

# Plumbline

ORANGEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2023

## Pastor Page's Pastor's Page

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has a long-standing partnership with the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid (HRCA). As such, we were able to help them set up one of the first humanitarian aid stations receiving refugees from Ukraine in Zahony, Hungary on the Ukrainian border. Just four days after the invasion on February 20, 2022, the aid station was up and running. Ever since, they have welcomed refugees with food boxes, clothing, diapers, hygiene items, medical attention and basic information about where they can go in Hungary. HRCA operates a shelter in an old school building for those who need a place to stay for a night or two while they make other arrangements. When refugees move on to Budapest they will find more HRCA representatives ready to help with connections. The flow of refugees has slowed since the early days of the war, but HRCA is still receiving anywhere from 30 to several hundred refugees a day, most of them women and children.

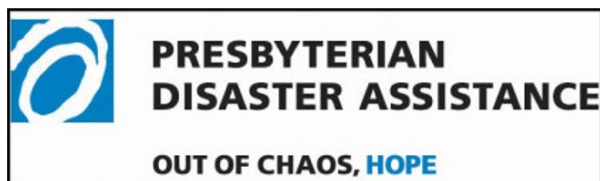
One of the distinctive features of being a Presbyterian is partnerships. We are a connectional church and we seek to find partners in everything we do. Having partners in Eastern Europe helped us to get money and aid flowing quickly after the invasion of Ukraine. It keeps us from having to build staff, infrastructure, relationships and systems from the ground up. Our partners have those things – we join them in ministry.

Partnerships also help us to avoid missionary mistakes of the past where both concrete aid and the gospel of Jesus Christ often came with a presupposition that our ways are better than yours. It was often a religious and cultural method of colonialism. When we work with partners, they know the local culture, beliefs, mores and norms. We come to work with them, not to do for them.

As PDA responds to the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria we already have relationships with the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon; the Middle East Council of Churches; the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue; and the Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches. While these relationships are stronger in Syria and weaker in Turkey, those partners are helping us establish new relationships in Turkey. Immediate grants have already gone out, and we are scaling up for long-term recovery.

Orangewood partners with the PC(USA). The PC(USA) partners with ecumenical partners all over the world, and God works through it all! Please keep in prayer those suffering from the over 30 disasters all over the world and those who are refugees and internally displaced people in unprecedented numbers. May God bless our work together.

To give to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: <https://pda.pcusa.org>



*Ken*

## Children and Youth

**Mardi Gras Pancake Supper** was a big success. They got \$724 in donations to be used for scholarships for youth trips. Not only did we have pancakes but also bacon, sausage and eggs. There were lots of toppings to choose from and best of all lots of good friends.



**Youth's Souper Bowl of Caring** raised \$578.00. The early money was in the Commercial Bowl, but in the end, it was the Chiefs' Bowl that claimed the big bucks, over \$300, followed by the Eagles' Bowl (not as close as the real game). The BIG winner was *Feed My Starving Children*, the beneficiary of our Souper Bowl proceeds. Thanks for your generous giving!



## WHEAT Clothes Silo Clothing Drive

OPC Presbyterian Women held a successful drive for donations to WHEAT's Clothes Silo. Thanks to Orangewood members and donors from the Creative Bridges preschool, we were able to fill a van and car with women's clothing, shoes, purses and other items. Phebe Packer, Lynne Orf, Janet Spangler, Sheila Hague, Darlene Long and Bernale Wright packed and delivered the donations and did a little shopping at the WHEAT Fair Trade store while they were there. Special thanks go to Barbara Digges, Lynne Orf, and Luci Sherwood for sorting and organizing the donations. Great work for a good cause and our closets are a little cleaner!



## Immerse Bible Study

Sign-ups for those interested in being part of an all-church Bible study over a period of two years using the Immerse Bible put out by Tyndall Publishing will begin on the patio February 26. Orders for the first book, entitled "Beginnings", will be taken and a portion of the cost will be underwritten by Adult Education. We are encouraging as many members as possible to immerse themselves in this new study of God's word. Groups will be forming and will meet for six consecutive weeks beginning the week after Easter. Our current small groups are encouraged to take part as well as others that wish to join up and join in. A sample of the Immerse Bible will be available for viewing on the mission table on the patio after church. A few volunteers will be needed to lead discussions, but instructions are available online and are very user friendly. If you are a life-long student of Scripture or just beginning, this Bible study is for you!

## A Big Thank You

*I want to thank everyone who offered their prayers and expressions of support during my recent surgery. Each one made me feel better and hastened my recovery. OPC people are the best!*

*Dennis Proffitt*



## Mission Committee

**Nourish Phoenix** – Next volunteer trip is Monday, March 27.

**Family Promise** – Leeann, Gene and Dennis Daniel had a Zoom call with Family Promise to learn about their "Promise Village" project which provides affordable housing at a cost of about \$101,000 per 2-bedroom unit using container crates on a church property in Glendale. The committee will continue to collect information from our Mission partners on the movement to address the affordable housing crisis.

**Rocky Point** – The March 30 plans to join Mountain Park to build with 1Mission could only be attended by 3 of our members. Discussion on the status of the Rocky Point mission led to a plan to have OPC families with youth pick a weekend and work backwards from there. Other discussion asked the appropriateness of re-allocating the Rocky Point Trip funds towards other youth mission projects, should that be deemed appropriate. One suggestion was to encourage our youth to participate in **Habitat for Humanity**, which is building around 59th Avenue and Glendale starting February.

**Honduran Project** – Session has approved 2 Sundays for fundraising – March 12 (coffee and Danish), and April 9 (Easter sit down buffet).

**Montlure Overnight Camp** – it is time to determine who will be attending, and what that will look like cost-wise.

**OAF Driving Classes** – Mission committee will pay \$800 from the OAF line item, as originally agreed.

**PDA** – The committee voted by email to send an additional \$250 from undesignated funds to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in response to the Syrian and Turkey earthquake.

**Christian Education** – Discussion of Rocky Point and other potential youth mission projects prompted a question of whether the Mission Committee should also address Christian Education (OPC does not presently have a Christian Ed. committee). Ron and Ken reported on plans addressing the need for OAF Sunday School and supervision starting March 1.

**Personal Requests for financial assistance** (rent, utilities, etc.) – The committee is asking Session to clarify if they or Deacons should address such requests (outside of scholarships for trips or church events). And if so, determine how to provide funding for such requests.

## Orangewood North 40

The piece of the OPC property informally known as the "North 40" has lain unused for many years. The last official use of the property was the Orangewood Friendship Garden which operated from 2009 – 2012. After the garden was discontinued, the area was regraded to remove the garden berms used for irrigation. Since then, it has just "been there". Some people at OPC, including the Mission Committee, have begun considering how to use this land. What do you think? Should it be left as is, changed in some way, or used for a specific purpose? Please speak to anyone on the OPC Session with your thoughts on this matter. Session members are: Bob Wells, Ron Carmichael, Christina Suarez, Gene Nix, Bernale Wright, Elizabeth Reifsnider, Pete Ladigo, Joseph Lavi, Nelly Kanyange, Brent Upson, and Phebe Packer.

## A Cappella Syndicate

Saturday, April 1, 2023 – 7:00 pm

Tickets Available Online at  
[acappella-syndicate.ticketleap.com](http://acappella-syndicate.ticketleap.com)  
\$20 General Admission  
\$10 Student (12 & under free)

A Cappella Syndicate is a mob of talented men whose harmonies have brought fans to their feet across Arizona and beyond. Under the artistic direction of Gary Steinkamp and Brent Graham, the Syndicate performs a wonderful mix of fun and recognizable songs, both contemporary and traditional. With ear-tickling favorites from the Beach

Boys to the Turtles, the Letterman to Lorde, the Syndicate delivers an entertaining and unforgettable experience, serving up heaping helpings of tight harmony – a cappella style.

A Cappella Syndicate is the recipient of numerous awards, including top honors from the A Cappella Music Awards, and as current Arizona chorus champions of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

**A Cappella Syndicate has been practicing at Orangewood for years.**



## Breakfast Out Bunch

You are invited to join the Breakfast Out Bunch for great food and lively conversation. The next gathering is **Thursday, March 9 at 9 am** at the Moon Valley Café, 7<sup>th</sup> St & Thunderbird. Up to 20 people can be accommodated in our reserved room. Contact Anita Shipley to reserve your spot: [ashipley2@cox.net](mailto:ashipley2@cox.net) or 602-503-9109.

**All are welcome!** See you there!! If you can't make it this time, join us April 13--we do this the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.



## Lenten Activities

**Maundy Thursday** April 5, a simple meal of soup and bread in Page Hall at 5:30.

**Good Friday Tenebrae service** April 6, at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

**Easter Sunday Service** April 8, in the Sanctuary at 10:30.

**There will be no sunrise Service this year.**



## E Focus – Weekly Publication of Presbytery of Grand Canyon

The E Focus online newsletter of our Presbytery contains messages from Presbytery Pastor Brad Munroe as well as information about events in the Presbytery and links to additional information. If you would like to see a sample, come to the Mission table on the patio. You can also sign up to receive a weekly email with a link to the newsletter.

### Join Us at Café de Brent (in the Wright Center)

**Sunday, March 12th @ 11:30**

Copan coffee, pastries, bagels, muffins

Suggested donation: \$10 per person



### **Easter Sunday, April 9th**

Brunch 9:30 or 11:30 seatings

pastries, eggs, ham,

potatoes au gratin

coffee and orange juice

Served tableside

Suggested donation: \$40 per person



**Donations support building homes in Dulce Nombre, Honduras.**

## Session Notes

- The Session meeting on February 21 was moderated by Elder Brent Upson in the absence of Rev. Ken Page, who is currently in Maryland to assist his eldest son, Bailey, following surgery to repair his Achilles tendon.
- Session approved the Treasurer's report, which reflects a healthy financial status.
- OPC will host the Presbytery of Grand Canyon meeting in November 2023.
- Dennis Daniel gave the Deacons' report. He has been getting in touch with members who have not been attending recently or have left OPC. Session discussed the Deacons' Fund and agreed to discuss additional funding for the 2024 budget to support future requests for assistance.
- Worship Committee updates:
  - ◇ Since Easter is on April 9, the Communion service for April will be held on March 26.
  - ◇ Maundy Thursday service at 5:30 pm will include a meal of soup and bread.
  - ◇ Good Friday service will be held at 6 pm.
  - ◇ There will not be a Sunrise service on Easter, but the large cross will be on the patio to receive flowers.
- Session discussed reasons for changing the time of the weekly OPC Sunday Worship Service. This change will allow more time after the OPC service for fellowship on the patio and small group meetings. It will also eliminate overlap with the OAF choir practice prior to the OAF service that begins at 11:30 am. Session approved a motion to change the weekly Sunday Service to 9:30 am, beginning April 16.
- Congregational Life updates:
  - ◇ Small Groups will begin again after Easter with focus on the Immerse Bible. Signups will be on the patio for both [existing](#) and new Small Groups.
  - ◇ A replacement for OPC's current website is being investigated.
  - ◇ Rev. Page will hold weekly Bible study on Wednesday nights during Lent.
- Facilities updates:
  - ◇ The special subcommittee appointed to oversee the sale of the Manse has received some offers but there is currently no contract in place. The price has been reduced and the current renter has been given notice.
  - ◇ Roof repairs are underway on the storage room of Page Hall.
  - ◇ Permits have been approved (finally!) for the solar project. During the delay, the contractor has reimbursed OPC in the amount of the expected monthly solar savings on utilities.
- Stewardship will begin the first Sunday in May.
- New Sunday School program is being developed jointly by OPC and OAF.
- The next Stated Session Meeting will be on March 21, 2023 at 6:30 pm by Zoom meeting and/or in person in Room 11 of the Wright Center.

## Join in Celebrating Our March Birthdays

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

Elizabeth Upson	March 2	Melissa Hooper	March 20
Ben Griep	March 5	Bernale Wright	March 21
Megan Bladine	March 7	Gene Nix	March 24
Joe Miller	March 10	John Zandler	March 25
Judy Proffitt	March 19	Kathryn Ramella	March 26
Linda Schreiner	March 19	Erica Krobot	March 29

## New Beginnings for English Classes and YOU are Invited

After receiving a grant from the Presbytery, OPC and the OAF held a successful program of English classes during the summer and fall of 2022. Now this program is transitioning to the individualized and more complete set of classes at Abounding Service, a local non-profit organization founded 12 years ago by Gary De Velder and staffed today by Gary, his son Derek De Velder, and Ryan Taylor. In two-hour sessions, these classes include one-on-one conversation, group conversation and individualized Rosetta Stone online teaching. Each student is assigned an "encourager" who converses with them using pre-established questions and encourages the student during the Rosetta Stone work. The program includes preparation for citizenship as well. For more information about the mission and work of Abounding Service, go to [www.aboundingservice.org](http://www.aboundingservice.org)

Both the OAF and the Nile Community Church of Arizona will be sending students to Abounding Service, which means more ENCOURAGERS will be needed. Cindy Baker has volunteered for many years and recently several more people from the OPC congregation have become ENCOURAGERS. Now we invite you to join us and see how you can become an ENCOURAGER too. No background in teaching is needed – just a friendly helping attitude.

On each Monday in March, we'll meet at Orangewood at 9:00 a.m. to go with current volunteers to attend a morning session at Abounding Service (9:30-11:30) and see firsthand how the program works. We'll go to lunch after the session to talk things over. Classes are scheduled throughout the week, offering great flexibility in volunteering whenever is best for you. The location is very convenient! The Abounding Service classrooms are in the Hope Center at North Phoenix Baptist Church – Bethany Home Road and Central.

## The Worship Committee

We would like to add a few more ushers since we now are collecting the offering rather than having people come forward. If you feel called to help to collect the offering and hand out the bulletins on Sunday morning, along with a few other simple tasks, such as lighting the candles and counting congregants, please contact Elizabeth Reifsnider or Becky Cederquist. This isn't something you'd need to do every Sunday; with enough ushers you might be called on only once a month or less often. If you'd rather just collect the offering, we can work with that! We'd love to sign you up. Elizabeth can be reached at [elreifsn@gmail.com](mailto:elreifsn@gmail.com) or (281) 827-9521. Becky's email is [opcdeacon@gmail.com](mailto:opcdeacon@gmail.com) and phone is (623) 363-4509.

The OPC Worship Committee wants to report some changes to the Worship timing that will occur this Spring and Summer. Please read carefully and note these changes on your calendars.

1. We will not serve communion the first Sunday in April because that is Palm/Passion Sunday and there will be a special service for that important day.
2. **We will have communion on March 26** so we will still have the same number of Communion services during the year.
3. **Maundy Thursday April 6** service will be soup and bread eaten together in Page Hall. This will **start at 5:30.**
4. **Good Friday Tenebrae service will start at 6 pm** since it will be dark by the time the service concludes.
5. We will not have an Easter Sunrise Service but individual flowers will be available to put into the Cross on the patio before/after the service.
6. **We will move the Sunday worship service to start at 9:30 am, beginning on April 16, the Sunday after Easter.** These services will continue through the summer and then we will reconsider the timing.

Please contact the Church Office or Elizabeth Reifsnider ([elreifsn@gmail.com](mailto:elreifsn@gmail.com)) for questions or clarifications.

## Fundraisers for Building in Honduras

We are excited to announce fundraising events to support our next community housing project in Honduras. The OPC Honduras team has received a formal proposal for building homes in a community within the town of Dulce Nombre. We visited this community in 2022 and were impressed by their passion for improving their lives. After receiving the proposal, the OPC team assisted the community in the purchase of a block making machine. The community plans to use the machine to raise funds by making and selling street pavers to the town of Dulce Nombre. The community's initiative and follow-through reinforced our enthusiasm for working with them.

The OPC spring fundraisers will help to fund the purchase of materials for building ten new homes for farmworkers in Dulce Nombre, as well as to help fund youth participation in upcoming mission trips to Honduras.

Two events will be held on the patio:

- March 12—Copan coffee and pastries, muffins and bagels. Suggested donation \$10 per coffee and pastry.
- April 9—Easter Brunch with fresh pastries, eggs, ham, and au gratin potatoes, all served tableside with coffee and orange juice. Suggested donation \$40

We have set a goal of raising \$18,000 to fund ten homes in Dulce Nombre. You can help in a variety of ways:

**Fund a home:** \$1,800 builds a complete home. You will receive a bio of your supported family and a thank-you photo in front of the completed home.

- Fund a foundation: \$200
- Fund a roof: \$300
- Fund a wall: \$100
- Fund blocks: 2 for \$5; 10 for \$20
- Fund a share of a home: You name the amount and the part of the home you want to fund!

**Fund a youth** to participate in the trip planned for July 2023:

- \$1200 will send a youth on the trip.
- A share of the trip in any amount will help the effort!

Our mission team will be available to explain how this project builds resilient communities.

We will have information available about the housing project families and how your donations will be used to support their dreams of a home.

As many of you know, farmworkers in Honduras face many challenges, including poverty, lack of access to basic services, and inadequate housing. By providing new homes for these families, we can help to improve their living conditions, health, and well-being, and provide them with a sense of security and stability.

We would be honored to have your support in this effort to make a real difference in the lives of families in Honduras. Please come out and join us on March 12 at 11:30 and/or April 9 at 9:30 or 11:30 seatings to support this important cause!



**Block Machine**



**A recent home building project**



**A typical mural in Dulce Nombre**



**Everyone helps**



## SAGES February Gathering

The SAGES held their monthly event in Page Hall on February 14 with a Valentine's Day theme. The table centerpieces by Jeanne Matt included colorful pin cushion hearts in various shades of white and red, personal humorous greeting cards from Jeanne's collection, and heart decorated napkins. Each place setting had a small note pad with a cover that said, "Hello Love!" or "Love You!" as a take-home gift.



Our meal was prepared by Bernale Wright, and she was assisted in the kitchen by

Jackie Collier and Luci and Dan Sherwood. Bernale prepared delicious chicken pot pies, served in generous portions, along with tossed green salad, and celery sticks with pimento cheese. Dessert was a delicious cake with strawberries and whipped cream. A big THANK YOU to Bernale and her kitchen crew!



Our church treasurer, Bob Wells, gave a very interesting slide presentation on a brief history of Orangewood Presbyterian Church. It began at the very beginning, where a survey of neighbors was taken to see if there was interest in forming a Presbyterian Church, then to the beginning of congregation services at Simis school, to the groundbreaking ceremonies for the first building (the current Wright Center). Construction of the classrooms followed, then the sanctuary with improvements over the years (installation of the pipe organ and sound proofing, etc.), to the last major project, the construction of Page Hall. Many facts were presented, such as the construction of the main sanctuary, with the unusual roof (each 24' laminated beam in the ceiling, connected at the top and fixed to the steeple). Bob went through all of the building and improvement drives here, which brought us to the campus as we know it today. Really special was a video of his young son arriving for a Halloween party, running to the "new" classroom building, noting his son just retired from his work position in Flagstaff! No question, Bob is our "official" church historian! A big THANK YOU, Bob, for your effort in putting our program together!

Plan now to attend our next event, scheduled for Tuesday, March 14 in Page Hall. Please let the office or Jeanne Matt know should you require transportation.



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

**March**

**[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
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Office & Facilities Manager	Pam White
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The *Plumblin*, 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 April Plumblin is March 20.**