



Orange
Presbyterian
Church

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Feb/March 2021

2021 Ash Wednesday and Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season in the church year known as Lent. Lent is a time to prepare for the celebration of Easter and to renew our life in the mystery of the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, a biblical symbol of mourning and penitence.

This ancient sign speaks of the fragility of human life, and marks the penitence of the community of faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

From the Presbyterian Mission Agency



*From Dust you
have been made,
to dust you
shall return*

Pastor's Ponderings

Although we have just finished the Advent and Christmas seasons, Lent is quickly approaching. It amazes me every year how quickly the liturgical seasons fly by. I love how each season brings something new to the forefront of our hearts and minds. During advent we contemplate and anticipate the coming of Christ to this broken world. In Christmas time we celebrate the birth of our savior. In the summer we observe the order of the year with ordinary time. And during Lent we practice penitence and repentance.

As we come up on the year mark of the COVID pandemic I find myself contemplating what it means to repent of sins. While I like to think of myself as mostly a good person, the reality is I, along with everyone else who has and will ever live, have failed and fallen short of the glory of God. Therefore, I must repent. I must repent that many times I do not love my neighbor as myself. I must repent that many times I covet what my neighbors has. I must repent that many times I hold contempt in my heart especially as the year mark gets closer and closer.

While I repent, I trust in the mercy of God. I trust that Jesus lived and died so that we all might live. I trust that I am surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses. During this liturgical season of Lent, I invite you to journey down this road of repentance. I invite you to spend time in prayer and meditation, trusting that the community of saints, and Jesus the savior will surround you as you seek repentance and know the grace of God.

The peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you all!

Pastor Rebekah

Preschool Corner

As we begin the month of February, we are looking forward to learning all about love at OPWS. My hope is that the children feel so much love while they are at school and that they learn to love one another. And most importantly, they will learn that God loves them! We hope to share the love with our community by making Valentines to send to nursing homes and collecting items for the local animal shelter when we learn about pets.

We lost two weeks of classroom time during January due to the increased number of Covid cases in our community. Upon returning to the classroom, we managed to squeeze in two weeks full of winter fun including penguins, polar bears, snowflakes, and hibernating animals. The children were invited to

bring their own bear from home to put to sleep in our "bear cave"!



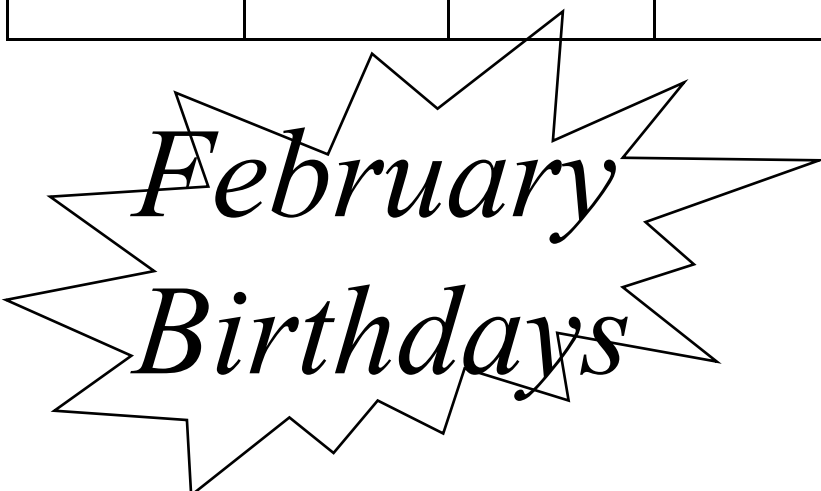
Thank you so much to the Safety Team at OPC for making sure the Preschool met all of the requirements of the Fire Marshal after his recent visit.

We are so grateful for the continued help and support we feel from Orange Presbyterian Church and its members.

Ms. Caroline

February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 5:00 M&O 6:00 Property	5	6
7 11:00 Worship <i>Communion</i>	8	9 5:00 Safety Team	10	11 7:00 Finance	12	13
14 11:00 Worship	15 <i>Presidents' day Office closed</i>	16 7:00 Session	17 5:00 Ash Wednesday Drive-thru service	18	19	20
21 11:00 Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 11:00 Worship <i>5 Cents-a-Meal</i>						



Charles Motley 2/1	Ted Sherwin 2/5
Isaac Motley 2//1	Diane Haberland 2/7
Allison Norberg 2/3	Taylor Gibson 2/23
Winnie Higgins 2/4	Lynne Clements 2/26
Ryan Gibson 2/4	

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 1:30 –7pm Blood Drive 5:00 M&O 6:00 Property	5	6
7 11:00 Worship <i>Communion</i>	8	9 5:00 Safety Team	10	11 7:00 Finance	12	13
14 11:00 Worship <i>Communion</i>	15	16 7:00 Session	17	18	19	20
21 11:00 Worship <i>Communion</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 11:00 Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>5 Cents-a-Meal</i>	29	30	31			



March Birthdays

Wayne Modena 3/1

Cronin Warmack 3/15

Fredrick Higgins 3/4

Liam McLeod 3/20

Lynn Clements 3/4

Ryder Rose 3/22

Mildred Tyner 3/9

Alondra Huerta 3/28

Lee Packard 3/12

Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2020

Beginning Balance	\$14,407.36	Other Contributions:	
Income	\$9,654.97	5 Cents-a-Meal	\$1,559.24
Expenses	\$9,550.14	Memorial Fund	\$19,543.39
Ending Balance	\$14,512.19	Mission Trip Fund	\$318.13
		Music Fund	\$5.42
		OPC Weekday School Fund	\$0
		Preschool Scholarship Fund	\$9,706.78

December and January Session Meeting High-lights

At its December 15, 2020 meeting, the Session, among other actions:

- Approved the request from the Mission and Outreach Committee to disburse Bazaar collected funds to Christian Emergency Council, Habitat for Humanity, and the Presbyterian Weekday School scholarship fund before December 31, 2020.
- Approved a request from the Finance Committee to have OPC's co-treasurers authorized as signers for the church's American Century Investment account. This will allow each of the co-treasurers to sign checks for the ACI account as well as authorize online access to view the account.

At its January 19, 2021 meeting the Session, among other actions:

- Elected Ralph Graves as Clerk of Session and Jim and Cindy Reid as co-treasurers for 2021.
- Received a positive report on the independent audit of OPC's 2020 financial records.
- Received a report from the Property Committee on the church's insurance coverage.
- Approved a request from Mission and Outreach to hold a Souperbowl Sunday food drive ending February 7, 2021, collecting cans for the OPC Blessings Box.
- Approved a request from the pastor to purchase a desktop computer for her office. Up to \$1,000 was allocated from Memorial Funds to pay for the computer and monitor, networking gear to connect the new machine to the office administrator's computer, and Microsoft Office software.
- Accepted the recommendation from the Safety Team to suspend in-person worship through February 7, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph Graves
Clerk of Session

Restructured Committees and Teams

Covenant Review Team: Dianne Haberland, chair

Finance Committee: Ted Haberland, chair *(includes Endowment Committee)*

History Covenant Group: Jennie Hill Robinson, chair

Mission and Congregational Care: Ellen Kendall and Carole Sue Graves, co-chairs
(includes Food Co-op Team, formerly Mission & Outreach and Congregational Care)

Nominating Committee: Ted Haberland, chair

Property Committee: Lynn Clements, chair
(includes Safety Team)

Spirit Moving Committee: Sandy McCleod and Ralph Graves, co-chairs
(formerly Spiritual Formation Group, Worship & Music Committee, and the Communications Team)

Ash Wednesday Drive-Thru Service

- **When:** Wednesday February 17; 5-6 pm
- **Where:** OPC parking lot (same route as communion)
- **How:** Pastor Rebekah will be doing the imposition of ashes using a q-tip and gloves.

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Prayer Concerns

Joys

- The new session

Concerns

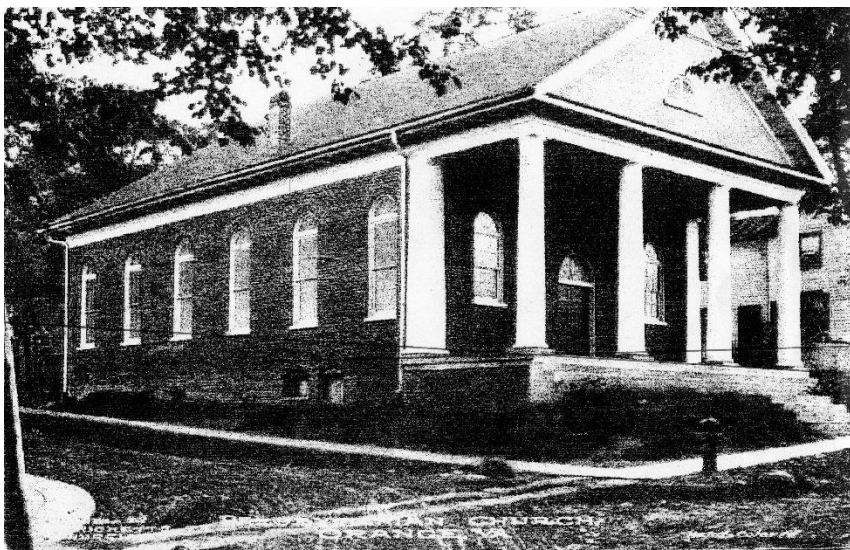
- Local COVID cases
- Our nation
- John Crowder
- Martha Roby's family
- Ralph's father

Continued Prayers

- Our friends at Dogwood Village.



OPC from 1908 to 1923



Estimated date of photograph is 1915. Note that the building completely fills the lot. Immediately behind the church is a 2 story building called the "Old Library" and to the right of the church is a house. An 1885 map of Orange indicates a home on this corner lot. Also note that the entrance steps lead from the sidewalk to the church door.

1908-1918—During the pastorate of Rev. S. O. Coxe, OPC made its first substantial growth with the membership increasing from 20 to 70. From 1908-1915— We had a Sunday School of 6 teachers and 20 students with J. E. Long as Superintendent.

1910— A new church was built on the corner of Main and Caroline Streets at the cost of \$4,000

1911— A pipe organ at the cost of \$1,500 was built and dedicated. (Same organ still in use today!)

1915—There was a Children's Society called "Willing Hands" under the leadership of Mrs. Lewis Holladay with 16 members.

1918- (Rev. Coxe after serving for almost 10 years resigned his pastorate. The session minutes from 1918 to 1921 do not mention World War I or the Spanish Flu Pandemic. They repeatedly note they are without a minister.)

1921—The first full time pastor, Rev. James A. McQueen was hired.

1921—The house of Dr. Bledsoe, directly across Main Street from the church, was purchased as a manse.

1921—Mrs. R. H. Rawlings organized the "Sunshine Band" which continued for many years.

1922—A Christian Endeavor Society was formed and was most successful for about 10 years.

1923—Rev. Charles R. Stribling, DD came to the Orange Church from Petersburg.

He served until his death in 1939. During his time at OPC, the membership increased from 87 to 131.



Rev. Charles R. Stribling

August 23, 1864- January 9, 1939

During Rev. Stribling's 50-year career he served as moderator of the Synod of Virginia and Chairman of the Home Mission Council for East Hanover Presbytery. He served communion at OPC on New Year's Day 1939. He died on Jan. 9 at the home of his daughter in Petersburg and was buried in the Blandford Cemetery.

This picture was found in the papers of Richard Sanford.