

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

October 2024

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, October 2

**6:30 PM "Worship on
Wednesday" (WOW)**

Our LOGOS Children, Youth, &
Staff Participating!

Sunday, October 6

World Communion Sunday

† Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Mark 10:2-16

Sermon: "Open Hearts, Open
Minds, Open Faith"

Join your church family & world
around the Table!

Peacemaking & Global Witness
Offering; Bread Basket Buffet;
Romania Mission Forum

Sunday, October 13

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

† Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Mark 10:17-31

Sermon: "A Powerful Force"

Youth Mission Forum

1:30 PM Spring Arbor Worship

2:00 PM Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, October 20

† Job 38:1-7, 34-41; Mark 10:35-45

Sermon: "Wisdom of the Whirlwind"
Blood Pressure Checks

Sunday, October 27

Reformation Sunday

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

† Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Mark 10:46-52

Sermon: "Just As I Am"

4 Cents A Meal, "Volunteer of the
Year;" October GIFT Event; Chili
Cook-Off

WORLD COMMUNION FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 6

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

with Peacemaking & Global Witness Offering

9:30 AM Bread Basket Buffet

*Don't miss this annual celebration
of languages, loaves,
prayer, and praise
as we gather with the world
around the Table of Our Lord!*



PASTOR APPRECIATION

Sunday, October 13



Pastor Julia, Pastor David, & Pastor Tracie—

*Your ministry has made such a difference in our lives.
The kindness you have shown, the truth you have shared,
and the faith you have exhibited throughout the years
has blessed us beyond measure.*

*We pray for God's continued mercy and blessing on you all,
your families and your ministry.*

We greatly appreciate you!



NOTES FROM PASTOR DAVID

"The Bush in the Front Yard: A Story A Lesson"

Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the past several months, Carole and I have worked on our yard, removing eight bushes, boxwoods, that have slowly been declining. We dug each one up individually and piled them behind our storage building until we could cart them away to the landfill. Of course, it was hard work as we hand dug around each bush and pried ground, mind you, but we persevered. Then, in late August, we had one more bush to go—the largest one in the front yard. It had rained several inches that week, so we thought that it would be easier with wetter ground. Little did we know! The bush was larger. The roots were deeper and wider. And that wet ground, that red clay soil: it held onto the root system like concrete! We chopped and chopped. We dug and dug. We pushed and pulled. We had Knox on that Friday and he watched with both wonder and a puzzled look on his face. I wanted to get that bush out before Joel got there with the pick-up truck to help me load up all the debris from the eight bushes. And our neighbor did come over to help me drag the bush out of the hole, just as Joel arrived. So, then the three of us loaded up the truck for the first of two trips Joel and I made to the landfill that day.

That's the story. Now the lesson...

Those bushes had incredible root systems. I can't believe how strong they were, how resilient they were. They kept those bushes in place, enduring all kinds of weather conditions. I don't know when those bushes were planted, but they were there when we moved in twenty-seven years ago. As I think now about those roots, I am reminded of this congregation through its 292 years—what an incredible history of perseverance; what an amazing inheritance that has been passed on from one generation to another. And while there have certainly been stages of challenge and even decline—through war, fire, and conflict—the church now is strong and thriving because the roots are strong, the connections are deep and wide. I also learned on that Friday that we should have waited—I should have waited—waited for help, waited for Joel to arrive. I should not have thought that we could do that all by ourselves. But how often do we think that? I can do it all by myself. But we can't. We need each other. We need to work as a team. We need to help one another. That's always an essential discovery for us within the church. Our teamwork is crucial to the vitality, spirit, and discipleship of our

congregation. As we begin new ventures in our life together, just imagine how much we can do as we work together. We readily say we are the hands, heart, and feet of Christ (and Tracie says, the smile too!). In this season of stewardship, I think our legacy and our teamwork will flourish as a church.

The bush in the front yard. I'm glad it's gone, but I'm also glad I learned from the experience.

Together in Christ's Service,

PASTOR JULIA'S MUSINGS

Friends in Christ,



This is my favorite time of year in so many ways. The mornings are chilly as I sip coffee on the back deck every morning. The leaves are starting to change. It feels like the world is just as excited for each day as we are. It's cozy, it's nostalgic, and I don't know about you, but it makes me extremely happy.

There are other things that are inherent about this time of year: new routines at school, darker evenings, and, this year, election season. I was talking to an old mentor about ministry recently and she asked me, "What is your favorite thing about Opequon?" Without hesitation, I responded, "Each person truly loves their neighbor, full stop, no questions asked."

We follow God's clear command:
to love each other no matter what.

With goosebumps on my arms, I said, "I've truly never seen the kingdom of God lived out so powerfully than in this church."

So, in an election season that is dividing so many around the country, we come together each week: loving one another, centered in Christ, and recognizing that, while people have different opinions, we all have love—love in Christ, love for one another—at the very center.

So friends, love each other.
Keep doing the good work of representing
God's kingdom of love.
Full stop.

Blessings,

PASTOR TRACIE'S JUST THINKIN'

When Bill and I moved to Yellow Spring, we noticed a pond with three ducks. We pass by that pond every time we drive to Winchester. The pond was often occupied by three ducks, a male and two females. We could tell the gender by their stances.



It became a game for us to find the "duckies" as we drove by. Sometimes they were in the field, sometimes alarmingly near the road, most often in the water. We never gave them names, we just watched for them and laughed at ourselves for being so happy when we found them.



This spring, one of the females disappeared. We thought she might just have stayed home that day, but the ensuing weeks demonstrated that she was, in fact, gone. The male and the other female were still visible, but we wondered just what had happened to the third. Then, just a few weeks ago, the male was alone. He is still there, alone in the pond or in the field. We keep wondering just what happened.

There are predators in West Virginia, lots of predators—foxes, coyotes, bears, oh my! The road is also very busy with speeding pickups and 18 wheelers. We discovered the ducks 8 years ago, so they could have hit the end of their expected life span. We don't know the farmer/landholder who lives near the pond, so we will never know what truly happened.

Neither the landholder nor the ducks will ever know that they have had a place in our lives, but we truly do miss the girls and worry about the guy.

I wonder how often this happens at OPC? Not that we have a lot of ducks in the congregation, but the church has grown to the point that it is hard, even as a pastor, to get to know everyone well. There are faces we might see regularly without knowing names. There are names that might come up regularly but fail to draw faces. There are just a lot of us in our church family.

Still, every one of us matters to God, even if only Pastor David knows all our names. Each of us is part of Christ's heart, hands, and feet; we each have a place. When one of us is missing, ill, or in trouble, it matters! When one of us is sad or troubled, the entire church family changes and often, it is unexpected people who respond.

It's a lot like making soup...

If there is a lack of salt, the potatoes and carrots will have less taste. Leave out the garlic and the broth changes. Remember the story of "Stone Soup?" Many additions make something that encourages and nourishes all of us. Think of yourself as your favorite spice and dig in!



—Tracie

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

✂ The Capital Campaign, Architectural Review (ART), & Vision Teams—Mitch Orndorff, Greg Eisenhauer, Nick Sardelis, Travis Morgan, Dave Schwantes, and Bill Thomasson presented the progress toward the building expansion. They presented two recommendations which were passed by unanimous votes:

- On behalf of the Stewardship & Finance Team, Session approved (i) the draft contract with Church Campaign Services (CCS) for fund raising consulting services, with aggregate fees of \$27,600, be approved; (ii) the funding for the agreement will be from the Building Expansion investment fund at Wells Fargo (current balance = \$39k); and (iii) Travis Morgan, as President of Opequon Presbyterian Church of Winchester, Inc., shall be authorized to sign the CCS contract.
- On behalf of the Stewardship & Finance Team, Session approved that (i) Balzer & Associates, Inc. be selected as the church's architect for the building expansion project; (ii) Greg Eisenhauer, as co-chair of the Architecture Review Team (ART), is authorized, in coordination with the Stewardship & Finance Team, to negotiate a definitive agreement with Balzer; (iii) the funding for the architectural fees will be determined by the Stewardship & Finance Team and (iv) Travis Morgan, as President of Opequon Presbyterian church of Winchester, Inc., shall be authorized to sign the contract. The estimated fees for Balzer are in the range of \$290k to approximately \$318k depending on the selection of certain optional services. If the amount exceeds \$318k, Session will be consulted for approval.

✂ Mission Ministry

- The Mission Team approved using \$5,000 of the Lupton Fund for Move-in Ministry, part of the Family Promise Northern Shenandoah Valley, Inc. Carol Schempp, Karen Winters, and Pastor Julia will be the liaisons and help coordinate this effort.

- There is an opportunity for an individual to travel to Ethiopia (costs are already covered) to attend the BETHEL Synods 50th anniversary celebration in early November.
- ✂ Evangelism Ministry—Ben Brooks shared that the Evangelism Team is moving forward with the ordering and printing of Opequon Presbyterian Church T-Shirts
- ✂ Fellowship Ministry—Marj Pram highlighted the following events:
 - October 13, 2024 – Blessing of the Pets at the Pitcock Shelter (2:00 PM—4:00 PM)
 - October 27, 2024 – Chili Cook Off after the 11 AM Service (we need cooks and judges!)
- ✂ Buildings & Grounds Ministry—Mike Wygant and Jack Marquis presented the following motions and project statuses:
 - Session approved spending \$600 to connect the sewage pump to the security system.
 - Session approved paying \$8432 to install railings on either side of the porch entrance ramp.
 - There is a group discussing lighting improvements in the Memorial Sanctuary.
 - The second pew alteration needed to accommodate the audio-visual operation area is complete.
- ✂ Stewardship & Finance Ministry
 - Ken Smiy, OPC Financial Administrator, reminded Session that ministry area budgets for 2025 are due October 25.
 - Session approved the August 2024 Financial Report.
- ✂ Technology Ministry—The church is switching to a newly installed Wi-Fi and wired network on Friday, September 20, 2024.
- ✂ Christian Education Ministry—LOGOS begins September 18, 2024!
- ✂ Commissioned Communion Visitors—On September 22, 2024, the following individuals will be commissioned as At-Home Communion Servers:
 - Bud Proctor, Mike Nutry, Carol Nutry, Bill Martin, Becky Myers, Nancy Picklap, Penny Smith, Alyce Callahan, Brenda Steffens, Brian Steffens, Helen Ritchie, Rex Ritchie, Ann Denison, Judy Moody, Ben Brooks, Winter Brooks
 - To serve as needed: Debbie Bender, Bill Bender, Mary Ann Johnson, June Malone, Betty Chicklo

*Susan Ritter, Acting Clerk of Session for Ann C.M. Smith,
Opequon Presbyterian Church*

NEW OPEQUON MEMBERS WELCOMED IN AUGUST



- ❖ Arthur Littman, Transfer of Membership from Braden River Presbyterian Church (Bradenton, FL)
- ❖ Wendy Pangborn Littman, Transfer of Membership from Braden River Presbyterian Church (Bradenton, FL)

CONGRATULATIONS, GRANDPARENTS!



Congratulations to Lynn and Jerry Metheny and Carole Metheny upon the birth of their most recent grandson and great-grandson, Eli Lee Metheny, son of Ross and Lauren Metheny, born on September 1. Eli joins his older brother, Jaxson, and older sister, Landen.

Congratulations to Ann and Ron Smith upon the birth of their most recent granddaughter, Ava Joan Hampton, daughter of McKenzie and Curtis Hampton, born on September 10.

EXTENDING OUR EMPATHY AND CHRISTIAN LOVE TO...



- ✂ Jeff and Kitty Kraemer, upon the death of Jeff's father, Leonard, on August 21.
- ✂ Linda Bock and family upon the death of her brother, Louis Joseph "JR" Rittmeyer, who died on August 29.
- ✂ Gail Crane and family upon the death of her infant great-grandson, George Crane, who died on September 7.
- ✂ The family of Karen Wolfgang, former member of Opequon Church, who died on September 23.

*"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*

OCTOBER MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT

Tuesday, October 1

- 6:00 PM Meal: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Peas, Carrots, Three Bean Salad, Apple Crisp, Peach Crisp, & Drinks
- 6:45 PM Devotions & Team Meetings



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

The annual Peace and Global Witness Offering will be received and dedicated on World Communion Sunday, October 6. 25% will be retained by Opequon Church for us to carry the hope of peace and witness right here within our own community. 75% will support programs of our denomination that work to restore communities and help make our world more just and peaceful through Christ. You may use the envelopes provided or the DONATE NOW button on our website and designate your gift for this special offering. Give the gift of peace. Give generously.

BREAD BASKET BUFFET



The Christian Education Team is excited to offer the Bread Basket Buffet on World Communion Sunday, October 6. We will provide a buffet of various breads and spreads in the Gathering Area at 9:30 AM. Enjoy the nourishment of breads as well as the fellowship around the table. Gluten-free options, coffee, tea, and water will also be available. You may even learn some fascinating facts about BREAD.

MUSIC AT NOON



On October 16, the noon hour will be filled with the music of our sanctuary organ and piano. All are welcome to come and go as their schedules allow for this time of eclectic, informal "just music" that repeats each month on the third Wednesday. Feel free to invite your friends, family, and neighbors too!

LET'S SUPPORT OUR KIDS & YOUTH

Did you know that our young people are involved in all sorts of activities outside of the church building? We have amazing artists, athletes, writers, musicians, and more! Rebekah Witt is collecting their activity schedules so that we can show up and support our families in all that they do. Be on the lookout for communication from Rebekah about how you can continue to nurture relationships with our families outside of the church walls! If your child or youth has a schedule that you'd like to share, please reach out to Rebekah (rwitt@opequonchurch.org).

WORSHIP WALKS

Pastor Julia Burkley and Pastor Pup Jackson invite you to get outside and experience God in nature for a Worship Walk on Friday, October 18. All are welcome! We will meet at 1:00 PM at Opequon and take the church bus to Cool Spring Battlefield, or you are welcome to meet us there. Dog and people friendly dogs are welcome, but we ask for you to meet us there. Cool Spring Battlefield is a 3 mile walk that is mostly paved, with an option to walk down a dirt path to a waterfall or sit at a bench and enjoy the view of the river. We will walk slowly and enjoy the scenery around us. RSVP to Pastor Julia (pastorjulia@opequonchurch.org) by Monday, October 14, so we may know how many to expect to join us.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 27



"God is our refuge and strength,
a present help in times of trouble..."
(Psalm 46:1)

Celebrate the Gift of the Church,
Reformed and Always Being Reformed!

You are invited to wear **red**,
the color of reformation!

CHILI COOK-OFF

It's that time of year!

The traditional Chili Cook-Off date is fast approaching on October 27—following the 11:00 AM worship service!



We need 10-12 pots of chili for our Cook-Off Contest and about six 9x11 pans of cornbread. The sign-up poster is in the Gathering Area. Please consider being part of this Fun Event. Contact Marj Praml (pramlmarjory550@gmail.com) with any questions.



OPC STAFF SPOTLIGHT:

Susan Homan

Director of Music

Susan Homan is our Director of Music and has been here at OPC for 58 years! She is the fearless leader of our Choir and continues to generously share her time and musical talents with us. Music is an integral part of our Sunday worship—it brings us joy, energy, excitement, and it helps our faith grow. Music often is a way we connect with one another making church feel like a family. We are a family of joyful singers at OPC!

Susan and her husband, Kyle, have been married for 33 years and enjoy spending time with their two children and daughter-in-law. Susan is quick to make you feel comfortable and welcome. She is also always excited to offer opportunities for members to participate either in choir or special music presentations like the Christmas Cantata. Please take a moment to thank her for sharing her gifts with us each week!

Some fun facts about Susan you may not know:

- ❖ Q: What is your favorite movie or TV show?
A: *The Wizard of Oz*
- ❖ Q: Do you have a favorite sports team?
A: Washington (Redskins) Commanders
- ❖ Q: What is your favorite snack or food?
A: I love popcorn! Crab Cakes
- ❖ Q: Where would you like to travel?
A: I would love to go to Greece.
- ❖ Q: What hobbies do you enjoy?
A: I love to play the piano and to read a good book—especially at the beach! I enjoy working out and teaching Group Fitness Classes, where I have been teaching for over 30 years.
- ❖ Q: What are three items you would bring to a deserted island?
A: Water & Snacks (Actually, I guess that's two items there but my family knows I don't travel without both!), Husband Kyle & Swiss Army Knife
- ❖ Q: What is a fun fact about yourself that people may not know?
A: I used to model for Belk and local bridal salons. I did runway modeling and my favorite was "freeze modeling," where I would strike a pose and hold very, very still as if I were a mannequin. I once dressed as a mermaid for a pearl promotion at Belk and freeze modeled on the very top of the jewelry cases. I wore a mermaid costume (complete with fins), a long blonde wig and had pearls draped around my neck. It was fun to wink at the children as they looked up! Haha!



THANKSGIVING BANANA BOXES ARE COMING THIS MONTH!

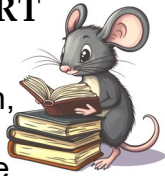
Very soon, a bounty of empty banana boxes will reappear in the hallways and on the porch of Opequon Church. It's time for our annual Thanksgiving food drive for CCAP and Orchard View Elementary School. Banana boxes will be available at church beginning Sunday, October 20—many inside the building, some readily accessible on the front porch by the Sanctuary. Each box will contain a list of items needed. Besides Sunday mornings, we anticipate scheduling two weekday drop-off times in early November for those who would like assistance unloading. Our goal this year is to surpass 115 boxes as we share and care for those in need within our community. Thank you for helping those in need!



**ALL BOXES ARE DUE
BACK AT CHURCH
BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17.**

CHURCH LIBRARY CART

Every first Sunday of the month, our Church Librarian, Winter Brooks, features library books on a cart in the Gathering Area. We invite you to take a look and see if there is something you would like to borrow. Enjoy the wonderful messages the authors bring your way!



REPRESENTATIVE & TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY

Shenandoah Presbytery is seeking representative(s) to attend the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the beginning of Presbyterian mission work in Ethiopia. The travelers from Shenandoah will go to Addis Ababa in early November and also visit our partners in Mettu, returning before Thanksgiving. Most of the travel expenses will be covered by the Presbytery. If interested, please contact Bill Burslem ASAP (wburslem331@comcast.net).

GIFT EVENT

Sunday, October 27 at 9:45 AM
(Memorial Sanctuary)

"GIFT" means **"Generations in Faith Together"** as all ages come together one Sunday a month for a themed intergenerational experience. The theme for this month is "The Good For Nothing Tree." This inspiring and hopeful children's book focuses on how sometimes we are ready to give up on something and other times we love something/ someone so much that we are patient enough to see what happens. Come enjoy some refreshments, this tender story, and thought-provoking conversation. Your day is bound to be enriched by your time at GIFT.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

- ❖ Living Our Faith Class
Sundays - 9:45 AM (Bageant Room & Zoom)
Follow Me: "Worship God"
- ❖ Young Adult Study
Sundays - 9:45 AM (Youth Spot)
- ❖ Faith Practices
Tuesdays - 1:30—2:30 PM (Bageant Room)
Following-Up on the *Faith Practices* Summer Worship Series

YOUTH: GRADES 6-12

October 19—20 Lock-In (Massanetta Springs)
October 27 (5:45 PM) Hayride & Pumpkin Carving (West Oaks)
October 24 (6:45 PM) Youth Parent Hangout (Youth Spot)

YOUNG ADULTS: AGES 18-35

October 25 (6:30 PM): Bonfire (Joel & Susan Witt's Home)

Trunk & Treat

TRUNK & TREAT EVENT

Trunk & Treat is a fun, safe way to celebrate around the Halloween holiday. This year, a Trunk & Treat event will be held within the LOGOS evening on October 30, 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM, in the back parking lot (weather permitting). LOGOS children and youth will be part of this event and it is ALSO OPEN to any other children and grandchildren of OPC! Come enjoy the creative themes of each trunk, fun games and many treats.

TRUNKERS are NEEDED!

This is a fun way to provide some joy for our children. Trunkers decorate their open trunk with a fun theme, offers a simple game for kids to try and provides a little treat to each child. Many ideas can be found online by searching "Trunk or Treat."

If you are willing to be a TRUNKER, please let Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org) know as soon as possible. Trunkers make this event

OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE

Opie's Playhouse is fun for all! Opie's Playhouse is now open to all children elementary age and under. Our hope is that more families will feel welcome to join in the fun that happens the first Sunday of every month! We would also like to invite you to drop your children off at Opie's Playhouse for an hour of supervised playtime while you attend Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation classes. The nursery is available on other Sundays for all children 5th grade and under.

Opie's Playhouse is a time of fun and fellowship planned especially for our families with young children. Toys, light refreshments, and snacks are provided. The children have been having so much fun playing outside! We will continue to meet on the playground for as long as we can. Our next Opie's Playhouse will be on October 6, 9:45 AM—10:45 AM. In the event of rain, we will be in the Memorial Sanctuary. Come play with us!



THE LATEST IN LOGOS

LOGOS began on September 18, once again filling the church building with the energy and vitality of children and youth. Our 27th year has taken off! We are blessed to have 49 young people joining a staff of 69 leaders who come together each Wednesday to make it all happen!

This month, we will enjoy the themes "Chameleon Night," "Pumpkin Patch Night," and a very special "Bring a Friend to World Series Night". Invitations for LOGOS young people to use for inviting a friend will be provided. On October 30, a Trunk & Treat event will be held within the LOGOS evening with LOGOS children having the opportunity to visit all the fun trunk displays for games and treats, even some trunk displays made by our LOGOS Youth. LOGOS is held on Wednesdays, 4:30 PM—7:15 PM and is open to all Pre-K (4 year olds)—12 young people. Come see that "LOGOS is one of the best things happening at Opequon!" Let us share these special Wednesday evenings with your child or youth!

On October 2, LOGOS time will include "Worship on Wednesday" (WOW) in the Sanctuary at 6:30 PM. LOGOS young people will be sharing in worship that evening and everyone is invited to worship with us.

For more info about LOGOS, contact Joanne Berson (opequonlogos@gmail.com) or Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org or 540-662-1843).

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

A new Confirmation Class has begun studying and learning together. We are so excited to have 11 young people who are part of this class. This fall, the students will experience a series of 8 lessons focusing on relevant concepts about the Church and Faith. Confirmation is open to all 8th grade youth and beyond with the desire to participate. Class sessions are held 6:20 PM—7:15 PM on various Wednesdays through December. Two retreat experiences along with several other additional enhancing activities will occur during January—April. You can 'meet' our Confirmation students by stopping by the bulletin board in the coat rack hallway to see their photos along with a personal thought from each. You are encouraged to pray for each of our Confirmation young people: Adelyn Astorino, Virginia Barr, Joshua Batcha, Malayna Bates, MacKenna Bell, Finnian Berson, Caleb Garcia, Jaxson Hughes, Paige Littman, Jackson Russell, and Camden Saunders.

MEN OF OPEQUON GATHERING

What an incredible campfire and "fireside chat" we enjoyed at Pam and Mitch Orndorff's home in September! The Men of Opequon (MOO) will gather on Monday, October 14, at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall for a "breakfast for dinner." Can you say eggs, pancakes, breakfast casseroles, sausage, biscuits and gravy, bacon, and hash browns? If you would like to be a part of the cooking team, please arrive no later than 5:00 PM. We'll then enjoy a program shared by Rich Schempp on his and Carol's trip to Egypt last spring. We'll also finalize our plans for hosting Ministry Team Night on November 3. All men are invited, wanted and needed!

GOD-LOVING OPEQUON WOMEN

GLOW is our multi-aged women's group that meets monthly to build friendships and enjoy some heart-warming activities together. We had a great BUNCO Game Night last month with lots of laughter around the tables.

This month, GLOW meets on Tuesday, October 8, at 6:00 PM. We are having a PROGRESSIVE DINNER through the church building! The main course will be PASTA varieties: Mac-n-Cheese, Gluten-Free Baked Ziti, Stuffed Shells, and Crockpot Lasagna. Garlic Bread will be provided too. Some appetizers and desserts are needed. Contact Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org) to see how you can contribute. All women are invited to come. Give yourself a little time with the girls. It will be a delicious evening!

LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will meet on October 21 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Life Goes On is a fellowship lunch for those who have lost their significant other. Please bring a dish to pass or chip in a couple of bucks toward expenses. Gluten-free food is always provided. If you need a ride or have any questions, please contact Pastor Tracie (assocopc@gmail.com) or the church office.

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

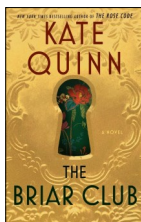
We are embracing this season of Fall. We are thankful for this refreshing season and all the bursts of cooler air and brilliant colors. We are renewed season after season through the ministry of Opequon. This month, the Older Adult Team will meet on Monday, October 7, at 9:30 AM in the Bageant Room. This team discusses plans for Happy Days programs, day outings and other special events. Morning refreshments and coffee are provided. The meeting is open to any older adult who would like to join us.

The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be gathering on Wednesday, October 9, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a favorite dish, if you are able, for the pot-luck luncheon. Rotisserie chicken and drinks are provided. Our guest speaker after lunch this month will be the Director of Bright Futures, Elise Stine-Dolinar. Come hear about how this endeavor brings schools and other community organizations together. We are invited to donate some needed items for Bright Futures: Sharpies, Headphones, Expo Dry Erase Markers, and Post-It Pads. We will collect them that day and give them to our guest speaker. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the friendship of one another and the delicious food.

An adult CHRISTMAS TRIP to Riverside Theater to see "Christmas Spectacular" is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11. This trip is currently FULL. To be added to the waiting list, contact Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org). For those who have reserved a spot on this trip, please have payment to Carole Witt by October 15. The cost is \$90 (all-inclusive). We'll meet on December 11 at 9:00 AM for an intro to the day and then load up.

FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

Fellowship Book Club will meet on Thursday, October 24, at 6:00 PM in the Bageant Room, to discuss *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. We will then pause for the holidays and resume in January.



JAVA WITH JULIA

Swing by Hopscotch Café on Friday, October 25 for Java with Julia, any time between 11:00 AM—1:00 PM!

SENIOR OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Senior Outreach Ministry will meet on Sunday, October 13. We will meet at 12:15 PM by the church office door to load up the totes for the trip to the Shenandoah Senior Apartments on Wilson Blvd, in Winchester. Donations of paper towels and snack packs of apple sauce, mixed fruit, and pudding would be appreciated.

OCTOBER COLLECTION FOR CCAP

This month, our Mission Ministry is collecting soups and crackers for CCAP. Thank you for your contributions and supporting our community!

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN NEWS

As the days grow shorter, we finish gathering the harvests of the season—including our golden honey! We hope you have had a chance to sample some from our fine colony of Italian honeybees. Thank you to Mike Nutry for providing and caring for our crucial little friends. Mike was presented with an official OPC beekeeper garden cap from the team at the 11:00 AM worship service on September 8 in recognition and gratitude of his service.

Turning our attention to clean-up and refurbishment, we were blessed to once again be a recipient of help on the United Way Day of Caring in September. Thank you to the Valley Health Team who gave of their time and labor to help spruce up the garden! It is such a joy to work with such kind-hearted folks.

Keep an eye out for our newly refurbished garden art. Our 19 wooden bee figures that grace the garden beds were in great need of some new paint. Thank you to Phil Hunter for picking them up and sanding them down for us!

There is always something growing and changing in the garden! If you want to help out and/or learn more about our Roots & Shoots Garden, contact Beth Eisenhauer (bethann89@msn.com).

SOME NOTES OF THANKS

From Linda Bock & Family:

∞ Thank you so much for all of your thoughts, prayers, and gifts!

From Alyce Callahan:

∞ Thank you to everyone for their support and prayers with the passing of my sister, Georgeanne!

From Phyllis, Vern and Stephen Gamble:

∞ The family of Wanda Royston would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all the support and prayers we have received at this difficult time. The cards and expressions of sympathy are greatly appreciated.



GENEROSITY MOMENT

(From Pastor Tracie Martin & the Generosity Team)

Where did the term "stewardship" come from?

Etymology: Stewardship was originally made up of the tasks of a domestic steward, from *stīġ* (house, hall) and *weard*, (ward, guard, guardian, keeper). In the beginning, it referred to the household servant's duties for bringing food and drink to the castle's dining hall.

Sometimes I wish we had better words to use when we talk about giving to and for the church. Time, Talent, Treasure... these terms are used, and sometime overused, but what should we use in their place?

Time: *the giving of a part of one's day, week, month, year, using a part of one's life for the good of the larger community; thinking about and supporting something or someone outside oneself*

Talent: *the use of one's personal gifts for the betterment of the larger community; a recognition that one's abilities are the gift of God furthered by hard work and thought; a means of thanking God for these gifts*

Treasure: *things of economic value such as money, bequests, stocks and bonds, the gems forged into our church bell*

So, what words come to mind as substitutes? I have tried a Thesaurus, moving from English to a few other languages—nothing I can find so far works better or even as well as these three terms... sigh. The term "generosity" is used as a substitute for "stewardship," but even this falls a bit short of describing accurately how we support our congregation and our church.

There are many reasons why people give to the church, including:

- ▶ **Worship**—Giving is a way to respond to God's generosity and grace, and to acknowledge that everything we have comes from God. Generosity is an expression of love. God is the ultimate picture of generosity. Giving is a powerful response to love for God.
- ▶ **Commitment**—Giving to the church shows support for the Christian faith and what the church stands for. When people experience generosity, they are more likely to treat others generously themselves. While we might invest our finances into the stock market, real estate, or other assets to see growth, an investment in sharing God's love is the only one that has eternal significance.
- ▶ **Thankfulness**—Giving back to God is a way to say "thank you" for the blessings we receive. Giving can also create a relational connection between the giver and the receiver, and it can help people trust in God's generosity. Authentic generosity comes out of a place of gratitude. Helping your church community acknowledge how they are blessed by God can be a great start to authentic gratitude.

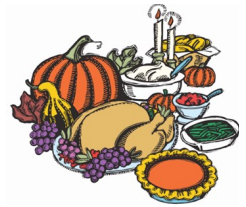
Generosity is not just for the wealthy. The amazing thing about Christianity is that it levels the playing field for how we are called to live and give. It's easy to believe that true rest, comfort, and success come with having possessions and money—especially if you're facing financial stress. With that in mind, it can feel extremely difficult to give. Still, Jesus is the source of true comfort. We are all stewards who can make a difference in God's world. Small gifts can move mountains, and they do.

Why give back to God? Because God gives to us.

If we believe what we say we believe, God is the source of everything. God provides the very air we breathe, the land we walk, the water we drink, food, companionship; everything that makes life and makes life good. Given this belief, how can we hold back when Christ asks his heart, hands and feet to take part in reaching out in mission, education, evangelism, support, and faithful worship? Your gifts to Opequon Church leave your fingerprints all over God's world today as well as preparing us all for an exciting future.

THANKSGIVING FEAST FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

The annual Thanksgiving Feast for our whole congregation will be held on Sunday, November 17. Our Opequon Youth host this event and appreciate your help in donating items needed for the Thanksgiving meal. Please visit the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. As the Youth serve you a full turkey dinner on the day of the Feast, they appreciate any monetary contributions, which will go completely towards their Christmas service project, Midnight Gladness. No need to make a reservation—just come be a part of this great time of gratitude. Questions? Contact Rebekah Witt (wittrebekah2@gmail.com).



Opequon Presbyterian Church Financial Summary for the period ended August 31, 2024

	Annual Budget 2024	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
Income					
410000 Offering Income	843,003	55,212	552,167	290,836	65.5%
420000 Other Income	1,600	177	1,445	155	90.3%
Total 400000 Income	844,603	55,389	553,612	290,991	65.5%
Expenses					
500000 Personnel Costs					
510000 Installed Pastors	219,432	17,281	144,971	74,461	66.1%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	144,436	11,934	96,066	48,370	66.5%
530000 Administrative Staff	146,818	12,276	95,005	51,813	64.7%
Total 500000 Personnel Costs	510,686	41,490	336,042	174,644	65.8%
600000 Other Ministries					
610000 Christian Education	14,100	546	7,940	6,160	56.3%
620000 Congregational Care	2,800	193	587	2,213	21.0%
630000 Evangelism	1,900	100	1,105	795	58.1%
640000 Fellowship	3,800	1,767	1,838	1,962	48.4%
650000 Mission	73,575	6,583	46,342	27,233	63.0%
660000 Worship	7,000	1,796	3,806	3,194	54.4%
Total 600000 Other Ministries	103,175	10,985	61,618	41,557	59.7%
Total 700000 Church Administration	129,632	30,176	129,285	347	99.7%
Total Expenses	743,493	82,651	526,945	216,548	70.9%
Net Operating Income (Expense)	101,110	(27,262)	26,667	74,443	26.4%
920000 Other Income	17,625	1,495	14,367	3,258	81.5%
930000 Other Expenses	118,735	9,743	79,500	39,235	67.0%
Net Other Income (Expense)	(101,110)	(8,248)	(65,133)	(35,977)	64.4%
Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses	0	(35,511)	(38,465)		

8/31/24

Cash

\$ 77,057

Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance

\$ 415,937

NURSE NOTES:



FEELING SICK?

COMPARING SYMPTOMS OF RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES AND SEASONAL ALLERGIES



	ONSET OF SYMPTOMS	SEASONALITY	SYMPTOMS		
			Common	Sometimes	Rare
COVID-19	Gradual Onset	COVID-19 spreads year-round but tends to be more common in fall and winter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fever ▶ Chills ▶ Cough ▶ Loss of taste or smell ▶ More severe fatigue ▶ Headache ▶ Aches ▶ Sore throat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Runny nose ▶ Shortness of breath ▶ Congestion ▶ Nausea/vomiting /diarrhea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) or Adults (MIS-A)
FLU (Influenza)	Quick Onset	Flu typically spreads from October through May.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fever ▶ Dry cough ▶ Headache ▶ Fatigue ▶ Aches and pains (can be severe) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Runny nose ▶ Sore throat ▶ Sneezing ▶ Chest discomfort 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea (more common in children)
RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)	Gradual Onset	RSV spreads most during fall, winter, and early spring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Congestion ▶ Runny nose ▶ Coughing ▶ Wheezing ▶ Fever ▶ Sneezing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Shortness of breath/Difficulty breathing (more common in infants and children) ▶ Decrease in appetite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sore throat ▶ Fatigue
STREP THROAT	Quick Onset	Can spread year-round but is most common in winter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sore throat ▶ Painful swallowing ▶ Fever ▶ Swollen lymph nodes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Headache ▶ Rash ▶ Aches ▶ Nausea/vomiting (more common in children) 	
COMMON COLD	Gradual Onset	Can spread year-round but is most common in fall and winter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Runny nose ▶ Sneezing ▶ Mild headache ▶ Sore throat ▶ Aches and pains ▶ Mild cough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fatigue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fever
SEASONAL ALLERGIES	Quick Onset	Depends on the allergen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Stuffy/runny nose ▶ Red, swollen eyes ▶ Itchy eyes or nose ▶ Sore throat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Wheezing ▶ Fatigue ▶ Shortness of breath and cough (possible for those with asthma) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Fever

- ▶ For more information visit: vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/respiratory-diseases-in-virginia/
- ▶ If you feel sick, contact your healthcare provider for evaluation, testing, and possible treatment.
- ▶ **Call 911** and get immediate medical attention if you have any medical emergency.



Updated 10/2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		1:30pm - Faith Practices Faith 5pm - Commissioned Communion 5pm - Tech Team Meeting @ 6pm - Ministry Team Night @	9:30am - Staff Meeting @ Bageant 4:30pm - LOGOS 6:30pm - WOW (Worship on 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Shelter/Mem 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry @ 7pm - ART @ Assembly Room 7pm - Vision Team @ Bageant	Julia Away	9am - Crafting with Becky @
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Julia Away		9:30am - Tuesday Morning 1:30pm - Faith Practices Faith 6pm - GLOW Fellowship Hall @	12pm - Happy Days @ Fellowship 4:30pm - LOGOS 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Shelter/Mem 5pm - Discipleship @ Bageant		10am - ASFP Walk @ Sherando
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Pastor Appreciation Day 8:30am - Worship & Live Stream 9:45am - Faith Formation 9:45am - Forum-Youth Mission 11am - Worship @ Sanctuary 12:15pm - Senior Outreach 1:30pm - Spring Arbor Worship @ 2pm - Blessing of the Pets @	8am - Garden Work @ Roots & 6pm - MOO @ Fellowship Hall 6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary 7pm - Sacred Spaces @ Memorial	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 1:30pm - Faith Practices Faith 7pm - Session Mtg @ Bageant	9:30am - Staff Meeting 12pm - Music at Noon @ 4:30pm - LOGOS 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Shelter/Mem 10:30am - WANC Meeting @ 2:30pm - Leadership of GLOW @ 6:30pm - Sherando Food Pantry	Worship Walk-Church Bus in Use 1pm - Worship Walk @	Shen Pres Youth Lock In-Rebekah
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Shen Pres Youth Lock In-Rebekah Banana Boxes Out Blood Pressure Checks 8:30am - Worship & Live Stream 9:45am - Faith Formation 11am - Worship @ Sanctuary 6:30pm - Young Adult Bonfire @	8am - Garden Work @ Roots & 12pm - Life Goes On @ Fellowship 6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary 7pm - Sacred Spaces @ Memorial	1:30pm - Faith Practices Faith 3pm - TVOR Gathering 6:30pm - Highland Food Pantry @	4:30pm - LOGOS-Bring a Friend 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	10:30am - Tai Chi @ Shelter/Mem 10:30am - WANC Lunch @ 6pm - Fellowship Book Club @	11am - Java With Julia @	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
4 Cents a Meal Offering 8:30am - Worship & Live Stream 9:45am - GIFT Event @ Memorial 11am - Worship @ Sanctuary 12:15pm - Chili Cook-Off @ 6pm - Youth at West Oaks	Julia Away-Continuing Ed Rebekah Away-Lilly Annual Event 8am - Garden Work @ Roots & 6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary 7pm - Sacred Spaces @ Memorial			10:30am - Tai Chi @ Shelter/Mem		

STAFF SCHEDULES THIS MONTH

Julia Burkley:

- October 4-7—Vacation
- October 28-30—Continuing Ed

Rebekah Witt:

- October 19-20—Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Lock-In
- October 28-30—Lilly Annual Event

If a pastoral concern arises during these times, please note who is away contact the church office or one of the available pastors by phone or email.

Church Office:

540-662-1843 or office@opequonchurch.org

Pastor David Witt

pastor@opequonchurch.org

Associate Pastor Julia Burkley

pastorjulia@opequonchurch.org

Parish Associate Tracie Martin

assocopc@gmail.com

ROMANIA MISSION FORUM

On Sunday, October 6, at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall, OPC's Romania Mission Service 2024 Team will present an overview of their trip. Come learn about the experiences our team had working with the orphaned and abandoned children in Tulcea County, Romania. There will be a slide show, personal testimonies, and an unexpected opportunity to meet the President of NOROC, Tulcea, Petru Solca.

SHERANDO FOOD PANTRY ANNUAL 5K

This second annual race/walk will be held at Sherando High School on October 26 at 9:00 AM. We are seeking both participants and volunteers to help on race day. For more info and participant registration, visit www.sherandofoodpantry.org/fundraising-5k-race. Volunteers for race day may contact Bill Burslem (wburslem331@comcast.net).



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**



It's not too late to sign-up or donate! The 10th annual "Out of the Darkness" Community Walk for Suicide Prevention will be on Saturday, October 12 in Stephen's City. Team OPC 24 is growing, but we have room for many more. This walk raises money for suicide awareness and education which helps to recognize risk factors and prevent untimely deaths by suicide. Our goal is to raise at least \$500 to match or surpass the funds committed by OPC's Mission Team. Last year, Team Opequon was 3rd out of 58 teams in total donations with nearly \$2,000 raised! Go, Opequon! The walk, which begins at 10:00 AM, winds through Sherando Park, beginning and ending at Sherando High School Stadium with a program commemorating those lost to suicide. There is also a handicap accessible option on the stadium track. Suicide takes many lives each year. It is the 11th leading cause of death in the US with nearly 50,000 deaths by suicide and is the second leading cause of deaths in Virginia for those from between the ages of 10-34.

Please consider walking or donating in the name of Team Opequon! You can register to walk or donate to our team at:

www.afsp.org/stephenscity

Follow the prompts to register or donate. As part of the registration process, one option is to join a team. Insert "Team Opequon 24" in that space. Flyers with more info are available in the Gathering Area. For more info, contact our Opequon Team Captain, Carol Schempp (carolschempp2604@gmail.com).

NOVEMBER DATES TO NOTE:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| ➤ Sunday, November 3: | All Saints' Sunday with Communion; Opie's Playhouse |
| ➤ MONDAY , November 4: | Ministry Team Night (Note the day change!) |
| ➤ Tuesday, November 5: | Election Day |
| ➤ Wednesday, November 6: | "Worship on Wednesday" (WOW) with Communion |
| ➤ Sunday, November 10: | Veterans' Recognition; Pledge & Stewardship Dedication |
| ➤ Sunday, November 17: | "The Feast" Thanksgiving Meal |
| ➤ Sunday, November 24: | November GIFT Event |
| ➤ Wednesday, November 27: | 128th Annual Thanksgiving Worship Service |
| ➤ Thursday, November 28: | Thanksgiving Day |



**** 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

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
WINCHESTER VA
PERMIT 85

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"The Opequon Spirit" is the monthly newsletter of:

**OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602-2421

Website: www.opequonchurch.org

Phone: 540-662-1843

Office: office@opequonchurch.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday—Thursday, 9:00 AM—2:00 PM
Friday, 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

Worship Services:

Sunday, 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

OCTOBER 2024



CHURCH STAFF

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