



The Opequon Spirit

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

MAY 2020

LIVESTREAMED WORSHIP IN MAY—11:00 am

Sunday, May 3rd – OLDER ADULT SUNDAY

Scripture: Psalm 23, John 10:1-10

Sermon: "Know Christ's Voice"

Communion at Home

Honoring and Celebrating Our Older Adults

Sunday, May 10th – MOTHER'S DAY/CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

Sermon: "Living Out the Way, the Truth, and the Life"

Honoring Those Who Are Moms to Us!

Celebrating Families!

Sunday, May 17th – PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY

Scripture: Acts 17:22-31, John 14:15-21

Sermon: "Belonging and Becoming"

Celebrating the Gifts of Our Heritage & God's Call Today

Sunday, May 24th – MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Scripture: Acts 1:6-14, John 17:1-11

Sermon: "Turning Eyes to Heaven"

Remembering Those Who Served & Died

Sunday, May 31st – THE DAY OF PENTECOST – WEAR RED WHEREVER YOU ARE THAT DAY!

Scripture: Psalm 104:24-34, Acts 2:1-21

Sermon: "Breathing New Life"

Communion at Home

Doves & Pentecost Offering

ZOOM SUPPORT

Visit ZOOM.com to learn more about how to use the ZOOM video conferencing and meeting

program. There is a support page in the upper right corner where you can watch helpful videos.

MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT Via ZOOM

Tuesday, May 2nd

Devotions/Shared Time—6:45 pm

Break Out Meetings—7:00 pm

COLLECTING FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES



Macaroni & Cheese—Any Type

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHURCH

If you do not receive Church-Wide emails and would like to, please contact Cathy in the church office office@opequonchurch.org. We send out resources, videos, pictures, announcements, and more!



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

On Friday, May 1st, and Monday, May 25th, the church office will be closed.

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR "A Season of Becoming"

Dear Friends in Christ,

Since the second week of March, my email inbox has ramped up considerably with resources, ideas, reflections, and opportunities coming from all over the world. We have incorporated some of those ideas into our weekly worship, educational and outreach opportunities. We have contemplated some other plans going forward. I have attended some webinars and discovered ZOOM, both as a participant and now as a host/administrator. As I continually observe, the Lord of the Dance is teaching us to dance in new ways!

Early-on, I participated in a webinar offered by Fresh Expressions, an organization that focuses on sustaining and renewing churches. I was aware of their mission and core values, but until this pandemic struck, I didn't avail myself of their resources. The day after Easter, I received this thoughtful, uplifting, and challenging email from their U.S. national director, Chris Backert ...

"I am no statistician, nor have I read any reports, but I believe something happened yesterday that we cannot overlook. ***On April 12, 2020, it is highly likely that more people heard the good news of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead than any other single day in the history of the world.*** Think about it: since the very first Easter, there has been no single day where more people were presented with the essential message of the Christian story – that Christ is Risen. The beauty of this reality is underscored by the fact that the gospel was held forth to untold multitudes by the "big C" church. There were Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox, Pentecostals and those who don't fit into those big categories. There were big churches, small churches, high churches, and low churches. Yesterday was historic. Now it is Monday. Along with billions of people around the world, we have not yet been released from the

confines caused by the pandemic. This kind of moment should not be unfamiliar. In the weeks following the resurrection, the people of God were also in a "waiting game". Yet, they were not idle. Jesus used the days after the resurrection to ensure that his followers were ready for the coming Pentecost. They grew in confidence of his resurrection, the power of the Holy Spirit, the knowledge of the kingdom of God and a strategy for bearing witness.

Jesus used their in-between time to prepare them for a day coming when the church would be released. It is likely that many parts of the world will "re-open" somewhere between now and Pentecost. ***When this happens, the church will be released into a new world. We must be prepared...***

In the next weeks, more opportunities to be prepared will be coming as we all anticipate a church ready for an awakening that God may be calling forth...the future of the Church is here, sooner than we thought!"

In this troubled, anxious, unsettled, and fearful time, Easter certainly was a BIG DAY! We celebrated the gift of resurrection hope and joy, God's Easter surprise. The good news circled the globe! Here at Opequon Church, in the sanctuary, and in homes in multiple states and around the world, we sang hymns, shared familiar scripture, prayed, contemplated, and broke the bread and lifted the cup of communion. While it was certainly different this year gazing at the gorgeous tulips while seeing a near empty sanctuary, we still proclaimed, "Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!" Nothing could stop that message from being announced. For as the apostle Paul writes in Romans 8, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." And in this time of challenge and opportunity for the world, we, as a church, are in a season of becoming. We are growing in God's grace, we are connecting and re-connecting with one another, and we are thriving in new forms of ministry and expanding relationships. Life is changing around us and within us, so how will

we be shaped for the future? I believe you and I will look back and discover that this season of becoming will transform us as disciples of Jesus and as Christ's Church and set our spiritual journey on a new course of gratitude and service.

Together in Christ's Service,

David

Remember
OPC
in
Your Will

"Snackin' & Chattin' with the Pastor"
Wednesdays in May
12:00-12:45 pm
Have a snack at home/in office
Talk & Pray with Pastor David & Others
via ZOOM
Begins Wednesday, May 6th

JUST THINKIN'

May Day (May 1) is a holiday rich in history and folklore, celebrating the return of spring! May Day has its roots in astronomy. We are (about) halfway between the spring equinox and the summer solstice! It's one of the Celtic cross-quarter days, which celebrated the midway points between all solstices and equinoxes of the year.

As with many early holidays, May Day was rooted in agriculture. Springtime celebrations filled with dance and song hailed the sown fields starting to sprout. Cattle were driven to pasture, special bonfires were lit, and both doors of houses and livestock were decorated with yellow May flowers.

Later, celebrations evolved to speak more to the "bringing in the May" with the gathering of

wildflowers and green branches, the weaving of floral garlands, the crowning of a May king and queen, and the setting up of a decorated May tree, or Maypole, around which people danced. Such rites originally may have been intended to ensure fertility for crops and, by extension, for livestock and humans, but in most cases this significance was gradually lost, so that the practices survived largely as popular festivities.

Do you remember May baskets? Ours were made from pages torn out of old wallpaper books. Most were simple cones, but a few were made with corners and scallops. In New York we did not have a lot of fresh flowers to put in the baskets, but as the child of a florist, I never had to worry. We would sneak out early in the morning to hang our baskets on doorknobs. Then we would ring the doorbell and run. If the recipient could catch us, they could kiss us. Oy!

Maypoles had died out by the time I was a teen. Originally, the Maypole was a living tree brought in from the woods with much merrymaking. Ancient Celts danced around the tree, praying for good crops and fertility. For younger people, there was the possibility of courtship. If paired by sundown, the courtship continued so that the couple could get to know each other and marry six weeks later on June's Midsummer's Day. This is how the "June Wedding" became a tradition.

The strict Puritans of New England considered the celebrations of May Day to be licentious and pagan, so they forbade its observance, and the springtime holiday never became an important part of American culture as it has in many European countries.

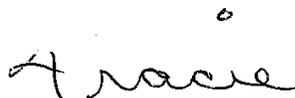
It seems to me that this May Day might be especially important. The weather has been harsh and unpredictable. We have been shut in and it does not look like we will be out any time soon. Here are some ideas to help brighten your May.

1. Give out a May basket or two. The kissing is optional. Cookies can replace

the flowers if you cannot get out to pick them.

2. Make a May bush. The May bush was decorated with ribbons and strips of cloth. Try hanging short pieces of brightly colored yarn, soft material or thread. Birds are making nests just now. Your scraps will help the birds and you can spot their nests easier when you take a walk.
3. Discern and respond to a Mayday. The call Mayday has nothing to do with the month of May. It comes from the French, "M'aidez!" or, "Help me!". Given our current changed situation, why not use the month of May to look for small signs that help is needed. So often the things we need most are acts of kindness that remind us someone cares. A wave matters – even from 6 feet. A card, note, or phone call could make a difference in someone's less than joyful day.
4. Consider a Kentucky Derby Day. The Kentucky Derby starts off the month of May as it runs on the first Saturday. Dress up and wear a hat. Take pictures and post them for friends to see. Nothing says fun like a silly hat.
5. If all else fails, get up early on May 1 and wash your face with dew (or snow) to ensure the highest level of beauty and bring you good luck. Traditionally, this is done by women... but guys... knock yourselves out!

Ultimately, joy is a choice. We need to be careful. WE must take this virus seriously. We can still, however, have a laugh or two. I know I intend to do just that.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

April 21, 2020 Stated Meeting

- The Session's April meeting was held using the ZOOM technology. It worked well.
- Building & Grounds reported that both elevator repair and guttering repair were almost complete.
- Work on the mold abatement began today.
- Our problems with the stove in the kitchen are well documented. Session authorized a serious study of replacement.
- Even though church income has held up well in this crisis, Session decided fiscal prudence dictated that we defer painting the sanctuary.
- Due to hardship, the tenants in the manse will be leaving at the end of April. Session authorized looking for new tenants and offering either a six or twelve month lease.
- The Technology & Communication Team has developed a plan for integrating the new REALM software, beginning with staff.
- Opequon has obtained a professional ZOOM license with Pastor Witt holding the license. This will allow us to hold virtual meetings until we can reopen the church.
- Session approved a payment of 50% of salary to our nursery staff covering the period from the beginning of the shutdown through May 1.
- Stewardship & Finance reported that income has held up well. There are certain benefits available to churches that, at this time, we are not taking advantage of, so that others in more need can avail themselves of them.
- The new organ is coming from a business in Maryland. They are under a shutdown order, so installation will be delayed until that order is lifted.

- On recommendation of the Worship Ministry, Session approved three services on Christmas Eve, at 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00 pm, and a single service at 10:00 am the Sunday after Christmas.
- The Vision Ministry reported that we have acquired new banners and they will soon appear in the sanctuary.
- There will be communion at the May 3 service.
- The Annual Leadership Retreat will be held via ZOOM, probably over two evenings in May.
- The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee continues its work.
- ✓ Prayer requests – call the church office at 540-662-1843 or email office@opequonchurch.org.
- ✓ Shopping for groceries – call Carole Witt in the church office during office hours; call Rebekah Witt at 540-686-0752 in the evening or on weekends.
- ✓ A hot, lunchtime meal delivered on Tuesdays to your door – call Carole or Rebekah.
- ✓ Yard work by youth and young adults; childcare by youth and young adults. Call Rebekah.
- ✓ Pen pals. Call Rebekah.
- ✓ Just to talk and/or pray– call Pastor David Witt at 540-931-2390 or Pastor Tracie Martin at 304-856-2080.

**WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GIFTS...
WE ENCOURAGE YOUR CONTINUED
FINANCIAL SUPPORT!**

- ✓ **Mail it** to Opequon Church, 217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602
- ✓ **Drop it** by the church by calling ahead and ringing the doorbell upon arrival. You can use the mail slot in the door (that leads to the Dell Room) after hours.
- ✓ **Set it up** through an on-line banking transfer with your local bank. You may specify the amount and the day you want your contribution sent to OPC, just like the bills you pay on-line. The advantages are convenience, time savings, and for many forgetfulness.
- ✓ **Click it** on the Donate Now button on the church website.

**WE ARE A COMMUNITY, A CALLED
COMMUNITY OF FAITH, SERVING AND
HELPING!**

Please remember that our church’s ministry is strong and thriving during these days of concern and crisis. Don’t hesitate to share your needs...

THE LATEST IN LOGOS

Wednesday continues to be a special day with the weekly email that goes out to all the LOGOS families and staff. Hopefully, the messages provide a little mid-week boost and lets you know that you are missed as we all adjust to doing many things differently. The LOGOS Leadership Team will be spending time reviewing the evaluation feedback we received from this past year. This information is valuable to us as we look ahead and plan for a new LOGOS year. We do hope to have a LOGOS celebration night with LOGOS young people, their families and the staff in upcoming months that will help us bridge from this past year to a brand-new year. We will certainly spread the word when any plans come into focus.

CONFIRMATION CONNECTION

Hats off to our confirmation students who have been continuing to complete assignments that have been sent to them on a weekly basis. Students also joined in a ZOOM meeting with Pastor David and class leaders for a time of reviewing the assignment of their final paper. The students are prepared to write their

confirmation papers and will be sharing them with covenant partners and the Session members on May 19 at 7:00 pm via ZOOM. Confirmation Day will be held sometime later. Thank you for your continued prayers for the students; **Jack Hathaway, Grace Morgan, Sydney Sardelis, and Addison Williams** as they go through this year together.

FAITH FORMATION CLASS RESUMES VIA ZOOM!

Plan to join our Spiritual Growth Faith Formation Class, beginning, Sunday, May 3 at 9:30 am. This class, facilitated by Dave Richards, uses the *Feasting on the Word* curriculum, which explores the weekly scripture readings from worship. Anyone may join the class, not simply those who have been a part of it before. Learn and grow and fellowship together! A ZOOM link will be sent out to the congregation. But, plan ahead for this enriching time each Sunday.



THE LENT CROSS CHALLENGE

Magnificent! Splendid! Inventive! Artistic! These words describe the 32 crosses that were made during the Lent CROSS Challenge! Thank you to all who created and contributed to this experience. What a gift to see each cross that was a labor of your personal expressions. The crosses are all on display in one of the glass cabinets of the Gallery hallway (that is the hallway which connects the Gathering Area to the Dell Room entrance). They will remain there for a while providing plenty of time for everyone to admire them.

GIFT EVENT FOR ALL AGES: Sunday, May 31, 9:30 am

“GIFT” stands for Generations in Faith Together, providing an opportunity for all ages to join together to learn and share. The theme of the GIFT event on **May 31 is “Belonging to God’s Family.”** Our morning activities will be based on Psalm 100:3, Romans 14:8, and 1 John 3:1. God created all humanity and claims us as his own! There is affirmation for all of us. We will explore how marvelous it is to belong to God. Plan to be part of this GIFT experience through ZOOM right from your own home. Wear RED as it is Pentecost Day, so we can see a sea of RED as we tune in with one another. Have some items ready to eat that ‘go together’ such as toast and jelly, eggs and bacon, cereal and milk, or coffee and muffin. Look forward to a joyful morning experience.

EXPLORE OPEQUON

Beautiful spring days lure us to the outdoors. You are invited to enjoy the outdoors all around Opequon Church through the ‘EXPLORE OPEQUON’ experience. (this is like the “Holy Week Walk” that many of you did, only with a different focus: *fun exploration!*) EXPLORE OPEQUON will be available for your enjoyment Sunday, May 3-Sunday, May 10. Come anytime

in the morning, afternoon, or evening to experience the fun all around the church grounds. Many people truly miss being at the church, so this is an opportunity to come and be around here. The exploration begins on the COVERED FRONT PORCH with guide pages located in the bin with the GREEN lid. Take an instruction sheet and begin the fun! You'll discover things like a message in a church window, great views, and maybe a ribbon around an old tree!

'VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN A BIN'

How can we fit VBS in a BIN? The Vacation Bible School Planning Team is playing it SAFE and approaching a week of VBS fun from a different angle. With orders to stay at home and keep social distancing in place, we will bring VBS TO YOU in a BIN! No registration necessary *and* no forms to fill out. The VBS Bin will contain activities, goodies and loads of fun all centered around the theme, **Fruit of the Spirit**, to provide a week of enrichment for an early summer month. More great news—the VBS in a BIN will be delivered right to your home in June! This is all in process now. On a VBS BLITZ DAY in JUNE, deliveries will take place. It is certainly something to look forward to!



GOD LOVING OPEQUON WOMEN

Wishing good health and happiness to all Opequon women! Although we are not able to come together at this time, the virus cannot keep us from reminiscing about some of our favorite, fun times at GLOW. Perhaps times like BUNCO games, Dinner Out, Fondue Party, Filling Easter Baskets for Orchard View Elementary School, the Sock Swap at Christmas one year, or Minute-to-Win-It games came to mind. There have been so many great evenings of laughter together, and WE WILL RETURN TO THOSE TIMES AGAIN when it is safe to do so. What can we do right

now to help fill that void? Let's try the art of writing a note to another OPC woman. Light up someone's day with a note in the mail to them. We are probably thinking of each other and missing each other, so jot a note of friendship to someone. Keep the postal service busy!

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

The best thing you can do right now is to continue taking care of yourself and stay healthy! If you have needs, please call the church office to let us know how we can help you. The Older Adult Ministry Team will be looking at our schedule of events for Happy Days, those gatherings we have missed and those coming up, to make adjustments when needed in the programs. Don't fret, we will still try to offer all the plans we had hoped to share, just in a different time frame than we had thought.

If you can do so, you are invited to bring rolls of paper towels or small bottles of dish soap, drop them off in the bin outside the church doors, and these will go directly to support our Motel Ministry that is ongoing. Thank you very much!

NOMINATE AN OLDER ADULT FOR "OPEQUON'S 2020 OLDER ADULT"

So many of our older adults have been recognized as our "Older Adults of the Year". We celebrate that those crowned in the past are Roy Bayliss, John Boyd, Frances Smith, Louise Duncan, Bill Robinson, Shirley and Dave Brumble, Rob MacGregor, Ty Headley, Edgar Tufts, Howard Kent, Donna Coffman, Betty Ganoë, Carol Tubbs, Graham Taylor, Carol and Jack Treece, Dick and Gail Crane, and Martha Fulton. There is still time to get a nomination in for who you would like to see get this special honor. Who would you like to nominate? Share who you nominate and **WHY**. Nominations are **due by May 6** and they may come from anyone in the

congregation. You may email your nomination to Carole Witt (dce@opequonchurch.org) or Steve Brown (1417magruder@gmail.com) or mail it to the church (217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602). The session will review the nominations and make their selection at their May meeting. The 2020 Older Adult of the Year will be announced later and honored at the Older Adult Luncheon that will be scheduled for a later date.

YOUTH GROUP UPDATES

- ❖ Hop on Zoom with Rebekah & Joel Witt every Thursday at Noon for some hangout time and games!
- ❖ Have you been participating in the daily challenges? Follow the Opequon Youth Facebook page, Instagram, or check your Remind texts to stay updated.

YOUNG ADULT & COLLEGE STUDENT ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

- ✚ Bible Study is held every Wednesday at 7:15 pm on Zoom for College Students & Young Adults (Ages 18-35). Let Rebekah Witt know if you have questions.
- ✚ Additional virtual opportunities will be scheduled

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS



During this pandemic you may be feeling stressed, isolated, fearful, and anxious. It is important to know the signs of stress. The Substance Abuse and Mental

Health Services Administration shares the following signs of stress and strategies to cope.

YOUR BEHAVIOR:

- An increase or decrease in your energy and activity levels

- An increase in your alcohol, tobacco use, or use of illegal drugs
- An increase in irritability, with outbursts of anger and frequent arguing
- Having trouble relaxing or sleeping
- Crying frequently
- Worrying excessively
- Wanting to be alone most of the time
- Blaming other people for everything
- Having difficulty communicating or listening
- Having difficulty giving or accepting help
- Inability to feel pleasure or have fun

YOUR BODY:

- Having stomachaches or diarrhea
- Having headaches and other pains
- Losing your appetite or eating too much
- Sweating or having chills
- Getting tremors or muscle twitches
- Being easily startled

YOUR EMOTIONS:

- Being anxious or fearful
- Feeling depressed, guilty, angry, heroic, euphoric, or invulnerable
- Not caring about anything
- Feeling overwhelmed by sadness

YOUR THINKING:

- Having trouble remembering things
- Feeling confused
- Having trouble thinking clearly and concentrating
- Having difficulty making decisions

What can you do?

- Stay up to date on what is happening, while limiting your media exposure. Avoid watching or listening to news reports 24/7 since this tends to increase anxiety and worry. Remember that children are especially affected by what they hear and see on television.
- Look to credible sources for information on the infectious disease outbreak including the CDC and Virginia Department of Health.

Connect with others

- Reaching out to people you trust is one of the best ways to reduce anxiety, depression, loneliness, and boredom during social distancing, quarantine, and isolation.
- Use the telephone, email, text messaging, and social media to connect with friends, family, and others.
- Talk "face to face" with friends and loved ones using Skype, Zoom or FaceTime

Reach out to your doctor or Faith Community Nurse

- Your doctor may have modified working hours but may also be seeing patients remotely thorough Skype and FaceTime. Call their office and see what is available.

Use practical ways to cope and relax

- Relax your body often by doing things that work for you-take deep breaths, stretch, meditate, or pray or engage in activities you enjoy.
- Pace yourself between stressful activities, and do something fun after a hard task.
- Talk about your experiences and feelings to loved ones and friends, if you find it helpful.
- Maintain a sense of hope and positive thinking; consider keeping a journal where you write down things you are grateful for or that are going well.

Remember God's words, *"For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, and My covenant of peace will not be shaken," says the Lord who has compassion on you.*
Isaiah 54:10

GOOD NEWS IS OURS TO TELL!

The ministry of Opequon Church is flourishing in this time of crisis. We are helping one another, staying connected, and reaching out to our community. It is a massive undertaking, because our congregation is large and engaged and interactive, and we are doing ministry in new ways. But, we are following Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Dance, who is teaching us to dance with new steps! We want to continually provide good news of what is happening within the church's life. Some of this has been highlighted by Pastors David and Tracie on-line and through email, but we want everyone to know...



- ❖ Our Sunday livestreamed worship is reaching people across the state and nation and even to the far reaches of the world. More and more people are listening!
- ❖ We are responding to shopping needs not only within the congregation but within the neighborhoods adjacent to us. People call, we take down their list, we send a photo to a shopper, they shop and deliver. Call the church if you need shopping.
- ❖ We have delivered a lunchtime meal each Tuesday for the past six weeks, beginning with 27 in week 1, now over 50 each week. Call the church if you would like a meal delivery.
- ❖ People have sewn hundreds of masks for Blue Ridge Hospice, Spring Arbor Assisted Living, Winchester Medical Center, and the church.
- ❖ Thirteen different people are making at least weekly calls to many of our mature members. Others are calling because they simply love and miss one another.
- ❖ People are driving by peoples' homes and waving and cheering when they are out on an errand.

- ❖ People recorded daily videos for Lent. Church staff are now facilitating other encouraging videos.
- ❖ People are posting “thanks” on Facebook and writing the church and staff thank you notes.
- ❖ People are calling and emailing the church to express gratitude.
- ❖ People are generously giving to the church by stopping by, by mailing, by on-line transfers and donate now.
- ❖ Our young people are doing yard work upon request and are also willing to help with childcare.
- ❖ Pastor Tracie emails our daily reflections and her “good gossip” to our mature members and all who request a copy.
- ❖ We are having ZOOM meetings and gatherings for ministry teams, session, faith formation, GIFT, youth, and confirmation. Watch for new opportunities springing up!
- ❖ The Community Garden work continues, with many cleaning off and weeding and planting for a new season.
- ❖ Our “Holy Grounds” Landscaping Team is ready to take off!
- ❖ Weekly communication goes out to our families through Faith 5, video scripture readings, and “things to do and think about.”
- ❖ People are praying for one another, our community, nation, and world.

The church is alive and responding to Christ’s call to serve. Thanks be to God!

SUPPORT FOR MOTEL MINISTRY

Every fourth Sunday of the month we continue to provide those living in a local motel with basic necessities. There is a need for donations such as dish sponges, dish soap, laundry detergent pods, dryer sheets, tooth brushes, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, cracker packs, granola bars, oatmeal packs, boxes of easy mac & cheese, and ramen noodle packs. You may also provide a hot food

item such as lasagna or soup. Please drop off donations during Church Office hours or contact Rebekah Witt with any questions at 540-686-0752, wittrc@dukes.jmu.edu.

OUTREACH THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Opequon’s engagement in mission is strong! We are especially supporting...

- Our Motel Ministry (see related article on this page.)
- Bright Futures, feeding the children of Winchester and Frederick County (food donations are welcome e.g. 100% juice boxes, granola bars, cup of soups, cracker packs, boxes of oatmeal packets).
- Highland Food Pantry
- Sherando Food Pantry
- Emergency Shelter at Shenandoah University coordinated by Winchester Rescue Mission

Your food, in-kind, and financial donations are appreciated.

EGG CARTON BIN NOW OUTSIDE

A bin for egg cartons for Highland Food Pantry is now outside of the office entrance, available for drop-off each day during the above office hours. The pantry still needs the egg cartons for weekly distribution.

BRIGHT FUTURES BIN NOW OUTSIDE

We continue to support Bright Futures in feeding the children and youth of Winchester and Frederick County. Non-perishable food items may be placed in a bin outside of the office entrance, again available each day during the above office hours.



SIGNS OF NEW LIFE ON EASTER!

The tulips in the Sanctuary were absolutely gorgeous on

Easter Sunday! Thank you to all who contributed. We thank Robin Eddy and Lisa Reed for arranging them, watering them, and getting them ready for pick-up.

WRM Emergency Shelter

Help us fight the COVID-19 threat to those experiencing homelessness. Your assistance will provide shelter, food and personal protection supplies to individuals in need.

- New twin sheet sets with pillow cases
- Lightweight blankets
- Towels and wash cloths
- Travel size deodorants, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Trash bags - 55 gallon size
- Facemasks
- Rubber gloves
- Cleaning supplies

Sorry, we cannot accept used donations at this time!

Donations can be dropped off at:
Shenandoah University
Armory Building
608 Millwood Dr.
Winchester, VA 22601
Starting
Wednesday, April 15th
9 AM-5 PM
Drop Off hours will continue
Mon-Fri 9 AM-5 PM daily
or
Purchase from our Amazon
Wish List and ship to:
Winchester Rescue Mission
435 N. Cameron St.
Winchester, VA 22601

WINCHESTER
RESCUE MISSION

Thank you for your support! We couldn't do what we do without you!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

We are most grateful for the notes, calls, emails, and texts of encouragement, reflecting appreciation for our church staff, for everyone who is keeping our ministry thriving, and for your church family. Your continuing support means so much. We also thank you for your faithful stewardship, for egg boxes, for contributions to Bright Futures, and for donations to One Great Hour of Sharing. Our Holy Week was a blessed time to draw near to our God of steadfast love. We celebrate the

hope of resurrection and promise of new life, whether we are together or apart!

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

Dear Pastor Witt,
The Board of the Cross Creek Village Homeowners Association wants to thank you, your staff, and the congregation on behalf of all our residents for your offer of shopping and cooking for the seniors in our community. In difficult times such as these, it is not only a virus that spreads among people, but also kindness and generosity of heart. We want you to know that your wonderful outreach to our community is very much appreciated. Thank you for all you are doing for people in need. Blessings for your work and THANK YOU.
The Board of Cross Creek Village

When the lovely Natalie came to my door today with an arm full of food, I was so impressed. Not only to see someone from church but with an amazing meal which was a delicious and healthy feast. It was much more than I could eat at one meal so I had plenty of leftovers to enjoy. The kitchen group is providing a wonderful service and deserve so much credit. Looking forward to seeing so many friendly faces hopefully in the not too distant future.

Jean Smith

Yesterday, I was delightfully surprised when another member of Opequon delivered a ham (early traditional Easter) dinner and Sunday's bulletin to me. I regret that I did not ask her name, but would you please extend my thanks to her, to Carole Witt who, I understand, prepared the meal, and to others who assisted with this effort. Blessing to all of you.

Peggy Myer

Dear Friends,
Thank you for the loaf of bread I found on my door the other day. I look forward to the time

we will all be together again. Thank you for being there for all of us.

In Christ,
Don Larsen

Dear OPC Congregation,
Thank you for all the cards, texts, emails and for keeping us in your prayers, since Mom's passing. Your thoughtfulness has made these recent days easier to bear.

Love,
Dana, Dave, James & AnnMarie

Dear Opequon,
I recently ran across a few words in a pamphlet while I was volunteering at the hospital and it said what I wanted to say to Opequon.

"Just a note to say I'm thinking of you" and then "some people knock on the door of our lives."

Our country has been turned upside down and I know we may not be able to solve all problems, but our friends, our churches and those who faithfully tend to the needs of Opequon...prove to be valuable people that are the ones who touch our lives. The term "caregiver" certainly is applicable to the congregation of Opequon.

Thank you for the delicious meal delivered to my door last week. I sincerely appreciate your thoughtfulness.

With hopefulness & prayers,
Bobbie Cropp

Church Family,
Jeanette and I would like to say thanks for the food, calls, live stream, and all the love. We feel truly blessed.

Jim Baccary



Tiffanie & Joshua Hartman
announce the April
9th birth of Jaden
Mitchell Hartman.
Jaden is the

grandson of Terry & Clayton Hartman and

great-grandson of Barbara & Carroll Youngblood. Jaden joins brother Jace at home. May God bless and nurture Jaden and his family.



We express our Christian love and sympathy to...

Wanda Royston & Phyllis Gamble upon the death of their husband and father, Jim Royston on April 13

Pat Williams upon the death of her brother Larry Williams on April 13

Robin Owens & family upon the death of her father, Tom Harmon on April 22

*"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*

My Name is I AM

- Helen Mallicoat

I was regretting the past
and fearing the future.
Suddenly my Lord was speaking:
He paused. I waited. He continued.
"When you live in the past
with its mistakes and regrets,
it is hard. I am not there.
My name is not I WAS.
When you live in the future,
with its problems and fears,
it is hard. I am not there.
My name is not I WILL BE.
When you live in this moment,
it is not hard. I am here.
My name is I AM.

How to Livestream Opequon Presbyterian Church Worship **or** **Watch Other Recorded Opequon Videos**

***You have a few options for getting to Opequon's livestream worship and other recorded Opequon videos. Try the first one and if that doesn't work, try another. If you have questions, please let Rebekah Witt know at wittrc@dukes.jmu.edu or 540-686-0752.

Option 1:

1. Go to the internet (ex-Internet Explorer, Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari, Mozilla Firefox) on your phone, computer, or tablet
2. Click the internet search bar and type in [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Hit the enter or return key on your keyboard
3. Once YouTube.com has loaded, click in the search bar so that you see your cursor flashing
4. Type opequon presbyterian church and hit the enter key or return key on your keyboard
5. When you see a circular picture of Opequon, click it. If you are looking for livestream worship happening at that moment, it should automatically pop up. Different videos will load. You may click on any video to watch it
6. Click on the "[Videos](#)" tab, which is underneath the circular picture of the church
7. All our Opequon Church videos and livestream worship will load. You may click on any video to watch it

Option 2:

1. Go to the internet (ex-Internet Explorer, Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari, Mozilla Firefox) on your phone, computer, or tablet
2. Click the internet search bar and type in [opequonchurch.org](https://www.opequonchurch.org). Hit the enter or return key on your keyboard
3. Once the Church website has loaded, a pop-up box will appear with a caution picture and some text
4. Click the words, "live stream"
5. If you are looking for livestream worship happening at that moment, it should automatically pop up. Different videos will load. You may click on any video to watch it
6. Click on the "[Videos](#)" tab, which is underneath the circular picture of the church
7. All our Opequon Church videos and livestream worship will load. You may click on any video to watch it

Option 3:

1. Go to the internet (ex-Internet Explorer, Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari, Mozilla Firefox) on your phone, computer, or tablet
2. Click the internet search bar and type in [opequonchurch.org](https://www.opequonchurch.org). Hit the enter or return key on your keyboard
3. The Church website will load. Look for the thin, blue banner at the very top of the page
4. Click the words, "click here to livestream," which are found on the blue banner
5. If you are looking for livestream worship happening at that moment, it should automatically pop up. Different videos will load. You may click on any video to watch it
6. Click on the "[Videos](#)" tab, which is underneath the circular picture of the church
7. All our Opequon Church videos and livestream worship will load. You may click on any video to watch it.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
March 2020

EXPENSES	2020 Budget	Net Expenses Current Month	Net Expenses Year to Date	Budget Balance Remaining
Administrative Ministry	491,600	37,857	117,403	374,197
Christian Education Ministry	13,550	1,162	3,117	10,433
Congregational Care Ministry	1,400	(50)	(28)	1,428
Evangelism Ministry	2,350	0	275	2,075
Fellowship Ministry	3,500	376	722	2,778
Mission Ministry	60,750	2,320	7,254	53,496
Worship Ministry	7,250	320	753	6,497
Capital Expenses	114,250	9,584	28,751	85,499
	694,650	51,569	158,246	536,404

INCOME	2020 Budget	Current Month	Year to Date	Budget Balance Remaining
Envelope Offerings	683,000	83,119	169,231	513,769
Loose	5,300	156	1,026	4,274
Total Operating Income from Offerings	688,300	83,275	170,257	518,043
Adjustments to Income				
Checking Account Interest (Regular Checking Only)		30	105	
Room/Facility Usage		0	0	
Wedding Fees		0	0	
Amazon Smile Program		0	20	
Manse Rental Income, net		1,150	3,650	
Operating Income After Adjustments		84,454	174,032	
Operating Expenses		51,569	158,246	
Cash Receipts in Excess of (Less than) Cash Disbursements		32,885	15,785	

First Bank Operating Checking	
General Funds in Operating Checking	28,068
Restricted Funds in Operating Checking	83,163
LOGOS Funds in Operating Checking	8,032
Balance in First Bank Operating Checking	119,262
Balance in First Bank 2020 Vision Fund	7,123
Total Cash in First bank	126,386

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, Bill Martin ----- Faith Community Nurses
Catherine Richard----- Office Administrator
Lisa Sorrentino-Miller----- Finance Administrator
Robert Sydnor----- Sexton
Carole Witt----- Director of Christian Education
Rebekah Witt----- Director of Youth & Young Adults

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MAY 2020

Begonias will be ordered to decorate the Sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday. If you would like to place an order the cost is **\$7 per pot**. Please call or email the number you want along with the notation "in memory or honor of" and send a check in the mail.

