

Orengo Presbyterian Church
"We joyfully serve Jesus and our Community"

January
Newsletter

NEW BEGINNINGS

Join us in
2024!

Sundays
at 10 AM

In person or Livestream

<https://tinyurl.com/OrengoYouTube>



Mark's Musings



I was a sophomore at Bella Vista High School in Fair Oaks, a small town outside of Sacramento, California. It was the fall of 1969, and my third period class was A Cappella Choir, with Mrs. Ruth Phillips. As a freshman, I'd been in a class called Voice Training – a class my mom wanted me to take, so that I could be in the school choir. But that freshman year, I thought the choir was for sissies – not for someone for whom sports was pretty important. I mean, how could I play baseball or basketball or football and sing in the choir?

I quickly transferred out of Voice Training into Metal Shop – a class for real guys, so I thought. Later that freshman year, a junior named Dick Kersten came up to me. I knew him from church – he confronted me with a question: "So you think I'm a sissy?" I looked up to Dick – he was the varsity quarterback at our high school – certainly no sissy, so I thought! He asked me again, "So you think I'm a sissy?" I was confused – "what do you mean?" He answered my question, "I'm in the A Cappella Choir. Why don't you want to be in the choir?"

And so, in my sophomore year, I'm now in the choir. Sometime in that sophomore year, Mrs. Phillips had the choir sing, what we would later affectionally call "Wherewith." Little did I know that that song would become my favorite in the three years I was in that choir, and that we'd later sing that same song in the Youth Choir at our church. Wherewith – it is a song that captures the words from the prophet Micah:

⁶ Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the high God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousand of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸ He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Those words are from the King James Version – here it is again in the NIV:

⁶ With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸ He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Now some many years later, those words still speak volumes to me. I'm so thankful for Mrs. Phillips introducing that song to me those many years ago.

I can bring many things of value to God – but what he wants most from me . . . is me. What He wants most from us is ourselves. We've begun a new year. Let's join together to bring our Lord . . . ourselves. That's what He wants. Us. Amen!

Mark

January Preaching Schedule

We've begun a new year – what do we need to know? What do we need to be reminded of? And a very important question for us to consider: What do we need to hear about the Lord Jesus and about our faith?

Join us as we gather to worship in January, as we look to unpack these and other important questions about Jesus, about our faith, about life, and just what does it mean to love and follow our Savior?



"Here's what we're going to tackle in the coming Sundays – I hope you'll join us!"
Pastor Mark

January 7th - Communion Sunday
"Being a Christian is More than Going to Church and Being a Good Person"
Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 4:15-16

January 14th - *"We Must Be Born Again!"*
John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17

January 21st - *"We Need a Personal Relationship with Jesus"*
John 3:16; John 10:10

January 28th - *"God Can Be Pleased with You and Me"*
Colossians 3:3; Galatians 2:20; 1 John 3:1

Worship with us each Sunday at 10:00 AM

In Person or Livestream

<https://tinyurl.com/OrencoYouTube>

Alpha starts on January 17th!

What is Alpha, and why should you come to it?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of Christian faith. Each week includes a meal to enjoy with others, a short film that looks at different questions around life and faith, and a time to have an open discussion in an environment that is judgment-free. You don't have to be attending worship here at Orenco Church to attend Alpha!

The Alpha talks are designed to engage us – our thinking about life and God, and our relationship to God and others. The talks are usually around 30 minutes long, exploring the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions like “Who is Jesus?” and “How Can I Have Faith?”

Possibly the most important part of Alpha is the opportunity to share thoughts and ideas about who Jesus is and what He offers to each of us – all within a small group of people that we see each week we meet. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say (seriously). It's the opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly, and open environment.

Again, Alpha starts on Wednesday evening, January 17th at 6:00pm. We hope you'll join us! To sign up just send an email to alpha@orencochurch.org or use the form in the hallway. Please tell others about Alpha - it's meant to be shared with others, especially those who have questions about faith.

More info is available at <https://tinyurl.com/OrencoAlpha>

A promotional graphic for the Alpha Series. It features a silhouette of a person looking out at a sunset over water. The text 'explore life faith meaning' is on the left. A large red question mark with 'Alpha' in a small circle is in the center. Below it, it says 'Starts January 17th!' followed by a list of details: 'Wednesdays at 6pm', 'Dinner provided', and 'Programs for kids to adults'. At the bottom, it says 'RSVP: alpha@orencochurch.org'. A QR code is in the top right, and a smaller Alpha Series logo is in the bottom right.

explore
life
faith
meaning

Alpha

Starts January 17th!

- ♦ Wednesdays at 6pm
- ♦ Dinner provided
- ♦ Programs for kids to adults

RSVP: alpha@orencochurch.org

ALPHA
YOUTH
Series

Alpha

Gift Card Fundraiser

Thank you to all of you who did your Christmas shopping with our gift card fundraiser! This is a year round fundraiser for the church, our profits go into the general fund to help with general operating expenses.



We are ready to starting fundraising for 2024!. If you'd like to learn how to participate just ask in the [office](#) or at our hallway desk on Sunday mornings.

We will be ordering from our two vendors on January 7th. Pick up a set of order forms from our NEW bulletin board (thank you, Karen!) The yellow form offers a large variety of gift cards, most anything you can think of, and we usually place an order once a month. The blue form is for Kroger cards, which can be used at QFC and Fred Meyer stores and gas stations. We order Kroger when we have enough orders to meet their minimum. Both forms can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/NewsAndDocs>.

We hope you give our fundraiser a try this month. It's easy to use and a great way to plan your home budget and shopping. Thank you for your support!



Women's Ministry

Women's Secret Prayer Partner Ministry

2023 Reveal Party:

If you participated in our SPP ministry this past year you will soon receive a letter in the US mail from Louise Fowler about the annual SPP reveal party. It will take place at her home on Monday, Jan. 15th, at 7:00pm. Contact [Louise](#) or the church [office](#) if you have questions or need her address.

It's time to sign up for 2024!

If you would like to participate in this year's Secret Prayer Partner (SPP) ministry, now is the time to enroll. This ministry is a wonderful way to support other women in the church, giving them the assurance that someone is praying for them! The commitment is for one year and it is nice to remember your SPP with a small gift, a card, or a note throughout the year and on special occasions. We encourage you to leave something for your SPP once a month, we use the countertop in the Cry Room as our drop off location. Of course, the real gift is answered prayer! That is free and material gifts are optional. However, leaving something, even a card or note, once a month lets your SPP know she's being remembered in your prayers.

2024 enrollment forms are available on the women's bulletin board at church and online at <https://tinyurl.com/NewsAndDocs>. ***Be sure to turn your form in to the church office by the January 31st deadline!*** You will be sent the name of your 2024 SPP in early February.



Save these Dates!

JANUARY 28th
after worship



ANNUAL CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING

We need **EVERYONE** to attend! (you do not need to be a member)
We need a quorum present to hold the meeting.

Winter Luncheon

Jan. 11th, Thurs.
12 - 1:30pm



BOUNCE INTO 2024

* FEBRUARY 3 AT ORENCO CHURCH
TIME 12-3PM

A FUN EVENT FOR FAMILIES. BOUNCE
HOUSES, SLIDES, CRAFTS AND SNACKS!

THE EVENT IS FREE!

SPACE IS LIMITED. RSVP AT
JENNI@ORENCOCHURCH.ORG



**SATURDAY,
FEB. 10TH
8 AM**

**IN THE
SANCTUARY**

MEN'S BREAKFAST

New monthly event!

Rsvp to: pastor@orenochurch.org



BLOOD DRIVE

Orenco Church
Sanctuary
Jan 29th, Monday
12-5:00 pm

www.redcrossblood.org

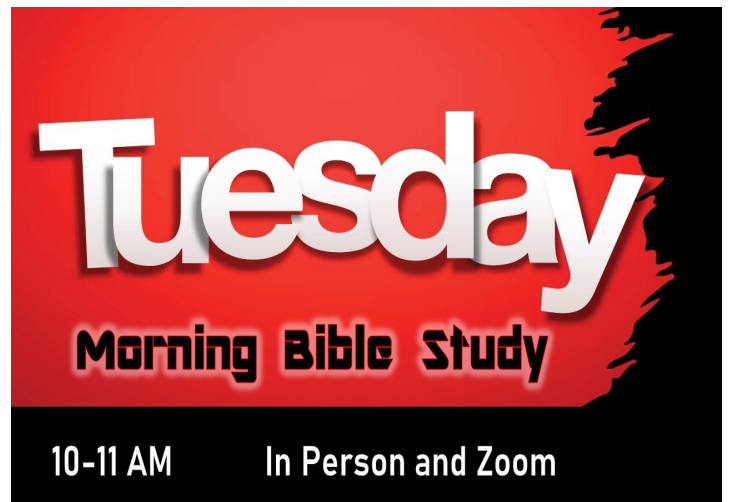


Tuesday

Morning Bible Study

10-11 AM

In Person and Zoom





Psalm 104:33: *"I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being."*

Wow! Is it really 2024?! I am so blessed to be able to work another year with Orenco's youth ministry as it has been a little over eight years since I first started. I am so thankful God continues to allow me to be involved in this ministry and challenges me to think of new ways to help teens and young adults connect and grow in their relationship with God.

For 2024, we will be starting a new college age group (adults ages 18-23). This group will meet the last Friday of each month and at each meeting there will be a fun hangout activity, followed by dinner and a Bible lesson. For this month, the activity is bowling and dinner at Big Als, then we will head back to Orenco Church for the Bible lesson. This event is January 26th from 6-10pm. We will meet at the church and carpool to Big Als. Since we are starting a College Age group, teens ages 18 and older who have graduated high school will attend this new group instead of regular youth group on Sunday evenings, this change will begin after the January 14th youth group.

The **new** youth room will open January 14th and is located in rooms 5 and 6. There will be video games, a coffee and cocoa bar, a snack bar, a pool table, board games, and multiple TVs for entertainment. The room will be open to youth every Sunday at 5pm, an hour before youth group starts. Feel free to play video games, pool, or just hangout with friends during this time. Also, regular youth group will remain Sunday evenings from 6-8pm in 2024 and dinner will still be provided. Please check the youth group calendar for more information or contact Jenni.

Youth Alpha is starting January 17th from 6-8pm at Orenco Church. Alpha youth is a series of group conversations that explores the basics of Christianity in a safe environment. It's a place where you can say anything you like or nothing at all. All are welcome no matter what your background and beliefs are. During this time, we will also have dinner, dessert, and games. An adult Alpha and a children's program will be going as well.

Girls of Grace is having a craft night January 20th from 3-6pm. We will be making coasters and friendship bracelets, having a Bible lesson on friendships, going on a scavenger hunt, and playing games. Dinner and dessert will be provided and the girls will have an opportunity to help prepare it. This event will be amazing and tons of fun! Girls of Grace is for girls ages 10-14. For further questions about this ministry, please contact Jenni or Haven.

There is so much going on this month, so please check out the youth group calendar or contact me for more information. Happy New Year!

Jennifer Schatz
Youth Director
jenni@orenochurch.org

College Age Group Night

Jan 26
6-10pm

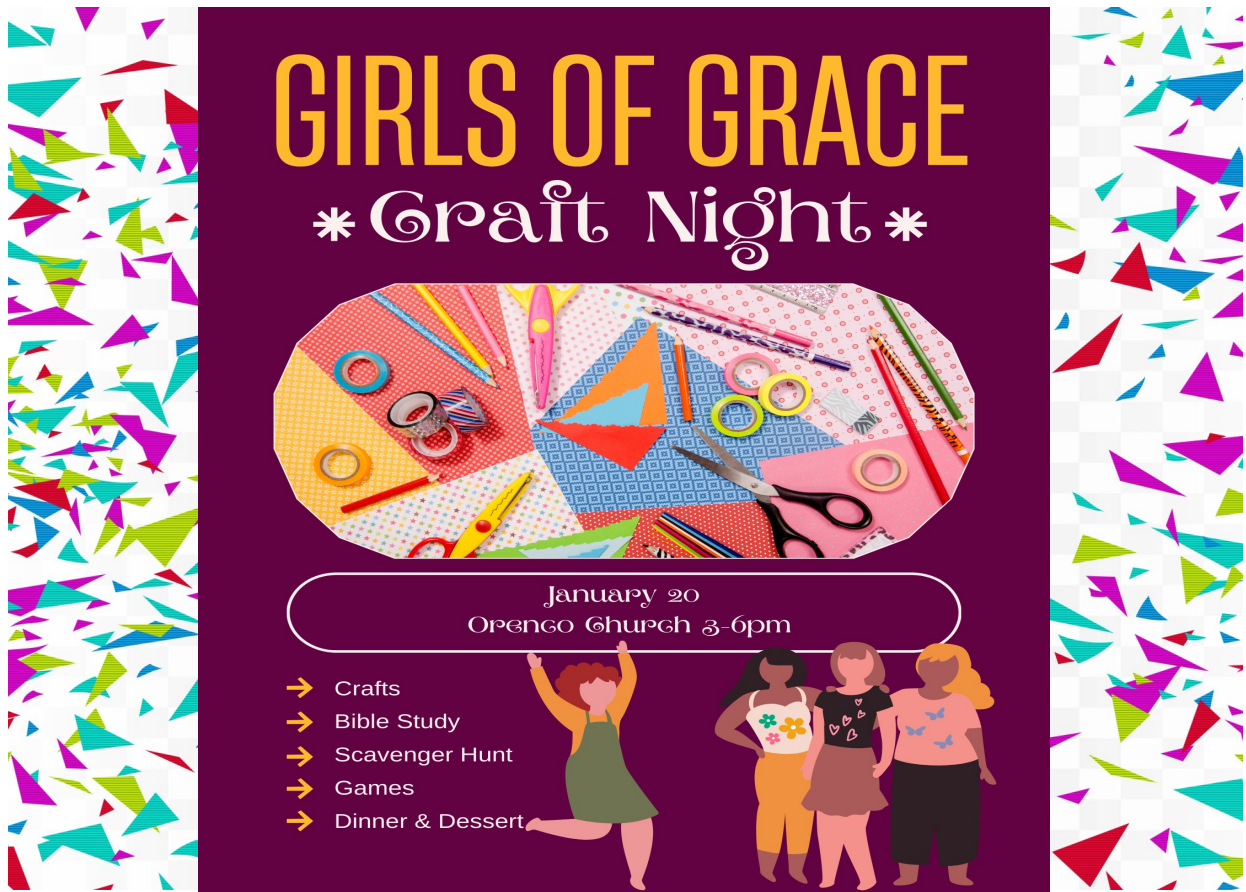


**Cost
\$35**

Bowling & Dinner
at Big Al's
followed by a Bible
study at Orenco
Church

Meet at OPC at 6pm
and we will
carpool to Big Al's.
This is for young
adults ages 18-23.

For more information contact
Jenni Schatz at
jenni@orenochurch.org



Happy New Year Friends! I don't know about you, but my mind is blown that we are already into the new year. This year, I will implement positive and exciting changes in The Club House, which is our Sunday morning program for kids. These changes include more hands-on learning and fun videos to help comprehend Bible stories. I am excited to share another wonderful year with all of you and can't wait to continue learning together.

Haven Gilbert

Outreach & Children's Director
outreach@orencochurch.org

New Year Greetings from Orengo Christian Preschool! As we welcome 2024, we are reminded of the wonderful things that God has done for us and are encouraged to draw closer to Him. A perfect verse to reflect on during this time is Psalm 98:1-2, which speaks of God's victory, salvation, righteousness, and truth. We are excited to start the year with new friends joining us at our preschool, where we will learn about winter, arctic animals, the beginning of Jesus' ministry, and much more. Get ready for a fun-filled and chilly month at OCP!

Karen Campbell

Preschool Director/Teacher
preschool@orencochurch.org





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](#)

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Orenco
YouTube



Online
Giving

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