



Orange Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Perspectives

December 2019

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Ponderings	2
Matthew 25 Events	2
Preschool Corner	2
Calendar	3
Lectionary Readings	4
Session Meeting Highlights	4
Treasurer's Report	4
Called Congregational Mtg	5
End of Year Giving	5
175th Anniversary	5
Adult Faith Explorers	5
Coffee Fellowship	5
Camp Hanover Events	5
Sermons Online	5
Blue Christmas Service	6
Christmas Eve Service	6
Hanging of the Greens	6
Winter Concerts	6
Christmas Poinsettias	6
Holiday Bazaar	7
Thanksgiving Baskets	7
Christmas Joy Offering	7
Medical Benevolence Found.	7
Alternative Gifts	8
Presbyterian Women	9
Prayer Concerns	9

Advent and Christmas 2019



Sunday, December 1:

The First Sunday of Advent - **Hope**

Wednesday, December 4:

1:00 pm Sanctuary Decorating (swags)

Friday, December 6 (8:00 am to 6:00 pm) and Saturday, December 7 (8:00 am to 3:00 pm):

Holiday Bazaar (Fellowship Hall)



Saturday, December 7:

7:30 pm Community Chorus - Winter Concert (OPC)

Sunday, December 8:

The Second Sunday of Advent - **Peace**



Wednesday, December 11:

1:00 pm Sanctuary Decorating (candelabra)



Sunday, December 15:

The Third Sunday of Advent - **Joy**

Wednesday, December 18:

6:00 pm Blue Christmas Service



Sunday, December 22:

The Fourth Sunday of Advent - **Love**

Christmas Joy Offering

3:30 pm Community Band - Winter Concert (OCHS)

Monday, December 24:

5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service



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Pastor's Ponderings

Happy New Year! No, I'm not a month early – the church's liturgical calendar starts on the first Sunday of Advent, therefore this year the church's new year is on Sunday, December 1!

As we start a new year, let's take some time to reflect on the significance of each liturgical season starting with Advent. Advent means waiting. It is a time of anticipation for the birth of the Christ child. It is a time of longing for the coming of Christ our savior. Each Sunday of Advent we will be focusing on the hope, peace, joy, love, and light of the gift of Christ bringing near the kingdom of God.

This liturgical year, we will be looking closely at how the gospel of Matthew reveals Jesus' birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection. Throughout this gospel there is a recurring refrain of "kingdom of heaven." What is this kingdom? How will we know it when it comes? How does it differ from earthly powers and principalities? These are the questions we will be pondering this Advent season and throughout the liturgical year.



As we prepare our hearts and minds for this New Year, and the new ways God is

leading us, let us stir with anticipation. As we long for the coming of Emmanuel to ransom captive Israel, let us listen for ways God is calling us to come alongside, preparing the way for the kingdom of God.

Pastor Rebekah

Matthew 25 Events

In January, we will be place a temporary clothesline near the Blessing Box on which we will hang hats, scarves, and gloves for our neighbors. We can hang new, gently used, or hand-made items. We will place a basket in the East Room to collect donations. At The Dollar Tree this week there are some very warm fleece lined hats for \$1. This is one easy way to think about addressing poverty in our community.



Preschool Corner

We have spent much of November learning about the beginnings of Thanksgiving with Pilgrims and Native Americans. We've made many Thanksgiving crafts and ended the month talking about hibernating animals.

Both groups enjoyed the tee-pee we had set up in the room. The older class made turkey headbands, necklaces, and different turkey crafts using paint, sponges, and construction paper. For Veteran's Day, we made American flag hearts. Some were donated to Veterans and the remainder were mailed to those serving overseas. We ended the month talking about hibernation and bears. Our younger class made 'wampum' necklaces, a corn craft using paint on bubble wrap, and gray squirrels that introduced them to hibernation.

The children and their families have been giving

generously to our canned food drive. We have enjoyed taking them to the Blessing Box and letting them place the items inside. May Saxton was our guest reader this month, along with Pastor Rebekah who visits us each month. We enjoyed May's visit and her reading of The Can-Do Thanksgiving. This was a perfect book for emphasizing generosity and giving during this holiday season. We ended our month with a Thanksgiving celebration for each class.

We are excited about December and all of the special memories and fun activities to come!

Yours truly,

Mrs. Kim





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45 Faith Exploration 11:00 Worship <i>Communion</i>	2 <i>Grace Kendall</i> <i>Reese Wynkoop</i> 6:00 Spiritual Formation	3 <i>Colton Thomas</i>	4 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	5 <i>Carole Sue Graves</i> 4:00 W&M 4:00 CC 5:00 M&O 6:00 Property	6 8:00 - 6:00 Holiday Bazaar	7 8:00 - 3:00 Holiday Bazaar 7:30 Community Chorus Concert
8 <i>Billie Mills</i> <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45 Faith Exploration 11:00 Worship	9 7:00 History Group	10 10:30 Morning Circle	11 6:15 Bell Choir 7:30 Adult Choir	12 7:00 Finance	13	14
15 <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45 Faith Exploration 11:00 Worship	16 <i>Rod McLeod</i>	17 7:00 Session	18 6:00 Blue Christmas Service 7:30 Adult Choir	19 <i>Hannah Frobom</i>	20	21 <i>Margaret Thompson</i> <i>Leah Roop</i> 4:00 Christmas Caroling
22 <i>Gregory Wynkoop</i> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 9:45 Faith Exploration 11:00 Worship <i>Christmas Joy Offering</i> 3:30 Community Band Concert	23	24 <i>Cameron Motley</i> <i>Christmas Eve</i> 5:30 Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Christmas</i> Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
				Rebekah and Melanie away.		
29 9:45 Faith Exploration 11:00 Worship <i>5 Cents-a-Meal</i>	30	31 <i>Alice Parcell</i> <i>Pat Stewart</i>	1	2	3 <i>Anne Somerville</i> <i>Karen Gibson</i>	 Indicates Birthday
		Rebekah and Melanie away.				

Greeters	Acolytes	Nursery Helper	Counters	Youth FE
1 Millie Tyner	1 Taylor Gibson	1 Jim Reid	1 Anne Somerville Connie Norberg	1 Ellen Kendall
8 Jim and Cindy Reid	8 Anne Clements	8 Melanie and Ryder Rose	8 Dianne Haberland Ralph Graves	8 Rachel Gibson
15 Gene and Louise Whitaker	15 John Huerta	15 May Saxton	15 Louise Whitaker Karen Ulan	15 Melanie Rose
22 Mike and May Saxton	22 Ryder Rose	22 Robert Kendall	22 Shirley Newman Cheryl Lewis	22 May Saxton
29 Ted and Dianne Haberland	29 Matthew Gibson	29 Ellen Kendall	29 Buckshot Clements Karen Ulan	29 Sharon Mohrmann

Lectionary Readings for December

These readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) and are often the basis for the sermon and anthem. These readings are offered to help in your preparation for worship on Sunday.

While we don't have four readings on Sunday, the lectionary provides an Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel reading.

December 1

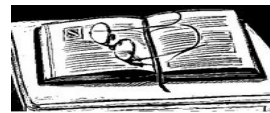
Isaiah 2:1-5
 Psalm 122
 Romans 13:11-14
 Matthew 24:36-44

December 8

Isaiah 11:1-10
 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
 Romans 15:4-13
 Matthew 3:1-12

December 15

Isaiah 35:1-10
 Psalm 146:5-10 OR
 Luke 1:46b-55
 James 5:7-10
 Matthew 11:2-11



December 22

Isaiah 7:10-16
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
 Romans 1:1-7
 Matthew 1:18-25

December 29

Isaiah 63:7-9
 Psalm 148
 Hebrews 2:10-18
 Matthew 2:13-23

Session Meeting Highlights - November

- The Communications Team is starting to advertise the Holiday Bazaar through Facebook and Twitter with increased coverage as we get closer to December 6-7.
- A called Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 15, following Worship to receive and act upon a report from the Nominating Committee.
- A Blue Christmas Service will be held on Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00 pm.
- Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 5:30 pm.
- All staff job descriptions will be updated in 2020.
- The Safety Team was approved as a subcommittee of the Property Committee. This new team had its initial meeting on November 12.
- The Property Committee is working on a number

- of projects to make our church ADA compliant.
- A personal kit for serving communion to individuals who cannot attend Worship has been ordered.

Take a look at the bulletin board in the Narthex for the approved minutes of our 2019 Stated Session Meetings. Please direct any questions to May Saxton, clerk.



Please contact any member of session at any time with questions, concerns, and/or suggestions: Joanna Davies, Carole Sue Graves, Ralph Graves, Ted Haberland, Amy McClung, Anne Somerville, Pat Stewart, May Saxton, Mike Saxton, and Rev. Rebekah Tucker-Motley (moderator).

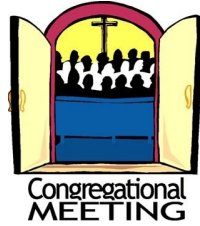
Remember that you are always welcome to attend our open stated meetings on the third Tuesday of each month.

Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2019

Beginning Balance	\$	27,644.91	Other Contributions:		
Income	\$	12,184.00	5 Cents-a-Meal	\$	186.47
Expenses	\$	11,254.05	Memorial Fund	\$	671.00
Ending Balance	\$	28,574.86	Mission Fund	\$	1,318.13
			Music Fund	\$	2,136.73
			OPC Weekday School Fund	\$	5,027.50
			Peace & Global Witness	\$	282.00
			Preschool Scholarship Fund	\$	7,145.68

Called Congregational Meeting

There will be a called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 15, immediately following Worship. The purpose of this meeting will be to receive and act upon a report from the Nominating Committee. Please plan to attend.



175th Anniversary Celebration - November 8, 2020!

We are only 11 months away from our celebration! The History Covenant Group very much needs your help with different facets of our celebration. Please contact May if you are willing to help in any of these areas. Thanks in advance!

- Homecoming Luncheon
 - Organizing
 - Set up, clean up
 - Table decorations
- Time capsule opening and new items to be added
- Photographing event and church family group picture
- Display of pictures and artifacts in the Fellowship Hall for the luncheon

December Events at Camp Hanover

Camp Hanover is the Presbytery's outdoor camp, located in Mechanicsville. There are two events coming up in December:

Hanover Christmas - Friday and Saturday, December 13 and 14 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. A magical night of music and drama celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Overnight lodging and holiday brunch available.

Winter Camp - December 28-30. Experience Camp Hanover in a different season. For 5th - 12th grade.

End of Year Giving

As we approach Advent and celebrate the birth of Jesus, the most precious gift we have from God, we pause to consider the gifts we bring to God.

If you have not fulfilled the pledge you made for 2019, please submit it by Sunday, December 29.

The session is also working on the budget for 2020. If you haven't already done so, please turn in your pledge cards as soon as possible. Please see Melanie Rose in the church office if you need a pledge card. Thank you for your support!

Adult Faith Explorers in December

Please plan to join the Adult Faith Explorers throughout the Advent season! We will be talking about the Stations of the Nativity and will be sharing favorite Christmas carols/songs and their meanings. If you have any questions, please see May. We meet in the East Room on Sunday mornings between 9:45-10:30!

Coffee Fellowship Volunteers Needed



Hosting the Coffee Fellowship is a great way to show hospitality to the congregation and to newcomers. Please see the sign-up sheet in the East Room to host a Coffee Fellowship during December. Join with a group of friends, your flock, or a committee and make it a group effort.

Listen to Sermons Online!

Sermons are posted on our website every week. If you missed a service, or just want to review a sermon, go to orange.pc.org/sermon-archive to listen online.



Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00 pm

The holidays are often times of joy, but that is not the case for many. This is a service for us to come together and support each other in our struggles during this time of year.



Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24 at 5:30 pm

Join us for Christmas Eve Service on the 24th at 5:30 pm. We will include lessons and carols to celebrate the birth of Jesus. All ages are welcome!



Hanging of the Greens

Wednesday, December 4 at 1:00 pm
 Wednesday, December 11 at 1:00 pm

Christmas is coming and we will decorate the sanctuary. First will be the Advent wreath and the poinsettia tree at the front of the sanctuary.



On Wednesday, December 4 at 1:00 pm, we will put up the swags at the front and back of the sanctuary.

The Presbyterian Women will decorate the Chrismon Tree in the narthex on Tuesday, December 10, during their meeting.

Then, on Wednesday, December 11 at 1:00 pm, the tree candelabras will be put in place and we will decorate them and install the candles.

Please come on either or both Wednesdays to help make our church look beautiful for Advent!

Winter Concerts

The Orange Community Chorus and Orange Community Band will have winter concerts free for the public this season!

“The Magic of Christmas”



Orange Community Chorus
 Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 pm
 Orange Presbyterian Church
 Sanctuary

Orange Community Band
 Sunday, December 22 at 3:30 pm
 Orange County High School
 Auditorium



Christmas Poinsettias

You are invited to have a poinsettia placed in the sanctuary for our Advent and Christmas worship. Please use the tear-off form below and indicate whether the poinsettia is in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Attach payment of \$10 for each poinsettia to the slip of paper. (Cash or check made out to Orange Presbyterian Church and in the Memo section note “Poinsettia.”) The Worship and Music Committee will purchase the poinsettias and place them in the sanctuary.



A listing will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 15, 2019. You can take them home after the Christmas Eve service or on Sunday the 29th.

Turn in your forms by Sunday, December 8 – in the offering plate or drop it by the church office.

I/ We would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary:

Your Name(s): _____

Name(s) of those being remembered: _____

In Honor of or *In Memory of* (circle one)

Holiday Bazaar

Friday, December 6 - 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday, December 7 - 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Come volunteer, come shop! The Bazaar is next weekend! We still have room for helpers if you'd like to volunteer. Shop for yourself and your family, and spread the word to your friends so we have a successful Bazaar again this year!

We will create our greenery to sell on Thursday, December 5 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. If you want to donate greenery or make beautiful creations, contact Jennie Hill Robinson at 540-718-5711.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Thanksgiving Baskets project this year. We collected food for 4 Habitat for Humanity partner families to receive full Thanksgiving meals. The families were able to come to the church to pick up their baskets and were very grateful for our support!

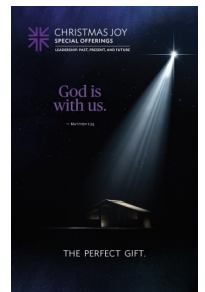


Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas seasons, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

During this season, we celebrate leadership; past, present and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need which are provided through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We also support the offering to help our future leaders in the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Supporting these students helps the whole church develop leaders who reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity.

For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ - the truly perfect gift. Please give generously. We will collect the offering on Sunday, December 22.



Medical Benevolence Foundation



Patrick Coughlin (far right) of the Medical Benevolence Foundation, gave the sermon on Sunday, November 24, thanking OPC for 30 years of support. The church gifted the organization with \$1,000, in addition to our regular yearly donation. We are blessed to partner with this mission of hope and healing.



Alternative Gifts at the Holiday Bazaar!

Do you have someone or several someones on your holiday gift list for whom you have no idea what to get? An alternative gift is a donation made to an organization in honor of a person to whom you might normally give a material gift. Alternative Gifts to support Christian Emergency Council, Habitat for Humanity, and Medical Benevolence Foundation will be available Sunday, December 1 through Sunday, December 22! Please use this shopping list and give it to May Saxton or Cindy Reid. Thank you for your support! Together we are making the world a better place!

Orange Presbyterian Church 2019 Holiday Bazaar

ALTERNATIVE GIFTS SHOPPING LIST

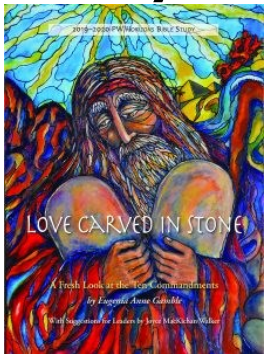
ORGANIZATION	GIFT	Price	# GIFTS	AMOUNT
CHRISTIAN EMERGENCY COUNCIL	Gasoline purchase to transport patient to medical appointment	\$10		
	Groceries to assist family in need of food	\$20		
	Prescription for medication for someone with no insurance	\$30		
	Emergency heating or electricity assistance	\$50		
	Rental assistance for family to avoid eviction	\$100		
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	8' 2x4 lumber to build a sturdy frame	\$5		
	Box of nails to hold things together	\$10		
	Porch light to welcome a family home	\$20		
	Gallon of paint to brighten walls	\$25		
	Box of vinyl siding to protect those living within	\$50		
	Window through which to see God's world	\$100		
MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FOUNDATION	A new analyzer for a mission hospital laboratory	\$30		
	Scholarship education advancement for one nursing school teacher	\$60		
	Treatment for four children infected with acute malaria	\$80		
	One normal delivery with pre- and post-natal care	\$250		
			TOTAL	
		Paid		

Please make checks payable to "OPC" with "Alternative Gifts" on the memo line.
All donations are tax deductible and will go directly to the charities you have selected above.



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Presbyterian Women



Many, many thanks to all who contributed to the annual Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering. We collected \$459.00! Our mission for December is to collect diapers (all sizes) for the local Love Outreach Food Pantry. Contributions can be dropped off in the East Room.

The Morning Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 10 at 11:00 am (note time change) in the East Room. We will discuss Lesson Four, Honor the Life-givers, from Love Carved in Stone, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments, and decorate the Chrismon Tree in the narthex. Carole Sue Graves will lead the lesson and we will share a potluck luncheon. Please plan to join us!

Prayer Concerns

- Albert and Lee Packard
- Palmer Waugh
- Mark Southerland and family
- Ethel, Suzanne's mother
- Minnie Sue, Carole Sue's mother
- Jack Samuels



- Shiloh Baptist Church - fire earlier in November
- Extended Motley family
- Mildred Butts at Dogwood Village
- Elizabeth Goodwin at Dogwood Village
- Bill Taylor at Dogwood Village