

Plumblne

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July 2020

Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

This is my third attempt at a pastor's page. I worried that my first two attempts might tick some people off. Times are hard and we're all under stress. A good pastor wouldn't tick people off. A good pastor would comfort folk in this time, wouldn't they?

And yet, we all watched George Floyd be murdered—while he begged for his life—while he called for his momma—while bystanders pleaded for his life—while authorities maintained a protective cordon around a murder. This was only a particularly egregious example of racism in America, not the only one. How can I not say something that convicts us all of what some have called America's original sin?

It has been said that the job of a pastor is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. Most of us are the comfortable in need of affliction, and yet right now, we are the afflicted, too stressed to be challenged very much. In the midst of this plague, we are in need of comfort. And so, I'm going to skip the "we're all horrible people" part of afflicting the comfortable, and move to the "here are some positive steps we can take." It is useful when we have just enough stress that we are willing to change. The comfort that we need is the comfort of being able to say "I'm doing something about this!"

Positive Steps:

Listen, just listen. There are plenty of good resources on the web right now of people of color explaining their pain. Find some of those and read, watch, listen. Then, find some people of color and signal your openness to listen. Don't press. They may be sick and tired of having to explain racism to white people. Be aware that these conversations sometimes re-traumatize people of color.

Check out the facts. Racial bias in policing is statistically provable. For example, black people and white people use drugs in roughly the same percentages and yet black people are several times more likely to be arrested, to go to jail, to serve longer sentences. This doesn't mean that most police are racists. It means that there is something wrong with the system.

Be open to police reform. The systemic nature of the problem means that this is more than just a need to weed out some bad apples. The system needs to be changed. Let's be thoughtful about how. Is there wisdom in more community policing, in less military equipment, in anti-racial bias training, in making sure police live in the communities where they patrol, in getting police out of schools, in greatly limiting "no knock" warrants? We may come to different answers on these questions, but we must engage them.

Take ten deep breaths before being reactionary. I tend to support police strongly. I've had good experiences with the police. I see them as protecting me. I have friends who are police. As a former Park Ranger, I've even done the job. As I listen to black brothers and sisters, though, they have had very different experiences. Both of our experiences are real, but the fact that their experience is so different from mine means that there is a problem. This isn't a choice between supporting police and supporting black people. We can do both. We must do both.

Take this to God. It is hard to confront our own sin – especially when it is systemic sin. We need God's help to do it. Our nation needs God's help.

Move from being "not a racist" to being anti-racist. It is time for an active stand – if we are just standing around being "not racist," then we are part of the problem.

Vote.

Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.



Our Fragile Vessel

We are all sharing a similar berth
On the fragile vessel, Mother Earth
Passengers we have previously been
Needed are repair and maintenance men

We're voyaging through a grade five storm
Great dangers face us and the yet unborn
We currently travel with Titanic's credentials
Lacking life boats and jackets, all essentials

We are passive passengers on a rickety barge
Relying on faith and trust in those in charge
It's time for us to be committed and involved
Lest our shared futures unravel and dissolve

We all need to become worker bees
To save our animals, plants and trees
We should firmly take our personal helms
Correcting course to low carbon realms

The world now faces an existential need
Why do so many leaders refuse to lead?
Our time is short and the risks quite large
Idealists will retool this foundering barge

Michael Lawson
Phoenix, Arizona May 10, 2020

Kids Coloring Contest

**Hi Kids! I miss all of you so much!
I have some exciting news!**

We are having a coloring contest and the winner gets a super cool prize! Also, the winning picture will be featured in next month's Plumblines for everyone to see! To participate just color the page, then take a picture of it. Have a grownup send it to my email:

orangewoodkids@gmail.com

That's it! But make sure to send it to me no later than July 21st! The color page is on the last page of this Plumblines.

**I love you and I'll see you soon!
Ms. Jikhara**



Honduras Update

We are in contact with Gloria and Tim Wheeler continuously and are grateful to receive updates on our sisters and brothers in Honduras. The country is still in a strict lockdown and the President of Honduras is in the hospital suffering from the virus. Some food is being distributed to outlying areas as you can see in the photos below.

In the areas where we work in the western mountains, the people are allowed to go out once every 15 days. This means that most people cannot work, especially those in Copan Ruinas. Recently, we sent some funds to assist and yesterday we received a note from Tim saying, "We have been in touch with Don Gustavo about the assistance that you sent. We talked to him about using some of the funds for Chonco since they haven't received very much assistance so far but wanted to clear that with you first. The rest would be spent in El Canario where the people cannot go out to earn a daily wage to buy food and of course they don't have land to grow crops on."



Recently Tim sent an audio recording from the Mayor of Trinidad. It was set to mariachi music! They thanked us for our support and ended with "May God keep and protect us all." Amen!



Youth Group

Youth Group has continued its activity through both May and June, limited as that activity is at the moment. We have had Gigi Griep and Bryce Swartz on our website with their messages, in the recent past, and Addison Case took part in the Call to Worship on June 14. Thank you, youth! The month of May held many Zoom meetings, as well. We are learning how to maneuver these in creative and innovative ways, and will continue this type of meeting into the foreseeable future.

In June, we began to venture "out of the house," with a Drive-In Movie/Food Drive night on June 13. The endeavor was a success, as twenty cars were in the Orangewood parking lot to enjoy the movie, "Meet the Robinsons." People donated food items and financial contributions--even people who did not attend the movie. These generous efforts are helping ICM, who is receiving four times the normal request for food assistance, this summer! Thank you, Orangewood. Thank you, Jikhara Williams, for making arrangements with the movie guy.

Also in the parking lot for movie night were the Montlure Virtual Camp counselors who worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to put together a 1st--6th grade camp, and a 7th--12th grade camp! They reached many campers through these online camps, and stayed in the Orangewood Manse, as they worked together. Thank you, Kellie von Borstel and camp team! They made a difference and challenged students to pursue their faith, passion, and creativity--in this bizarre "stay at home" summer of 2020. The students I talked to about their experience were joyous. I was able to sit in on an early morning Zoom, and took part in the camp worship, one morning. Students responded well and were in tune to what they were learning.

Last Thursday, June 18, a few of us hiked Dreamy Draw with masks. It is odd to be outdoors with masks, but how else does one hike with others/pass people on the trails on a somewhat busy hiking day, in a growing pandemic? We connected to the beauty of God's creation on this hike and continue to exercise caution in all that we do.



At this moment, Ghost Ranch is closed and will not re-open anytime soon. Our youth group would have been there this last week of June under normal circumstances. Despite Ghost Ranch being closed, I know many people are there in spirit, and awaiting next year's opportunity...



July may be bringing some local Orangewood projects that youth can do, distanced, but still serving God, growing in faith, and providing community outreach. We will experience other distanced outings, and continue to grow as a group in faith, fellowship, and friendship.

Blessings in Christ,
Brian Stevens

Hello Parents!

The last time I saw most of you the world was only mostly crazy. I cannot believe how much things have changed in a matter of months. Trying to navigate these new waters has been especially tricky with kids.

The Children's and Youth Committee and I have really been brainstorming on the best and safest way is to reach our children. Right now we are thinking that the best thing to do is develop an online program for our little people. To do that we are going to need some feedback from you. The Children's and Youth committee will be developing a questionnaire to find out what the best communication platform is for our children and youth. Our hope is to have that out to you by the end of the month.

In other news our drive in food drive was a huge hit! We had about 30 people come out and join us. It was such a success we are planning to have another one on July 11 (tentatively). I will have more details on that soon.

Thank you so much for sharing your precious little people with me!
Hugs! Jikhara

Congregational Life Committee Meeting

Evangelism

- Growth Groups. Greg Harris has contacted the group leaders. None of the groups are meeting currently. We will poll them to see about setting up some Zoom meetings that will start as soon as ready. We will also publicize how to sign up.

Parish Life

- SAGES. Bob Orf reported that the SAGES team has studied how to hold SAGES in October with social distancing. They are also considering holding it by Zoom. Lois Manning is retiring from her role on the committee and we still need an entertainment chairperson. Bob will write up these positions and get them posted.
- Website
 - ◇ Pam will work on adding photos to the Ministries area of the OPC website.
 - ◇ Pam has created a bulletin board for stories. Phebe is seeking stories from the congregation. Dennis Daniel will talk with the Deacons about getting some stories from their clusters.

Adult Education.

- Ken Page reported there are about 15 participants in the Thursday evening Bible Study each week.

Reopening Tasks.

- The committee reviewed the tasks we are assigned for the OPC Reopening Plan. The guidelines for respectful and kind social boundaries and the meeting attendance forms are completed. Bernale will work with Worship and Facilities on signage requirements when reopening gets closer.

Keeping Connected

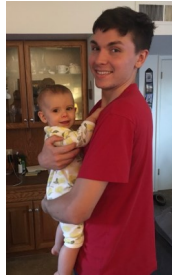
- Drive-In Movies in the parking lot. The recent event was very successful and the committee would like to hold a movie event at least once a month. Ken will talk with Jikhara about the cost of purchasing the equipment. Bernale and Jackie will work with Jikhara on selecting movies and planning the future events. We will publish a calendar of upcoming movies.
- Sandy Snyder reported that the 3F's group is not interested in trying a Zoom dinner. instructions. Ken will put the Zoom instructions he has written on the website bulletin board.



News from the Congregation

We welcome all stories from the congregation about their activities during this time when we can't be together physically. Some of the stories will be posted on the website as well. No story is too small and your news may seem ordinary to you, but it isn't to us! Please let us hear from you. Send an email to phebepacker@cox.net or call me at 602-237-5495.

From Courtney Diamond: Jackie Rose Diamond is now 9 months old & is growing like a weed! She is starting to eat table food and we are having a lot of fun with that. She likes pasta & avocado & yogurt but is still not a fan of scrambled eggs. Her newest trick is pulling herself up to standing which still surprises me when I see her pop up from her crib! Out of all her wonderful toys, the empty Kleenex box is her favorite to play with. Ha! We had a nice visit from her half-brother Matthew the other day and they had a fun time hanging out together, despite their 20-year age difference. Matthew is working in the produce department at Basha's so while he is very aware of Coronavirus and has experienced much change in his life, Jackie is blissfully unaware. I delight in them both & especially seeing them interact together. God is good and I am very blessed with loving family & friends & a wonderful church family. We miss everyone at Orangewood and look forward to seeing everyone soon...hopefully before Jackie is walking!



From Becky Cederquist: A couple of weeks ago, Barb Digges and I decided to drive up to Cottonwood. We generally go there about four times a year, since Barb is a member of a wine club, to pick up her quarterly shipment from the tasting room. I used to be a member of the same club, but gave it up when my stockpile threatened to overtake my storage space. Anyway, when we go, we usually have lunch and sometimes taste a few wines. This time we opted to eat at the Osteria. It's always been a favorite of ours since the chef uses fresh local ingredients in his recipes and makes his own pastas. As usual, we weren't disappointed. The restaurant had been reopened for perhaps a week, but they already had their social distancing worked out so we were seated well away from other patrons. The staff were all gloved and masked and service was flawless, as usual. So was the food and we were able to compliment the chef on his excellent pairing of poblano cream sauce with homemade pasta, chicken, and fresh, garden-grown tomatoes. All in all an excellent day trip. It was great just to get out of town and talk to real people (instead of Zoom people).

From B and John Van Mantgem in Michigan: This past week we have been grateful that we were able to see some friends before they move to Florida. He is the man who has given John plane rides in small experimental planes. We have also seen my brother and his wife on our deck or on their porch. The COVID-19 numbers are staying pretty steady here now so more people are venturing out but all church services are still online. We had severe thunderstorms last week that caused multiple trees to fall in our Waukezoo woods. I watched a webinar from the Presbyterian Women featuring the author of next year's Bible study. There were over 200 people on Zoom.

Update on the Native American Community

By Phebe Packer

While the infection rate in Native American communities still increases, these communities have taken many measures to protect their citizens. In South Dakota, tribes set up roadblocks to protect their citizens after the governor did not to issue a stay-at-home order. In Washington, the Lummi Nation created the country's first field hospital, while the Navajo Nation, the second largest tribe in the US, has tested over 13% of those on the reservation compared to 4% in the US as a whole. Recently I contacted Rev. Cathy Witte, who works with the Indian Health Service. She told me about the great work that this agency continues to do in the midst of the pandemic. Following are some excerpts from the IHS weekly report:

Pine Ridge IHS Hospital Accreditation. This means that the hospital can now participate in the Medicare program and receive reimbursement for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries, an important source of revenue to support continued improvement at Pine Ridge.

Northern Navajo Medical Center. The Northern Navajo Medical Center has officially earned the designation of Level 4 Trauma Center from the State of New Mexico.

National Men's Health Week Celebrated June 15-21. The purpose of National Men's Health Week is to heighten awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men.

Billings Area – Indian Family Health Clinic. IHS team members as well as volunteers from UNITED NATIVES provided food, COVID-19 and educational health materials, and cloth face masks.

Great Plains Area - Fort Thompson IHS Health Center. The Fort Thompson Health Center held numerous COVID-19 drive-thru testing events at Hunkpati Oyate, Crow Creek Nation.

Nashville Area – Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. A team from the Nashville Area office traveled to Choctaw, Mississippi to assist the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in their COVID-19 response efforts. The tribe is currently experiencing major increases in overall cases and deaths within their community.

Nashville Area - Native American Lifelines of Baltimore. The Native American Lifelines of Baltimore, an urban Indian organization, has a partnership with Backyard Basecamp. This organization connects families in Baltimore to local outdoor spaces. As a result of this partnership, Native American Lifelines visited Bliss Farm to get healthy, fresh produce into their community's kitchens.

Navajo Area - Shiprock Area Food Access Coalition. The COVID-19 pandemic has increased awareness of the food security issues that many IHS patients and community members face on a daily basis. The Shiprock Area Food Access Coalition is a grassroots, community-led coalition.

Bernale's Snake Story

Dick and I received an emergency call from a neighbor this morning. She could hardly gasp out a plea for snake removal help. She has a phobia largely due to her brother putting one down her shirt when they were kids. We hurried to the rescue (hurry being a relative term). After a fairly lengthy time spent looking under trees and bushes of varying degrees of thorniness the chase was on. We finally caught it with the assistance of a leaf rake and some kitchen tongs. We caught and released it over the fence into another neighbor's large natural backyard. It was the most excitement we've had in months. We had to come home and rest! Beautiful Arizona Kingsnake, just like this one, between 3 and 4 feet long.



Adult Color Page

Used to relieve stress. Send them back to us and we will put them in the Plumline next month.



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July

www.orangewood.info

2020

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Kids' color page

Send your picture back to put in the Plumblin

