OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602 540-662-1843 www.opequonchurch.org



Stewardship Dedication & Pledge Sunday

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Pastor	David R. Witt
Associate Pastor	Julia H. Burkley
Parish Associate	Tracie Martin
Church Office Administrator	Rachel Lesink
Church Finance Administrator	Ken Smiy
Director of Christian Education	Carole Witt
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries	Rebekah Witt
Director of Music	
Organist	
Facilities Coordinator	Robert Sydnor
Nursery Supervisor	Laurie Carver
Faith Community Nurses	

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

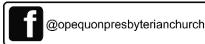
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- 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 <u>www.opequonchurch.org/giving</u> or scan the QR code here:



Follow us on Facebook:



A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 10, 2024 – 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Veterans' Day Recognition; Stewardship Dedication & Pledge Sunday

*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.

Some Source Section Sectio

PRELUDE Armed Forces Medley (Marines, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, & Air Force) Arranged by: Gene Roberson (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

VETERANS' DAY RECOGNITION

HYMN No. 338 (v. 1, 2)O Beautiful for Spacious Skies O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,

for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! God mend thine every flaw; confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

+GATHERING SONG Come, Now Is The Time to Worship

[refrain] Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart. Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

One day every tongue will confess you are God.

One day every knee will bow.

Still the greatest treasure remains

for those who gladly choose You now. [refrain]

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this house of worship!

We have come here from lives that are burdened and stressed.

Bring your hearts that are heavy and here find hope and peace.

We find in this place welcome, peace, and hope, all given by God who loves us.

As we gather for worship, we join our hands, hearts, and voices, discovering the importance of each one of us.

We also understand that our whole as a church is more than its parts. For here we offer our gifts and our service to God by giving from our hearts, leaving fingerprints, sending forth ripples that make a difference.

+OPENING HYMN No. 694 Great God of Every Blessing

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care, you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share. How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace, in death and life extending your covenant embrace. In Christ we are one body; each member has a part: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search, transforming broken people into the holy church. For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We hear about God's abundance but through the ups and downs of life, it can be hard to trust that we will have enough. Acknowledging our failures and God's grace at the same time, let us join in confessing our sins, praying together and then personally, in silence.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, so often we look at ourselves, our gifts and our talents, and wonder what you would do with these offerings. We

don't think that we have much to give. Far too many times, we belittle the gifts and turn our backs on the needs and opportunities present to serve, believing that our gifts cannot possibly make a difference. We think that we must possess the greatest of talents and wealth in order to truly please and serve you. How foolish we are! Forgive us when we stop listening to your healing and comforting words and focus on our anxieties. Heal us, Lord. Help us know that you have given to us such blessings and that these blessings are truly wonderful and meant to be used to joy and service to others. Help us to bring our lives, just as they are to you, and to receive your gentle touch and healing grace, as we openly, honestly, give you our hearts.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

God has given to each one of us an abundance of blessings and talents. With joy, we bring these gifts to God. You are blessed by God's absolute love for you. Rejoice in that love and find healing and hope.

LITANY OF PARDON Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

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

Give thanks. Give thanks.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please share this prayer with those near you.) May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

🌭 WE HEAR GOD'S WORD 🛹

ANTHEM
Judie Birchfield, American Sign Language We all are one in mission, we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. A single, great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love. We all are called for service to witness in God's name. Our ministries are different, our purpose is the same: to touch the lives of others with God's amazing grace, so every person, every nation may feel God's warm embrace. We all are one! We all are one! We all are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Son. Now let us be united, let our song be heard. We are one, we are one, we all are one. We all behold one vision, a stark reality: the author of salvation was nailed upon a tree. Yet resurrected Justice gives rise that we may share free grace and reconciliation and hope amid despair.
THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: 1 Kings 17:8-16	Pew Bible p. 282
NEW TESTAMENT READING: Mark 12:38-44	Pew Bible p. 825

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES...... "Remembering & Reminding" Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give, to make our life an offering that all may truly live. The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true: a world redeemed by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.

In gratitude and humble trust we bring our best today, to serve your cause and share your love with all along life's way. O God who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son, help us to give ourselves each day until life's work is done.

SERMON	"Giving from the Heart"
	Pastor David Witt

🌭 WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD 🛹

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS OFFERTORY HYMN No. 488..... I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry "I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold. I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell." "When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on. You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun." "In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun. When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise." "I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."

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

O God, you give us life, for you are the source of every blessing. These offerings are but a token of our gratitude to you. Use them, and us, to work your will in this world you love, and let all we say and do be to your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (11:00 AM)Lella Grace Ervin

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. 697..... Take My Life

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King; take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.

†STEWARDSHIP LITANY OF DEDICATION

(written by Rev. Teri Peterson, Ridgefield Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church, Crystal Lake, IL) Creator of all, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it.

You have entrusted us with gifts—time, talent, energy, money—and asked us to use them to build your kingdom. With thanks and praise we respond to your call.

We dedicate these pledges in response to the gifts you have given, returning your generosity, paying it forward.

We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears, our dollars and our hours. We commit ourselves to work for your world, to love and serve wherever you call.

We ask your blessing on this, your church, as we seek to follow you with heart, mind, and soul.

Bless these gifts, our investment in your future, that they may multiply in faith, hope, and love, as we seek to be the hands, heart, and feet of Christ. Amen. that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

†POSTLUDE

WELCOME THROUGH THE WATERS OF BAPTISM

We welcome Lella Grace Ervin into the baptized membership of Opequon Church this morning. Lella is the daughter of Sheyenne and Dale Ervin. May Lella be blessed by the grace and steadfast love of God and may we, as her church family, remember and uphold the promises of nurture and care we have made to her and her family.

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

How fitting that on the day before Veteran's Day we remember and offer our thanks to those who have given a portion of their lives to protect and defend the United States. The prelude is a salute to their service. This medley of songs, associated with the armed services, begins and ends by quoting "America the Beautiful," whose third verse declares: "O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife. Who more than self, their country loved, and mercy more than life!"

CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS BEGIN TODAY

We are moving toward publishing a new church photo directory in the coming year... and, the photos begin TODAY! We invite you to come over to the Dell Room (lounge area near the church offices) to get your photo (and your family photo!) taken this morning. The photos and the directory will all be published in-house, here at the church, in response to the many thoughtful requests we have received. PLEASE SAY CHEESE!

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Joanne and Bill Berson in loving memory of Joanne's father, Tom Fraher.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Noah Hepner Julie Pearce Family of Baby Landon Baby Jude & Family Jesse & Kate Johnson & Family Ashley Renner Jeff Erhardt Dr. Jim Kriewald Family Alice Grier Paula Marguis Tracie Martin Gary Goliday Nancy Budny John DeHaven Stephen Armstrong & Lori Jones Tim & Kathy Hoffman **Bill Robinson Quick Family** Chelsea, Lafe, Judie Marge Higgins Zack Skrocki

Lynne Rosamilia **Crystal Baker** Selena Littman Verna Saar Terry Cornwell **Cathy Jones** Luther George Art & Wendy Littman All First Responders Gail Crane **Rick Ours** Clay **Rob Alkire** Tim G Katie Happel Jeannie Wright Matthew Ours Cora Helen Anderson **Bettye Stirn** Tom Homan Bereaved Israelites & **Palestinians** Curt Budny

Kourtney Haake Jackie Witt Tim Loftis **Richard & Pat Young** Nancy Roberts Al & May Schollenberger **Clay Knick** Nathan Windle Those Suffering from Mental Illness Roger Murphy June Windle Mike Shade Jewish & Muslim Victims Worldwide José LaMont Jones **Cindy Correll Douglas Dicks** Nancy Kerns Kennedy Ransom Ukraine Ethiopia Church Mekane Yesus

Some serving in the military & their families <</p>

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 – November 10

Veterans' Day Recognition; Stewardship Dedication & Pledge Sunday

- 8:30 AM Worship Sanctuary
- Fudge-A-Palooza Gathering Area
- 9:45 AM Faith Formation Memorial Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Worship & Baptism Sanctuary & Livestream
- Fudge-A-Palooza Gathering Area
- 12:15 PM Senior Outreach Ministry
- 1:30 PM Spring Arbor Worship
- 4:00 PM Officer Training Bageant Room

THIS WEEK

Monday: Veterans Day

	4:30 PM	Windsong Leader Meeting – Sanctuary
	5:00 PM	Banana Box Drop-Off
	6:00 PM	Windsong – Sanctuary
	6:00 PM	MOO & GLOW Dinner & Game Night – Fellowship Hall
	7:00 PM	Sacred Spaces – Memorial Sanctuary
Tuesday:	9:30 AM	Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting – Zoom
	9:30 AM	Tuesday Morning Mission – Bageant Room
Wednesday:	12:00 PM	Happy Days – Fellowship Hall
	4:30 PM	LOGOS (Theme: African Savanna Night & Teacher Night)
	7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
	7:45 PM	Christmas Cantata Rehearsal – Sanctuary
Thursday:	10:30 AM	Tai Chi – Picnic Shelter/Memorial Sanctuary
	11:00 AM	Capital Campaign Team – Fellowship Hall
	6:00 PM	Fellowship Book Club – Bageant Room
Friday:	* DEADLI	NE FOR DECEMBER NEWSLETTER *
	12:00 PM	Banana Box Drop-Off

NEXT SUNDAY – November 17

Banana Boxes Due; Blood Pressure Checks; "The Feast" Thanksgiving Meal Scriptures: 1 Samuel 1:4-20; Mark 13:1-8 Sermon: "Holding On to Hope"

- 8:30 AM Worship Sanctuary & Livestream
- 9:45 AM Faith Formation Sanctuary
- 11:00 AM Worship Sanctuary
- 12:15 PM "The Feast" Thanksgiving Meal Fellowship Hall

STEWARDSHIP CARDS FOR CHILDREN

Children can understand the concepts of giving their time, talents, and treasures to something very important. Stewardship is relevant for them too! Special Stewardship Cards have been created for our Opequon Children. The cards encourage children to think about the RIPPLE EFFECT they have in and outside the church. These cards are available in the Gathering Area. Children are invited to get one and consider how they make an impact.

THANKSGIVING BANANA BOXES – DUE NEXT SUNDAY

Banana boxes are in the Gathering Area and on the porch! Help us fill them with Thanksgiving food for families in need. All boxes are due back to the church by next **Sunday, November 17**! Special drop-off times this week:

- > Tomorrow, Monday, November 11 (5:00 PM 6:00 PM)
- Friday, November 15 (12:00 PM 1:00 PM)

OPC WOMEN & MEN – DINNER AND GAME COMPETITION

Tomorrow evening, **Monday, November 11**, the Men of Opequon (MOO) and God-Loving Opequon Women (GLOW) will gather for dinner at **6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. A full Taco Bar with all the fixings will be provided by GLOW. The men are invited to bring desserts to share. We will have fun with a rousing game of Guesstures, a hilarious game of split-second charades. All men and women of all ages are invited to come for this super fun evening.

HAPPY DAYS GATHERING

The monthly older adult fellowship time known as 'Happy Days' will be gathering this **Wednesday, November 13**, at **NOON** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a favorite dish, if you are able, for the pot-luck luncheon. Rotisserie Chicken and Drinks are provided. Our program will feature a guest singer, David Smith, who will entertain us with his delightful and fun music. All older adults are welcome. Come enjoy the friendship of one another and the delicious food.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA REHEARSALS

ALL are invited to sing the Christmas Cantata with the Choir at both services on December 22. Cantata rehearsals are on **Wednesdays** at **7:45 PM** in the Sanctuary. For details, contact Susan Homan (srh1305@verizon.net).

ROOTS & SHOOTS SEEDMONEY CHALLENGE

The 10th annual SeedMoney 30-Day Challenge begins this Friday! We would appreciate your help to meet our fundraising goal to win another grant. All donations are tax-deductible and go to support the OPC Roots & Shoots Community Garden. Online donations will be accepted beginning at **noon** on **November 15**. The more money we raise, the larger the grant we qualify to receive! There is an incentive for donations made at the beginning of the drive, so please mark your calendars to access this secure link on November 15: https://donate.seedmoney.org/10475/opc-roots-and-shoots-garden

"THE FEAST" THANKSGIVING MEAL – NEXT SUNDAY

Enjoy your first Thanksgiving meal of the year with your Opequon Church Family next **Sunday, November 17**, at **12:15 PM**! The Youth will serve the food while you sit back and enjoy fellowship with one another. Get to know the Youth as they welcome you—no reservations required. This is the Youth's fundraiser for their Christmas Service Project, their December Midnight Gladness event. Monetary donations will gladly be accepted and go to supporting families with gifts around the holidays. We look forward to seeing you! Contact Rebekah Witt with any questions.

STAFF SCHEDULING NOTES

November 12: David Witt – Funeral in NJ November 12-18: Julia Burkley – CREEDO November 15: Rachel Lesink – Out of the Office

HOLIDAY CONCERT SCHEDULES

Families with children and youth are encouraged to send their band and choir holiday concert schedules to Rebekah Witt (rwitt@opequonchurch.org). We want to come support you!

OPC T-SHIRT ORDERS

Order your OPC "Hands, Heart, & Feet" shirts by **November 30**! Sample sizes and order forms are available in the Gathering Area or you may place your order online: https://forms.gle/Yh1yqzPUcuK8gbPb6. Contact Ben Brooks (bbrooks@wcps.k12.va.us) with any questions.

WATTS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Many volunteers are needed as we host WATTS in December. Volunteer Blue Sheets are available in the Gathering Area or you can sign-up online at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CAAAD2CA64-53007786-watts

The WATTS volunteer training/info meeting will be on **December 12** at **7:00 PM**. Contact Heather Burton (mcpitch5@hotmail.com) with any questions.

WATTS SUPPLY WISH LIST

The wish list of supplies needed for the week we will be hosting WATTS (December 28 – January 4) has been posted on Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1DZ06MA778V1H?ref_=list_d_wl_lfu_nav_2

SAVE THE DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 (7:00 PM) 128th Annual Kernstown Community Thanksgiving Worship

Kernstown United Methodist Church and Opequon Presbyterian Church will worship in thanksgiving together at OPC with special music, communion, an evening offering for WATTS, and Rev. Gary Heaton preaching "The Give and Take of Thankfulness."

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- "Give Thanks" Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. All rights reserved.

All other music for this service is found in the public domain.

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WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

8:30 AM Worship Liturgist: Jay Tibbs Beadle: Tom Tandy Door Greeters: Bob & Joan Aylor, Cindy Millard Hospitality Greeters: Ben Brooks Ushers: Mike & Wendy Wygant, Mike & Trish Crawford, Claire Gaines, Caleb Garcia, London Bender Acolyte: Claire Gaines Bell Ringer: Mo Mohler Building Steward: Mike Wygant

11:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Lynn Metheny Beadle: Ray Jones Door Greeters: Jack & Christine Armstrong, Bonnie Pitzer Hospitality Greeters: Jan McMullin Ushers: Marj Praml, Kyle Homan, Jason Hathaway, Vern Gamble, Finn Berson, Bo Weber, Joshua Batcha Acolyte: Finn Berson Livestream: Susan Ritter, Rick Ours

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

>>> How did today's music witness to giving hearts?

Notes on Today's Prayers

Solution Where will you focus your prayers this week? For yourself? For others? For the world?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

>>> How does God remind us to love and serve others? How can we remind each other?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

- > What inspires us to give from the heart?
- >>> How do we try to impress God by appearances?
- > In the gospels, why did the scribes often oppose Jesus?
- >>> How does the poor widow demonstrate what it means to trust and to have faith?
- Solution What opportunities to embody the love of Jesus have you embraced? What opportunities have you overlooked?
- Solutions Where in your life is God calling you to embody the love of Jesus even when it might not be the easiest or most popular choice?

