



The Opequon Spirit

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

JUNE 2020

WORSHIP IN JUNE – 11:00 am each Sunday via Livestream

Theme: "The Great Commission"

Sunday, June 7th – Trinity Sunday/Graduate Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Matthew 28:16-20
Sermon: "Go! Be Disciples, Make Disciples"
Communion at Home
Honoring Our High School Graduates

Sunday, June 14th

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7, Matthew 9:35-10:8
Sermon: "Our Willingness to Share"

Sunday, June 21st – Father's Day/Men of Faith Sunday

Genesis 21:8-21, Matthew 10:24-39
Sermon: "The Cost of Discipleship"
Honoring Those Who Are Dads to Us

Sunday, June 28th

Genesis 22:1-14, Matthew 10:40-42
Sermon: "Radical Hospitality"
Four Cents a Meal

COLLECTING FOR LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES



OATMEAL

MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT Via ZOOM

Tuesday, June 2nd

Devotions/Shared Time—6:30 pm
Break Out Meetings—7:00 pm

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.

"Snackin' & Chattin' with the Pastor"

Wednesdays in June
12:00-12:45 pm

Have a snack at home/in office
Talk & Pray with Pastor David &
Others via ZOOM



STAFF SCHEDULES THIS MONTH

Cathy Richard ----- June 15-19
Vacation

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:

"Dirt Under My Fingernails"

Dear Friends in Christ,

On February 26th, the day after Ash Wednesday, our family had a 90' long, 4' wide trench dug up the middle of our front yard, from the street to beside our house. You may have already guessed that we had a water leak in the pipeline! Ugh! We spent more money than I would like, to repair something under the ground that we never see, but it had to be done. The excavator advised us to let the ground settle for a couple of months or so before trying to seed it. So, the yard has looked kind of ugly for a while. Several weeks ago, Carole and I raked off half of the disturbed earth and planted grass seed; last weekend, we completed the other half. Though I hurt my back in this last effort, I am happy to report that little green shoots of new grass are peeking through the straw. And, I certainly got dirt under my fingernails in the process!

Remember how I told you the trench was dug the day after Ash Wednesday. That means it was the start of Lent. That also means that as I attempt to do each Lent, I gave up biting my nails (besides setting aside crackers, too!). I do well in abstaining from the crackers, but the nail-biting, well...but, this year, with a virus called Covid-19 hitting us soon after Lent began, I didn't have trouble giving up putting fingers near my mouth! Now, in as long as I can remember in my lifetime, I have ten true fingernails! And yes, when I work in the yard, I get dirt under them, not because I've never gotten my hands dirty, just because I have these new nails. As my mother taught me, and as we are reminded, I need to wash my hands, even more thoroughly, including the fingernails!

Oh the times, they are a changing! New rhythms, new behavior, new relationships, new experiences, and new adventures popping up, even during a pandemic, within a crisis. In these horrific times, in this unsettling season

when millions have suffered and thousands have died, as people of faith and hope, we look for the good, the positive, for God at work. And we listen again for God's voice and hear the prophecy of Isaiah, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19) God, in the midst of all that is happening, is doing a new thing, within our lives, within our community, within the nation, within the world. We look for helpers and heroes, and we find them. They are all around us. And, because we hold on to the promise, "We know that all things work together for good, for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28), we will go forward, through and beyond this crisis.

So, I believe we are challenged to think critically as we reflect on these times...

- For what are you grateful? Hopeful?
- What are the opportunities that have been borne out of this crisis?
- How are we (family, church, community) becoming something new and different?
- What are you learning? What will you do differently in the future?
- How can we listen to/care for/accompany one another on the journey?

Imagine with me, wonder with me, think with me in this season of becoming, knowing that God is doing a new thing!

Together in Christ's Service,

David

Remember
OPC
in
Your Will

JUST THINKIN'

When Bill and I moved to the Colgate Rochester seminary married students' apartments, the adjustment was huge. The apartments had been designed for bachelor Baptist students many, many years ago. They were so small that I could sit on a stool in the center of the kitchen and reach everything – all four walls – all of the appliances. We brought a small, hook-up dishwasher with us. It would not fit through the door and could not reach the faucets. We used it to store bags. The toughest part of living there was the hill that led to the school. Colgate Rochester is at the top of a hill and the apartment complex was at the very bottom. Every morning I joined the trudge of students who stumbled up the hill to class carrying about 10,000 pounds of books and papers. Remember, this was before laptops.

I have never been thin. I have never been one to enjoy exercise or sweating. I suffered, greatly, as far as I was concerned. There were people to talk with as we labored up the path, but few of us had breath enough to say much. Once we reached the top, there was a bench, but most of us had to rush to avoid being late to class. The change from managing a flower shop where I was the boss and the employees did the running was harsh. One winter day, as I slid up the hill, looking at the terrain right in front of my feet so I would not fall, I was surprised to find myself at the top before I realized it. This was surprising. The same thing happened on the next snowy day. As time passed, I discovered that looking only at the top of the hill made the trip longer and more difficult. When I concentrated more on each step and checked the top only occasionally to orient myself, the trip was easier and even the steepness seemed gentler. For some reason, when I failed to orient myself from time to time, I would walk in a zigzag and add steps. If I kept my concentration on the steps and oriented myself only occasionally, things went fine. I lost weight and I made it to class.

It seems to me that the situation we are in just now with COVID-19 and the re-entering of so many of the things we have taken for granted is a lot like walking up that hill. If we concentrate too much on the final goal, we may miss opportunities. Frankly, I do not even know what the final goal looks like just now. Do we want to return to things just as they were in February? Do we want to include things we have learned or discard them? Should we be open to change? How much change? When?

If we concentrate too much on every step taken without orienting ourselves from time to time, we run the risk of zigzagging and getting lost or, at the very least, working harder rather than smarter. I was among those invited to listen in on Session this week. I was impressed. As someone who has moderated more sessions than I ever wanted, I was very impressed. The OPC Session is working with balance and inclusion. They are asking good questions and taking steps to find good answers. David sets the tone with his **"Cautious, Measured, and Phased"** language. I fully trust our session and I am so ready to be part of climbing this hill.

A race

PHONE-CALLING SURVEY, JUNE 1ST – 8TH!



We want to let you know that between Monday, June 1 and Monday, June 8, you can expect a phone call from someone at church (maybe an elder, deacon, staff member, or any kind, loving Opequon member!). They will be asking you a few questions to seek and listen for your feelings about re-entering the church building for worship. All the responses, both narrative and numerical, will be compiled and help our leadership make plans for church re-entry in the coming months. We wanted to give you this heads-up before the call so you and your

family can think about it. Here are the questions.

1. Have you been livestreaming Opequon's 11:00 am worship service?
2. How do you feel about returning to in-person worship at Opequon? On a scale of 1-4, 1 being "ready now," 4 being "not ready," what would you say?
3. When we return to worship in the building, do you understand that there will be restrictions (6' physical distancing, masks required, no hymn-singing/no choir, separate entrances and exits, no physical interaction or fellowship inside the building) and will that effect your decision to return? On a scale of 1-4, 1 being "fully tolerant," 4 being "not tolerant," what would you say?
4. How open would you be to new worship opportunities, in smaller gatherings or outside, with restrictions? On a scale of 1-4, 1 being "very open," 4 being "not open," what would you say?

This is a massive undertaking for our leaders and our volunteer callers. We anticipate your willingness to participate in this survey. Please be patient; please share openly; and, if for some reason you don't get a call or we can't get in contact with you, please don't take it personally. You can call any staff member at the church (662-1843) or send an email to office@opequonchurch.org.

A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Dear Members & Friends of Opequon Church:

As we deal with the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Stewardship & Finance Team felt that we needed to provide you with an update on the financial status of OPC. We feel truly blessed to let you know that our finances are in reasonable shape due to your continued financial support of our church and programs. Thank you for keeping up your pledges and

contributions to support our expanded activities.

We are currently on target with our 2020 budget and continue to monitor expenses closely. We wanted you to know that we did take advantage of the government stimulus program available for churches for financial relief during these trying times and also deferred our mortgage with Bank of Clarke County:

1. The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provides funds for maintaining church personnel. This program is part of the government stimulus package for which we qualified. This loan of \$46,700 to pay our church staff will even be forgiven as we move forward and our Treasurer, Ron Smith has already filled out the paperwork to accomplish that.
2. Mortgage Payment – We were able to defer paying our mortgage payment for three months. This saves OPC \$28,500 for the April-June mortgage payments which helps our cash flow during this pandemic.

As you may know OPC, in addition to normal activities, is also assisting with grocery shopping, free hot meals weekly, our Motel Ministry, calls to check on many older adults, egg carton bins, Highland and Sherando Food Pantry bins, and Bright Futures bins (for feeding children) outside our church doors, and many other mission activities for the community.

Thank you for all your activities, your continued commitment to OPC, and your financial support. Together we are continuing to follow 2 Corinthians 9:6: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously". Thank you again for your continued generosity.

The Stewardship & Finance Team

A WORD FROM OUR PERSONNEL TEAM

Hello, this is the behind the scenes OPC Personnel Team whose primary function is to take care of, look out for, and work with our exceptional staff. We are in frequent contact with them and feel exceedingly blessed to have such an exceptional staff to work with. Besides a great deal of longevity, they work well together and really seem to like each other. What a blessing. As you may be aware, we have practically zero turn over and the chemistry they have with each other is heart-warming. Not to say they don't each have their opinions, they do, but their pursuit of what is best for the church and the Glory of God is unmatched.

We are clearly in a new dynamic, in uncharted territory, in unprecedented times or, you may say, we are undertaking a new marketing approach to church. Any way you label it, the staff is working differently today than they have in their careers to date. The communications are instant, the need is now, and the technology can be daunting.

Just think about it, worship three months ago was a method of sharing God's word to a (hopefully) large group of folks, typically twice each Sunday, and the feedback to David and staff was often after a service or at a meeting, perhaps an email or call. Well now, worship is On-Line or Live Streamed and the feedback consists of email, texts, calls, Facebook posts, but not live connections. That means David and the staff potentially reach out to each and every one of us, often one-at-a-time. Wow!

So, if you get a communication from David or one of the staff, we ask that you kindly reply in a timely manner as his time, their time, is more limited than you might imagine.

The church office is open (meaning someone is there from Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am-3:00 pm, Fridays, 8:30 am-12:30 pm). David and Carole's day off is each Friday, and we ask that you respect that, so please limit your communication with him/her from Thursday

evening until Saturday or Sunday. I know it is hard to believe, but they need a break as well. Given the ramping up of this new way of worshiping, the staff has put in extra hours to pull it off. As such, they are going to need flexibility in their vacation schedules and our ability to let them be on vacation.

We say all this with love as we deeply care about them, and I sure you do as well. These unique 'reset' times present us all a way of stepping back, or up, and seeing how important our relations are and how exceedingly blessed we are as a church family to have the OPC staff we do. So, if so inclined, drop them a note, send an email or text, to just let them know that you are grateful for their tireless work.

Your 2020 Personnel Team:
Christine Clark, Ann Smith, Jay Tibbs &
Mitch Orndorff, Chair

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS **May 19, 2020 Stated Meeting**

- The Session's May meeting was held using the ZOOM technology.
- Session met with the 2019-20 Confirmation Class to hear their papers and discuss OPC with them. These four young Christians will be a welcome addition to our numbers. They will be received on Sunday, May 31.
- The Session spent considerable time discussing what will be required to allow for in-person worship again. Pastor David provided thoughtful ideas and resources for this discussion.
- All agreed that our livestream services are successful and need to be continued. Over 350 people watched the May 17 service.
- It is also clear that in-person worship will be very different from what we are used to for the foreseeable future. Many things we hold dear, such as singing, passing the peace, sharing

fellowship with one another will not be possible for some time. There are also logistical issues to be dealt with.

- Session discussed the possibility of outdoor or drive in worship. They decided we should look closer at this.
- At this time waiting until a vaccine is available seems an unacceptable alternative.
- Session decided to phone each member of the congregation to discuss their desires and concerns and continue discussing how best to move forward.
- Session approved the recommendation of Building & Grounds to sell our current stove to a Baptist church in Hagerstown, delivery to wait until we have purchased new stoves. We will meet with Spicher's to obtain recommendations.
- Building & Grounds reported we have a new tenant for the manse.
- Stewardship & Finance reported that we continue strong financially. We have received a \$46,700 loan pursuant to the PPP program.
- We have ordered three hand sanitizers (on stands) and 200 face masks in anticipation of resumption of in-person worship.
- On recommendation of the Worship Ministry, Session approved indefinite continuation of livestream worship at 11 am on Sundays. This means that we will not move this service time to 10 am in July and August.
- Session approved the request of the Tai Chi class to use the Pitcock Shelter during the summer months.

PHOTOS OF YOU NEEDED

Have some fun and take some random photos of you and your family while at home or doing something fun outdoors. Be sure to take the photos up fairly close so you are visible and don't blend into the background. You can use your phone to take the photos and send them

to Carole Witt at dce@opequonchurch.org. Photos will be used for a fun event coming up this month called "GET IN THE ZONE". **Photos are needed by Saturday, June 6.**

FAITH FORMATION CLASS RESUMES VIA ZOOM!

Join the Spiritual Growth Faith Formation Class each Sunday 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 before June 7, along with a resource sheet. Plan ahead for this uplifting time each Sunday.

THE LATEST IN LOGOS

The LOGOS Leadership Team has begun planning for a brand-new year of LOGOS. We are hoping to be able to resume this vital ministry in September, if it is safe to do so. We may have to alter things, or we may have to adjust our starting date, however it is our goal to be as prepared as possible for when LOGOS can begin. So, in our planning efforts, we are discerning a theme for the new LOGOS year, looking to have a new LOGOS banner made to match our LOGOS t-shirts, and aiming to continue the "Worship On Wednesday—WOW" services once a month. We will continue to spread the word as any plans come into focus.

CONFIRMATION CONNECTION

Welcome to our confirmation students who were confirmed & commissioned during worship on May 31. The students joined in for a portion of the Session meeting last month via ZOOM to share their final papers. Covenant partners were present as well. All went well

and we are grateful the students could be present in person for their Confirmation and Commissioning. We are excited to welcome Jack Hathaway, Grace Morgan, Sydney Sardelis, and Addison Williams into the membership of Opequon Presbyterian Church.

GET IN THE



As the sun is warming up and shining brightly around OPC, some Vitamin D and light exercise will do our bodies some good. You are invited to come 'GET IN THE ZONE' on the church grounds. Locations of different 'zones' will be identified by yellow flags. Walk around to each ZONE where a unique activity is offered for you to do. CAUTION: zone activities may provoke laughter, curiosity, and amusement. Come see what the 'Time Zone', 'Peeking Zone', or 'Splash Zone' and MORE are all about! All ZONES are SAFE for all ages and can be done at your own pace. GET IN THE ZONE will be **available Sunday, June 7-Sunday, June 14**, with personal guides available in the bin on the covered porch. Come on your own, bring the family, or come with a friend. Bet you'll have a good time!

'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 restrictions for safe gathering practices of social distancing still in place, we will bring VBS TO YOU in a BIN! No registration necessary & 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 around June 14! We are

aiming for June 14 to be our VBS BLITZ DAY when deliveries of VBS bins to children's homes will take place. It is certainly something to look forward to!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

Opequon's 2020 High School seniors will be honored during the LIVE STREAM 11:00 am worship on Sunday, June 7. The Christian Education Team is privileged to highlight each of these young people at this special milestone in their life. We are very proud of our high school graduates and wish them happiness and fulfillment in the next chapter of life. Although the students are not able to be present in person, we will honor them with integrity and share a photo of each graduate as their name is shared. Congratulations to:

- Jenna Arnoldy**..... Sherando High School
- Anna Buonocore** Sherando High School
- Hannah Burton** Sherando High School
- Jolie Call**..... Sherando High School
- Elizabeth Carter**
.....Loudoun Valley High School
- Ainsley DesMarais**
..... Stonewall Jackson High School
- Maggie Heishman**
..... James Wood High School
- Nicholas Hott**..... Handley High School
- Reagan Newhouse** Sherando High School
- Cameron Ritter** Sherando High School
- Bryce Williams**..... Sherando High School
- McKenna Williams**..... Sherando High School
- Natalie Youngblood**
..... James Wood High School



MEN OF OPEQUON

We'll meet via ZOOM again this month, on Monday, June 8 at 6:00 pm. Go over to Chick-fil-A and pick-up your meal before our gathering so we can eat and talk with one another. We'll share

laughter and conversation, devotions and prayer. If you would like to be a part of the ZOOM gathering and don't normally receive MOO emails, let Pastor David know by emailing pastor@opequonchurch.org and he'll put you on the list.



Please join me for tea in our virtual Tea Room on Friday, June 12, 2020, at 1 o'clock pm via Zoom. Let's talk tea! It will be a time to share your favorite teacup, teapot, or tea story. Hats are optional. An invite to join our Zoom tea room will be sent via e-mail the week of June 8, or please contact Becky Proctor at 540-868-8149 or beckyproc@comcast.net to receive an invite or if you have questions.



GOD LOVING OPEQUON WOMEN

Opequon ladies, we miss one another! Our last two months plans have been put on hold, with the hopes of following through on them later. This month, here is an opportunity for us to come together in safe parameters. GLOW will gather on **Tuesday, June 9 at 6:00 pm** for a **BACK PARKING LOT PICNIC**. There is plenty of space for us to spread out. Bring a lawn chair to sit on and a sandwich and drink to enjoy as we visit from safe social distances. In the event of inclement weather, alternate plans will be announced that day.

CARD SHOWER FOR OPEQUON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Let's celebrate our high school graduates with a card shower! Drop off cards at church or send them to the church address, 217



Opequon Church Lane Winchester, VA 22602 and write the graduate's name on the front. We will bundle all the cards and make sure they receive them. Please let Rebekah Witt know if you have any questions. Thank you! Our 2020 high school graduates are:

Jenna Arnoldy, Anna Buonocore, Hannah Burton, Jolie Call, Elizabeth Carter, Ainsley DesMarais, Maggie Heishman, Nicholas Hott, Reagan Newhouse, Cameron Ritter, Bryce Williams, McKenna Williams, and Natalie Youngblood.

OLDER ADULT HAPPENINGS

Did you know that MAY is known as 'Older Adult Month'? It is and we truly celebrate Older Adults of Opequon! In honor of Older Adult Month, we announce Opequon's Older Adult of the Year!

This year there were **31 nominations** received for 16 different people. The Session reviewed all the nominations at their May 19 meeting. They unanimously and excitedly selected **BECKY PROCTOR** as the female Older Adult of OPC and **STEVE BROWN** as the male Older Adult of OPC! Both are very deserving of this honor and recognition. The narratives below share comments from those who nominated them.



BECKY has such a fun nature! She leads with thought and patience. Becky's love for OPC and the people are reflected in every fellowship event that she carries out. Becky has resurrected

the Fellowship Team and simultaneously she has been the Vice President of Happy Days.

She has orchestrated the development of the annual, very popular Talent Show and in past years organized Tea Parties, elegant times for women to enjoy conversation and TEA. Becky is instrumental in the Sunday night Coffee Houses, adding her warm and bright touches to each of those gatherings. She works hard and lovingly in everything she does. She cares about her ministry team members, all older adults and the children of OPC. Becky even brings her neighbor children to OPC and welcomes anyone to visit her extraordinary fairy garden at her home! Becky's creative talents have also been generously shared in her work of making brochures and posters for various events. What an inspiring, motivating and dedicated lady she is. She makes everything better with her presence and contributions. She adds joy to OPC. Becky has been involved in LOGOS, GLOW, Vacation Bible School, and a small group known as 'TAG'. We have all benefited from her care, her spirit, her wisdom, and her love. Well done, faithful servant Becky! Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

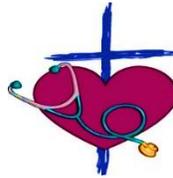
STEVE has worked tirelessly as Opequon's Clerk of Session! He has made a major impact on OPC. Steve was a member of the choir



for many years and served on the Board of Trustees and the Incorporation, serving as the first President of the Corporation. He was also on the first Personnel Team of OPC and was vital to the development of the OPC Policy and Procedure Manual. He has superb critical thinking skills, deep intelligence and a dry sense of humor that is enjoyed by so many. His expert skills are used in serving as Clerk of Session. As a retired attorney, he has legal knowledge and is so in tune with the Presbyterian Book of Order that he can offer clear guidance for OPC. He is known for his meticulous record keeping and attention to

detail, along with being so timely in getting reports completed, all which are so important in his role as Clerk. Steve is kind, polite, intelligent, and witty. His presence is always a most welcome addition. Well done, faithful servant Steve! Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

HEALTH MINISTRY NEWS



As our states begin to reopen, we need to be aware that the COVID-19 virus is still alive and very contagious! All of us need to continue with actions that have proven to decrease the spread of COVID. They include knowing the signs of the disease, seeking appropriate healthcare when necessary, wearing a face covering, washing your hands, maintaining physical distance and avoiding large gatherings.

According to the CDC, symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure to the virus**. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Look for **emergency warning signs*** for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, **seek emergency medical care immediately**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

For children it is rare but some have developed Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C). According to the CDC, signs and symptoms of

MIS-C include fever and various symptoms such as

- Abdominal and neck pain
- Vomiting and diarrhea
- Rash
- Feeling tired

Not all children will have the same symptoms. If your child has these symptoms, it is imperative you notify your child's pediatrician.

***These lists are not all possible symptoms.** Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you and remember people can be contagious without showing any signs or symptoms.

Face coverings are also essential for not spreading COVID. But remember a face covering, not an N95, helps prevent the spread of your germs especially when talking, sneezing, and coughing. It does not provide significant protection for you inhaling the virus. So use a face mask to protect others.

Washing your hands is the number one weapon in preventing the spread of germs. Soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub can be used. But always use soap and water if your hands are visibly soiled. Do not forget, when using soap and water, to scrub your hands for 20 seconds and pay attention to the areas between fingers, back of the hand, and underneath your fingernails. Rinse hands thoroughly under running water, hold hands lower than wrists, do not touch your fingertips to the inside of the sink, dry hands thoroughly with a paper towel and then turn off with a clean, dry paper towel. If using alcohol-based hand rub, rub into all surfaces of the hands until dry. If using gloves, each time you put on and off gloves you must wash your hands.

Continue to maintain social distancing of six feet to slow the spread of COVID. Continue to avoid large gatherings especially if you have underlying health conditions like high blood pressure. Even if your blood pressure is being managed well with prescriptions, you are still at risk. Plan your trips outside the home to avoid going to the grocery store, pharmacy,

Wal-Mart, and Lowes multiple times per week. If you are at risk, consider curb side pick-up or letting a friend, church member or relative help you with groceries or medications.

Keep safe and looking forward to seeing everyone!

The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.

Proverbs 27:12

SUPPORT FOR MOTEL MINISTRY

Every fourth Sunday of the month we continue to provide those living in a local motel with 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.

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 AND FOOF PANTRY BINS NOW OUTSIDE

We continue to support Bright Futures in feeding the children and youth of Winchester and Frederick County, and Highland and Sherando Food Pantries in their mission to feed our community. Non-perishable food items may be placed in bins outside of the office entrance, again available each day during the above office hours.

OPC COMMUNITY GARDEN AT HEDGEBROOK FARM 2020

Last growing season at the farm

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."

Audrey Hepburn

The OPC Community Garden at Hedgebrook Farm is in its 10th season. Ten years ago the seeds of hope were planted to nourish the food insecure in our community, and the garden has done just that and more! Gaining additional raised beds every year along the way, planting the veggie hut last year, watering the garden, weeding, harvesting veggies, delivering produce to the food pantry, as well as involving many volunteers from OPC and beyond, are examples of mission experiences for those called to do God's work in our very own community.

As the garden leaders (**Dana Kelly, Robin Owens, Joelle Cafaro, Bill Hopeck and Graham Taylor**) plan and implement the phases of construction for the new garden that will be on church property beyond the manse and the garage, the team is also coordinating the raised bed preparation, repair, soil-tilling, weeding, planting, watering, harvesting, and produce transport at the OPC Garden at Hedgebrook Farm. In addition to sending produce to Highland Food Pantry every Tuesday, the gardeners will also harvest produce to send to the Sherando Food Pantry on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month. Everything is in place for volunteers to sign up to water or transport produce. The SignUpGenius link is on the church website or anyone interested in signing up can contact our garden administrator, Grayson Moyer, at graysonmoyer7@gmail.com.

We had a small group of young people who were happy to help prepare the raised beds for the season by filling them with compost. They practiced safe social distancing and followed all safety guidelines using hand sanitizer and gloves. The fresh air and the hard work were welcomed by the hardworking group who

came out for a few hours on two consecutive days. Our heartfelt thanks to Matthew Flacksenburg, Samantha Dondero, Dayton Keffer, Yasmeen Kallash-Kyler and her little sister Amira, Sydney and Julia Hunter, and Evan Bray for all of their hard work.

Prior to the first planting day, **Linda Gibson, Nancy Newman, Mike and Wendy Wygant, Paula and Mac McNichols**, Graham Taylor, Bill Hopeck, Robin, Joelle and Dana, weeded and weeded and weeded some more to get everything ready for planting day. Master gardener Denise Howe and her husband, Steve, donated a composter and some tansy. It truly takes a village to make something happen that makes such a huge difference in the lives of others. The great thing about the garden is that the motivating force is feeding the food insecure. These folks are doing the right thing when no one is looking. God calls us to feed our brothers and sisters in Christ, to care for others as he cares for us.

The veggie hut was planted in early March, right before everything shut down due to the current pandemic. As essential agricultural personnel, garden team members safely and faithfully watered and weeded the veggie hut. As of May 19th the veggie hut has been harvested for three weeks and the produce has been delivered to Highland Food Pantry. We are sending radishes and a variety of leafy greens including lettuce, mustard greens, collard greens, spinach, and kale. Some of Robin's students sowed the seeds and even planted beets and herbs - parsley, oregano, cilantro, basil, sage, and thyme in the veggie hut. Some of the herbs were transplanted into the beds in the main garden on planting day #1.

Every year, master gardener **Pat Burslem** starts the tomato plants for us. Linda Gibson took the job of hardening off the plants by taking them indoors at night and putting them outside during the day for a week and half. More young people rolled up their sleeves and

composted the eleven beds in the Sunflower Garden on May 20th & 22nd. Mike Wygant has been a force in breaking up compost clumps with his Mantis tiller, and Wendy Wygant is the winner of filling the most weed bags. Weeds don't stand a chance with Mac and Paula around either. We also want to thank **Robert Sydnor** for having the lawnmower serviced and then delivering it to the garden for our use. Pepper plant starters, tomatillos, and a few cucumber plants were ordered and then planted along with the tomato plants on planting day #2, Saturday, May 23rd.

All of this would not be possible without the generosity of **Kitty Nicholas** who welcomes us to have the OPC Community Garden at Hedgebrook Farm. Although the farm is for sale, Kitty invited us to have the garden at the farm through the growing season this year which is allowing the garden leaders to continue to grow produce for the food insecure clients at the two local food pantries and take care of building the new garden on church property at the same time so as not to miss out on a growing season. Thanks also to Kitty for providing us with compost for the raised beds and to her farmhand, Tommy Polk, for making sure the compost is available in the garden for us. The building of raised beds on OPC grounds will begin in June. Watch for dates when volunteers will be needed to help.

The garden leaders want to assure you that we are following safety guidelines at the garden. We are proving hand sanitizer, gloves, and are practicing safe social distancing as we do our work. Volunteers are asked to sign in in the shed in the binder on the counter by putting down your name, the time you came and the time you left as well as what task you accomplished. Feel free to use the hand sanitizer and gloves that are provided. Volunteers may choose to bring and use their own gloves as well.

Even if gardening is not your thing, we appreciate your prayers for a bountiful harvest and beautiful growing season. There may be

things we need now and then that you could choose to provide. Thank you for taking time to read the newsletter and announcements to stay informed.

"The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds for mirth, one's nearer God's heart in a garden, than anywhere else on earth."

Dorothy Frances Gurney

UPDATE ON ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Thank you for your contributions to this historic and life-changing offering that supports hunger, disaster relief, and development ministries. The total given this year was \$2,370. Your heartfelt donations are appreciated!

*"O God, from my youth you have taught me,
and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds."*

Psalm 71:17

PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING BEGINS MAY 31ST AND CONTINUES THROUGH JUNE

What is the Pentecost Offering? The Pentecost Offering is received annually on Pentecost Sunday (surprise, surprise!) and is one of four church-wide special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The offering is received for children at risk, youth, and young adults. Opequon will retain 40% of all gifts for community programs that benefit children, youth, and young adults, which is a special focus for us. The Presbyterian Mission Agency divides the remaining 60% between ministries with youth and young adults (50%) and child advocacy (10%). Give generously and... invest in the Church's Greatest Resource: Our Youth!





COMMUNITY GARDEN

A small group of Robin Owens' students, practicing safe social distancing and safety, assisted on May 14th and 15th by weeding, mowing pathways, shoveling compost, filling the raised beds, and prepping the soil. The garden was planted on May 16th by a small group of garden team members also practicing safe social distancing. All 36 beds are now planted, so we would love to have families volunteer to water. If you are interested in helping, the SignUpGenius page has been updated with this year's dates and can be found on the home page of the church's website. Anyone volunteering for the first time will be contacted by the gardener on call that week to meet at the garden to be shown where things are and what to do. Volunteers are asked to sign in and out in the binder on the counter in the shed. Hand sanitizer and gloves are located on the counter as well; however, we encourage volunteers to bring their own gloves if possible. There are also opportunities on the SignUpGenius to pick up and deliver produce to the Highland Food Pantry on Tuesday mornings and to the Sherando Food Pantry on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month at 5:45 pm. Volunteers can deliver with no contact by popping their trunk and having a pantry volunteer remove the bags of produce. If you have any questions, please contact a lead gardener or the garden administrator at graysonmoyer7@gmail.com.

OUTREACH THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

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

- Our Motel Ministry—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.
- Highland Food Pantry (non-perishables)
- Sherando Food Pantry (canned chicken, canned chili with meat, canned spaghetti & meatballs, canned fruit & vegetables, soup, dry cereal)
- Emergency Shelter at Shenandoah University coordinated by Winchester Rescue Mission
- Bright Futures, feeding the children of Winchester and Frederick County (e.g. 100% Juice Boxes, granola bars, cup of soups, cracker packs, boxes of oatmeal packets)

Your food, in-kind, and financial donations are appreciated and may be brought to the church during weekly office hours. Bins are located outside.

GOOD NEWS IS OURS TO TELL!

The ministry of Opequon Church is flourishing in this season of becoming. 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. 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 continue to respond to shopping needs not only within the congregation but within the neighborhoods adjacent to us. Don't hesitate to call.
- ❖ We have delivered a lunchtime meal each Tuesday for the past ten weeks, up to 60 the past couple of weeks. Call the church if you would like a meal delivery.
- ❖ 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 or because they want to see each other.
- ❖ People recorded videos for our May 17th Presbyterian Heritage Sunday worship. We appreciate the music, words, and messages.
- ❖ 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 continuing to do yard work upon request and are also willing to help with childcare.
- ❖ Pastor Tracie emails out daily reflections and her "good gossip" to our mature members and all who request a copy. We are now mailing copies out and distributing them with meals. Tracie's "good news" will soon surpass the circulation of the Winchester Star!
- ❖ We are having ZOOM meetings and gatherings for ministry teams, session, faith formation, GIFT, youth, and young adults. Watch for new opportunities springing up!

- ❖ The Community Garden is already producing, with fresh greens going to the Highland Food Pantry.
- ❖ Our "Holy Grounds" Landscaping Team has had three big workdays at church and several smaller ones. The grounds look beautiful!
- ❖ Weekly communication goes out to our families through Faith 5, video scripture readings, and LOGOS groups.
- ❖ The monthly planned walks around the church grounds have been meaningful, enlightening, and body, mind, and spirit stretching.
- ❖ 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.



NOTES OF GRATITUDE

Dear OPC, Rev. Witt & Rebekah,
Christ shines through what you do
So I thank Him and also you.
Your food is delicious, I could eat it forever,
but that can't be the plan.
At some point soon
I'll have to get out my Tuesday pan.
Amen & Amen,
Betty

Dear Pastor Witt & OPC,
On behalf of the residents of Woodbrook Village, thank you and your Community Outreach Team for making a difference. The world is brighter because of the work you do for your neighbors. Our community has been so pleased and comforted by your caring and kindness. God bless you and your church members.

Jay & Becky Merriner

To All OPC "Backbone of the Church" Staff,
You are inventive, compassionate, persevering,
loving, stalwart and so much more. Here is a
little "pick me up". Hoping you have a real
Snickerdoodle Day!

With Much Love,
Marj Praml

Thank you everyone at OPC for your thoughts
and prayers at the loss of my best friend and
the love of my life! The Tuesday meals have
been delicious and so welcoming. I am truly
blessed.

Love to all,
Linda Bock



Nancy Kerns
126 Caledon Ct Apt #4
Stephens City VA 22655

We express our Christian love and sympathy to...



**The family & friends of Sandi
Pulizzi** who died on May 4th in
Ruckersville, VA

Lisa Strosnider & family upon
the death of her father, Jack
Cummings, on May 20th

*"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

**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



SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT
April 2020

1

EXPENSES	2020 Budget	Net Expenses Current Month	Net Expenses Year to Date	Budget Balance Remaining
Administrative Ministry	491,600	33,038	150,441	341,159
Christian Education Ministry	13,550	164	3,281	10,269
Congregational Care Ministry	1,400	0	(28)	1,428
Evangelism Ministry	2,350	0	275	2,075
Fellowship Ministry	3,500	286	1,009	2,491
Mission Ministry	60,750	4,184	11,438	49,312
Worship Ministry	7,250	102	855	6,395
Capital Expenses	114,250	0	28,751	85,499
	694,650	37,775	196,021	498,629

INCOME	2020 Budget	Current Month	Year to Date	Budget Balance Remaining
Envelope Offerings	683,000	43,963	213,194	469,806
Loose	5,300	0	1,026	4,274
Total Operating Income from Offerings	688,300	43,963	214,220	474,080
Adjustments to Income				
Checking Account Interest (Regular Checking Only)		38	142	
Room/Facility Usage		0	0	
Wedding Fees		0	0	
Amazon Smile Program		0	20	
Manse Rental Income, net		0	3,650	
Operating Income After Adjustments		44,001	218,032	
Operating Expenses		37,775	196,021	
Cash Receipts in Excess of (Less than) Cash Disbursements		6,226	22,011	

First Bank Operating Checking	
General Funds in Operating Checking	34,294
Restricted Funds in Operating Checking	85,767
LOGOS Funds in Operating Checking	7,761
Balance in First Bank Operating Checking	127,821
Balance in First Bank 2020 Vision Fund	7,135
Total Cash in First bank	134,956

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 11:00 am
 Faith Formation Educational Hour at 9:30 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

Inside This Issue

Administrative Ministry p. 4
 Anniversaries p. 15
 Birthdays p. 17
 Christian Ed p. 6
 Fellowship..... p. 7
 Health Ministry p. 9
 Just Thinkin'..... p. 3
 Mission Ministry p. 10
 Pastor's Notes p. 2
 Session Highlights p. 5
 Financial Report p. 16
 Worship..... p. 1



Look forward to SUMMER!
Attend the Adult VBS Class via ZOOM!
"Faith, Freedom, & Fruit"



We will study the apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians!
 VBS Dates: Sunday, June 14; Monday, June 15;
 Wednesday, June 17; Thursday, June 18
 Class Time: 7:00 – 8:00 pm each night

**REGISTER BY CALLING THE CHURCH @ 540-662-1843
 OR EMAILING OFFICE@OPEQUONCHURCH.ORG**