

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 12, 2025 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM



Give Thanks & Your Faith
Will Make You Well

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>Interim Organist/Pianist</i>	Laura Swartz
<i>Facilities Coordinator</i>	Robert Sydnor
<i>Nursery Supervisor</i>	Laurie Carver
<i>Faith Community Nurses</i>	Bill Martin, Mike Nutry, Pat Williams

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

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

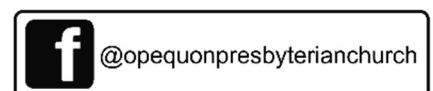
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **We encourage you to share requests for prayer.** You may do so by completing the pink form found in the pew rack and placing it in the offering.
- **Trust your children to the care of our dedicated, loving workers!** The nursery rooms are located through the Gathering Area, down the Gallery and through the Dell Room. An usher will be happy to escort you. Our nursery ministry cares for infants and toddlers to age four.
- **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

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost – Pastor Appreciation Sunday; Thanksgiving Banana Boxes

☞ **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..... Karen Snyder

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION: "Thanksgiving Banana Boxes" Rev. Rich Schempp

†GATHERING SONG No. 616 (x3)..... *Our God Is an Awesome God*
**Our God is an awesome God, who reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power, and love; our God is an awesome God!**

†CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 66)

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of God's name.

How awesome are your deeds, O God! We sing praises to your name.

Come and see what God has done, turning the sea into dry land, bringing us across the river Jordan.

How awesome are your deeds, O God! We sing praises to your name.

Even when God has tested us, even when we have gone through fire and water,

God has brought us out to a spacious place. Our God is an awesome God!

†OPENING HYMN No. 772 *Live into Hope*

Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.

The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!

**Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.**

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be, the right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed. God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Even when we are faithless, Christ remains faithful. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins, first in prayer together, then in silent, personal prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. We keep our distance from you, for we are broken and sick with sin. Yet you see us, and cleanse us, and make us whole. Forgive us when we forget to return to you – have mercy when we fail to praise your name and give you thanks; help us to demonstrate the faith that makes us well.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news: Your call has been answered. Christ has healed you and forgives your sin. With glad and grateful hearts, return praise to God.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 647 *Give Thanks*

***Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.** [* repeat]

***And now let the weak say, "We are strong";
let the poor say, "We are rich
because of what the Lord has done for us!"** [* repeat]

Give thanks. Give thanks.

†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..... *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

Words by: Charles Wesley; Music by: Mark A. Miller

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace! My gracious master and my God, assist me to proclaim, to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name. Jesus! The name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace. Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb, your loosened tongues employ; ye blind, behold your Savior come, and leap, ye lame, for joy.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Psalm 66:1-12 Pew Bible p. 459

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 17:11-19 Pew Bible p. 852

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "Give Thanks!"

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 652 *A Grateful Heart*

Tune: DUKE STREET – JESUS SHALL REIGN

**A grateful heart is what I bring,
a song of praise, my offering.
Among the saints I lift my voice:
in you, O God, I will rejoice.
Your name is known in all the lands.
You feed the poor with gentle hands.
Your word is true, your works are just;
in you, O God, the faithful trust.
With saving love you set us free,
and still you dwell in mystery
with wisdom none can comprehend.
Your praise, O God, will never end.**

SERMON..... "With A Grateful Heart"

Pastor David Witt

☞ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ☞

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *Abide with Me*

By: William Henry Monk (1823–1889)

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

Like the shepherds in Bethlehem's field, like the leper healed who returned to Jesus, like the Jews and Gentiles of the early church, we praise and glorify your name, O God. You have given us more than we could have imagined! For tidings of joy, for wholeness received, for the gift of belonging, we thank you. Make of us, as well as these gifts, offerings of good news to the poor, hope to the hopeless, and signs of your power to reconcile and redeem. We ask all things in the name of Christ. Amen.

†THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (adapted from *The Confession of 1967*, 9.32–33)

The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church's mission. His human life involves the church in the common life of all people. His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being. His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need. His crucifixion discloses to the church God's judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church's own complicity in injustice.

In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God's renewal of human life in society and of God's victory over all wrong. The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action.

So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.

PASTOR APPRECIATION MOMENTS Ann Smith, Melissa Youngblood

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. 795..... *Healer of Our Every Ill*

[refrain] **Healer of our every ill,
light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear,
and hope beyond our sorrow.**

**You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. [refrain]**

**In the pain and joy beholding
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision, God of love. [refrain]**

**Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. [refrain]**

**You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing;
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. [refrain]**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 765..... *May the God of Hope Go with Us*

**May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace;
singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

†POSTLUDE

SANCTUARY ROSE

The rose in the Sanctuary this morning announces the birth of Bodie Matthew Wallish, born on October 4, weighing 8 pounds, 5 ounces. Bodie is the son of Will and Jordan Hughes Wallish and the first grandchild of Peggy and Clay Hughes. We rejoice in this gift of new life.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Terry Cornwell in loving memory of her husband, John.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Dave Rusch	Jane Holsinger	Charlotte Rosamilia
Harriet Smith & Family	Art Friedrichsen	Israel/Iran Conflict
Jim Davis Family	Travis Carr	Jeff Erhardt
Cor & Agnes Kamerman	Laura Boynton	Clay Knick
Drew & Andrew	David Lewis	Susan Arthur
Paterson	Cindy Millard	Bill Gesell
Jordan & Bodie Wallish	Violence in America	Suellen Knowles
Jean Klein	Bill Robinson	Susan Kelican
Geanie Henley	Sara Frey	All Struggling with
Krista Strukoff	Marcia & Mike	Mental Illness
(DeCeault)	Jaureguizar	June & Nathan Windle
Scarlett Kibler	David DesMarias	Bereaved Israelites &
Nancy Budny & Family	Aaron Snyder	Palestinians
Joyce Allen	Gaza Famine	Tim Loftis
Judy Smith	Brenda Steffens	Mike Shade
Mischell Longfellow	Ellie Cammer Family	Jewish & Muslim Victims
Candi Gardner	Cathy Jones	Worldwide
George Schwantes	Sparky Gomez	Cindy Correll
Alyce Callahan	Judy Gaines	Douglas Dicks
Al & May Schollenberger	Megan Tschappat	Nancy Kerns
Rick Ours	Pastor Kristin Whitesides	Kennedy Ransom
Paula & Mac McNichols	Judy Orndorff	Ukraine
Bill Howard	Katie Happel	Ethiopia Church Mekane
Braxton McKee	Lyn Warren	Yesus
Mike Crawford	Lori Jones & Stephen	
Sylvia Morgan	Armstrong	
Mark Everly	Ken Johansen	

✠PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES✠

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, Brandon Michael, Michael White,
Ben Jensen, Gavin Eanes, Eli Keaton

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – October 12

Pastor Appreciation Sunday; Distribution of Thanksgiving Banana Boxes Begins

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

THIS WEEK

Monday:	5:00 PM	Logos Leadership Team – Bageant Room
	6:00 PM	Windsong – Sanctuary
	7:00 PM	Ethiopia Presentation – Fellowship Hall
Tuesday:	9:30 AM	Tuesday Morning Mission – Bageant Room
	1:30 PM	Spiritual Gifts Class – Bageant Room
	6:00 PM	GLOW (God-loving Opequon Women) – Basketball Court
Wednesday:	* LAST DAY FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS *	
	9:30 AM	Staff Meeting – Bageant Room
	4:30 PM	Logos (Theme: Orange-Yellow-Red Night)
	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Thursday:	9:30 AM	WANC Tea – Youth Spot
	10:30 AM	Tai Chi – Memorial Sanctuary
	10:30 AM	WANC Meeting – Fellowship Hall
	6:30 PM	Sherando Food Pantry
	6:45 PM	Micah 6:8 Faith Formation – Bageant Room
Friday – Sunday:		Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Retreat
Saturday:	11:00 AM	Memorial Service for Ellie Cammer – Sanctuary
	12:00 PM	Memorial Luncheon – Fellowship Hall

NEXT SUNDAY – October 19

Blood Pressure Checks; Chili Cook-Off

Scriptures: Luke 18:1-8; Jeremiah 31:27-34 Sermon: "Perseverance"

8:30 AM	Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
9:45 AM	Faith Formation – Bageant Room
10:00 AM	Safety Monitor Training
11:00 AM	Worship – Sanctuary
12:15 PM	Chili Cook-Off – Fellowship Hall

STAFF SCHEDULE NOTE FOR THIS WEEK

October 16-19: Rebekah Witt – Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Retreat

THANKSGIVING BANANA BOXES ARE HERE!

Banana boxes are in the hallways and on the porch! Help us fill them with donations of Thanksgiving food for families in need. Each box contains a list of items needed and more details. Filled boxes should be returned by **Sunday, November 16**. Bless you and thank you for helping those in need!

MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING – TODAY

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

UPCOMING VISIT TO OPEQUON FROM OUR ETHIOPIAN BROTHER

We are looking forward to the upcoming visit of Kes Amena, president of the Illubabor Bethel Synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. He will be at OPC **tomorrow** at **7:00 PM** for a fellowship gathering/talk in the Fellowship Hall. Kes has been with us before and always brings tremendous insight and inspiration to our mission partnership and shared Christian witness. Please join us for a time of refreshment and conversation, as you circle this date on your calendar.

FAITH FORMATION: Discerning Spiritual Gifts Class

Come explore the gifts and traditions of the Spirit on **Tuesdays** at **1:30 PM** with Pastor Tracie Martin in the Bageant Room. You do not need to be a Bible scholar – just bring an open mind and a sense of exploration. This class will be great fun!

GLOW: God-loving Opequon Women

GLOW is Opequon's multi-aged Women's group that meets monthly to build friendships and enjoy heart-warming activities together. GLOW women enjoyed our annual BUNCO Night last month with some ladies winning great prizes. GLOW will meet this **Tuesday, October 14**, at **6:00 PM** on the basketball court area, around back of the church, for a CAMPFIRE NIGHT. Bring your own chair to place around the campfire. Hot dogs, buns, chips, condiments, s'mores fixings, and drinks will all be provided. Bring \$1.00 to help with the cost of this event. Come enjoy this great fall evening and lots of laughter around the campfire.

CHILI COOK-OFF

It's almost time for our traditional Chili Cook-Off! Be sure to bring your appetite next **Sunday** at **12:15 PM** in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy an assortment of chili with all the fixins', cornbread, desserts, and drinks with our OPC family and friends! There's still some time to sign-up in the Gathering Area if you would like to make a pot of chili for the Cook-Off Contest or some cornbread. If you have questions, contact Marj Praml (pramlmarjory550@gmail.com).

LIFE GOES ON

Join us in Fellowship Hall on **October 20** at **noon** and treated to an Autumn Tea by Becky Proctor. Let Pastor Tracie Martin know if you are planning to come so we can prepare. Please think about attending, even if you have not joined us before!

MEN OF OPEQUON (MOO)

We will gather at the Pleasant Valley Road Chick-fil-A in Winchester next **Monday, October 20**, at **6:00 PM**. We'll then travel over to the Shihadeh Innovation Center for a tour and presentation by Dr. Jason Van Heukelem, Superintendent of Winchester Public Schools. The center is a hub of workforce development for the community, serving both high school students and adults. All men are invited for this most informative and inspiring time.

TRUNK & TREAT EVENT COMING

We will be holding a TRUNK & TREAT event within our Logos night on **October 29**. This is a fantastic way for children to enjoy a safe Halloween event. **WE NEED TRUNKERS!** You are invited to come open your vehicle trunk, decorate it with a theme, provide a treat to children that visit your trunk, and possibly have a simple game. There are many ideas if you google 'Trunk & Treat ideas.' TRUNK & TREAT will be held **5:00-5:45 PM** that evening. Let Carole Witt know **today** if you can be a Trunker. (dce@opequonchurch.org)

GARDEN UPDATE

The garden season has not yet wrapped up – there's still some growing and harvesting happening! For example, our sweet potatoes usually aren't ready to harvest until early November. Once all the harvesting is done, we'll shift into garden clean-up mode for the winter, typically in November and is weather-dependent. Stay tuned for the exact date. We'll be looking for lots of volunteers to help get the garden ready for its winter rest. Your helping hands make all the difference!

LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT!

We are not trying to rush things; however, it's time to think ahead and we invite you to do so also as we prepare to author our own Advent Devotional once again. The Christian Education Team has chosen "OFFERING HOPE AND PEACE" as the theme for our Advent Devotional this year. We invite any of YOU to be a writer and contribute to the devotional. Ponder these things: How do you offer hope and peace to someone else? How do you feel hope and peace yourself? What brings you hope and peace? We will need many writers for our annually treasured Opequon-authored Advent Devotional. Writings need to be submitted to Carole Witt by **November 16**. The Advent Devotional booklet will be prepared and ready for the first Sunday of Advent. Please consider writing, sharing your thoughts and reflections. The devotional is a blessing to many every year. If you are willing to write or have questions, please contact Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org).

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ben Brooks

Beadle: Bob Aylor

Door Greeters: Becky Proctor, Bob & Joan Aylor

Hospitality Greeter: Winter Brooks

Ushers: Steve Bock, Linda Bock, Mike & Trish Crawford, London Bender, Claire Gaines, Ethan Jordan

Acolyte: London Bender

Livestream: Susan Ritter, Brad Jordan

Building Steward: Mike Nutry

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ben Weber

Beadle: Bill Wellman

Door Greeters: Alice Foley, Bonnie Pitzer

Hospitality Greeters: Ron & Ann Smith

Ushers: Marj Praml, Kyle Homan, Jason Hathaway, Vern Gamble, Jasper Kirby-Yoder, Tucker Birchenough, Bo Weber

Acolyte: Jasper Kirby-Yoder

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✂ How does today's music glorify and give thanks to God?

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

✂ Why is saying "thank you" to God and others so important?

Notes on Today's Scripture & Sermon

- ✂ When did you feel joy? When did you feel troubled? Where have you noticed God's presence?
- ✂ How is the man Jesus healed a "double-outcast" or an "enemy?"
- ✂ What example does Jesus set for us to follow?
- ✂ Are there times when you have received a gift from God but failed to give thanks?
- ✂ What does it mean to live a "eucharistic life?"
- ✂ What are you especially grateful for in the past day?
- ✂ Can you recount some of the ways in which you are glorifying and enjoying God in your daily life?
- ✂ What new habits or practices might cultivate in you a more grateful heart and thankful life?

Songs reprinted / streamed with permission obtained from CCLI with Church Copyright License® #1622560 and CCLI Streaming Plus License™ #CSPL142660: "Give Thanks" Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. All rights reserved. | "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" Words: Charles Wesley (Public Domain). Music: Mark A. Miller © 2000 Abingdon Press (admin. Music Services, Inc.). All rights reserved. | "Our God is An Awesome God" Rich Mullins © 1988 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing, admin. Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. | Songs reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #742171: "Abide with Me" William Henry Monk (1823-1889); arr. Cindy Berry. All rights reserved. | "Live into Hope" Music: Musica Sacra, 1778; Text: Jane Parker Huber © 1980 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press). All rights reserved. | "A Grateful Heart" Text: © 2011 David Gambrell (admin. Presbyterian Publishing Corp.) All rights reserved. Alt Tune: DUKE STREET - JESUS SHALL REIGN (1793). | "Healer of Our Every Ill" Text & Music: Marty Haugen; © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. | All other music for this service is found in the public domain.