

OPEQUON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602

540-662-1843

www.opequonchurch.org

"I Want to Know You..."
Faith Practices that are Fruitful



Justice
and
Mercy

INFORMATION FOR OUR GUESTS

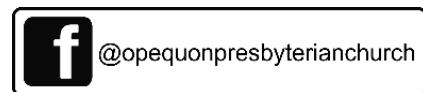
To get the most out of your visit, may we recommend you familiarize yourself with the following:

- **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:



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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.

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 Susan Homan
Organist William Heavner
Facilities Coordinator Robert Sydnor
Nursery Supervisor Laurie Carver
Faith Community Nurses Bill Martin, Mike Nutry, Pat Williams

A SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

June 30, 2024 – 10:00 AM

Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering

***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..... *Simple Gifts*

Arranged by: Tom Birchwood

(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

†GATHERING SONG No. 399 *God Welcomes All*

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;

God's love is strong and it never ends.

†CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Engage Worship)

Come everybody, gather to worship.

Everybody's welcome, God is here!

Come if you're weary, hungry or thirsty.

Everybody's welcome, God is here!

Bring your rejoicing, dancing and singing.

Everybody's welcome, God is here!

Bring all your failures, questions and sorrows.

Everybody's welcome, God is here!

Bring your questions, your worries, your celebrations.

Everybody's welcome, God is here!

Let us gather together to worship God.

†OPENING HYMN No. 515 *I Come With Joy*

**I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall, in love, laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are
friends, and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here,
alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

(Please be seated for prayer.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

We come to confession today, imperfect, tired, broken. And yet, we still come, knowing that God hears us and loves us as we are honest with ourselves and with one another. Let us confess our sins and our mistakes to God and our neighbor.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We live in a world with so much divide. So much "I am right" and "You are wrong". We are stuck on our side of the river, convinced that we are the ones who know best. No one is immune from that human condition. We forget that God, our loving God, is actually the one in charge, not us. Lord, we ask for your forgiveness. Empower us to extend our hands outwards towards people we think we are so different from. Allow us to see what we have in common, reminding us that ultimately you made each of us in your image, and that we are all beloved.

(Moments of Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

The Good News of the Gospel is that we get as many chances as we need.
God reaches God's hands out again and again, loving us and forgiving us.

LITANY OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

†RESPONSE OF PRAISE No. 750 *Goodness is Stronger than Evil*

**Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.**

Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us. [repeat]

†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 ☞

SPECIAL MUSIC *Cornerstone*

By: Hillsong Worship

Rebecca & Max Agbayani (guitar)

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 58:1-12.....Pew Bible p. 600

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Matthew 12:9-12Pew Bible p. 793

CONVERSATION WITH ALL AGES....."Let's Build a Bridge"

Pastor Julia Burkley

Nursery (Infants – Age 4)

†HYMN No. 753 *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring love.

**Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.

**Where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**

**O, Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love, with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

SERMON....."Bridge Building"
Pastor Julia Burkley

✧ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD ✧

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC..... *I Will Lay Me Down*
Arranged by: William Heavner

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

Gracious God, you have blessed us in so many ways. Let this offering be a blessing to you as we serve you in our world. May it allow us to build connections and support, allowing us to be your hands, heart, and feet in the world.

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. 754..... *Help Us Accept Each Other*

**Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.
Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.**

**Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.**

**Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!**

†CHARGE & BLESSING

Go out into this world, building bridges where there is division, just as Jesus did so many times. And may the grace and reconciling love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and seen in all that you do.

†CLOSING RESPONSE No. 372 (v. 1) *O for a World*

Text: © 1990 Medical Mission Sisters

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and praise.**

†POSTLUDE

NOTES ON TODAY'S MUSIC

"Simple Gifts" was composed in a Shaker Community in Alfred, New York, circa 1848. For a hundred years, this compelling tune was little known outside a few tiny Shaker communities. Then Aaron Copeland used it as a ballet for Martha Graham in his composition, "Appalachian Spring." Copeland's treatment of the tune supplied the opening theme music for at least two network news shows. In the early 1960's Sydney Carter composed a new set of lyrics that begin "I Danced In the Morning." This simple American tune, turned contemporary hymn, was interwoven throughout the Irish-themed musical "Lord of the Dance." The Shaker text is timeless: "'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free. 'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, And when we find ourselves in the place just right, 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight." This morning's offertory is not a hymn or classical piece. It was introduced more than fifty years ago as a piece of popular music. Its text is certainly secular, yet it seems to reflect portions of John 15: "Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." Perhaps Paul Simon had John 15 in mind when he penned: "Like a bridge over troubled water, I will lay me down."

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are given by Marsha Barley and Sherry Schryver in honor of Habitat for Humanity.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Barbie & Sara
Betty DeHaven
Family of Gayle
DeHaven
Winter Brooks
Pat deButts
Family of Louise
Galvach
Family of Aubree Dyer
Jim Callahan
NOROC Mission Team
Peggy Gruenther &
Family
Katie Happel
Tim Loftis
Dianne Gonzalez
Georgia Ricketts
Jan Ryan
Sydney & Tina Young
Emma Kate Hathaway
Richard & Pat Young
Nancy Roberts

Mady Moreland
Curt Budny
Fran Jeffries
Bettye Stirn
Tim Hoffman
Vonnie
Dave Weber
Lois Roy
Rick Ours
Cheryl Mortland
Marsha Bennett
Al & May Schollenberger
Kourtney Haake
Emma Martz
Velma Doman
Cathy & Alex Plumb &
Family
Clay Knick
Sheyenne & Dale Ervin
Nathan Windle
Tom Homan

Those Suffering from
Mental Illness
Roger Murphy
June Windle
Mike Shade
Martha Jackson
Bereaved Israelites &
Palestinians
Jewish & Muslim Victims
Worldwide
José LaMont Jones
Cindy Correll
Douglas Dicks
Michael Weller
Cindia Stewart
Rich Valenti
Nancy Kerns
Kennedy Ransom
Ukraine
Ethiopia Church Mekane
Yesus

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

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 – June 30

*"I Want to Know You" Faith Practices: "Justice & Mercy"
Habitat for Humanity Paint Can Offering*

- 10:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
1:00 PM Youth Mission Trip Meeting – Assembly Room
2:00 PM Scam Prevention Workshop – Fellowship Hall

THIS WEEK

- Monday: 6:30 PM Windsong – Sanctuary
Tuesday: 10:00 AM Staff Meeting – Bageant Room
7:00 PM Youth Parent Hangout (Kirsta & Ben Weber's Home)
Thursday: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (Independence Day)

NEXT SUNDAY – July 7

Faith Practices: "Listening"

Communion; Patriotic Music; CCAP

Scriptures: Isaiah 55:3, 10-13; James 1:19-25 Sermon: "Sorry, Did You Say Something?"

- 10:00 AM Worship – Sanctuary & Livestream
11:15 AM Opie's Playhouse – Playground

DON'T GET SCAMMED!

State Trooper Adam Galton will be at OPC **today** at **2:00 PM** to present a seminar about scams and how to avoid them! This workshop is open to everyone and is sponsored by Congregational Care.

THESE DAYS DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

The July – September issue of *THESE DAYS* Devotionals is available on the Gathering Area table. The writers this quarter focus on how our faith in God is a constant that accompanies us daily. We don't know what lies ahead, but we know that we walk with God here and now. Pick up a copy while supplies last.

STAFF SCHEDULE NOTES

David and Carole Witt are attending the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah this week, and then will be on vacation until Sunday, July 14. Please reach out to Pastor Julia or Pastor Tracie during this time.

SAVE THE DATE: Homecoming Sunday

Mark your calendars for Homecoming Sunday on **August 18** and celebrate YOU and everyone who makes this church feel like home! See details in the July newsletter!

Poem by Rev. Tommy Carrico

I stopped noticing bridges
Reliable, familiar connections
Over a highway or across a river
Like two bridges I cross to
Take my kids to school.

The givenness of bridges emerges from reliable,
Sturdy paths: paved, smooth, familiar.
Bridges planned and bridges built.
Weeks and years of work.
I'd taken the work for granted.

Building bridges is construction,
Planning, upkeep, repair, and use.
Stationary structures in constant motion:
Stillness masks unceasing work
To make connections safe.

Unsafe connections don't connect;
Unsafe bridges can't bridge.
Unsafe and uncertain, disconnected neighbors
Remain across a highway
Or on different shores of the same river.

Two people, two groups, two congregations, two neighborhoods
Smiling or waving
Risk-free coexistence replacing
The work of building a highway crossing
Or paths across a river.

These not-bridges, tenuous connections
Are less stable, less safe, less certain
Than sturdy bridges that took years to build:
People working together to make
Complacency the greatest risk.

[This section is meant to be read through three times: first, read it straight through;
then read only the lines in regular type; then read only the italicized lines.]

Maybe we need to keep our distance,
while we heal or learn or wait
Maybe some bridges aren't ours to build, so
we hope for other builders, other bridges.

Maybe coexistence is as close as we can get to compromise
when past hurts haunt our present
Maybe we can only wave or smile because
we struggle to see God across the highway or the river.

Maybe smiles desire to connect
when we can't connect all the way across
Maybe waves are carefully considered confessions:
we aren't sure if it's safe to connect at all.

Going to school or returning home
Would be difficult without connections,
Or without safety,
If threats of harm challenged
The promise of bridges.

We'd have to find another highway or risk traffic,
Ford the river or risk being swept away,
Or my daughters and I would wave
As their friends and teachers wave back.
Across unbridged divisions.

Maybe we'd wonder how to draw nearer
Or maybe we'd accept distance
As a natural part of the world we've built
Where people work together to threaten
Instead of building bridges.

Our world needs bridges:
Trusted, sturdy, safe,
Stronger than smiles or waves
Or polite coexistence, but
Bridges need unceasing work.

By human hands or by humans in God's hands
Whichever makes unceasing work make sense,
The job of the bridge-builders is becoming most difficult.
But there are still highways and rivers,
So there is still the promise of bridges.

And if there is still the promise of bridges,
There is still the promise of bridge-building,
There is still the possibility of safe connections,
There is stillness and unceasing work,
There is still hope.

WORSHIP SERVANTS FOR TODAY

10:00 AM Worship

Liturgist: Rebecca Agbayani

Beadle: Clayton Carbaugh

Door Greeters: Bonnie Pitzer, Linda Butler

Hospitality Greeters: Don & Barbara Ratcliff

Ushers: Jim Youngblood, Mike Nutry, Terry Hartman, Claire Gaines, Dakota Davis

Acolyte: Claire Gaines

Livestream: Susan Ritter, Rebekah Witt

Building Stewards: Steve & Heather Burton

WORSHIP NOTES & REFLECTIONS

Notes on Today's Music

✂ How does today's music talk about bridge building?

Notes on Today's Prayers

✂ Who could you reach out to to let them know you are praying for them this week?

Notes on Today's Conversation with All Ages

✂ Where have you built a bridge in your own life?

Notes on Today's Scripture and Sermon

✂ What does it mean to be called a 'repairer of the breach?'

✂ What are places that you have seen bridges being built?

✂ What does it mean for a bridge to be broken? What are we called to do about that?

✂ -How does bridge building relate to justice and mercy?

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