

Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 2021

Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

Did we declare a Summer of Freedom too early? Most of us are enjoying being mask free, returning to hand-shakes and hugging, and getting back to a social life. However, COVID-19 numbers have started a new spike. Right now, it's just a little spike, but the last two times we had a little spike they proceeded to a big spike. That's what geometric progressions do. Once the uptick is started, it gets bigger and bigger until something interrupts the process.

So, we need to interrupt the process. Scientists tell us that the best way to do this is to get vaccinated. OPC has about a 90% vaccination rate, so I may be preaching to the choir. Still, that leaves 10% of us unvaccinated, some of whom are too young to get the vaccine right now. There are still some of you, though. I know it's a very personal decision to get the Fauci Ouchie, but if my urging carries any weight, I am urging!

Other ways to interrupt the process involve getting back to the things we are all sick of: social distancing, elbow bumping, masks, and even staying home. None of us want to go there, but we may have to if the spike gets worse.

One of the objections to this is "I'm vaccinated. I don't need to worry." There is a lot of truth in that. Something like 99.5% of the people getting COVID right now are unvaccinated. Almost all of the people dying from COVID right now are unvaccinated. Vaccinated people have very little to worry about, but that isn't the only consideration. As Christians, we are often called to put the interests of others ahead of our own. Parents of Orangewood kids have told me that they wish we were still masking because their kids are too young to be vaccinated. We have a few members who cannot get vaccinated or whose vaccine is less likely to be effective because of immune disorders and other health problems. We also have people who have chosen not to get the vaccine, and you might say "that's on them," but we are called to love our neighbors. In addition, the more people who get the disease, the more it spreads to others, and the more people who get the disease, the more chance it has to mutate and possibly to become worse. We don't just do the right thing for ourselves – we do the right thing for everybody.

Orangewood has done well over the past year-and-a-half in loving our neighbors. We waded through masks, and elbow bumps, and closings, and less than satisfying online worship, not just to protect ourselves, but to love others. Let's not blow that, just because we are tired of the effort.

Your leaders may have to make decisions in the near future about how we best love each other in another COVID spike. Please pray for us and please support us even if the decisions are a bummer.

Love one another, just as I have loved you. John 13:34



Creative Bridges Preschool

For 32 years, the Cornerstone of our school's philosophy has been that children learn by doing and by developing self-esteem and empowerment to succeed. Every aspect of our curriculum is geared toward accomplishing these goals. We encourage children to develop problem-solving, self-help and social skills as well as creativity and self-guidance. We provide an environment that fosters the development of fine and gross motor skills and language and cognitive development. Each child is a unique individual, and our curriculum allows children to approach any task at their own level and progress at their own rate. We stress the process not the product in all areas. We welcome students with special needs and feel that we all benefit from being together. During any given year we have 20 to 25 children with special needs who benefit from such a loving and caring environment. Teachers, children and parents work cooperatively in the daily process, learning from and teaching each other. We are a Parent participatory school, requiring parents to assist in their own child's classroom on a rotational basis with other parents. Participating in the classroom, parents are able to observe their child interact with others, acquire greater knowledge about child development, strengthen their parenting skills and build lasting friendships. Our teachers provide an atmosphere that encourages



independent thinking and creative ideas facilitating the process of open discovery with students' parents and teachers working together as a team. Our 32 years at OPC have allowed us to not only teach in the present but also build for future leaders!

We have enjoyed our alliance with OPC in serving our community and leading this community together in the education of children of all abilities and supporting all families in our community.

Pam Watts
Director, Creative Bridges



Save the Date

The Presbytery of Grand Canyon's Big Event will be held on Zoom Friday, August 27 and Saturday, August 28. Each year the Big Event features a keynote speaker and multiple workshops. This year's theme is "Engaging Anti-Racism Through the Lens of Faith." The keynote speaker will be Dr. Matthew Whitaker from ASU. Friday's schedule includes worship and 2 workshops. Saturday will include the keynote speaker and 4 workshops. Be sure to check the Presbytery E Focus for workshop titles and registration information.

<https://www.azpresbyteries.org/newsletter-grand-canyon>

Honduras Update

We received a wonderful thank-you letter from Greylin Nayelly Miranda Santos, who is the daughter of our friend Wil Miranda in Trinidad. OPC is taking part in a scholarship that enables her to continue studies at the National Autonomous University in nearby Santa Rosa. She is studying finance. On Sunday, July 18, we had a Zoom meeting with Orlando, the Mayor of Trinidad. He is now running for the national congress, which will be decided in November elections. He said that the man who made Dirk Oosterwyk's boots is now running for Mayor of Trinidad. Orlando also shared extensively about the difficulties of the past year in Honduras. He said people have been divided and fearful, but are now beginning to recover confidence. Vaccinations began about 3 months ago and they are just moving from the stage of vaccinating people over age 75 to vaccinating essential workers, people with disabilities, and people over 50 years old. There was an outbreak of 75 cases in the community of San Juan Planes because it is a commercial center and because the national government ordered that the chicken processing business remain open. The outbreak is now under control. As a Mayor, Orlando said it was difficult because they had to take money from several community budget areas to purchase medicine, masks, and cleaning supplies. The eye clinic has done some examinations but no cataract surgeries because there have not been eye surgeons coming from North America. Things are improving somewhat now and a new housing project is beginning in Trinidad.



Grace Lutheran Father's Day

Father's Day 2021 - Up early to feed a pancake breakfast to our brothers and sisters at Grace Lutheran. 150 plates were served. Ron Carmichael, Dean and Kris Rennell, Leeann Spangler, and Sabrina, Addison, Sienna and Phil Case were all there to help! (And our sandwich delivery is all ready to go to whoever needs it!)



Renewal at Nourish Phoenix!

On Monday, June 28, a small group from OPC took the church van to Grant Street to visit Nourish Phoenix (formerly ICM). It was indeed an exciting and inspiring experience! Before going to Nourish Phoenix, we drove around the area where the homeless have been housed in tents. Now, courtesy of the city, they have moved to hotels in the area. There are very few tents remaining and the area is being cleaned up around the county facilities.

Nourish Phoenix is in the heart of the downtown area and has a fenced-in area for volunteer parking. We were met at the door by Mary Wolf-Francis, who is the Director of Development. She guided us to a small conference room where we met with her and the Executive Director, Beth Fiorenza. Many members of the National Guard were already busily working in the food distribution area.

Mary and Beth shared what they learned during the pandemic and the many exciting changes that are occurring at the food and clothing bank. Beth said, "We know that if a person or family needs food, they also have other needs. We want to know what those are and provide support in those other areas as well." Working with the Virginia Piper Foundation's 2-year Atlas Program, Nourish Phoenix has evaluated and revised their goals. They have changed their measurement of success from "number of pounds of food distributed" to "number of people who have become self-sufficient." Their goal is to be a community hub and this is reflected in the new programs they have instituted or expanded, including:

- Job counseling
- Grocery delivery, especially for senior clients.
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Dairy products
- Child care during shopping in the food and clothing areas
- Classes on nutrition, with recipes
- Classes on financial and workforce education

Even the facility is getting a makeover in several areas to create a more welcoming environment and to increase handicap accessibility.

How can we help Nourish Phoenix, in addition to annual budget funds? They always need men's clothing, especially underwear and sport/athletic socks. Most of all, they need volunteers in the clothing area. In the fall we hope to organize a small team to go once or twice a month. If you are interested in joining this effort, contact Gene Nix. He is the Mission Committee's contact for Nourish Phoenix and can answer questions you may have about other donations.

Join in Celebrating Our August Birthdays

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

- August 1: Bill Tatem
- August 3: Suzanne Norling
- August 5: Frank DeBenedetti
- August 6: Joe Haught
- August 7: Sedona Kleinschmidt
- August 9: Dick Wright
- August 10: Wayne Collins, Peggy Widener
- August 13: Kristine Rasmussen
- August 17: Bob Daudet, Barbara Denboer, Jerry Eddy
- August 18: Liz Brenci, Elizabeth Reifsnider
- August 21: Katy Griep
- August 23: Pam White
- August 24: Marilyn Edwards
- August 27: Marilyn Mollman, Rachel Zemer
- August 28: Patricia Muilenburg
- August 31: Barbara Digges

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

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August

www.orangewood.info

2021

Orangewood Staff

Pastor	The Rev. Kenneth G. Page
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Children & Youth	Jikhara Williams
Office & Facilities Manager	Pam White
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