

SING TO GOD

*Sing praises to His name.
Exalt Him who rides upon the clouds.
(Psalm 68:4)*

Ascension Sunday – May 17, 2026
Opequon Presbyterian Church

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, 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

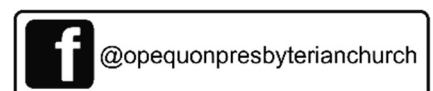
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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:



8:30 AM & 11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*Seventh Sunday of Easter – Celebrating One Year of Our "Place at the Table" Capital Campaign;
Honoring Graduates; Welcoming New Members; 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..... *Sanctuary / Out There* By: Alan Menken

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG *He Is Exalted*

**He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!
I will praise him, He is exalted, forever exalted
and I will praise his name!
He is the Lord. Forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high! [repeat]
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high!**

†CALL TO WORSHIP

The heavens proclaim God's righteousness; we behold God's glory.
God has gone up with a shout, with the sound of a trumpet.
Give thanks to God, O faithful ones.
Sing praises to God; sing praises. Sing praises to our King; sing praises!

†OPENING HYMN No. 267 *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

**Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!
Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!**

**Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Despite our best attempts to have faith in Christ, to love our siblings in faith, and to reflect God's glory to this world, we know we have not always lived up to who we have been called to be. But we are children of the Most High, and we are invited to bring these confessions before God, that we might find peace and forgiveness. So let us confess our sin, first in unison, then in personal silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Christ our Savior, as you ascended, you left the work to us. You called us to keep the movement going, to witness to the ends of the earth, to pray, to heal, to glorify you through our thoughts, words, and deeds, to show the world a glimpse of the goodness you have given us. We have fallen short of this call. We have hidden ourselves in fear, sought our own comfort, and resigned ourselves to the status quo. Forgive us, and strengthen us to do your will, that we may be signs of your coming reign.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Hear this astounding truth: Christ is the one who reigns on high, Christ is the one with the power to judge us, and Christ is the one who offers us eternal love, forgiveness, and mercy. All praise to Christ who lived, died, and lives again!
Alleluia!

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 750 *Goodness is Stronger than Evil*

**Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.**

Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us. [repeat]

†PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those near you.)

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HONORING OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES (11:00 AM)Carole & Rebekah Witt

RACHEL BAYLISS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD (11:00 AM)..... David & Rebekah Witt

☞ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ☞

ANTHEM..... *There Is a Redeemer*
Words & Music by: Melody Green

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35Pew Bible p. 460

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Acts 1:1-14.....Pew Bible p. 884

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES "Up, Up, and Away"
Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 263 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

**All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all!**

**Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!**

**Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!**

**O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!
We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!**

SERMON "Jesus' Power"
Pastor David Witt

☞ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ☞

CELEBRATION OF OUR "PLACE AT THE TABLE" CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

One-Year Anniversary Capital Campaign Prayer

Our God, Father and Creator,

We praise you for your presence in our lives and your generous outpouring of blessings. We remember that it has been just over one year since the Opequon Church family met at the West Oaks Farm Market to share a meal and a vision for the physical expansion of our building. At the time we asked for your guidance and help in imagining new spaces that will build our congregation's effectiveness in serving our community. We asked for your inspiration in identifying resources to make the capital project possible. We asked for your blessing on the teams and individuals who put in the work of leading, collaborating, designing, inviting, hosting, financing, praying, and giving.

We praise you for answering our prayers in ways that exceeded our hopes. We are grateful for the response of our congregation as we continue to volunteer to serve on teams, to fulfill our pledges, and to keep the enthusiasm for growth strong. We celebrate that our mission to the community and world has expanded and been empowered through our partnerships with and tithes to Bright Futures, Family Promise, the Illubabor Bethel Synod in Ethiopia, and New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children in Romania.

A year in your eyes is a blink. To us it's a long time filled with so many distractions. Yet here we are entering a second year toward our vision of enlarged spaces, mission focus, and living the life you planned for us. May we stay focused and be expedient in making decisions so that your mission continues through us. With your help, we have laid the foundation for our capital project. With your help, we will continue our collaboration and giving until we see the physical foundation and building completed.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *Sing to Me* By: Laura Farnell

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

Lord Jesus, you commanded us to be your witnesses from our homes to the ends of the earth. We dedicate these gifts, recognizing them as tools for advancing your Kingdom and sharing your love. Just as the disciples were devoted to prayer and united in purpose, we dedicate these offerings to empower the work of the gospel. Use them to bring hope and light, according to your promises. By Your Holy Spirit, strengthen us for your service. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00 AM)

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. 269 (v. 1, 2) *Lead On, O King Eternal!*

**Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest your tents shall be our home.
Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong,
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.
Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords' loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums;
with deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 269 (v. 3) *Lead On, O King Eternal!*

**Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears;
your cross is lifted o'er us; we journey in its light.
The crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!**

†POSTLUDE

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Heather Burton in congratulations to Cheyenne Burton on her graduation from Methodist University and to Sydney Burton on her graduation from St. Vincent College.

SANCTUARY ROSES

The roses in the Sanctuary this morning announce the birth of:

- ❖ Judith Ann Hartman, daughter of Carolyn and Jordan Hartman, granddaughter of Terry and Clayton Hartman, and great-granddaughter of Barbara and Carroll Youngblood, on May 12.
- ❖ Marla Merrion Picklap, first child of Olivia Merrion and John Picklap and fourth grandchild of Nancy Picklap, on May 13.

We celebrate and rejoice in these wonderful gifts of new life.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We rejoice today as we welcome new members to the Opequon Church family. May God bless and enrich their lives as we share the journey of faith and service together. Please reach out and get to know our new members:

- ❖ **Rod Arrington**, Re-Affirmation of Faith
- ❖ **Bev & Bruce Leech**, Transfer of Membership from First Presbyterian Church in Greer, SC
- ❖ **Ellen & Pat Mason**, Transfer of Membership from First Presbyterian Church in Winchester, VA
- ❖ **Sarah Pelfrey**, Transfer of Membership from Burke Presbyterian Church in Burke Center, VA

CONGRATULATIONS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 2026

We celebrate with our 2026 High School seniors graduating this year. It is a privilege to honor this special milestone in their lives. We wish them happiness and fulfillment in the next chapter of life. Congratulations to:

Noah Cutrona – Handley High School
Alex Sardelis – Handley High School

Austin Shook – Millbrook High School
Kate Wilfong – Millbrook High School

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Carol Tubbs
 Annemarie Matthews
 Pat Williams' daughter-in-law
 Basil Clark
 Ben Costello
 Betty Hess Family
 Strukoff & DeCeault Families
 Jeff Klinefelter
 Mia Beato
 Mike Shade
 Jaxson Hughes
 Deanna Deck
 Lincoln
 Heather & Christian Barlowe
 Karen Lemons & Family
 Krista Bowen
 Bonnie Triplett
 Whitney
 Nancy Brown
 Jenna Boyer
 Margaret McDaniel
 Katie Wolf
 Beverly Souders
 Vern Gamble
 Hannah Wheeler
 Jean Steidel Family
 Robyn Ervin
 Al Schollenberger
 Bud & Becky Proctor
 Bill Gesell
 Cheri Norris
 Rob Stratton

Andrew, Isabella, & Jacob Hammer
 Kaley, Matt, & Emmet Bender
 Betty Ganoë
 Michelle Hall
 Tom Callahan
 Brandon Teets & Family
 Barbara Donegan
 Brad & Denise Lincoln
 Chick Doroffe
 Mo & Heide Mohler
 Kimberley Meyers
 Jay Horne
 Charlie Clark
 People of Lebanon
 Rusty Lohr
 Garvin Fishel
 Marge & Tim Higgins
 Joel Witt
 Susan Arthur
 Tammy Mowery Earhart
 Mary Bremer
 David Emery
 Benjamin Fernandez
 Dan Cammer
 Middle East War
 Our Soldiers
 Harry Newman
 Nathan Smith & Tracy
 Roger Murphy
 George & Carole Schwantes
 Gary McDowell
 Rick Ours
 Jolissa Matthews

Riley Fitzgerald
 Sara Frey
 Max Riley
 Michael Callahan
 Nancy Guthrie
 David Goode
 Caroline Hastreiter
 Lori Jones & Stephen Armstrong
 Mike & Trish Crawford
 Pastor Kristin Whitesides
 June & Nathan Windle
 Judy Gaines
 Tim Loftis
 Ken Johansen
 Lynne Rosamilia
 JoAnne Farrell
 Paulette Fazio
 Katie Happel
 Judy Camper
 Candi Gardner
 David Lewis
 David DesMarias
 Megan Tschappat
 Charlotte Rosamilia
 All Struggling with Mental Illness
 Mike Shade
 Jewish & Muslim Victims Worldwide
 Cindy Corell
 Nancy Kerns
 Ukraine
 Ethiopia Church Mekane
 Yesus

☞ **PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES** ☞

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, Eli Keaton

CAR VACUUMING & WASH FUNDRAISER-A two for one deal!

First Presbyterian and Opequon Youth are teaming up to raise funds for the Summer High School Youth Mission Trip to Summersville, WV! Pull up to the Opequon parking lot curb on **Saturday, May 23, from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM**, to have your car vacuumed and/or washed. Please remove small objects from the floor of your vehicle. Thank you for your monetary donations as we prepare to do minor home repair and disaster relief in WV.

GIFT EVENT – Next Sunday, May 24 (9:45 AM)

Our monthly Generations in Faith Together (GIFT) event will be next **Sunday, May 24, at 9:45 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. The theme is A PENTECOST PARTY with many surprises that we cannot reveal ahead of time. YOU are INVITED TO THE PARTY! You can count on there being good food, wonderful people, laughter, and a satisfying time for all ages. COME TO THE PARTY NEXT SUNDAY AT 9:45 AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

ANNUAL OLDER ADULT LUNCHEON

The special annual Older Adult Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, May 27**. Entertainment by Rich Schempp and his Quartet begins in the Sanctuary at **11:30 AM** with the luncheon to follow in the Fellowship Hall at **12:15 PM**. The luncheon menu includes Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit Salad, Rolls, and Apple Crisp with Vanilla Ice Cream. Please RSVP to the church office (540-662-1843) or to Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org) by **TODAY**.

TIME to REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

Summer is coming and we will kick it off with fun-filled nights at Vacation Bible School. Vacation Bible School will be held **June 14-17, (Sunday – Wednesday) 5:00 – 7:30 PM**. The theme is: "EVERY LIVING THING!" We will be focusing on how every living thing needs Food, Water, Shelter, Air, and Community, based on Psalm 104. Vacation Bible School is open to 4-year-olds through 8th grade with an adult class as well. Get your children and their friends registered to join us for this magnificent time. Registration forms are at the VBS HUT in the Gathering Area and available online.

- Children & Youth Registration: <https://forms.gle/SjMUNVAnDkrJKRWK8>
- Adult Class Registration: <https://forms.gle/k9HFYAUZS9HHEZxx6>

VBS Volunteers are also needed to make all this happen. We especially need some Kitchen helpers and Group Guides. Let us know how you might like to help us with VBS. Volunteer forms are available at the VBS hut or talk to Carole Witt.

FOOD ITEMS NEEDED for VBS

Some items for our upcoming Vacation Bible School meals are needed. See the chart in the Gathering Area to sign up donate items. The quantity of each item is listed along with the date the item is needed. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Doug Joyner
Beadle: Ben Brooks
Door Greeters: Becky Myers, Jeannie Wright
Hospitality Greeter: Ben Brooks
Ushers: Terry Hartman, Shannon Brannon, Tim & Kathy Hoffman, Conner Link, Henry Link
Acolyte: Conner Link
Building Stewards: Steve & Heather Burton

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Pauline Cruz
Beadle: Shirley Tomblin
Door Greeters: Sven Thulin, Kathi Lehnhard
Hospitality Greeter: Ben Brooks
Ushers: Andy Homan, Joel Witt, Kevin Reed, Joshua Batcha, Jaxson Hughes, Tommy McCann
Acolyte: Joshua Batcha
Livestream: Susan Ritter, Ethan Schwantes

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✂ How did today's music witness to the ascension, reign, and power of Jesus Christ?

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

✂ What work will you do for Jesus this week?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

- ✂ What is a liminal space?
- ✂ What is your liminal space right now?
- ✂ How are the disciples of Jesus living in liminal space after his ascension?
- ✂ How can Jesus' power be characterized and differentiated from earthly power?
- ✂ What is the work on earth that you are called to do?
- ✂ How will the power of Jesus – his life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension – guide you in this work?

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OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SPONSORS

STRONGER TOGETHER

How Schools & Churches Can
Partner to Meet Student Needs

Panel of school counselors, school nurses,
Valley Health, & a local
statistician/demographer. School educators are
especially encouraged to attend!

MAY 21
6:30PM-8:00PM

Opequon Fellowship Hall
217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602

