

Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2020

Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

I once asked my Sunday School teacher what heaven would be like, and she replied that "Heaven will be a lot like church, but it will go on forever!" That was the day I decided to become a sinner!

Church?!

Forever?!

I was in fifth grade. I liked singing, but it wasn't as good with words like Ebenezer and prostrate. Mostly church was just stuff I didn't understand, and an hour was already too long. Forever?!

Over time I began to understand. If she had said that heaven was a lot like Christian camp only forever, I would have gotten it immediately. Of course I loved the pool, the archery, the silly games, but I also sensed something was different about the people. There was a palpable love at camp. There was way less teasing and bullying and sarcasm, and if an adult was around when these things happened (sometimes I was the perpetrator) they handled it . . . gently. It was almost . . . as if . . . they valued us . . . even the fifth grade boys!

A few years later, I would have gotten it if she'd said heaven is like youth group only forever. Youth group was awesome – again, silly games and pizza. But there was also something different about youth group. My gifts were valued there, and my faults were tolerated and nudged toward better behavior. My school friends were into bad things. My youth group friends weren't. They actually had two groups of friends, too, but we didn't have to fit in with the crowd when we were with each other. We shaped each other's lives for the better!

My senior year in high school, I actually would have gotten it if the teacher had said "heaven is like Sunday School, only forever." That was the year that a close friend of mine died on a Saturday night. I found out in Sunday School. I burst into tears and ran from the room crying. Back in the 1900's men didn't cry in front of others. As soon as I got into the parking lot, I realized that I didn't actually want to be alone. No sooner did I turn around than I found that my whole class had followed me into the parking lot and we cried and prayed together, and we did it for LONGER THAN AN HOUR!

Heaven is like the very best parts of church, only forever! Church should be a taste of heaven that one day we will have forever! Yeah! I get it!

Ken

Service of Gratitude

Come One, Come All!

The Presbyterian Women of OPC invite everyone in the congregation to attend a special service of gratitude on Saturday, November 7, at 2 pm in Page Hall. The room will be set up for social distancing and masks will be worn by all attendees. We look forward to meeting in person for an afternoon of fellowship, raising our voices in praise, and enjoying wonderful seasonal dessert! To help us plan the set-up and desserts, please make a reservation by November 4; call Phebe Packer at 602-237-5495 or Jeanne Matt at 602-216-9844. Also contact us for help with transportation.

Constance Ann Farrar, age 82, peacefully joined the Lord on May 22, 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Connie was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 23, 1937. Shortly thereafter, her parents, Kenyon Wilfer Kantz and Marie Hickman Kantz, moved to Atlanta, Georgia. It was in the heart of the deep South where Connie enjoyed a happy childhood and adolescent life. Connie attended Northside High School and then later, Georgia State University. In 1960, she married Dr. Maurice C. Farrar and they moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where they raised their four children and enjoyed forty-four years of happily married life. Connie was active in her church – she joyfully taught Bible School to countless youngsters, sang in the choir and loved being part of her Women's Bible Study group. Connie was a kind and gentle soul who always thought of others before herself, an inspiration to all who were fortunate enough to have known her.

Connie is predeceased by her husband, Dr. Maurice C. Farrar, and is survived by her four sons – Paul of Los Angeles, California; Marc (Kim) of Phoenix, Arizona; Christopher (Pamela) of Tucson, Arizona; and Stephen (Anna) of Las Vegas, Nevada – her four grandchildren – Jenna, Jake, Michael and Brett – her sister, Mary Jane Strickland of Marietta, Georgia – nephews and nieces – Susan Strickland of Marietta, Georgia; Aaron Strickland (Erin) of Suffolk, Virginia; and Sally Butts (Mike) of Dacula, Georgia – her many cousins in California, Wisconsin and elsewhere all remember her fondly.

A memorial celebration will be held on Saturday, November 28, at 2:00 pm at Orangewood Presbyterian Church, located at 7321 N. 10th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the church where Connie joyously worshipped for many years.

Service will be available via live stream on Facebook/Orangewood



Arizona Faith Network and Criminal Justice Reform

Most folks would be surprised to learn that 76% of the people held in jails have not been convicted of any crime. Except for voting on judges, most of us have little experience with the criminal justice system. To help people "on the outside" understand the process, the Social Justice Commission of the Arizona Faith Network has made criminal justice reform a major mission focus. You can find more information (including the numbers behind the 76% of non-convicted jail residents) on the AFN webpage, www.arizonafaithnetwork.org. You can also locate toolkits, to inform and help you take action on this issue. The group also sponsors bi-weekly presentations of the PBS "Eyes on the Prize" series on Monday nights, informational "Criminal Justice Cafes," and interviews with candidates. Periodically they host programs, such as "The Impact of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg," that was held on October 29 at 7:00 pm. You can find additional information on the website or attend Social Justice Commission meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 8:30 am. All are welcome.

Musings of a retired MD

Operating room practice requires hand washing,
mask and gown wearing for everyone's protection
These hospital rules and routines when followed
prevent the transmission of operating room infection

The pandemic's virus is an airborne foe
It travels around where ill breezes blow
Whether droplets or aerosols it doesn't matter
There's little practical value to politically natter

Crowds, closed spaces, close contact create risk,
which is worse in the presence of poor ventilation
or when singing and shouting are particularly brisk
Heed these scientific truths and protect our nation

It's irresponsible to be a party to such scenes
These social events are the transmission things
We should be tasked with the wearing of masks
When the ventilation is poor don't enter the door

Show respect for private and public dominions
Avoid careless behavior and dangerous opinions
Protect others and never a super spreader be
We all need to act safely to preserve our liberty

Lets reduce COVID-19 deaths for the rest of the year
This requires a personal commitment; it's crystal clear
We are collectively tasked with wearing our masks
Lets step up to the plate; improve everyone's fate

Michael Lawson

November Birthdays

November 3: Carol Hullihen
November 5: Pat Harris and Christina Suarez
November 6: Emma Page and Oliver Page
November 8: Gary Mandile
November 9: Courtney Diamond
November 14: Janis Bladine, Sally Haskins,
and Sandy Snyder
November 15: Mackenzie Kaup
November 16: Cleve Lynch and Neal
Vandenburgh
November 18: Willy Zunker
November 21: Ron Reifsnider
November 26: May Tansley
November 28: Irakoze Peniella
November 29: Molly Lawson

*Great
are the
works
of the
Lord.*

Children and Youth

We're back! Children's and Youth ministry are officially meeting in person again! Children's ministry is on Sunday mornings at 10:30 and for the time being we are meeting in the Wright Center (to comply with CDC and OPC Reopening Committee guidelines). The kids are really enjoying having the space to run around and play games; the only downside is there are no restrooms in the Wright Center. With that being said it would be a huge help to me if parents could make sure their child/children use the restroom before class. Also, we need volunteers! Pastor Ken has approved our volunteer budget and we can pay up to 10 packs of goldfish an hour! If you are interested in stuffing your face and getting your play on, please contact me!

We have some exciting news for you: We are having a cook-off! That's right, OPC will be hosting its first ever Chopped Cooking Showdown! For those of you who have never seen the show Chopped, here's how it works: Each participating family gets a box with several ingredients and they are given a set amount of time to take those ingredients and cook something delicious. They are then to present their meal to the judges, where they will be scored on taste and presentation. We are still working out the details, but in the meantime if you are interested in either competing or being a judge, please let me know!

XOXOXO
Jikhara

Orangewood Alternative Giving

November 22 – December 13

Plans are underway for our annual alternative giving at OPC. COVID permitting, we will have tables on the patio on November 22, November 29, December 6, and December 13. We are also arranging for online ways to participate in some of the opportunities. We have a variety of opportunities this year, some annual favorites like Heifer, Beads, WHEAT, and Honduras, and some new ones like Colores del Pueblo and Medical Benevolence Foundation. We hope you'll take a look!

Heifer International: Helping people around the world along a path to a sustainable living income. Materials will be on the patio for choosing the animals you want to donate, along with honor cards. We will also have a "Virtual Market" online so that you can still buy your favorite animals from home. Details on the website will be distributed in mid-November.

Honduras Projects: Reaching out to our sisters and brothers in Trinidad and Copan. There are two giving opportunities for Honduras.

1. Scholarships for students continuing on after 6th grade. We currently have 24 students enrolled in our scholarship program in Copan and we also contribute to the Municipality of Trinidad's scholarship program for students with special needs. Although the ability of students to attend school has been curtailed this year, many of them have continued with assignments that they receive by cell phone and many of the families have used the funds to meet their needs during this time when employment has been restricted by the nationwide shutdown.
2. Building materials for community projects. The community of El Chilar is completing 22 houses that will need roofs. Each roof costs about \$350. In addition, 2 other communities are getting ready to start building projects.

Financial donations can be made by check or online. Either way, be sure to put "Honduras" in the memo line and the funds will go to the specific account for these projects. You may also specify "scholarships" or "building materials."

Bead for Life: Recycled paper beads made by women in Uganda to support their families and send their children to school. Although Bead For Life had to discontinue their website due to the pandemic, we have a small inventory that we purchased at the last minute. Beads will be on the patio only.

Colores del Pueblo: Artisan cooperative in Latin America, primarily Guatemala, empowering women, children, and the economically disadvantaged to gain some control over their lives through the sale of fair trade handicrafts and textiles. Online shopping only at www.coloresdelpueblo.org

WHEAT Fair Trade Store: Fair trade gifts and crafts from around the world. Although WHEAT will not be on the patio this year, they are a short drive away at 4000 North 7th Street. You can shop there or shop online and use their drive-through pickup at the WHEAT store, or have online delivery. Their catalog is being updated currently and you can shop online through the website at www.hungerhurts.org/shop

Medical Benevolence Foundation: Endorsed by PC/USA, this foundation provides critical health services for women and children, nursing schools and scholarships, and spiritual ministry in a mission to "heal lives by building sustainable medical ministries in developing countries." You can view recordings at www.medicalmission.org/media or on the MBF Facebook page. They hold monthly prayer phone calls the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 pm CST (Call 605-468-8036, access code 150935.) Donations can be made on-line at www.medicalmission.org.

Congregational Life Committee October Minutes

Growth Groups. With the continuing pandemic the growth groups are slow in getting restarted. Dennis Daniel is working on restarting a Sunday afternoon group and Phebe Packer will work on starting a Tuesday morning group. We are grateful for the evening prayer services and Ken's Bible study, which help us stay connected.

Parish Life

- SAGES. The presentation by G.G. George about the history of the Arizona State Fair was held on Tuesday, October 13 and is currently still up online (the link was in the last Plumblin). Bob Orf will see about getting the link up on the Orangewood website. A donation will be sent to the Encanto Historical Society to thank G.G. George.
- Spooky Movie Night, Friday, October 30. Jikhara and Jackie reported on the preparations being made for a movie to be held in Page Hall. The committee agreed on showing "Casper." Popcorn will be served in individual bags, along with cider. We discussed the set-up to ensure distancing. The movie will be at 7 pm.
- Equipment for Parking Lot Movies. Although the funding for equipment has been approved by Session, the committee is hesitant to proceed without more complete information on the set-up requirements. The committee decided to delay the purchase decision until we see how things go for the movie night in Page Hall on October 30.
- Website review. All committee members and all Orangewood committees are encouraged to review the photos and the overall OPC website and give comments and suggestions to Pam. Many thanks to Pam for her work on this.

Adult Education

- Thursday Bible Study with Ken Page. The study took a 2-week hiatus but will continue on October 15. The Thursday night prayer service will move to Monday night with Chuck.
- Advent Devotions on Isaiah. The committee discussed ways to do the devotions in paper form and online. Pam will make paper copies of the devotion, to be sent to the list of people who receive the weekly sermons in paper form. The devotions will be posted daily on Facebook by Gloria Olsen and she will be the moderator for daily comments/discussion. The devotions are scheduled for Dec. 1 – 24.
- Devotions booklets. The committee discussed the quarterly devotional booklets that have been available in the narthex. We requested that Pam purchase 40 booklets. During the foreseeable future when many people are unable to attend church in person, the booklets will be mailed to a designated list.

Additional Business

- Project for isolated members of our congregation. We have received a list of people recommended by the Deacons to include in this project and we will merge this list with the list of people who receive the mailed sermons each week. A special gift is in the works to be sent along with a message from the church and the devotions booklets. Bernale will plan a "party" to assemble the gifts.

Mission Committee October Notes

Financial Review. We will review the current budget status and finalize budget requests for 2021 at our November meeting.

Status Reports and Actions Taken

- Angel Tree. Plans in place for in-person and virtual gifts.
- Grace Lutheran Breakfast. We are scheduled to serve on Sunday, October 18. Low number of volunteers at this time.
- Desert Mission. Need to confirm with Jeannie Oosterwyk that Orangewood will work on November 7.
- Habitat for Humanity and Family Promise. No new updates.
- Rice and Beans for Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank. Glenn and Lisa Campbell said things were going well on Sunday, October 12. Many thanks to Glenn and Lisa for heading up this project, including the long-distance delivery!
- Rocky Point. A letter and check for \$8000 were sent to Amor Ministries to support the ongoing local project work. It is doubtful we will be going to Mexico in February 2021.
- Honduras. Dire circumstances prevail in Copan at this time, including the illness of project leaders. An appeal for financial contributions is being sent to the previous Honduras teams and Honduras will be one of the alternative giving options on the OPC patio this year. We are seeking financial support for both the scholarship programs in Copan and Trinidad and also roofing materials to complete 22 houses in the community of El Chilar.
- Fair Trade. Two opportunities are included in the alternative giving plan for this year.
- ICM. Pick-ups by ICM are occurring every other Tuesday. The committee requests that the bins be put on the patio again now that some people are attending church on campus on Sundays.
- Navajo Project. The October project will be at Valley Presbyterian and volunteers are sought for Monday-Thursday participation. The committee approved a motion to take to Session for holding the project at OPC in November. Many volunteers will be needed. The project will be publicized to youth for school service credit and to the African Fellowship.
- Alternative Giving Opportunities. This year's plan includes opportunities for online shopping at fair trade stores as well as tables on the patio with additional opportunities. Proper measures will be taken to ensure that all patio displays are properly distanced and incorporate current standards for COVID hygiene. The following opportunities will be included: Heifer International (on patio and online), Honduras Projects (on patio), Colores del Pueblo (online only), WHEAT Fair Trade Store (online only), Medical Benevolence Foundation (on patio and online), Bead For Life (on patio).
- Bibles for Eloy Detention Center. Bibles are needed for Eloy detainees that are translated into many specific languages. This need has been announced by Joe and Selena Keesecker as part of the ministries of Guadalupe Presbyterian Church. The committee approved the expenditure of \$100 from Undesignated Funds for this purpose.
- Advent Service Worship Projects. The committee approved the following plan:
 - December 2, 6:30 pm: Angel Tree gift wrapping
 - December 9, 6:30 pm: Cards for Eloy Detainees; we will also prepare card "kits" and deliver them to members who cannot attend in person so that they can participate in this activity.
 - December 16, 6:30 pm: Assemble toiletry kits for Agua Fria Food and Clothing Bank; goal this year is 200 kits.

Update on Rocky Point

We're Building!

We have spent since March at a standstill as we didn't have permission to operate/build in Mexico. As of this week, we're allowed to build in our camp so our Mexico team is working on building walls. By the end of the month, we're hoping to have the permission and paperwork to be going out to worksites. You can tune in on Thursday to our Facebook live at 12pm PST to hear more about our Mexico team starting to build in camp.

2020/2021 Trips

Border restrictions are still in place and as the year continues, it's hard to say if we'll see them lifted before 2020 is over. As our Mexico team begins to work again, we're navigating what building will look like for our groups. As an organization, we won't have groups back until Mexico is in a more open phase of their COVID-19 response and border restrictions are lifted. When those things will happen continues to be a moving target.

We understand there's many things to consider in choosing to join us again and if there's questions you have that we can answer at this time, please let me know. If you'd like to plan for 2021 and get dates on the calendar with us, I'd be happy to help. You can call me at my number below or submit a [registration online](#).

Your church has been so generous to Amor (THANK YOU!) but in case people are wondering how else they can be involved with us, please feel free to share these ideas.

Ways to Be Involved

Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to get the most recent updates on what is going on in our ministry.

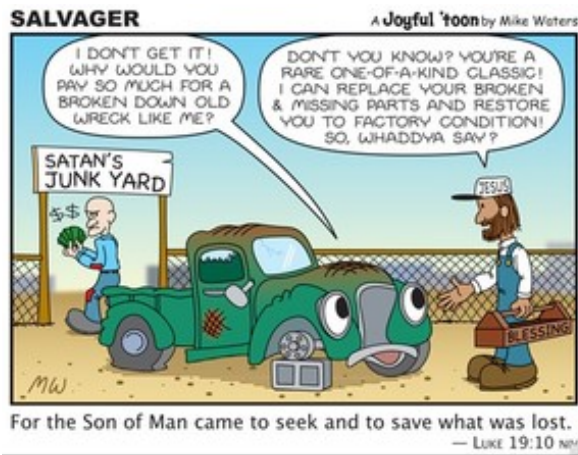
Join [Amor 365](#). It's \$15/month and these gifts are collectively pooled together to build homes year-round using local labor and volunteers.

Shop our [Amor Store](#). 100% of proceeds go back into the ministry to help continue keeping families together.

Consider a fundraiser of some sort. That may be a [Complete House Sponsorship](#) for a home to be built by local labor and volunteers. You can raise money for our pastor's continued ministry of providing food to families in need via [Food Banks](#). Or raising money to support one of our [Mexican staff's salary](#). With any fundraiser, we'd be happy to help provide more details and content to help with these efforts.

Thank you for your continued support and love for Amor Ministries and the work we do—we appreciate you!

Amor Ministries



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Phoenix, AZ 85020

November

www.orangewood.info

2020

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The *Plumblin*, a monthly newsletter of Orangewood Presbyterian Church, contains helpful information for members and friends. If you would like to receive this publication via e-mail (pdf file), contact the office. Issues may also be found on our website. **The deadline for the December Plumblin is November 17.**