

# The Opequon Spirit

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



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

## February 2024

[www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org)  
540-662-1843  
[office@opequonchurch.org](mailto:office@opequonchurch.org)

### WORSHIP AT-A-GLANCE

#### Sunday, February 4

*Youth & Young Adult Family  
Sunday; Communion; CCAP*  
† Isaiah 40:21-31;  
Mark 1:29-39

#### Sunday, February 11

*Transfiguration of the Lord  
Sunday; Souper Bowl of Caring*  
† 2 Corinthians 4:3-6;  
Mark 9:2-9  
Sermon: “The Light of Glory”

#### 1:30 PM - Spring Arbor Worship

#### Wednesday, February 14

#### 6:30 PM - Ash Wednesday Worship

*Ashes, LOGOS Worship Groups,  
Sanctuary Choir*  
† Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51;  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
Meditation: “Tune My Heart”

#### Sunday, February 18

*First Sunday in Lent*  
† Psalm 25:1-10; Luke 5:1-11  
Sermon: “Jesus Sought Me”

#### 6:00 PM - Taizé Worship

*(Memorial Sanctuary)  
Lenten Contemplative Worship*

#### Sunday, February 25

*Second Sunday in Lent; Four  
Cents A Meal*  
† Psalm 22:23-31;  
Matthew 13:22-33  
Sermon: “Stepping into the  
Storm”

#### 12:00 PM - OPC Annual Meeting (Sanctuary & Zoom)

### OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION & CELEBRATING OUT MINISTRY

The Session of Opequon Presbyterian Church calls for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Celebration of Ministry on Sunday, February 25, 2024 at 12:00 PM (both in-person in the Sanctuary and via Zoom). The Zoom link will be made available the week before.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the written 2023 Annual Report to the Congregation (available beginning Sunday, February 18), which will include statistical and financial reports, ministry team reports, staff reports, and the 2024 church calendar.

The congregation will be asked to elect new Deacons as nominated by the 2023 Nominating Committee and four Representatives to the church’s 2024 Nominating Committee. Please prepare to nominate four individuals.

In addition, the Annual Meeting of the Corporation (Opequon Presbyterian Church, Inc.) will occur, with a report by the Trustees on investments in 2023 and the corporation’s and Trustees’ organization in the current year.

The meeting will be called to order immediately at the conclusion of the 11:00 AM service. All active members of Opequon are encouraged to participate in this meeting, exercising both the privilege and responsibility of church membership, as we give thanks for our ministry and mission as the called people of God.

### NEWCOMERS’ CLASS

Are you new to Opequon Church or our community? Would you like to know more about the heritage, mission, and vision of Opequon Church? Do you have some questions about what, where, when, why, and how we do things within this faith community? Would you like to become a member of Opequon? If you said “yes!” regarding any of these questions, you are cordially invited and encouraged to attend our upcoming Newcomers’ Class starting THIS MONTH.

We will gather from 4:00—6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 25, and again on Sunday, March 3. To help us prepare the appropriate resources, please contact Pastor David Witt (662-1843 or [pastor@opequonchurch.org](mailto:pastor@opequonchurch.org)), who will be facilitating this time of sharing, to let him know you would like to attend and if you have any questions.



## NOTES FROM PASTOR DAVID

### “Wandering Heart”

Dear Friends,

We took our Christmas tree down at home exactly ten days ago. The Worship Team cleaned out the church of all Christmas decorations four days ago. Last night, we had our largest snow accumulation in the past two years. But while spring and lengthening days seem a long way off (though the days have been getting longer since December 21), now I’m going to talk to you about Lent, Holy Week, and Easter! “Why?” you may ask. Because Lent, the season that helps us get ready for Holy Week and Easter, to prepare for Jesus’ death and resurrection, begins on February 14! That’s right: This year, Ash Wednesday is on Valentine’s Day and Easter is on Sunday, March 31, so all seven weeks of our Lenten season will be in February and March. I hope you will join us for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party the night before Lent begins, and then for one of our Ash Wednesday gatherings: Ashes to Go in the morning, Happy Days at noon, or the Ash Wednesday service in the evening. Then, we’ll walk together through the weeks, from Sunday to Sunday, with devotions and special gatherings like the Taizé Service, Lenten Prayer Breakfast, and Holy Week services.

Our Lenten theme this year is “Wandering Heart” and we’ll be utilizing resources from *Sanctified Art*, as we have before, thinking about discipleship. The theme writers say, “This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus’ most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter’s journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us. And as we study Peter’s faith journey, the lyrics of *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* come to mind. It’s as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter’s journey, there is also a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter’s story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God. In this series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We want to affirm that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter’s story, we are reminded that God loves

imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that’s precisely who God claims and calls. This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping-stones of Peter’s story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God’s grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.”

Christmas is over! Let Lent begin! And let’s explore our wandering hearts.

Together in Christ’s Service,  
Pastor David

## PASTOR JULIA’S MUSINGS

Friends in Christ,

As many of y’all know, I recently moved into a new town house. This is my first winter here and I wasn’t sure really what to expect as far as taking care of the sidewalks, roads, etc. I have lived in snowy places and I know how to shovel and keep warm, but I wasn’t quite looking forward to figuring it out on my own for the first time.

I just have a small path and section of sidewalk that is my own, so the first time that we got snow, I armed myself with a shovel, boots, and pet-safe salt to get down to business. And then I walked outside.

My neighbors on either side had fully dug my car out of the snow and were shoveling my walkway. I had met them each maybe once or twice. I literally couldn’t believe that they were willing to spend the extra effort to help me, a complete stranger. And it made my day. We got another round of snow a couple of weeks later and, once again, everything was entirely shoveled and taken care of.

It probably wasn’t something that they thought of more than for a second, but for me it made my day. Knowing that there are people who are living around me who are helpful and considerate and willing to help the stranger, makes me feel so safe and comfortable in my new home. Because I know that I am not alone.

It reminds me a lot of the *Parable of The Good Samaritan*, who was a good neighbor to the stranger on the road. That is a call by Jesus to help those around you, to see those who could use even five minutes of your time. But there’s another side to that story, the fact that the Samaritan gracefully accepted the help.

That is the part that I often struggle with. I pride myself on being independent, on being able to do

what I need. And even when my neighbor shoveled my drive and I was so grateful, a part of me immediately jumped to: what can I do to help them and show my gratitude? My mind went to "Okay great, how I can I also help them, so they know that I appreciate them." A small thank you didn't seem enough and that doesn't necessarily seem healthy.

Being a gracious acceptor of support is just as important in so many ways as being willing to give help. We can be grateful, without thinking about how we have to 'pay back the help'. Being a gracious acceptor is just as important as being a gracious giver in many ways. Graciously accepting is saying "thank you," being grateful and humble, and also knowing a lot of times that is totally enough.

So that is my call for you all this month. Be a good neighbor. Help those around you when you notice a need. But also, be a good neighbor and accept help. Jesus calls us to do both.

Blessings, Pastor Julia



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## PASTOR TRACIE'S JUST THINKIN'

I admit it. I enjoy the middle of February more than any other period in the year. On February 13, I go to bed early, read for a bit, and sleep the sleep of the righteous. On February 14, I laugh all day. I now live the life of someone who no longer picks off up to 20 thorns per rose. I do not glare at the sky daring Mother Nature to snow on my delivery people. I am no longer a florist.



Don't get me wrong, I loved running my flower shop. The holiday adrenaline is hard to beat... unless one becomes a Pastor. My current position is so much fun, I generally do not think about the business of flowers at all.

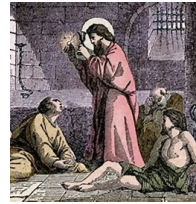
Then comes Valentine's Day.

One year, it was so warm we put buckets of flowers out on the sidewalk. Another year we got over ¾ inches of ice. One delivery kid smoked something illegal and I only found out when people complained that their flowers smelled familiar... but odd. Another delivery person flipped their vehicle, pushed it off the bank and delivered their flowers... crushed, spilled, or not.

Of course not every day was full of drama. There were days when we all worked together well and things went quite as we hoped. Valentine's Day, however, was never, in my experience, ever one of them.

It's truly no wonder. Valentine's Day, in fact, originated as a liturgical feast to celebrate the decapitation of a third-century Christian martyr, or perhaps two. Ancient sources reveal that there were several St. Valentines who died on February 14. Two of them were executed during the reign of Roman Emperor Claudius Gothicus in 269—270 A.D., at a time when persecution of Christians was common.

The more commonly heard story goes like this. According to a late medieval legend reprinted in the "Acta," a Roman priest named Valentinus was arrested during the reign of Emperor Gothicus and put into the custody of an aristocrat named Asterius.



Asterius made the mistake of letting the preacher talk. Father Valentinus went on and on about Christ leading pagans out of the shadow of darkness and into the light of truth and salvation. Asterius made a bargain with Valentinus: If the Christian could cure Asterius's foster-daughter of blindness, he would convert. Valentinus put his hands over the girl's eyes and chanted: "**Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten your handmaid, because you are God, the True Light.**"

Easy as that. The child could see, according to the medieval legend. Asterius and his whole family were baptized. Unfortunately, when Emperor Gothicus heard the news, he ordered them all to be executed. But Valentinus was the only one to be beheaded. A pious widow, though, made off with his body and had it buried at the site of his martyrdom on the Via Flaminia. Later, a chapel was built over the saint's remains.

Medieval legends, repeated in modern media, had St. Valentine performing Christian marriage rituals or passing notes between Christian lovers jailed by Gothicus. Still other stories romantically involved him with the blind girl whom he allegedly healed. Yet none of these medieval tales had any basis in third-century history, as scholars point out. In any case, historical veracity did not count for much with medieval Christians. What they cared about were stories of miracles and martyrdoms, and the physical remains or relics of the saint. Many different churches and monasteries around medieval Europe claimed to have bits of a St. Valentinus' skull in their treasuries.

The love connection probably appeared more than a thousand years after the martyrs' death, when Geoffrey Chaucer, author of *The Canterbury Tales* decreed the February feast of St. Valentinus to the mating of birds. He wrote in his *Parlement of Foules*: "**For this was on seynt Volantynys day.**"

**When every bryd comyth there to chese his make.”** (*For this was on Saint Valentine’s day, when every bird cometh there to chase his mate.*)

It seems that, in Chaucer’s day, English birds paired off to produce eggs in February. Soon, nature-minded European nobility began sending love notes during bird-mating season. For example, the French Duke of Orléans, who spent some years as a prisoner in the Tower of London, wrote to his wife in February 1415 that he was “already sick of love” (by which he meant lovesick.) And he called her his “very gentle Valentine.” English audiences embraced the idea of February mating. Shakespeare’s lovestruck Ophelia spoke of herself as Hamlet’s Valentine.

In the following centuries, Englishmen and women began using February 14 as an excuse to pen verses to their love objects. Industrialization made it easier with mass-produced illustrated cards adorned with smarmy poetry. Then along came chocolate manufacturers marketing sweets for one’s sweetheart on Valentine’s Day.

Today, shops everywhere in England and the U.S. decorate their windows with hearts and banners proclaiming the annual Day of Love. Merchants stock their shelves with candy, jewelry and Cupid-related trinkets begging “Be My Valentine.” For most lovers, this request does not require beheading.

It seems that the erstwhile saint behind the holiday of love remains as elusive as love itself. Still, as St. Augustine, the great fifth-century theologian and philosopher argued in his treatise on “Faith in Invisible Things,” someone does not have to be standing before our eyes for us to love them. And much like love itself, St. Valentine, and his reputation as the patron saint of love are not matters of verifiable history, but of faith.

*Mostly taken from an article originally published on The Conversation by Lisa Bitel, Professor of History & Religion, University of Southern California – Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*

—Tracie

## SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER 19, 2023

✂ Session welcomed and examined newly elected officers serving as Elders (Class of 2026) Rebecca Agbayani, Ben Brooks, Jack Marquis, and Marj Praml, and Deacons (Class of 2025) Kathy Hoffman, Heather Burton, and Robin Cooke.

- ✂ Stewardship and Finance: Session approved the November financial report and the 2024 Giving Events calendar with an amendment to allow fundraising to offset travel costs for those participating in the Dominican Republic Medical Mission Trip.
- ✂ Personnel and Administration will hold the Employee Staff Appreciation luncheon on February 20.
- ✂ Session approved the 2024 schedule of Communion as recommended by Worship Ministry.
- ✂ Session approved the dates for 2024 Vacation Bible School/VBS on June 9-12, 2024 (Sunday-Wednesday; 5:00-7:00 PM) as recommended by Christian Education Ministry. The theme will focus on the story of Abraham and Sara.
- ✂ A Congregational Care Retreat is planned for March 2.
- ✂ Session approved Pastor Julia’s continuing education request to attend the Young Clergy Women Interactive (YCWI) conference May 21-24, 2024 in D.C.
- ✂ Clerk of Session Ann Smith filed the OPC’s 2024 Giving Pledge (\$32,500) with Shenandoah Presbytery.
- ✂ Session approved an increase in Parish Associate’s / Tracie Martin’s time (additional 6 hours/week) under her current contract through March 31, 2023.
- ✂ Session approved an outside request for use of the sanctuary in December for a piano recital.
- ✂ Session re-elected financial officers for 2024, including Treasurer Ron Smith and Offering Counters. Session re-elected Ann Smith to serve as Clerk of Session.
- ✂ Session had to postpone the following due to inclement/snowy weather:
  - Elder and Deacon Orientation—Rescheduled Saturday January 20 (9:00—11:00 AM)
  - Ordination and Installation—Rescheduled Sunday January 21 (11:00 AM service) with the “Hands, Heart, and Feet of OPC” reception to follow.

*Ann C.M. Smith, Clerk of Session, Opequon Presbyterian Church*

## SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY 16, 2024

- ✂ Due to inclement weather, Session met virtually on January 16 using Zoom technology. Newly elected Elders Rebecca Agbayani, Ben Brooks,

and Jack Marquis attended. Session expressed thanks to retiring Elders Beth Barr, Mary Himelright, and Susan Ritter for extending their tenure into January to complete their terms having fulfilled their responsibilities with great distinction.

- ✦ Buildings and Grounds reported that the January installation of the outside sidewalk lighting was deferred due to frigid temperatures; it will be scheduled as weather permits.
- ✦ Finance and Stewardship reported that Opequon ended 2023 with \$35,211 in excess of expenses due to a strong December and great control of expenses throughout the year.
- ✦ Session approved the proposed 2024 Annual Budget prepared by Finance and Stewardship that includes total income of \$844,603 and total expenses of \$844,603.
- ✦ Technology and Communications: Session expressed sincere appreciation for Susan's leadership, dedication, and commitment to the team for the past 6 years. Without an assigned Elder chair, Rebekah Witt will serve as the Interim Team Lead.
- ✦ Session approved the updated Parish Associate job description and change of the antiquated position title of "Sexton" to "Facilities Coordinator" as recommended by the Personnel and Administration Team.
- ✦ Session expressed appreciation to Beth Barr for her dedicated leadership and guidance during her term as Co-Chair of Christian Education.
- ✦ Pending approval at the Called Congregational meeting January 21 to establish a Diaconate (12-member board with staggered 3-year terms), the Nominating Committee will be asked to identify additional Deacons to meet/fill the staggered terms.
- ✦ The OPC Vision Statement was amended striking the 2023 year reference; it now reads: "Opequon Church will become a community of diverse believers in Jesus Christ who are equipped, empowered and engaged in God's ministry to our church, our community and our world."
- ✦ Session approved Vision/ Architecture Review Committee (ARC) recommendation to draft and submit a grant application to Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) the Power of Change Program to help fund the Pedestrian Path project. The project would create a path on OPC property, extending from the cul-de-sac historical marker along the stone wall, over the bridge and connecting to the new Lofts subdivision pathway.

- ✦ WATTS had a great week (December 20—January 6) with 600 volunteer hours (51 volunteers).
- ✦ Evangelism Ministry expressed appreciation for Mary Himelright's dedicated leadership over the past 4 years and welcomed Elder Ben Brooks as the new team lead.
- ✦ Fellowship is busy with upcoming events including hosting the Installation / Commission Reception Sunday (January 21) and organizing the Talent Show (February 24). Mike Nutry and Robin Cooke volunteered to coordinate the Fair Trade Coffee Exchange program.
- ✦ The 2023 Necrology Report was filed by Clerk Ann Smith with Shenandoah Presbytery.
- ✦ The 2024 Church Leadership Retreat will be held Saturday, February 10, 2024, in Fellowship Hall (8:30 AM—3:00 PM).
- ✦ Session approved a request from Rev. Richard Schempp to submit an Overture to the General Assembly (GA) regarding a change to the Book of Order (G.0306) to establish the position of Affiliate Member of the Presbytery.
- ✦ Session issued a call for the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, February 24, 2024, at noon in the Sanctuary and via Zoom.

*Ann C.M. Smith, Clerk of Session, Opequon Presbyterian Church*



## WELCOMED THROUGH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

Through the waters of baptism, we welcomed Andrew Lilly into the baptized membership of Opequon Church on Sunday, December 31, 2023. May Andrew be blessed by the grace and steadfast love of God and may we, as his church family, remember and uphold the promises of nurture and care we have made to him and his family.



## NEWLY WELCOMED MEMBER

❖ Andrew Lilly, Profession of Faith on December 31, 2023



## CELEBRATING A NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Robin Cooke and Bill Thomasson upon the arrival of their new granddaughter, Evelyn Grace Kroft, who was born on January 2 and was the first baby in Minot, ND born in the new year! We rejoice in celebration of this precious gift of new life and pray God's blessing upon Evelyn Grace and her family.

## BEFORE LENT BEGINS...



### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING CAN COLLECTION February 4–11

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

Choir Side = Vegetable / Beef  
Center Section = Chicken Noodle  
Window Side = Tomato

Which section of the Sanctuary will be crowned the winners and bring in the most soup cans?! All donations are due to the collection spot in the Gathering Area by February 11 and will be given to the Sherando and Highland Food Pantries. Monetary donations for the pantries are welcome as well. Questions? Ask Rebekah Witt!



### SUNDAY OF CHRIST'S TRANSFIGURATION: February 11

Celebrate the LIGHT and LOVE of Jesus, as we move from Epiphany "Star Words" toward Lenten Disciplines!

**FAIREST LORD JESUS...  
THEE WILL I CHERISH,  
THEE WILL I HONOR,  
THOU MY SOUL'S GLORY,  
JOY, AND CROWN!**

### MUSIC AT NOON



On February 21, the noon hour will be filled with the music of our sanctuary organ and piano. The music is eclectic and the atmosphere informal, as our organist shares new pieces and old favorites from his repertoire. Church members, neighbors, and guests are invited to come and go as their schedules allow. This time of "just music" repeats each month on the third Wednesday from noon to 1:00 PM. Feel free to pass along this invitation to those outside our church family. All are welcome to come!

# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party

February 13 at 5:00pm-6:30pm

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

Suggested Donation:  
\$3 per person



OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL



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**Show  
Us  
YOUR  
TALENT**

**Saturday, February 24, 2023  
at 5:00 p.m.**

**8th Annual  
OPC Talent Show**

Do you have talent? Would you like to share it? If so, please come join the fun at OPC's **8th Annual Talent Show** organized by the Fellowship Ministry Team. Do you sing, dance, play a musical instrument, act, cook, act, or make crafts? If so, we need you! If you are unable to participate, please come to be entertained.

**If you plan on attending, please bring a main dish, side, or salad to share. Dessert will be provided.**

Please sign up in the Gathering Area or contact Marj Praml ([pramlmarjory550@gmail.com](mailto:pramlmarjory550@gmail.com)).

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## ASH WEDNESDAY

You are invited to begin the journey of Lent with your church family on February 14!

### “ASHES TO GO”

**Ash Wednesday, February 14**

**8:00 AM—9:30 AM**

**(Kernstown UMC Parking Lot)**

“Ashes to Go” is a shared ministry “Outside the Buildings” sponsored by Opequon Presbyterian Church and Kernstown United Methodist Church. For more information, contact Pastor David ([pastor@opequonchurch.org](mailto:pastor@opequonchurch.org)).

## ASH WEDNESDAY SUPPER & WORSHIP

We will gather on Ash Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall for a supper prior to the 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service. The supper will be served at 5:30 PM and is open to the entire congregation, along with our LOGOS students and staff. Please come, have a warm meal, and share in the opportunity to fellowship together!

Our annual Ash Wednesday Worship Service will begin at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. The evening worship will introduce our 2024 Lenten theme, “Wandering Heart,” as all ages gather together. The Sanctuary Choir and all of our LOGOS worship groups will offer their gifts. Pastor David will share an intergenerational meditation, “Tune My Heart,” focused on the Lenten theme. Please join us for this meaningful hour of praise, reflection, and prayer. Ashes will be offered on the forehead or the back of the hand.

## CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP



As we begin the season of Lent, join us on February 18 at 6:00 PM in the Memorial Sanctuary for a contemplative worship service. What does that mean, you may ask? We will gather together in song, silence, and prayer as we reflect, pray, and gather together in community as we begin our walk with Jesus to the cross. This service will be in the style of Taizé, a simple, meditative style of prayer from the Taizé community in France aimed at bringing together Christians from all over the world to worship. Contact Pastor Julia with any questions!

## LENTEN STUDY COMING THIS MONTH

Our annual Lenten study, “Make Disciples,” will be offered Sunday mornings at 9:45 AM as a part of the Faith Formation Hour, starting February 18. Classes will be 55 minutes in length (in-person and Zoom) and facilitated by Pastor David and Ann Denison.

In the words of Matthew 28:18–20, aka “The Great Commission,” we see Jesus send out his followers to make disciples, to baptize, and to teach people to obey all that Jesus taught them. He promises to be with them no matter what. Since this promise, for almost two thousand years, followers of Jesus have welcomed new disciples into Christian community and helped people come to know Christ and grow in faith. In our study, participants will learn that making disciples, at its simplest, is an invitation to others to live as followers of Christ. Although Christian beliefs and practices may vary within the same faith community, disciples of Jesus gather to worship and serve God together. Making disciples is not inviting others to have an identical faith to one’s own; it is an invitation to live into a faith that meets a person’s spiritual needs and contributes to the goodness of the community. The six dimensions of this practice that will be discussed include: live like a disciple, go, be a witness, baptize, teach and learn about Jesus, and trust in Jesus’ presence always. Join us!

## LENTEN PRAYER BREAKFAST EVENT

**February 25 at 9:45 AM**

The Christian Education Team is hosting a Lent Prayer Breakfast on February 25 at 9:45 AM for everyone. An assortment of breakfast casseroles will be provided along with fruit and cereals. After a warm breakfast we will experience prayer in some exciting ways—praying in color, a whole-body prayer, a finger labyrinth prayer and more. Come enjoy this special Lent morning experience that will prove to nourish you in many ways. It may just be the perfect way to start your day.

## WATTS FINALE!

*(From Heather Burton & Shannon Brannon, WATTS Co-Lead Volunteers)*

We want to thank everyone who participated in our week of WATTS! From December 30—January 6, we hosted 233 homeless guests. We had FIFTY-ONE volunteers participate in a variety of ways from: breakfast leads, breakfast helpers, bus riders, searchers, elevator operators, greeters, bin runners, registration leads, the WATTS Up-Shop, coffee makers, dinner leads, dinner helpers, dish washers, UNO players, chess players, New Year's Day hosts, football and basketball watchers, movie watchers, New Year's Eve party hosts, food buyers, donators, hat makers, medical volunteers/ medical advice givers, door un-lockers, alarm disarmers, hairstylist finders, and a hairstylist. Kernstown Methodist also joined us on Wednesday night and provided dinner. During our week, our guests and volunteers enjoyed delicious food, card games, bingo, chess, football, movies, and a New Year's Eve party at 9:00 PM. Many of our guests received donations of socks, sweatshirts, sweatpants, t-shirts, hats, and toiletries from the WATTS Up-Shop. Sixteen guests received haircuts from Pam Baylis and Pam Orndorff's hairstylist. One guest was reunited with his family and then returned to the mid-west. Two guests will move into apartments by the end of the month as they will have saved enough for a deposit and first month's rent. Thank you to Rachel Lesink for answering and posting all of my endless amounts of emails. Thank you to Robert Sydnor for guiding us in furniture moving, cleaning, and buying all of our supplies for us throughout the week! Thank you again to all the volunteers, donators, and those of you who prayed for this ministry. We couldn't have done it without you! Until next year...



## THE LATEST IN LOGOS

LOGOS continues to grow! We are privileged to have new friends joining us each Wednesday and we have recently welcomed two new members to the Leadership Team. We welcome Lynn Metheny and Erin Deptula to the team! This month offers another helping of some great themes such as "Opposite Night," "Love One Another Night," and our annual competition with "SPOON HANGING Night." We are looking ahead to LOGOS Sunday as we begin our preparations now. LOGOS nights are really quite something! LOGOS is held on Wednesdays, 4:30 PM—7:15 PM and is open to all Pre-K—12 young people. The LOGOS Ministry truly puts a HUG around the church as so many ages come together to love God and one another. On February 14, LOGOS time will also include the 6:30 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service in the Sanctuary. LOGOS young people share in the worship and all are invited to join us that evening. For info about LOGOS, contact Joanne Berson ([opequonlogos@gmail.com](mailto:opequonlogos@gmail.com)) or Carole Witt (540-662-1843 or [dce@opequonchurch.org](mailto:dce@opequonchurch.org)).

## OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE



Come play with us! All children ages 7 and under and their families are invited to join us in the Memorial Sanctuary on February 4 for Opie's Playhouse. This is a casual gathering of our children and their parents and grandparents that meets from 9:45—10:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month. Lots of toys and yummy snacks are provided. Drop in any time!

## OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE SPECIAL EVENT

Opie's Playhouse on March 3 will feature a special "Celebrating Milestones" Workshop, presented by Christian Education at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall, with all the fun toys for young children as well as some intentional conversation with parents about "Celebrating Milestones" in your family. You will discover that milestones can be whatever your family chooses them to be and you can have such fun, memorable times celebrating them! Breakfast will be available for all participants along with coffee and juice. Opie is so excited and wants you to SAVE THE DATE for this special even! All parents of young children are invited to come join us! The children can play and adults will meet off to the side just a little way.

## OPIE'S PLAYHOUSE TOYS NEEDED

We are looking for a few items that can be used for our monthly Opie's Playhouse time. Do you have any GENTLY USED play food, play dishes, baby dolls, or wooden puzzles for YOUNG children that you might be willing to donate to Opequon for Opie's Playhouse? Talk with Joanne Berson ([jfberson@gmail.com](mailto:jfberson@gmail.com)) or Carole Witt ([dce@opequonchurch.org](mailto:dce@opequonchurch.org)) if you have any of these items to donate. We would love to hear from you.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024



It is cold outside right now, but we are planning for those warm evenings as summer begins and we hold Vacation Bible School here at Opequon. Our fun-filled week of VBS is scheduled to happen June 9—12, 5:00 PM—7:30 PM. The theme is: "SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING CHANGED, A FAMILY GREW!" We will be focusing on the story of Abraham and Sarah! VBS will be available for 4-year-olds through 8th grade with an adult class as well. Stay tuned for more information.



## FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S LESSON

Children will receive a lesson called, "Feast to Fast: Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday," crafted from resources on rotation.org. What's with all the pancakes? Is anyone going to clean the smudges of dirt off of their foreheads? I'm not sure I can count to 40, but that number is mentioned a lot these days! Families can dig into the meaning of the Lenten season with this conversational lesson.

## MASSANETTA MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Youth completing grades 5-8 are invited to register for the Massanetta Middle School Conference this summer, July 16-19, in Harrisonburg, VA. Nine of our Opequon Youth went last year and it was a blast! For more details about registration, payment, or with any questions you may have, contact Rebekah Witt ([wittrebekah2@gmail.com](mailto:wittrebekah2@gmail.com)). \*Registration is due by February 15.

## YOUTH: GRADES 6-12

February 3 (10:00 AM) - Practice for Youth Families' & Young Adult Sunday

February 4 (8:30 AM & 11:00 AM) - Youth Families' & Young Adult Sunday

February 11 (12:15 PM) - Souper Bowl Sunday  
Soup Can Counting

## YOUNG ADULTS: AGES 18-35

February 16 (7:00 PM) - FEAST Group

## OUR DAILY BREAD

Our Daily Bread Faith Formation with Pastor Julia meets Wednesdays at 6:15 PM in Classroom 2 and via Zoom (*link info is in the Tuesday emails*).

Upcoming Discussion Topics:

- > February 7 - 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- > February 14 - No Class (Ash Wednesday)
- > February 21 - Matthew 13:22-33
- > February 28 - Matthew 16:13-20  
(Dave Richards facilitating)

## FELLOWSHIP BOOK CLUB

The Fellowship Book Club will meet on Thursday, February 22 at 6:00 PM in the Bageant Room to discuss the book *Great Small Things* by Jodi Picoult.



## GOD-LOVING OPEQUON WOMEN

GLOW is Opequon's multi-aged women's group that meets monthly to build friendships and enjoy heart-warming activities together. GLOW continues on break this month; however, we will resume our monthly gatherings next month. Mark March 12 on your calendar and plan to join us as we come back together. We will be having a GAME NIGHT (Pictionary and Outburst). Many more details will be shared as we inch closer to March. Stay warm, stay safe and enjoy the special beauty of winter.

## MEN OF OPEQUON

Men of Opequon (MOO) will meet at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 12, for dinner at the Pleasant Valley Chick-fil-A. We will return to the church at 7:00 PM for our monthly program. This month's theme, which is appropriate for Lincoln's birthday, is "President Lincoln, the Presidents & More!" led by David Witt. Join us to hear the stories. Dessert will be provided.

## OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

With LOVE, all things are possible! Let's surround each other with LOVE this month. LOVE will keep us all warm during this cold winter month and there are some 'warm happenings' at OPC. The Older Adult Team will meet on Monday, February 5 at 9:30 AM in the Bageant Room to discuss plans for Happy Days gatherings and other events. New faces are always welcome at the meetings. (Happy Days is the monthly older adult fellowship gathering.) This month's Happy Days gathering takes place on Wednesday, February 14 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Our focus will be on ASH WEDNESDAY, with Pastor David sharing about the meaning and significance of this day. Ashes on foreheads will be offered. We will begin the gathering with a covered-dish lunch (roisserie chicken and beverages provided). All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the warmth of one another and the delicious food.

## LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will gather on January 12 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Life Goes On is a lunch-conversation-support-ish group for people who have lost their significant other. A main dish is provided (February's will be beef stew) and participants are asked to bring a side or dessert to pass or to chip in a couple of bucks toward the expense of the main dish. If you would like a ride, please call the church office or contact Tracie Martin ([assocopc@gmail.com](mailto:assocopc@gmail.com)).

## 2024 MEDICAL MISSION

A team from OPC is going on a MEDICAL MISSION TRIP to the Dominican Republic in March and needs your help collecting supplies to take with them! From February 4—18, they will be collecting **non-medical supplies** (listed below) in the Gathering Area. So that the team has time to pack before their trip, **the deadline for all donations is February 18!**

**Baseball Caps; Socks** (all sizes);  
**Sandals** (all ages/sizes);  
**Sneakers** (all ages/sizes); **Dish Towels;**  
**Nail Files; Toothbrushes** (adult/kids);  
**Glasses** (reading or prescription);  
**Coloring Books; Stickers**

To support our team financially, you can donate through our MMI fundraising page:

<https://mmiorg.app.neoncrm.com/MMIOPC>

Learn more about Medical Ministry International in the Dominican Republic:

<https://www.mmi.org/dominican-republic>

Check out the Medical Mission Announcement on Opequon's YouTube channel:

<https://youtu.be/Cv53dfvP4OM>

## CCAP

During the month of February, the Mission Ministry Team will be collecting Cheerios for CCAP.

## ROOTS & SHOOTS GARDEN NEWS

Roots & Shoots is looking for volunteers to pick up produce from the garden during the growing season and deliver to the food pantries. Deliveries happen every Tuesday morning to Highland and the first and third Thursday of each month to Sherando Food Pantry.

We are also in need of a Garden Administrator to keep spreadsheet totals of the produce, be the contact for community groups who want to volunteer, and send info to the church office for the bulletin and newsletter. Grayson Moyer, our long-time Garden Administrator, is graduating from college and moving away. We are so thankful for her dedication and commitment to Roots & Shoots and we wish her the very best! To volunteer to help with the garden, please contact Dana Kelly ([davedana@comcast.net](mailto:davedana@comcast.net)).

## SENIOR OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Senior Outreach Ministry will meet Sunday, February 11, at 12:15 PM by the church office doors to load up the totes and distribute to the Shenandoah Senior Apartments.

## REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT VOLUNTEERS

Church World Service and First Presbyterian in Winchester coordinate the arrival and settlement of refugees from various countries to the northern Shenandoah Valley. They are in need of additional volunteer support on a periodic basis to set up a home for families of various sizes. Although they could use some "heavy lifters," they welcome anyone with an interest to help. The Mission Team is reaching out to see if there is enough interest to set-up an OPC Team.

*Volunteer Responsibilities:* Groups or individuals to work with others by helping with the packing, transporting, and unpacking of designated supplies/furniture from storage for kitchens, bathrooms, living/dining rooms, bedrooms, etc.

*Time Requirements:* Typically once a month, for approximately 4 hours at a time

*Where:* City of Winchester

*When:* Moves are typically done on a "short notice" turnaround (ie/ 1-3 days) and if you are not available on the date needed, they will reach out to you next time.

If you are interested or would like additional information, please contact OPC Mission Team Member Karen Winters (315-440-6508 or [kwwinters@gmail.com](mailto:kwwinters@gmail.com)) by the end of February.

## NOTES OF THANKS...

From Bobbie Cropp:

*This is a sincere "thank you to the seniors" at Opequon Church for the beautiful and most grateful gift bag that was prepared for the senior population who no longer are able to attend on a regular basis – due to health, etc – problems. You are so thoughtful to think of this group of "seniors." All of the "gifts" are so endearing and practical for me and the little bit of crackers, candy, etc so helpful for a bit of yummy goodies. Thank you soooo much!*

From Harriet Smith:

*The family of Don Larsen and I express our gratitude and appreciation to our ministers and members. Your hospital visits, cards, and the memorial service were special to each of us. Don loved our church and the many members he had met.*

From Curt and Nancy Budny:

*Nancy and Curt Budny would like to thank all those who sent cards, cooked meals and prayed for us during Nancy's recent surgery, their son's death and the memorial service. We are so fortunate to be counted among the members of Opequon Presbyterian Church.*

# THE POWER OF FOUR CENTS...



All those pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars the people of Opequon collected for the **Four Cents a Meal during 2023 totaled \$3,976!** Thank you for reaching new heights last year!

Four Cents a Meal is our monthly offering for hunger that assists people in our community, state, nation, and world. Please give to the Four Cents a Meal collection on the Fourth Sunday of each month.

- \$1,506** Highland Memorial Food Pantry
- \$4,011** Sherando Food Pantry
- \$6,199** Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- \$3,525** Christmas Joy Gift
- \$3,348** One Great Hour of Sharing
- \$1,435** Pentecost
- \$1,490** Peacemaking

- \$29,945** Friends of the Gore Home
  - \$28,530** Massanetta Springs
  - \$27,610** OPC Sound System
  - \$1.56** "Send Opie to Camp Fund"
  - \$1.04 (just kidding!) - a 50% increase!**  
And Thanksgiving Boxes!
- Next Four Cents a Meal: Sunday, February 25!**

**Opequon Presbyterian Church  
Financial Summary for the period ended  
December 31, 2023**

	Annual Budget 2023	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget Remaining	% of Annual Budget Used
<b>Income</b>					
410000 Offering Income	790,095	132,784	813,476	(23,381)	103.0%
420000 Other Income	800	709	2,347	(1,547)	293.4%
<b>Total 400000 Income</b>	<b>790,895</b>	<b>133,493</b>	<b>815,823</b>	<b>(24,928)</b>	<b>103.2%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
500000 Personnel Costs					
510000 Installed Pastors	211,683	17,953	212,325	(642)	100.3%
520000 Other Ministerial Staff	131,138	11,597	134,517	(3,379)	102.6%
530000 Administrative Staff	123,314	11,205	135,940	(12,626)	110.2%
<b>Total 500000 Personnel Costs</b>	<b>466,135</b>	<b>40,754</b>	<b>482,783</b>	<b>(16,648)</b>	<b>103.6%</b>
600000 Other Ministries					
610000 Christian Education	13,500	506	10,176	3,324	75.4%
620000 Congregational Care	2,000	486	1,640	361	82.0%
630000 Evangelism	2,750	225	1,393	1,357	50.7%
640000 Fellowship	3,550	397	2,979	571	83.9%
650000 Mission	69,750	7,133	69,750	0	100.0%
660000 Worship	7,000	1,331	6,182	818	88.3%
<b>Total 600000 Other Ministries</b>	<b>98,550</b>	<b>10,078</b>	<b>92,119</b>	<b>6,431</b>	<b>93.5%</b>
<b>Total 700000 Church Administration</b>	<b>125,085</b>	<b>(3,236)</b>	<b>109,643</b>	<b>15,442</b>	<b>87.7%</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>689,770</b>	<b>47,596</b>	<b>684,545</b>	<b>5,225</b>	<b>99.2%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income (Expense)</b>	<b>101,125</b>	<b>85,897</b>	<b>131,278</b>	<b>(30,153)</b>	<b>129.8%</b>
920000 Other Income	16,900	1,813	21,829	(4,929)	129.2%
930000 Other Expenses	118,025	8,248	117,896	129	99.9%
<b>Net Other Income (Expense)</b>	<b>(101,125)</b>	<b>(6,434)</b>	<b>(96,067)</b>	<b>(5,058)</b>	<b>95.0%</b>
<b>Income Greater Than (Less Than) Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79,463</b>	<b>35,211</b>		

12/31/23

Cash	\$ 190,083
Sanctuary Mortgage Principal Balance	\$ 480,760



# NURSE NOTES: 988 IS HERE FOR YOU!



## WHAT & WHY “988” IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER!

**Whatever the time: Day / Night / Weekend 24/7**

**Whatever the reason: Mental health distress. Substance use crisis. Thoughts of suicide.**

**The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is here for YOU!**

**Text: 988 | Call: 988 | Chat: [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org)**

- \* Simply calling or texting **988** or **chatting** on [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org) will connect a person in crisis to compassionate care and support for any mental health or substance use-related distress.
- \* Anyone—a person in crisis, or someone supporting a person in crisis—can reach 988 from anywhere in the United States through any landline, cell phone, or voice-over internet device.
- \* With rising levels of anxiety, depression, emotional distress, and overdose deaths, it is crucial that people have somewhere to turn when they’re in crisis. Suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States. The number of people with a substance use disorder continues to increase.
- \* The 988 Lifeline is a direct connection to immediate and free support and resources for anyone in crisis.
- \* And it works. About 98 percent of people who call, chat, or text the 988 Lifeline get the crisis support they need and do not require additional services in that moment.
- \* The 988 Lifeline is a key part of a broader vision for reimagined crisis care in the United States. Through federal, state, local, and community partnerships, SAMHSA is working towards a vision where everyone has: Someone to talk to, Someone to respond, and A safe place for help.

### What support is available through the 988 Lifeline?

- ↪ The 988 Lifeline offers free and confidential support for anyone in crisis. That includes people who need support for a suicidal, mental health and/or substance use crisis or who are in emotional distress.

### What happens when a person calls, texts, or chats?

- ↪ When a person calls or texts 988 or chats with [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org), they are connected with a crisis counselor who listens, tries to understand how the problem is affecting the person, provides support, and shares resources. 988 Lifeline Crisis Counselors are trained to help reduce the intensity of a situation for the person seeking help and connect them to additional local resources to support their wellbeing.

### How does the 988 Lifeline protect the privacy of those who call, text, or chat?

- ↪ When a person contacts the 988 Lifeline, they don’t have to say who or where they are to get support. The 988 Lifeline Crisis Counselor knows only the person’s phone number if they call or text, or their IP address if they use chat. No one is required to provide any personal information to receive the help from the 988 Lifeline.

### How is 988 different from 911?

- ↪ The 988 Lifeline was established to improve access to immediate support to meet the nation’s growing mental health, suicide, and substance use distress needs. The 988 Lifeline provides easy access to emotional distress care, which is distinct from 911, where the focus is on dispatching emergency medical services, fire, and police, as needed. Only a small percent of 988 Lifeline calls require activation of the 911 system. Most of those are done with the consent and cooperation of the caller. This occurs when there is imminent risk to someone’s life that cannot be reduced during the call. In these cases, the crisis counselor shares information with 911 that is crucial to saving the caller’s life.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 <b>Communion</b> <b>Youth Families &amp; Young</b> 8:30am - Worship & Live 9:45am - Faith Formation @ 9:45am - Opie's Playhouse @ 11am - Worship @ Sanctuary	29 9:30am - Older Adult Ministry 1pm - Disciple Bible Study @ 5pm - LOGOS Leadership 6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary	30 10am - Staff Meeting @ 4:30pm - Tech Team Meeting 6pm - Ministry Team Night @	31 4:30pm - LOGOS 6:15pm - Our Daily Bread 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	1 10:30am - Tai Chi @ 6:30pm - Sherando Food	2 	3 10am - Practice for Youth 11am - Crafting with Becky
4 <b>Communion</b> <b>Youth Families &amp; Young</b> 8:30am - Worship & Live 9:45am - Faith Formation @ 9:45am - Opie's Playhouse @ 11am - Worship @ Sanctuary	5 9:30am - Older Adult Ministry 1pm - Disciple Bible Study @ 5pm - LOGOS Leadership 6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary	6 10am - Staff Meeting @ 4:30pm - Tech Team Meeting 6pm - Ministry Team Night @	7 4:30pm - LOGOS 6:15pm - Our Daily Bread 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	8 10:30am - Tai Chi @ 7pm - Vision Team	9 	10 8:30am - Leadership Retreat
11 <b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b> 8:30am - Worship & Live 9:45am - Faith Formation @ 11am - Worship @ Sanctuary 12:15pm - Senior Outreach 1:30pm - Spring Arbor	12 1pm - Disciple Bible Study @ 6pm - MOO @ Chick-fil-A 6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary 7pm - MOO in FH @ Bageant	13 9:30am - Tuesday Morning 5pm - Shrove Tuesday	14 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 8am - Ashes To Go @ 12pm - Happy Days @ 4:30pm - LOGOS 6:30pm - Ash Wednesday 7:30pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	15 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 10:30am - Tai Chi @ 10:30am - WANC Meeting @ 6:30pm - Sherando Food	16 	17 
18 <b>Blood Pressure Checks</b> 8:30am - Worship & Live 9:45am - Baja Mission Trip 9:45am - Faith Formation @ 11am - Worship @ Sanctuary 6pm - Taize Worship @	19 12pm - Life Goes On @ 1pm - Disciple Bible Study @ 6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary	20 11:45am - Staff Appreciation 3pm - Bland Contest/Lion's 7pm - Session Mtg @	21 12pm - Music at Noon @ 4:30pm - LOGOS 6:15pm - Our Daily Bread 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	22 10:30am - Tai Chi @ 10:30am - WANC Lunch @ 6pm - Fellowship Book Club	23 11am - Java With Julia @ 7pm - YA FEAST Group @	24 6pm - Talent Show @
25 <b>4 Cents a Meal Offering</b> 8:30am - Worship & Live 9:45am - Prayer Breakfast @ 11am - Worship @ Sanctuary 12pm - Annual Meeting	26 <b>Julia Away</b> 1pm - Disciple Bible Study @ 6pm - Windsong @ Sanctuary	27 3pm - TVOR Gathering 5:30pm - Highland Food	28 4:30pm - LOGOS 6:15pm - Our Daily Bread 7:15pm - Choir @ Sanctuary	29 	1 	2 10am - Deacon Retreat @

## GENEROSITY MOMENT *(From Pastor Tracie Martin)*

One thing that has often bothered me is the absence of thanks within churches. Don't get me wrong! I am not talking about the members of the congregation. Most people say thank you and many even still hand write notes and mail them. No! I am talking about an institutional failure to say thank you when someone or a group of someones follows through and make a difference.

I have been gratified not to have had to teach the Opequon congregation this lesson. This congregation not only comes through, it notices when something is accomplished and is quick to acknowledge what has been done. Bill and I even got a thank you type note when we first visited the church. This makes an impression. It says, "We follow God in caring about who you are, what you do, and whose you are."

Let me shout out a huge thanks to the many, many, many people—singles, couples, and families—who completed their pledges in 2023. The fourth quarter statements have just gone out. They show wonderful support for the work of OPC locally, within the congregation, and in God's world. You have done well. And thank you to those who just gave. Your pledges included not only gifts of money, but you also gave your time and your expertise in loving amounts. Over the past year, I have been told that some of you used your time to try things you had not done before... and you liked it. Some who could not do physical tasks supported those who could by commenting both privately and publicly. Many of you supported efforts through prayer. Young people tried new tasks. Parents brought their children and friends to help. The list goes on and on.

There was no thank you note in the last statement of 2023 since it feels important to do something less private this time... Soooooooo...

**Gracias, Merci, Vielen Dank, Dziękuję, Спасибо,  
ありがとうございます, ขอบคุณ, شكرا, THANK YOU!!!!!!**

You made commitments; you kept them. Sometimes you needed help; you found it. You gave and what you gave matters. On to 2024!

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

In December, 1,075 blankets—totaling \$5,375—were given through our annual blanket drive to "THE TY HEADLEY TREE OF WARMTH!" We thank you for your generosity. In its 17th year, our annual blanket drive has contributed more than \$85,000 (that's more than 17,000 blankets!) to Church World Service. Thank you for your generosity.



## LOOKING AHEAD...

### MAGNIFICENT MARCH MEMORIES IN THE MAKING

- › **Sunday, March 3:** Communion
- › **Tuesday, March 5:** Ministry Team Night
- › **Sunday, March 10:** "Spring Forward" Daylight Savings Time Begins
- › **Sunday, March 17:** LOGOS Sunday (11:00 AM)  
Annual Potato Bake
- › **Sunday, March 24:** Palm/Passion Sunday
- › **Thursday, March 28:** Maundy Thursday Worship (7:00 PM)
- › **Friday, March 29:** Good Friday Worship (7:00 PM)
- › **Sunday, March 31:** The Day of Resurrection  
Easter Worship (6:30 AM Sunrise, 8:30 AM, 11:00 AM)

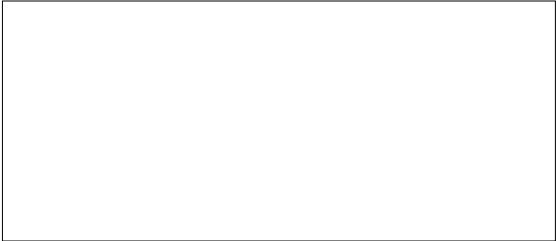


**OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

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*“The Opequon Spirit” is the monthly newsletter of:*

**OPEQUON  
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CHURCH**

217 Opequon Church Lane  
Winchester, VA 22602-2421

**Website:** [www.opequonchurch.org](http://www.opequonchurch.org)

**Phone:** 540-662-1843

**Office:** [office@opequonchurch.org](mailto: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

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



**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