

# Plumblin

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2021

## Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

There has been a lot of talk this past week about "unity." The dictionary defines unity as "the state of being joined as a whole." We are one nation – it's right there in our name: United States. But there are many ways in which we are not a whole: Donkeys and elephants; white and black; citizens and immigrants; red states and blue states. Is there a way to be all of those things and still be one?

We are all created in the image of God. We are all loved by God. Hatred and division mar that holy image in which we were made. Christ died to make us a New Creation. Will we allow anger and hatred to stain that new creation? We have a foundation for our unity in our very creation and in our very re-creation.

It is also clear that we cannot simply wish our way into unity. We must find a balance of accountability and forgiveness. While it's quite easy to point out ways in which other people and groups need to be accountable, in truth accountability must start with us. Here are my ideas about my own accountability.

Several years ago, I began to see Media Bias Charts. Studying them, I found one of my regular media sources that was plotted fairly far into the "hyper partisan left" and even bordered the box labeled "extreme/unfair interpretations of the news." That very day, I took The Huffington Post off of my phone. I don't go there anymore. That same day, I started checking Fox News almost daily along with my "slight left" responsible news sources. Sometimes I don't agree with Fox, but I made it my goal to be able to understand opinions without reflexively rejecting them. Interestingly, in the years since, more recent media charts have moved Huffington Post a little more back towards the mainstream. I wonder if people voting with their eyeballs have spurred that change.

After the 2016 election, I wrote a "prophetic letter" concerning President Trump. Many people thought it went too far, and so I launched a listening project. I visited some of OPC's more conservative members; I engaged others in emails and others on the phone. I didn't argue, I just listened. Again, no one changed my mind, but I left each of these conversations viewing people who disagreed with me as a sister or brother in Christ. I have endeavored to keep these conversations going.

I have also worked hard to understand racism and become more informed about how it works and what I can do about it. This has increased my commitment to love my brown and black sisters and brothers boundlessly and to stand with them in confronting both individual and systemic racism. This starts with confessing the racism in me and in my culture and asking God to cleanse it.

Remember the old song "Let There Be Peace on Earth and Let It Begin With Me?" Unity must begin with each of us, but God is with us in this endeavor. These are some of my own efforts at my own accountability. Where do you need to engage in the same endeavor?

*How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore. Psalm 133*



## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

As the new Elder heading up the Committee for Congregational Life, I would like to enlist your help. I believe all of us are looking forward to the time when we can be together in person. Though I am very thankful for technology in these times which enables us to come together virtually in worship, in prayer, in study and discussion, and in meetings, God created us to live in community, face to face. All who know me know that I am a believer in the power of the hug, the human touch, and I know many of you are also. This time of isolation and limited contact is PAINFUL! We survive it because, thanks to our faith in God, we cast out fear and cling to hope. We believe that better times will come, and we look for the gifts that can be found here and now.

We, on the Congregational Life Committee, have worked to find ways to reach out to as many as possible and we promise to continue our efforts in the future. I would like to invite you to participate by passing along ideas you may have to me by email or text. My information is available in the OPC directory. The committee would also welcome anyone who wishes to serve on the committee. Now that we are a little more proficient with Zoom, we are seeing some real advantages in virtual meetings! Though there is little doubt that we will not be able to gather this year in March for our All-Church Picnic, we surely will find a way to celebrate when the day comes that we can gather. Until that glorious day, let's commit to finding ways to reach out, to stay in touch, to be the body of Christ with those in our church family and beyond. Peace and blessings, Bernale Wright

## CONGREGATIONAL LIFE COMMITTEE

### Growth Groups.

- Phebe will contact the previous group leaders to see if one of them will lead a group during the week – right now on Zoom but eventually at the church campus.
- The group led by Dennis Daniel is currently not meeting but will resume on Sunday afternoons in the Wright Center.
- We will make sure people know they can join a Zoom meeting by telephone.

### Parish Life

- SAGES. Bob Orf will contact Jeanne Matt for an update on the "SAGES Newsletter."
- Website review. Phebe will work with Pam and Jikhara on the "Ministry" pages for Congregational Life, Presbyterian Women, and Mission.

### • Adult Education

- Thursday Bible Study with Ken Page. The study of Luke continues with about 15 people attending each week.
- Several books were suggested for a new book study to be led by Ken Page.

### Keeping in Touch

- Caroling. Several groups of carolers went out in the week before Christmas. About 20 homes were visited. A Christmas ornament, inscribed by Lucy Sherwood, was given out at each location.
- Birthday "procession" to celebrate Mary Turkal's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. This was a great time of getting together (properly distanced). About 20 cars got decorated in the church parking lot and then proceeded to Mary's house.
- The committee discussed ideas for communicating a daily message of encouragement.
- The committee discussed offering *Presbyterians Today* magazine to members of the congregation.

### Leadership for 2021

- Bernale Wright will be the committee chair for 2021. Thank you, Bernale!

## MISSION COMMITTEE

**Tohono O'odham Project:** We have a contact on the reservation and feel that our efforts would be well allocated; however they might have other support as well. Do we have someone who wants to coordinate our continued participation with Tohono O'odham or another reservation? Christina to contact Brent Upson to discuss what the next steps are and get answers for what is needed. Where is the need the greatest? Are food cards more practical – since there are Bashas' on the reservations? To be revisited next meeting.

**African Community Mentorship:** There are certain areas where the African Community is asking for assistance. Could we help with budgeting and running a Presbyterian Service? A discussion on ideas of how we can help without changing the joy of their service. Including them in our mission work would be one opportunity. Buddy system? Phebe and Bernale to investigate opportunities with the African women group and PW.

Community Health Center on Fillmore spoke at Minute for Mission in Dec. They address spiritual health with physical health – not required to be spiritual. Members of our congregation are invited to volunteer. Mission committee is interested in supporting the organization through amplifying their needs and outreach.

Youth Project Ideas for summer: In place of Feb. Rocky Point Trip it was considered and discussed to help Frontera de Cristo. No response yet from FdC.

### Reports:

**Angel Tree and Rice and Beans** –will be part of the 2021 projects – Ron to call Glenn and Lisa to secure their help in 2021

**Grace Lutheran**—plan to start up in Feb – OPC is signed up for 6 Sundays: Feb. 21, April 25, June 20, Aug. 15, Oct. 17, Dec. 19 – They are suggesting recruiting families or pods to limit exposure risks.

**Desert Mission**—Is still not open – perhaps in March.

**Habitat for Humanity**—Not open yet.

**Postponed Advent Projects**—We'll reschedule in February to make Hygiene Kits.

**Family Promise**—2021 dates have been determined. Family Promise has expanded its offering due to generous donations and grants—initiating programs to help families not be evicted in the first place. Our dates: 3/28 and 4/4 (food only), 7/25, 8/1, 11/7 and 11/14 (food and chaperoning in person – hopefully)

**Rocky Point**—February trip money donated. COVID-19 protocols in place for when projects resume.

**Honduras/Alternative Giving**—The nearly \$11,000 OPC has in donations for Honduras will be distributed in the categories of: scholarship, building materials and relief from hurricanes and COVID-19.

**ICM**—Orangewood women donated socks.

**Mission Project Collection**—area moved to the North Storage.

Ron Carmichael (Chair), Bernale Wright, Ken Page, Phebe Packer, Joe Miller, Gene Nix, Christina Suarez and Leeann Spangler

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

## UPDATE ON HONDURAS

I spoke with Tim and Gloria last night and learned about the devastation that took place in Honduras in the last hurricane. San Pedro Sula was greatly affected with water up to the roof of the airport (!) and many roads throughout the country were destroyed. They have not been able to reach Eleuterio for several days but are hoping to talk with him soon. Coffee picking season will be starting soon and Tim is concerned about the COVID spread during this time.

On the brighter side, he sent me photos of Erasmo's son and daughter doing their homework on laptops on the front porch of their house. Tim said Erasmo has been very diligent in getting a phone so they can receive their homework and he does everything possible to help them continue their studies despite the weather and the pandemic.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon has scheduled the morning of Saturday, March 20 as a virtual opportunity for the women in our Presbytery to gather. PW's current churchwide moderator, Jyungin Lee, will be worship leader as we gather to hear her messages, and to worship, to find encouragement and sisterhood with women across our presbytery. Mark your calendars now and watch for more details in the future.

Three women from Arizona are to be installed to serve on the Presbyterian Women's Board of Directors 2021-2024 at the churchwide business meeting at St. Louis this August. Gina Enos, Sacaton, will serve as Native American Member at Large, Bonnie Thompson, Tucson, will serve as Search Committee Moderator and Carol Main, Sun City West, will serve as the Synod of Southwest Representative.

Also scheduled for the March 20 morning is the installation of Mary Danforth, Phoenix, as PWP Moderator, and Dodie Weiland, Sun City West, as PWP Moderator-elect; announcement of the 2021-2022 Book Recommendations; and special music presentations.

OPW Bible study continues to meet via Zoom the first Wednesday of the month as we study "Into the Light-finding hope through prayers of lament." On February 3 at 1:00 pm Bernale Wright will be the discussion facilitator. To be added to the roster for the meeting please contact Phebe Packer. Jeanne Matt and Phebe Packer, Co-Moderators of OPW.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

### Join in Celebrating Our February Birthdays

*Wish them a happy birthday with a card, email, phone call or prayer.*

February 1: Lowell Byall	February 12: Rick Hunter
February 2: Dorothy Vandenburg, Abby Kaup	February 13: Dean Rennell
February 4: Ellie Mitchell	February 16: Lynda Rychener
February 5: Jackie Collier	February 18: James Rasmussen
February 6: Ernest Workman	February 20: Ray Bladine, Kathryn Rasmussen
February 8: Russ Seideman	February 22: Sheena Kroodsma
February 9: Drew DeBenedetti	February 24: Daniel Lippman, Mitra Khazai
February 11: Donald Carlson, Phebe Packer	February 25: Anita Shipley, Kaydie Marshall
February 27: David Harms, Catherine Witte, Eric Hiser	

Note: If you do not want to have your birthday published in future months, please contact Phebe Packer at [phebepacker@gmail.com](mailto:phebepacker@gmail.com)

For more than 20 years UPC has been hosting "Mission Month" in February. Each year we take a deep dive into an issue, topic, or location, and explore it through a theological lens. The 2021 Mission Month Planning Team has been hard at work, and we are excited to invite everyone to join in UPC's very own "Advocacy Days!"

# ADVOCACY DAYS

at University Presbyterian Church, Tempe

Feb. 6-7 & 13-14

*Advocacy as a Spiritual Discipline*

## GUEST LEADERS



**The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins**  
Director of the Office of Public  
Witness for the PC(USA),  
Washington, D.C.



**The Rev. Stephanie Hamilton**  
Parish Associate, St. Mark's PC, Tucson  
AZ House Rep., LD 10

### Saturday, Feb. 6

10:00 am Welcome & Plenary I  
10:45 am Communion Worship  
11:15 am Morning Workshops  
12:15 pm Lunch Break  
1:00 pm Plenary II  
1:45 pm Afternoon Workshops  
3:00 pm Close

### Sunday, Feb. 7

9:30 am Worship - Rev. Jimmie Hawkins  
11:00 am Adult Christian Education with  
Rev. Jimmie Hawkins

### Saturday, Feb. 13

10:00 am Discussion Panel  
1:00 pm Corey Woods  
*Mayor, City of Tempe*  
Doreen Garlid  
*Councilperson, City of Tempe*  
Debora Arteaga  
*Executive Director, Tempe  
Community Action Agency*

### Sunday, Feb. 14

9:30 am Worship - Rev. Stephanie Hamilton  
11:00 am Adult Christian Education with  
Rev. Stephanie Hamilton

Register at [www.upctempe.org/advocacydays](http://www.upctempe.org/advocacydays)

## SESSION NOTES

**Accepted, with regret, the resignation of John Zandler**

**Made the following changes to Committees and Committee assignments:**

Created a Christian Education Committee, to include education for Children, Youth and Adults

Chair will be Carol Hunter, with Julia Zandler as Vice-Chair

African Fellowship—Co-chairs Nelly Kanyange and Joseph Lavi

Facilities—Chair is Brent Upson

Finance/Stewardship—Chair is Pete Ladigo

Mission—Chair is Ron Carmichael

Congregational Life—Will include Fellowship, Hospitality, Congregational Care and Evangelism; Chair is Bernale Wright

Nominating—Chair is Gloria Olsen

Personnel—vacant

Worship—vacant

Clerk of Session—Phebe Packer

Vice-Clerk of Session—Luci Sherwood

**Elected Commissioners to January 30 Presbytery meeting:** Carol Hunter & Phebe Packer

**Approved the following Corporate Officers:**

President—Brent Upson

Vice-President—Carol Hunter

Secretary—Phebe Packer

Treasurer—Bob Wells

**Pastor Ken Page reported that a new members class will be held especially for African Fellowship members who want to join.**

**Session thanked Pam White for her work in getting the Annual Report done so quickly!**

***Stay tuned as the Session will give updates for every month in which it meets.***

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**February**

**[www.orangewood.info](http://www.orangewood.info)**

**2021**

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Music Leader	Brady Putzke
Director of Christian Education	Jikhara Williams
Office /Facilities Manager	Pam White
Set-Up Assistants	Dylan Swartz

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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 snail mail, contact the office. Issues may also be found on our website. **The deadline for the March Plumblin is February 17.**