

# The Opequon Spirit

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



## May 2018

### WORSHIP IN MAY

#### Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Older Adult Sunday  
Psalm 98, John 15:9-17  
Sermon: "Jesus, Our Friend"  
CCAP, Communion  
Older Adult Choir & Leaders

#### Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Christian Family Sunday, Mother's Day  
Confirmation Sunday, Graduation Sunday  
Psalm 1, Ephesians 1:15-23  
Sermon: "God's Power at Work in Us"  
Fellowship Reception

#### Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21  
Sermon: "Babble-Babel Battle"  
Communion, Pentecost Offering  
REMEMBER TO WEAR RED!

#### Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day Weekend

Isaiah 6:1-8, Romans 8:12-17  
Sermon: "The Ancient of Days"  
Four Cents A Meal  
G.I.F.T. Event – 9:45 am

### COLLECTING FOR CCAP



Mac & Cheese



### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSING

The church office will be closed on Friday, May 4, for the Apple Blossom Festival. It will also be closed on Monday, May 28 for Memorial Day.

### MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT

Tuesday, May 1

Dinner—6:00 pm

Suggested donation \$3 per person

Devotions—6:45 pm

Meetings—7:00 pm

### OLDER ADULT SUNDAY, MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>

Celebrate the gift of generations at Opequon!

Give thanks for our multi-generational congregation!

Older adults share, serve, and sing!

We are so blessed!

(Remember to wear pink & green too!!)

### MOTHER'S DAY CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY CONFIRMATION SUNDAY HONORING OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES MAY 13<sup>th</sup>

As families, come together for worship.

Honor the women of Opequon.

Give thanks for our faith community.

Renew your commitment as families.

Participate in confirmation.

Celebrate graduates. Glorify God!

## NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

### "Life Is Like a Box of...Crayons"

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you may know, our elders take turns sharing opening devotions at our monthly session meetings. These devotions are contemplative, thought-provoking, and tone setting, inspiring and challenging us as we share in God's work. Every so often, I pass on, in a sermon, lesson, or newsletter article, the thoughts that they share because their reflections strike a chord within me and because I think you will also find them useful. At our March session meeting, Elder Marc DesMarais shared the following, "Life Is Like a Box of ... Crayons." I now pass it on to you for your own reflection:

"A crayon is a useful thing. It can be used to create beautiful artwork, things that bring joy. It can be used to fashion objects of usefulness: labels, restroom signs, or warning signs. A typical box contains 64 crayons. They are all somewhat alike, as we are all somewhat alike, because we are all made in the image of God. But there are also obvious differences. We are each made with unique talents and gifts, as are the crayons which mark in colors of Midnight Blue, Pine Green, and Carnation Pink.

Like the Potter's clay, the crayon is not the artist. We are not the Creator, but the tool He uses. Any beauty or utility that we create is due to the gifts which he gave us. Any good work that we perform is from His strength and the talents that he equips us with. We were not made to be ornaments on display, any more than a crayon was made to be unused and pristine. We were made to glorify God and to serve Him in accordance with His will. How do we serve Him and seek to be useful to Him?

"He will equip us with everything good for doing His will, and work in us what is pleasing to Him...for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."

A crayon starts its life bright and fresh. It even smells nice. As a crayon does its intended work, it changes. The point is worn down; it gets bumped, even broken. It is sometimes refashioned in the sharpener. The label might become worn or even go missing. Eventually it ends up in that big bin of broken crayons. I can recall growing up with a shoebox that was full of worn crayon pieces. Some had broken, and all of them had flecks of other colors all over them. The crayons were still useful regardless of their physical condition.

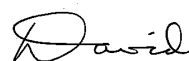
God knows all our scars and brokenness and he treasures us. At times, he refashions us in what seems at the time like a crayon sharpener. He knows that we are sadly ineffective unless we have his power, his strength, and his direction. He yearns for us to remember our dependence on him, and delights in us when we rely on his power and strength to do the good works he intends for us."

As we share in mission and ministry together, remember the example of the crayon. And as we go forward together, pray over and for and with our leaders, maybe offering to God a prayer like this...

Dear God,

I thank You for the church leaders that You have appointed. I pray for their passion, for conviction and dedication to their calling. Watch over those who are leaders in your Church. Keep them faithful to their vocation and to the proclamation of your message. Teach them to recognize and interpret the signs set before them. Strengthen them with the gifts of the Spirit; help them to serve. Give them a vivid sense of your presence in the world and a knowledge of how to show it to others. Amen.

Together in Christ's Service,



## JUST THINKIN'



I am told that the last frost date in Yellow Spring is May 5<sup>th</sup>. Last year I would have laughed. This year I am relieved. I am so tired of snow – even the few flakes that drift lazily down every morning. The myrtle is blooming; the forsythia is almost gone; the daffodils are up but there is still snow. Where is the sunny south that enticed us to leave New York? Where are the warm breezes we had all winter last year?

### NOT FAIR!!!!!!

Of course, in the Syracuse, NY, area they are still getting inches and feet of snow. It snowed 14 inches last night in the Tug Hill area, part of the snow belt. YUCK! I remember my grandfather saying, "A cold, wet May brings a barnful of hay." He may have been correct, but I do not care. I want summer! I want to plant things and sit on the porch!

Growing up in the family greenhouse, I was less affected by weather than most. I had green plants and flowers all year. In late April and early May, it was my job to plant the geraniums. Just before the first frost in October, my grandmother would pull up all the best geraniums and hang them on a clothes line in the basement. Her basement was cool and moist. It had almost no light and a dirt floor. The geraniums would dry and seem to die, but in late April and early May, they would miraculously come back to life. Small green shoots would appear and grow toward the scant sunlight of the only window. It was my job to bag them carefully and run them to the greenhouse at the base of the terraced lawn. Being so new, the shoots would freeze easily, so I ran fast. Once I got them to the greenhouse, I soaked them with a light fertilizer water and cut them from the mother plant. The next day (the roots came from the



callus that formed overnight at the cut) I planted them in wooden boxes filled with composted soil. How they grew! Within days we would have large, dark green leaves. Within a week we could repot them in pots. We had the best geraniums in town every Memorial Day!

It took me years to realize that not everyone knew how to propagate geraniums this way. Most florists used seeds or purchased plants from the wholesale house. My grandparents guarded their "secret" method for years. Today, similar methods are touted all over the internet, but at that time, we were sure that we were the only ones using that overwintering method. What I have since learned is that we must have inbred our geraniums over the years and developed plants that were especially able to thrive in the Windsor, NY area. I remember my parents complaining, after the greenhouse was gone, that geraniums were never the same. I do find that the plants we put out for Memorial Day are more likely to freeze than those we planted when I was a child. They seem to need more frequent watering, too. But then, wasn't everything better in the old days?

As I look toward the month of May, I remember the bright red geraniums of Pentecost last year. They took me back to hot – and often, cold days in the cemetery planting for Memorial Day. I remember just looking and thinking back. I will probably never know just what made our greenhouse's geraniums so much better than most but recalling them makes me smile. It's not bad to smile on a spring day that began with snow.



In Christ,

*A race*

## **SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

### **March 27, 2018 Stated Meeting**

- Jay Tibbs, reporting for the Personnel Team, reported that staff reviews were completed, including reviews of the Parish Associate for Congregational Care and the Director of Youth/Young Adults.
- Session approved retaining the position of Parish Associate for Pastoral Care for another twelve months.
- Debbie Bender, reporting for Elder Becky Proctor, presented a proposal for having LifeTouch do a new photo directory for Opequon. It will be at no cost to the church and LifeTouch promises that they will not pressure church members to purchase photos, although that will be an option. Session approved the proposal.
- Building & Grounds reported that we need to replace one of the HVAC units. Session approved contracting with M.E. Flow to perform this work.
- The Evangelism Team is actively seeking additional volunteers to do visitation.
- The Visioning Team reported that 188 participated in the CAT. This was over 98% of our goal for participation (191).

### **April 17, 2018 Stated Meeting**

- Session met with newcomers, receiving ten individuals into the fellowship of Opequon Presbyterian Church.
- Session was graced by the presence at its April meeting of David Omps and Mark Johnson, Commissioned Ruling Elders in training, being mentored by Pastor David.
- Worship reported on the wonderful services during Lent and Holy Week. It will hold ABUG (acolyte, beadle, usher & greeter) training on June 10. Worship reported that PS 150 is going through a transitional period.

- Christian Education Ministry announced that Rally Day will be August 26 this year.
- The Evangelism Team is considering the development of materials about Opequon that would be available to people who use our facilities.
- Stewardship & Finance cautioned that there are a few budget items where expenditures need to be watched.
- Elder Bill Burslem, reporting on Refugee Resettlement, said that there was a small possibility that a refugee family could be sent to Winchester for resettlement relatively soon.
- Session held a follow up discussion on what all agreed was a very successful Officers Retreat.
- Session created a work group to work on restoration of the playground/recreational area, destroyed by a recent wind storm.

## **MEMORIAL SANCTUARY**

Since its construction in 1897, what we today call the Memorial Sanctuary has been an integral part of the life of Opequon Church. It is a holy space holding precious memories for many Opequon members. Although used less frequently since the construction of our new sanctuary, it has been the site many times for deeply meaningful and moving special services.

During the months the Fellowship Hall was unavailable last year while undergoing renovation (thanks to the generosity of the OPC 280 Fund and the bequest of Eugene and Frances Lupton), Opequon faced a real need for alternative space to accommodate important functions like LOGOS. Accordingly, the Memorial Sanctuary was called into service. Now that the refurbishment of the Fellowship Hall is complete, Session is attempting to discern God's will for our ongoing use of the Memorial Sanctuary.

The congregation is a vital part of the discernment process. Session has sought

feedback through surveys and an active conversation at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February.

Session members are deeply impressed and humbled by the passion and civility of this discussion. It is obvious that there are strong and passionate feelings about the future of the Memorial Sanctuary. Some remind us of the need to remain in touch with our past and the history of the sacred space that is the Memorial Sanctuary. Others stress the need to look to the future and recognize that we must find new ways to meet the needs that will arise, and the Memorial Sanctuary can be an important part of addressing those needs.

Session recognizes that the appropriate resolution is neither simple nor quick. Accordingly, it plans to work through the issues carefully, deliberately, and prayerfully, taking as much time as necessary to discern God's will for us. In this process, Session pledges to remain transparent, inviting and welcoming the involvement of the congregation every step of the way.

We are sure even the most ardent of those who argue for maintaining the status quo do not wish to disconnect the Memorial Sanctuary from the modern heating and cooling system, returning to the wood stove stoked by Roy Bayliss as a child. Similarly, the strongest advocates for flexibility acknowledge the importance of honoring our heritage and the holiness that can come from the Memorial Sanctuary. Surely this gives hope that we can arrive at a future acceptable to almost all. Pray with us; pray for us.

### **OPEN DOOR WORSHIP THIS MONTH**

"Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord!"

Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 pm

Memorial Sanctuary

Join us for teaching, shared joys & concerns, heartfelt prayer, praise music led by PS 150, & communion!

Covered-dish at 5:30 pm precedes worship



### **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**

Remember and honor those who have served and gone before us!

Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
Special Recognition Music

### **SUMMER PLANS – HELP AND INPUT NEEDED!**

Our summer worship schedule will be slightly modified this summer. We will move to one worship service at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings in June and July. In August, we will return to two worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 am. This is to bring our Opequon church calendar more in line with our local schools, which are opening earlier in August each year.

We also are looking for some help and input this summer. Each year, we pull together a special Summer Event Planning Team (to facilitate things like picnics, socials, unique education, fellowship, and mission programs). We hope to have several events this summer. If you would like to participate, let Pastor David or Pastor Tracie know.

And, we definitely want your input as we seek your questions and topics to be addressed through our annual summer worship series. What questions might you have about the bible and its characters, faith, theology, mission, real life issues and concerns? We'll try to be faithful in addressing them through our sermons this summer, in a series called, "Dear Pastor, Just Askin'." Suggestion forms are in the Gathering Area or church office and on the OPC website.







## OLDER ADULT SUNDAY

Older Adult Sunday is May 6<sup>th</sup>. What a wonderful day to recognize and celebrate the gifts,

talents and contributions older adults make at OPC. If you are 60+ years young, we invite you to join the Older Adult Choir and share the anthem at 8:30 and 11:00 am worship that day. Practice will be held on Wednesday, May 2, at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Come and be a part of Opequon's Singing Seniors!

## OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

The month of May is "Older Adult Month" and so we honor ALL our older adults of Opequon! The Older Adult Ministry Team will be meeting on Monday, May 7, 9:30 am in the Bageant room. There is always a great deal of laughter and fun during the planning and discussions that the team shares. Morning goodies are always a treat too. The meeting is open to any older adults who would like to attend.

Happy Days this month occurs on Wednesday, May 9 at noon. This is the monthly older adult fellowship group which provides a generous dose of joy as we eat together and then have a special program each time. The gathering begins with a covered dish lunch, which is always an array of most delicious choices. Following lunch, a special program time we will share "OUR OWN STORIES of HOW WE CAME TO OPEQUON". What brought you here? How did you first hear about Opequon? And what has kept you at Opequon? It will be inspiring and interesting to hear the stories of one another! You can choose to share or simply listen as others share. Either way, it will be a most delightful time!

An older adult outing to the Apple Blossom Prayer Brunch is on Friday, May 4 at Fellowship Bible Church. All ticket holders are asked to meet at the Prayer Brunch location

about 9:00am. An adult trip is also scheduled for Wednesday, May 16 to the Museum of the Bible in DC. Those who have a seat on this trip are asked to arrive at church by 8:45am. Remember to bring money for your lunch at Metro 29 Diner on the trip back.

### The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Older Adult

**Luncheon** is Wednesday, May 23 with the theme "Ageless Wonders". The entertainment by Sweet Adelines will be in the sanctuary at 11:30 am and the lunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15 pm. The lunch menu includes Roasted Turkey, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Rolls, and Assorted Pies. Please RSVP to Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org or 662-1843) by May 13. The "2018 Older Adult of Opequon" will be announced at the luncheon. This event is truly in honor of all our older adults! This is an extraordinary month as we are grateful for the wisdom, leadership, and companionship of all Opequon's older adults!

### NOMINATE AN OLDER ADULT FOR "Opequon's 2018 Older Adult"

So many of our older adults have been recognized as our "Older Adults of the Year". We celebrate that those crowned in the past are Roy Bayliss, John Boyd, Frances Smith, Louise Duncan, Bill Robinson, Shirley and Dave Brumble, Rob MacGregor, Ty Headley, Edgar Tufts, Howard Kent, Donna Coffman, Betty Ganoë, Carol Tubbs, Graham Taylor, and Carol and Jack Treece. It is time to share nominations for this year's older adult of the year. Who would you like to nominate? There are forms available on the Gathering area table. Share who you nominate and WHY. Nominations are **due by May 6** and they may come from anyone in the congregation. Forms may be returned to Carole Witt or dropped in the box provided on the table. The session will review the nominations and make their selection at their May meeting. The 2018 Older Adult of the year will be announced at the Older Adult Luncheon on May 23.

## G.I.F.T. EVENT SUNDAY, MAY 27, 9:45 am

This morning's intergenerational event will take on the theme "PLAY BALL"! It will be almost like going to the ball park as we enjoy peanuts and soft pretzels along with a little bit of ball playing. All ages are invited to come out for this morning as we consider 'rules of the game' along with 'rules for our life'. Grow in your faith through some serious fun at GIFT on May 27.

### CONFIRMATION CONNECTION

Thank you to Opequon's Ministry Teams for welcoming our Confirmation students in recent months. This experience certainly allows them to see a bigger picture of how their church operates and all the people who help with the ministry of Opequon Church. In addition to class sessions, the students also carried out interviews with their parents at home.

Discussion of their ministry team visits and interviews brought forth a sense of satisfaction for having had these experiences. Recently, the students were fortunate to have Pastor David spend class time with them to review and discuss the final paper each student is asked to write. This month the students will be sharing their papers with the Session and covenant partners and preparing for

**Confirmation Day which is May 13.** Please continue to remember these students in your prayers: Breanna Daggett, Cheyenne Burton, Sydney Burton, Wyatt Deck, Caleb Cooper, Jonathan Lightcap, Kat Kibler, Chase Pierce, Lauren Moses, and Elise Buonocore.



### CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

Opequon's 2018 High School seniors will be honored during 8:30 and

11:00 am worship on Sunday, May 13. The Christian Education Team is privileged to highlight each of these young people at this special milestone in their life. Caps and gowns

are waiting to be worn with pride during upcoming graduation ceremonies. We are very proud of our high school graduates and wish them happiness and fulfillment in the next chapter of life. Congratulations to:

- Kristin Blake -----Handley
- Rachel Burton -----Sherando
- Bailey Cooper-----Sherando
- Jacob Gaul -----Millbrook
- Andy Gray-----Sherando
- Brenna Hathaway-----Sherando
- AnnMarie Kelly -----Sherando
- Brady Noll -----Handley
- Erika Reed -----Millbrook
- Fiona Schieve-----Handley
- Joel Sherman -----Millbrook
- Alexis Weir -----Millbrook
- Ben Winn-----Sherando
- Jack Youngblood-----James Wood

### THE LATEST IN LOGOS

In reviewing our year of LOGOS, participants shared many of their BEST MEMORIES. A few of them include: "Great bible lessons that have the 'you were there' feeling", "Ask the Pastor" night, "Super games with Recreation leaders", and "Paint Night for the Youth". We also seriously consider ways we can improve our LOGOS Ministry as we never lose our vision and excitement for LOGOS! The team has spent quality time looking at evaluations from this past year and they have gleaned areas to focus on for a new year of LOGOS. Some direct quotes from LOGOS children; "Coming to LOGOS for the first time is great, I LOVE being here." and "Many kids will love LOGOS, but they might not know about it". Quotes such as these inspire and motivate us to share LOGOS deep and wide and persevere in planning for a new LOGOS year. There is already exciting news to share about the upcoming LOGOS year: the date for the opening night of our 21<sup>st</sup> year will be Wednesday, September 12. We will keep you in tune as we share oodles of LOGOS information with you before September.

## UNDERSTANDING THE WORSHIP SERVICE

(highlighting a different part of worship each month)

Let's think about the **Affirmation of Faith** that occurs within a worship service.

- When we say the Affirmation of Faith in worship, we are expressing what we believe.
- The Affirmation of Faith allows us a way to respond to all that God has done.
- It might feel like we are being moved to stand up and shout AMEN.
- There are many official CREEDS available to use; they are found in the Book of Confessions.
- We can write our own affirmation of faith, which is often done by youth for special services.
- In saying the affirmation of faith, we are unified as a church community as a whole, sharing what we believe.
- Often an Affirmation of Faith may state what is believed about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

## IN HONOR OF MOTHERS

The Christian Education Team is very excited to honor all women and mothers of Opequon by having brand new aprons made for our church kitchen! We are so grateful to Susanna Shade for giving her talent of sewing to make this gift possible! She made 7 new denim aprons for use by anyone that works in our church kitchen for the various functions and events we host. We needed some fresh aprons as our old ones are showing considerable use. Aprons are stored in an easily identified drawer in the kitchen. When used, they need to be taken home, laundered, and returned to the kitchen. Cooks will be happier as these new aprons protect clothing. THANKS SUSANNA!

MOO!



## MEN OF OPEQUON THIS MONTH WELCOMES BASEBALL AUTHOR

The monthly MOO gathering will be held on Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. This month, we'll welcome Austin Gisriel, a baseball aficionado and author of the book, *Fathers, Sons, & Holy Ghosts: Baseball as A Spiritual Experience*. Don't miss this timely, spring topic as we all say, "Play ball!" We are very fortunate to have Austin join us. We look forward to having a great group in attendance. We'll still gather at the Pleasant Valley Road Chick-fil-A at 6:00 pm and return to the Bageant Room of the church for our 7:00 pm gathering. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to hear our guest.

## God-Loving Opequon Women



The Opequon's women's group, known as GLOW, is a monthly gathering of Opequon women that

offers friendship, support, tremendous fun and spiritual nourishment. This month, **GLOW will meet on May 8 at 7:00 pm in the Bageant Room**. We will be 'CELEBRATING WOMEN,' as we share favorite quotes from "special women" in our own lives and offer our own 'words of wisdom' from our life experiences. We will try our skill with a 'women of the bible' puzzle and enjoy goodies, drinks, much laughter and devotions! Come on out ladies: you are invited!

## REAP 'EM & REAP

Read 'em & Reap meets on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> (the second Thursday of each month), 7:00 pm, 128 Cahille Drive 22602, which is the home of Tom and Rhoda Tandy. We will discuss "Tisha" by Specht.



## **PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION GRADES 6-12**

No Youth Group in May! Stay tuned for special events during the summer!

### **YOUNG ADULT (AGES 18-35) NEWS**

Keep on the lookout for an outdoor adventure sometime this month which could include hiking, geocaching, or frisbee golf!

#### **LIFE GOES ON**



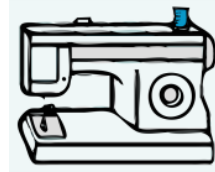
"Life Goes On" is a small support group of people whose lives are undergoing change as the result of the death of a spouse. For some it is a recent loss, for others more time has passed, but for all it is a major change in our lives. We invite you to join us at the Firefly Café, 1:00 pm, on Friday May 25<sup>th</sup>. Come and share conversation and lunch. Contact Martha Fulton with questions, 540-542-6161 or [fultonmartha@gmail.com](mailto:fultonmartha@gmail.com).

#### **HIGHLAND FOOD PANTRY**

Each month on the fourth Tuesday evening, Opequon volunteers serve at the Highland Food Pantry from 5:30 to 7:45 pm. "Opequon Night" is always anticipated by HFP staff for the additional hands and the positive can-do attitude that we bring. Our contingent has grown over the past year, but there are still opportunities to serve in a variety of roles. Contact Ruth or Dave Richards so we can plan appropriately.

Saturday, May 12, brings an additional opportunity. The US Postal Service holds its annual food drive on that day. Some of the food that carriers pick up on their routes is delivered directly to Highland Food Pantry. It's more than 5 tons of bottles, bags, boxes, and cans. All must be sorted piece-by-piece into big banana boxes and stored on-site so the

pantry can be open for business the following Tuesday. HFP staff have developed a good set of practices and procedures, but it is still a lot of work! If you think you can help for a few hours on the afternoon or evening of Saturday, May 12, please contact Ruth or Dave Richards.



#### **Get Ready, Get Set, SEW!**

Two cartons of fabric were recently donated to OPC for ongoing sewing projects.

These generous donations are enough to make 9 skirts for **Ethiopia**, 16 pairs of curtains and 19 sundresses for little girls in **Baja**. The skirts and curtains are VERY EASY to make. Written and picture directions and all materials are provided. Personal coaching is available. Don't sew, but want to help? There are plenty of tasks that don't require sewing. Have a sewing machine to loan? Need to borrow one? Want sewing lessons? Contact Susanna Shade at 540-868-1248 or [shadesathome@aol.com](mailto:shadesathome@aol.com) to offer your help to support these mission projects. Thank you!

#### **COMMUNITY GARDEN**

The flowers and trees are blooming, so you know it's just about time for planting season. We have already planted some cold weather vegetables. Just recently we planted cabbage, broccoli, potatoes, onions and cauliflower. There are always opportunities and ways for you to get involved with this important project, starting with our Annual Blessing of the Garden and Planting Day that is scheduled for Saturday, May 12. Come out and join us that day starting at 9:00am as we plant seeds and prepare the garden for summer vegetables.

We are now collecting garden glove donations, so if you'd like to contribute, please place them in the garden box located in the Gathering Area.

Volunteers of all sorts are needed this gardening season. Green thumbs are welcome but not necessary as there are many tasks to

accomplish that require different talents. For more information, contact Dana Kelly: davedana@comcast.net; Robin Owens: robinowensopcsession@gmail.com or Joelle Cafaro: drhealer@gmail.com

You can also sign up on the church's website using sign-up genius. Hope to see ya soon at the garden!

*"O God, from my youth you have taught me,  
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds."*  
Psalm 71:17

### **PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING Received & Dedicated Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

What is the Pentecost Offering? The Pentecost Offering is received annually on Pentecost Sunday (surprise, surprise!) and is one of four church-wide special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The offering is received for children at risk, youth, and young adults. Opequon will retain 40% of all gifts for community programs that benefit children, youth, and young adults, which is a special focus for us. The Presbyterian Mission Agency divides the remaining 60% between ministries with youth and young adults (50%) and child advocacy (10%). Give generously and... invest in the Church's Greatest Resource: Our Youth!

### **AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!**

Opequon's spring auction has had a major transformation. **Winchester Together** will take place on Saturday, September 22 and will be held jointly with First Presbyterian Church. We will accept quality furniture, tools and other items you no longer need as well as services such as vacation sites, adventures (you name it), meals for groups prepared by some of our gourmet chefs, youth yard work, lawyering to keep you out of jail and accounting to keep you out of bankruptcy court. Please contact the Mission Ministry Team representative, George Schember, at 540-667-2559 or

schemjg@verizon.net to list your planned donation, and thanks, in advance, from the charities that will benefit from your largess.

**GET YOUR RED OUT!**  
**PENTECOST SUNDAY**  
May 20<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 & 11:00 am  
A Day to Celebrate the Holy Spirit!  
Pentecost Offering Received  
Communion Celebrated  
Remember to Wear Red!

### **ABUG TRAINING IN JUNE**



Are you A BUG now?  
Would you like to be A BUG?  
Mandatory training for everyone who fulfills the role of Acolyte, Beadle, Usher, and Greeter

(ABUG) will be on

**Sunday, June 10 @ 11:15 am  
in the Sanctuary**



If you are interested in learning more about serving in one of these roles, you are cordially invited to join us! Training will be led by the Worship Ministry Team and Pastor David.

### **CRYPTS AT SHENANDOAH MEMORIAL PARK**

Through the generosity of former OPC member Mel Piper, two crypts in the mausoleum have been donated at Shenandoah Memorial Park in Winchester, VA. They are located on the third level and are end-to-end. We are offering these for sale **\$6,950 per crypt and will include one opening +** a titling fee of approximately \$300. The current selling price for this pair of crypts directly from Shenandoah Memorial Park is \$14,000. The proceeds of this sale will go into the general fund at Opequon. Should you have any interest or questions, please reach out to any of the current Trustees, Mac McNichols, Mitch Orndorff, or George Schember.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

In April, we welcomed into the membership of Opequon Church:

**Ward Edwards**, upon transfer from Farnham Episcopal Church, Farnham, VA

**Carole Fox**, upon Reaffirmation of Faith

**Sue-Ann Haney**

**Sandy Haney**

**Clay Hughes**, upon Profession of Faith

**Peggy Hughes**, upon transfer from Little River Baptist Church, Aldie, VA

**David Schwantes**, upon Reaffirmation of Faith

**Corine Fox** (Schwantes), upon Reaffirmation of Faith

**Joe Seaton**, upon transfer from Staples Mill Road Baptist Church, Richmond, VA

**Chris Seaton**, upon transfer from Staples Mill Road Baptist Church, Richmond, VA



DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We express our Christian love and sympathy to...

**Terry Coffman** upon the death of his wife, Donna, on March 28

**Clay Hughes** upon the death of his mother, Bettie Mae on April 5

**Matt Cooper** upon the death of his grandfather Charles Nicholson, on April 21

*"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.*

*"Those who believe in me shall live, even though they die; and those who live and believe in me shall never die."*

John 11:24-25



On Thursday, May 10 at 6:30 pm First Christian Church, 75 Merrimans Lane Winchester, will host a presentation by former Congressman Frank Wolf on the continued persecution of Christians in China, the Mid-East and Africa. The events—reported and unreported—are horrible with a great deal of

suffering by these Christians. The provided information is timely. Thousands of individuals are punished and face death, every day, simply because they are Christians. Please RSVP to Tom Reed, 540-722-8880 or flyguyreed@comcast.net.



- 1 Sandy Haney
- 2 Mike Butler
- 3 Myrt Nissen
- 4 Ann Denison, David Joyner, Steve Rockwell
- 5 Jonny Lunsford
- 6 Terry Hartman, Les Veach
- 7 Joshua Brown, Kay Odei, Becky Proctor
- 9 Matt Sousa
- 11 Joel Sherman
- 12 Lydia Delamatta
- 13 Harriet Smith
- 14 Jan Donovan, Kitty Bird Nicholas
- 15 Shep Campbell Jr.
- 16 Bill Bayliss, Suzi White
- 17 Bobbie Cropp
- 18 Anne Carter, Hannah Wright
- 19 Vicky Astorino, Helen Schieve
- 20 Alex Plumb, David Schwantes
- 21 Evan Nordeen
- 22 Tom Tandy, Megan Triplett
- 23 Erin Wilson
- 24 Mike Crites, Andrew Frey, Marj Praml
- 25 Graham Taylor
- 26 Hank Agreggaard, Claire Gaines, Alexis Weir
- 27 Bill Bender
- 29 Caleb Garcia, Leah O'Connell
- 30 Dom Cafaro, Mo Mohler, Dave Sweeney
- 31 Tracy Drumheller, Nicholas Leonard, Alan McKay



- 7 Eric & Mandy Estep
- 14 Robert & Patience Sydnor
- 16 Jayson & Kalley Bormann,  
Marc & Rebekah DesMarais  
Sparky & Sara Gomez
- 20 Chris & Melissa Moses,  
David & Ruth Richards
- 21 Jeff & Sherry Schryver,  
John & Pam Stevens
- 24 Bill & Debbie Bender
- 25 Clayton & Terry Hartman
- 26 Kraig & Brenda Hawkins,  
Mike & Christy Usa
- 31 Ray & Karen Jones,  
Tom & Rhoda Tandy

**NOTES OF GRATITUDE**

Dear Opequon Family,  
I am writing this note of gratitude to our OPC Family for the extraordinary kindness and grace shown to me with my recent ankle replacement. From David and Tracie’s home visits and healing prayers, to thoughtful notes on cards sent and some kindly delivered home-cooked meals, it was all appreciated. I must also give a shout out to my #1 Uber driver, Pam. I feel so blessed to call you all family.

With thanksgiving and grace,  
Mitch Orndorff



**SERVANTS IN MINISTRY**

**Bell Ringers**

- 8:30 Mo Mohler
- 11:00 Kristin Blake, Bailey Cooper,  
AnnMarie Kelly

**Hospitality**

- 8:30
  - 6 Heide Mohler & Dom Cafaro
  - 13 Bill & Debbie Bender
  - 20 Bill & Lisa Frye
  - 27 Betty Chicklo & June Malone
- 11:00
  - 6 Vicky Astorino & Jack Drumheller
  - 13 Martha Fulton & Betty Ganoe
  - 20 Kirsta Weber & Annemarie Matthews
  - 27 Marj Praml & Debi Hodgson

**Liturgist**

- 8:30 Edwina Johansen
- 11:00 Shirley Tomblin

**Livestream**

- 6 Susan Cooper
- 13 Rebekah Witt
- 20 Bud Proctor
- 27 Bud Proctor

**Nametags**

- Week 1 Pat deButts
- Week 2 Dulcie Reed
- Week 3 Martha Fulton
- Week 4 Kail Barbe
- Week 5 Dulcie Reed

**Ushers** (Head Usher in **bold**)

- 8:30
  - 6 Vicki Schmidt Crites, Dulcie Reed,  
**Graham Taylor**
  - 13 Alyce Callahan, **Jim Youngblood**
  - 20 Terry Hartman, **Heide Mohler**, Marj Praml
  - 27 Mike Butler, **Sherry Schryver**, John Winn

- 11:00
  - 6 Jim Butler, Annemarie Matthews,  
**Travis Morgan**
  - 12 Jason Hathaway, Kyle Homan, **Bill Robinson**
  - 20 Jason Brown, **Andy Homan**, Joel Witt
  - 27 Curt Budny, Joe Burton, **Bill Hopeck**



Think about **SUMMER!** COME to Vacation Bible School!

Vbs dates: June 10-14, 2018: **5:00-7:30pm**

Our theme is "Swallowed up in god's love" as we learn all about Jonah!



*A tale of much more than a WHALE!*

VBS is open to 4-year old's through 8<sup>th</sup> grade with a special track for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth.

[Invite a friend to come too!](#)

## Come to our **ADULT** Class at Vacation Bible School!

We will have a 'WHALE' of a GREAT TIME as we focus on the story of JONAH!

**Register by June 3!**

VBS Dates: June 10-14, 2018

Class Time: 6:30-7:30 pm

Join us for dinner at 5:45 pm!

"Swallowed Up in GOD'S LOVE!"

*A tale of much more than a  
WHALE!*

See registration information in the

Gathering Area or go to

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

## Blessing of the Pets



**Pets and People of all Faiths Invited**

**Sunday, June 3  
12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Drive-thru pet Blessings without leaving your car.

We welcome pets of all sizes and shapes.

Walk-ins Welcome!  
(on leashes or in carriers)



It's time for our Church Directory . . .

Sign up and Smile!

Lifetouch Church Directory

Lifetouch will be taking photos at OPC on the following days:

May 31 - from 2 - 9 p.m.  
 June 1 - from 2 - 9 p.m.  
 June 2 - from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 June 6 - from 2 - 9 p.m.  
 June 7 - from 2 - 9 p.m.

You may schedule your photo appointment online at:  
<https://booknow-lifetouch-appointment-plus.com/ycmekdz8/> or  
 go to the link on the OPC web site: <http://opequonchurch.org/>

Each professional photography session is free with a complimentary 8x10 photograph.

We will be available in the Gathering Area on Sundays between both services beginning April 29 to assist you with scheduling a photo appointment.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
 March 2018

<b>EXPENSES</b>	2018 Budget	Net Expenses Current Month	Net Expenses Year to Date	Budget Balance Remaining
Administrative Ministry	405,427	36,468	110,868	294,560
Christian Education Ministry	13,550	1,189	638	12,912
Congregational Care Ministry	1,400	-255	91	1,309
Evangelism Ministry	2,250	0	155	2,095
Fellowship Ministry	3,500	400	549	2,951
Mission Ministry	50,200	2,762	10,575	39,625
Worship Ministry	7,700	1,969	3,080	4,620
Capital Expenses	115,000	9,584	28,751	86,249
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>599,027</b>	<b>52,118</b>	<b>154,707</b>	<b>444,320</b>

<b>INCOME</b>	Current Month	Year to Date
Envelope Offerings	67,016	136,228
Loose	447	1,062
<b>Total Operating Income from Offerings</b>	<b>67,463</b>	<b>137,290</b>
<b>Adjustments to Income (YTD)</b>		
Checking Account Interest		21
Room/Facility Usage		500
Wedding Fees		0
Manse Rental Income (Net)		1,479
<b>Operating Income After Adjustments</b>		<b>139,291</b>

**Expenses (YTD) 154,707**

**2018 Operating Balance as of March 31 -15,417**

MAY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Apple	5 Blossom
		David & Carole on Vacation 5:15pm Technology & Communications 6pm Ministry Team Night	⇒⇒ 9:30am Staff Meeting 4pm Older Adult Choir Practice	⇒⇒	Church Office Closed	
<b>6 Weekend</b> 8:30 & 11am Worship, Communion, CCAP 9:45am Faith Formation Educational Hour	<b>7</b> <b>Robert on Vacation</b> 9:30am Older Adult Ministry Team 3pm Christian Believer 6pm Christian Ed Team	<b>8</b> ⇒⇒ 9:30am Tuesday Morning Mission 7pm GLOW 7pm WATTS Leaders	<b>9</b> ⇒⇒ 12:00pm Happy Days 7pm Choir Practice	<b>10</b> ⇒⇒ 7pm Scout Troop 1 7pm Read 'em & Reap	<b>11</b> ⇒⇒	<b>12</b> 9am Community Garden Planting Day 12:15 Donna Coffman's Memorial
<b>13 Mothers' Day</b> 8:30 & 11am Worship, Confirmation, Honor Graduates 9:45am Faith Formation Educational Hour 5:30pm Dinner 6:30pm Open Door	<b>14</b> ⇒⇒ 3pm Christian Believer 6pm Sing! Shenandoah 6pm MOO @ ChickfilA 7pm MOO @ OPC	<b>15</b> ⇒⇒ 7pm Session Meeting	<b>16 Newsletter Deadline</b> ⇒⇒ 9am Adult Trip to Bible Museum 9:30am Staff Meeting 10am Winchester Newcomers 7pm Choir Practice	<b>17</b> ⇒⇒ 7pm Scout Troop 1	<b>18</b> ⇒⇒	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:30 & 11am Pentecost Worship 9:45am Faith Formation Educational Hour 1:30pm Piano Recital	<b>21</b> 1pm GIS Students 3pm Christian Believer 6pm Sing! Shenandoah	<b>22</b> 9:30am Stated Presbytery Meeting 1pm GIS Students 5:30pm Highland Food Pantry 6:30pm WATTS Operations	<b>23</b> 11:30am Older Adult Luncheon 7pm Choir Practice	<b>24</b> 7pm Scout Troop 1	<b>25</b> 1pm Life Goes On	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:30 & 11am Worship, 4 Cents a Meal Offering, Fair Trade Coffee 9:45am GIFT Event 12:15pm Motel Ministry	<b>28 Memorial Day</b> Church Office Closed	<b>29</b> 10:30am Hands & Hearts	<b>30</b> 11:30am Staff Luncheon	<b>31</b> LifeTouch Photos 7pm Scout Troop 1		

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“The Opequon Spirit” is the monthly newsletter of:  
 Opequon Presbyterian Church  
 217 Opequon Church Lane  
 Winchester, VA 22602-2421  
 Phone: 540-662-1843  
 www.opequonchurch.org  
 Newsletter deadline is the Wednesday after the Stated Session Meeting.  
 Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am  
 Faith Formation Educational Hour at 9:45 am  
 David Witt ----- Pastor  
 Tracie Martin ----- Parish Associate  
 Laurie Carver ----- Nursery Supervisor  
 William Heavner ----- Organist  
 Susan Homan ----- Director of Music  
 Patty Klinefelter ----- Faith Community Nurse  
 Catherine Richard ----- Office Administrator  
 Robert Sydnor ----- Sexton  
 Carole Witt ----- Director of Christian Education  
 Rebekah Witt ----- Director of Youth & Young Adults



**JUNE WILL BE JUMPING!!**  
 Sunday Worship – 10:00 am

- LifeTouch Directory Pictures—June 1 & 2, 6 & 7
- “Blessing of the Pets” – Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Opequon @ Winchester Royals – Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup> (sponsored by MOO)
- Choir Recognition – Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>
- “ABUG” Training – June 10<sup>th</sup> – 11:15 am (Acolyte, Beadle, Usher, Greeter)
- Vacation Bible School – June 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>
- Father’s Day – Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>
- “Picnic in the Garden” – Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>

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