

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843

www.opequonchurch.org



**The First Will Be Last
&
The Last Will Be First**



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<i>Pastor</i>	David R. Witt
<i>Associate Pastor</i>	Julia H. Burkley
<i>Parish Associate</i>	Tracie Martin
<i>Church Office Administrator</i>	Rachel Lesink
<i>Church Finance Administrator</i>	Ken Smiy
<i>Director of Christian Education</i>	Carole Witt
<i>Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries</i>	Rebekah Witt
<i>Director of Music</i>	Susan Homan
<i>Organist</i>	William Heavner
<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

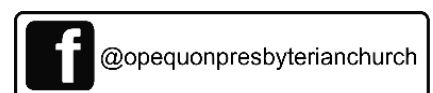
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost

October 20, 2024 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Blood Pressure Checks; Thanksgiving Banana Boxes Out

***Thank you for taking the time to silence your phones before we begin the Worship Service.**

Please complete the Friendship Folder and pass it along during the greeting.

PRAYER REQUEST forms are inside the pew holders – please place in the offering plate.

† = All who are able, please stand.

Bold print = All in unison.

✠ WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME ✠

PRELUDE.....*God the Omnipotent*

By: Aleksēi Federovich L'vov (1833)

(Please use this time to prepare your inward spirit for the worship of God.)

ENTRANCE OF THE WORD & THE LIGHT

THE CHURCH BELL RINGS

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTES FOR MISSION Deacon Heather Burton, WATTS Coordinator

†GATHERING SONG No. 413 (v. 1) *Come into God's Presence*

Come into God's presence singing "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia." [x3]

†CALL TO WORSHIP

God talks to us out of the whirlwind

out of the craziness of our daily lives, giving us a home in the midst of it all.

God talks to us out of the whirlwind

of our questions, doubts, and concerns, bringing us peace in the midst of the unknowns.

God talks to us out of the whirlwind

letting us know we are never alone because God loves us all the time, including in the scary places.

So let us worship God, knowing that there is nowhere that God will not go.

†OPENING HYMN No. 687 (v. 1, 3-6)..... *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*

**Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:**

**Before the hills in order stood, or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.**

**Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are not a perfect people. We fall short. We say mean things. We don't act when we need to. Knowing that God wants to hear us, especially when we fall short, we turn to God today in prayer.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

So often Lord, we think we need to show off what we need to do to be closer to you. We think we can show off how great we are at being your servant. We serve our neighbors, but only when others are watching. We pray, but only when others are around us. Forgive us for our conditional faith. Our faith is not for others, but for you Lord. Enable us to serve you unconditionally, all the time, fulfilling your call for us to be your hands, heart, and feet in the world.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Church, here is the amazing thing. God is loving and forgiving. God, in God's grace, is our friend who says, "It's okay. Do better next time."

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 445 (v. 2, 3) *God, How Can We Forgive*

**When we have missed the mark, and tears of anguish flow,
how can you still release our guilt, the debt we owe?**

The ocean depth of grace surpasses all our needs.

A priest who shares our human pain, Christ intercedes.

**Who dares to throw the stone to damn another's sin,
when you, while knowing all our past, forgive again?**

No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.

As you, O God, forgive our sin, may we forgive.

†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..... *Be Strong In The Lord*

By: Linda Lee Johnson & Thomas Fettle

Be strong in the Lord, and be of good courage; your defender is He who is always the same. Mount up with wings as the eagle ascending; vict'ry is sure when you call on His name. Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord: and be of good courage for He is your guide. Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord: and rejoice for the vict'ry is yours. Put on the armour the Lord has provided; place your defense in His unfailing care. Trust Him for He will be with you in battle, lighting your path to avoid ev'ry snare. Be strong in the Lord and be of good courage; your mighty commander will vanquish the foe. Fear not the battle, for the vict'ry is always His; He will protect you wherever you go. Be strong, be strong, be strong in the Lord; and rejoice for the vict'ry is yours, be strong!

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Job 38:1-7, 34-41.....Pew Bible p. 420

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Mark 10:35-45.....Pew Bible p. 823

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES..... "I Spy"

Pastors Julia Burkley & Tracie Martin

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 618 *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*

**O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
beyond all thought and fantasy, that God, the Son of God,
should take our mortal form for mortals' sake.**

**For us baptized, for us he bore his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew, for us, the tempter overthrew.**

**For us by wickedness betrayed, for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death; for us gave up his dying
breath.**

**For us he rose from death again; for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent the Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.**

**All glory to our Lord and God, for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.**

SERMON..... "Wisdom of the Whirlwind"

Pastor Julia Burkley

☞ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ☞

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *Circle of Love in Many Colors*
Arranged by: William Heavner

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

We long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done and we can make a difference. May it be so, through the offering of these gifts and the offering of our lives. Amen.

RECEPTION & RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND 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. 649.....*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 137 (v. 1)*He Came Down*

**He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.**

†POSTLUDE

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

Worship begins this morning with the blended strains of two stately hymns. The opening bells ring out the melody that was a favorite of Tchaikovsky. He used it in four of his major pieces. A British author also used the tune as the setting for his 1842 hymn, "God the Omnipotent!" Many American hymnals named the tune, "Russian Hymn." Its partner tune in this morning's prelude is "St. Anne," composed in 1708 by a future organist at Westminster Cathedral. We are most familiar with the tune as the setting for "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past." This morning's offertory is a medley of vintage hymns that were (are) especially popular in rural America. They are stitched together with a song written by Dolly Parton for her autobiographical Christmas Special, "Christmas of Many Colors: Circle of Love."

WELCOME TO THE OPEQUON FAMILY

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We rejoice today as we welcome new members to the Opequon Church family. May God bless and enrich their lives as we share the journey of faith and service together. Please reach out and get to know the following new members:

- ❖ Dale & Sheyenne Ervin, Re-Affirmation of Faith (8:30 AM)
- ❖ Rich & Penny Smith, Re-Affirmation of Faith (8:30 AM)
- ❖ Dr. Jack & Chris Armstrong, Transfer of Membership from First Presbyterian Church, Winchester, VA (11:00 AM)

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Brian and Brenda Steffens in honor of all who serve the greater community in any manner.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bill Heavner & Family	Rick Ours	Nancy Roberts
Jace Hartman	Clay	Al & May Schollenberger
Bill Robinson	Rob Alkire	Clay Knick
Jesse & Kaitlyn Johnson & Family	Juanita Service	Nathan Windle
Tracie Martin	Tim G	Those Suffering from Mental Illness
Selena Littman	Katie Happel	Roger Murphy
Hurricane Milton	Jean Smith	June Windle
Verna Saar	Jeannie Wright	Mike Shade
Stephen Armstrong	Matthew Ours	Jewish & Muslim Victims Worldwide
Terry Cornwell	Cora Helen Anderson	José LaMont Jones
Rachel Weller & Family	Jeannie Rathman	Cindy Correll
Cathy Jones	Bettye Stirn	Douglas Dicks
Luther George	Tom Homan	Rich Valenti
Nora Coryell	Bereaved Israelites & Palestinians	Nancy Kerns
Art & Wendy Littman	Curt Budny	Kennedy Ransom
Hurricane Helene	Kourtney Haake	Ukraine
All First Responders	Jackie Witt	Ethiopia Church Mekane
Linda Gibson	End to Gun Violence	Jesus
Elmer Denmon	Tim Loftis	
Gail Crane	Richard & Pat Young	

🌿 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

SCHEDULE & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK

TODAY – October 20

Blood Pressure Checks; Thanksgiving Banana Boxes Out; Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Lock-In

- 8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
9:45 AM Faith Formation – Bageant Room
9:45 AM Back to Baja Info Meeting – Fellowship Hall
10:45 AM **Called Congregational Meeting** – Sanctuary
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary
12:15 PM Music Center Focus Group – Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM Young Adult Bonfire – Joel & Susan Witt's home

THIS WEEK

- Monday: 8:00 AM Roots & Shoots Garden Work
12:00 PM Life Goes On – Fellowship Hall
6:00 PM Windsong – Sanctuary
7:00 PM Sacred Spaces – Memorial Sanctuary
Tuesday: 1:30 PM Faith Practices – Bageant Room
3:00 PM TVOR Gathering
5:30 PM Highland Food Pantry
Wednesday: 4:30 PM LOGOS (Theme: Bring A Friend to World Series Night)
7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Thursday: 10:30 AM Tai Chi – Picnic Shelter/Memorial Sanctuary
10:30 AM WANC Lunch – Fellowship Hall
6:45 PM Youth Parent Hangout – Youth Spot
Friday: 11:00 AM Java with Julia – Hopscotch

NEXT SUNDAY – October 27

*Reformation Sunday; Volunteer Appreciation Sunday; 4 Cents A Meal
Scriptures: Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Mark 10:46-52 Sermon: "Just As I Am"*

- 8:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
9:45 AM GIFT Event – Memorial Sanctuary
11:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary
12:15 AM Chili Cook-Off – Fellowship Hall
5:45 PM Youth Hayride & Pumpkin Carving – West Oaks (meet at OPC)

STAFF SCHEDULING NOTES

Through Today: Rebekah Witt – Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Lock-In

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 17**. Bless you and thank you for helping those in need!

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR HURRICANE RELIEF

Upon the recommendation of our Mission Team and approval of Session, a special offering for Hurricane Relief has been authorized. All monies will be directed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the agency of our church that provides direct relief to victims. PDA focuses on Pray, Act, Give. We are praying; we are acting by sending 35 personal hygiene kits to Church World Service; and we are giving through this offering and through the \$2,100 that Mission has approved from its budget for relief. **Please use the white special offering envelopes that are found in the pews and mark all checks to be designated for this offering with 'Hurricane Relief.'** Gifts may also be contributed online. Thank you for helping those in need.

BACK TO BAJA INFO MEETING

OPC has not had a team go to Baja, Mexico since 2019. In 2025, we are making it our goal to have an OPC team join with others in the Shenandoah Presbytery in going BACK TO BAJA! Meet with Robin Owens and Jim Youngblood for an informational meeting **today at 9:45 AM** (between worship services) in the Fellowship Hall. You will learn about all of the details you will need to plan for the July 2025 OPC BACK TO BAJA MISSION TRIP.

LIFE GOES ON

Life Goes On will meet **tomorrow at noon** in Fellowship Hall. The main dish will be beef stew. It will be gluten-free and yummy. Please bring a dish to pass if you're able or to chip in a couple of bucks toward expenses. Contact the church office if you need a ride.

SHERANDO FOOD PANTRY SECOND ANNUAL 5K

Participants and volunteers are needed on race day, this **Saturday, October 26 at 9:00 AM**, at Sherando High School. For more info and registration, visit: www.sherandofoodpantry.org/fundraising-5k-race. To volunteer, contact Bill Burslem (wburslem331@comcast.net).

REFORMATION & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Next **Sunday**, we will be honoring the gift of the church – reformed and always being reformed as we celebrate Reformation and Volunteer Appreciation Sunday. You are invited to wear red, the color which symbolizes reformation!

GET READY FOR THE CHILI COOK-OFF!

Be sure to bring your appetite to our annual Chili Cook-Off next **Sunday, October 27, 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!

GIFT EVENT – NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 @ 9:45 AM (Memorial Sanctuary)
GIFT means "Generations in Faith Together" as all ages come together one Sunday a month for a themed intergenerational experience. The theme this month is "**The Good for Nothing Tree.**" This inspiring and hopeful children's book focuses on how sometimes we are ready to give up on something and other times we love something/someone so much that we are patient enough to see what happens! Come enjoy some refreshments, this tender story, and thought-provoking conversation. Your day is bound to be enriched by your time at GIFT.

BOOK CLUB DATE CHANGE

Book Club will NOT meet on October 24. We will instead meet on **Thursday, November 14**, at **6:00 PM**. This will be our last meeting for the year and we will be discussing "The Briar Club" by Kate Quinn. Thanks for the flexibility!

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL TIME AGAIN

We have been authoring our OWN Advent Devotionals for MANY years and are treasured collections of the thoughts of Opequon's people. It is time for us to begin preparing for this year's devotional. Our theme this year is "ADVENT PRAYERS" and uses the key words of HOPE – JOY – PEACE – LOVE for readings throughout the four weeks of Advent. Would you be willing to write a PRAYER for Advent focusing on one of the four key words? You are invited to do so. Please let Carole Witt know at dce@opequonchurch.org. All writings are due to Carole by **November 15**.

THANKSGIVING FEAST FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

The annual Thanksgiving Feast will be on **Sunday, November 17**, for our whole congregation. Our Opequon Youth host this event and appreciate your help in donating items needed for a Thanksgiving meal. Please visit the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area. As the Youth serve you a full turkey dinner on the day of the Feast, they appreciate your monetary donations that will go completely towards their Christmas service project, Midnight Gladness, which supports families during the holidays. Plan to come and be a part of this great time of gratitude. No need to make a reservation. Questions? Contact Rebekah Witt (rwitt@opequonchurch.org).

ADULT CHRISTMAS TRIP – ONE SEAT AVAILABLE

An Adult Trip to Riverside Theater in Fredericksburg to see "Christmas Spectacular" is planned for **Wednesday, December 11**. We will meet at OPC at **9:00 AM**. The cost is \$90 all inclusive (meal, show ticket, transportation, goodie bag). One seat is still available. Contact Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org) if you would like to go.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship

Liturgist: Ellen Cunningham

Beadle: Sven Thulin

Door Greeters: Josh & Tiffanie Hartman,
Pam Olsen

Hospitality Greeters: Dale & Marsha Barley

Ushers: Terry Hartman, Heide Mohler, Camden
Saunders, L.J. Strosnider

Acolyte: Camden Saunders

Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler

Livestream: Susan Ritter, Rick Ours

Building Steward: Terry Hartman

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Sara Gomez

Beadle: Ron Smith

Door Greeters: Cindy Millard,
Bonnie Pitzer

Hospitality Greeters: Laverne
Cooper, Mary Himelright

Ushers: Andy Homan, Joel Witt,
Kevin Reed, Logan McGunnigle,
Jaxson Hughes

Acolyte: Logan McGunnigle

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✂ How did the music connect with God?

Notes on Today's Prayers

✂ Who is God calling you to pray for and connect with this week?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

✂ What did you notice in worship today?

✂ How does God show up in surprising ways?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

✂ How has God turned the world upside down?

✂ When have you had questions of God like Job?

✂ How do you feel God has challenged you?

✂ How do you feel like God has supported you?

✂ Who do you see as an example of God's work in your life?

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