

Orencia Presbyterian Church

"We joyfully serve Jesus and our Community"

Table of contents on last page

APRIL
Newsletter



Welcome
to ORENCO!

Mark's Musings

What does it mean to Bless Our Neighbors, to be a blessing to them and for them? Orenco Church's Vision Statement is this:

"We joyfully serve Jesus and our community."



What does this mean, and how do we live it out? I invite you to join us on Sundays during April – we'll look more closely at the word B.L.E.S.S. – with each of the letters describing the different parts of the whole – just how do we be the church for our neighborhoods? Here's what we'll be talking about:

Practice B.L.E.S.S.

B.L.E.S.S. is a way for a follower of Christ to consider all the ways we are called to show love to our neighbors. Here's a description of each of the letters in the acronym:

B = Begin with prayer. Start praying for your neighbors. Pray for their marriages and children. Pray for their spiritual lives. Pray for openness to the gospel if they are not believers or for spiritual growth in Christ if they are believers.

L = Listen. Ask questions. Display curiosity in their lives and experiences and opinions. Be genuinely interested in the lives of your neighbors because they are people made in God's image and loved by Jesus. Listen for evidence of God's work in their lives.

E = Eat together. Look to how we can practice hospitality to our neighbors, both individually and collectively.

S = Serve. Be attentive to opportunities God provides us to care for people and attend to their needs.

S = Share your story. As we build genuine friendships, how can we share our story of Jesus and how He is transforming our lives and the world?

Jesus walked and talked with people along the worn, crisis-stricken roads of Galilee, Samaria, and Jerusalem—and all the nowhere places in between. He learned their names, he talked with them and ate with them, and he loved them right where they were at.

My prayer for us during the next few months is that we will intentionally seek to love and bless the people along our own streets. Yes, I know that the word “evangelism” can seem scary. But evangelism doesn't have to intimidate us—reaching out can start really small, even at our own kitchen tables, or even over a backyard fence, or across the street with those who live around us. Together, let's be present with those around us, to the glory and praise of the One sent to us with the Best Good News they will ever hear!



Preaching Schedule Sundays at 10AM

April 7th Communion Sunday
"Not to Be Served, but to Serve" Matthew 20:28

April 14th *"B.L.E.S.S. – Begin in Prayer"* Mark 1:35

April 21st *"Listening and Eat"* Luke 2:41-52

April 28th Congregation Appreciation Sunday
"Serve and Story" John 13:1-17

Please worship with us In person or online
(<https://tinyurl.com/OrencoYouTube>)



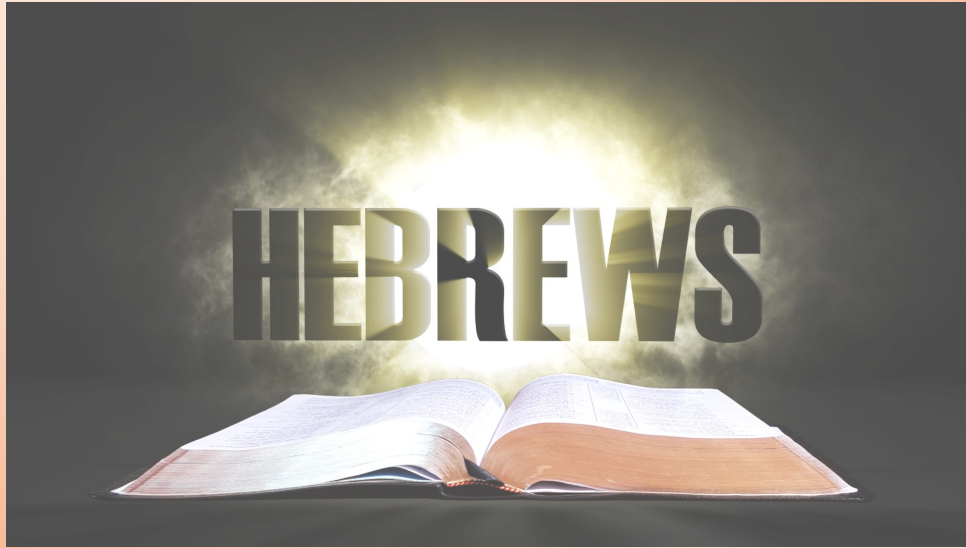
We appreciate YOU!!

*We think you are
amazing and want to
show you, our wonderful
congregation, how much
we appreciate you.*

*Please plan to stay for a
special reception after
worship on April 28th.*

NEW BIBLE STUDY

Welcome back Tim Reed and Steve Marshman!



Starting soon on Wednesday nights.
Watch the Sunday slideshows for more information.



Bob Kuest will be taking family photos on the following Sundays. Please see him if you need a new photo taken or if we don't have one of you. It's very helpful in learning people's names if your directory listing has a photo.

Photo opportunities:

April 7th
April 14th
May 5th
May 12th



Gift Card Fundraiser

We invite you to try our year round gift card fundraiser. Gift cards not only make great gifts, they can also be used for your everyday shopping.

Most places accept gift cards when shopping online.

We typically order once a month for our yellow order form, which can be found on our bulletin board at church and online at www.https://tinyurl.com/OrencoDocs. This vendor has a large variety of cards available for groceries, department stores, restaurants, fast dining, coffee, travel, hardware, Amazon, and prepaid Visa which can be used anywhere. Turn in your order form by Sunday, April 7th.

Our blue form is for ordering Kroger gift cards, which can be used at QFC and Fred Meyer locally, including their gas stations! They can also be used at any other Kroger store, which makes them a great gift for people out of state and when you're travelling. We order Kroger when we have enough orders to meet their minimum.

We also keep a variety of gift cards on hand, stop by our desk on Sundays after worship to see what we have, it varies each week. You'll have a larger variety of places and amounts when you place an order, but our on hand supply is great for last minute needs—and lunch ideas! We hope you'll give our fundraiser a try, it's easy to use and every little bit helps. All profits go to the church to help pay bills.



Our deacons maintain a community food pantry inside the church. Anyone may stop by during office hours and pick up a prefilled bag of non-perishable food and personal products. "No cooking required" bags are also available. The deacons provide support and assistance in other ways too, such as benevolence, phone calls, and providing meals after surgery or other circumstances. Sometimes they can help extend shut off dates on utilities. Let the [office](#) know if you'd like someone to contact you.

Donations of non-perishable food and hygiene products are always appreciated and can be placed in the barrel beside the church library. We commonly need canned fruit, canned tuna & chicken, jam or jelly, and boxed meals. Pull top cans are especially appreciated.





YOUTH GROUP

ORENCO CHURCH

ready to bake! We will also be serving dinner, continuing our Bible lesson on friendship, and working on our scrapbooks.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported the youth group this month. We appreciate all you do ♥

Jennifer Schatz

Youth Director

jenni@orencochurch.org



Happy April Friends! I am so happy to be entering the beautiful spring months together and pray for wonderful weather that will allow us to spend time outside on Sunday mornings. In the Club House, we will be learning that we should follow God's plan and not our own. We will be doing fun crafts and a few science experiments. Girls of Grace, for tweens, has been growing each month and all the girls are so excited to be a part of the group. See Jenni's article above for our next date.

Please continue praying for The Club House, Girls of Grace, and our Youth Group, thank you for your continued support.

Haven Gilbert

Outreach & Children's Director

outreach@orencochurch.org

The youth group had a successful Chili Cook-off Fundraiser as they raised around \$600 in funds to go towards their youth room. Thank you everyone for all your support and kindness.

Starting in April, the youth group will be collecting pop cans on the first Sunday of each month for their pop can drive. Please bring your cans and water bottles on April 7th and the youth group kids will collect them as you enter the building. They can also grab them from your vehicle if that is easier. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Girls of Grace is April 20th at Orenco Church from 3-6:30pm. We will be having a cookie cook-off so bring your favorite cookie recipe and get

BLOOD DRIVE

April 29th
Monday
12 - 5:00 PM
Orenco Church
sanctuary

www.redcrossblood.org



ONLINE

GIVING AND CONTRIBUTIONS



www.orencochurch.org/GIVE





Every year, when it's spring-time we teach the kiddos about new life, seeds, gardening, and dirt. It's exciting when the season changes, it feels so fresh and new! We've spent a good portion of the year talking about Jesus, His ministry, His sacrifice on the cross, and His Resurrection. It has been

beautiful to watch the children grow in the Word of God and take those stories home to share with their families. If you ask them what Jesus is doing right now, they will all tell you that He is preparing a place for us right now in Heaven!

Please keep us in your prayers as we are in full swing with open enrollment. It would be such a blessing to see how God grows our preschool. Thank you for all of your support!

To God be the Glory!

Karen Campbell

School Director

preschool@orencochurch.org



After the 1st Quarter of 2024

As you read these words, we've completed the first quarter of the year, 2024. We're all aware that this is a challenging year, filled with the usual ups and downs, but also challenging as we seek to be God's church in our neighborhoods, and in the world. ***Later this month, each of us will receive the 1st Quarter report of our financial giving, and a simple update of the church's finances and continuing forecast for the remainder of this year.*** As we mentioned at our Annual Meeting, back on February 11th, this is the first year after three consecutive years of receiving government financial assistance.

Each of those year's assistance was \$60,000+ per year in 2021, 2022 and 2023. Frankly, that assistance is what kept us operating in the black the past three years, which is why the current year is so challenging. Those years of assistance have ended for us, individually and collectively.

So what is Stewardship? What is its definition? One definition reads like this: *Stewardship refers to the responsible management and protection of something, especially natural resources, assets or financial resources, for future generations. It involves of taking care of and preserving something of value and ensuring its sustainable use.*

But in the Bible and for we followers of Jesus, stewardship means so much more. Charles Bugg, in the Holman Bible Dictionary, defines it as: *Christian stewardship is the responsibility Christians have to responsibly manage and make use of the gifts that God has given them.*

A couple passages of Scripture that speak to this:

- 1) Peter 4:10 – *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*
- 2) Corinthians 9:6-7 – *Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

As always, prayerfully consider your support of our church's ministry and mission. What we strive to do is seen in our Vision and Mission Statements:

"We joyfully serve Jesus and our community."

"Called to put God's love in action, Orenco Church glorifies Jesus Christ by worshipping God and celebrating Him, sharing His Good News, and caring for the community and beyond."

We've started the year 2024 well – thank you for your continued generosity as we seek to live out these two crucial statements, seeking both to love God and our neighbor!

Pastor Mark



Orenco Church

503-640-8179

www.orencochurch.org

www.facebook.com/orencochurch

<https://tinyurl.com/OrencoYouTube>

Pastor: [Mark Rainey](#)

Children & Outreach: [Haven Gilbert](#)

Youth Ministry: [Jennifer Schatz](#)

Office Manager: [Nancy Collins](#)

Orenco Christian Preschool

www.orencochristianpreschool.org

<https://www.facebook.com/OrencoChristianPreschool1>

Preschool Director/Teacher: [Karen Campbell](#)

In this Newsletter:

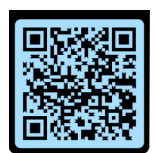
Mark's Musings	page 2
Worship Schedule	page 3
New Wed. Night Study	page 4
Gift Card Fundraiser	page 5
Deacon Ministry	page 5
Men's Ministry	page 5
Women's Ministry	page 5
Children's Ministry	page 6
Youth Ministry	page 6
Orenco Christian Preschool	page 7
Stewardship	page 7
Church Calendar	online



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