

# Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 2023

## Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

I often pray for God to give me God's eyeballs – no, not literally! I would like to see the world like God sees it. I would like to be able to see people's inner beauty much more than their outer beauty.

When I see ugliness and evil in people, I want to be able to still love that person like God loves them. When I see people who have succumbed to addiction I would like to see with compassion rather than disdain.

*Give me Your eyes for just one second  
Give me Your eyes so I can see  
Everything that I keep missing  
Give me Your love for humanity  
Give me Your arms for the broken-hearted  
The ones that are far beyond my reach  
Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten  
Give me Your eyes so I can see*

This is a tall order for a human, but something that God can indeed give us. With the Holy Spirit living in us, we are able to love like God loves and see like God sees.

*We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.*

What a wonderful world God is working to create as we simply allow God to work through us. Lord, give me your eyes!

Brandon Heath and Jason Ingram, "Give Me Your Eyes," © 2007 All Essential Music, CCLI License # 1206429.  
1 John 4:19-21.



## Join in Celebrating Our January Birthdays

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

Ed Edwards	January 1	Gail Lind	January 8
Nancy Lewis-Lynch	January 1	John Sickafoose	January 11
Dakota Norling	January 1	Bob Wells	January 25
Susie Harris	January 3	Tom Zandler	January 26
Joanne Sullivan	January 4	Dylan Swartz	January 28
Jean Donaldson	January 4	Brady Putzke	January 30
Meghan Tauber	January 6		

## SAGES

When our SAGES members and guests arrived for our December luncheon in Page Hall, we were greeted by a warm, welcoming venue, thanks to Bob Wells. Bob arrived early, turned up the thermostats, and placed pictures of a bright fireplace on the overhead screens, with authentic "crackling, dancing" flames, as we entered! Jeanne Matt's table centerpieces, Christmas napkins, and a decorated Christmas tree, complete with handmade decorations by our African children, added to the festive seasonal atmosphere. Our meal was prepared by Luci and Dan Sherwood, assisted in the kitchen by Sunny Valentine. Dan prepared special chicken tenders with an applied "rub", and Luci's green bean and potato side dish, along with a Jello and whipped cream salad, made for a delicious meal. Dessert consisted of candied nuts with meringue cookies, served in small cupcake holders. Thanks to Luci and Dan! Our entertainment was a presentation of Christmas songs from the Creative Bridges Preschool.



Six classes of preschoolers and kindergarteners, dressed in colorful Christmas attire, arrived in orderly procession from their nearby classrooms. School Director Pam Watt announced something NEW for this year, to add to this songfest tradition. Each woman attending our lunch would receive a fragrant red rose, hand-delivered by a class "elf!" The joy of giving – and receiving – was evident in the eyes and smiles all around. After this ceremony, the children lined up on the stage, and beautifully sang a medley of Christmas carols for our entertainment. The SAGES would like to thank Pam and all of the teachers and assistants at the school for the efforts they expended in getting the children ready for this memorable show! SAGES, mark your calendars **now** for our first luncheon of the new year, to be held on Tuesday, January 10, and let the church office or Jeanne Matt know should you like transportation.



## OPC Presbyterian Women

OPC PW is gearing up for a fresh approach in 2023. The Presbytery of Grand Canyon's PW theme is "Celebrating Our Caring Community," which will be showcased at the Spring Gathering on March 28.

Orangewood's PW has decided to focus on hunger issues in 2023, which will fit in well with the Presbytery theme. We will explore how we can help each other and the wider community as we learn more about efforts in our community to combat poverty and hunger. Along with exploration, we will take on a specific goal, possibly a rummage sale in late April. It is impossible to separate hunger from the larger issue of poverty and we will use this larger context to shape our activities. For example, we can help ourselves by periodically going through our "stuff" (everything from drawers to closets to garage or storeroom) and decide to part with items that others can use. Early in the year we will look into our closets and find donation items to take to the Clothes Silo at WHEAT on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The Clothes Silo provides apparel at no cost to women who are entering or re-entering the workforce. We can also shop there to find clothing at reasonable prices.

**Don't miss the first PW meeting of the year on Saturday, January 28 at 10 am in Page Hall. We will share light mid-morning snacks and beverages as we plan the year in detail. All Orangewood women are welcome!**

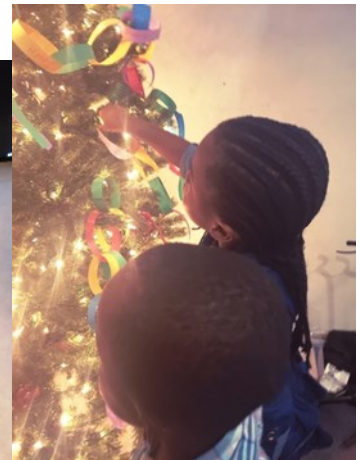
## PW Study

Mary/Martha Circle starts the New Year on Tuesday, January 3 in Room 11 from 1:00-2:30. The afternoon includes a recap of the first few lessons as presented by the "Celebrating Sabbath" author Carol Bechtel followed by a focus on Lesson Four. With the new 2023 calendar the women of OPC are invited to come on the first Tuesday of every month and explore together ways to grow our Christian faith.

## OAF and ESL

English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction for adult members of the OAF will continue through January. Students will be recognized at a reception on January 22 at 4 pm in the Wright Center. All members of Orangewood are invited to attend. Additional ESL classes will be offered if additional grant funds are received.

Barb, Carol K and Phebe worked with OAF youngsters to construct colorful paper chains for their tree in Page Hall. The kiddos wrote seasonal greetings, in English and Swahili, on the links and also added their names and original artwork.



## Big Thank you

Thank you to pastor Ken and all my friends at OPC for prayers, cards, and thoughts of encouragement. I feel greatly blessed.  
Anita Shipley

THANK YOU!

## 10+ Years of Knot Just Knitting

The Orangewood *Knot Just Knitters* (KJK) first gathered more than 10 years ago to create infant and children's hats, blankets, and sweaters for the World Vision organization's *Knit for Kids* program. These handmade items provide protection and comfort to children in impoverished and/or troubled areas, both domestically and abroad.

The Orangewood group was recently recognized by World Vision for KJK's donation of 60 caps, 2 blankets and 2 pairs of mittens. Since January, World Vision has shipped handmade items to Armenia, Lesotho, Malawi, Somalia, Swaziland and Zambia, as well as a couple of locations in the U.S. In 2021 World Vision shipped **58,174** blankets, caps, sweaters, mittens, and scarves around the world.

So you think you may be interested in hooking up with this group? Here's more info.

**When does KJK meet?** KJK meets the third Monday of each month at 10:30 in Page Hall, East Seminar Room. Group leader Jeannie Oosterwyk always sends a reminder email and lets us know if the time or location has changed. You can let Jeannie know that you're coming or just show up.

**I don't know how to knit, but I do crochet. Will that work?** Yes!! Crocheting is just fine---and many of the blankets we make are a combination of knitting and crocheting.

**I like this idea but I don't knit or crochet---can I still attend?** Yes!! We have experienced needleworkers who are happy to get you started, with yarn and needle suggestions, simple patterns for a blanket or hat, and hands-on instructions.

In fact, you can work on any kind of handiwork that you like--mercy mats, rag rugs; even sewing on buttons is OK. And if you want to attend just for the fellowship of being in a small, congenial group, that is also encouraged. Men are welcome as well.

If you'd like any more info on KJK, please contact Jeannie O. or join in at the next gathering on January 16.



## Save the Date for Montlure Camp 2023!

Montlure Summer Camp Registration opens January 1!

We are looking forward to another incredible summer with our campers and can't wait to meet new ones. Montlure offers a summer camp experience where campers can unplug from both technology and stress/anxiety and connect with nature, their peers, their counselors, and their faith. All while having an incredible amount of fun! Details at [montlure.org](http://montlure.org).

Overnight Camps:

Sr High Camp: June 20 - 25

Jr High Camp: June 27 - July 2

Juniors Camp: July 5-9

## Advent Service Worship Events

The Mission Committee continued its annual tradition of hosting Service Worship programs on three Wednesdays during Advent:

- Nov. 30 – We assembled and packaged 300 Hygiene Kits, which Christina Suarez delivered to the International Rescue Committee to be given to new refugees. We also wrote words of encouragement in holiday cards for those being held in the Eloy detention center.
- Dec. 7 – Christmas Caroling at the Beatitudes. We met at the church and took the van to the Beatitudes, where we were met by other OPC members living there. Because of COVID restrictions, we were limited in the areas we could go to; however, those who heard us were very appreciative. When we were caroling outside, some residents on the upper floors even came out onto their balconies to hear us!
- Dec. 14 – We had two service projects at this event – one was making support packs for the homeless in our community, and the other was wrapping the Angel Tree gifts that had been purchased by OPC members for children of incarcerated parents. A big Thank You to Addi Case for her work in managing the Angel Tree project, which extended over several weeks!

Average attendance at the three events was around 15.



## Honduras Update

- Good News! Enough funds have been raised to purchase a block machine for the community of Dulce Nombre! The community will use this machine to begin making blocks for homes and will also be able to use it for other needs, such as paving blocks for the streets. Tim Wheeler will be making a trip to Honduras in January and will report on the facilities available for groups to work in Dulce Nombre and also on the progress in the building project in the community of San Juan Planes. Depending on what Tim learns, we will be able to start making plans for a 2023 trip. Stand by for further updates!

## TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

TOPS is a nationally based-support group which will be meeting every Monday (year-round) at 6:00 pm in Room 11. Members gather and weigh in privately, then share from 6:30-7:30. Several members who have reached the weight goal set by their physician continue to attend to stay accountable as their status changed to KOPS (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly). Men and women who are struggling to take off weight sensibly are encouraged to come and get acquainted with the newest renter on the Orangewood Presbyterian Church Campus.

**The first meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2023**

## Breakfast Out Bunch

Mark your monthly calendars to join the Breakfast Out Bunch on the second Thursday of the month at the Moon Valley Café. Great food and great conversation!! Thursday, January 12 @ 9 am will be our first breakfast. Up to 20 people can be accommodated in our reserved room. Contact Anita Shipley to reserve your spot.

All are welcome! Hope to see you there! [ashiple2@cox.net](mailto:ashiple2@cox.net) 602-503-9109

## December Session Notes

The process for selling the manse is progressing. Session passed a motion to commission three members of Session to carry out the sale on behalf of the Session.

OPC in-person worship attendance continues between 60 and 70 participants. Online worship attendance continues to average higher than this.

Treasurer's report Year-to-Date (notes: (1) the income numbers reflect receiving total year's pledge from some members; (2) year-to-date is calculated from the beginning of OPC's October fiscal year):

Member Income: - \$136,132

Total Income: - \$181,547

Total Expenses: - \$155,913

Net Income: - \$25,634

Joint meeting of Grand Canyon and De Cristo Presbyteries, Saturday, January 28, 2023 in Casa Grande. Gene Nix and Elizabeth Reifsnider were commissioned to attend.

Session discussed updating/renewing the process for home communions.

OAF:

English classes and driver's license programs going well. Need an increase in grant funding for more students.

3 new families – need to plan membership class. 10 people wanting baptism.

Invitation to share food and worship on December 25

Facilities:

Solar system status: contractor awaiting approval from City of Phx for permit; completed drawings for north Ed building to install larger breaker panel to get Phx/APS approval.

Manse sale: water meter installed; hired realtor; painted south wall; rebuilt irrigation berms around back patio; Bob Jenson to re-key locks when sale completed; two investor offers received to date.

Kitchen rental idea: last meeting the committee discussed rental of the vacant office in the sanctuary and concluded it had too many negatives. Suggestion was made to rent the kitchen in Page Hall to run a separate coffee bistro. With all the preschool and elementary school traffic each day it might be positive engagement with parents as well as some rental income. Committee voted not to rent the kitchen at this time due to concern the renter would not care for it as lovingly as our congregational life team.

Meetings of the Personnel and Nominating Committees are set for the week of January 9.

Bob Wells presented information on LED signage from Signdealz. Session deferred discussion of this proposal.

Ron Carmichael reported that the OAF and Nile Community Church groups are working well together to maintain campus upkeep.

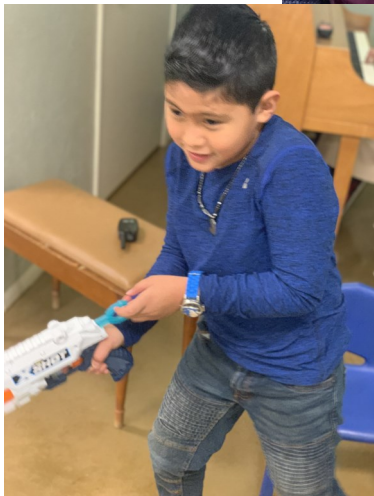
Session will hold a full day retreat in January to discuss the mission and goals of OPC and plans for the future.

Session approved a motion to quitclaim the Gila Bend Property to Brent Upson who will pay the outstanding taxes on the property.

Session approved the sale of the garden tool trailer and its contents.

The next Stated Session Meeting will be on January 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm by Zoom meeting and/or in person in Room 11 of the Wright Center.

# The Children of OPC



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**7321 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85020**

**January**

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

**2023**

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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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