For by grace you are saved through faith. 

And this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. It is not from works, so that no one can boast. 

Ephesians 2:8-9
Staff

Bruce Lethbridge       Pastor       bruce@orcuttpres.org
Israel Gonzales       Associate Pastor      israel@orcuttpres.org
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Julie Coolidge        Wedding Coordinator      info@orcuttpres.org
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Christian Garcia      Custodian              info@orcuttpres.org
Cindy Baeza           Church Secretary        info@orcuttpres.org
When the Apostle Paul was writing the Christians at Corinth, he had to confront several false teachings that were being set forth by people who claimed to know the truth. Of these, the most outrageous was that you could somehow take away the resurrection of Jesus Christ and still have something that was recognizably the Christian faith. Not so, says Paul. Without the resurrection of the Lord Jesus the Christian faith collapses entirely. If he did not rise from the dead Jesus becomes just another moralist, but he does not become King of Kings and Lord of Lords with authority over all, even death.

I am grateful for Paul’s candor here. In the centuries since he wrote others have come who taught that Christianity is merely ethics, but not the power of new life with God. Such an approach cuts the legs off of the Christian faith, which is about Jesus Christ the crucified and risen One. If Christ is not risen, our faith is futile, for it ultimately makes no difference.

It is the resurrection of Christ that proclaims our sins are forgiven. His willing self-sacrifice is the perfect offering which has washed us clean before God, permanently. We stand with confidence before God, not trembling in the fear of rejection, but rejoicing that we are accepted in Christ and adopted as God’s children.

Many times I have stood at the graveside of beloved people, and it has been my privilege to tell their friends and family that this moment shall pass, when mourning shall give way to joy and what is mortal shall be swallowed up by immortality. Yet without the resurrection of Jesus, no such hope is possible. If Jesus has not been raised from the dead, our loved ones are lost. Everything depends on his resurrection.

Our hope is real because Jesus lives, not metaphorically, or merely spiritually, but that he in fact rose from the dead in a body in which he could be touched, in which he ate with his disciples. That resurrection body was different in some ways, as ours shall be, but it was recognizable and real.
Our journey this month takes us on a joyful discovery. Plan to be with us for the journey, especially during our Holy Week services. And remember, one of the great things about Jesus is that his story continues to unfold. We have hope because of Christ, and it is a hope that changes everything, now and forever.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Bruce*
Easter is almost here!

Jesus proclaimed the good news that the kingdom of God was at hand. Good news is always about something that has been done for you. Religion is always about what you need to do or should do.

Jesus raised the dead before the cross and God raised him up when he faced his own death on our behalf. All the people that Jesus raised from the dead were resuscitated. Jesus himself was resurrected. There is a huge difference. Resuscitated people die again. Resurrected people live forever, and Jesus is the only resurrected person. But the amazing good news is that Jesus shares this power with us now and we will experience its fullness when we see him face to face.

This is good news for us today because we are offered that same resurrection power as we have put our faith, hope, and love in Jesus.

This is good news for our neighbors because we believe that Jesus came to usher in the Kingdom of God here and now. We believe that we can be transformed now, and that the world can be transformed now. We are no longer shackled to our ways of sin, but are free to make good choices and to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit to recognize and participate in the Kingdom of God here and now.

Let us not observe Easter as a one-day celebration of something that happened in the past, but let’s continue to celebrate Easter as Easter people who pray for more workers to harvest the Lord’s work around us.

As we draw closer to this special and holy day, let us draw close to Christ and pray: “Lord, how do you want me to live? Who is the person that you want me to invest in?” Our mission as a church is to invite people to meet Jesus, join His family, grow in faith, and serve in His name. We need resurrection power to accomplish this. Are you actively engaged in doing any of these? Which one is the Lord directing you to focus on? May the Lord direct us all and fill us with his power and love, with his grace and truth.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!!
Pastor Israel
Compelled!

This past February I had the amazing opportunity to attend a Beth Moore Live Event in Long Beach, California along with two dear sisters in the faith. The Theme for the Weekend was “COMPELLING” and Moore broke down just what that word means: forceful, demanding attention, convincing. She challenged us to question whether or not WE as believers live this out in our walk. Do WE compel others? Does Christ’s love compel US to walk in a way that makes people want to lean in, know more about us and want more? She broke it down with these 7 principles:

1. We have everything it takes to be the most compelling people on earth
2. In an effort to be culturally compelling, we have FORFEITED our uniqueness.
3. We get to live a life worth dying for.
4. We have a legacy both of bold truth and bold tenderness.
5. We are called to relationships that would be the envy of the world.
6. We are recipients of prophetic insights… partial, but plenty.
7. Though we walk in harm’s way, we shall make it safely home.

At the closing session, Moore asked us to join hands with the person next to us and commissioned us to live out these 7 principles. It was a teary, joyful, moving time and I’m so grateful that I was able to be there. We ended with an incredible time of worship led by Travis Cotrell. Travis had a way of leading us where we forgot about his voice, the band, the instruments, the lights…and we just worshiped. I was incredibly inspired and challenged to think about how we worship Him musically in our church services. What if it was less of us, and more of Him? That is forever my prayer for us at OPC. We closed with the song: “Agnus Dei”…an old favorite written by Michael W. Smith…..simple, easy to sing, scriptural. We must have been singing it for ten minutes…..it wasn’t until I finally opened my tear-filled eyes to notice the band had left the stage…and we were all still singing.
It was a small glimpse into heaven for this daughter of the King and I just can’t wait to someday gather with all of my brothers and sisters and sing these words to Him all day long:

Alleluia Alleluia, For the Lord God Almighty Reigns
Alleluia Alleluia, For the Lord God Almighty Reigns
Holy Holy
Are You Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb
Worthy is the Lamb
You are Holy
Holy
Are you Lord God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb
Worthy is the Lamb
Amen!

In Praise for our Worthy God,
Amy
Easter is just around the corner! I am excited to celebrate Easter morning with our church family. Easter brings such hope as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. What an incredible journey of joy, love, faith, and victory Christ encountered during his human experience on this planet. Children’s ministry is currently collecting items for the children’s Easter Egg Hunt. We are still in need of candy filled plastic eggs, stuffed animals, bubbles, toys…anything you think would enrich this experience for our children will be welcomed. Please drop donations off with Cindy or me at the church.

I have friends who have joined OPC for several of our services, Christmas Pageant, Talent Show and women’s ministry events. These friends of mine attend other churches in the Orcutt community. They recognize that we are intergenerational, multi-cultural, full of joy, and influential in this community. I love hearing what others have to say. We often take for granted the gifts that we experience. It is a blessing when others recognize those gifts and share what they witness. The work that is being done at OPC is glorifying to God. Those who attend are blessed.

Children’s Ministry is in a healthy place. This church family loves children and it shows. Thank you for your continued prayers and support of our littlest disciples. I am always looking for volunteers. If you feel God leading you to teach Sunday School or volunteer in our programming, please let me know! Stephanie Wells is currently in the process of putting together a Children’s Ministry Committee who will help nurture and shape our future. Interested? …Let Stephanie know!

Children do not come with pride, but innocence and a desire to belong. A longing to be considered important. I pray that our church will continue to welcome the children. To invest in our children is to invest in our future. I pray that we continue to view each other through the perspective of God’s eyes and heart. Imagine the shift our family would experience. The children who attend church here have asked for more opportunities to serve. We have a responsibility to understand how valuable that is and to recognize the work God is doing.
My early childhood was unstable and uncertain for me. I entered the foster care system at the age of 6. I did not know how long I would be in a home or if I belonged to the families I encountered. This process ripped me from my brothers. I lived in several homes over the course of 4 years. I was adopted at the age of 10 into a loving, Christian home. I was introduced to the church. I received the gift of faith and quickly understood that I belonged to God…and always had. I was a disruptive, angry, challenging and distant child who surrendered to the work God intended for my life. I was fascinated by and clung to church leaders. I was intrigued by the inner workings of a church. I was baptized, confirmed, and supported by the church. This would not have been possible without the love of a church family. I share this with you because OPC is the type of church I knew as a child. A similar model of love is present at OPC. I witness OPC doing the same for our young. What a blessing! What a gift! May we continue to touch the lives of those who need it the most.

God bless you…my brothers and sisters in Christ. God bless you for who you are.

Jenn Malone
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2 7:15AM Brown Bag/WH</td>
<td>3 6PM High School/OPC</td>
<td>3 6PM High School/OPC</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30AM OneChurch Service/S  *Brunch to follow in the Hall</td>
<td>8 6PM Jr High/OPC  7PM Session Meeting/FR</td>
<td>9 6PM Jr. High/OPC  7PM Deacons Meeting/FR</td>
<td>10 10AM Women’s Bible Study/FR  6PM High School/OPC  6PM Women’s Bible Study/FR</td>
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<td>5:30PM Joyful Noise Kids Choir  6:30PM Kids for Christ/YB</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30AM OneChurch Service/S  11AM Bible Study with Pastor Garry/S</td>
<td>16 7:15AM Brown Bag/WH</td>
<td>17 10AM Women’s Bible Study/FR</td>
<td>17 10AM Women’s Bible Study/FR  6PM High School/OPC  6PM Women’s Bible Study/FR</td>
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<td>5:30PM Joyful Noise Kids Choir  6:30PM Kids for Christ/YB</td>
<td>16 6PM Jr High/OPC  7PM Deacons Meeting/FR</td>
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<td>6:30AM Sunrise Service/OPC  7:30AM Continental Breakfast</td>
<td>22 7PM Men’s Discipleship/FR</td>
<td>23 6PM Jr. High/OPC</td>
<td>24 10AM Women’s Bible Study/FR  6PM High School/OPC  6PM Women’s Bible Study/FR</td>
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<td>9:30AM OneChurch Service/S  11AM Egg Hunt</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00AM Celebration Service/WH  9:30AM Heritage Service/S</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30 6PM Jr. High/OPC</td>
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<td>11AM Bible Study with Pastor Garry/S  5:30PM Joyful Noise Kids Choir  6:30PM Kids for Christ/YB</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>10:00AM Wise Men’s Group/FR</td>
<td>5 2PM - 4PM Food Pantry &amp; Clothes Closet</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30AM Wisdom Class/WH</td>
<td>6PM M&amp;M Night/WH</td>
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<td>1:00PM Meals Ministry/WH</td>
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<td>7PM Choir Rehearsal/S</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>10:30AM Wisdom Class/WH</td>
<td>12 2PM-4PM Food Pantry &amp; Clothes Closet</td>
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<td>7PM Choir Rehearsal/S</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>10:00AM Wise Men’s Group/FR</td>
<td>19 12PM Community Good Friday Service/First Christian Church</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:30AM Wisdom Class/WH</td>
<td>2PM - 4PM Food Pantry &amp; Clothes Closet</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6PM Maundy Thursday Service/WH</td>
<td>2PM - 4PM Food Pantry &amp; Clothes Closet</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>10:30AM Wisdom Class/WH</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>OneChurch Service</td>
<td>in the Sanctuary, *Brunch to follow in the Hall</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>OneChurch Service</td>
<td>in the Sanctuary</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>Maundy Thursday Service</td>
<td>in the Hall</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>12:00PM</td>
<td>Community Good Friday Service</td>
<td>First Christian Church, 1550 S. College Dr.</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>6:30AM</td>
<td>Easter Sunrise Service @ OPC</td>
<td>7:30AM Continental Breakfast in the Hall</td>
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<td>9:30AM OneChurch Service in the Sanctuary</td>
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<td>11:00AM</td>
<td>Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>9:00AM</td>
<td>Celebration Service</td>
<td>in the Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:30AM</td>
<td>Heritage Service</td>
<td>in the Sanctuary</td>
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Saturday April 13, 2019
9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Orcutt Presbyterian Church
993 Patterson Road, Orcutt
Register online:
orcuttpres.org/services-events/for-women
or at the church office
(805) 937-4974
$25 per person (until April 1st)
includes materials and lunch
$30 per person after April 1st.
Deadline to register – April 10th
Recognize Your Weakness to Experience God's Strength in Your Life

A 7-session Study by Best-Selling Author Priscilla Shirer

When we hear the name Gideon, most of us think about his 300 soldiers or a fleece spread beneath the evening sky. But Gideon's story is so much bigger than that. This is a story about God and His people—His love for them, as well as His strength operating in spite of, even through, their weakness.

This 7-session study will encourage you to recognize your weakness as the key that the Lord gives you to unlock the full experience of His strength in your life. Instead of ignoring, neglecting, or trying to escape your weaknesses, learn to see them as the gifts given specifically and strategically by God. If you've ever felt Insufficient, ill-equipped, incompetent, or outnumbered, this study is for you.

To reserve your spot and order your book –
Please contact Lisa Long by text – (805)714-3294, or email - byhisgrc@gmail.com
Begins April 10
Wednesday mornings – 10am
The Fireside Room

TWELVE
Women
OF THE BIBLE
LIFE-CHANGING STORIES FOR WOMEN TODAY

In this twelve-session small group Bible study
Twelve Women of the Bible,
Lisa Terkuerst, Elisa Morgan, Jeanne Stevens and other leaders look at the spiritual lessons learned from twelve biblical women and what they mean for your life today.

To reserve your spot and order your book:
Please contact Sherry Grant by text – (805)598-5201
or email, 19sheshe51@gmail.com

Join our Facebook Group and keep an eye on our website for information about the plans for events and studies in the Fall!
Women’s Special event once per quarter – we hope you’ll join us!
Church Website - http://orcuttpres.org/
Women’s Facebook Group - https://www.facebook.com/groups/OPCWomen/
If you are in need of prayer, please contact one of the following:

Church Office.......937-4974
Janice Holland......937-5455
Rosalie Matthews..937-3439

your request will be shared with and prayed for by a group of prayer-s.

there are prayer request cards in the sanctuary pews.

please fill out a card and place in the collection plate, in the basket on your way out or the brown box on the Information table.

7    Warren & Stephanie Wells, Nathan Wells, Margaret Wielenga, Geno Williamson, Mike & Shauna Wilson,
14    Juan Jr. & Stephanie Acosta [Josiah, Makayla, Charlotte], Juan Sr. & Aurora Acosta, Drew & Nelly Acosta,
21    Herb & Ruth Adams, Linda Adams, Mike & Kay Aguillon, Anita Allen, Paul & Chrissy Allen, Bob & Mary Allington,
28    Gina Alston, Bill & Carol Anders, Audrey Armenta, Steve & Clara Auferoth, Ray & Cindy Baeza, Sam Baeza,
1 Donna Lehman
2 Pastor Israel
3 Elaine Pachner
7 Gladys Friesen
9 Bruce Oropeza
10 Alfonso Curti
11 Monica Hughes
13 Peache Lopez
   Jerry Hansen
14 Joseph Dockery
15 Glenn Prezkop
20 Kim Clanchard
24 B.J. Knight
25 Diane Christenson
   Jean Sander
26 Jean Corkhill
28 Lola Moe

04/02/1997   Kevin & Rose Kinyon
04/03/1971   Ken & Diane Parker
04/07/2007   Gary & Denese Beilke
04/13/2002   Juan & Aurora Acosta
Children & Family Ministries are collecting plastic filled eggs, stuffed animals, baskets and toys for our Easter Sunday Egg Hunt [no hard boiled eggs]. We are expecting a lot of kids. Please drop off items with Cindy at the Church Office or with MJ [Jenn].

m&m night
movies & ministry
first Friday
6:00pm-8:30pm

We invite kids Kinder through 6th grade to enjoy a movie, popcorn, m&ms, and a conversation about God.

see Jenn Malone for more details
JUNE 24-28
9:00am - 12noon
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Age 3 thru 6th Grade

POWER UP
RAISE YOUR GAME
FREE VBS!

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Email: Info@orcuttpres.org