



# Orange Presbyterian Church

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October 2020

Friends,

It has been over six months since we have gathered together in worship. In those six months we have improvised, and organized new ways to worship. I hope that you have been able to experience worship through our YouTube services. I hope that you have experienced community through phone calls and letters. I hope that your spirit has been filled by prayer meetings, devotion time, and theological discussions. I hope you have felt the spirit moving these past six months.

After much prayer and discernment, the safety team has deemed that we are at a point where it is safe to gather once again. In October OPC will have a soft reopening. This means that we will ease our way back into a time of gathering. Specifically here is what this will look like:

**Oct 4:** we will have another drive-thru communion service. There will be a pre-recorded worship service on the website and the Facebook page, where the word will be proclaimed and the words of institution spoken. After you have participated in that service, you are invited to come to the parking lot to receive pre-packaged communion elements between 10-11 that morning. Please wear a mask and remain in your car for this part of the service.

**Oct 11:** we will have an outside Blessing of the Animals service. We will gather at 11 in the playground area for this service. If you feel so called, please bring your pet, or a picture of your pet with you to be blessed. Again, please wear a mask and practice social distancing for the duration of this service.

**Oct 18:** Chelsea, our music director, will host an hour long organ concert in the sanctuary at 11. Please come and go as you please. This will be a contemplative service with no talking or singing. Again, please wear a mask and practice social distancing for the duration of this service. The safety team will be present to guide us in our safety procedures.

**Oct 25:** we will have an informal gathering for about 15 minutes starting at 11 that morning. There will be music but no singing, prayer but no speaking. Again, please wear a mask and practice social distancing for the duration of this service. The safety team will be present to guide us in our safety procedures.

For all of these Sundays, there will also be a service available on the website and the Facebook page for those who are unable to attend in person.

The risk of COVID is still very present, and the safety team is doing everything in its power to keep us all safe in this time of pandemic. I would like to thank the members of the safety team, Lynn Clements, Mike Saxton, May Saxton, Robert Kendall, Amy McClung, and Buckshot Clements, who have worked diligently for months to plan and prepare for this time.

Thank you and God bless!

Pastor Rebekah

## Guidelines for church meetings during an epidemic illness

- All persons shall maintain at least a six feet separation from one another. No hugs or handshakes.
- All persons shall wear a facial mask to prevent the spread of air-borne diseases.
- All persons shall have their head temperatures taken upon entering the property. Only persons whose temperature is below 101 degrees F will be allowed to enter the church building.
- Eliminate all common contact surfaces such as closed doors.
- Leave entrance doors open.
- If possible, enter through one door and exit through another door.
- Create fresh air ventilation by using the building air system and open doors and windows.
- Church bulletins, hymnals, bibles, and other materials shall be placed in each pew for each member. No hand to hand transfer of materials.
- No choir or singing to minimize the transmission by air.
- No coffee fellowship and no sharing food/drinks.
- All persons in the meeting shall remain in the worship/meeting room. There shall be no other groups meeting simultaneously such as children's church or nursery.
- No shared items are permitted. The offering baskets can be placed at the entrance and exit doors. No passing of communion plates is allowed.
- If a member becomes ill or a Safety Team member suspects a member is ill, then this member shall move to an isolation room where the member can be evaluated and/or treated separate from the meeting.
- All common surfaces of the worship/meeting room, access doors, and restrooms shall be disinfected prior to and immediately after meeting. Also, restrooms shall be disinfected after every use.

## Prayer Concerns

### Joys

- Eva Graves continues to do well.
- Dot Marks' son, Rick, is recovering from open heart surgery.
- That many members of our congregation are doing well in this time of uncertainty.

### Concerns

- Pam Golas has requested prayers for Tom Thai, husband of Emily Breedon Thai, who will have thyroid surgery on October 8.
- Rebekah's grandmother who has started the hospice process. Prayers are requested for members of her family.
- Dot Marks' son, Rick, prayers requested for recovery.
- Local COVID cases

- Ways for our congregation to reconnect.
- Our nation as we experience more and more divisiveness each day.

### Continued Prayers

- Meeting food needs in our community.
- Ed and Shirley Wendell and all the people trying to care for them.
- Johnny Stewart
- Our country as we maneuver toward the election; prayers for fairness, health and safety for all.
- Racial inequalities and injustice in our country and around the world.
- Worshipping communities as they make difficult decisions.
- Our friends at Dogwood Village.

# October 2020

| Sunday  | Monday                           | Tuesday            | Wednesday                          | Thursday  | Friday            | Saturday |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------|----------|
|   |                                  |                    |                                    | 1<br>10:00 CC<br>5:00 M&O<br>6:00 Property        | 2<br>6:00 BYOB&B  | 3        |
| 4<br>10:00 -11:00<br>Drive-through<br>Communion<br>11:00 Online Wor-<br>ship        | 5<br>6:00 Spiritual<br>Formation | 6                  | 7<br>10:00 Online De-<br>votional  | 8<br>5:30 Covenant<br>Review Team<br>7:00 Finance | 9<br>6:00 BYOB&B  | 10       |
| 11<br>11:00 Online Wor-<br>ship<br>11:00 Blessing of<br>the Animals                 | 12                               | 13<br>5:00 Safety  | 14<br>10:00 Online De-<br>votional | 15  | 16<br>6:00 BYOB&B | 17       |
| 18<br>11:00 Online Wor-<br>ship<br>11-12:00 Organ<br>Concert                        | 19                               | 20<br>7:00 Session | 21<br>10:00 Online De-<br>votional | 22  | 23<br>6:00 BYOB&B | 24       |
| 25<br>11:00 Worship<br><i>5 Cents-a-Meal</i><br>11:00—11:15 Infor-<br>mal Gathering | 26                               | 27                 | 28<br>10:00 Online De-<br>votional | 29<br>10:00 CC<br>5:00 M&O<br>6:00 Property       | 30<br>6:00 BYOB&B | 31       |



## October BIRTHDAYS

Scott Ernst 10/1  
 Bob Vasquez 10/4  
 Irwin Sherman 10/5  
 Taylor Mills 10/6  
 May Saxton 10/10  
 Susan Southard 10/14  
 Evelyn Scott 10/16  
 Lee Nash 10/19  
 Jennie Hill Robinson 10/22  
 Martin Dodson 10/30

# A Yearlong Celebration of our 175th Anniversary!

The OPC History Covenant Group has made the decision to postpone our in person 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration that was planned for November 8, 2020 due to the pandemic. We plan to kick off a year long celebration this November and continue to work on various history projects throughout 2021.

Be on the lookout for interesting tidbits in upcoming newsletters that Winnie Higgins and Carol Couch have found in their research of the session records. We will continue to gather individual special OPC memories from a lot of you! We only have 3 so far!

## Session Meeting Highlights

At its September meeting, the Session, among other actions:

Approved a request from the History Covenant Group for permission to purchase a fireproof safe or filing cabinet to preserve church archives. The group may spend up to to \$750, with the monies coming from memorial funds.

Accepted a recommendation from the Safety Team. The team determined that OPC can begin to meet

together in mid-October per the instructions of the Pastor. **This is subject to change.**

Approved a request from the Safety Team to purchase two thermometers for screening. These will be paid for out of the Property Committee maintenance funds.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ralph Graves, Clerk of Session

## Preschool Corner

Our first month of preschool is drawing to a close, and what a month it has been! The children have done so well getting to know about OPWS and one another. We studied apples, had special visits from Pastor Rebekah and Librarian Michelle, and are wrapping up the month of September learning about Fire Safety.

Thank you for all of the generous donations of cleaning supplies. We are well outfitted to continue keeping our school clean and safe for students, teachers, and families. While we don't currently need additional cleaning supplies, there are ongoing needs for OPWS. Our budget is particularly tight this year

due to the restrictions on the number of students we were able to enroll. If you are interested in helping the Preschool with any of these needs, we have put together an "Amazon Wishlist" that includes helpful items. Please email me at [preschool@orangeopc.org](mailto:preschool@orangeopc.org) if you would like a link to the list.

Fall is my favorite time of year, and I am very much looking forward to exploring the beauty of the season with the students at OPWS. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

-Caroline Baldwin

## Treasurer's Report as of August 31, 2020

|                   |             |                            |             |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$22,975.95 | Other Contributions:       |             |
| Income            | \$5,793.50  | 5 Cents-a-Meal             | \$392.13    |
| Expenses          | \$9,465.97  | Memorial Fund              | \$13,150.38 |
| Ending Balance    | \$19,302.53 | Mission Trip Fund          | \$318.13    |
|                   |             | Music Fund                 | \$5.42      |
|                   |             | OPC Weekday School Fund    | \$0         |
|                   |             | Preschool Scholarship Fund | \$9,240.53  |

## Thank You from Orange Elementary School

Orange Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your generous donations and continued support of Orange Elementary. We are so grateful to have such committed community allies to help us better serve our students and their families. We appreciate you!

With gratitude,  
Orange Elementary School

## Thank you from Cameron Motley

Dear OPC Family,

Thank you so much for granting me the Hebrance scholarship this year. I have felt so supported by this church in so many ways. It is wonderful to know that you also support my journey to become a licensed teacher. Again, thank you and blessings to you all.

## From the Finance Committee

We always trust that God will continue to provide, however OPC is starting to feel the effects of the COVID pandemic financially. We ask that if they are not up to date on your pledge, that you prayerfully consider what you can give at this time. We also encourage you to reach out to the treasurers, Cindy and Jim Reid, if you need to make any changes to your 2020 pledge or have other financial concerns.

Blessings,  
The Finance Committee

## OPC Session

Have a question, suggestion, or concern about some aspect of OPC? Start with the Session! Below are our Session elders and the committees they serve on.

- Lynn Clements - Property Committee, Safety Team (LClements@rapidan.org)
- Carole Sue Graves - Mission and Outreach, Presbyterian Weekday School board (carolesuegraves@gmail.com)
- Ted Haberland - Finance Committee, Food Co-op Task Force, Property Committee, Nominating Committee (newwedlitz@aol.com)
- Amy McClung - Congregational Care, Safety Team, Worship and Music (admclung@aol.com)
- Jennie Hill Robinson - History Covenant Group, Mission and Outreach Committee (madjhr@gmail.com)
- Mike Saxton - Covenant Review Team, History Covenant Group, Safety Team, Spiritual Formation Team (mikesaxtonsr@gmail.com)
- Ralph Graves - Clerk of Session, Communication Team (clerkofsession@orangepc.org)

