



Orange
Presbyterian
Church

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April 2020

Holy Week at Home

PALM SUNDAY

Read: Matthew 21:1-11

Item: Palm Branches

Listen: Today we remember when Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. The people cheered and celebrated by putting palm branches and coats on the road before him.

Do: Walk around your house or your yard with your palm branches and shout, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord"

Ask: What do you think it felt like to wave palm branches in front of Jesus that day? What would you shout at Jesus to tell him that you're excited?

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Read: John 13:1-17,31b-35

Item: Towel

Listen: Jesus shared a very special Passover meal with his friends. As they sat down, Jesus got up and got a bucket of water and towel to wash his disciples' dirty, dusty feet. They couldn't believe that their teacher would get so dirty for them.

Do: Decorate your towel with paints or markers as beautifully as you can. Washing his disciples was a generous gift that Jesus gave them. Your towel can be a symbol of that beautiful gift.

Ask: How have grown ups shown that they love you through their actions? Does it feel good to have someone wash your hair or give you a foot massage? What do you think Jesus' friends felt when Jesus washed their feet?

GOOD FRIDAY

Read: Psalm 22:1-11, 19-31

Item: Holding Cross

Listen: Today is the saddest day of our year. Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, the people hurt him,

laughed at and teased him, and put him on the cross to die. While he was dying, Jesus said some of the words from Psalm 22 about feeling like God had abandoned him. There on the cross, Jesus died.

Do: Hold on to your little cross while you listen to the Bible story.

Ask: What does today's story make you feel? Sad? Angry? Confused? Why do we call it Good Friday if it is such a sad day? What makes you feel better when you are sad?



Courtesy of Rev. Laura Nile

Pastor's Ponderings

"Jesus wept"

John 11:35

Most of us are familiar with this verse because it is the shortest verse in the Bible. But today, let's talk about how pertinent and meaningful this verse is. Today, more than ever, this verse speaks to me. During this time of pandemic there are some days I need to weep. I need to mourn the loss of expectations. I'm mourning for all the students and teacher who are missing out on their school year. I am mourning for those who have lost their source of income and for those who are working too long hours right in the face of danger. I am mourning for those who have lost their lives and who will lose their lives because of this. I am mourning for the future that will not be, and the uncertainty of the future to come. And I know that Jesus is mourning too. So, if you are feeling like

you need to grieve during this time, know you are not alone. Know that Christ is with you as you mourn; know that Christ is present while you grieve.

My former professor Dr. Bill Greenway said recently that we are in a worldwide season of lent. We are in a time of lament. God laments with us. And God continues to love us. God is present with us in this time of grief. Take the time you need to mourn and grieve, and also take time to look for the love of God in your life. I see the love of God in the gift of spring. New life abounds and the sun still shines. I see the love of God in you all as we rally together to support one another. I love you all with the love of the Lord.

Until we are together again, peace be with you,

Pastor Rebekah

Preschool Corner

March was a month of mild weather with lots of outside time and celebrating many birthdays. We had six children with March birthdays. We love celebrating each student's special day! Everyone also celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with reading Dr. Seuss books, and crafts. Our younger class made paper plate cotton ball sheep, just in time for a visit from Pastor Rebekah where she talked about how we are all sheep in the care of our loving Shepherd. Just before leaving school, our older class was able to paint shamrocks in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

With the closing of local schools, the preschool was also closed for the remainder of the year. I am very sad about this, but we are keeping in touch with our preschool families by way of our Facebook page, with videos and posts about activities that can be done at home. Please continue to pray for the preschool and families. We're all facing challenges during this unprecedented time, but God is always good!

With thanks,

Mrs. Kim



Music Notes

Hello all! I have been thoroughly enjoying working with the OPC choir. We were working hard to prepare "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" which would've been the choir special for the March 29 service. I also have been enjoying organ lessons, and was working towards preparing a romantic French piece composed by Vierne, which also would've been the prelude for the March 29 service. I am feeling the weight of our inability to be together, and I miss collaborating with the choir to share music. However, instead of discussing "would haves" and "could haves", I'd like to mention some exciting things for up ahead! With the switch to

online school, I've been provided with more downtime to plan and research. I will be excited to resume practicing organ, because I have found beautiful pieces I'd like to learn and share with you all. I have started a virtual "listening party series" that allows me to talk about some of my favorite composers / works of music through Zoom once a week. If you're interested in joining us, please find the information in the upcoming email memos. I'm also eager to plan for services up ahead and hope to include some choir selections that I will personally arrange. If you'd like to learn more about how you can contribute to the musical culture of OPC, please reach out any time!

Chelsea Holt

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 Lenten Devotional (Online)	2 5:00 M & O 6:00 Property Committee	3 6:00 BYOB&B Online Gathering	4
5 Palm Sunday Online Worship	6 6:00 Spiritual Formation 7:00 History Group	7 10:30 Morning Circle 5:00 Safety Team 7:00 Pastor Support Team	8 10:00 Lenten Devotional (Online)	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday 6:00 BYOB&B Online Gathering	11
12 Easter Sunday Online Worship	13	14 7:00 Session	15 10:00 Lenten Devotional (Online)	16 7:00 Finance	17 6:00 BYOB&B Online Gathering	18
19 Online Worship	20	21	22 10:00 Lenten Devotional (Online) 7:00 Endowment	23	24 6:00 BYOB&B Online Gathering	25
26 Online Worship <i>5 Cents-a-Meal</i>	27	28	29 10:00 Lenten Devotional (Online)	30	1	 Indicates Birthday

Matthew 25 Events

Snacks for Students



Locals churches are providing snacks for Orange Elementary School students on Friday afternoons. You can donate money to be used for the purchase of snacks. Checks can be made out to Orange Elementary School with "Friday snack" in the memo. Pastor Rebekah will donate to the school on Thursday afternoons.

* No longer accepting food items, monetary donations only

Session Meeting Highlights

This month the Session held their stated meeting on March 17, 2020, and two called meetings.

The following actions were approved at the March 17, 2020 Stated Session Meeting

- Paid sick leave will be provided for all staff for time they would have performed OPC duties that overlaps a contiguous 14 day coronavirus quarantine or diagnosis period. (This will be re-evaluated as needed since there could be situations exceeding 14 days within a family setting.)
- The Mission and Outreach Committee has the authority to disperse money set aside for Orange Presbyterian Weekday School, (approximately \$5,000) as determined by the committee for personnel support during this pandemic.
- The Orange County Community Chorus was given permission to use OPC facilities on a Friday and Saturday (tentatively May 8 and 9, but currently TBT). This includes the Sanctuary for the concert and Fellowship Hall for the reception.
- Approved a contract with S&I Dulin to renovate the men’s bathroom for ADA handicap-compliance for approximately \$3,000. Work will also include repair to the Narthex window. Money to come from the Memorial Fund.
- Approved purchase of a wireless microphone system with two microphones for and a second microphone floor stand for \$200 or less.
- Created an Administrative Commission as per PCUSA guidelines. The Commission consists of the pastor and two elders – the chair of the Safety Team and the Clerk of Session. The Commission is authorized to make safety decisions during emergency situations.
- Postponed communion until the first Sunday we gather for worship together once again.

The following actions were approved at the March 13, 2020 Called Session meeting

- In the event of an emergent safety threat, the Chair of

the Safety Team in concert with the Pastor is authorized to make decisions regarding the implementation of safety plan procedures.

- As per PCUSA guidelines, an Administrative Commission was created to make decisions regarding the implementation of safety plan procedures. This commission acts in the event of an emergent safety threat. It consists of the Pastor, the head of the Safety Team, and the Clerk of Session.
- During this time of social distancing, Session and committee meetings will be conducted online via the Zoom videoconferencing service.
- For Sunday worship, the pastor will conduct a YouTube video service from her house, in compliance
- OPC will purchase a 1-year Pro subscription to Zoom for \$149.90. This would be paid for out of the administration budget. The subscription enables unlimited meetings to be held via Zoom.
- The following actions were approved at the March 24,2020 Called Session Meeting
- Ralph Graves and Diane Haberland will be the counters for the duration of the social distancing periods They will work out safety procedures to minimize risk of infection.
- Approved minutes for our 2020 Stated Session Meetings are available on request from the church office. Have a question, concern, or suggestion? Contact a session member!
- And remember you are always welcome to attend our open stated session meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. Contact Rebekah for a Zoom conferencing invite.

Respectfully submitted,
 Ralph Graves
 Clerk of Session

Treasurer’s Report as of

Beginning Balance	\$	Other Contributions:	
Income	\$	5 Cents-a-Meal	\$
Expenses	\$	Memorial Fund	\$
Ending Balance	\$	Mission Trip Fund	\$
		Music Fund	\$
		OPC Weekday School Fund	\$
		Preschool Scholarship Fund	\$



Prayer Concerns

Elizabeth Goodwin, Mildred Butts, and Bill Taylor at Dogwood Village.

Pat Stewart's brother in law, Bill, and her sister, Linda.

Nan Hawkins and Rich Knox.

OPC Special Memories

The OPC History Covenant Group would love to hear your special memories of our church family! We would like to compile a booklet of these memories to share with our congregation for our 175th Anniversary Celebration on November 8, 2020. Please use this space and return this by mail to the office or send your memories to saxton-family@comcast.net . Thanks in advance!

