

PLUMBLINE

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 2020

Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

I am sick and tired of this plague! I'm so over staying home all day, every day! I'm soul weary of people getting sick and dying. I am beyond frustrated that I can't even go visit when it happens. I'm not usually one to gripe, but these gripes are real and they are gripes that we all share, so sometimes we need to gripe.

Then we need to find a way to keep going. The way to keep going is to do what Paul says: "give thanks in all circumstances." That comes hard when I'm in a griping mood, but it is so fruitful when I do it anyway. It takes effort to wallop my brain out of "what do I have to be thankful for" mode. Once I get started giving thanks it's actually hard to stop.

I have a house in which to stay home.

I have a phone and a computer to use to stay in touch.

I have a wife whom I love.

My job is still paying me.

I got a stimulus check that I didn't really need.

I got to give that money away to people who did need it.

My kids are happy and healthy.

My church receives my ministry and ministers back to me.

I could go on and on

Just making that list, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. I am moved to give thanks to God. I am moved to make sure that I use my blessings to bless others.

When I was a youth pastor, I used to have a technique that when one kid insulted another, I would make the insulter say three nice things about the kid they insulted. The youth really liked doing it. We rarely had a true dispute; it was mostly teenagers trying out their new skills at sarcasm. They enjoyed saying nice things about each other. They enjoyed hearing nice things about themselves. They really enjoyed catching me in a sarcastic comment and making me say three nice things about them!

So here's my proposition. It's mostly for me, but maybe you'd like to join me: Three gratitudes for every gripe. I don't have to stop griping. Sometimes we need to gripe. I simply have to have more gratitude than griping. Even in a plague. Especially in a plague. "Give thanks in all circumstances!"

**Three Gratitudes
For Every Gripe**



Walk and Meditate

The Orangewood Sanctuary is open Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 – 11:00. We are inviting folks to walk a circuit through the hall and around the back of the sanctuary (sort of a circle) in the cool safety of an air-conditioned space. People might also choose to spend time sitting quietly and/or praying or visiting quietly with friends at a safe social distance.

You can enter through the main Sanctuary doors. There will be a sign-in sheet for name and contact information. Hand sanitizer available. Bring your mask if you have one; there will also be some available for you just in case you didn't bring one.

Join us!

Youth

The youth were not able to have their annual mission non-trip this July--except for one project! We painted parking lot lines in the church parking lot, for one parking section, on July 9. Thank you, Facilities Committee, for setting up this possibility.

Taping lines, pouring paint, painting lines, and paint clean-up were all part of the project. For two plus hours, we worked on the project and accomplished most of that one section. We never realized how much tape, paint, and taping could be involved. Nor did I realize what a role one's hamstrings play in such an endeavor. Stronger hamstrings now!

Several youth and families are away at the moment, so we have not been as active this month, as was the case in earlier months of 2020. Our online Zoom meetings will resume in the next couple of weeks, with a bigger kickoff coming in September. Prayers for students, teachers, and the schools, as they choose what sort of action they will take in the coming days. Prayers for our Fall youth group, as more activities will find themselves online, for the time being.

In Christ,
Brian

Youth and Children

With a captive audience...I have a few questions for parents of current youth group members.

1. What is your communication of choice, from Brian and Jikhara?

Email, Facebook, snail mail, Remind or another way.

2. What is your youth communication of choice?

Email, text, Remind, Instagram, snail mail, or another way

*Please look for a more detailed message about this via email, soon. And please think about these questions in the meantime.

Currently, the church is at work, updating children and youth pages on the church website. Please look for information and upcoming activities on these pages, and story videos for the younger kids. Thank you and God bless you!

Brian and Jikhara

Choir

Dear Orangewood Family - Welcome to summer! We are still shut down, unfortunately and are so missing everyone. What a funny feeling it is each Sunday morning to drive up to an empty building, play into an empty room and then lock up and head home. I am looking forward to the time when we can all be together again and Orangewood will be filled again with the voices of its people.

Besides continuing to get my practicing done and doing my part for our nightly and Sunday services, I have been working on how we can continue to do music during this season and plan for the future. I have been having some Zoom meetings with some other music directors around the state and attempting to teach myself some new technology that we might find useful.

If there are hymns and songs (or other music) that you are missing let me know so we can work them into our services. I will keep everyone posted as we begin to see how our choir, bells and band will start again as our church reopens. My thanks to Brady and Dennis for all their help and support. I remember each day that God is faithful and that His goodness and mercy are following us each day, no matter what's going on around us.

Blessings to you all!

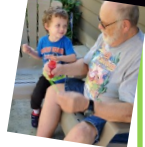
Chuck

From the Sherwoods



Dan and I have been safely tucked away in our Salem, Oregon, home. We are very grateful to have weekly visits with our grandson who keeps us very amused and very busy. Dan has been busy in the woodshop and at his embroidery machine. I have been constructing facemasks and quilts. We are contemplating a day trip into central Oregon to bring back fond memories. We have been healthy and active while staying pretty much at home without visitors and have not chosen a date to return to Arizona just yet.

We look forward to more Zoom and Facebook connections with our Orangewood family.



Other Items of Interest

ICM—We are still getting regular pick-ups for ICM. They do not need clothing or household items right now because they are not distributing them. However, they still need food items. If you would like to donate, come during the walk and meditation times on Tuesday or Thursday, between 9:30 and 11:00.

These Days Devotional—You can also pick up the current These Days Devotional on Tuesday or Thursday morning. If you can't come to the office, Call your Deacon or Pam and we will make sure you get one.

Mission Committee July Meeting

Upcoming Events:

Grace Lutheran—currently offering support services but no breakfasts. Heavy traffic. They'll let us know when they can open again. (Christina to ask if they need anything.)

Desert Mission and Habitat for Humanity – in the same place – not a lot that they can do at this point. Dirk still working with H4H, but other volunteers are not.

Agua Fria Uniforms—August 1 distribution. M4M this Sunday asking for sponsors for \$40 per student – 2 shirts, 2 shorts, backpack and supplies

Family Promise – Current fundraising drive. No program dates known.

Rice and Beans moved to October – Glenn and Lisa Campbell to head it up.

Honduras —On restriction there; 1 day every 15 days that one can be out. OPC has donated money that has gone towards food distribution. Question if we should do more. We have a connection there, so we are confident our donations are used to meet need.

Rocky Point—Bernale and Christina called with COO of Amor. Ron Wilson asking status and what their greatest need is. They shut down group construction in March. They used their own and local labor to continue some work, but had to stop. Laid off half their staff. They have 64 homes committed this year. No American groups in the near future. They also distribute food. Great financial need currently with concern about how to meet the new reality. Discussion on if we should send half of what is remaining in the Rocky Point budget.

FAIR Trade—Equal Exchange and Global Exchange – Free resources to introduce to OPC. Linda to make a proposal for education and support of Fair Trade items for M4M.

Butterfly Tree—OPC's back-to-school supply program is set for our students, using donations from 2019. Notes to go in each bag. A blessing of the bags and students this month.

ICM—In memory of Jean Lee: clothing, and food will be going to ICM & Desert Mission

Water Ministry—ICM, and Phoenix Rescue Mission –spend the water account down to make sure water is getting to the people who need it. PRM takes water to people in the community. Phebe to ask about need in the Navajo Reservation.

Business:

Moved by Bernale Wright, Seconded by Christina Suarez and unanimously passed to allocate \$500 to Honduras and ½ of remaining Rocky Point line item and all of the special offering water budget.

Moved by Gene Nix, Seconded by Bernale Wright and unanimously passed to allocate \$100 from the Mission budget, African Congregation line item, to the family of the recently deceased African member. (Deacons also allocated \$100)

Moved by Joe Miller, Seconded by Linda Roy and unanimously passed to allocate \$1000 from Mission Undesignated Funds to the Native American Ministries Coordinating Committee of the Synod to address supporting pastors, basic infrastructure and purchases of food and supplies.

Gene Nix Deacon Report – One Deacon has resigned - her cluster was reviewed to identify congregants who are perhaps most at risk considering the current health crisis and historical concerns, and to make sure needs are met. One Deacon, Jean Lee, has died. Deacons are helping to clear things from her apartment. We have 10 Deacons currently.

Zoom Meeting Report - Ron Carmichael Chair, Ken Page, Bernale Wright, Phebe Packer, Joe Miller, Christina Suarez, Gene Nix, Linda Roy and Leeann Spangler attending.

POST MEETING Approval to allot \$400 to Agua Fria Food Bank to sponsor 10 students school uniforms and supplies. Also – Call to congregation to donate.

Thanks to all who make our mission here work and grow.

Eloy Detention Center Update

At the July meeting of the Peace and Justice Network (Presbytery of Grand Canyon), Joe and Selena Keesecker described the current situation and conditions for detainees in Eloy. Currently there are 860 people in detention, down from about 1400 previously. To date, 260 people have tested positive for COVID with 120 still in treatment. Unfortunately, 50% of the staff at the detention center have contracted COVID, so conditions for the detainees have deteriorated greatly. There are no hot meals, cleaning supplies, or laundry services. The Detention Ministry at Guadalupe Presbyterian Church sends funds to detainees so that they can make small purchases such as toiletry items which are in short supply. In many areas, the immigrant courts are closed so court dates are postponed; in Arizona they are open but the primary actions being taken are to continue cases. In short, the process is even slower than usual. The Bonding Fund at Guadalupe Presbyterian Church provides financial assistance to immigrants who are granted parole. Joe and Selena are unable to go to the detention center because of COVID but they still receive phone calls and correspondence from detainees. They feed information they receive to reporters and political representatives. Joe and Selena also work with a network of people who meet immigrants who are released and help them with transportation to the airport as well as giving them supplies for their travels.

Things that people can do to help:

- Speak to Congressional representatives about humanitarian release of detainees.

- Write letters to detainees letting them know that people are praying for them. If you are interested in this, contact phebe packer@gmail.com or call her at 602-237-5495. She will bring you writing materials if needed, provide instructions, and pick up your correspondence to forward it to Selena.

- Volunteer to assist with transportation.

Ann Weiss'
Color Page
from the
last
Plumblime



Update from Tim Wheeler on Trinidad and Copan Ruins, Copan

I have included some stories about Honduras in recent months, but Tim's report gives an overview in all areas. Contributions for the projects highlighted in this report can be made through the church website or church office. As you can see, Tim and Gloria are actively involved with our friends in Honduras and the contributions we have already made for food and roofing have been well used. We have received a heartfelt thank you letter from our friend the mayor of Trinidad which I will get Dennis Daniel to translate for us.

Both Trinidad and Copan Ruins complied with a lockdown following the instruction from the central government during the pandemic. The initial actions took place in March. The lockdown continues to this writing in July. No one is allowed in or out of the towns. In Trinidad a person wishing to enter Trinidad needs to be in quarantine in the high school for two weeks before being allowed into town. Residents are allowed to go to town and some neighboring towns every two weeks according to the last digit of their ID. This is strictly enforced. Many people, day laborers, are out of work.

Cases have risen in the country with focal points centered around San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa but many other cases have been detected in different parts of the country including the Department of Copan. Many hospitals are overcrowded, and shortages of medical equipment and supplies have been reported.

Phebe

FOOD RELIEF

The Trinidad Municipal government has made two purchases of food commodities with government funds and distributed them throughout the municipality. Additional food purchases have been made with the assistance of North American churches. Gloria Wheeler coordinated a special purchase of cheese with Kenia Licon and Wil Miranda in Honduras to make this happen. This assistance went to 170 families who have participated in the housing projects over the years. Each family got 3 lbs. of locally purchased cheese and \$750.00 were spent.

In Copan Ruins, the municipal government made a food purchase for municipal residents including most of the surrounding villages that are part of the municipality. Rotary International also purchased and distributed food to many villages during the first few months of the pandemic.

Churches decided to concentrate on providing funds for food for 25 families in El Canario housing neighborhood since they had been left out of the government distribution. Don Gustavo Miranda, the Buena Vista hotel manager, stepped up to coordinate this initiative. Eluterio Martinez, our friend and Chonco leader, coordinated food distribution for the people in Chonco.

Big (Virtual) Event August 22

Registrations are now open for the Presbytery of Grand Canyon Big (Virtual) Event on August 22. The theme for the day is: **Living Amidst Disorientation: Seeking God's New Orientation for Our Communities & Churches**

In addition to a morning worship service, there will be on-line workshops on a variety of topics.

- Canoeing the Covacalypse: Volative Uncertain Complex Ambiguous (VUCA) Ministry (Revs. Brad Munroe and Rene Rico)
- Finding Solid Ground: Stabilizing the Church to Serve as a Resource in a Time of Chaos (Reconciliation Team)
- Psalming Our Disorientation: Writing into the Presence of God (Rev. Rachel Srubas and Shirin McArthur)
- Resilience through Turbulent Times (Revs. John Cheek and Laura Munroe)
- Suspended in Disorientation: Immigrants at the Border and in Detention. (Revs. Mark Adams, Joe Keesecker, Ms Selena Petersen-Keesecker & Others)

For full descriptions and to register, go to <https://pbygrandcanyon.org/> and click on Big (Virtual) Event.

Deadline to register is August 15. Registrants will be emailed 3 Zoom links.

1. Worship live with St. Andrew's, Tucson
2. Morning Plenary with Dr. Brent Strawn
3. The 90-minute afternoon workshop you select

Questions? Contact Carolyn McBurney at pbyoffice@gmail.com

Congregational Life Notes

Due to various circumstances, the Congregational Life Committee has struggled to meet in the past few weeks but here are some updates on activities.

1. New Bible study. Rev. Page has just begun teaching a class on the Gospel of Luke. This class meets via Zoom on Thursdays at 6 pm. The class focuses on scripture and includes plenty of time for questions. Join the enthusiastic group that has formed for this study! If you need assistance with Zoom, please contact phebepacker@gmail.com or 602-237-5495.
1. Jikhara Williams is investigating equipment for showing more movies in our parking lot. Even though it is too hot right now, we want to be prepared for cooler weather. Since the first event was a big hit, we are looking into purchasing our own equipment.
2. We are still scheduled to do an updated directory in the fall. We have received an update from the company that will take the photos about the procedures they have put in place to ensure safety. Of course we will take into account the status of the virus in Phoenix before we proceed.

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August

www.orangewood.info

2020

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Director of Christian Education	Jikhara Williams
Youth Director	Brian Stevens
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