

Plumblin

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 2021

Pastor Page's Pastors Page

Did we learn anything from the Pandemic? I suppose it will take time before we really know. There were things we thought we'd learned from 9/11 that faded over time, and weren't really learned at all. Still, part of the process of learning is reflection. Reflection can start the process of solidifying our learning, so I'm going to take a stab.

I think our first learning is about the fragility of life. Orangewood has lost six members and friends to COVID-19! We've had scores more folk get the disease, some of them seriously. All from something we'd never heard of two years ago. We knew intellectually that pandemics were a thing, but none of us, from individuals to whole nations really took it seriously that it might happen to us. As Psalm 103 reminds us: "As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more."

Of course, the next line of that psalm is "But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him." Hopefully that is our second learning. No matter what comes our way, the love of the Lord is steadfast – It is eternal! That does not necessarily mean that God will protect us from the literal and metaphorical pandemics in this life. It means that God has already given us assurance of love now and love everlasting. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:38-39)! Even if the pandemics of this world take us, we will live forever with God!

I think another learning is how much we need to be together. In our fellowship we remind each other of God's transforming love. It's been so hard to close the doors of our sanctuary, but thank God for the internet! Seeing and sharing and praying with you all at Evening Prayer has been a sustaining presence for me and I hope for you, too.

Worshiping online is less fulfilling than in person, but it is still the lifting up of God in praise and the attention to God's word and God's Spirit that we all need! It's been so wonderful to be able to gather again face to face.

I hope we have learned the value of using technological tools in our ministry together. I know we have learned the value of the everlasting love of the Lord and the value of the fellowship of the people of God!

Ken

Meet Mary Beth Leaf-Hamel

I was born in Chicago, IL and grew up in the suburbs about 20 miles southwest of the city. I was a foster child until age 7, when my parents adopted me. Later, in my adult life, after my bout with breast cancer, I got curious about my genetics and sent for my original birth certificate. I found out I had 5 older siblings. Through "Ancestry" and "23 and Me", I found 3 younger sisters. I finally found the last of the older 5 about two years ago. So, I have one brother, who lives in Tucson, and seven sisters, six of whom are still living.

I have four children – three daughters and one son. I also have five granddaughters.

I moved to Phoenix in January of 2020. I was offered a position in the I.T. Dept. of Leslie's Pool Supply. I was sick of the crime, rising taxes, and cold, icy weather in IL, so I decided to take the plunge. I must say, it was a good move. I do love the job. I also have an interesting little side job as a consultant with Touchstone Crystal by Swarovski. I couldn't help it - I fell in love with the jewelry, and I get it at a discount.

My adoptive father was Jewish, but my mom was a Christian. I was raised Baptist up to age 12. My mom worked hard in the church for many years. I'm not sure what happened, but the congregation "voted her out of the church". She was always a good moral person, so I didn't understand why they took this action. Then, we went to a neighborhood Bible church.

The fellow I was engaged to at age 20 went to an Evangelical Mennonite Church. I eventually was baptized there and joined the church. Later, I started looking for a church to call my own.

My mother grew up Presbyterian. She had a pin for 9 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School, which I still have. So, I joined the neighborhood Presbyterian church over 30 years ago. I was a Sunday School teacher, a Deacon, and served on the Nominating, Christian Education and Congregational Care Committees at Burbank Manor Presbyterian Church, which dissolved its ties with the Chicago Presbytery in December of 2019, on the Sunday before I moved out here. I met my husband Philip there.

I came to Orangewood a couple of Sundays after I got here. I looked up area churches on Facebook and checked out their websites. Orangewood was close so I decided to try it. I found the congregation to be very friendly and I was amazed at the number of missions the church does. I also enjoy Pastor Ken's sermons. They are very relevant and contemporary, and they leave me with a challenge every Sunday. He is one of the few pastors that actually keeps me awake and listening to what he has to say without getting distracted.

I am looking forward to serving in the church and growing spiritually. I wish I could get to know more people and had more time during the day to help with missions and attend meetings, but I work full time, including some weekends when necessary. I will do all I can to help out.

Mary Beth Hamel

We feel blessed that God sent you to Phoenix and to Orangewood, Mary Beth!!

Summer Fun

It is wonderful to see so many people in-person again! With a large turnout for SAGES and our new ability for vaccinated people to shed their masks, your Congregational Life Committee has planned some summer get-togethers. First, on **Saturday, July 3**, we will have an ice cream social in Page Hall. Watch your email and bulletin announcements for the exact time of this event and other details. In June, July, and August, we'll have afternoon parties, with treats, fun and games galore. Again, exact dates and details TBD. We'll keep you informed as the plans get finalized!



SAGES

Orangewood's Sages fellowship convened for their final meeting before their summer recess on Tuesday, May 11 in Page Hall. Table decorations featured CDs from a wide variety of musical tastes, donated by Dennis Daniel, for each participant. Jeanne Matt urged us to listen to them, then give them to someone as an example of a way to "spread the word" about Orangewood! Additional CDs are to be found in Page Hall's classroom for use as an evangelism tool! SAGES and guests enjoyed a meal of chili, coleslaw and cornbread, with chocolate cake for dessert. Our meal was prepared by an outstanding kitchen team of Jackie Collier, Bernale Wright, Jeanne Matt, and Sandy Snyder. Table set-up helpers were Lynne Orf, Lois Pearch and Jeanne Matt. We had an excellent turnout, with many first-time visitors and guests, and all enjoyed the opportunity to just "talk and visit" in our socially-distanced table seating arrangements. We are looking forward to resuming our luncheons in the fall, and hope everyone has a safe and relaxing summer!



Out of Chaos, Hope

An Orangewood Film Series

From Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Responding to disasters, both human-made and natural, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is in a unique position to tell the stories of those affected. PDA has produced an Award Winning series of short documentaries on issues of concern to the church and to the world. Join us on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 7 pm on Zoom to watch and discuss the documentaries.

- June 13 Flint: The Poisoning of an American City
- June 27 To Breathe Free: The Intersecting Stories of a Syrian and a Vietnamese Refugee Family
- July 11 Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence
- July 25 Locked in a Box: The Human Cost of Immigration Detention
- August 8 Tapestry: Reweaving the Fabric of Community After Public Violence

Winner, "Frank Little Award for Self Sacrifice & Social Change" at the Covellite International Film Festival 2019. Award of Excellence from the Impact DOCS Awards, 2020. The Susan A. K. Shaffer Humanitarian Award from the Beaufort International Film Festival, 2019. "Best Documentary Short" at the Covellite International Film Festival 2017. Winner, Indie and Foreign Film Festival, 2019.

Page Turners

Need something new for this summer? Put the Page Turners on your monthly calendar. This book discussion group meets the last Wednesday of each month at 10:30 am in room 11. On June 30, the discussion will focus on any book written by Barbara Kingsolver. Look in your own bookcase or borrow one from the library. Watch the Sunday bulletin and the Plumblin for future month's selections. Every reader is invited.

Mission Committee

Status Reports and Actions Taken

- *Montlure Work Camp*: Opportunity to secure Aug. 20-22 dates – Brent Upson is leading the project.
- *Bibles for Eloy Detainees*: Passed: \$75 from undesignated funds to purchase \$5 Portuguese Bibles.
- *Pentecost Offering – Frontera de Cristo* – They have humanitarian programs including those to keep youth safe and out of cartels, Sunday school and more.
- *Mission Youth* – \$3000 Budget Line – Focus on attracting youth – more discussion with Youth Committee
- *African Community Welfare and Outreach Support* –our African Service is handling more of their administration. They have established a budget and their own bank account and are collecting offering. Their budget includes \$1,200/mo. to include support for areas of housing/health/death costs/transport/employment/etc. Additional funding to be discussed on 4/24.
- Angel Tree – Need new Coordinator – Who would like to work on this worthwhile program?
- Beans and Rice – Confirming Coordinator
- Grace Lutheran: Breakfast, Sandwich Program – BACK IN BUSINESS! 80 boxed breakfasts served – June is next. Focus on youth. Every 2 weeks for sandwiches. Encourage families to work on PB&J sandwiches. 1st and 3rd Fridays in person...add family option.
- Desert Mission – On hold
- Habitat for Humanity – Starting up again in June –
- Family Promise – no report
- Rocky Point/AMOR – verified that we are on the calendar for Nov. 11 – 14th. WHOOT!!
- Honduras – Update in Minute for Mission June 13.
- Phoenix Nourish (FKA ICM) - Church pick up has resumed.
- Hygiene Kit Report- 303 Hygiene Kits made. Suggested we consider as regular intergenerational or youthonly project.
- Agua Fria School Uniforms – no report
- **Mission needs space for supplies indoors.**

Communications Workshop

One of the things we learned during the past year is how to build and find community through on-line meetings, worship services, Bible studies, and even a talent show! As we come back together in person we want to apply this "lesson learned" by expanding the ways we communicate and reach out to the community (near and far!). To help in this endeavor we have asked PC/USA to do a workshop on communications and they have responded with a great slate of topics information. SO..... on **Monday, June 14**, you are invited to participate in this workshop at 2:00 pm on Zoom Our whole Presbytery will be invited but we have made sure that the workshop is designed with Orangewood in mind. If you write committee reports, Plumblines articles, posts on Facebook, website information or other publications, YOU ARE INVITED! If you want to learn more about Youtube, Snapchat, and other communications methods, YOU ARE INVITED! If you want to help think about how we can publicize what we do at Orangewood as outreach for new members, YOU ARE INVITED! The link for registration is: <https://bit.ly/3weIVWv>
Questions? Contact phebepacker@gmail.com

Congregational Life

As the pandemic wains, life is slowly resuming. Here at Orangewood there is a lot of joy as we celebrate our community of faith, support, service, and love. The Congregational Life committee is seeking ways to meet your needs and to peak your interest in active involvement. It is time to once again spread our wings and move beyond our comfortable, but isolated, couches. We will be offering some fun and fellowship for all ages with our July 3rd Red, White and Blue Social. Wear your colors and prepare to enjoy treats and more in Page Hall at 7:00PM.

In addition to fun, we will be offering opportunities to challenge ourselves to learn and grow in our faith and knowledge. We are in the process of evaluating curriculum for Sunday School in the fall. We look forward to finding new ways to grow in Spirit. Special announcements are coming!

If all this sounds a little nebulous, it's because it is. We are taking baby steps into a NEW normal and we need each and every one of YOU to help figure it out. Share your ideas and needs with us. Talk to Bernale, Jackie, Phebe, Sandy, Greg, Bob, Ken, Jikhara and/or Pam on the phone or on the patio.

FREE Music and Greeting Cards!

Starting a headline with the word "FREE" is almost guaranteed to grab the reader's attention, so now that we have it ...

No gimmick here! We do, in fact, have a trove of CDs and Greeting Cards on the bookshelves in the back of Page Hall that all are welcome to utilize for your personal use. Several of our Deacons and "Deacon Helpers" have painstakingly categorized and arranged them to facilitate your selection.

The Greeting Cards are in plastic bins on the shelves in the East Seminar Room. You will find cards for birthdays, condolence/sympathy, Get Well, Christmas, Thinking of You ... and others, including loads of blank note cards with various artistic themes. If you need cards to send out, check Page Hall before spending money at Hallmark, or anywhere else!

The CDs are on the shelves in the West Seminar Room, and are roughly categorized by genre. We have Classical, Baroque, Brass, Classic Jazz, Modern Jazz, Broadway & Show Tunes, and several others. Feel free to take or borrow any that interest you. If you live in a Senior Community, feel free to take some for your community's library! Or take one to any of our members who may still be isolated by pandemic restrictions – it will brighten their day!

We hope these resources, brought to you by your Board of Deacons and the help of volunteer "sorters", can help YOU in your own ministry to others who would appreciate a card and/or a recording of their favorite music. Be creative, and thank you for joining us in this ministry of "personal connection"!

Small Group Update

A new set of small group sessions began on Sunday, May 16, at 11:45 am in Room 11. This meeting is also on Zoom. Seven people attended the first meeting and we're hoping others will join. The meetings will continue to mid-July. If you are going away for the summer and send your email address to phebepacker@gmail.com, we'll be glad to Zoom you! A group led by Dennis Daniel meets on Sunday at 2 pm in the Wright Center. Small groups are a great way to ease back into being out and about and we hope you will participate and think about leading a group!

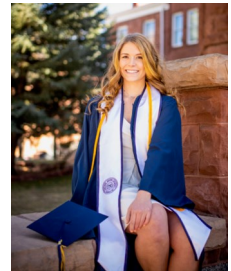
Congratulations to these Graduates

Charles Stuart Haskins, graduated on May 17, 2021 with honors from Peoria (AZ) Sunrise Mountain High School. He was also in the National Honor Society. He will start at Northern Arizona University in the fall.

Charlie is the son of Daniel and Kelly Haskins and the grandson of David and Sally Haskins.



Scott Morton, son of Sue & Joe Morton has completed his General Surgery Residency and a 1 year Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery. After 10 years Scott will be returning to Phoenix to start his practice with Desert Surgical Specialists.



Sienna Case, graduated Summa Cum Laude (4.0 GPA) from Northern Arizona University with a BSBA in Business Economics and Finance. Her next step is to pursue an MS in Finance at ASU. This summer she is working with Patrick Funke and Associates, financial planners.



Ryan DeBenedetti, graduated from Sunnyslope High School on May 25th. He will be attending Arizona State University in the fall. He is pursuing a degree in Popular Music with an emphasis in performance drumming and music production.

Dylan Swartz, plans to attend the University of Arizona and study environmental science. He will likely take a gap year and work as an Americorps member on public lands for some real life experience in the field first.



If you have a graduate and would like to add them to the next Plumblines. You can send a few short lines with a picture to pam.white.opc@gmail.com

Youth Event

Big thank you to our Orangewood family for making our Nerf wars such a success!

We had 40 kids come out and join us! It was super fun and the kids can't wait to come back!



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Join in Celebrating Our June Birthdays

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

June 2: Martha Daudet
June 4: Bailey Page
June 5: Joey Geary, Bryce Swartz
June 7: Nelly Kanyange
June 10: Mike Widener, Sam Innanen
June 11: Kelly Dushime
June 12: Shawn Kroodsma, Suzi Basi
June 13: Carolyn Haught
June 15: Paul Moser, Ted Hooper
June 17: Dan Sherwood
June 21: Claudie Deen
June 23: Pete Ladigo, Dirk Oosterwyk
June 24: Lorene Roe, Greg Swartz
June 26: Cindy Baker, David Shoemaker
June 27: Ginger Bennitt, Judy Beach, Marji Shepherd
June 28: Paul Lind, Jeannie Oosterwyk
June 30: Sandy Frost, Catherine Parker-Williams

Note: If you do not want your birthday published, please contact Phebe, phebepacker@gmail.com or call the church office.

Habitat for Humanity is Back

OPC has sponsored a Habitat house each year. This year's house is finally on the schedule and we're ready to get to work. The first of our work days is Saturday, June 5 from approximately 6:30 am-noon (or earlier if it gets too hot). Would you like to help? No experience is necessary. You'll also get to experience the wall signing where volunteers write prayers and well-wishes on the studs of the house so that the family will always be surrounded by them. Sign-up is online and first come/first served. There is a sign-up sheet at the Mission table on the patio so that we know of your interest and can send you more information. Or contact Dirk or Jeannie Oosterwyk.

Orangewood Presbyterian Church
7321 N. 10th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85020

June

www.orangewood.info

2021

Orangewood Staff

Pastor	The Rev. Kenneth G. Page
Director of Music	Dr. Charles N. Sedgwick
Band Leader	Brady Putzke
Children & Youth	Jikhara Williams
Office & Facilities Manager	Pam White
Set-Up Assistants	Dylan Swartz

Plumblin Volunteers

Editor	Pam White & Phebe Packer
Proofer	Mary Jane Gregory
Mailer	Jackie Collier

Orangewood Session 2021

Phebe Packer	Clerk of Session
Ron Carmichael	Mission
Carol Hunter	Children & Youth
Nelly Kanyange	African Fellowship
Pete Ladigo	Finance Committee
Joseph Lavi	African Fellowship
Gloria Olsen	Nominating Committee
David Rathman	Personnel
Elizabeth Reifsnider	Worship
Brent Upson	Facilities
Bernale Wright	Congregational Life
Luci Sherwood	Co-Clerk

Orangewood Presbyterian Church
602-944-1508

Website: www.orangewood.church

Email: pam.white.opc@gmail.com

The deadline for the July Plumblin is June 21