

# Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 2022

## Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

It happened again! Anyone who is paying attention knew it would happen again, but we tried to stuff it away. This time, a white eighteen-year-old sought out a black neighborhood of Buffalo and then killed ten people while wounding three more. Again, the weapon of choice was an assault rifle modified to hold more ammunition. Again, the motive was racial animosity.

He wrote a manifesto linking his acts to what has become known as "the great replacement theory." This belief states that elites have launched a conspiracy to replace and disempower white people. This theory has been the impetus for horrific violence against Black, Asian, Latinx and Jewish communities. Remember Mother Emmanuel AME Church in South Carolina! Remember eleven Jewish people killed in a synagogue in Pittsburgh! Remember twenty-three mostly Latinx people killed in a Walmart in El Paso! Remember the eight predominantly Asian women killed at spas in Atlanta!

Even sadder, this "great replacement theory" has been espoused or winked at by a significant portion of American Christians. And it isn't a rare belief! "According to polling by the Public Religion Research Institute, 50 percent of white evangelicals, 60 percent of Republicans, and 11 percent of Democrats agree with the statement that "Immigrants are invading our country & replacing our cultural and ethnic background."

Replacement theory is not a Christian belief. In fact, it is explicitly counter to the Gospel which calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. It is diametrically opposed to God's creation of and love for all human beings as made in the image of God. It is anathema to the Kingdom of God which includes people from every race and tongue and nation.

Sadly, we know that the outrage over the Buffalo massacre will die down. It always does . . . until it happens again. Before it dies down, and after it dies down we must speak up as Christians against hateful rhetoric. It is vital that we not only condemn acts of violence, such as the one in Buffalo, but also the heresy behind them. As Christians we give witness that one of the greatest superpowers of the Kingdom of God is its diversity!

*There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)*



## SAGES Luncheon

Orangewood's SAGES fellowship group celebrated their last luncheon of this program year on Tuesday, May 10, in Page Hall. Our meal was selected by our head chef Ron Carmichael, who went to great efforts to plan this final feast! Unfortunately, Ron tested positive for Covid, and was unable to enjoy the fruits of this labor! Many thanks, Ron! Gene Nix, his assistant chef was unable to attend also, due to a COVID "time out" period. As a result, many people contributed to this event- quite unexpectedly! Greg Harris picked up the food and delivered it to Page Hall. John Hayes, Barb Digges, Bernale Wright, Lynne Orf, and especially Jackie Collier and Sandy Snyder - all jumped in to set the tables, arrange the food platters, and clean up the kitchen. Thanks to all of you for helping make this luncheon a success! Jeanne Matt provided our table centerpieces made of colorful papier mâché vegetables. Our Mexican lunch included tacos, taquitos, mini flautas, with shredded cheese, chopped lettuce, tomato on the side, and rice and beans. For dessert, Ron selected a dish called "motos", consisting of vanilla ice cream with a layer of chocolate, rolled up in a delicious crumb coating. A perfect dessert for our Mexican meal! Our entertainment was provided by a famous cowboy singing artist, Marshal Pioneer Pepper. The Marshal included requests from our group to sing their favorite songs- and he did-to the delight of his audience. Songs like "Ragtime Cowboy Joe," "Cool, Cool Water," "Riding Down the Canyon (about Sedona)" "Ghost Riders in the Sky," and "Happy Trails to You" were sung with some accompanying commentary on their origin. Jeanne Matt and Lois Pearch were given a special cowboy "happy birthday" led by the Marshal in honor of their May birthdays! We are asking for a new SAGES Entertainment Chairperson for next year, so if you are interested, please contact Bob Orf or Jeanne Matt. Best wishes to all for a happy -and safe-summer!



## Welcome Baby Zandler

John Zandler, son to Julia and Tom Zandler, and his wife Rebecca, had a healthy 8lb 10 oz baby boy on April 30. His name is Thomas John (TJ) Bookman-Zandler, and the whole family is grateful for this wonderful blessing! Congratulations, John and Rebecca!!!



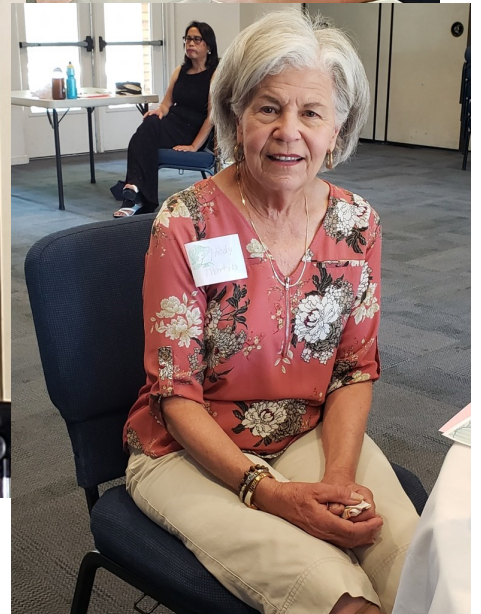
## Pentecost Offering

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people and also supports the needs of at risk children. We hope you will give as generously as you can on June 5 during worship or through the office or our website. This year the local portion of our offering will go to Lutheran Social Services to support the children of those seeking asylum from such countries as Ukraine and/or Afghanistan.

## Presbyterian Women

### Hats Off to Volunteers

Orangewood Presbyterian Women hosted a spring luncheon with potluck salads and desserts on Saturday, May 14 in Page Hall. Building on the theme the women supported the 2022 Birthday Offering projects in Maine and Puerto Rico. Four outstanding volunteers were recognized for their contributions to Orangewood and other communities. Those recognized are Hedy Martin, Anita Shipley, Christina Suarez and Judy Proffitt. The luncheon highlight was a mini concert by renowned soloist Sunny Valentine.



### Bible Study

The Bible Study Circle will be using the study book *Celebrating Sabbath-Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. The opening introduction will be **September 20 at 1:00** with monthly circle meetings the first Tuesday afternoon of each subsequent month. Contact Phebe Packer to order the study book (\$10).

### Orangewood Marathon Bridge: "The winner is....."

Orangewood Marathon Bridge season ended on Sunday, May 15. Tootsie Authur was the high scorer for the season. "Orangewooders" Katy Griep and Tom Woodman joined in the finale. The Marathon is always seeking new players. The fall monthly games begin in late September with two tables per home at 2:00 on a Sunday. Bridge players who would like to be included in the roster please contact Jeanne Matt at (c) 602-881-1927.

## Mission

### Honduras Update

The OPC team is proposing a trip to Honduras the first week of August. Although we will visit both Trinidad and the communities near Copan Ruinas, the trip will be shorter this year and will not involve work teams. A primary purpose of the trip is to finish the qualification of the Eye Clinic in Trinidad and discuss processes for operating the clinic with local officials. In addition, the team will meet with community leaders to discuss their vision for future projects and to work on the scholarship programs we support. Anyone interested in making this trip should contact Brent Upson or Phebe Packer. Details on costs for the trip and the exact dates are being finalized in the next couple of weeks.

### Update on Grants

As previously reported, OPC and the OAF received two grants from the Presbytery of Grand Canyon in March. Progress has been made on both programs supported by these grants. On May 12, Joseph Lavi and Phebe Packer had a very productive meeting with the owner and managers of the International Driving School in Phoenix. This organization was named a top driving school for 2022 and has instructors with both driving and language expertise. In the initial program, 10 OAF students will receive the "behind the wheel" training needed to obtain a driver's license. Students are currently being registered and we expect that the training will begin in June. On May 19, Phebe Packer met with the owners of the Arizona Language Institute to discuss English as a Second Language classes to be given on the OPC campus on Sunday afternoons. We already have the materials for the classes and plan to deliver a 10-week set of classes this summer. Students are currently being registered and registrations will be capped at about 25 students. We will need volunteers to help with these classes. What a great way to learn some Swahili ourselves and engage in this exciting program. Sign-ups will be on the patio in early June.

### June Workshops-Matthew 25 Comes Alive!

Matthew 25 teaches us to welcome the strangers in our midst. Recently the OPC Mission Committee met with Lutheran Social Services/Arizona to learn about the work they do with refugees from all over the world. LSS provides a wide range of services, including special programs to assist women. We think it is a good time to refresh our knowledge about refugees, government processes, and the needs of these communities. We are excited to announce that Lutheran Social Services will present a set of 3 workshops during the month of June on the OPC campus. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us in Page Hall at 12:00 pm on any or all of these Tuesdays. Each workshop will be 45 minutes.

Tuesday, June 14: U.S. Refugee Program – who are refugees, where do they come from, what is the international & national context, how we serve them at LSS, how you can engage.

Tuesday, June 21: Afghan evacuees – the Afghan history & culture, the U.S. context of evacuations, the Afghan parolee status, how we served them, how you can engage.

Tuesday, June 28: Asylum-seekers – who are asylum-seekers, where do they come from, what is the international & national context, how we serve them at LSS, how you can engage.

We will provide beverages and some fun desserts! These workshops are open to all congregations in the Presbytery. We hope to see you and share this important learning opportunity. All sessions will be recorded and available to those who cannot attend in person.

## Small Groups

The small groups have started meeting but it is not too late to join! Some groups were delayed and are just starting up in June. Visit the table on the patio to see the days and times available. Join up – you'll be glad you did!

## Session Notes for May 2022

Gach Kur of the Nile Community Church of Arizona met with Session to discuss the status of the new worshipping community. The church has 96 members. 15 of their families are Presbyterian. Twice a week their members go door to door to pray with people and seek new members. The church is excited to be part of the Orangewood community and they are interested in OPC mission projects.

Session approved a motion to baptize Thomas John Bookman-Zandler on May 29, 2022. He is the son of John Zandler and Rebecca Bookman.

Treasurer Bob Wells reported the financial information as of May 17, 2022.

Member Income, year to date: \$311,800

Total Income: \$382,846

Expenses, year to date: 364057

Net: \$18,788

The Session received with gratitude Jeanne Matt's report on the recent Presbytery Meeting. Brent Upson reported that the Montlure work trip was very successful. 19 people participated. Session approved a list of 21 new members of the OAF.

Brent Upson reported on 3 projects of the Facilities Committee:

Solar panels on all roofs. Electronics connections next then city approval to begin operation.

Renovating bathrooms in office area.

Met with real estate attorney re: manse. The new separate deeds should be ready to file within a couple of weeks.

The Session received the resignation of Elder David Rathman with thanks for his dedicated service. The Nominating Committee is seeking a new chairperson for the Personnel Committee.

Bob Wells and Phebe Packer will investigate the feasibility of installing an electronic sign for Orangewood, to replace outside banners.

All committees will be requested to define their needs/specifications for new and/or improved technical and communications capabilities, such as online sign-up for projects.

## Our June Birthdays

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

Martha Daudet	2-June	Claudie Deen	21-June
Bailey Page	4-June	Peter Ladigo	23-June
Joey Geary	5-June	Dirk Oosterwyk	23-June
Bryce Swartz	5-June	Greg Swartz	24-June
Bev Gross	7-June	Cindy Baker	26-June
Ronald Carmichael	9-June	David Shoemaker	26-June
Mike Widener	10-June	Ginger Bennitt	27-June
Samantha Innanen	10-June	Judy Beach	27-June
Shawn Kroodsma	12-June	Marji Shepherd	27-June
Carolyn Haught	13-June	Paul Lind	28-June
Paul Moser	15-June	Jeannie Oosterwyk	28-June
Ted Hooper	15-June	Sandy Frost	30-June
Dan Sherwood	17-June	Catherine Parker-Williams	30-June

## Did you know....

We will be presenting links to interesting tidbits about the history of Orangewood. Follow the links we will have monthly.

Link for home readers who have computers:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/jspeicie8lcfwe/The%20Seal%20of%20the%20Presbyterian%20Church.pdf?dl=0>

## Fellowship Road

Fellowship Road will open for travel the second Sunday in June! Everyone is invited to join the journey, which begins on the patio by marking their birthplace on a large world map. Also on the patio, travelers can pick up a "passport" for their journey along with stickers to record their experiences along the road. As a recap, Fellowship Road is a way of learning more about each other, both in the OPC congregation and the Orangewood African Fellowship. Written materials, videos, and in-person experiences are offered along the road. Little by little, through small interactions, we can learn more about each other and enrich our experience as a community of faith.

## Social Media

You can find us on Facebook and Instagram.



## **Worship Committee Study of *CALENDAR* Completed**

The final discussion of Laurence Hull Stookey's book *CALENDAR* was held on May 3. The author summarized his book with these statements.

### Divine Humiliation-Exaltation and the Cross

"...the cross proclaims both the humiliation of God through the act of taking on mortal flesh and the exaltation of God through the resurrection of the Incarnate and Crucified One."

"The mystery of humiliation-exaltation can be understood best only in reverse. In terms of Jesus: Without the Resurrection, Good Friday commemorates simply the death of a martyr, a noble but tragic figure; and Christmas is simply the birth of this same ill-fated teacher. In the Gospels, the disciples are pictured throughout the ministry of Jesus as uncomprehending dolts. Furthermore, Jesus periodically does a good deed and then says, 'But don't tell anyone about this.' So true is this in Mark's Gospel that it has there been called 'the messianic secret'. "Why would Jesus' ministry need to be so mystifying, even so secretive? Because until the end of the story – until the Resurrection has occurred – any sense that can be made of it would be so partial as to be greatly diminished. It was not that the disciples of Jesus were more stupid than other human beings and therefore "just didn't get it." It was that neither they nor we can "get it" until we know how the story ends. The birth, ministry, and death of Jesus must be understood in light of the Resurrection or the understanding will be greatly diminished. It is no accident that the observance of Christian time, the day, the week and the year, is grounded in and organized around the Resurrection celebration."

The importance of the Resurrection is made evident by a study of the book of Acts. There you will find that the Resurrection was the major driving force for the foundation of the Christian church.

It transformed the confused disciples into fearless apostles.

Every major sermon (11 of them) mentions the Resurrection of Christ.

### On the Nature of the Resurrection

"The Resurrection was a kind of cosmic explosion that reverberated in all directions. It gave the followers of Jesus a new understanding of the present, but also of the past and of the future. Through the Resurrection (and that alone) the cross, that instrument of capital punishment by the hated Romans, ceased to be an enigmatic embarrassment and became the central symbol of the faith. ...For the Resurrection of Jesus is not primarily about some change in Jesus but about the change that God works in the world and wills to work in us."

"Therefore, the church celebrates the Resurrection of Christ and of the whole creation as the center of a weekly cycle, every Lord's day, and as the center of an annual cycle, every Easter. This the church does and will ever do, year in and year out, until time shall cease to be."

## **Facilities Report–May Meeting**

- \* Solar project has completed panels on all three roofs and we're now into the electronics connection phase.
- \* Renovation to the ladies' bathroom in the office area is complete. Phase 2 will be the men's bathroom area and to replace the door on the women's room to make it ADA compliant width. Planned for May 24-25.
- \* Sanctuary railing by steps is on hold waiting for a new design from worship as the last one was rejected.
- \* Lighting project for courtyard was completed in time for Lenten evening services.
- \* Page Hall mural concept on hold given we don't have an artist concept.
- \* Hired real estate attorney to file deeds for manse and Orangewood campus. Next phase is water meter installation.

## Mission Notes for May 2022

Brent Upson met with the committee to discuss his recent experience on a building project in Mexico with 1 Mission. Brent and Christina Suarez will evaluate 1 Mission option for OPC Rocky Point trips. Brent also presented the possibility of 1 Mission as affordable housing that could be built on OPC property. Ron Carmichael and Brent will explore this idea further and report back to the committee.

Ron volunteered with Neighborhood Ministries and really appreciated their offering, however since there was a lot of overlap in the work that OPC does with Nourish Phoenix, the committee decided not to take on a new relationship at this time.

The committee reviewed all financial accounts and provided direction to Treasurer Bob Wells on expenditures.

### Activities in the local community:

**Nourish Phoenix** Continuing to take a team on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday morning of each month. Sign up at Mission Table. Good opportunity for Youth participation – 14 years and older

**Grace in the City** Next opportunity to serve breakfast is June 19.

**Angel Tree** The committee decided to sign up for the same number of people as last year (45). Addi Case will lead the project again but we would like to train a co-chair. Ask Addi what is involved!

**Water Mission** Money collected this year will be split between Arizona Faith Network and Phoenix Rescue Mission. These organizations provide "watering stations" and make sure that water gets to the homeless who do not go to shelters.

### Special Offerings:

**One Great Hour of Sharing** The total collected on Easter was \$1,917. These funds support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program

**Pentecost** This offering supports children in need and the committee voted to send the 25% allotted for local use to Lutheran Social Services for children of asylum seekers.

### Requests:

Church needs kneeler walker

Ask your dentist for donations of dental care products for our homeless bags or hygiene kits.

Check out **E-FOCUS** to get updates and stories about the work of the Presbyterian church.

**NEXT MEETING: June 13 at 10:00** – All congregational members invited

## OPC Free Greeting Card Store

If you need greeting cards for any occasion, don't forget to look in Orangewood's assortment in the East Seminar room before you go somewhere to buy them. We have literally hundreds of cards of all types, including Birthday, Holiday, Sympathy, Get Well Soon, blank-inside cards with nice photo or art covers, and much more. And thanks to Martha Daudet and other Helpers, these cards are nicely organized and labeled in plastic totes, so you can find what you're looking for pretty easily. I recently had need of a Congrats on your Wedding card and a Thinking of You card, and I was able to find just what I needed in less than five minutes - and it cost me nothing! This resource is lovingly brought to you by your Board of Deacons as a ministry to you, our beloved Orangewood family.

Dennis Daniel



## Montlure Work Camp

Eleven youth and 3 adults went to, Montlure to help rebuild from the fire damage. They cleaned the admin building and the nurses cabin. They unclogged the sewer and re-roofed a building. It was a lot of hard work but also good fellowship.



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**June**

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

**2022**

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Pastor	The Rev. Kenneth G. Page
Director of Music	Dr. Charles N. Sedgwick
Director of Children & Youth	Samantha Burkhart
Band Leader	Brady Putzke
Office & Facilities Manager	Pam White
Set-Up Assistant	Addison Case

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