

## A NOTE FROM MATT

During March, we also continue to move through the seasons of Lent. **Lent is a time of preparation for Easter.** During Lent, we reflect on Jesus, his life and teachings, and especially on the meaning of his death. We do this to fully understand and celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday. As a part of our Lenten journey this year, we will again have a [Lenten Study Guide](#).

It will be a four-week guide written by Elder Joy Riley with a focus on prayer, fasting, and meditation leading up to our [Stages of the Cross](#) Event on March 21 at 6:30 pm. Stages of the Cross is an interactive prayer experience focused on the last hours of Jesus' life, led by Elder Joy Downing Riley. We encourage you to RSVP for this event.

During Lent, we'd also invite you to join us for our traditional **Maundy Thursday Service on March 28 at 7 pm.** With this service, we will take communion and trace the last hours of Jesus' life to his death. Orchard will again participate in the **Community Good Friday Service** held at the River Community Church at noon on March 29.

Finally, I invite you to join us on **Easter**

**Sunday, March 31.** Our services will be at the regular time of 10:30 am. There will also be an egg hunt for children and some other fun activities following the service.



Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Matt Hoyt  
[matt@OrchardVentura.org](mailto:matt@OrchardVentura.org)



## MESSAGE SERIES

### Encounters with Jesus

Throughout the Gospels, people had amazing encounters with Jesus. These were ordinary people who were forever changed by their encounters with Him. With this series, as we walk through the season of Lent, we'll see how these people were changed by Jesus and recognize that through our own encounters with Jesus, He can change us, too. With this series, we will also refocus our hearts and minds on Jesus, on who He was, what He taught, and the meaning of His death,

as we prepare to celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday.

### March 3 - "A Girl and a Woman in a Mess" Mark 5:21-43 (Communion)

A girl and a woman had encounters with Jesus, and they found that He had the power to deal with even the biggest and messiest problems in their lives and that He didn't turn them away because of them. As we encounter Jesus, we find these same things are true of Him for us as well.

### March 10 - "A Paralyzed Man" Mark 2:1-12

A Paralyzed man encountered Jesus, and he was healed and forgiven. As we encounter Jesus, He desires to heal and forgive as well.

### March 17 - "A Reluctant Participant" John 5:1-15

A man who could not walk had an encounter with Jesus, and he took a leap of faith that changed his life. As we encounter Jesus, He also calls us to take leaps of faith.

### March 24 - "The Adoring Crowds" Matthew 21:1-11 (Palm Sunday)

Crowds of people on the road to Jerusalem encountered Jesus, and they adored him because they believed He was the Messiah. As we encounter Jesus, who do we say that He is, and how could that change our lives?

### March 28 - Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm

### March 31 - "He is Risen!: Two Disciples on the Road"

Luke 24:13-35 (Easter Sunday)

After Jesus was crucified, two of His disciples encountered an amazing man on the road to Emmaus, and their lives were

Community Good Friday Service

# GOOD FRIDAY

March 29 at noon

River Community Church

859 E Santa Clara St, Ventura, CA 93001





forever changed when they realized that Jesus had risen from the dead! As we encounter Jesus, may our lives be changed, too, as we realize that He is the Risen Lord!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**Melinda Hoyt**  
Children's Ministry Director  
[Melinda@OrchardVentura.org](mailto:Melinda@OrchardVentura.org)



Register Now

### Children's Spring Tea Party

Saturday, March 16, 2-3:30 pm in the Worship Center. \$7 / person. Fancy spring and Easter themed party with the Easter bunny, games, craft, lemonade and treats, entertainment, and kids' etiquette lesson [Register now!](#)

**World Tour** (Day Camp—arts, sports, fun) June 17—21, 9am-noon.

**VBS Fun on the Farm**  
June 24 - 28, 9am-noon.

**VBS Sunday** -June 30.

These are opportunities for the whole church family to come together and create lasting memories and connections for the children of our church and community. We would love to take as many kids as possible, but we'll need lots of small group leaders to lead a group of kids to all the stations each day (crafts, music, games, Bible, snack), and we'll need station leaders! Summer opportunities, registration opens March 1, 2024.

**Melinda**



**Rich Smith**  
Interim Youth Director  
[Rich@OrchardVentura.org](mailto:Rich@OrchardVentura.org)

February saw continued **Youth Sunday school** at 9 AM, **Youth Group Sunday**

**afternoon** (4-6 pm), **High School Guy's Group Monday night** (6-7:30 pm), **Roast with Rich Tuesday afternoon** (3-4:30 pm) at the Starbucks by Buena, and **High School Girl's Group Wednesday evening** (6:30-8 pm). Youth calendars are online under "Orchard Youth." Scott Lynn is beginning a series from Proverbs on Sunday morning. I continue to work through the Bible with messages about identity and purpose. David Pels teaches through the minor prophets on Monday, and Lizzie Barminski works through a book on Wednesday.

**Breakfast Burritos** will continue after Lent, April 14, and May 19. \$1,100 was used to support students going to Winter camp who couldn't have gone otherwise. Thank you! Over \$1000 has been raised from your donations for next year's IMPACT Mission trip. **Winter Camp at Thousand Pines** students responded to the challenge of turning to God, bringing him their faults and shortcomings, and putting him in charge. Most students recommitted themselves to Christ and seeking him. Good, specific conversations were had and questions discussed. As expected it was cold, wet, and fun. While this was a combined middle and high school camp, the summer has separate camps planned.



In **Youth Group**, we continue to address the themes that we are God's representatives in our homes, schools, and wherever else we are and that our job is to represent him well since he loves us unreservedly. I am looking for ways we, as a youth group, can be that "face of God" for people staying at the Arch here in Ventura.



**Orchard**  
community church

*The Youth Leadership Team continues to amaze!*

Many thanks to David Pels, Scott Lynn, Lizzie Barminski, and Anson Tan. Amanda Phillips volunteered as a girl's counselor at Winter Camp, and Janine Sena and Randy Metz stepped forward to drive us. There's always room for you, too, if you have a desire to help our youth grow into their full God-given potential. See Rich Smith if interested. Have a great month!

**Rich**

## SONSHINE PRESCHOOL



**Annette Walters**  
Sonshine Preschool Director  
[Annette@OrchardVentura.org](mailto:Annette@OrchardVentura.org)

February was a busy month! We had priority registration, and we opened registration to the public. We filled all of our Monday/Wednesday/Friday 3-5-year-old spots and more than half of our Tuesday/Thursday 3-5-year-old spots with priority families and all but two of our 2-year-old spots. When we opened registration to the public, we had 16 families waiting for us before 8:00 am. Most of them secured a spot, although a few only ended up on a waiting list. We have a couple of Tuesday/Thursday spots left and are full other than that.

We were also busy having fun at preschool, too! We celebrated Valentine's Day and had our annual Dad's Night!

Now, we are getting ready to celebrate Easter this month. We will have chapel and will talk about the gift God gave us when He sent Jesus. We will also have our egg hunt on the upper part of campus before spring break!

We will have some special visitors coming to campus during March. We hope to have a variety of community helpers who will come and talk to the preschoolers about their jobs and how they are helpers in our community. These are important

and memorable days for our young learners!

As always, we appreciate your prayers and support for our preschoolers and their families.

**Annette**

## DISCIPLESHIP CORNER



**Rich Smith**

Discipleship Elder

[r\\_smith122@hotmail.com](mailto:r_smith122@hotmail.com)

**Discipleship Calendar:** All groups below are ongoing and welcome new participants any time.

### Sundays:

- 9-10 am

**Biblical Foundations for Life** (in the library for all adults),

**Parent Life** (in Room 6 for parents of kids 0–18)

**Youth Sunday school** (in the youth building for middle and high school students).

**Men's Fellowship Group** (in the conference room for all men)

**Childcare** ages birth-5th grade (on the playground).

- 9:15-10 am

**Intercessory Group Prayer** (in the farmhouse for all adults).

- 4-6 pm

**Youth Group** for all middle and high school students (in the youth building).

### Mondays:

- 6-7:30 pm

**Guys Group** (in the youth building for all high school guys)

- 7-8 pm

**Monday Night Zoom** small group (Open for all, ask [Jerry Horstmeyer](#) for the Zoom information)

### Tuesdays:

- 10 - 11 am

**Pastors Bible Study** (Open for all; in the library)

# PARENT LIFE

Empower parents with biblical wisdom, practical guidance, and insights to help guide their children of all ages through the journey of growth and development.

Sunday Mornings at 9 am in Room 6



Supervised Childcare available for all ages up to 5th grade

- 12:30-2:30 pm

**Card Games Common Interest Group** (1st and 3rd Tues., in the library, open to all).

- 6:30 pm

**Young Adult group** (Contact [David Pels](#) for location)

### Wednesdays:

- 9:30-11 am

**Women's Bible Study** (in the Worship Center for all women)

- 6:30-8 pm

**Men's Small Group** (in the conference room for all men)

**Girl's Group** (in the Youth Building for all high school girls)

See the [Orchard website](#) under "Connect" and "[Small Groups](#)" for more.

I've been writing about four steps we can grow our faith:

1. **Personal daily devotional time** listening to God, reading scripture, and praying.
2. **Join others in studying and applying scripture.** See opportunities above
3. **Discipleship:** Talk to others about your spiritual life and encourage each other to grow in faith and practice. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
4. **Service:** Use your gifts and abilities to serve others, encouraging them in their faith journeys. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

The third step is discipleship, which Lisa Johnson, ECO Executive Director of Leadership Formation, defined as "...a lifelong apprenticeship to Jesus and with others where we are learning to love and live like Him." It's encouraging each other to grow in Christ through sharing our personal spiritual experiences on a regular basis. Think about a specific person or few persons, with whom you could share a relationship based on authentically and honestly sharing one's struggles, doubts, sins, and progress over the next six months. If you are ready for this, text me at 805-766-6549 or write me at [r\\_smith122@hotmail.com](mailto:r_smith122@hotmail.com) so I can help and encourage you.

Here are three possibilities to guide your meetings:

1. As you meet with your partner, or partners, you might consider the following questions from Bridge City Church in Cleveland, OH:
  - a. How has your time in the Scriptures refreshed you or challenged you?
  - b. What practices are helping you align your heart with God's heart?
  - c. Where is God making you aware of how you need to grow in conformity with Jesus?
  - d. How have relationships within the church helped you or others grow?



- e. How have your prayers, speech, and interactions with those who don't yet know Jesus pointed to the grace of God?
- f. How have your time, abilities, and finances been invested for God?
- g. How have your decisions reflected the priorities of God's mission?

2. Share about what God is doing with your heart, head, and hands. Your heart refers to your attitudes and character. Your head refers to how you think about God, his character, and his mission. This is transformation, not information (Rom 12:2), based on study and application of scripture. Your hands refer to how you show God's love in the places you live and work.

3. Use the following based on a previously agreed upon scripture read before meeting:

- a. How is God growing me?
- b. What did the scripture...
  - i. Say?
  - ii. Mean?
  - iii. Apply to me?
  - iv. What did you wrestle with?
- c. What will I be doing this next week?
- d. Pray for commitments from above and personal concerns.

Two excellent discipleship resources suggested at the ECO National Gathering were:

1. Safar (online [safar.org](https://safar.org) or App) - 30 planned meetings with structure & Biblical teaching
2. Discipleship Essentials - Greg Ogden - book, guide for 25 discipleship meetings.

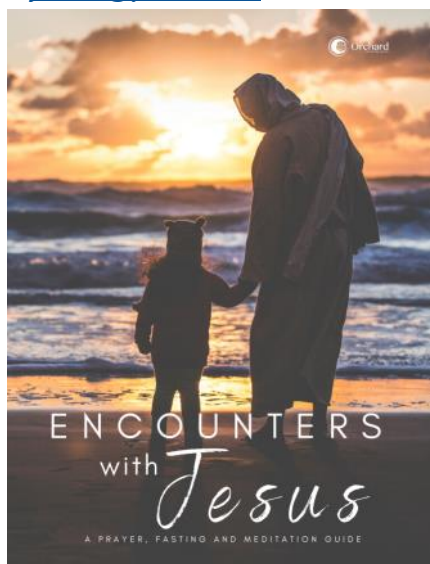
## PRAYER CORNER

By Joy Downing Riley

Pastor Matt has been teaching us more about prayer this month. Do you have

any thoughts about how you would like to grow deeper in your prayer life?

If you would like some one-on-one coaching about how to experience prayer and the presence of God, please contact Worship Elder, Joy Downing Riley, at [jdredit@yahoo.com](mailto:jdredit@yahoo.com)



### ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS 2.0:

#### A Prayer, Fasting and Meditation Guide

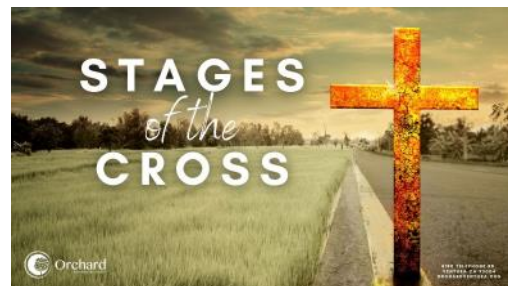
Sixteen hundred years ago Christians began calling the last days of Jesus' life on earth "**Holy Week.**" Holy Week not only recounts the final week of Jesus' life but the days leading to Jesus' being crowned as King on Palm Sunday. Jesus was denied this same coronation by his people and killed on Friday by the Roman authorities as the "King of the Jews." When Jesus is raised from the dead by the Father's holy power after lying in his tomb for three days, Jesus is finally enthroned over all nations as the true King of the Universe, ruler over life and death. We celebrate Easter because Jesus is who He said He claimed to be.

The Worship Committee has created a prayer and meditation guide, "Encounters with Jesus 2.0" to help us prepare spiritually in advance for Holy Week through Scripture readings, prayer exercises, fasting and meditation.

The guide culminates with **Stages of the Cross** service on Thursday, March 21, 2024, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the Worship Building and we will walk through Holy

Week, seeking to see how Jesus experienced his last days to help us grow closer to understanding Jesus' love and sacrifice for us.

Please [sign up online](https://safar.org) or call the church office (805-647-3757) so we can have enough materials, but signing up in advance is not necessary to participate.



If you have any questions about this guide or our prayer event, please contact Worship Elder Joy Downing Riley at [jdredit@yahoo.com](mailto:jdredit@yahoo.com)

## LOCAL MISSIONS

Local Missions answers the call of Deuteronomy 15:11b, "*Therefore I commend you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy, and to the poor in your land.'*"

There are times when the Local Missions Committee is *overwhelmed* with *gratitude* for Orchard's generosity.



This is how we're experiencing your amazing gift of time and material goods:

Under the leadership of Randy Metz and

the assistance of Randy Ringen and many volunteers, we made 1000 **soup-in-a-bag** meals. These were distributed to One Stop, the Salvation Army shelter and pantry, and the Turning Point Foundation shelter. Thank you, Randy!!

During January and February, we collected winter clothing, such as blankets, tarps,



gloves, beanies, jackets, sweaters, socks, etc. for the **Winter Warming Shelter** and One Stop. The number of great donations was wonderful, and all have been distributed and used by unhoused people.

We recently received an emergency request on a Tuesday from the Winter Warming Shelter of 25 breakfasts, lunches, and dinners for the next day. We provided Lalo's breakfast burritos, Subway lunches, El Pollo Loco dinners with fruit, treats, and drinks. Thank you to Diana Loe, Priscilla Anderson, and Judy Alexandre for ordering, packing, and delivering the meals for 25 people who were housed at a local motel during the last storm. We are also scheduled to provide meals for the Winter Shelter the week of **March 18-24**, if needed. If interested in helping, contact Priscilla at [prillu1950@gmail.com](mailto:prillu1950@gmail.com).



We continue to support **Tender Life Maternity Home** with a Sunday Supper every other month. If you would like to be a part of providing this meal

and would like to share the meal with the residents, contact Priscilla at [prillu1950@gmail.com](mailto:prillu1950@gmail.com). Our next meal is scheduled for March 10. Tender Life provides case management, therapy, support, training, parenting coaching, and opportunities to finish high school, get driver's licenses, and be ready for future employment. One-on-one mentoring is also provided. Tender Life is having a major fundraiser on April 4th. Check out their website, [tenderlifematernity.org](http://tenderlifematernity.org), and sign up to attend if you are interested.

Please remember **our ongoing food and hygiene collection** every Sunday. Hygiene items needed are washcloths, toothpaste and toothbrushes, combs, soap, deodorant, undergarments, socks, and small bottles of shampoo. Food items are non-perishable items, especially cereal (hot and cold), canned meats, canned vegetables and fruits, tomato sauces with meat and nut butters.

In April, we will have a **work day** at the Arch Shelter and City Center.

*Once again, thank you for your generous gifts to those in need.*

We would welcome new committee members. If you have a heart for local outreach, contact Priscilla at [prillu1950@gmail.com](mailto:prillu1950@gmail.com).



The **Tutoring Center** is open, and tutors are needed. If you'd like to be a tutor, contact Carol at 805-652-1326 Ext. 101. The new Whitney Tutoring Center Advisory Team includes Lauri Kail, Nema Hutton, Shirley Gapper, & Joanna Ulmer.



## GLOBAL MISSIONS



up, whether it is a particular food or drink, a habit or some other behavior.

Once again, this year during Lent the Global Mission Team will provide the opportunity for Orchard to participate in Significant Sacrifice. Individuals, families and small groups can donate what they would have spent on something they have given up for Lent, to bring clean water, hygiene and the gospel to people in need.

Our goal this year is to be able to donate 3000 dollars for the Benza area in Ethiopia where we have contributed in the past.

Many Christians observe the season of Lent by choosing to give something

At the beginning of this year, Lifewater International joined with Water for Good to form one organization committed to tackling water poverty, providing safe water and improving sanitation and hygiene while showing the love of Jesus. Sustainability will continue to be a focus in all of the countries they serve.

The new partnership will keep the name, Water for Good, as they have strong name recognition in the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) sector. Another factor in the choice is the name Lifewater International is often confused with Lifewater bottled water.

Look for the large water bottle on the patio for your donations every Sunday throughout Lent. Information is also in the weekly email and bulletin. Our contributions can enable families to wake up in the morning to clean water.

***Along the same lines, the Master directed that those who spread the Message be supported by those who believe the Message. 1 Corinthians 9:14, The Message***



With love, generosity and the scripture above as an instruction,

Orchard gives to missions and each year the Global Mission Team prayerfully reviews their budget and designates the funds to our mission partners. This year we were able to add Nat and Wes as full partners. Their ministry is Agape Whole Hearted and serves on the Arabian Peninsula. Photos and information on their work are on their confidential website (see section "**Natalie M.**"). These words from Nat express their gratitude for Orchard's support financially and in prayer; "This is incredible news and we are so, so encouraged by Orchard's pledge of



support. It is an answer to prayer and certainly loving provision from the Father!....We really consider each donation as a piece of our partnerships--the bigger pieces are the sincere relationships with all of our supporters and the spiritual "covering" they keep over us. If you'd like to zoom with us, and chat face to face we'd be all about that! We write this with fond affection and sincerest appreciation. Nat & Wes."

Along with monthly support to our partners, we continue to receive funds from the tithe of the Thrive Campaign, which enable us to make occasional special gifts to our partners.



Last month we received this news from the Bates family, our partner in Romania, "On Christmas morning we awoke to

discover that our wood stove, the source of our home's heat has sprung a leak. For two days, it was 45 degrees in our home. We temporarily have learned how to keep a fire safely going with the leak, which cannot be repaired, but it's very tentative and we know we need to replace it soon before the colder weather comes and our improvised solution falters. Since natural gas arrived on our road this fall, our next move is to central heating." Global Missions was able to make a gift to the Bates toward installing central heating.

Here are Brandi's words of gratitude, "Dearest Orchard Community! This is a shock! A surprise! A "are you kidding?" And ultimately, a "God, You are the most amazing!" We are truly blown away! We don't really know how to thank you other than to say THANK YOU! And how convincing of God's Love and Care for us and our family this is. WOW!!! We will keep you posted on how installing

central heating in our home goes...it won't be right away as things do not happen quickly here, and we are so grateful for now that our old stove is, for the time being, functioning with a lot of Poxipol holding back the leak that sprung Christmas Eve...until the next leak. :) We are so grateful for your more than generous gift towards more sustainable, reliable heat in our home (hot water too!). We also hope to see you this summer, and will keep you posted. With ALL of our thanks...we thank God for you!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Brandi and the Bates Family."

Below is contact information and prayer needs for our other mission partners.



**AnAntalya, Turkey--  
Ramazan Arcan, [ANTALYA  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH](#)**

Please pray for those who are still trying to rebuild their lives and homes following the devastating earthquake last February. Pray also for those who were recently baptized for spiritual growth, a supportive Christian community and courage in situations where they experience rejection.



**Bila Tserkva, Ukraine--Nita  
Hanson, [Home | GHT MAIN](#)  
(godshiddentreasures.org)**

Please pray for peace in Ukraine, for healing and help for those suffering loss and the effects of war trauma. Pray for protection for Ukraine's infrastructure to maintain power in the frigid winter. Pray also for strength and healing for Nita who had knee replacement surgery 2/12, and for protection for Nita and the GHT staff.

**Lupeni, Romania--Brandi and Dana  
Bates (New Horizons)**

[Brandi.brianna@gmail.com](mailto:Brandi.brianna@gmail.com) or  
[danabrandi@new-horizons.ro](mailto:danabrandi@new-horizons.ro) Please  
pray for successful installation of central



heating in the Bates' home and wisdom and guidance in ministry and as Dana and Brandi

prepare for an Impact Team this summer. Pray for provision and health for their family.



**Siquatepeque--Hondas  
(Union Biblica) Orlando  
and Sylvia Japas [Unión](#)**

[Biblica de Honduras | Facebook](#) Please pray the government will continue to allow them to present their program in the public schools and for Orlando and Sylvia as they prepare for an Impact Team this summer.

**J and N,** Serving in Southeast Asia--J&N have moved home to the US and continue their ministry abroad virtually, with teaching, counseling and prayer several days a week. Please pray for the people they have been serving for over 20 years for growing faith and courage in the face of persecution. For their prayer letters or further information please reach out to [r\\_smith122@hotmail.com](mailto:r_smith122@hotmail.com)



**Kristy LaBarge, Impact  
Director, [IMPACT -  
International Short Term  
Missions \(impact-theglobe.org\)](#)**

Please pray people will hear and follow the Spirit's call for the 2024 summer trips, pray for our youth as they prepare to serve with Impact .



**[Water for Good](#)** Stronger  
Together - Lifewater  
International, now Water for  
Good, brings safe water,  
improved sanitation and hygiene, one  
village at a time with the love of Christ.

**Natalie M.** (who grew up at Orchard), and Wesley, with their 2 sons Please pray for protection for them and their boys and for the people of the Arab nations. If you



would like to connect with them directly, see photos and their personal

website, please reach out to Sandy Dinkler ([sbdinkler@gmail.com](mailto:sbdinkler@gmail.com))

If you are concerned about the condition of the world, want to see how God is working around the globe, and want to learn from churches in other cultures, **join the Global Missions Team.** Contact

Barry Reagan [Reagan@srllplaw.com](mailto:Reagan@srllplaw.com) or Lizzie Barminski, [ewbarminski@gmail.com](mailto:ewbarminski@gmail.com)



## SESSION

### Highlights - February Session Meeting

The Session of Orchard Community Church met on February 8, 2024 in the Library. Moderator Matt Hoyt called the meeting to order at 6:52 pm. Before the meeting was called to order, Session had shared prayer and a devotional on John 3:30, Galatians 2:20, and Romans 8:29, led by Matt. Voice and Vote privileges for this meeting were given to Jerry Horstmeyer, Elder-elect, because he was not able to be installed yet due to illness.

#### Pastor's Report

Pastor Matt shared several prayer concerns and needs in the congregation and how elders could be praying for them and/or reaching out to them. At the end of the meeting, Session spent time praying for them. Matt shared that the recent rains did not cause any further damage to the lower campus, thanks to some drain and gutter work, a sump pump and sandbags being in place.

#### Office Staffing

Elder Barry Reagan brought the new job descriptions for the Office Coordinator and Digital Media Coordinator and they were approved with only a few minor changes. The Personnel Committee will begin the search for the new Digital Media Coordinator, and Alisa Bossoletti is the new Office Coordinator after Lisa Beamer's retirement.

#### Youth Director

David Pels came to Session to ask that the search for a new Youth Director be started, and not wait until after the Assistant Pastor/Director for Outreach and Discipleship is hired. David had compelling reasoning, and the Personnel Committee will look at the Youth Director Job description and bring it to the next meeting for further discussion. The PNC will also know better by then what the status of their search is.

#### Pastor Nominating/Search Committee

Elder Judy Alexandre gave an update from the PNC, and shared that they have received a couple more applications for the Assistant Pastor/Director of Discipleship and Outreach position, and are moving forward with one of them, as well as two that are farther along in the process. Applications closed January 16, and at their next meeting they will decide whether to continue or pause the process.

#### Preschool/Sunday School Flood

The Preschool/Sunday School flooding during the heavy rains in December was discussed. Session approved the payments of the repair work and the cleanup work. They also approved a bid from Apex Construction for mitigation work to prevent future flooding. The total will be over \$140,000, which will be covered by the excess General Fund giving in 2023 (about \$45,000), a contribution from the Preschool, excess funds donated to

Thrive at year-end, funds donated by the congregation specifically for this cause, and some reserves if needed. In addition, Dale Watson shared that Orchard's Insurance will pay \$25,000 towards the repairs, and those funds were already being transferred in.

#### ECO National Gathering

Elder Rich Smith and Matt Hoyt reported on the ECO National Gathering they attended in South Carolina in late January. The theme was Metanoia, which can mean to repent and change or also to adopt a different mindset, for example about how to reach a new generation for Christ. Both Rich and Matt were very positive about the teaching, worship, business meeting, etc., and Rich had sent a written report to Session. Matt shared that several short video teaching sessions will be published and Session will view them in the future.

#### Women's Retreat

A motion was approved to have the Women's Retreat speaker, Andrea Messinger, an ECO pastor, be the Communion celebrant at the retreat on Sunday, February 25.

#### Vision and Goals

The Vision and Goals work begun at the Session Retreat was continued. Before the next meeting, committees and teams are asked to go back and look at their goals and objectives, and try to make the objectives more specific and measurable, per information shared in the Session packet, and to be ready to discuss further at the next meeting.

Submitted by Sue Hockenmaier,  
Clerk of Session

*Members of Orchard Community Church may request copies of minutes from Session. Please contact Sue Hockenmaier with your request.*



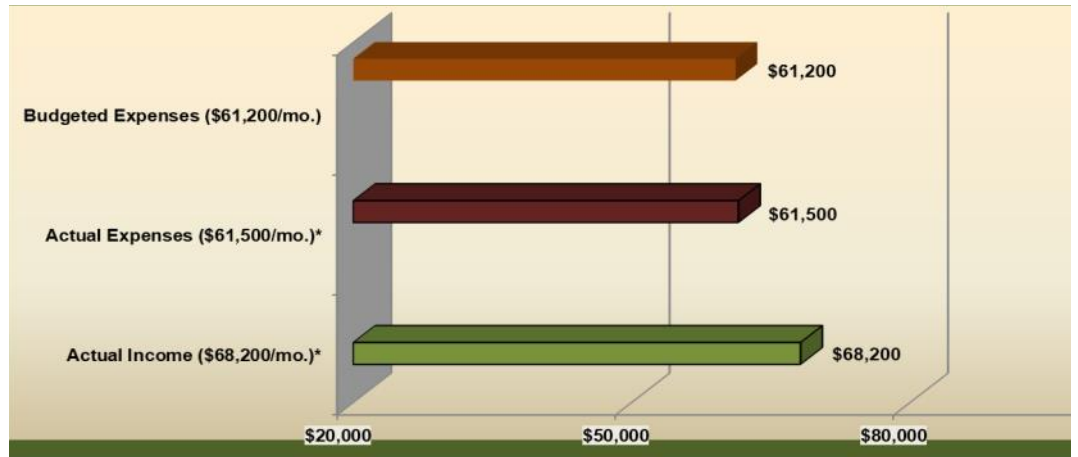
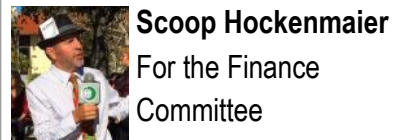
**Orchard**  
community church



# Finance

January saw \$68,200 of giving income while \$61,500 was spent. This is an encouraging start as this is the first time in many years that we haven't begun the year with a deficit. God has big plans for Orchard in 2024, so these strong results are a great start!

Thank you for all you do for Orchard ministries and missions!



## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Tuesdays @ 6pm

Contact [David Pels](#) for location and group information.

We'd love to have you join us!











Orchard Community Church  
8180 Telephone Rd  
Ventura CA 93004



# Easter

**Join us on Easter morning, March 31**  
at 10:30 am, to rejoice in the  
resurrection of our Lord! After the  
service, there will be an Easter Egg  
Hunt on the main lawn for all the kids,  
featuring a special appearance  
by the Easter Bunny.

