

Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

July /August 2022

Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

I find myself getting triggered a lot lately – The news, the bumper stickers, social media, tee shirts, and more can tick me off or make me sad in a heartbeat. I've never really been that guy before, so while some of it is the state of our country, some of it must be me.

It's not like I haven't lived through difficult times before. I was able to get some perspective then, so I have to believe that it is in my grasp now as well.



I am working on a few spiritual disciplines to make this happen, and I would like to share some of them with you.

The first one is gratitude. In the midst of an increasingly polarized time in America it's easy to forget all the amazing blessings in our lives. Most days, most of the time, things are just fine! We could be living in Ukraine! Taking time every day to thank God for all of our amazing blessings is crucial to keeping a balance in our lives. We know how easy it is to go to that place of anxiety. Gratitude is the way back.

The second spiritual discipline that I am working on is doing what I can do and trusting God for the rest. Usually what I can do is only a little, but it is something. I put my efforts into doing what I can do and turn the rest over to the Lord. God has other people on God's team! God holds the world in God's hands. I don't need to worry about things that I cannot change. God's got this!

Finally, I'm working on love. It isn't a big leap between being triggered and starting to hate. It's a leap that I'm perfectly capable of making. I try to stop and marvel at the fact that God loves whoever it is that's getting in my head right now.

Then I marvel at the fact that God loves me, even with all my sins. From there, it becomes easier to love others as God has loved me.

Gratitude

**Do what you can, and trust God for the rest
Love**

**In all things
God is working
for good for
those who love
the Lord.**

Ken

Honduras Trip 2022

For the first time since January 2020, OPC will travel to Honduras! During this interim, elections took place in Honduras in November 2021. During our trip we will meet with the new mayors of Trinidad and Copan and discuss plans for the future. We will also be investigating how to make progress with opening and sustaining an eye clinic in Trinidad to perform cataract surgeries. We will visit the sewing circles that have started since we were last there. We will also meet with scholarship students and the manager of the program in Copan. We are very excited that three young adults will join us on this trip – Sabrina Case, Spencer Case and Gigi Griep – and look forward to introducing them to our many friends in the communities! Please help if you can! Our trip organizer is Brent Upson and others from OPC going on the trip are Bernale Wright, Dennis Daniel, Christina Suarez, and Phebe Packer. Tim Wheeler will join us as facilitator. Currently the scholarship account has about \$1000 and we hope to increase this before the trip.

Update on Grants

Driver's License

Currently there are 9 students registered in the Driver's License program and 4 have already obtained their certificates.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Jambo! Hello!

Assessments and enrollment in the adult ESL classes resulted in the formation of two classes, one for beginning students and one for advancing students. Each class has 10 students. Our instructors are Peggy and Glen Gray who run the Arizona Language Institute. We have completed 6 of the 10 sessions planned and are excited by the progress being made. The students have been attentive and diligent about class participation and completion of homework assignments. A big **Thank You** to Bernadette and Abby from the OAF who have assisted by providing translation support. Both young ladies learned English after their arrival in the U. S. Class assistants from Orangewood are Barbara Digges, Carol Khazai, and Phebe Packer.

On July 31, several members of the Orangewood Congregation joined the ESL students for the first practice session. We enjoyed getting to know one another and taking part in activities and games focused on greetings in both English and Swahili. There was a bit of competition and lots of laughter and applause.

We will be holding one more practice event at **4:30 on August 28** in the Wright Center. Please join us for

conversations, games, and refreshments.



International Peacemaker

The Presbytery of Grand Canyon will welcome an International Peacemaker from the Presbyterian Mission Agency for the 10th straight year. Helivao Poget from Madagascar will visit the Presbytery from September 27 to October 3. Helivao Poget is an ordained pastor and has an extensive background in working and living with marginalized people in many locations across the island of Madagascar. She developed a "street ministry," living and sharing the gospel with sex workers, drug addicts, street kids, and street families. In 2009, she started a ministry to socially and economically displaced people, known as SAFFIFAA. This ministry provides a wide range of services for communities such as youth, women, migrants, and developmentally challenged people. Much of SAFFIFA's work helps to provide young people alternatives to criminal activity, substance abuse and sex work. In 2010, after one of the women she knew died while working as a domestic worker in Lebanon, Pastor Helivao began to learn about and expose human trafficking networks and to help women to escape abusive situations. In addition to her ministry at SAFFIFAA, Pastor Helivao has worked to foster national reconciliation and to address the factors that have contributed to the country's cyclical political instability. She also teaches missiology at the FJKM Theological Faculty in Antananarivo. She has pioneered a field research program for her students that exposes them to the realities of social problems such as poverty, violence and exploitation and equips them to address these challenges more effectively as pastors. A complete schedule of opportunities to hear her story in person will be published in early September.



Orangewood Serving the Homeless

As you may know, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Mary's, and other dining halls for the homeless do not serve breakfast to the homeless on Sundays. Orangewood partners with Grace Lutheran to serve on Sundays and our next opportunity is:

**August 21, at 6:30 am
1124 N 3rd Street**

We need volunteers! We prepare breakfast for an hour, serve for about an hour and are usually all cleaned up and out of the church by 8:30 when they begin their service. There are several easy jobs just serving breakfast. The mixers and flippers are a little tougher but all of us have a fulfilling experience. Join us in what is a Matthew 25 experience. At our last breakfast we served over 190 plates and more than 500 pancakes.



Immigration Workshops

We held three workshops in June, presented by Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Each workshop was attended by about a dozen people. The dynamic presenters from LSS helped us understand the difference between refugees, asylum seekers, and temporary parolees (such as Afghani immigrants). We learned about their circumstances and the paths they travel in seeking to resettle in the United States. Many interesting facts came to light, which we will write about in upcoming Plumblines, along with stories about individuals.

Duet

The following appeared in the June edition of North Central News, a community newspaper. The article features two of Orangewood's favorites, Mary Turkal and the non-profit *Duet*.

Volunteers needed to help homebound seniors

One hundred one-year-old Mary Turkal still lives in her townhome of 20 years, but these days, she relies on the assistance from volunteers from *Duet: Partners In Health & Aging* to help her remain independent. Phyllis, a *Duet* volunteer, calls every Monday afternoon to chat. Sharp as ever, Turkal is revved for conversation. "My engine's running," she shared with *Duet*, "but my body's rusting out."

She used to have a *Duet* volunteer drive her places, but now that she moves more slowly, another volunteer, Carol, grocery shops for her near the beginning of each month. Turkal moved from the Midwest to be near her daughter a few decades ago. She turned 100 during the height of the pandemic, which precluded a party. So, she was celebrated with a drive-by parade of decorated cars as she sat in her carport. COVID-19 is just another scourge to survive, she shrugs, citing the Depression, WWII, polio and HIV. "I've lived through 19 presidents," said Turkal. "Some good. Some bad. America still is here."

But many of her original friends are no longer here. When she first arrived, she and other single ladies at her church had a good time together. "They're all gone, now," she said. "But you can't give up. I had to go to a second level of friends. They're all much younger, in their late eighties." She counts her *Duet* volunteers among her friends and looks forward to connecting with them.

There are many homebound adults who can no longer drive that are awaiting volunteers from *Duet*. Valley residents can help by driving to appointments, grocery shopping, calling or making friendly visits. For more information about volunteer orientations and being paired with someone in their geographic area, residents can call *Duet: Partners In Health & Aging* at 602-274-5022 or visit www.duetaz.org.



Centenarian Mary Turkal (left) relies on Duet volunteers like Carol Bedner to assist with grocery shopping each month. (photo courtesy of Duet: Partners In Health & Aging).

Session Highlights

The OPC Session did not meet in June or July, but following is a summary of activity.

- Approved the baptism of Daniel Burgess for August 20th. Daniel lives with Joseph Lavi.
- Arranged for attendance of Rev. Terry Marks (Crosswinds PC) at the September Session meeting. It is a requirement to have someone appointed by the Presbytery attend a Session meeting to help evaluate our processes.
- June attendance statistics for OPC were an average of 62 in person and 118 online.
- Held a Called Meeting to evaluate and make recommendations regarding enrollment of Samantha Innanen as a Candidate for Ministry in the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, Presbyterian Church USA. Samantha Innanen is currently enrolled as an Inquirer. Sammi is a student at Austin Seminary and concurrently serving in the US Army National Guard.
- Received information that OPC has achieved the Stewardship goal of \$370,000. Committees are currently preparing budgets for the coming year.

Mission Notes July 2022

Honduras Trip: Scheduled for August 8-14.

Backpacks: 35 elementary school, 45 middle school, and 20 high schoolers at OPC will receive backpacks. We are donating funds to Nourish Phoenix and Agua Fria for their backpack programs.

Lutheran Immigration Services: Three workshops were held in June. OPC's focus will be engagement with asylum seekers who by design of the program, can't work and have few to no government resources available.

Grace in the City: Next breakfast - August 21 – We need volunteers.

OAF (Orangewood African Fellowship): Driver's License and ESL Classes: programs are going well.

Rocky Point: Christina spoke with a Mesa church that builds with One Mission. She asked if a small OPC group could go with them on November 3-6. Committee wants to make sure that youth have the opportunity to be leaders. An evaluation of the November trip is planned. We are looking at February for our own trip.

Manse sale and hospitality housing discussed: Committee still would like to be part of a detailed discussion on the sale of the manse vs. other options for hospitality housing

Mission budget: Next year about the same as this year. Survey for congregation will be discussed at next meeting.

Ukraine Support: keep Ukraine and all areas of the world in distress in our prayers.

Ongoing Requests and Notifications:

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.

Did you know... by Bob Wells

Links to parts of our historical archive that you may enjoy.

Did You Know.

that our wonderful pipe organ was manufactured in the Czech Republic. Learn more by following this link. Make sure to open the slide show at the end. The download may take a little time and may open in a second browser window. <https://www.dropbox.com/s/lv6jrb3q5dow8g7/History%20of%20Pipe%20Organ.pdf?dl=0>

Did You Know (12) - - - -

Did you know that the monthly Plumblin feature the "Pastor's Page" did not start when Pastor Ken Page joined Orangewood? It started in the very first newsletter published by the church. At that time, the publication was named the "the Caller" nor the Plumblin. Take a look!

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/zewtf7wt9whgbvp/1956-12%20the%20caller.pdf?dl=0>

From the Archives - - - - 1 (Committee)

In April of 1994, the Orangewood Parish Life Committee sponsored an Ice Cream Social and Talent Show. Member latent talent was fully on display, but one segment presented by our choir member Dave Haskins was rememberable. See if you agree.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/pfbgbef18lvi90c/From%20the%20Archives%20-%20-%20-%20-%201%20%28Committee%29.mpg?dl=0>

What are the Deacons doing?

The Deacons continue their work of pastoral care. We are visiting the home-bound, sending cards (Card Team), and making phone calls and hospital visits. Along with Pastor Ken, we serve home Communion.

If you would like to be a part of the team, you don't need to be an "official" deacon. If you'd like to send cards, call Martha Daudet. She heads up the card team. If you would be interested in making visits or phone calls, contact Becky Cederquist.

Most importantly, please let Becky or Dennis know if there is someone you know who could use a call or visit from a deacon. We could use your help since there are more of our congregation now that require some level of pastoral care. There are currently 7 deacons, so your help would be genuinely appreciated.

Members of the pastoral care team recently dined with several Orangewood members who reside at the Beatitudes. The gathering for food and fellowship was coordinated by Brent Upson and Dennis Daniel. After our meal, Pastor Ken led us through scripture reading, Holy Communion, and prayer. We are planning a similar gathering for Orangewood members residing at Fellowship Square.

Reminder: Please take advantage of the stash of greeting cards in the East Seminar Room of Page Hall. There are hundreds of **free** cards, sorted by category--Get Well, Happy Birthday, Congratulations, Thinking of You, etc, plus many blank cards to add your own message. Please help yourself to this resource provided by the pastoral care team.



Fellowship Road (in Swahili Barabara ya Ushirika)

We are moving ever closer to opening the road for individuals to begin their journeys toward understanding and closer relationships among the OAF, OPC and the Nile Community of Arizona (the South Sudanese congregation that worships in the sanctuary on Sunday afternoon). The "passport" tour guides are going to print and the display area is being prepared. The first formal event will take place at the beginning of September when members of all three congregations can mark their birthplaces on large colorful maps on the patio.

PC/USA General Assembly News

The Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace and the Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis were Co-Moderators of the recent 225th General Assembly of PC/USA. The theme of the General Assembly (GA) was "From Lament to Hope". The GA took actions in the following areas:

- Church Leadership: key positions filled.
- Israel/Palestine: Approved a statement about Israel and apartheid
- Fossil Fuel Divestment: Approved a motion to divest from 5 oil and gas.
- Unification and National Structure: unification of the Office of General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency; unified budgets for the Office of General Assembly, Presbyterian Mission Agency, and Administrative Services Group
- Per capita rate of \$9.85 per member in 2023 and \$9.80 per member in 2024 to support budgets of \$15.2 million and \$ 1 million
- Immigration: Resolution allowing the church to declare itself a "Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church."
- Gun Violence: Approved a motions to develop a 10-year campaign to end gun violence and engagement with companies that sell firearms.
- Ukraine: Statement condemning invasion and crimes against humanity.
- Racial and Gender Justice: Approval of several items of business from the Race and Gender Justice Committee (RGJ) and the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee.
- More: format of 226th GA; ordination of ruling elders; requirements for Young Adult Advisory Delegates to the assembly.

For more information about GA's actions, go to:

<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2022/7/12/summary-general-assembly-actions/>

You might be a Presbyterian if....

- You sit while singing "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus".
- You've ever sung a gender-inclusive hymn.
- Tithing is encouraged but widely ignored.
- Half the people sitting in your row lip-sync the words to the hymns
- You consider the monthly potluck a sacrament.
- Your church is named for a geographical location rather than for a saint.
- There's at least one person in every church meeting who says, "But we've never done it that way before..."
- Your congregation's Christmas pageant includes both boy and girl wise men.
- You're asked to donate money to a "special offering" every other Sunday.
- You have to fight through a cadre of "designated greeters" to get into the sanctuary.
- When the worship service lasts for more than one hour, the beeping of watch alarms drowns out the final hymn.
- You feel it necessary to create a committee to accomplish anything.
- An "amen" response is a reflex.



Children and Youth

VBS

Day 1 of VBS brought together enthusiastic participants, both young and old, who were thrilled with the Deep Dive theme that transformed Page Hall. The morning was filled with crafts, games, Bible stories and verses, songs, skits, snacks, and lots of fun. A big shout-out to Sammi and her Mom, Janice, for planning the curriculum, creating the props and scenery, and beautifying Page Hall.

Unfortunately, VBS week had to be cut short due to illness and there wasn't a block of time for it to be rescheduled. The good news is that all the work that went into it will pay off next year and will allow for some fall and spring events to happen. Sammi is grateful to the helpers who contributed to the fellowship and fun that takes place at VBS—Judy, Phebe, Bernale, Barb, Chuck, Janice (Mom) and of course, Pastor Ken.



Big News! (taken from Sammi's newsletter)

Our children's church group is starting a big, exciting project and are so excited to tell you all about it! We will be sponsoring a child in a different country! This new adventure is a practical way to teach children about sharing the love of Christ. It will teach them about a new culture, and hopefully train them up with a heart for missions, service to others, and compassion for the less fortunate. The child we will be sponsoring is named Victor. He is from a small town in Mexico, and lives in a Cartel-heavy area, where children, not much older than him, are frequently being recruited to be involved in organized crime. Providing support to Victor's family will not only help lift some of the burden of poverty, but also help ensure Victor has opportunities beyond turning to crime. Our kids will also have the chance to write him letters, draw him pictures, and bond with him across borders-like only kids can!



This is our new friend, Victor! He is 6 years old, living in Mexico. When he is not in school or helping his family gather firewood, he enjoys running and playing with toy cars. Please join us in praying for Victor.

Youth Retreat

Our youth have just returned from a weekend retreat in the north country, staying at Brent Upson's off the grid cabin outside of Flagstaff. We'll look forward to photos in the next Plumblin.

Memorial Receptions

As we continue to highlight ministries provided by our Deacons, both Active and Past, and our wonderful "Helpers", we'd like to focus this month on Memorial Receptions. When an Orangewood member or their loved one passes from this life to that which Jesus has prepared for them (see John 14:2-3), the family has a lot to deal with in their grief. Taking care of the details of a memorial reception is a burden we can lift off their shoulders. For many years, we have been blessed with many willing and able hands that have provided food, and helped with set-up and clean-up in Page Hall, including setting up memorial displays of flowers, photos and mementos of the deceased, etc., led by Hedy Martin. From providing cookies to washing punch bowls and cups afterwards, and everything in between, there's a place for you, if you would like to help, just call the church office and Pam or Ken will put you in touch with Hedy the next time a memorial service is scheduled. And when the time comes for you to avail yourself of this service for yourself (in your Final Wishes) or a loved one, remember "we are here for you."



Our August Birthdays

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

Janice Schade	July 5	Suzanne Norling	August 3
Beverley Arthur	July 8	Frank DeBenedetti	August 5
Miriam Jacobs	July 9	Joe Haught	August 6
Lynne Orf	July 12	Dick Wright	August 9
Nancy Young	July 12	Peggy Widener	August 10
Kelly Ramella	July 15	Kristine Rasmussen	August 13
Bob Orf	July 16	Bob Daudet	August 17
Ra'Lene Teerink	July 16	Jerry Eddy	August 17
Sydney Teerink	July 25	Elizabeth Reifsnider	August 18
Gigi Griep	July 25	Liz Brenci	August 18
Greg Olander	July 29	Katy Griep	August 21
		Pam White	August 23
		Marilyn Edwards	August 24
		Marilyn Mollman	August 27
		Rachel Zemer	August 27
		Patricia Muilenburg	August 28
		Barb Digges	August 31

Seven Minutes with God

For the first 30 seconds: Relax, realize that God, who loves you deeply, is in the room with you.

For the next four minutes read some scripture.

Next two minutes: Pray using A-C-T-S.

A- Adoration: Tell Christ that you love him and how great He is.

C- Confession: Be specific and brutally honest in confessing your sin.

T- Thanksgiving: Be specific. Search your life to identify the blessing God has given you.

S- Supplication: First pray for others and then for yourself. Be specific

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor. They who kneel for the Lord can stand for anything.

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

July / August

www.orangewood.info

2022

Orangewood Staff

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

Plumbline Contributors

Editor:	Barbara Digges
Proof Reader:	Mary Jane Gregory
Mailer:	Judy Proffitt

Orangewood Presbyterian Church
Phone: 602-944-1508
E-mail: secretary@opc.phxcoxmail.com
Website: www.orangewood.info
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The *Plumbline*, a monthly newsletter of Orangewood Presbyterian Church, contains helpful information for members and friends. If you would like to receive this publication via e-mail (pdf file), contact the office. Issues may also be found on our website. **The deadline for the September Plumbline is August 24.**