness
 Nancy Kerns
 Jewish & Muslim Victims
 Worldwide
 Cindy Corell
 Katie Wolf
 Ukraine
 Ethiopia Church Mekane
 Jesus

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

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

❧ **SCHOOL OF THE WEEK** ❧

Today and this week, we will pray for James Wood High School in Frederick County.

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – August 16

Blood Pressure Checks

9:30 AM	Hymn Sing – Sanctuary & Livestream
10:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
11:15 AM	Fellowship Time – Gathering Area
4:00 PM	Newcomers' Social – Picnic Shelter

THIS WEEK

Monday:	5:30 PM	Windsong – Sanctuary
	6:00 PM	Safety Team – Bageant Room
Tuesday:	6:30 PM	Session Meeting – Bageant Room
Wednesday:	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting – Bageant Room
	12:00 PM	Happy Days – Fellowship Hall
	6:00 PM	Choir Practice – Sanctuary
Thursday:	10:30 AM	Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary/Picnic Shelter
	6:30 PM	Sherando Food Pantry
Friday:	6:30 PM	Young Adult Frisbee Golf & Ice Cream – Sherando Park

NEXT SUNDAY – August 23

Generations Sunday – Celebrating the Pillars of Opequon; 4 Cents A Meal

Scriptures: Genesis 17:1-8; Psalm 78:1-8; Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-3

Sermon: "Roots & Branches"

10:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
11:15 AM	Fellowship Time – Gathering Area, Dell Room, & Bageant Room
	Dedication of Memorial Sanctuary Enhancements
4:00 PM	Newcomers' Class – Memorial Sanctuary

NEWCOMERS' SOCIAL – Tonight

All those new to Opequon from 2025-2026 are invited to bring their families out to the Picnic Shelter at **4:00 PM** for a special time of refreshments and fellowship sponsored by OPC's Discipleship Team!

LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will not meet tomorrow due to schedule conflicts. Our next gathering will be on **September 21** at **noon** in Fellowship Hall.

HAPPY DAYS GATHERING

The older adult fellowship group that meets monthly known as Happy Days will meet this **Wednesday**, at **noon** in the Fellowship Hall. We begin with a covered dish lunch. Rotisserie Chicken and drinks are provided. You are invited to bring a pot luck dish to share. Our own Sarah Pelfrey is our guest speaker. She will share how we can move our bodies safely. All older adults are invited to come for this marvelous fellowship.

LOGOS REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

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

SANCTUARY CHOIR

It's time to start singing again! We're excited to get back together and make some beautiful music! **CHOIR REHEARSALS BEGIN AGAIN THIS WEDNESDAY AT 6:00 PM** – ALL ARE WELCOME! Come join the fun, catch up with friends, and get ready for another wonderful season of singing together. We've missed you! For more information, contact Susan Homan (shoman@opequonchurch.org).

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN

Another week of growing, giving, and community! This week, our garden donated 37.5 pounds of fresh produce to Highland Food Pantry! We're so grateful to be able to share the abundance from our garden with our community.

We're always looking for more helping hands! Whether you have a green thumb or are just willing to get your hands dirty, we'd love to have you volunteer with us. To get involved, email or text Sheyenne Ervin (sheyenneervin@gmail.com / 540-447-6063).

UNDIE SUNDAYS

Donations of new underwear, socks, and sports bras for Bright Futures to deliver to local K-12 students in need may be placed in the Gathering Area.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR GENERATIONS SUNDAY SET-UP

We need a few volunteers to set up the drinks and food (the tables will already be up and covered) for our Generations Sunday fellowship following worship next **Sunday, August 23**. If you are available and willing to assist, please reach out to the church office (office@opequonchurch.org or 540-662-1843). Remember: many hands make light work.

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. We will gather in the Memorial Sanctuary on **August 23** and **September 13** at **4:00 PM**. If you have questions, please contact Pastor David Witt (pastor@opequonchurch.org or 540-662-1843), who will be facilitating this time of sharing. To help us prepare the appropriate resources, please also let him know you would like to attend.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

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

ADULT TRIP TO VA SAFARI PARK

An adult trip to the VA Safari Park near Natural Bridge is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 16**, meeting at Opequon at **8:15 AM**. This is a drive through wilderness where we will see animals from the church bus windows. The cost is \$20 plus lunch. If you would like to go on this trip, please let Carole Witt know. A few spaces are still available. (dce@opequonchurch.org)

BACKPACK TAG TOKENS AVAILABLE

We share good wishes with all our young people and teachers who will be starting a new school year this month. Each year is a big and new beginning! May blessings surround all of you throughout the school year. Please take a Backpack tag/token from the basket on the Gathering Area table. Enjoy the backpack tag and treat.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

Liturgist: Pauline Cruz

Beadle: Bill Thomasson

Door Greeters: Pat Heavner, Sven Thulin

Building Stewards: Steve Burton, Heather Burton

Ushers: Shannon Brannon, Marsha Bennett, Kathy Hoffman, Tim Hoffman, Camden Saunders, Jaxson Hughes, Joshua Batcha

Acolyte: Camden Saunders

Livestream: Susan Ritter, Rebekah Witt

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

- ✂ How did today's music witness to your faith? Did it energize you?
- ✂ Are there hymns you miss singing?

Notes on Today's Prayers

- ✂ Do you ever rush through prayer just to get it done? When? Why? How does that work out for you?
- ✂ Did you have time to add your own personal prayers to the public ones?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

- ✂ What do you do when people around you get cranky?
- ✂ How do you know if your decisions are right?
- ✂ What if you are the cranky one?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

- ✂ Is it reasonable to assume that a fully human Jesus was always gentle and kind?
- ✂ Did he ever get tired? If he did, what would that say to your faith?