

The Opequon Spirit

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



May 2026

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

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

May 3—

Older Adult Sunday; Apple Blossom

+ Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; John 14:1-14

Sermon: "Called into Relationship"

- * Communion; Special Older Adult Choir;
Honoring & Celebrating Our Older Adults!

May 10—

Mother's Day; Christian Family Sunday

+ Acts 17:22-31; John 14:15-21

Sermon: "God is not..."

- * Honoring Those Who Are Moms to Us!
Celebrating Families!

1:30 PM Spring Arbor Worship

May 17—

Ascension Sunday; Graduate Sunday

+ Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; Acts 1:1-14

Sermon: "Jesus' Power"

- * Honoring Our High School Graduates;
Celebrating One Year of Our "Place at the
Table" Capital Campaign; Blood Pressure
Checks; Fellowship Reception (12:15 PM)

May 24—

Pentecost Sunday; Memorial Sunday

***You're invited to WEAR RED for Pentecost!**

+ Psalm 104:24-34; Acts 2:1-21

Sermon: "Melt Me, Mold Me, Fill Me, Use Me"

- * Special Memorial Remembrance Pre-Service
Music (8:20 AM & 10:50 AM)
- * Communion; Remembering Those Who Served
& Died; 4 Cents A Meal; GIFT Event

May 31—

Trinity Sunday

+ Genesis 1:1-2:4; Psalm 8; Matthew 28:16-20

Sermon: "Created for a Plan and Purpose"

- * Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering



OLDER ADULT SUNDAY

Sunday, May 3

Celebrate the gift of generations at Opequon!
Give thanks for our multi-generational congregation!
Older adults will share, serve, and sing!

We are so blessed!

**Remember to wear PINK &
GREEN for Apple Blossom!**

GUEST MISSIONARY: Friends For Health IN HAITI



Join us in the Fellowship Hall on May 3,
between the worship services, for an inspiring and
informative presentation by Dr. Katie Wolf, the
founder and Executive Director of Friends for
Health in Haiti, a faith-based non-profit
organization. She founded the organization 20
years ago with a mission to "improve the health of
the Haitian people as a reflection of our Christian
faith." She currently runs a large outpatient clinic in
the mountains south of the town of Jérémie, as
well as several community development programs.

Katie is the sister of one of our members, Janice
McMullin, and she is looking forward to sharing
her work and commitment to the Haitian people
with OPC. We hope you will come and enjoy
Katie's presentation and the opportunity to ask
any questions you may have.

MOTHER'S DAY & CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY

Sunday, May 10

As families, come together for worship.

Honor the women of Opequon.

Give thanks for our faith community.

Renew your commitment as families.

Glorify God!



NOTES FROM PASTOR DAVID:

"Steps to Tomorrow"

Dear Friends in Christ,

As many have heard me say, I am a routine person, following a particular rhythm each day. That includes my morning routine of watching "my friends" on ABC's Good Morning America, while eating breakfast and doing some initial work to begin my day. With our son Joel's recent knee surgery, I volunteered to be his driver, getting him to school or physical therapy each morning. What a privilege it is to spend that time each day with my son, chat, and help him get to his destinations. Because of this new rhythm, what I have discovered are a variety of experiences and encounters along the way, seeing people and finding places that I have never witnessed before at that time of the day or within my typical routine. I have seen a school come alive each morning, and I have faced traffic, especially on the Amherst Street corridor, that makes me wonder, "Where are all these people going?" It has been a fun process of discovery.

Over the past month, I have also made vital discoveries within our church's life, most of them shared with others, some maybe shared with you. And these findings both reaffirm my thinking but also challenge me and all of us to consider new routines and rhythms. At our Church Leadership Retreat on Palm Sunday weekend, your Elders, Deacons, Trustees, Vision and Personnel Teams, and ministry church staff focused on "Steps to Tomorrow: Where We Are, Where We Need to Go, and How We Will Get There." It was a day of being engaged by the Spirit and one another, discerning and envisioning our future as we contemplated our routines and rhythms and how they are changing and will change as we step forward, over the next 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-years. Now these leaders have work to do (please pray for us!), having created stepping stones into the future that we are beginning to address. While we had fun that day while connecting with one another through a variety of activities, we certainly worshiped, prayed, and thought critically. Then, at our recent "Cat Out of the Bag" experience, we learned that Opequon is largely a healthy congregation, almost at the peak of "high energy, high satisfaction," an opportunity for transformation to take place. Our Christ-centered values expressed through hospitality and outreach have not diminished and our five established pillars still resonate with the congregation as we seek to fulfill God's mission. But we also learned that some members expressed a desire for more engagement with church activities, enhanced physical facilities, strategies that will draw in families, outreach that will welcome and integrate new members, mission that

will make a difference in our community, and planning that will address readiness for ministry that will prepare the congregation for leadership transitions in the future. The CAT is intended to discover our members' hopes for the future, to gauge congregational readiness for change, and to uncover potential capacity of our membership through their gifts. So, following up with our large group meeting, our CAT Team will soon provide deeper dive opportunities for more critical thinking through small groups, some that are already being planned, some that you might suggest and host either in your home or at church.

So, Opequon Church's adventurous journey continues, toward our 295th year! We are taking steps to tomorrow, one-by-one, God leading us all the way. I hope you will join this ongoing process of discovery, of new routines and rhythms that will nurture our faith and bless our church and community.

Together in Christ's Service,

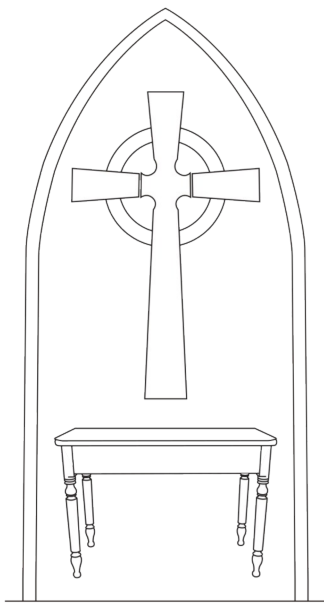
PASTOR TRACIE'S JUST THINKIN'...

Growing up in a greenhouse with a World War I grandfather and a World War II father, the month of May always ended with great emotion and a parade. My grandfather was a marine. My father was a crew chief on a C-47. As Memorial Day arrived, our family greenhouse became a central point of memory.

Grandpa was a local politician, so Memorial Day meant he would ride in the village parade and give a speech. Before all that, however, the geraniums had to be planted.

Memorial Day geraniums were grown in the greenhouse from slips that appeared in the cellar of my grandparent's house. Between Christmas and Easter, those slips were cut, rooted, and planted in the far left of the greenhouse, near the ferns and greenery. There, they got just enough light to grow slowly with strong, deep roots. The cemetery was often dry in the summer so deep roots mattered.

Three or four days before Memorial Day, after the grass had been cut and the stones cleared, we went to work. Dad pulled the big green wheelbarrow type cart full of good compost soil and plants. Mom dug the holes. Grandma planted the geraniums on each grave as specified. I ran from one adult to the other, carrying water and whatever else was needed. Grandpa oversaw the



A Place at the Table

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

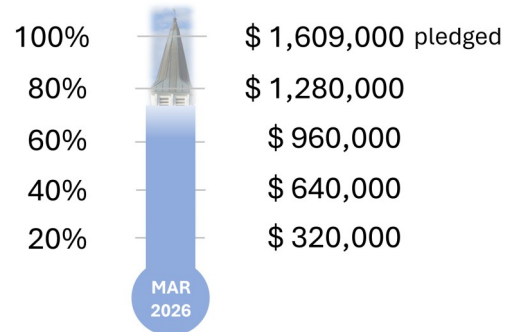
Our Capital Campaign to raise funds for a major expansion of our facility—including a new Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and Music Center—is rooted in a vision cast more than two decades ago. This addition will enhance our hospitality, fellowship, and outreach as we continue to make a difference in the lives of others. In keeping with OPC's longstanding commitment to generosity and service, the church designated 10% of all pledged campaign funds to support four nonprofit organizations:

- * **Local:** Bright Futures of Winchester/ Frederick County and Family Promise
- * **Global:** New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children (NOROC) and the Illubabor Bethel Synod of the Evangelical Ethiopian Church Mekane Yesus (IBS-EECMY)

This tithe reflects our values. We've done this before, during our 2002 sanctuary campaign, and we're proud to partner again with organizations that share our mission. Thus far, based on first year pledges received, we distributed \$80,000 in January, \$20,000 to each of the four organizations named above. These contributions for mission empower our community and global partners in serving those in need. Thank you for your generosity and know that your gifts are making a difference in the lives of others. This expansion is about more than bricks and mortar. It's about ensuring that everyone knows there is—and always will be—a *place at the table*.

BUILDING CAMPAIGN RECEIPTS

Building campaign receipts now total \$1,204k through March 2026, which is 75% 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. The total also includes gifts that were not pledged.



EXTENDING OUR EMPATHY AND CHRISTIAN LOVE TO...



- ☞ Larry and Judy McKay's family upon the death of Judy's sister, Linda Clem, on March 25.
- ☞ Janie Barbario, Rick and Christa Neff, and family upon the death of Janie and Rick's mother and OPC member, Mary Ellen Goodman Neff, on March 30.
- ☞ Bill Miller and family upon the death his wife, Darlene Miller, on April 11.
- ☞ The Steidel family and Robyn Ervin upon the death of Robyn's best friend and former OPC member, Jean Steidel, on April 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*

CELEBRATING NEW ARRIVALS



- ☞ Emmet King Bender, son of Kaley and Matt Bender and grandson of Debbie and Bill Bender, was born on April 8!
- ☞ Tate Andrew Westfall, son of Lillie and Scott Westfall, grandson of Barbara and Frank Rupert, born on April 20!
- ☞ Andrew Evans Hammer, son of Jacob and Isabella Hammer, grandson of Michelle and Joe Hammer, born on April 16!

We rejoice in celebration of these precious gifts of new life and pray God's blessing upon Emmet, Tate, Andrew, and all of their families!

CONGRATULATIONS 2026 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Opequon's 2026 High School seniors will be honored during morning worship service on Sunday, May 17. The Christian Education Team is privileged to highlight 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

GRADUATE CARD SHOWER

Congratulations to our high school graduates! We invite you to shower Noah Cutrona, Alex Sardelis, Austin Shook, and Kate Wilfong with cards. Please bring the cards to Opequon by Sunday, May 10. Write their first and last name on the front of the envelope and put them in Rebekah Witt's mailbox near the church office. Thank you!



NOMINATE AN OLDER ADULT FOR "OPEQUON'S 2026 OLDER ADULT OF THE YEAR"



So many of our older adults have been recognized as our "Older Adults of the Year". We celebrate those crowned in the past: Roy Bayliss, John Boyd, Frances Smith, Louise Duncan, Bill Robinson, Shirley and Dave Brumble, Rob MacGregor, Ty Headley, Edgar Tufts, Howard Kent, Donna Coffman, Betty Ganoe, Carol Tubbs, Graham Taylor, Carol and Jack Treece, Dick and Gail Crane, Martha Fulton, Becky Proctor, Steve Brown, Edwina Johansen, and Betty Chicklo, June Malone, Alan McKay, Jean Smith, Phil Hunter and Ray Jones.

It is time to share nominations for this year's older adult of the year. Who would you like to nominate? There are forms available on the Gathering Area table. Share who you nominate and **WHY**.

Nominations are **due by May 10** and they may come from anyone in the congregation. Forms may be returned to Carole Witt or dropped in the box provided on the table. The session will review the nominations and make the selection. The 2026 Older Adult of the Year will be announced at the Older Adult Luncheon on May 27.

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

Warmer days are here to stay! Take a few moments to feel the warm sun on your back. The month of May is known as Older Adult Month. We celebrate with all older adults! Thank you for being a vital part of Opequon's personality and ministry!

This month begins with the Older Adult Planning Team meeting on Monday, May 4 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 are provided.

The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be held on Wednesday, May 13 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall, beginning with a covered dish lunch. Rotisserie Chicken is provided as well as drinks. Bring a covered dish to share as part of the lunch. After lunch, the program will feature a guest speaker from the Rescue Mission, sharing about all that is going on there. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the friendships, warmth around the tables and this informative time.

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 **May 17**.

CAR VACUUMING & WASH

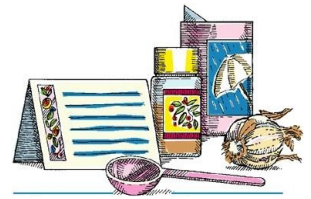
FUNDRAISER — A two for one deal!

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, 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 West Virginia.

COOKBOOK RECIPES NEEDED

We are still collecting recipes and memorabilia for our **"A Place at the Table Cookbook!"** Should you have a recipe that you want to include in the cookbook, please place any handwritten or typed recipes in Marj Praml's mailbox near the church office or email your recipes to Cindy Sousa (casousa260@gmail.com).



Dear OPiE,

I am new here. How can I learn about Opequon Church?

— Bright-Eyed

Dear Bright,

Welcome to Opequon! We are so glad you're here! Fitting in at OPC is rather easy. You probably noticed that there were people ready to welcome you as soon as you entered the church. That welcome will carry on as far as you want to go. People here want to know you. They are friendly, yes, but we take that friendliness and ramp it up a notch or two to help you find your place here.

We have Ministry Team Night in May and June, then pause for July. Ministry Team Night is a great time to meet and greet some of the most active members of our church family. Each team (think 'committee') meets for business following a meal together. We have a short devotion; Pastor David catches us up on what is going on and who needs prayer or support. Then we break into teams. You can visit as many teams as you like. Plan to get a sense of what happens and you can get serious about joining in August when Leadership Night resumes after a quick July sabbath.

Another great way to join in at OPC is the choir. The choir now practices on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM; September through March at 7:15 PM. When Logos, our child and youth program, starts in the fall, we meet a bit later. Choir is just plain fun. We sing, yes, but we also laugh a lot. We have some truly great solo voices, but we also have a lot of support singers. You do not need to be trained; you just need to be willing. Our voices blend well and the music is chosen so we all can sing it.

In June, July, and August, we move from two services to one. This is good because we all worship together at the same time. It's a season where you can meet most of the congregation and get to know them. The Sunday service is at 10:00 AM. We have special music at most services, which lets us feature our musicians.

The best way to learn about OPC, however, is to ask people. We have folks who have worshipped here for generations. We have people who have recently come. If you want to learn about the church, ask Betty Ganoë, one of our real long-timers. She will keep you listening to great stories. You might want to meet George Schember, our church historian. He will take you into our history hall to see pictures of the past. Most of our church family can and will tell you interesting things about the church. Just ask them. Even our children have tales to tell.

When you are ready, join one of our Newcomers' classes. There, Pastor David will introduce you to the Presbyterian denomination and give you information about how things work here. At Opequon Pres, there is a place for everyone—even me, the church mouse!

— Your friend, OPiE

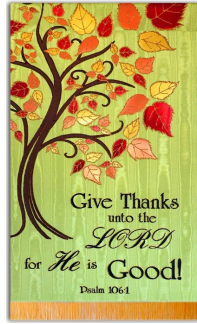
MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT

Tuesday, May 5

- 6:00 PM "Breakfast at Night" Meal: scrambled eggs, pancakes, biscuits & gravy, hash brown casserole, & fruit
(provided by the Men of Opequon)
- 6:45 PM Devotions & Team Meetings

IN HONOR OF OUR MOTHERS & FATHERS

The Christian Education Team is purchasing a professionally made banner that can be displayed in our Sanctuary and other areas. We have purchased a Thanksgiving-themed banner. This banner is a gift in honor of all Opequon women and mothers and all men and fathers. We are pleased to get this gift for use when needed at Opequon. A very happy Mother's Day and Father's Day to all.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 14—17, 2026

The days are warm and getting warmer! Our plans for Vacation Bible School are heating up too.

The theme is so relevant and practical- "EVERY LIVING THING" with the focus on how every living thing needs Food, Shelter, Water, Air, and Community. We are planning a super time for those warm summer evenings. Vacation Bible School is June 14—17, Sunday—Wednesday, 5:00—7:30 PM.

Vacation Bible School is open to 4-year-olds through 8th grade with an adult class as well. Registration is available online and at the VBS hut in the Gathering Area. Registration is open until June 7. The help of many volunteers is needed too. There is a place for many different interests and ways of helping. Volunteer forms are at the VBS hut display. Any completed registration and volunteer forms may be left in the basket at the display. Thank you.

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

YOUTH: GRADES 6-12

May 17: Youth Families & Graduates Lunch

GIFT EVENT—May 24 (9:45 AM)

Our monthly Generations in Faith Together (GIFT) event will be on 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 ON MAY 24 AT 9:45 AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE

Opie's Playhouse is a Sunday morning playgroup for young families and offers 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. If you haven't tried us yet, please come!

Our next playgroup will be on May 3, 9:45 AM—10:45 AM, in the Memorial Sanctuary. Opie's Playhouse is hosted by the Christian Education Team the first Sunday of every month. Hope to see you there!



THE LATEST IN LOGOS

Many of you may have settled into a new routine on Wednesdays now with Logos having ended several weeks ago. Logos is certainly NOT OUT OF MIND, however! The leadership team has spent time reviewing evaluation feedback and comments, taking things learned and discerned to set goals for the new Logos year that will begin in September. We have many Logos thoughts on our minds. We will decide on a new theme, set important dates for the upcoming year, plan some special events, and work on calling the extensive Logos staff that is needed to make it all happen. There will be a lot of excitement for our 29th year! This time between Logos years is important for young people and Logos staff. As the leadership team meets regularly during this time, we hold all our young people and congregation members in our hearts as we work to provide the best Logos experience possible. Keep eyes and ears open to learn and get information about the next Logos year. YEAR # 29 of Logos at Opequon!



YOUNG ADULTS: AGES 18-35

May 15: Cookout & Picnic

MEN OF OPEQUON THIS MONTH

The monthly MOO gathering will be held on Monday, May 11, beginning with dinner at Chick-fil-A at 6:00 PM. We will then travel to the church for our meeting at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall, where we will share devotions and prayer and enjoy a special presentation by our own George Schember. George and his wife, Jeanne, live in the "Daniel Morgan House," the second oldest house in Winchester that was the home of General Daniel Morgan, American pioneer and Revolutionary War soldier, tactician, and hero. George has great insights to share about General Morgan as we mark 250 years since our country's founding. All men are invited.

Thanks to the men who sponsored the Sunrise Breakfast under the direction of Kyle and Andy Homan. We are grateful!

The men also will be cooking up "some grub" in the church kitchen for our May Ministry Team Night! The menu is "breakfast at night." Please join the evening breakfast team as we flip pancakes.

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 enjoyed a Progressive Dinner throughout the church last month. This month women will enjoy DINNER OUT at Italian Delight on Warrior Drive in Stephens City on May 12. Plan to meet at the restaurant at 6:00 PM. We will share some devotions and enjoy each other's company over dinner. We look forward to welcoming Opequon women for a delightful evening together. All Opequon women are invited.

LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will gather in Fellowship Hall on Monday, May 18, at noon. The main course will be tuna noodle casserole. Please plan to bring a dish to pass or chip in a buck or two towards expenses. See you then.

FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

Fellowship Book Club will meet in the Bageant Room on May 28 at 6:00 PM.

COLLECTION FOR CCAP



Throughout the month of May, we will be collecting macaroni and cheese for CCAP. Donations may be placed in the 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, May 10, 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.

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN

Spring is bringing new life to our church garden, and we're excited to share that the onions and peas are already sprouting and growing beautifully! It's always encouraging to see the first signs of the season taking hold.

As we continue planting, we invite the congregation and any other volunteers to join us in this meaningful work. Upcoming planting days and times will be included in future emails, and we encourage everyone to keep an eye on the weekly bulletins for opportunities to come out and volunteer. Whether you have a green thumb or are just curious to learn, all are welcome!

We are also looking for some volunteers to assist with mowing and weed-eating in the garden on a rotating schedule throughout the season. If you're interested in helping, please contact Sheyenne Ervin (sheyenneervin@gmail.com).

This year, we are implementing a more sustainable delivery system for our garden harvest. As part of this effort, we will no longer be collecting plastic containers, plastic bags, or paper handle bags. We appreciate your support as we take this step toward more environmentally responsible practices. Thank you for being part of this growing ministry! We look forward to another fruitful season together!





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



As the Opequon Presbyterian Church moves into a new era of building and reaching out into area neighborhoods, the importance of the needs of our local school communities has become an important focal point. A panel discussion, will be held on Thursday, May 21, 6:30 PM—8:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall, focusing on practical partnership opportunities designed to connect our church and other organizations with identified needs. The event aims to generate realistic, actionable ideas that will support students and families and will include a Q&A session.

OPC will soon begin construction on a new addition designed to enhance community outreach through increased capacity and improved accessibility. The congregation wants to use this new space in ways that can make a difference locally through effective partnerships and community outreach. The event will include a panel of front-line education professionals (counselors, school nurses), a FEMA statistician, and a Valley Health demographics expert. Discussion topics include: effective support for students in today's culture, helpful school-church partnerships, key boundaries, and how trust is built in these relationships.

We aim to identify ways a church or community partner can reduce student stress and support education.

Please join us in Opequon's Fellowship Hall on May 21 at 6:30 PM. This event is open to everyone, and all Opequon educators are particularly welcome to attend.

WHAT IS LEGACY GIVING?



—From Pastor Tracie Martin for the Stewardship & Finance Team

We all reach a point where we wonder if we might leave a legacy after we are gone and what that legacy might be. What is a legacy? According to my computer dictionary, a legacy is "the long-lasting impact of particular events, actions, etc. that took place in the past, or of a person's life." Whether we recognize it or not, we are all—right now—building a legacy for Opequon Church.

Today, at Opequon Church, you are helping to build something lasting and beautiful. More than just a physical structure or a series of programs, your support is building a thriving church community that makes a difference in the lives of people in our congregation, locally, in the world today and into the future. What we do now will have a lasting future impact. Are you part of a ministry team? Do you work with Logos, care for our church property, sing in the choir, prepare the newsletter for mailing, or any of a host of other involvements? Do you faithfully attend Sunday worship or pray for our leadership and church family? Do you pledge or give regularly? Are you an usher or a greeter?

Giving financially to the church is one part of what we do today, but what if you could provide a gift to the church that would continue giving after you're gone? **That is "legacy giving!"**

Legacy giving can take many forms. A bequest is a simple way for you to bless not only your immediate family, but your church family as well. It's a way to live forward and **give** forward, blessing those who come after us through the choices you make today. Many people assume that they need to be wealthy to make a bequest or legacy gift. While large gifts certainly help, they are the exception, rather than the rule. The widow's offering in Luke 21 reminds us that it's not the size of the gift, but the measure of faith it represents. God provides the increase.

The choice of the specific mode of making a gift will depend completely on your own, unique circumstances and personal and financial objectives. The **outright bequest** is the most popular method of making gifts—large and small—to any charity. The bequest may be expressed in terms of a fixed amount or a percentage of your residual estate. But there are several other options for structuring a legacy gift to the church.

To help explain legacy giving options, the Stewardship & Finance Team has created a new section of the Giving page on the church website located here:

<https://www.opequonchurch.org/giving>

In this new section, we have provided links to a variety of resources, some of which come from the Presbyterian Foundation, an organization within the PC(USA). We encourage you to review these resources and to discuss your interest in a legacy gift with your tax advisor or the attorney who prepared your will. Making a bequest is easy and costs you nothing during your lifetime. Your assets remain in your control. After you make provisions for your family, you can give a gift to your church by including a bequest statement in your will.

To ensure that our church community continues to thrive, please consider making a legacy gift to the church. Thank you for your faithful support of your church family and our shared mission and ministry.

We are happy to discuss any questions you may have or offer help in accessing the resources on the website. Please contact Ron Smith, OPC Treasurer (703-216-9588 or ronaldsmith1@gmail.com).

Opequon Presbyterian Church
Financial Summary for the period ended
March 31, 2026

	Annual Budget 2026	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
Income					
410000 Offering Income	961,041	100,014	255,802	705,239	26.6%
420000 Other Income	2,100	219	895	1,205	42.6%
Total 400000 Income	963,141	100,233	256,696	706,445	26.7%
Expenses					
500000 Personnel Costs					
510000 Installed Pastors	160,114	12,871	38,960	121,154	24.3%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	259,866	18,334	52,238	207,628	20.1%
530000 Administrative Staff	167,195	13,305	40,184	127,011	24.0%
Total 500000 Personnel Costs	587,175	44,510	131,382	455,793	22.4%
600000 Other Ministries					
610000 Christian Education	15,650	474	3,388	12,262	21.6%
620000 Congregational Care	2,800	157	772	2,028	27.6%
630000 Evangelism	6,050	61	313	5,737	5.2%
640000 Fellowship	4,250	743	1,226	3,024	28.9%
650000 Mission	79,219	3,162	25,736	53,483	32.5%
660000 Worship	8,000	1,132	2,331	5,669	29.1%
Total 600000 Other Ministries	115,969	5,727	33,766	82,203	29.1%
Total 700000 Church Administration	160,200	18,591	42,643	117,557	26.6%
Total Expenses	863,344	68,829	207,792	655,552	24.1%
Net Operating Income (Expense)	99,797	31,404	48,905	50,892	49.0%
920000 Other Income	18,650	1,655	6,023	12,627	32.3%
930000 Other Expenses	118,447	9,951	29,735	88,713	25.1%
Net Other Income (Expense)	(99,797)	(8,296)	(23,711)	(76,086)	23.8%
Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses	0	23,108	25,193		

	3/31/26
Cash	\$ 156,343
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance	\$ 255,137



THANK YOU

The family of Jean Smith want to say thank you to everyone at Opequon Presbyterian Church for the wonderful kindness and love given to our mother throughout the years. She truly loved her church and church family. We know God gave her joy by being with all of you and that joy put a smile on her face. There is no doubt she will pray for all of us in her heavenly home.

With love and gratitude,
Waverly Lee, Rob Smith,
Sharon Koch, Susan Brown

Dear Opequon Friends,

Thank you all for the meals and visits you brought to me while I was recuperating from shoulder surgery. I felt like a one-arm paper hanger during the last two months! So not having to cook some meals was very much appreciated!

Fondly,
Denise Weidele

We want to thank everyone for the uplifting cards, calls, visits, meals, and prayers as we continue on this healing journey. The treatment ahead will require several weeks of isolation for both of us, but knowing the Opequon family is behind us is comforting. We are reminded that we are not alone in our walk of faith. Thank you all.

Bud & Becky Proctor

Dear Church Family,

Our hearts are so full of gratitude for the incredible love and support you have shown our family, not only during the passing of our Dad, but also throughout the time leading up to it.

The meals, visits, and prayers you so generously shared while Dad was still with us brought him (and all of us) such comfort and peace. Knowing he was surrounded by so much love from this congregation meant the world to him and to our family.

In these past two months, your continued kindness has carried us in ways we can never fully express. In a time of deep loss, your compassion has been a true source of strength and reassurance.

Thank you for being the hands, heart, and feet of Christ and walking alongside us through every step of this journey.

With heartfelt appreciation,
The Family of Bill Robinson

Over the course of these last 16 months, all of you have prayed for my husband and then our grandson. Words can not express how grateful I am for those prayers. When Gary, who fractured his hip socket resulting in an extended stay in NJ with surgery and rehab, then extended rehab for months at home you were lifting us up and those prayers were so encouraging. In a very challenging time in our lives. Then, his subsequent hip replacement, this January, which was a breeze in comparison. Our college-age grandson who dislocated his shoulder and needed surgery to repair a ligament earlier this spring is doing well. He will graduate with his class at the end of this month!

Again, thank you!

Sincerely,
Mary Ann Johnson



Happy Birthday

- 1 Sandy Haney
- 1 Bill Thomasson
- 1 Selena Littman
- 2 Mike Butler
- 2 Rod Arrington
- 4 David Joyner
- 4 Stephen Rockwell
- 4 Ann Denison
- 5 Brendan Nutry
- 6 Les Veach
- 6 Terry Hartman
- 6 Tim Hoffman
- 7 Joshua Brown
- 7 Becky Proctor
- 8 Kennedy Jordan

- 9 Verna Saar
- 10 Leslie Tucker
- 10 Kay Picciuto
- 11 Joel Sherman
- 12 Lydia Delamatta
- 13 Harriet Smith
- 14 Jan Donovan
- 14 Kitty Nicholas
- 16 Bill Bayliss
- 16 Suzi White
- 16 Steve Bock
- 17 Griffin Hott
- 17 Bobbie Cropp
- 18 Hannah Wright
- 18 Anne Carter
- 18 Andrew Lilly
- 19 Helen Schieve

- 19 Vicky Astorino
- 19 Peggy Myer
- 20 Alex Plumb
- 20 Dave Schwantes
- 20 Sarah Brill
- 20 Mary Ann Johnson
- 21 Evan Nordeen
- 21 Bev Leech
- 22 Megan West
- 22 Tom Tandy
- 24 Marj Praml
- 24 Mike Crites
- 24 Eddy Strosnider
- 25 Brenda Steffens
- 26 Hank Agreggaard
- 26 Claire Gaines
- 27 Bill Bender

- 28 Mary Thulin
- 28 Bruce Leech
- 29 Leah O'Connell
- 29 Caleb Garcia
- 30 Mo Mohler
- 30 David Sweeney
- 30 Dominic Cafaro
- 31 Alan McKay
- 31 Tracy Drumheller
- 31 Nicholas Leonard
- 31 Bill Wellman
- 31 Dennis Boyd



Happy Anniversary

- 5 Linda & Michael Smyser
- 6 Bruce & Kathi Lehnhard
- 7 Eric & Mandy Estep
- 10 Jack & Chris Armstrong
- 16 Jayson & Kalley Bormann

- 16 Marc & Rebekah DesMarais
- 16 Sparky & Sara Gomez
- 17 Izzy & Pauline Cruz
- 20 Melissa & Chris Moses
- 20 Dave & Ruth Richards
- 21 Jeff & Sherry Schryver
- 24 Bill & Debbie Bender

- 25 Clayton & Terry Hartman
- 25 Jack & Carolee Klimek
- 26 Brenda & Kraig Hawkins
- 26 Michael & Christina Usa
- 27 Barbara & Don Ratcliff
- 31 Tom & Rhoda Tandy
- 31 Jack & Susan Youngblood

STAFF SCHEDULE NOTES

May 1: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (Apple Blossom)
 May 4-9: Rebekah Witt (Continuing Education)
 May 8-16: Carole & David Witt (Vacation)
 May 24-25: Tracie Martin (Vacation)
 May 25: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (Memorial Day)

Note: If a pastoral concern arises, please contact the church office or note who is away and contact Pastor David Witt or Pastor Tracie Martin directly as needed.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATION



American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention

Our Faith Nurses will be hosting a "Caring Communities: Guidance for Supporting Survivors of Suicide Loss" presentation on May 14, at 7:00 PM at the Winchester Medical Center Conference Center.

This one-hour program, offered through the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), is designed to provide practical guidance on how to support individuals who have recently experienced a loss to suicide. It is suitable for workplaces, community groups, and anyone interested in building more supportive environments for loss survivors.

Participants will:

- * Understand suicide as a complex health issue
- * Understand the impact of suicide on loss survivors
- * Learn practical ways to support suicide loss survivors in various settings
- * Become familiar with available resources for suicide loss survivors

The session will be presented by Markita Madden, Executive Director of the AFSP Virginia Chapter, and Winter Brooks, Board Member, AFSP Virginia Chapter. If you have any questions prior to the event, please feel free to reach out to Winter Brooks (winterbrooks.afsp@gmail.com).

JUNE WILL BE JUMPING @ OPEQUON!

- ✓ VBS Staff Orientation—Monday, June 1
- ✓ Ministry Team Night—Tuesday, June 2
- ✓ Summer Worship @ 10:00 AM Only Begins—Sunday, June 7
- ✓ June Communion—Sunday, June 7
- ✓ Vacation Bible School—June 14-17
- ✓ Father's Day—Sunday, June 21
- ✓ "Picnic in the Garden" & WOW Outdoor Worship Service—June 28
- ✓ Deep Cleaning the Church Kitchen—June 30



**"Blue Skies & Green Grass"
SPRING CONCERT INVITATION**

**Saturday, June 20
4:00 PM**

Windsong will be celebrating their 5th anniversary with a spring concert in the Opequon Sanctuary, followed by some light refreshments in the Gathering Area.
All are welcome to attend!
Free-will offerings appreciated.



WORSHIP REMINDER:

**Summer Worship @ 10:00 AM
Starts on Sunday, June 7!**
(June / July / August)

SAVE THE DATE: "GENERATIONS SUNDAY"

Sunday, August 23

Celebrating the
Pillars, Generations,
& Families of Opequon

Sunday, August 23

10:00 AM Worship & Fellowship



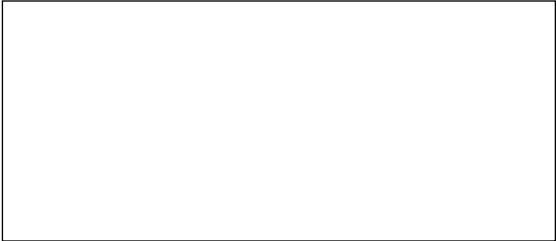
**** The deadline to send newsletter submissions to the church office the 15th of each month. ****

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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2026

**OPEQUON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
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)

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