

The Opequon Spirit

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



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

February 2026

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

Sunday, February 1

† Micah 6:1-8;

Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: "Hiking the Mountains"

* Communion; CCAP

Sunday, February 8— Youth Families & Young Adults Sunday

† Isaiah 58:1-2;

Matthew 5:13-20

* Souper Bowl of Caring

1:30 PM Spring Arbor Worship

Sunday, February 15— Jazz Sunday

† Exodus 24:12-18;

Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon: "Listen to Him!"

* Jazz-style music!
Blood Pressure Checks

Wednesday, February 18 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service

† Joel 2:1-2, 12-17;

Psalms 51:1-17;

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Meditation: "Sitting Down with
Jesus"

* Ashes; Logos Worship
Groups; Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, February 22— 1st Sunday in Lent

† Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7;

Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon: "Forgetting Whose
and Who We Are"

* 4 Cents A Meal; Prayer
Breakfast

"SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" CAN COLLECTION:

February 1-8



Opequon Youth are collecting soup cans for the Souper Bowl of Caring! Please bring in the type of soup according to where you typically sit in the Sanctuary:

- **Choir Side = Chicken Noodle**
- **Center Section = Tomato**
- **Window Side = Vegetable Beef**

You will find the collection spot in the Gathering Area. Which section of the Sanctuary will be crowned the winners and bring in the most soup cans?! All donations are due by February 8 and will be given to the Sherando and Highland Food Pantries. Monetary donations for the pantries (marked "Souper Bowl") are welcome as well. Questions? Ask Rebekah Witt!

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION CELEBRATING OUR MINISTRY

The Session of Opequon Presbyterian Church calls for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Celebration of Ministry for Sunday, March 1, at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the written report to the congregation (available beginning Sunday, February 22), which will include statistical and financial reports, ministry team reports, staff reports, and the 2026 church calendar. We will also hear reports from the church's Architectural Review and Capital Campaign Teams. The congregation will be asked to elect four representatives to the church's Nominating Committee. In addition, the annual meeting of the corporation—Opequon Presbyterian Church, Inc.—will occur, with a report by the trustees on investments in 2025 and the corporation's and trustees' organization in the current year.

The meeting will be called to order promptly at 10:00 AM and will be preceded by a church coffee in the Gathering Area from 9:30 to 9:55 AM. Based on the positive feedback on the format from last year, we look forward to worship, fellowship and meeting **OR** fellowship, meeting, and worship, depending on whether you attend the 8:30 or 11:00 AM service that day. All active members of Opequon are encouraged to participate in this meeting, exercising both the privilege and responsibility of church membership, as we give thanks for our ministry and mission as the called people of God.



NOTES FROM PASTOR DAVID

"On the Road with Jesus"

Dear Friends in Christ,

The last time I wrote for our monthly newsletter, I was looking ahead into this new year at least two weeks before Christmas and our special celebrations. Now as I write this, the Christmas tree and decorations came down about ten days ago and we are fully into 2026. We're on the move! The daily rhythm of life has not slowed down and neither has the calendar of events at Opequon Church. Though it seems like we just went through a major seasonal change, our church leadership has been busily preparing for Lent, which begins earlier this year than last (February 18 rather than March 5) but not as early as it possibly could (February 4, though rarely; February 10 in 2027). So, we are quickly moving toward Ash Wednesday. And during Lent, we'll be "On the Road with Jesus," our Lenten theme.

The scriptures of the season, from wilderness to well, from parade to upper room, from cross to garden tomb, will explore encounters with Jesus by people who were present on the road then and who are walking with Jesus today. In addition to weekly worship, our devotional, "The Road to the Cross," and our Lenten study, "Meeting Jesus on the Road," will guide us as we walk together. While we won't be "On the Road Again," like Willie Nelson's rendition of a musical tour, we will be spending time focusing on how Jesus dealt with real situations, sharing light, love, and life, teaching and empowering us to do the same. And as our Lenten study authors emphasize, "we will learn that faith is not sedentary but a relationship with God that grows and changes over a lifetime."

We're on the move, and we're on the road with Jesus. Won't you join us?

Together in Christ,

PASTOR TRACIE'S JUST THINKIN'...

February always takes me to the sugarbush. When I was a child, I used to go with my Uncle Alvin to tap maple trees. When I was very young, we went by horse and wagon.

Imagine getting up early and dressing in many layers so you could get in an open wagon and



head into the forest. The days were still cold by Southern standards, but the sun was warm on my mittens as I held the reigns so Uncle Alvin could tap the maple trees. He used a hand drill, inserted a tin tap and put a bucket on the tap's hook. Often the sap would begin to drip immediately. Later he would repeat the trip to empty the buckets. It was important to gather often as the trees ran fast at the beginning of the season and every drop of sap mattered. Years later, the sap was gathered by plastic tubes that ran into a large, square closed container. This was more practical, but less fun, in my opinion.

Uncle Alvin had a huge vat in the barn area where he boiled the syrup over a wood fire. The ratio was 40:1—forty gallons of sap for one gallon of syrup. What still surprises me is that the trees are not harmed by sap harvesting. This is because care is taken not to drill too deep and only mature trees are tapped.

Later in life, the first congregation I served as a Lay Pastor was in the center of commercial maple country. You cannot even imagine the colors of autumn there. During sugar season, the entire congregation of up to 50 people went to a sugarbush for pancakes in February. We occupied almost the entire dining room. The folk watched their watches during worship and their faces let me know if the service was running long. Once the benediction was done, they rushed to their cars to get the best seats in the house. After all, it could take up to 17 minutes to get served if one was not among the first people seated. The syrup was always hot. It came directly from the vat.



I love the fact that gathering sap and making syrup is still mostly done in the old ways. Traditions like that work to connect older folk like me with younger friends who might have similar experiences. As a child, I took the gift of maple trees and all they brought for granted. As an older adult, I know just how much work goes into maintaining them as a source of sweetness. As a child, I thought of maple syrup as a fun part of life, something Uncle Alvin and I could proudly do together and be in charge of. As an adult, I realize that the entire maple experience is a gift, and I know that I am not at all in charge.

FEBRUARY MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT Tuesday, February 3

6:00 PM Meal: Lasagna
(provided by Mission Ministry)

6:45 PM Devotions & Team Meetings

EXTENDING OUR EMPATHY & CHRISTIAN LOVE TO...



- ☞ Susan Sacra Maestri and family upon the death of Susan's mother and OPC member, Betty Sacra, on December 13.
- ☞ Kay Caldwell and family upon the death of Kay's husband and OPC participant, Bob Caldwell, on December 26.

*"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.
"Those who believe in me shall live, even though they die,
and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."
—John 11:25-26*

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!" regarding any of these questions, you are cordially invited and encouraged to attend our upcoming Newcomers' Class starting THIS MONTH. We will gather two times—on Sunday, February 22, and also Sunday, March 1. Each time, we'll meet in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 PM until 6:00 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.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are placed in the Sanctuary on Sundays throughout the year to enhance our worship experience. This is a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion (birthday, marriage, graduation, baptism etc.) or remember loved ones who have died.

To provide the flowers for a worship service, sign-up for an open date by clicking on the "Flower Chart" link at the bottom of [our website](#) or on the Flower Chart posted in the church office. You may select the florist of your choice and have the flowers delivered to OPC during the Friday office hours (9:00 AM—12:00 PM) or bring in and place the arrangement yourself.

PARENTS Night Out

Opequon and First Presbyterian's Youth Groups are teaming up to provide a babysitting night on Saturday, February 14, 5:00 PM—9:00 PM, for kids ages 3 (potty trained) and up.

Drop off your kids at First Presbyterian Church (115 South Cameron Street, Winchester) and enjoy an evening out!

Kids will need to bring their own dinner that evening. Suggested donation is \$15 per child and \$25 for two. All donations support the High School Youth Mission Trip!

To register your kids,
contact Rebekah Witt
(rwitt@opequonchurch.org)
by January 30.

JAZZ SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 15



On Transfiguration Sunday, just before we enter the season of Lent, Jazz Sunday is a wonderful way to celebrate the rhythm and light that stirs our souls. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity, incorporating our own "in-church" talent!

LENT DEVOTIONAL ITEMS

In the season of Lent, which is the six weeks that lead up to Easter, there are Devotional items provided to help us all reflect on Jesus and on our faith during this time. All Lent devotional items can be picked up in the Gathering Area or the Dell Room.

The Road to the Cross for adults is a booklet of 'a word a day for Lent' written by Rev. Jill Paulson of Wildwood Presbyterian Church. Jill is Ann Denison's sister and mom to Ben Paulson, a member of the choir. We are grateful for permission to share this booklet with Opequon during this Lent season. May you find the focus of a word a day a great way to deepen and challenge your faith.

Beatitudes at Home Family Devotional, developed by the PCUSA, is great for families. This is a pack of cards that focuses on blessings from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The artwork is capturing, the conversation questions are interesting, and there are ideas of things to do! It is very manageable to do two cards a week to enrich your family's Lent season. These will be available in the Gathering Area and also distributed through Logos.

Surprising Lent Objects will be given out during the four weeks of Lent. Beginning February 25, these will be given to ALL Logos young people and made available to all other young people in the Gathering Area. Watch for the surprising items that will be useful at home and help young people think about important aspects of loving Jesus through this season.

PRAYER BREAKFAST EVENT February 22 (9:45 AM)

The Prayer Breakfast has become a beloved annual tradition that helps us celebrate the season of Lent. The Christian Education Team is so pleased to sponsor this special time.

You are invited to come for a warm, delicious breakfast with Breakfast Casseroles, Fruit, Cereals, and Danish. We will be making a HUGE Paper Prayer Chain that will be displayed in the Gathering Area! We will also share in prayer together and there will be special tokens for you to take home. The food will be yummy, the company will be super, and your time will be well spent.

There is a place for You at the table! Come to the Prayer Breakfast on February 22.



ATTENTION ALL OPC PERFORMERS!

Got a talent that you want to share?

Got a song you want to sing?

Got a poem you'd like to share?

Got an instrumental or

dance act you want to present?

We are ready to applaud your talents

at the OPC Talent Show

on February 28!

Sign-up today in the Gathering Area

or by contacting Marj Praml

(pramlmarjory550@gmail.com)



**OPC'S ANNUAL
TALENT SHOW &
POTLUCK SUPPER
IS HERE!!!**

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 28**

5:00 PM

(Fellowship Hall)

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party

February 17 at 5:00pm-6:30pm

Enjoy pancakes, eggs, biscuits,
sausage, fruit, & fellowship.
All are invited! Donations welcome.



OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us in the
Fellowship Hall,
anytime between
5:00 PM-6:30 PM.

No reservations needed.

All are invited as the
Youth and Leaders
serve you!

Monetary donations
welcome.

ASH WEDNESDAY—FEBRUARY 18



Ashes To Go

8:30 AM—10:00 AM

(Kernstown UMC Parking Lot)

A Shared Ministry Outside the Buildings
Sponsored by Opequon Presbyterian Church
and Kernstown United Methodist Church

Supper & Worship

You are invited to begin the journey of Lent with your church family on February 18. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for supper prior to the 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service. The supper is open to the entire congregation, along with our Logos students and staff, and will be served at 5:30 PM. Please come, have a warm meal, and share in the opportunity to fellowship together!

Our annual Ash Wednesday Worship Service begins at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Evening worship will introduce our Lenten theme, "On the Road with Jesus," as all ages gather. The Sanctuary Choir and all Logos worship groups will offer their gifts. Pastor David will share an intergenerational meditation, "Sitting Down with Jesus," focused on the Lenten theme. Please join us for this meaningful hour of praise, reflection, and prayer. Ashes will be offered, either on the forehead or the back of the hand.

MAKING A PLACE AT THE TABLE: Prayers for Our Capital Campaign

Written by: Maureen Wellman

Heavenly Father, Creator of all that is seen and unseen,

We praise Your holy name and thank You for loving all of us unconditionally, with all of our flaws and our sinful nature.

Thank You for giving us the blustery coldness that is winter. Some of us welcome this time of year to slow down and hibernate in our homes while others sneak off to warmer climates where they may search your word daily in the warmth of the sun. For those of us who hibernate it is an opportunity to get closer to You, Lord, and time to be in Your Word in the warmth of our homes.

With a happy heart, Lord, I read Deuteronomy 15:10 and I desire to apply these words to my life as a member of Opequon Presbyterian Church.

"You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake."

We desire to grow as a church. It isn't only in members that we wish to grow but also the footprint of our facility. We desire more room so that we can reach others in our community who may never have heard the precious name of Jesus. We desire to show the unconditional love to others who may never have been exposed to unconditional love. We desire to teach others who You are so that they may come to know You as their Savior.

Father, I pray that the members of Opequon Presbyterian Church will read Deuteronomy 15:10 and provide what is needed thru the Capital Campaign to grow our church so that they may reap the blessings that You provide. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



Dear OPiE,

When will we begin construction on the addition? When do we expect it to be finished?
— Ready to Get Going

Dear Ready,

From what I can see, the Architectural Review Team is working with our preconstruction group, KEE, and our architects at Balzer, to bring together our cost abilities with their cost estimates. I know this takes time, patience, and a lot of back-and-forth. All of this has to be considered before we can go to the bank and get the necessary loan to build.

Even with all of this, however, I hear that we could break ground sometime this summer. That makes me happy, as construction workers carry great lunches and leave wonderful crumbs.
— Your friend, OPiE

Dear OPiE,

Will we need to deal with rocks when we build the new addition like we did with the Sanctuary?
— Concerned

Dear Concerned,

The land we sit on is the land we sit on—and it has not changed in 15 years... so there will undoubtedly be some dealing with rock necessary. The good news is that we do not plan to dig any basements or crypts with this addition. This should eliminate the almost overwhelming problems we had when we built the Sanctuary. That situation startled everyone. Our current project is being planned with what we learned last time. There should be no similar surprises.
— Your friend, OPiE

TUESDAY FAITH FORMATION: ANGELS

The Tuesday Bible Study group will begin a new class on February 3 at 1:30 PM in the Bageant Room. This study will focus on angels and will run weekly through March 24. The book we will use as a reference is, *A Study of Angels* by Edward P. Myers, PhD. Please let Pastor Tracie know as soon as possible if you would like the church to order a copy of the book for you. While the book is not essential, it will be used to direct our study.

This study will cover:

- ✧ The Origin and Form of Angels
- ✧ Nature and Attributes of Angels
- ✧ Angel Hierarchies
- ✧ The Activities of Angels
- ✧ The Fall of Lucifer and of Angels
- ✧ The Angel of the Lord
- ✧ Angels in the Life of Christ
- ✧ Special Questions about Angels
- ✧ And whatever else we decide to consider...

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

Youth completing grades 8-12 are invited to sign-up for the Mission Trip to WV on July 5-11. We will team up with First Presbyterian Youth to do minor home repairs. Contact Rebekah Witt for more details about registration, payment, or with any questions you may have.

****Registration is due by February 14.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER CONFERENCE AT MASSANETTA

Youth completing grades 5-8 are invited to register for the Massanetta Middle School Summer Conference that will be held July 14-17 in Harrisonburg, VA. Ten Opequon Youth went last year and it was a blast! Contact Rebekah Witt for details about registration, payment, or with any questions you may have.

****Registration is due by February 15.**

YOUTH: GRADES 6-12

February 7: Practice for Youth Families & Young Adults Sunday (10:00 AM)

February 8: Youth Families & Young Adults Sunday (8:30 AM & 11:00 AM)

February 14: Parents' Night Out (5:00 PM—9:00 PM)

February 17: Serve the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (4:00 PM—7:00 PM)

YOUNG ADULTS: AGES 18-35

February 8: Youth Families & Young Adults Sunday (8:30 AM & 11:00 AM)

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE

We got off to a great start this year with 8 young friends joining us in January. If you haven't tried us yet, please come! Opie's Playhouse is a Sunday morning playgroup for young families offering toys, snacks, drinks, space to play, and a chance to chat and get to know one another. Families with infants, toddlers and elementary aged children are all welcome. Our second playgroup of the new year will be on February 1, 9:45—10:45 AM, in the Memorial Sanctuary.

Opie's Playhouse is hosted by the Christian Education Team the first Sunday of every month. However, because of other events in the life of OPC, we are modifying our March and April schedules. Please note these changes:

- ◆ We will be meeting on March 15 (instead of March 1).
- ◆ We will not meet in April as Easter Sunday will fall on the first Sunday, but hope to see everyone at the Family Easter Event between the services that day!



THE LATEST IN LOGOS

Logos continues to grow as we recently welcomed two new young children who have joined us each Wednesday. Each young person matters and is important to us at Logos.

We are ready for another dose of exciting themes this month which include: 'Wacky Wednesday Night,' 'Jesus Loves You Night,' and 'Let's Wear Purple Night.' Our annual Ash Wednesday worship service will be on February 18 at 6:30 PM, with all Logos young people participating in the service. You are invited to a meatloaf and mashed potatoes dinner at 5:30 PM, and then worship at 6:30 PM.

We are so grateful for all the support and enthusiasm for our Logos Ministry. It is truly a midweek miracle. For more information about Logos, contact Carole Witt (540-662-1843 or dce@opequonchurch.org).

MEN OF OPEQUON

The Men of Opequon (MOO) will gather for dinner on Monday, February 9, at 6:00 PM at the Pleasant Valley Road Chick-fil-A. We'll then head to the church for our monthly program at 7:00 PM, which will be "Journey to Australia," led by Rich Schempp. Join us to hear the stories and see the slide show of Rich and Carol's 3-month adventure in Australia. Dessert will be provided.

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.

GLOW continues on break during this winter month of February. We will be back together in March! Terrific plans are already in the making for a BACK TO GLOW Night in March. Many more details will be shared as we inch closer to March. Stay warm, stay safe and enjoy the special beauty of winter.

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

Let's all sprinkle the world with kindness and love this month.

The month begins with the Older Adult Planning Team meeting on Monday, February 2, at 9:30 AM in the Bageant Room. This meeting is for discussing and planning programs for Happy Days and other special events. The meeting is open to any older adult who would like to attend. Some morning goodies and coffee will be provided.

The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be held on Wednesday, February 11, at NOON in the Fellowship Hall, beginning with a covered dish lunch. Rotisserie Chicken will be provided, as well as drinks. You are invited to bring a covered dish to contribute to the lunch. After lunch, we will enjoy our guest speaker from Family Promise. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the friendships, warmth around the tables, and this interesting speaker.

OPC COOKBOOK – "A Place at the Table"

Swing by the display in the Gathering Area to contribute a favorite recipe and reserve your copy of OPC's upcoming special edition cookbook.

CHURCH LIBRARY CART

February 8-15, a special selection of "Color the World with Kindness" library books will be on display in the Gathering Area. You are welcome to look through and borrow the books and enjoy the wonderful messages the authors bring your way!



LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will gather at noon on February 16 in Fellowship Hall. This is a group for any of those who have lost their significant other. We will share a side-to-pass lunch (the provided main dish this month will be Tuna Noodle Casserole), chat, and share resources and ideas. Those who prefer not to cook may chip in a couple of bucks toward expenses. Some of us have been alone for a long time; others are new at all this. We laugh a lot. Whether being alone is new for you or not, this group is ready to welcome you. If you need a ride, just let Pastor Tracie know.

FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

Fellowship Book Club typically meets at 6:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month. Upcoming gathering dates and selections are as follows:

- February 26 (Youth Spot)—
Remain by Nicholas Sparks & M. Night Shyamalan
- March 26 (Bageant Room)—
Managed Care by Joe Barrett
- April 23 (Bageant Room)—
The Gales of November: The Untold Story of the Edmund Fitzgerald by John U. Bacon

FEBRUARY COLLECTION FOR CCAP

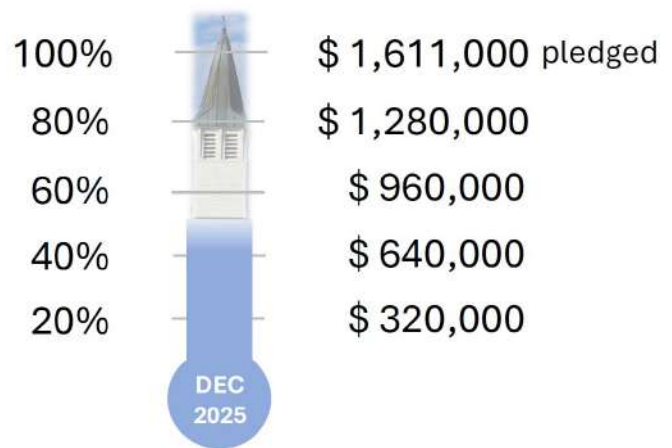
This month, Mission Ministry is collecting Cheerios for CCAP. Donations may be placed in the CCAP collection bin in the Dell Room at any time. Thank you for your contributions and supporting our community!

SENIOR OUTREACH

Senior Outreach Ministry will gather on Sunday, February 8, at 12:15 PM, by the church office door to load up the totes for the Shenandoah Senior Apartments in Winchester. Donations of paper towels or bath tissue are always welcome.

BUILDING CAMPAIGN NOTES

Building campaign receipts now total \$852k through December, which is 53% of the total amount pledged. Note that some pledged gifts have been received in full and will not be evenly spread over the 3-year giving period. Also, the total received includes gifts that were not pledged.



GENEROSITY / STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

(From Pastor Tracie Martin & the Generosity Team)

February is the time when I look deeply at where we went in 2025 and where we could go in 2026. February is the time when the generosity of this congregation becomes especially apparent. Why? Because, in the life of our church, February is the "almost, but not yet" month. Christmas is over. Lent will not start until the middle of the month. February gives us two weeks to plot, think, remember, and plan.

Culturally, February is the month of love. Valentine's Day reminds us that we show love by caring, supporting, and occasionally gifting. Using this standard, 2025 Was absolutely a year of OPC love.

I wish I could tell you how many meals were delivered to people in 2025. I know that the Tuesday Morning Mission group delivers about 20 meals every month, except July and August. Let's call that 180 meals. Then, there are the meals delivered following LOGOS. Don't forget the meals that follow each special event at the church, and the meals covered by the Congregational Care Team. Yeah... I ran out of fingers, too.

How many people received needed rides to medical appointments, some of them life-saving? How many rides to choir, worship, special events, Feast Groups? How many gift bags were delivered to homebound people last year? How many cookies were left on the office counter, just in case someone was hungry? How many chocolates?

Our congregation's Stewardship generosity covers the bills for operating our church. It covers our mission outreach. It takes care of our building. Our congregation's discreet acts of generosity provide an additional layer of valuable support and assistance. Much of this is easily missed as daily chores occupy our minds. I'll even bet that some of us just take it all for granted... until it hits us personally, that is.

When Bill and I first moved to this area, we got the flu. It was horrid. The flu... just at Christmas. We didn't know many people in the congregation. We were newbies and had not found our places yet. Still, the Tuesday Morning Mission group at that time gave us lunch. It looks like a small thing until it happened to you. That gift truly helped us feel at home at OPC. I wonder how many other visitors and seekers have had a similar experience. For us, that defined a generous congregation, and we wanted to become part of it. Becoming part of Christ's heart, hands, and feet made us smile.



A team from OPC is going on a MEDICAL MISSION TRIP to the Dominican Republic in March, and they need your help collecting supplies to take with them!

FEBRUARY 8-22 they will be collecting donations of the following supplies in black & yellow tubs in the Gathering Place. All donations must be received on or by 2/22/26 so the team has time to pack before their trip.

Matchbox cars / Hot Wheels	Socks
Legos / Duplos	Hot pads
Stickers	Hand towels
30ml & 60ml liquid medicine bottles	Hair ties/clips
Hats for sun protection	Nail files
Glasses (readers or prescription)	Toothbrushes (adult & children)
Sandals	

We are so grateful for those who have told us they are sewing items for us to bring along (dresses, pharmacy bags, etc.) - we will be collecting these items during this week as well - please see a team member if you have questions

If you would prefer to support the team with a financial donation, go to
<https://mmiorg.app.neoncrm.com/OPC>

THE POWER OF FOUR CENTS



All those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars the people of Opequon collected for **Four Cents a Meal during 2025 totaled \$4,130**. Thank you for reaching new heights last year! Four Cents a Meal is our monthly offering for hunger that assists people in our community, state, nation, and world. Please give to Four Cents a Meal on the Fourth Sunday of each month. (Next Four Cents a Meal = February 22)

In addition, through the church's special offerings and individual donations, members also **contributed to these mission causes**:

\$61,199 – Gore Home

\$ 5,473 – WATTS

\$ 3,290 – Christmas Joy (PCUSA)

\$ 2,876 – One Great Hour of Sharing (PCUSA)

\$ 1,750 – Pentecost (PCUSA)

\$ 2,187 – Midnight Gladness

\$ 1,555 – Peace & Global Witness (PCUSA)

and over 115 Thanksgiving Boxes!

In addition, \$838,565 was contributed to Opequon's ongoing Building Fund through the "A Place at the Table" Capital Campaign. Simply incredible! Thank you for your gratitude and generosity as we reach beyond to our community and world as the hands, heart, and feet of Christ.

—Shared by: Ken Smiy, Opequon Finance Administrator

THANK YOU FOR CARING AND WRAPPING THE WORLD IN BLANKETS AND LOVE!

894 blankets, totaling \$4,470, were given in December through our annual blanket drive to **THE TY HEADLEY TREE OF WARMTH!**

We thank you for your generosity. In its 18th year, our annual blanket drive has contributed more than \$85,000 (that's more than 17,000 blankets!) to Church World Service. Thank you for your generosity.



THANK YOU

Ken Johansen is now home from his 4th hospital/rehabilitation visit during 2025. Needless to say, it was a rough year for the Johansen's—but being wrapped in the arms of OPC is such a blessing. We do appreciate the prayers, concerns, texts, emails, cards, visits, and the food! Our thanks and hugs to all of you!

— Edwina Johansen

THANK YOU, BAKERS, BUYERS, & SPAGHETTI DINNER ATTENDEES!

We greatly appreciate everyone who provided homemade baked goods and bought items from the Bake Sale. Special thanks go out to youth parents Vicky Astorino, Katie Jordan, and Kirsta Weber for coordinating this! The Youth enjoyed serving spaghetti and we extend gratitude to all who helped set up, cook, clean, shop, bake, donate, and eat!

NEW CONTACT INFO?

Have you moved recently?

Do you have a new email address?

Do you have a new home or cell phone number?
Or cancelled a landline or old cell phone number?

Please contact the church office (540-662-1843 or office@opequonchurch.org) to ensure we have your accurate contact info. Thank you!



Opequon Presbyterian Church
Financial Summary for the period ended
December 31, 2025

	Annual Budget 2025	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
Income					
410000 Offering Income	882,418	105,157	885,954	(3,536)	100.4%
420000 Other Income	1,800	998	3,203	(1,403)	177.9%
Total 400000 Income	884,218	106,155	889,157	(4,939)	100.6%
Expenses					
500000 Personnel Costs					
510000 Installed Pastors	228,422	13,061	193,062	35,360	84.5%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	143,633	15,128	162,652	(19,019)	113.2%
530000 Administrative Staff	155,104	13,125	153,767	1,337	99.1%
Total 500000 Personnel Costs	527,159	41,314	509,481	17,678	96.6%
600000 Other Ministries					
610000 Christian Education	15,050	1,034	12,201	2,849	81.1%
620000 Congregational Care	2,800	234	3,046	(246)	108.8%
630000 Evangelism	2,250	135	1,387	863	61.7%
640000 Fellowship	3,800	(49)	3,445	355	90.7%
650000 Mission	77,000	2,817	77,000	0	100.0%
660000 Worship	8,000	4,254	12,388	(4,388)	154.9%
Total 600000 Other Ministries	108,900	8,426	109,467	(567)	100.5%
Total 700000 Church Administration	148,385	(16,144)	145,211	3,174	97.9%
Total Expenses	784,444	33,596	764,160	20,284	97.4%
Net Operating Income (Expense)	99,774	72,559	124,997	(25,223)	125.3%
920000 Other Income	18,675	1,706	20,917	(2,242)	112.0%
930000 Other Expenses	118,449	9,890	117,791	658	99.4%
Net Other Income (Expense)	(99,774)	(8,184)	(96,875)	(2,899)	97.1%
Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses	0	64,375	28,123		

	<u>12/31/25</u>
Cash	<u>\$ 185,748</u>
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance	<u>\$ 281,230</u>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Table - vacation</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>8:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>9:45am - Faith Formation @</p> <p>9:45am - Ople's Playhouse @</p> <p>11am - Worship & Live Stream @</p> <p>12:15pm - ART Meeting @ Bagean</p>	<p>9:30am - Older Adult Planning</p> <p>6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary</p>	<p>1:30pm - Angel Bible Study @</p> <p>5pm - Tech Team Meeting @</p> <p>6pm - Ministry Team Night @</p>	<p>8:30am - Backpack Program @</p> <p>9:30am - Staff Meeting @ Bageant</p> <p>4:30pm - Logos</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary</p>	<p>10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial</p> <p>2:30pm - Planning for GLOW @</p> <p>6:30pm - Sherando Food Partry @</p> <p>6:45pm - Micah 6:8 Faith</p>		<p>10am - Practice for Youth/Young</p>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>Supper Bowl of Caring Can</p> <p>Youth Families & Young Adult</p> <p>8:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>9:45am - Faith Formation @</p> <p>11am - Worship & Live Stream @</p> <p>12:15pm - Senior Outreach</p> <p>1:30pm - Spring Arbor Worship @</p>	<p>6pm - MOO Meal @ Chick-fil-A</p> <p>6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary</p> <p>7pm - MOO in FH @ Fellowship</p>	<p>9:30am - Tuesday Morning Mission</p> <p>1:30pm - Angel Bible Study @</p> <p>7pm - Vision Team @ Bageant</p>	<p>12pm - Happy Days @ Fellowship</p> <p>4:30pm - Logos</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary</p>	<p>10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial</p> <p>6:45pm - Micah 6:8 Faith</p>		<p>Valentine's Day</p> <p>1pm - Memorial Service for Bob</p> <p>5pm - Parents' Night Out (Youth)</p>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>Brood Pressure Checks</p> <p>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> <p>8:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>9:40am - VBS Team Meeting @</p> <p>9:45am - Faith Formation @</p> <p>11am - Worship & Live Stream @</p>	<p>President's Day</p> <p>12pm - Life Goes On @ Fellowship</p> <p>6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary</p>	<p>1:30pm - Angel Bible Study @</p> <p>5pm - Shrove Tuesday Supper @</p> <p>6:30pm - Session Meeting @</p>	<p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>8:30am - Ashes To-Go @</p> <p>9:30am - Staff Meeting</p> <p>4:30pm - Logos</p> <p>6:30pm - Ash Wednesday Worship</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir @ Sanctuary</p>	<p>9am - WANC Tea @ Youth Spot</p> <p>10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial</p> <p>10:30am - WANC Meeting @</p> <p>6:30pm - Sherando Food Partry</p> <p>6:45pm - Micah 6:8 Faith</p>		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>4 Cents a Meal Offering</p> <p>8:30am - Worship @ Sanctuary</p> <p>9:45am - Prayer Breakfast @</p> <p>11am - Worship & Live Stream @</p> <p>4pm - Newcomers' Class</p> <p>6pm - Paterson Remembrance</p>	<p>6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary</p> <p>7pm - Astronomy Club @ Assembly</p>	<p>1:30pm - Angel Bible Study @</p> <p>3pm - TVOR Gathering</p> <p>5:30pm - Highland Food Partry @</p>	<p>4:30pm - Logos</p> <p>7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary</p>	<p>10:30am - Tai Chi @ Memorial</p> <p>10:30am - WANC Lunch @</p> <p>3pm - Lion's Club Bland Contest @</p> <p>6pm - Fellowship Book Club @</p> <p>6:45pm - Micah 6:8 Faith</p>		<p>5pm - Talent Show @ Fellowship</p>

CHURCH OFFICE STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES

To reach a staff member or if a pastoral concern arises, contact the church office (**540-662-1843** or **office@opequonchurch.org**) or note who is out of the office and email one of the pastors directly and we will get back to you in a timely manner. If you email a staff member and do not hear back within a couple business days, please call us to verify the message was received.



Pastor, David Witt-----	pastor@opequonchurch.org
Parish Associate, Tracie Martin-----	assocopc@gmail.com
Church Office / Office Administrator, Rachel Lesink-----	office@opequonchurch.org
Finance Administrator, Ken Smiy-----	ksmiy@opequonchurch.org
Director of Christian Education, Carole Witt-----	dce@opequonchurch.org
Director for Youth & Young Adult Ministries, Rebekah Witt-----	rwitt@opequonchurch.org
Director of Music, Susan Homan-----	srh1305@verizon.net
Organist/Pianist, Garrett Jones-----	gjonespiano@gmail.com
Facilities Coordinator, Robert Sydnor-----	sexton@opequonchurch.org

IMPORTANT: Messages sent via our church database (ex/ OPC's Tuesday/Friday Messages) use an outgoing-only "notifications@onrealmmail.org" address. **Please do NOT send any messages to notifications@onrealmmail.org — we cannot receive them!** Also, please note that the sender's name appearing next to that notifications address does change based on who is sending the message.



LENTEN STUDY COMING IN MARCH

Our Lenten study, "Meeting Jesus on the Road" will begin on March 8. It will be held on Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM as a part of the Faith Formation Hour. Each class will be 55 minutes in length, both in-person and via Zoom, and facilitated by Pastor David and Ann Denison.

Designed as a spiritual journey through Easter, this Lenten study offers a meaningful way to engage the season through scripture, reflection, and walking. Throughout, we will learn that faith is not sedentary but a relationship with God that grows and changes over a lifetime. We will be guided "on the road with Jesus." Come join us!

LOOKING AHEAD: MAGNIFICENT MARCH MEMORIES IN THE MAKING

- March Communion Worship—Sunday, March 1
- Annual Meeting of the Congregation—Sunday, March 1 (10:00 AM)
- March Ministry Team Night—Tuesday, March 3
- "Spring Forward" (Set Clocks Ahead)—Sunday, March 8
- Annual Potato Bake Lunch—Sunday, March 15
- "Mulch Madness"—Saturday, March 21
- Logos Sunday—Sunday, March 22 (8:30 & 11:00 AM)
- Palm/Passion Sunday—Sunday, March 29



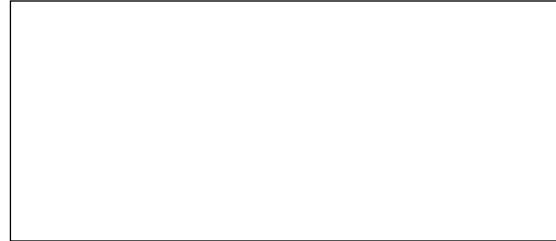
**** The deadline to send newsletter submissions to the church office the 15th of each month. ****

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602-2421
www.opequonchurch.org

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**FEBRUARY
2026**



CHURCH STAFF

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

**OPEQUON
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217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602-2421

Website:

www.opequonchurch.org

Phone:

540-662-1843

Email:

office@opequonchurch.org

Church Office Hours:

**Monday—Thursday
9:00 AM—2:00 PM**

Friday

9:00 AM—12:00 PM

Sunday Worship Services:

**8:30 AM (in-person)
11:00 AM (in-person & livestream)**