

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

for•give
/fər'giv/

to Love

- stop feeling angry or resentful toward (someone) for an offense, flaw or mistake.
- cancel (a debt)

September 13, 2026

8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602

www.opequonchurch.org

540-662-1843

office@opequonchurch.org

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

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

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

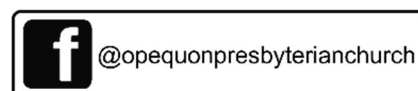
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

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

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



Follow us on Facebook:



A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost – Grandparents Day

- ☞ **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..... *God Is Our Refuge and Strength*

By: Allen Pote

God is our refuge and strength; a present help in time of trouble. Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear. Come and behold the work of the Lord, the awesome acts of God. He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth. He is the Word, we are his hands, He will lead us. He is the air, we are his song. We will celebrate his presence all the day long. He is the rain, we are the stones, He will cleanse us. He is the air, we are his song, We will celebrate his presence all the day long. God is our refuge and strength. A present help in time of trouble. Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear. We will not fear. We will not fear. We will not fear.

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTES FOR MISSION "Out of the Darkness" Walk
Winter Brooks

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

†GATHERING SONG..... *Blessed Be Your Name*

By: Beth Redman & Matt Redman

**Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful,
where Your streams of abundance flow; blessed be Your name.
Blessed be Your name when I'm found in the desert place,
though I walk through the wilderness; blessed be Your name.**

[refrain] **Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say:
Blessed be the name of the Lord; blessed be Your name.
Blessed be the name of the Lord;
blessed be Your glorious name.**

**Blessed be Your name when the sun's shining down on me.
When the world's all as it should be; blessed be Your name.
Blessed be Your name on the road marked with suffering,
though there's pain in the offering; blessed be Your name. [refrain]**

†CALL TO WORSHIP

We bow with the rolling rocks.

God is our strength and our salvation.

We sing with the roaring rivers.

God is our justice and our joy.

We will never stop telling God's story.

God is the hope of our ancestors.

We bless God's holy name.

God forgives, heals, and transforms with steadfast love.

With all that we have and all that we are, we say:

God is so good!

†OPENING HYMN No. 620 *Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven*

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing:**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

**Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness.

**Father-like, he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face.

Sun and moon, bow down before him,

dwellers all in time and space:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are not here to pass judgment on each other: all of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Therefore, let us go before God as we offer our confession, first in unison prayer, then in personal silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Judge, we admit we have double standards. We seek forgiveness for ourselves, but we fail to forgive others. We seek relief for ourselves, but we fail to seek relief for others. We seek leniency for ourselves, but we fail to show that mercy to others. Forgive us, mighty God, and help us to forgive, showing others the same grace and mercy that you have generously shown to us.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

People of God, hear and believe: God does not deal with us according to our sins, but according to God's own steadfast love for us. As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins from us. Thanks be to God!

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.

✧ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD ✧

ANTHEM..... *Bless the Lord, O My Soul*

By: Joel Raney

Bless the Lord, O my soul; let all that is within me bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul; and remember God's great mercy. Bless the Lord, O my soul; let earth and sky and heaven bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul; and sing God's praise forever. Bless the Lord, whose almighty pow'r renews our strength when hope is gone. Bless the Lord, whose abounding love can take an empty heart and fill it with a song! Bless the Lord, O my soul; let all that is within me bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul; and remember God's great mercy. Bless the Lord, O my soul, my soul; let earth, and sky and heaven bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and sing God's praise forever. Praise God from whom all blessings flow, and sing God's praise forever, and ever. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 50:15-21Pew Bible p. 42

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 18:21-35Pew Bible p. 800

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "Not Keeping Count"

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 444 *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*
Tune: AZMON (No. 610 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing")

**"Forgive our sins as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.**

**How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?**

**In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.**

SERMON....."Transformed by God"
Pastor David Witt

✠ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✠

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC.....*Compilation of "Prayers of Peace from September 11"*

*Prayers of Refugees Diverted to Gander, Newfoundland
in the Aftermath of September 11th*

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Based on: "The Prayer of St. Francis" / Tune by: Sebastian Temple)
Make me a channel of your peace: Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
Where there is injury, your healing power, And where there's doubt, true faith in you.
Make me a channel of your peace: Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
Where there is darkness, only light, And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oseh Shalom (Tune by: Nurit Hirsch)

(Hebrew) עוֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרְמָוָה, הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְאָמְרוּ: אָמֵן.
(Transliteration) Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol-yisrael, v'imru: amen.
(English) May the One who creates peace in the heavens bring peace to us and to all of Israel.
And we say: Amen.

Asato Ma Sadgamaya

(Ancient Sanskrit) ॐ असतो मा सद्गमय // तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय // मृत्योर्मा अमृतं गमय // ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः
(Transliteration) om asato mā sadgamaya, tamaso mā jyotirgamaya, mṛtyormā amṛtaṁ gamaya, om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ
(English) Om, Lead me from the unreal to the real, Lead me from darkness to light, Lead me from death to immortality. Om, May peace be, may peace be, may peace be.

Dhikr (Prayer of Remembrance)

(Arabic)	الله اكبر سبحان ربى العظيم الله اكبر سبحان ربى الاعلى الله اكبر الحمد لله
(Transliteration)	Allahu Akbar, Subbhaan Rabbi al Azeem, Allahu Akbar, Subhaan Rabbia Al-Aala'a, Allahu Akbar, Alhamdu lillah
(English)	God is great, Glory be to my Lord the Magnificent, God is great, Glory be to my Lord the Most High, God is great, All praise and gratitude belong to God.

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

Holy God, bless these gifts for your good use. May these tokens of our gratitude be of service in blessing the poor, feeding the hungry, clothing and sheltering those struggling to survive, and sharing your good news. Use these gifts to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world so Christ's mission will be our mission. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

†THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *Book of Common Worship*)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Hymnal p. 35, we say "debts" and "debtors" in the prayer)

✠ WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME ✠

†CLOSING HYMN No. 435..... *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven.
There is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgment given.
For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind.
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's Word,
and our lives reflect thanksgiving
for the goodness of our Lord.**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 748..... *Go with Us, Lord*
**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way
through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.**

†POSTLUDE

OFFERTORY MUSIC NOTES

The included prayers were recorded as some of the prayers of the refugees diverted to Gander, Newfoundland in the aftermath September 11th. Gander, a town of 9000 took in 38 planes of 7000 passengers and personnel and came together as a community to clothe, shelter, and provide medical care and food to each other over 2-5 days. Schools, churches, and other buildings were converted into makeshift dormitories while some residents invited the "plane people" to stay in their homes. Medical facilities filled prescriptions without cost, banks of free public telephones were installed, and donated food was stored at the Gander Community Centre's ice rink, making it "the largest walk-in freezer in the country," according to Gander's mayor, Claude Elliott. As basic needs were filled, Newfoundlanders worked to entertain the folks they had welcomed into their home. Tours of the town, concerts by local bands, introductions to regional cuisine all followed. "For us, it was just every day," said Janice Goudie, a local newspaper reporter. "You don't turn your backs on people in need."

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SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The arrangement in the Sanctuary this morning is provided by the Worship Ministry.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Carolyn Hartman	Sandy Widell	Tammy Mowery Earhart
Joan Patton	Kraig Hawkins	Dan Cammer
Vern Gamble	Roger Callis	Middle East War
Hazel Spriggs	Cora Helen Anderson	Jolissa Matthews
Westwood School /	Tim & Katherine Loftis	Lori Jones & Stephen
Waynesboro	Tony Bennett	Armstrong
David Hofmann	Jim Keeler	Mike & Trish Crawford
Michael Callahan	Katie Happel	Lynne Rosamilia
Nepal Disaster	Don Black	JoAnne Farrell
Brenda	Marcia Jaureguizar	Judy Camper
Harry Brooks	Mark McKee	David Lewis
Kathy Ludwig	Chick Doroffee	David DesMarias
Colton Heavner	Darcus Breneman	Megan Tschappat
Dale Barley	Lyn Warren	Charlotte Rosamilia
June Windle	Carol Schempp	All Struggling with
Rick Ours	Linda Swiger	Mental Illness
Judy Gaines	Bud & Becky Proctor	Nancy Kerns
Jessica Brogler	Mike Shade	Jewish & Muslim Victims
Connie Byrne	Karen Lemons & Family	Worldwide
Robin Owens	Bonnie Triplett	Cindy Corell
Bill Gesell	Al Schollenberger	Katie Wolf
Lorin & Bill Goulart	Cheri Norris	Ukraine
Mid-West Flood Victims	Mo & Heide Mohler	Ethiopia Church Mekane
Johnny Clark Family	Marge & Tim Higgins	Yesus
Gary Rutherford	Susan Arthur	

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

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

✿ **OUR SCHOOL OF THE WEEK** ✿

Staff & Students at Shihadeh Innovation Center in Frederick County, VA

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – September 13

Grandparents Day

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Bageant Room & Zoom
9:45 AM	Medical Mission Trip Interest Meeting – Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
12:15 PM	Senior Outreach Ministry
1:30 PM	Spring Arbor Worship

THIS WEEK

Monday:	9:30 AM	Older Adult Planning Team – Bageant Room
	4:30 PM	MOO WV Trip
	5:00 PM	Logos Leadership Team – Bageant Room
	5:30 PM	Windsong Practice – Memorial Sanctuary
Tuesday:	**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**	
	12:00 PM	DCF Luncheon – Fellowship Hall
	1:00 PM	Disciple Faith Formation – Bageant Room
	6:30 PM	Session Meeting – Bageant Room
Wednesday:	8:15 AM	Adult Trip
	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting – Bageant Room
	4:30 PM	Discipleship Team – Bageant Room
	7:15 PM	Choir Practice – Sanctuary
Thursday:	9:30 AM	WANC Tea – Youth Spot
	10:30 AM	Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary/Picnic Shelter
	10:30 AM	WANC Meeting – Fellowship Hall
	6:30 PM	Sherando Food Pantry

NEXT SUNDAY – September 20

Back to Church Sunday; Blood Pressure Checks

Scriptures: Jonah 3:10-4:11; Matthew 20:1-16 Sermon: "God's Great Reversal"

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
9:00 AM	Youth Families Breakfast & Games – Fellowship Hall
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Bageant Room & Zoom
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
12:30 PM	Retreat Planning Team – Bageant Room

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING – Today

Have you ever thought about going on a Medical Mission Trip? Come to the Fellowship Hall at **9:45 AM** for an interest meeting and learn how you can serve with the Medical Ministry International in the Dominican Republic!

REMINDER: CONCERT & MEAL FUNDRAISER TICKETS

Have you purchased your OPC Concert & Meal Fundraiser Event tickets yet? All proceeds benefit OPC's Mission Ministry Fund. *(See newsletters for full event details!)*

❖ **Optional Fried Chicken Dinner Tickets** = \$10 each

(label payment as "GT-Dinner")

♦ **Must be purchased by the end of TODAY (September 13)!**

- ♦ Pay Online: click "giving" on OPC's website
- ♦ Pay by Cash/Check: in the worship offering or in the church office mailbox

❖ **Concert Tickets** = \$20 each; kids 18 and under are FREE!

(label payment as "GT-Concert")

- ♦ Pay Online: click "giving" on OPC's website
- ♦ Pay by Cash/Check: in the worship offering or in the church office
- ♦ Pay at the Door: cash or check only

OLDER ADULT PLANNING TEAM

The Older Adult Planning Team meets **tomorrow** morning at **9:30 AM** in the Bageant Room. This team discusses plans for Happy Days events, day outings and special events. The meeting is open to any older adults who would like to join us. Morning refreshments are provided.

LOGOS REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Our 29th Logos year is set to begin **in just 1 ½ weeks on September 23!** Our opening night theme is "Old Opequon Night"! Logos is a midweek ministry for young people ages 4 through High School. Each week is full of holy hilarity and an abundance of great relationships with one another. The EARLY BIRD Registration is available until **September 16**. Registration is available at the display in the Gathering Area and online as well at opequonchurch.org. As each young person is registered their name will be entered for a BIRTHDAY BASKET prize drawing. We invite all young people to be part of the lively and worthwhile Wednesday evenings beginning in September. Questions – please ask Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org).

ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN: Day of Caring

Join us **Friday, September 18**, for United Way's Day of Caring! Volunteers will be helping care for the Roots and Shoots garden as we continue growing fresh produce for our local food pantries. Over 200 pounds of produce have been donated so far this year! Thank you for helping Roots & Shoots grow and bless our community.

FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

We will gather on **Thursday, September 24**, at **6:00 PM** in the Bageant Room and discuss *The Third Act of Theo Gruene* by Talya Tate Boerner.

'GIFT' EVENT – Generations in Faith Together

We have the GIFT of being with all ages for an educational experience on **Sunday, September 27**, at **9:45 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. The theme is "BLT" day – 'Best Lounging Time' as we focus on rest and sabbath that we all need. And guess what, we will serve "BLT'S" that morning. We will be treated to the story *God Gave Us Sleep* that morning too. There is much in store as we enjoy a relaxed, enjoyable and restful time together.

AFSP "OUT OF THE DARKNESS" WALK

This annual family-friendly Community Walk for Suicide Prevention will be held **Saturday, October 10**, at Sherando High School in Stephens City. Our Mission Team is sponsoring a team to walk and help raise money for suicide awareness and prevention again this year. Join and/or support our team **today** at:

<https://afspwalks.donordrive.com/teams/398416>

or contact Team OPC Captain Sheyenne Ervin (sheyenneervin@gmail.com).

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Rich Schempp

Beadle: Jim Horner

Door Greeters: Ellen Cunningham,
Sheryl Massey

Ushers: Mike Wygant, Wendy Wygant,
Norie Noll, Richard DeHaven

Building Stewards: Max Agbayani,
Rebecca Agbayani

11:00 AM Worship

Beadle: Ed Painter

Door Greeters: Maureen Wellman,
Bill Wellman, Bonnie Pitzer

Ushers: Marj Praml, Rick Praml,
Kyle Homan, Grace Eberle,
Connor Eberle, Luca Deptula

Acolyte: Grace Eberle

Livestream: Susan Ritter, Brad Jordan

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✂ How did the music today speak to God forgiving us and our forgiving others?

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

✂ How will you stop keeping count of wrongs this week?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

✂ Where in your life are you keeping score, and what might it mean to hear Jesus' invitation to "stop counting?"

✂ When have you found it hardest to forgive someone?

✂ What has God forgiven you that changed the way you forgive others?

✂ How does God transform us?

✂ How will you join God's transformative work in and around you?