

Orencia Presbyterian Church

"We joyfully serve Jesus and our Community"



March Newsletter

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JOIN US FOR
**Holy
Week**
&
**Easter
Sunday**

March 24 - March 31



Mark's Musings



One of the praise songs we sing has a special place in my heart – “*I Raise a Hallelujah*.” The first time I heard it was when Sydney, our oldest granddaughter, sang the chorus to me. She had heard it on a Christian radio station – I googled the song, listened, and was intrigued by the melody and the words.

Later, I ran across a video of the song – a live version of it, sung by Jonathan and Melissa Helser (writer and singers of the song). In that video, he recounts the event that prompted him to write the song. I listened to his story, with tears falling from my eyes as he told the story of a little boy, in the hospital on the brink of dying – and how a community of believers started praying for his life, and for his family. The song’s words spoke of God moving in so many lives, that evening and in the days that followed.

Just today, I read an email I received over the weekend – again, about this song of praise. It told more of the story – again, I felt my eyes welling up with tears as I learned more about this little boy, how close he came to losing his life, how close his family came to losing him, how the community of faith rose as one to pray for this little boy and his family, to pray for the doctors and nurses treating him – and to see how God moved in their lives, knowing that He longs to move in the lives of all who belong to Him through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We’re in the midst of the Season of Lent. This is a special time of 40 days as we anticipate the death and resurrection of our Savior. It’s a time where we can redirect our lives to better follow our Lord, a time to turn away from practices that sometimes hinder our relationship to Him, a time of refocusing our lives as we clear ourselves from distractions that keep us from a deeper focus on our relationship to God.

Soon we will be in Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday, which falls this year on Sunday, March 24th. Take time to follow Jesus’ steps as He lives out that final week before He endures the cross for our very lives, reading through the scripture passages of His last week. You can use this listing below:

Sunday – *Triumphal Entry* – Matthew 21:1-11

Monday – *Clearing the Temple* – Mark 11:12-19

Tuesday – *Teaching at the Mount of Olives* – Matthew 24:1-31

Thursday – *The Last Supper* – Matthew 26:17-30

***His Betrayal and Arrest* – Mark 14:43-72**

Friday – *The Trial* – John 18:28-19:16

***The Crucifixion* – Matthew 27**

Sunday – *His Resurrection* – Luke 24:1-43

I share this with you because what Jesus did for us on the cross continues to minister to our very lives today. Our relationship with Him is individual, and also corporate, as we saw Him move in the lives I wrote about earlier in this article. We serve the living Lord, who died and rose again. Be sure to join us in worship during the month of March, especially as we come together to celebrate on Easter Sunday Morning. He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

Mark

Preaching Schedule Sundays at 10AM

March 3rd - Communion Sunday
"I Am the Resurrection and the Life" John 11:25

March 10th
I Am the Good Shepherd John 10:11, 14

March 17th
I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life John 14:6

March 24th - Palm Sunday
I Am the True Vine John 15:1, 5

March 31st - Easter Sunday
He is Alive! Various scriptures

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



Join us the evening of March 28th for a very special Maundy Thursday time. Beginning at 6:30pm, we will view the Alpha Talk series episode of "How to Resist Evil." That night after sharing the Passover Meal with His disciples, Jesus resisted evil as he prayed for three hours about what He was to face the following morning. Pastor Mark will share his thoughts on both the video and the

scriptures concerning the event that is so pivotal to our faith and lives. We will also spend a special time sharing together at the Communion table. Please save this evening and time as we remember our Lord together.

MISSIONS

Greetings from your mission elder!

Well it's that time of year again. What time of year you ask? One Great Hour of Sharing time of year! We will kick off this special fundraiser on March 3rd and the last day will be on Easter Sunday! One Great Hour of Sharing raises money for three different programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of people. You will receive information explaining more about these three programs on the Sundays in March. You may give using the provided envelopes at church or online through our website, www.orencochurch.org/Give.

Bob Gamble recently sent an email highlighting the different ways his mission, "This Child Here," supports families in Ukraine. This organization is doing amazing things, even with a war happening around them. Below are some examples of how our donations help to keep these programs and services going.

The Basics - food, clothing, and medicine for displaced families. Mostly women and children.

Lifeline - education and travel for applicants accepted by schools in the States. We call it "Lifeline" because it really is like throwing a line to students in this raging sea that is The War in Ukraine. And because one day that student will help to save not only the future of his/her family, but the future of Ukraine.

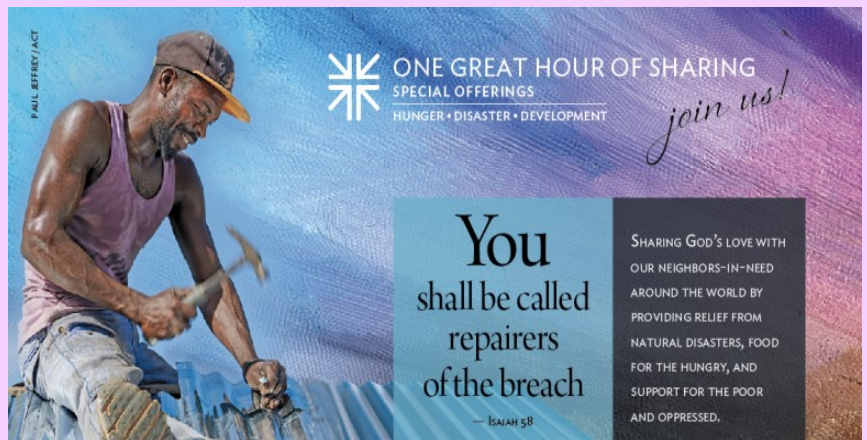
Please consider giving to Bob's important ministry and support the people of Ukraine. And please pray for their safety.

On March 9th we are packaging meals for Rise Against Hunger at Hillsboro Presbyterian Church. This joint church event is only a three hour commitment and remember that children 10 and older are invited to help out! We need at least 20 volunteers, so hopefully you can come join the fun!

Finally, I'm so happy Cindy Cunningham, founder and director of Village of Hope, Uganda, was able to come speak to us on February 25th! If you have any questions about the villages or our ministry, I am more than happy to talk to you and answer any questions. I will be going back to Uganda this summer, leaving on June 10th and returning on August 15th! This is by far my longest trip, and I am so very excited to have an extended amount of time there. One focus of my trip will be working with the students in Bobi, the primary village, with their music competition. This happens each year and we have historically done quite well! I'm excited to be a part of it during my visit this year!

Sincerely,
Becky Rios - Missions Elder

To see all our Missions



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 even 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](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, March 10.

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 shopping. 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.



There are some exciting changes afoot with our praise band *Cornerstone*. We are undertaking an update to our praise song library. We have identified 15 to 20 older praise songs that have served us well over the years but are showing their age. Removing them from our playlist gives us an opportunity to introduce a nice list of new songs that contain a good mix of upbeat as well as more reflective songs. Our intention is to introduce 1 to 2 new songs per month throughout 2024. The band is looking forward to this project and invite your comments or questions.

Dave Priester
Worship Elder



The youth group is having a Chili Cook off Fundraiser after Sunday worship on March 17th. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per kid (5 and under are free) to try out, taste, and vote on your favorite chili and cornbread. We will be in the narthex Sundays March 3rd and 10th selling admission tickets. We are still looking for more people to enter the competition for both cornbread and chili! If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.



YOUTH GROUP

ORENCO CHURCH

Starting the first Sunday in April, the youth group will be collecting pop cans for their pop can drive fundraiser. Please bring your pop cans to church on the first Sunday of each month for the youth group. As you walk into church the teens will collect and gather the cans, making it as easy as possible for you. All donations will go towards youth activities, trips, and service projects. Thanks so much for your continuous support. The youth group greatly appreciates all your kindness. Questions? Please contact me.

Jennifer Schatz

Youth Director

jenni@orencochurch.org



Hello Friends and happy March! This last month I have seen lots of growth in The Club House, it fills me with joy to see so many friends joining me every Sunday morning. As we enter the month of March we will prepare for a special day, Easter! In the Club House we will learn what the true meaning of Easter is and why we celebrate this holiday. This year we have made the big decision not to host our usual large community Easter Egg hunt, due to such a high participant turnout and limited space. We will instead be hosting a small egg hunt after worship on Easter Sunday for the families who are in attendance! I look forward to seeing our church families enjoy something special for them this year!

Haven Gilbert

Outreach & Children's Director

outreach@orencochurch.org





COMMUNITY SERVICE WEEK at the Preschool

We learned some great safety tips from our local police and fire departments. Thank you for keeping us safe!

- Look left, right, left before crossing the street.
- Call 911 when there is an emergency.
- Don't touch, Leave the area, Tell an adult (if you find a dangerous item.)
- Stop, Drop, and Roll
- Stay low when there is a fire...don't hide!
- Police and Fire are here to keep you safe!

Officer Fred Kuest



"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse", Romans 1:20.

Spring symbolizes a period of warming weather and the revival of nature. with blooming flowers and newborn animals. As Christians, we receive fresh life and new mercies each day. Spring provides us with a great reminder to embrace an abundant life and let go of past burdens. Even in life's darkest moments, there is always hope eternal. I am excited for Spring to begin to share new life and new beginnings in our Lord Jesus Christ with the preschool children. It is a beautiful time to share Jesus' greatest love and sacrifice for us, His death and resurrection. Be blessed and to God be the glory!

Karen Campbell

Preschool Director

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Is that Pastor Mark ?!





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www.orencochurch.org

www.facebook.com/orencochurch

<https://tinyurl.com/OrencoYouTube>

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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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