

Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2021

Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Advent is a time of "Already, but not yet!" It is "already," because we know that God has already been born into the world as a human being, and has already brought us into God's family by his life, death and resurrection. In that sense, a time of waiting and watching doesn't make sense.

But it's also a time of "not yet." "Not yet," because, even though Christ is already born, our church calendar helps us to experience the full joy of Christmas by dwelling for a season in darkness with only hope to sustain us. It's also a time of "not yet," because we are also waiting for Christ to return. Every season is a "not yet," as we yearn for God to return and usher in the Kingdom of God in all its fullness. Advent is a season for us to focus on this yearning and on our hope in the Kingdom of God.

Paul reminds his fledgling church in Thessalonica that this is not a passive waiting. There is work to be done and it is a work of love. Our most important spiritual discipline in Advent (and every other time of the year) is love. As we increase and abound in love for one another and for all, God strengthens our hearts in holiness. Our extra efforts at charity and service in Advent are blessed by God. We are not in our waiting by ourselves. God is with us . . . already . . . and . . . not yet!

Emmanuel is coming!



Ken

Advent Activities

Advent Service Worship

The OPC Mission Committee has been busy planning some service events for our Wednesday evening Advent gatherings in Page Hall. Here's the schedule:

Wednesday, December 1: A combined event of Angel Tree wrapping and writing cards for Eloy detainees. This is a good event for children who can draw pictures to include with the cards!

Wednesday, December 8: Assemble hygiene kits for immigrants (IRC Welcome Center). We hope to complete 300 kits!

Wednesday, December 15: Assemble packages for the homeless to include bus ticket, socks, water, granola bar, and "how to get help" card. We hope to put together 200 packages!

These will be wonderful evenings of fellowship as we gather together for a short worship time, work on projects and enjoy holiday refreshments. We hope you will join us and invite others to come too! We will send the church van to Beatitudes and Fellowship Square for anyone needing transportation. Just contact the church office to let us know!

Lessons and Carols

Our yearly service of Lessons and Carols will be on Sunday morning, December 12 during the 10:30 am worship hour. There will be a reception after the service in the Wright Center.

Moravian Love Feast

In Page Hall Sunday, December 19, at 10:30 am. A love feast service is primarily a music service designed to convey a thematic message. The hymns and music in a Christmas Love Feast tell the story of our Savior's birth. At our family-friendly Love Feast, we will sing carols, listen to scripture readings, and enjoy sweet buns and coffee or hot cocoa. Please join us for this beautiful and meaningful service.

Candlelight Communion Service in the Sanctuary

One service at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. We are looking forward to a very special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. As usual, we will conclude with "Silent Night" sung by candlelight. This is always a most meaningful and holy moment in our celebration of Christmas. Please join us.



A Cappella Syndicate concert

YOU ARE INVITED.....to come ring-in the Holiday Season with ***A Cappella Syndicate***, a mob of talented men whose performances have brought fans to their feet across Arizona and beyond. (Did you know they rehearse here at Orangewood every week?)

On Saturday, December 18, at 2:00 pm, right here at Orangewood Presbyterian Church.....

....the *Syndicate* will enchant you with a variety of familiar Christmas Holiday songs for all ages, and fill you with chuckles as they weave everything into a comical play that gives you a peek into what might really go on during a recording session. Bring the family!

For the past five years, the Syndicate has won Arizona's **top prize** in the Barbershop Harmony Society's Chorus Competition. They are really good!

.....and.....

A special guest is *Vocalocity*, current champion of the Far Western District Quartet Competition.



Tickets available online at ACappella-Syndicate.com or call 602.888.0942
\$20 General Admission, \$10 Students, Kids 12 & under free

Please join us for refreshments and visit with us in Page Hall after the performance.

The Season of Advent Begins November 28, 2021

(Four Sundays before Christmas)

Dr. Laurence Stookey, author of CALENDAR, writes about Advent:

"The First Sunday in Advent is regarded in the Western Church as the beginning of the Liturgical Year. But Advent is first of all about the end of time. Because the term itself means "coming" or "arrival," and because it precedes Christmas, many have misunderstood Advent to be exclusively a time to get ready to celebrate the coming of a child in Bethlehem. In fact, the primary focus of Advent is on what is popularly called "the second coming." Thus Advent concerns the future of the Risen One, who will judge wickedness and prevail over every evil."

Dr. Stookey's statements are startling because they do not agree with the popular ideas about Advent. Even many good Christian church people misunderstand what Advent is truly about. Furthermore the widespread commercialization of Advent (and of Christmas that follows) compounds the misunderstanding. One way to properly understand Advent is to study the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) that is used during The Christian Liturgical Year.

In our Worship at Orangewood, each Sunday in Advent will have a related message printed in your bulletin to describe the chosen passages and help you understand this exciting Season. We hope you will follow along.



Alternative Giving 2021

Our Alternative Giving offers a variety of giving areas. Our patio will again feature the Heifer Project during the month of December. We will also have special cards for donations to schools in Honduras, including scholarships. We will have special discount coupons for shopping at the WHEAT Fair Trade Store, which is located on the west side of 7th Street just south of Missouri. We will also be collecting donations for Nourish Phoenix, including blankets, scarves, gloves, pillows, jackets, socks, and a can of soup. Looking forward to seeing you on the patio in this special season of giving.



Advent Devotional

For all those seeking spiritual enrichment during this special season, please take advantage of a special study written by our Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Brad Munroe. It is called "Praying Paul for Advent" and can be downloaded from E-FOCUS on the Grand Canyon Presbytery Website.



Christmas Coffee Invitation

Saturday, December 11 at 2:00 pm all the women who worship at Orangewood Presbyterian Church are welcome at Jeanne Matt's home, 1009 W. Wagon Wheel Drive.

Christmas Cookies, Christmas Carols, Companionship, Candy Canes---COME!

The donation for the day will be socks for men, women or children to be donated to Nourish Phoenix. An option is to bring a plate of cookies to share or just come to help eat the Christmas cookies.

Thanksgiving Dinner 2021

The weather was beautiful and everyone a great time getting together for the annual All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner. Thanks to Jackie Collier and the hospitality committee for all the work they did to make this happen.



Big Thank You

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the Fall Festival. Those who made food, helped set up and clean up and those who brought food. Special thanks to Sammie for all the games and activities, and to her parents who did a lot to help her. Fun was had by all.

Rocky Point

I know there are probably a lot of emotions you and your crew are feeling this weekend but I hope to send you a little encouragement—our team stayed in Penasco to make sure the home was completed for the family. I've attached some photos of their progress so far. They're hoping to be done with it this weekend.

Praying for your crew,

Emily Arnold

Amor Trip Manager

Amor Ministries



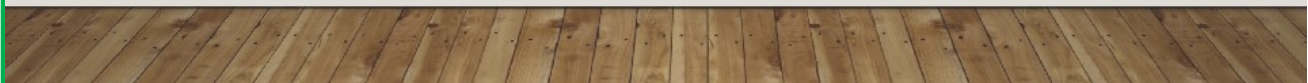
The Orangewood crew did not get to go to Rocky Point so our funds we used to build a house by the Amor Crew



ORANGEWOOD SOLAR- RECCOMENDATION TO SAVE ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS

- Orangewood revenue decreasing from membership giving each year as our demographics change.
 - Were growing membership, and our per unit average giving is reducing
- Expenses continue to increase each year
 - Staff wages
 - Electric, water, sewer
 - Maintenance materials and labor
- Electrical is approximately \$28k/year and can be eliminated from our expense budget

OPC has a firm quote with a 6-7 year payback



Fall Festival 2021





Session Notes-November

The OPC Session met on Tuesday, November 16 via Zoom. Meeting highlights:

1. Our attendance throughout the fall has remained steady online as the in-person services begin to grow again. Naturally there is some uncertainty, given the recent need to shut down the office and a Sunday service, but we are grateful that our pastor is starting to feel better!
2. Just when the new carpet was completed in the office (and looking great!), the water heater burst, flooding the entire office, hallway, and choir room. Fortunately, Bob Wells stopped by on Saturday, November 13 and saw what was happening, so the remediation could begin immediately! Thank you, Bob!
3. Worship Committee is continuing its study of the book "Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church" and we can expect to see more and more information about the liturgical calendar in our worship services and bulletin.
4. OPC's financial condition is very sound and we are finishing the calendar year on the plus side, thanks to the continuing generosity of the congregation and the conscientious stewardship of our leaders.
5. The Session approved a proposal for installing solar panels on three buildings in early 2022. The Finance and Facilities Committees were thanked for their work on this project. A full description of the system – its cost, locations, financing, payback period, and benefits – is currently being written.
6. Both the Fall Festival and November SAGES meeting were well attended. The Congregational Life Committee continues to be hard at work for upcoming events.
7. The African Fellowship is continuing to grow and a new church may be formed in Tucson.
8. Mission Committee is busy with Angel Tree, Alternative Giving, and Advent Service Worship events.



Nourish Phoenix Winter Donation Drive

Give the gift of warmth and comfort this winter season by donating essential items you no longer use.

Orangewood is gathering the following items:

Jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, socks, gloves, scarves,
Blankets, sheets, pillows, canned soup.

Drop off now through December 15 at Orangewood

Church Directory

We are still seeking pictures for the new directory and well as any information updates. Please send your selfies to pam.white.opc@gmail.com. If you are unable to get to church or take a selfie, contact the church office and a time will be arranged for someone to come to your residence. Thank you to Barb Digges who has tenaciously persisted in taking pictures in the face of many difficulties. We especially still need photos from our African members.

SAGES

Orangewood's SAGES enjoyed their luncheon on Tuesday, November 9 in Page Hall. Table centerpieces were provided by Jeanne Matt, and included colorful dried flowers and gourds typical of the Thanksgiving season. The following setup the tables and chairs for our lunch: Cyndi Wood, Christina Suarez, Jeanne Matt, and Judy Beach. Thanks for your help! A delicious meal was prepared by Kaydie Marshall, and she was assisted in the kitchen by Martha Daudet and Judy Beach. The main course was "Kaydie's Chicken and Rice Casserole," and a salad. For dessert, guests had an option of one of two home-made cakes, served to each table. Our speaker, Luci Sherwood, entertained us with a humorous reading from a book, "Jam on the Ceiling", by J. Wesley Sullivan. Luci gave us the background on this book, as the author was a close friend of her father. Barb Digges, editor of the Plumline, was present and took photos of

several SAGES for the upcoming directory. This directory will include current photos, so be sure that you have your picture taken after each Sunday 10:30 am service, or submit a current photo to Pam White at the church office. Our December meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 14th and will feature a Christmas carol presentation by the children of the preschool in the church courtyard. Please wear your face masks for this show, and we will socially distance for this event. Be sure to arrive early! We will also have a special birthday celebration for Mary Turkal on her 101st December birthday! Call the church office should you need transportation.



Join in Celebrating Our December Birthdays

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

Luci Sherwood	Dec 1
Ethan Swartz	Dec 4
Errol Zimmerman	Dec 6
Brent Upson	Dec 8
Logan Johnston	Dec 9
Nida Luna	Dec 9
Sue Morton	Dec 10
Ali Widener	Dec 10
Joe Witte	Dec 13
Keith Jendricks	Dec 13
Venant Vyamungu	Dec 15
David Haskins	Dec 16
Addison Case	Dec 26
Sabrina Case	Dec 26
Eleanor Hiser	Dec 26
Carol Foster	Dec 27
Mary Turkal	Dec 30



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December

www.orangewood.church

2021

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