

The Opequon Spirit

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



September 2018

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY WORSHIP – 8:30 & 11:00 am

Sunday, September 2nd

James 1:17-27

Sermon: "When Your Faith Goes to Work"

Communion, CCAP, Baptisms (11:00)

Sunday, September 9th

Matthew 5:13-16

Sermon: "Let Your Light Shine!"

Baja Mission Trip Sharing

Reception of New Members (11:00)

Sunday, September 16th

Romans 12:9-21

Sermon: "Come and See, Go and Be"

"The CAT Is Back!" Visioning Report

Introduction of Confirmation Class

Sunday, September 23rd

"Back to Church Sunday"

Mark 9:30-37

Sermon: "Refocusing"

Church Coffees after Worship

Four Cents A Meal, Fair Trade Coffee

Sunday, September 30th

Esther 7:1-6,9-10, James 5:13-20

Sermon: "A Balm for Sorrow, a Rest from Care"

Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering

Congregational Meeting—10:45 am—Sanctuary

LABOR DAY



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 3rd in observance of Labor Day. We will open at 8:30 am on Tuesday.

STAFF SCHEDULES THIS MONTH

Carole Witt-----September 27-28
Vacation

David Witt-----September 27-28
Vacation

MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT

Tuesday, September 4th in the Fellowship Hall

Dinner 6:00 pm

Pork roast, mashed potatoes & gravy, stir-fry green beans with almonds, tossed salad, cobbler & ice cream. Prepared by Betty Chicklo & Crew

Devotions 6:45 pm

Ministry Team Meetings 7:00 pm

COLLECTING FOR CCAP



Peanut Butter & Jam/Jelly

WE ARE TRYING SOMETHING NEW! SPECIAL SATURDAY NIGHT GATHERING

Saturday, September 8th Memorial Sanctuary

Soup & Sandwich Supper – 5:30 pm

Open Door Worship – 6:30 pm

Come share food and fellowship, praise, prayer, communion, and Bible teaching in an interactive style.

Special Offering for WATTS

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

"Birds-Eye View"

Dear Friends in Christ,

On our trip to Alaska in July, the ship docked early one morning at Juneau, an isolated community served only by air and the marine highway. It was a very rainy day, so while Bill and Debbie hiked up a muddy trail to a mountain overlook, Carole and I headed downtown to see Alaska's capital city. We walked along the path as bald eagles soared overhead and spotted the largest ravens either one of us have ever seen perched atop pylons with historical markers wringing the harbor. Of course, I wanted to read all about Juneau, its heritage and development, but those large black birds prevented me from getting close until they decided to inhabit some other space and flew away! Everything in Alaska is large, from the land mass (they like to say about Texas, "Aw, isn't she cute!") to the wildlife to the flowers to the vegetables to the mountains to the hospitality of its people. Reflecting on those birds of the air, those eagles and ravens, I think about having a so-called "birds-eye view" from above, how incredible their perspective must be as they see how everything fits and works together.

I feel very honored and humbled as pastor of Opequon Church to be able to have a unique view of the congregation's life and ministry, of how everything fits and works together. Mind you, it's not necessarily a "birds-eye view," but it is one that allows me to know people and relate to people and work with people and serve with people. It is one that helps me know how the various pieces of the great big puzzle of Opequon Church fit together. And, as reiterated by Tracie in a later article on our visioning/generosity emphasis, we are thankful for the tremendous gifts shared through the mission of the church and your commitment. We are grateful for how your time, talents, and treasure combine with the time, talents, and treasure of others to make a world of difference in our community and in God's

creation. As I look over Opequon Church, I see a good many people involved and engaged while inviting and encouraging others to join them. We are dedicated to enhancing our serve, to empowering our discipleship, to enlivening our faith. I sense that an exciting fall awaits us. And honestly, I don't think I need a "birds-eye view" to know that; I simply need to know the people of Opequon and the opportunities that await us to soar and perch, to be large in our hospitality and outreach. As our youth at Opequon say, let's enjoy fun, faith, and fellowship as we go forward.

Together in Christ's Service,

David

Remember
OPC
in
Your Will

JUST THINKIN'

When I was a child, my grandmother used to invite me to help her write thank-you notes. She would set up her desk with brightly colored papers, envelopes and stamps. She used pens with many colors of ink. It was a privilege for me as a grandchild. Even though my handwriting was never good, she added her own note to every note I wrote, and we carefully chose a sticker and a stamp for mailing. You licked stickers then, and stamps as well. She did not like the taste of the glue, so I had to lick them all. It was a small sacrifice.

When was the last time you were thanked – I mean really, surprisingly thanked? How about now – right now?

THANK YOU

This summer has been a full one with rain and heat and humidity. It has had its share of illness and tough times. Thank you for sharing in the struggle. Thank you for feeding hungry

people, visiting when loneliness was a concern, providing transportation, and calling to check up.

THANK YOU

Even though the rain made it so that there was less watering to do, the Community Garden has needed weeding and care. Opequon's fresh produce has made an important contribution to the health of others.

THANK YOU

While the choir took the summer off, the special music was abundant and amazing. And by-the-way, thank you for attending worship and listening and adding your presence as well as your prayers.

THANK YOU

For promising to watch over the children we baptized this summer. The promises you made are serious ones and are greatly appreciated. For adding your prayer as we bade farewell to friends who are no longer with us here on earth. Thank you for offering refreshment when those worship services had ended, and we needed to simply be together. Thank you for clearing things when it all was finished, and the donated food was gone.

THANK YOU

For spending time with community children, for teaching and cooking and playing.

THANK YOU

For having the vision that is Opequon, for things done long ago that have led to the church of today. For being willing to dream the present into existence and being willing to dream and plan for the future. For supporting OPC and her people in so many ways. For inviting others to share the many good things God is doing through this church.

As we each answer God's calling through the second part of 2018, please know that your efforts are noticed, and that Opequon Presbyterian Church is what it is, and will be what it will be because of your faithfulness and concern. As we envision our future and enact our present we do all of it remembering that what we have and who we can be, are gifts from our God presented

through the faithful and loving actions of YOU - God's people, for this time and in this place we call our church home.

THANK YOU

Your generosity is not overlooked.

In Christ,

A grace



**CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON
SEPTEMBER 30TH**

The Session of Opequon Presbyterian Church calls for a meeting of the congregation on Sunday, September 30 at 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to hear the report of the Officer Nominating Committee and then proceed to elect five ruling elders, three deacons, and one trustee. The Nominating Committee will place before us the names of Bill Deck, Carole Fox, Al Owens, Lance Pearce, and Jim Youngblood to serve as ruling elders; Alyce Callahan, Bill Martin, and Graham Taylor to serve as deacons; and Mac McNichols to serve as trustee. Nominations made be made from the floor with the prior consent of the person nominated. Please be present to actively participate in the life and governance of your church.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

August 21, 2018 Stated Meeting

- Session welcomed CRE candidates Rick Comstock and Susanne Taylor who were present to observe a Session meeting.
- The new playground area should be functional very soon.
- Session began a discussion of the future of the church manse. This is a part of the Visioning Process and there are a number of possibilities.
- Ministry Mission reported that WATTS is celebrating its 10th anniversary.
- Evangelism said that September 23 would be Back to Church Sunday. Evangelism also needs additional members to serve on Visitation Teams. Martha Fulton is now coordinating Hospitality Greeters.
- Life Touch, the photo directory company, has made a \$250 donation to the church. On the recommendation of Fellowship, this money will go to the Organ Fund.
- On recommendation of Building & Grounds, Session decided to replace the roof on the garage at the Manse.
- Carolyn Rutherford has volunteered to improve the landscaping outside the Memorial Sanctuary. Session gratefully accepted her proposal.
- Stewardship & Finance reported that expenses continue to be under control, but revenues are lagging.
- Laverne Cooper and Ron Smith have agreed to serve as a new Counting Team.
- Worship Ministry reported that, for September, Open Door Worship is moving to Saturday night, September 8. Worship also said that Ron Smith and Kevin Callanan have offered to head up the effort to raise funds to replace the organ.

- A Congregational Meeting to elect officers was set for Sunday, September 30 at 10:45 am.
- The Visioning Team is in the process of prioritizing the Strategic Goals for Opequon's future.

THE BIG EVENT

THE **BIG** EVENT is coming up on Saturday, September 15th at Massanetta Springs. This annual event brings together Presbyterian Women, a Mission Fair, and Leadership Workshops, along with worship and great fellowship for everyone throughout Shenandoah Presbytery. The day begins with a gathering in the Mission Fair area to view what God is doing in mission through congregations (Opequon's Community Garden won 1st place two years ago; Rebekah Witt presenting for DOOR on her Young Adult Volunteer experience won 1st place last year!). Our Community Garden Team will be at the Mission Fair with their display. Worship will feature the keynote sermon by our new presbytery leader, Bronwen Boswell. Workshops, including those focused on Bible study, racism, change, dementia, sexuality and sabbath, confirmation, and life changes in later years will fill out the day, along with much more. For more information and to register, see the presbytery website at www.shenpres.org, pick up a brochure in the Gathering Area, or speak with Pastor David.

KERYGMA BIBLE STUDY ON MONDAY AFTERNOONS

Our Monday afternoon (3:00-5:00 pm) Bible study this fall begins on Monday, October 1st and features the gospel of Mark. Mark portrays Jesus as a powerful man, confident in his choices, thoroughly trusting in God even as he faces persecution and ultimately death. As we struggle with discipleship, we are comforted to find that even Jesus' followers often failed to understand the depth and

breadth of Jesus' power and authority. Mark's words encourage disciples through all centuries to see clearly the path Jesus invites us to follow. To sign-up, call the church office, email Pastor David, or complete a registration form in the Gathering Area (beginning September 9th). We would love to have you in this discipleship group.

NURSERY NEWS

We hope you had a great summer and are ready for a new church year! The Nursery is open to all children 3 years old and younger for both services on Sundays, 8:30 and 11:00 am., as well as the Faith Formation (Sunday School) hour for an age appropriate lesson. It will also be staffed on the first Tuesday night of each month during the Ministry Team Night meetings starting at 7:00 pm as well as other announced events during the year. Please be sure to mark your child's name on any belongings they bring to the Nursery. Be sure there is a change of clothing, including socks, in their bag. Since we have lots of toys, we don't want to misplace one your child may bring with them. For that reason, it would be best to keep a special toy in the car for safe keeping for your child to play with when they leave. Be sure to fill out or update your child's emergency form when you bring them in. Laurie Carver and Alicia Campbell will be on staff on Sundays and Ministry Team Nights. Laurie Carver and Nancy Grubb will be in the Nursery for LOGOS.

WHERE DID THIS "FAITH FORMATION" JARGON COME FROM?

What do you call the "thing on wheels" that you push around the grocery store and fill with food that you will purchase? Some of you may call it a CART, some of you may call it a BUGGY. It is the same thing, being used for the same purpose; just a different word.

Some of you may be wondering about the words "FAITH FORMATION" that you have been hearing lately around OPC. Where did these words come from and what do they mean? Why are new words being used? FAITH FORMATION refers to what has been called SUNDAY SCHOOL for many, many years. We all realize that things change over time. The church is not exempt from change. People change, opinions change, activities change. Thus, the *name* for what has been called *Sunday School* is changing too. Sunday School can be thought of as an outdated term and can carry negative connotation in some instances when people picture children, or any age, sitting still in chairs and listening to a bible lesson being taught. We see "Sunday School" as an exciting time with interaction, sharing, moving around doing things, and actively learning. What we are REALLY trying to do is learn about faith, share faith, catch faith, and see faith GROW; hence FAITH FORMATION! So, our change in referring to 'Sunday School' as FAITH FORMATION is not to take anything away from what memories people have, nor is it meant to confuse people or wreak havoc on Sunday morning routines. The change of the name is our aim to transition with change going on all around us and to be more widely appealing as the church of today! Faith Formation is simply a DIFFERENT way to express the old term of Sunday School. We are all adapting together, and it takes time!

Faith Formation classes begin anew on September 9 beginning at 9:45 am

Nursery provided for infants and toddlers with age appropriate story-time and activities included.

Children's Class

Preschool-5th grade: Classroom 3. Using *Growing in Grace & Gratitude*

Confirmation Class

8th & beyond: Room 2.

Adult Classes

All adult classes are open to adults of any age.

- **Hands-Heart-Feet Class** meets in the Memorial Sanctuary. They come together inside the building for study and discussion and go out to serve with hands-on mission work in the community. For study times, they will use videos from the NOOMA series. For more details on this class, contact Robin Owens 540-550-4784 or Vicki Crites 540-247-5735.
- **The Spiritual Growth Class** meets in the Bageant Room. This class will be studying the following: "The Rock, The Road & the Rabbi", "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis", "Being Christian in an Alien World", and A Study of the Book of John. For details of this class, contact Ellie Cammer 540-667-3683.
- **The Living Our Faith Class** meets in the Assembly Room. This multigenerational class uses a variety of resources to facilitate conversation and study about personal growth and discipleship as we seek to live out our faith. The class uses both DVD and book centered studies and observes the seasons of Advent & Lent. For details of this class, contact Pastor David Witt, 540-662-1843.



**LOGOS STAFF Event:
"TURNING 21 PARTY"**

All LOGOS staff are invited to the LOGOS staff event on **Wednesday, September 5, 5:30pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner is provided (Roasted Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit, Rolls, Texas Sheet Cake) along with dinner time fun and a JEOPARDY GAME to review essential information about our LOGOS ministry. You will be well

nourished through all the holy hilarity that occurs! We appreciate LOGOS staff attending this event. Childcare is available with reservations. Please contact the church office (662-1843). Let's all get ready for this new year with the theme 'Come Along with Jesus'! We look forward to showing young people that they REALLY DO MATTER with an action-packed new LOGOS year!

THE LATEST IN LOGOS

It is exciting that SEPTEMBER has arrived because we will begin our 21st year of LOGOS at Opequon! YES, LOGOS turns 21 this year! There are so many who have had part in these past 21 years: each and every one of them MATTERS GREATLY! A terrific staff has been called and we are excited about the fantastic young people that have registered through our EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION in the Gathering Area. We rejoice for every young person that we will see when we open the doors **at 4:30 pm for LOGOS on September 19**. The first night theme is "GREEK NIGHT" as we begin the holy hilarity right away. Registration continues to be available online at www.opequonchurch.org (on home page click 'get involved' & drop down to 'LOGOS') or you can see Carole Witt for the simple registration forms. We have exciting new plans for all ages in all parts of LOGOS. The LOGOS YOUTH component has been REFRESHED and is ready to come alive! If you are unsure just what LOGOS is all about, take a "LOGOS" brochure from the Gathering Area and consider how LOGOS can benefit your family, or speak with Carole Witt about **TRYING LOGOS for a brief time. A LOGOS Parents Gathering will be held on Sunday, September 9 at 12:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. Families are invited to attend. Lunch is provided, and we will share what LOGOS is all about. We invite all children and youth to be part of this mid-week lift as we engage in catching the faith in an arena where everyone truly MATTERS!

LOGOS LEADERS ATTENDED TRAINING EVENT

Four of our LOGOS staff members recently attended an all-day LOGOS training event at St. John's United Church of Christ in Clear Spring, Maryland. They were immersed in experiencing the "why's and how's" of LOGOS, and learning ways to help sustain this vital ministry. Sincere thanks to **Sara Birchenough, Linda & Steve Bock** and **Carole Witt** for giving the whole day to attend this training, bringing back a continued sense of enthusiasm for our LOGOS ministry. All that they learned will benefit LOGOS here at OPC.

You may find this little history related to LOGOS training events very interesting:

- OPC first had people attend training in 1998. There was a team of seven people who went to Akron, Ohio for LOGOS training, which was three days long.
- OPC members have been to LOGOS training events twelve additional times since 1998, attending training events in PA, MD, and VA.
- OPC has had 50 people overall attend LOGOS training events.

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

The 2018-19 Confirmation young people and their parents recently shared in an orientation in preparation for this unique year ahead. The nine confirmation students will begin their class sessions on Sunday, September 9, in classroom 2 as they hear 'advice' from last year's students, take a tour of our church building, and interact through some interesting games. We are continuing to use a curriculum titled "THEOCADEMY" and "Professing Our Faith" for the class lessons. Humorous videos, interviews with pastors, and active and creative activities that bring to focus the essence of what it means to be Presbyterian are part of sessions together. **Pam Bayliss, Joel Witt,** and **Carole Witt** are serving again this year as the leaders for the class, along with covenant

partners who will serve a valuable role for each young person in the class. The confirmation students will be introduced in worship on September 16 at each service.

A "GIFT" EVENT Sunday, September 23

GIFT stands for "**Generations in Faith Together**" and it truly will be a gift to have all ages and stages together during the Sunday morning educational hour (known as FAITH FORMATION) at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall. The theme of our time together will be "**The Phone is Ringing- You're Being CALLED**", a great experience for every age. Rather than segregating ages and classes and separating our wisdom and wonder, **GIFT** experiences bring all of this together as we enjoy conversation, listening, and laughing through music, real-life examples, and exploring how our passions benefit the world. What an enriching time this can be for each of us as we hear moving testimonies of others and discover that God calls each of us. Individuals, couples, whole families, all ages are encouraged to come. Stay after early worship, come early for late worship. Plan to park the car and COME IN with your child, confirmation student, youth, other adult classmates and enjoy the morning event on September 23 centered around BEING CALLED.

COMMUNION EDUCATION WORKSHOP

A communion education workshop for children age 4 through 5th grade is being offered on **Sunday, September 30, 4:00-5:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. This time is led by David and Carole Witt and includes stories, visual illustrations, and hands-on opportunities as we explore the meaning of celebrating the Lord's Supper. Parents are invited to stay with their children and be part of this time as well. This workshop is meant to prepare our children so that they better understand this special sacrament and can enjoy it with you during worship.

PARENTING IN THE PEW

Parents are invited to TAKE and KEEP a "PARENTING IN THE PEW" Binder. These brightly colored three-ring binders have been prepared especially with parents in mind. They contain suggestions, tools, ideas, and more for parents to use as they sit and worship WITH their children in the sanctuary for the whole service. The pages of the binder have ideas that can last over weeks and months as parents and children share worship time together. **You are welcome to take the binder home and keep it as your own resource.** Glance at it during the week in preparation for worship time on Sunday. Parenting is not easy, and of course, many of us have experienced squirmy children in the pews. However, parents are the most influential people in teaching their child how to worship, beginning with our children at a young age. It takes time. It takes patience. It takes diligence. It takes modeling. Children need to see you worship and be able to worship alongside you. Train up a child in the way he shall go, and he will never depart. The children's worship bags will remain available and the children are welcome to use them as Parents use the Parenting in the Pew binders.

MISSION MORNING EXPERIENCES Sunday, September 30

Come join in some unique hands-on activities alongside each other as we do some things that will benefit others, brighten lives of others, and bring glory to God. It is another MISSION MORNING starting at 9:45 am on Sunday, September 30 in the Fellowship Hall. There are no age limits, no restrictions, no prerequisites. Take a break from the hurry and flurry all week long and move about freely to the available options: fill food bags for Orchard View Elementary School, do some

painting, assemble birthday bags for Highland Food Pantry, make some blessing bottles, or write an encouragement card. The choices are YOURS!



PROSTATE CANCER

One out of nine men will develop prostate cancer with over 55% being diagnosed at age 65 or older; it is rare before age 40. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in men, with prostate cancer being the second. However, most men do not die from prostate cancer.

In the early phases of prostate cancer, symptoms may not exist. Therefore, screening is essential to diagnosing prostate cancer before symptoms develop. A blood sample testing the amount of prostate-specific antigen (PSA) is an easy way to screen for prostate cancer. A second screening is a digital rectal exam. A physician puts a gloved, lubricated finger into the rectum to feel the prostate gland.

Symptoms may occur in more advanced prostate cancer. According to Healthline, the following are symptoms that might be related to prostate cancer. But note just because the symptoms exist, it does not necessarily mean you have prostate cancer.

1. Bladder and urinary troubles
 - urinating more frequently
 - getting up in the middle of the night to pee
 - having blood in your urine or semen
 - feeling like you have to urinate often and not actually passing anything
 - not being able to hold your urine (incontinence)
2. Losing bowel control
 - stomach pain
 - constipation
 - blood in your stool
3. Soreness in the groin
4. Leg swelling or weakness

5. Hip or back pain
6. Coughing or feeling out of breath
7. Unexplained weight loss

Your doctor is the expert and knows the treatment options and tests, but you know your body. When you notice changes in your body, it is critical you talk to your doctor about the changes.

References

<https://www.healthline.com/health/prostate-cancer/advanced-education/signs-advanced-prostate#1>
<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/prostate-cancer.html>

SAVE THE DATE—OCTOBER 14

Directly after the 11:00 service, a presentation on Five Wishes will be given by Patty Klinefelter and Bill Martin. More than just an advance directive, Five Wishes brings a holistic approach to a living will by including an individual’s care and comfort choices. It provides a means to legally document your choices for medical treatment, comfort, and care wishes. Lunch will be provided.

**REMEMBER:
 SEPTEMBER IS
 BACK TO CHURCH
 MONTH!**



The summer respite is coming to a close! In the summer, the temperatures rise, outdoor activities increase, and picnic food abounds; but, church attendance is usually diminished. Many factors play a part in this, including vacations and summer options. Now there’s a special opportunity in this month of September to return to our disciplines and rhythms and to make a special effort to reach out to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and those who are seeking as you invite them back to church. Be proactive in inviting old and new friends to join us this September, especially Sunday, September 23rd, “Back to Church Sunday,” a day set aside to welcome everyone in a great,

big effort! They will be glad you invited them...and so will you as you share the good news of Jesus and the hospitality of Opequon Church. We will enjoy some treats at church coffees following each service.

**PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH CONNECTION
 GRADES 6-12**

Come on down to the Picnic Shelter on Sunday, September 9 from 5:00-7:00 pm for some food, fun, and fellowship! The meat and drinks will be provided. Bring a side item to share. All those in 6th-12th grade are invited. Just don't forget to bring your whole family along! Be there to offer your ideas for the upcoming year and hear what Youth Council already has planned.

- **September 9**-Youth Kickoff in the Picnic Shelter from 5:00-7:00 pm! Bring your whole family & some friends to celebrate a new year of Youth Group. BBQ, buns, & drinks provided. Come with a side dish to share. Enjoy the corn hole tournament & other yard games. Questions? Let Rebekah Witt know!
- **September 16**-Mini Golf 5:00-7:00pm
- **September 23**-Motel Ministry 12:30pm
- **September 30**-Youth Council 12:30pm, Progressive Dinner 4:30-7:30pm

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

Do what you LOVE and LOVE what you do. There are things to LOVE doing at Opequon Church and this month proves that to be true. Any older adults are always invited to attend the Older Adult Ministry team which will meet on **Monday, September 10**, 9:30 am in the Bageant Room for their monthly time of planning and fellowship. The conversation is always great fun and treats are provided as the team makes plans for the Older Adult Ministry at Opequon.

The Happy Days fellowship gathering is Wednesday, September 12, beginning at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite covered dish item to add to all the others for a delicious pot luck lunch. Following lunch together, our own TOM TANDY will be our guest speaker. He will be sharing about the TUESDAY MORNING MISSION group at OPC: who they are, what they do, and the joys of this small group of OPC. Come enjoy TOM being with us and what he has to share. Happy Days participants have been so good in donating **ROLLS of TOILET PAPER** that are offered to people in the community through our Motel Ministry. Thank you for your generosity of this much-needed item. Come on out and enjoy the great fellowship of Happy Days! Take notice of the "Older Adult News" on the bulletin board near the elevator.



God-Loving Opequon Woman

GLOW is Opequon's multi-aged Women's Group that meets monthly to build friendships and enjoy heart-warming activities together. The time together brings much laughter and we leave feeling lighter! This month, being that our gathering date falls on **September 11**, we will be sharing our own stories about that memorable day. Where were you when you heard the news? What did you do? How did you learn about all the events of the day? Come join OPC women on **Tuesday, September 11, 7:00 pm in the Bageant Room as we reflect together about 9-11.** The time spent at GLOW is sure to lift your spirits and allows others to enjoy your presence! Treat yourself to an evening with the ladies. Yummy goodies are always a hit too!



MEN OF OPEQUON THIS MONTH MONTHLY NEWS

We had an awesome picnic at the Shelter in August. Thank you, Grill Master Bill Bender, for serving up all the burgers and hot dogs! We all left very full on a beautiful evening. This month, we'll return to Chick-fil-A for dinner at 6:00 pm on Monday, September 10th. Then, we'll return to the church for our monthly meeting and program, in September presented by our own Lance Pearce, who will talk about his work and travels around the world. It is great to hear about others' adventures!

We are making plans for our church-wide **Camp Paddy Run Day (September 30th)** and for our annual Christmas Party in December, this year at the Greene Turtle (save the date: Monday, December 10th). If you haven't been to MOO, now is a great time to join us!

READ 'EM & REAP

Read 'em & Reap, a small group, meets on the second Thursday of each month. This month's meeting is on Thursday, September 13, 7:00 pm, at the home of Tom and Rhoda Tandy (128 Cahille DR, 22602). This month's discussion will be on the book, "The Orphan's Tale," by Jenoft. You are welcome to join us.

YOUNG ADULT NEWS AGES 18-35

Intimidated by the Bible? Have questions about scripture? Need a group to study the Bible with? If you've had some of these thoughts, then think about coming to Young Adult Bible Study this fall! The plan is to meet on the 2nd & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 6:10-6:55 pm with dinner provided. **Please contact Rebekah Witt at 540-686-0752 if you want to join or have questions.**



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 Firefly Cafe at 1:00 pm on Friday, September 28. Come and share conversation and lunch. Contact Martha Fulton, with questions at 540-542-6161 or fultonmartha@gmail.com.



PREPARE TO PARTICIPATE IN CAMP PADDY RUN DAY!

Plans are being finalized for Opequon Church's September 30th fellowship event at Camp Paddy Run, our presbytery's camp near Star Tannery that straddles the Frederick County and Shenandoah County line. While this annual event was sidelined for a number of years, it was revived five years ago through the efforts of our Men of Opequon, who will be sponsoring it again this year. We will leave after the 11:00 am worship service and travel out to Paddy Run for fun and games, food, and getting to know one another in the glorious outdoors of a fall afternoon. **SO, PLAN ON ATTENDING RIGHT NOW! GET THE DATE – SEPTEMBER 30th – ON YOUR CALENDAR! BRING FRIENDS!** Soup, sandwiches, and drinks will be provided. Just bring a dessert to share. **THIS IS AN EVENT FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH FAMILY AND PEOPLE OF ALL AGES!**

HIGHLAND FOOD PANTRY NEEDS EGG CARTONS



Highland Food Pantry now has an arrangement with a farm near Chambersburg, PA to supply fresh eggs. Eggs are delivered in bulk, so pantry volunteers move the eggs into family-sized cartons (like we get in grocery stores), before delivering them to client families. We can save HFP the expense of buying cartons by providing our empties. Please bring in empty egg cartons and place them in the crate in the Gathering Area. It's located near the elevator. This will be an ongoing project so be prepared to recycle egg cartons all year long. Questions? Contact Dave Richards at button76@gmail.com or 540-858-2889.

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS

Harvesting the garden is keeping us pretty busy these days—even with all the rain. We've been fortunate to have a number of volunteer groups come out and help with small projects. We have a pretty large group coming from Shenandoah University later this week. So, a shout out of huge thanks to all of our volunteers for putting such strong effort into making this important project such a success for our community. To date, we've delivered more than 430 pounds of vegetables to the food pantry this season! We enjoy sharing the story of the community garden so if you know of an organization that would be interested in learning about it, please reach out to one of the garden leaders: Joelle Cafaro, drhealer@gmail.com, Dana Kelly, davedana@comcast.net, or Robin Owens, robinowensopcsession@gmail.com.

ICARE SPONSORSHIP

For several years, Opequon congregants have been the single largest supporter of the iCARE program. Approximately 40% of the students in the Gore Home are sponsored by members of OPC. We can be justly proud of this support and are grateful for those of you who currently support the program. Despite this support, the need is even greater. Kes Ayana (the iCARE director) and Kes Amena (the president of the Synod) have recently sent a list of seven students needing sponsors for the upcoming school year. Most of these children have lost one or both parents and all are extremely poor and not able to attend school without outside support. iCARE students move to the Gore Home for Children during the school year. The Home is a residential campus for students attending public school in Gore. They live in a carefully supervised residential compound operated by the Illubabor Bethel Synod. The students receive three meals a day, additional tutoring as needed, and usually return to their respective families or caregivers on holidays and for summer vacation. Those who go on to college or technical school after high school are frequently supported in part by iCARE.

A full iCARE sponsorship for the 2018-2019 school year will be \$950 which largely covers food, school supplies, clothing, medical coverage for the student, and operational costs of the Home. We welcome both full and partial sponsorships and will attempt to pair partial funds with another sponsor. In October, a team from Shenandoah Presbytery will be visiting the Home in Gore and expects to get additional information and photos of your sponsored student. Please prayerfully consider becoming a sponsor. Funds may be sent to the OPC office, carefully labeled for iCARE. If you have additional questions please feel free to talk with Pastor Witt, Pam Bayliss, or Bill Burslem.

WORLD COMMUNION FESTIVAL UPCOMING IN OCTOBER

World Communion Sunday has become a special, celebratory festival each year at Opequon Church and it will be coming up on Sunday, October 7th. You may anticipate uplifting, global music and creative gifts shared

by our young people. As always, a variety of home-baked breads are appreciated, the differing textures, colors, shapes, and sizes representing the world-wide Christian community. This year, we would also like to include people who are willing to share the peace of Christ in their native or acquired language. Please let Pastors Tracie or David know if you are able to assist and participate in these ways.

FAITH5 (Faith Acts In The Home)

FAITH5 is a simple, easy-to-implement faith practice, perfect for incorporating into your nightly routine for five to fifteen minutes a night. When done over time, FAITH5 carries the power to enrich communication, deepen understanding, aid sleep, and promote mental, physical and spiritual health. The five steps are:

- SHARE your highs and lows
- READ a Bible verse

Week of August 27th – September 2nd:

"But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves." James 1:22

Week of September 3rd – 9th:

"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Week of September 10th – 16th:

"Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." Romans 12:13

Week of September 17th – 23rd:

"Jesus said down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be First must be last of all and servant of all.'" Mark 9:35

Week of September 24th – 30th:

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16b

- TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows
- PRAY for one another's highs and lows
- BLESS one another

THROUGH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

We welcomed **Sierra Violet McGunnigle** into the baptized membership of Opequon on July 29th. Sierra is the daughter of Larry and Melissa McGunnigle and the younger sister of Logan and Aubrey.

William Thomas Baker, son of Shawn and Mary Katherine "Katie" Heavner Baker was baptized on Wednesday, August 8, at the Hospice of the Eastern Panhandle. Pat and Bill Heavner are proud grandparents.

May God's Spirit rest upon Sierra and Will and may we, as their church family, nurture and love them.



We express our Christian love and sympathy to...

The family & friends of Tim Thompson

Stella Strickler upon the death of her husband Gary, on July 30
Bill & Pat Heavner, Shawn &

Will Baker upon the death of their daughter, wife and mother, Katie Baker, on August 11.

*"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

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

My family & I want to thank everyone for their cards, visits and most of all, their prayers for my brother Andy Nagy's recovery. God is good.
Susie Cherry

Thank you for your prayers and support throughout this difficult time. We appreciate the soup, bread and paper supplies. God Bless all of you.

The Baker & Heavner Families

Many thanks for all the prayers, cards, notes, visits, rides to/from events and food while I was out. Also, I would like to thank Alicia Campbell for "holding down the fort", as well as Nancy Grubb and Karen Naylor for covering for me, and Robert Sydnor for installing a new sink. A big thanks to Carole Witt for the surprise door and room decor when I returned to work! I am so blessed to be part of this wonderful Opequon family!

Laurie Carver

THE RACE

We are all in some kind of a race—walking, running, jogging, or just "a race against time". Just a short time ago, at the end of June, I became aware of a new race I was in—a race against cancer. Many of you know I have colon cancer. I have had an operation for removal of a large amount of the contaminated parts. There was the operation, short hospital stay, two and one half weeks in Rehab at Orchard Ridge and then home. I am doing just fine. I want to thank the Church for the support during these past weeks with the multitude of prayers from so many members on my behalf, for strength and comfort for Ann and my family I have had concerns about the future from the day of the operation and even today. However I have not had feelings of despair, nor fear, nor "why me feelings" dominating my thoughts. I have had strength given from the Lord and from your prayers, your many cards and words of encouragement My Race has become more focused on the present and short term goals. I look at each day as it dawns with positiveness. This I can do because I know the church is supporting me with prayer and God is by my side...But every Race has an ending.

Edgar Tufts

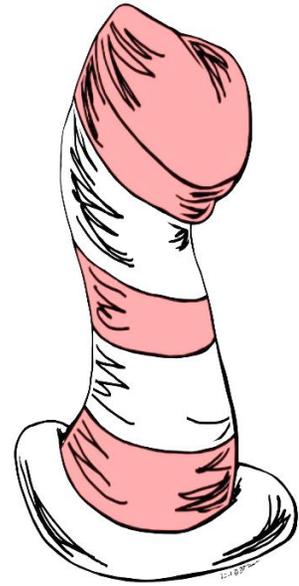
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
July 2018

EXPENSES	2018 Budget	Net Expenses		Budget Balance Remaining
		Current Month	Year to Date	
Administrative Ministry	405,427	28,249	239,035	166,392
Christian Education Ministry	13,550	2,449	4,904	8,646
Congregational Care Ministry	1,400	390	905	495
Evangelism Ministry	2,250	0	488	1,762
Fellowship Ministry	3,500	107	1,092	2,408
Mission Ministry	50,200	2,778	27,161	23,039
Worship Ministry	7,700	162	4,452	3,248
Capital Expenses	115,000	9,584	67,087	47,913
Total Budget	599,027	43,719	345,124	253,904

INCOME	Current Month	Year to Date
Envelope Offerings	42,288	327,562
Loose	382	3,114
Total Operating Income from Offerings	42,670	330,676
Adjustments to Income		
Checking Account Interest	5	48
Room/Facility Usage	0	650
Wedding Fees	0	0
Manse Rental Income (Net)	1,848	6,185
Unplanned Facilities Maintenance (EXP)	0	-28,316
Operating Income After Adjustments	44,523	309,243
Operating Expenses	43,719	345,124
2018 Operating Balance as of July 31	805	-35,881



**If the CAT is back,
is the Hat back as well?
And Garfield, is he also here?
Well do tell!
Just what does it mean?
And how does it matter?
Let's unpack ideas and see how they scatter
into our church and into our lives; and
Into our welcome – when guests might arrive.**



**Happy Birthday
Everyone!**

**Sunday
September 16
after the 11:00 Service
Fellowship Hall**

**The Cat
is Back!**

The Vision Team will be briefing on the recent CAT survey.
You don't want to miss it!

Potluck Luncheon

Please bring your favorite dish to share.
No desserts please; they will be provided.

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

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“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



COMING UP THIS FALL:

- Camp Paddy Run Day – Sunday, September 30th
- Kerygma Bible Study on Mark –
 Begins Monday, October 1st – 3:00-5:00 pm
 (October 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th; November 5th, 12th, 19th)
- World Communion Sunday & Bread Basket Buffet
 – Sunday, October 7th
- Congregational Care Health Awareness Event
 – Sunday, October 14th
- Volunteer Appreciation Sunday & Chili Cook-off
 – Sunday, October 21st
- G.I.F.T Event for Everyone – Sunday, October 28th
- All Saints’ Sunday – Sunday, November 4th
- Annual Teacher Night at LOGOS
 – Wednesday, November 7th
- Generosity Sunday – Sunday, November 11th
- Pilgrims’ Feast – Sunday, November 18th
- 122nd Annual Thanksgiving Service at Opequon
 – Wednesday, November 21st
- G.I.F.T. Event for Everyone – Sunday, November 25th

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SEPTEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:30 & 11am Worship, Communion, CCAP	3 Labor Day Church Office Closed	4 5:15pm Technology & Communications 6:00pm Ministry Team Night	5 9:30am Staff Meeting 2pm Sherando Administrative Commission 5:30pm LOGOS Staff Event 6:30pm Choir Practice	6 7pm Scouting Ministry	7	8 4:00pm PS150 5:30pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:30pm Open Door Worship
9 8:30 & 11am Worship, Bala Mission Sunday 9:45am Faith Formation 12:15 LOGOS Families Meeting 5pm PYC Kick-Off	10 9:30am Older Adult Ministry Team 6pm MOO Chick-fil-A 7pm MOO OPC 6pm Sing! Shenandoah	11 7pm GLOW	12 12 Noon Happy Days 6pm Visioning 6:10pm YA Bible Study 6:30 Choir Practice	13 7pm Read 'em & Reap 7pm Scouting Ministry	14	15
16 8:30 & 11am Worship, Visioning Sunday 9:45am Faith Formation 12:15 Happy Birthday Everyone 5pm PYC	17 6pm Sing! Shenandoah 7pm Trustees Meeting 7pm WATTS Board	18 7pm Session	19 Newsletter Deadline 9:30am Staff Meeting 10am Winchester Newcomers 4:30pm LOGOS 6:10 YA Bible Study 7:30pm Choir Practice	20 7pm Scouting Ministry	21	22
23 8:30 & 11am Worship, Back to Church Sunday, 4 Cents a Meal Offering, Fair Trade Coffee 9:45am GIFT Event 12:30am Motel Ministry	24 6pm Sing! Shenandoah	25 10:30am Hands & Hearts 5:30pm Highland Food Pantry 6:30-m WATTS Operations	26 Noon TVOR Lunch Noon Camp Paddy Run 4:30pm LOGOS 7:30pm Choir Practice	27 7pm Scouting Ministry	28 1pm Life Goes On	29 10am Jubilee Kitchen
30 8:30 & 11am Worship 10:45am Congregational Meeting 9:45am Mission Morning 12:30pm Youth Council 1pm Camp Paddy Run 4pm Communion Education Workshop 4:30pm PYC						