



Happy New Year

## A NOTE FROM MATT

Dear Orchard Family,

Happy New Year! 2023 was a great year at Orchard. This was definitely true as we closed out the year in December. Our annual **Christmas Tree Lighting** was an overwhelming success with the biggest crowd ever (over 800 people), and yet the event ran as smoothly as ever. We also once again hosted the **Action Community Christmas Shoppe** in order to care for our community, providing presents and hope for hundreds of families. In addition to these events, we also enjoyed a wonderful Choir led worship service, two great **Christmas Eve services** and closed the year with another Orchard tradition of having a few members of our Orchard family share stories of how God has been at work in their lives. The Christmas season officially ends on January 7th, which is **Epiphany Sunday**, the day that the Wise Men finally reached the manger and gave their gifts and worship to Jesus.



Prayer  
**MATTERS**

As we move into the new year, we'll begin a new series of messages on January 17 the called **"Prayer Matters,"** because prayer really does matter a great deal and also

because, with this series, we will take up different important matters concerning prayer. Prayer is one of the most foundational pieces of a spiritual life, and yet so many people, (even long time believers) often seem to struggle with it. This series is meant to help dig deeply into the most core elements of prayer, like what prayer is, why we should pray and how to pray effectively. Each message will move from the basics to deeper places, providing useful insights from scripture for those who are new to prayer as well those with developed prayer lives.

I also want to invite everyone to join us for **FFFF (Food, Faces, Facts, & Fun)**, our annual congregations meeting on January 28. Although FFFF is technically a meeting, it's really more of an annual Orchard family reunion where we share a wonderful potluck meal (Food) gathered around tables with people talking, sharing stories, joking, laughing and enjoying one another. There is a slideshow of last year's events (Faces) as we review the year and a crazy game or two (Fun), then we do just a bit of business (Facts), including the presentation of the 2024 budget. It also the place that we hand out the new church directories for 2024 for the first time. We would love for you to be there and be family with us.



Grace & Peace,  
Matt -



Orchard  
community church



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Game Night** (for 2nd -5th Graders) Friday, February 2 at 7:00 pm - Saturday, February 3 at 9:00 am. [Registration Required!](#)  
Available now online on the church app.

Join us as we camp out in the Orchard Youth Center, play games, make crafts, watch movies and build friendships. Friends welcome.

Packing list will be sent when you register! The annual game night is a great opportunity to practice for sleepaway summer camp. Parents are welcome to stay for the night, but you must go through our background check and child safety training.

**All attendees must register online.**

Questions? Reach out to Melinda!

**Kids Club** resumes Wednesday, January 17! Invite your friends, grandchildren, etc.! We love meeting new friends at Kids Club.



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





## YOUTH MINISTRY

It's been another good month with our Youth. We've continued Sunday school at 9 am, **Youth Group Sunday** afternoon (4-6 pm) with games, worship music and teaching. Monday night (6-7:30 pm) is **High School Guy's Group** led by David Pels, Tuesday afternoon (3-4:30 pm) "**Roast with Rich**" at the Starbucks by Buena. [Youth calendars](#) are online under "Orchard Youth".



Last month we enjoyed **Mall Madness** at the Collection in Oxnard. Decorating gingerbread houses and the annual white elephant gift exchange at our **Youth Christmas party**.



**Breakfast Burritos** will be back Jan. 21, and then continuing Feb. 11, April 14, and May 19th 2024. We appreciate your

donations as we prepare for camps and our IMPACT trip to Romania.



**High School summer camp** will be the IMPACT short term mission trip to Romania. This IMPACT trip is open for

anyone over 15 to join, and that includes you! Join us in this adventure.

Weather permitting, we'll enjoy a s'more making contest Jan. 28th at Youth Group, bonfire and all.

Students are being reminded in Youth Group **how precious they are, that they're made in God's image and given purpose. God chooses to partner with them.** Unfortunately, we tend to live out of shame and fear, resulting in broken relationships and disappointment. Our job, as new creations, is living out of love and grace, and restoring those broken relationships. We've been adapting "Biblical Foundations for Life". In general, middle school students are focusing on finding their identity in Christ, while high school students focus on integrating into a community. We seek to help them find that identity and to serve as that community.

Have a great month!



**Rich Smith**

Interim Youth Director

[Rich@OrchardVentura.org](mailto:Rich@OrchardVentura.org)



**BE IN THE KNOW!**



**YOUTH** **PARENTS**



## SONSHINE PRESCHOOL

We are about halfway through our 2023-2024 school year, and it is really hard to wrap my head around that. Since we are at the halfway point, we must start preparing for enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year. We will open Registration in February. **Currently enrolled Sonshine families, former Sonshine families, and Orchard Community Church attending families will get priority registration beginning on February 7.** On February 20, we will open to new families!

We have made some slight changes to our Preschool Program. Parents can pick from two **2024-2025 school year programs**: 9 am-12 pm or 9 am-1 pm. We will still offer before and after school care, which we call Early Birds and Stay and Play. With this additional hour, we can offer more enrichment opportunities in the classroom, which will also help meet the needs of families who find themselves wishing for just one more hour of preschool each day. We are excited to see what the future holds with these changes!



January isn't all boring registration prep, though. At least not for the kiddos! We try to have our annual snow days in January, weather permitting. We have it scheduled for the middle of the month, and we hope the weather will cooperate! One of our families owns a hauling company, and they generously donate a dump truck to haul the snow (okay, it's actually ice). We will dump it on the big lawn area and create a hill for sledding. It is easily one of the most memorable days of preschool!

Thank you so much for your support and care! Wishing you a very happy 2024!



**Annette Walters**

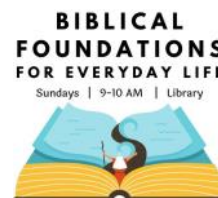
Sonshine Preschool Director

[Annette@OrchardVentura.org](mailto:Annette@OrchardVentura.org)

## DISCIPLESHIP CORNER

### Discipleship Calendar:

- Tuesday, January 2 - **Pastors Bible Study** resumes at 10 am, continues weekly.
- Sunday, January 7 - "**Biblical Foundations for Life**" in the library and "**Parent Life**" in the preschool area resumes at 9 am. Continues weekly, child care provided.





## Intercessory Group Prayer

resumes in the farmhouse at 9:15 am, continues weekly.

- Wednesday, January 10 - **Women's Bible Study** resumes at 9:30 am, continues weekly.
- Saturday, January 13, 3:30-5 PM in the Library **Small and Common Interest Group**



Small Group Celebration

**Celebration** - enjoy a light meal with Orchard Small groups and Common Interest groups, another great way to form meaningful relationships. [Register now!](#)

## SMALL & COMMON INTERESTS GROUP

*Celebration*

January 13  
3:30 pm in the library



**JOIN US!**

"...seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)

In the Beatitudes, Jesus promises "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Seeking to live rightly, correctly, is important. God made us to live in connection with him and everyday we have the opportunity to strengthen that connection. Jesus tells us the result in John 15:8-11. We will be fruitful (think of the fruit of the Spirit), remain in God's love, and have complete joy! Not a bad promise.

I've talked before about **the importance of praying** (listening to God's concerns and sharing your own), reading and reflecting on the Bible, sharing your spiritual life with others (joining small groups), and serving others. Today I'd like to focus on the habit of prayer.



Prayer is talking with God, whether alone or with others. As in any conversation, it involves both listening and

speaking (aloud or in thought). Sometimes, music or singing might be part of that conversation. Here are several techniques that can guide your prayers:

1. "Five fingered prayer" using your hand as a guide. Start with the thumb, closest to you and pray for those closest to you, friends and family. Then the pointer finger, so pray for those who point the way, teachers, counselors, pastors, etc. The next finger is the longest, so pray for those over us like bosses, community or government leaders. Then the ring finger, also the weakest. Pray for people in need, trouble, or suffering. Finally, the little finger reminds you of how little you are compared to God and to share your personal concerns.
2. "ACTS" is an acronym representing adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. Adoration is praise, confession is recognizing the things that might be interfering with your relationship with God, thanksgiving reminding us to be grateful, and supplication where we share our needs and the needs of others, asking for God's help.
3. Praying scripture, which is reflecting on a section of the Bible (like the Lord's prayer - Matthew 6:9-13), personalizing and expanding it for your unique circumstances. Many Psalms and prayers from Paul's letters can be used. By doing this you are reflecting God's words to you back to him.

Seeking righteousness, to live rightly, is not easily done and especially not by yourself. That is why you have a church family. Use the resources of that family (Sunday school classes, Bible studies, and small groups) to help you understand how the Bible can help you grow to be more like Christ. Special programs are offered Sunday morning by Children's and Youth Ministries. Bringing your children to these is especially encouraging to the volunteers staffing them while you attend a Sunday morning

class. Since this is a new year, this is a great time to try out one of the resources listed at the beginning of this article. If you're interested in other small groups, check the Orchard Website under the ["Connect"](#) tab.

Have a great month, a great start to the new year, and continued growth into the new creation that's Christ in you.



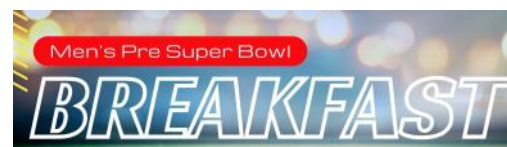
**Rich Smith**  
Discipleship Elder

## WOMEN's MINISTRY



**Women's Retreat Attendees!** You will receive some emails from Deya and the Women's Retreat Planning Team about our upcoming retreat soon! Look for them in your inbox! Please contact Deya directly at [deya@orchardventura.org](mailto:deya@orchardventura.org) with any questions or concerns. We want to make sure you have all the info so that you're ready to go on February 23!

## Men's Ministry



### Men's Pre-Super Bowl Breakfast

No matter what team you're rooting for to get to and win the Super Bowl, you'll be a winner if you sign up for this year's Men's Pre-Super Bowl Breakfast. The breakfast is on **February 10 at 8:30 am** in the Orchard Worship Center. As always, there will be a gourmet breakfast prepared by Howard Young and his incredible crew. For those that want fellowship, coffee and bagels you can come as early as 8 am.

Jimmy Mac will provide powerful worship music to set the tone for our guest

**speaker Mark Riley.** Mark is a retired high school English and journalism teacher. Mark's passion for travel and WW II history led to many one-on-one conversations with Jim Downing, his father-in-law who wrote the book, "The Other Side of Infamy". He will share Jim's first hand accounts of war, faith and life on a very personal level. You won't want to miss this extraordinary message.

Tickets will be \$10 and are [on sale online](#) now or will be available on the patio before and after worship service beginning the last week of January.

## CHOIR



**Orchard Choir will start rehearsing** for spring Sundays, Lent, and Easter on Wednesday, January 10 at 7pm in the Worship Building. **We'd love for you to join us!** Some basic knowledge of music is helpful but you don't need to be a pro. Contact Deya with any questions at [Deya@orchardventura.org](mailto:Deya@orchardventura.org).

## PRAYER CORNER

Then he who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Rev. 21:5

When we give our lives to Christ, we are **a new creation** – whether you feel like it or not.

What does this mean?

**When we give our lives to Jesus is when God gives us a new relationship with him.**

The Apostle Paul states what our lives are like without Jesus Christ. We are "excluded ... without hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12.)

Our new relationship is with our loving heavenly Father, and we are now his children, spiritually reborn into his family.

Regular prayer gives us the privilege of communicating directly with him as our re-made selves.

*As we enter 2024, consider developing a pattern of regular prayer as a practice of entering into this new relationship with God.*

Start with reading the Psalms that are titled as Psalms of Praise and praying back to God phrases that seem to stand out.

For example, in reading Psalms 145, we might pray from verses 14 - 19 this way:

Lord, we praise you because you pick up our heavy loads and give us hope.

We thank you for giving us what we need to live.

You are righteous.

You are close to us when we call.

You alone give us what we need.

Help us fear you more.

Rescue us, Lord, in our need.

For other prayer resources, contact 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.'"



Thank you all for your generous donations and for volunteering for the Christmas Shoppe. It was a great success!!! See the following numbers from Nancy Fouquier, who headed up this year's Shoppe.

### Volunteer numbers:

- 153 volunteers
- 30 college students
- 183 total volunteers (not including the leadership team)

## Guest numbers

248 families were checked in on our online platform.

- Approximately 30 to 50 families showed up with their ticket but had not registered.
- About 300 families were served!
- An average of three to four children per family would be a high, ~1,200 children provided with toys.

## Toy numbers

- 2,436 total toys
- 13 bikes
- 14 raffle items
- 52 gift cards
- A special note on the toys is that we were able to increase the amount of BLUE toys (the higher quality toys) from 275 (last year) to 530 (this year).

As we begin the new year, Local Missions has a full calendar of events and activities in which we can all participate, serve and share the love of Jesus.



We are beginning the year with our **annual winter shelter collection**. Please bring new or in good condition (M/F all sizes) sweats, socks, scarves, jackets, pants, gloves, beanies, small tarps, sleeping bags, anything warm, plus hygiene items to put in the winter shelter bin any Sunday through January and February. The items will be donated to **One Stop** and to The Winter Warming shelter hosted by the River Community



Church and run by the City of Ventura. You can sign up to be a volunteer at [cityofventrua.ca.gov](http://cityofventrua.ca.gov), click on Services, then Housing Services, scroll down and click on **Foul Weather Shelter Program**, and click on volunteer.



**The Whitney Tutoring Center** is up and running under the auspices of Project Understanding. The Center is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-5:00. Currently there is a waiting list of students needing to be tutored. If you would like to be a tutor, contact Sandy at 661-599-0694 or email [TutoringCenter@OrchardVentura.org](mailto:TutoringCenter@OrchardVentura.org)

## TENDER LIFE



*We are thankful for our community partners and their hearts to help. Orchard Community Church donated three, brand new strollers and two infant car seats. Priscilla Anderson, who has a heart for Tender Life and often comes to Tender Life with a group of women for Sunday dinners, had seen our newsletter request communicating the need for these items. Priscilla texted Brandi and within a few days, these ladies delivered the items. We thank you so much for these wonderful gifts and for your beautiful hearts! - Tender Life*

Our next **Sunday Supper at Tender Life** will tentatively be January 14th. Contact Priscilla Anderson at [prillu1950@gmail.com](mailto:prillu1950@gmail.com) to sign up to help

with the meal and take advantage of the privilege of eating with the Tender Life residents.

Both **City Center and Tender Life** are in need of **mentors** for the residents. If interested, contact Brandi at Tender Life at (805) 653-7474 or Melanie Shankle at City Center at (805) 628-9035.

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



## GLOBAL MISSIONS

As we begin a new year, we often look for a "better way" than what we have done in the past. Union Biblica, our mission partner in Honduras, featured a children's book in their store that has a message for us also. The following are a few quotes from the book: "God is still writing your story." "Trust God in the unexpected turns of your story." "Real hope doesn't come from getting the life you always dreamed of, but from trusting God with the life He has for you and believing that His plans are really good."



**Antalya, Turkey--Ramazan Arcan, [ANTALYA EVANGELICAL CHURCH](#)** – The year end brought celebration for

Ramazan and his congregations with 10 new believers being baptized. Their families and friends often disown Christian believers, so the church has social programs for support and friendship. In Turkey Christianity is legal so at the time of writing they are inviting visitors to their Christmas services through their Facebook page. Their primary focus of

ministry in 2023 has been earthquake relief which is ongoing. Please pray for those who are still trying to rebuild their lives and homes and that the Christmas services will bring people to Jesus.



**Bila Tserkva, Ukraine Nita Hanson, [godshiddentreasures.org](http://godshiddentreasures.org)** This

year GHT is not doing Father Frost visits with gifts and food for all of their clients, however they have learned that there are 10 children in the surrounding villages whose fathers have been killed in the war. They will visit those families with gifts and food and the love of Christ they bring to those they visit. At the time of this writing, the mood throughout the country is heavy with fear they will not be getting continued support from western countries and that the cold winter will bring attacks on their infrastructure and blackouts like they experienced last winter. In the midst of the war, GHT continues to assist refugees locally and within Ukraine traveling through mined areas to bring food, hygiene items, clothing, water and other necessities. They have provided supplies to re-open 17 small outpatient medical clinics damaged in the bombing. Nita is currently in Ukraine and is working with two local mental health groups to explore ways that GHT staff can better respond to the needs of the many children and adults suffering from PTSD. Last month staff spent a day training. Please pray for peace in Ukraine and for strength and 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](http://danabrandi@new-horizons.ro) The Bates' have a passion for serving Christ with faith in action. Their 3 ministries have expanded in scope and their service model Impact Clubs are being initiated in

the Romanian Orthodox Church and in many areas of the world. Brandi continues her reading programs with groups in libraries. Her focus is on teaching parents to read to their children, which is a newer concept in Romania. She has a group that includes refugee children from Ukraine that uses books to help understand and heal from the trauma of war. She has also done seminars to teach the value of children's literature, bringing in guest authors. Physical work on the mountain bike courses is on hold until spring. Summer will bring back their Impact Club camp for teens. Please pray for wisdom for Dana and Brandi and protection and health for their family.



**Siquatepeque—Honduras (Union Biblica) Orlando and Sylvia Japas**

In Honduras where crime, gangs, human rights issues, and poverty continue to overwhelm the nation; Union Biblica ministers to children in schools and has a weekly, online, hour long children's program via Facebook. "Lamperita" includes music, singing, story, prayer and even crafts. Teaching their staff so they can bring Christian values based teaching to kids in schools is a part of the ministry. Please pray the government will continue to allow them to present their program in the public schools.

**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. N recently returned from a 3 week trip where she taught and did counseling in their home abroad. 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](http://impact-theglobe.org)) IMPACT's Vision is to cultivate relationships that mutually impact Christians and ministries across the globe for Christ and his Kingdom. This summer Orchard Youth are planning to go to Romania with Impact. 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.



**Lifewater International** A Non-Profit Christian Clean Water Organization

Lifewater 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 two sons, are ministering in an undisclosed country in the Arabian Peninsula. Due to increasing tension in the Middle East, Natalie and Wesley who are remaining in country are keeping a low profile. They are focusing on prayer with international partners. 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 or get information on specific prayer focus, please reach out to Lizzie Barminski ([ewbarminski@gmail.com](mailto:ewbarminski@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 of the December Session Meeting

The Session of Orchard Community Church met on December 14, 2023 in the Library. Before the meeting was called to order, Session had shared dinner and fellowship, prayer and a devotional time on Matthew 5:7. Betsy Harry and Barry Reagan, Elders-elect who will start serving in January, attended and were given voice for the meeting.

### Elders Going Off Session

Session spent some time recognizing and thanking the off-going elders (Tim Callahan, Dave Fuhrmann, Lauri Kail and Sue Boyd) for their years of service on Session. All four will be greatly missed! Please take some time to thank these four faithful servants when you see them.

### 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. He shared that the Admin building will be tented for termites Dec. 26-28, when the office is usually closed between the holidays. Matt discussed the Session Retreat that will be Jan. 6th, 9 am to 12:30 or 1 pm, and what the topics of discussion will be. He also gave some background on Orchard's efforts to attract younger people and families, and the difference between Un-churched and De-churched people. These topics will be discussed further at the retreat. Matt requested and it was approved for him to be on vacation Dec. 25-29.



### Pastor Nominating/Search Committee

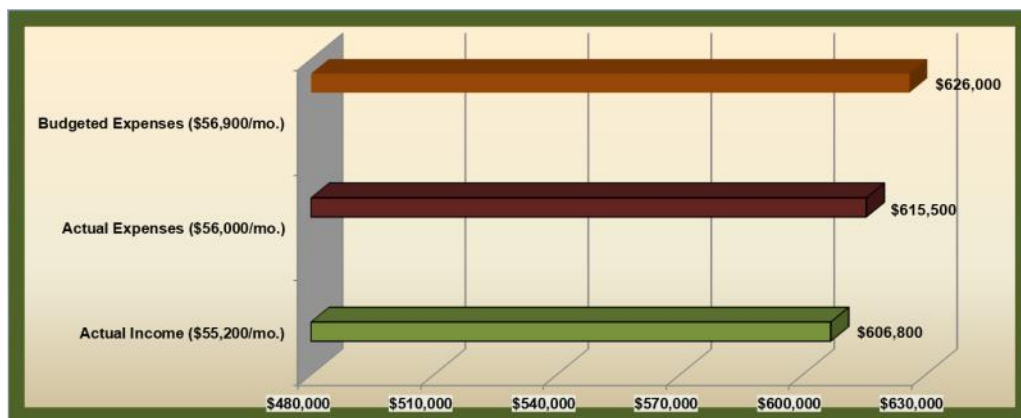
Elder Judy Alexandre gave an update from the PNC, and shared that they are meeting regularly and have received several applications for the Assistant Pastor/Director of Discipleship and Outreach position. Some have been eliminated and the committee is pursuing further information on others.

### Budgeting for 2024

Treasurer Dave Fuhrmann shared the proposed budget for 2024. He went over assumptions that had been made including how the rest of this year will go. He and Elder Mike McQuillan had received input and requests from all elders and committees as well as Finance and Personnel input. The budget was tentatively approved, including raises for all staff. These are in line with the Consumer Price Index. Final approval will happen in January, after year-end numbers are in. The budget will be published in the Handbook and shared at the Congregational Meeting (Food, Faces, Facts, and Fun) January 28th, where the Pastor's compensation package is also approved.

### Thrive

Elder Dave Fuhrmann reviewed the final Thrive projects that are now in the works, for Worship building sound and lighting improvements, and the small amount of remaining work to be done in the Library and Youth building. Sufficient donations for all of these should be received by the end of the year.



### Personnel

Elder Tim Callahan brought an update from the Personnel Committee about office staffing and shared that the committee is working on rewriting the job descriptions for the office staff, considering the input and desires of the current staff. Lisa Beamer will be retiring within the next month, and she will be greatly missed!

### Administrative Actions

Session approved the Communion schedule for 2024 and the Staff Holiday schedule.

Session approved opening an account at Prime Alliance Bank for some the reserves that have been held at Chase and earning almost no interest.

Session approved two motions for fundraising for next summer's youth mission Impact trip. Fundraisers will include monthly burrito sales (for donations) and the sale of Orchard ball caps, also for donations.

Session approved Children's Ministries restaurant fundraisers no more than monthly, in 2024, to raise funds for camp scholarships.

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.*

## Finance

### **Orchard November Financial Results**

September saw \$50,000 of giving income while \$45,200 was spent. This decreases our year-to-date deficit to about \$8,800. This is a healthy position going into December.

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

Scoop Hockenmaier  
For the Finance Committee



## A Prayer to Trust in God's Plan

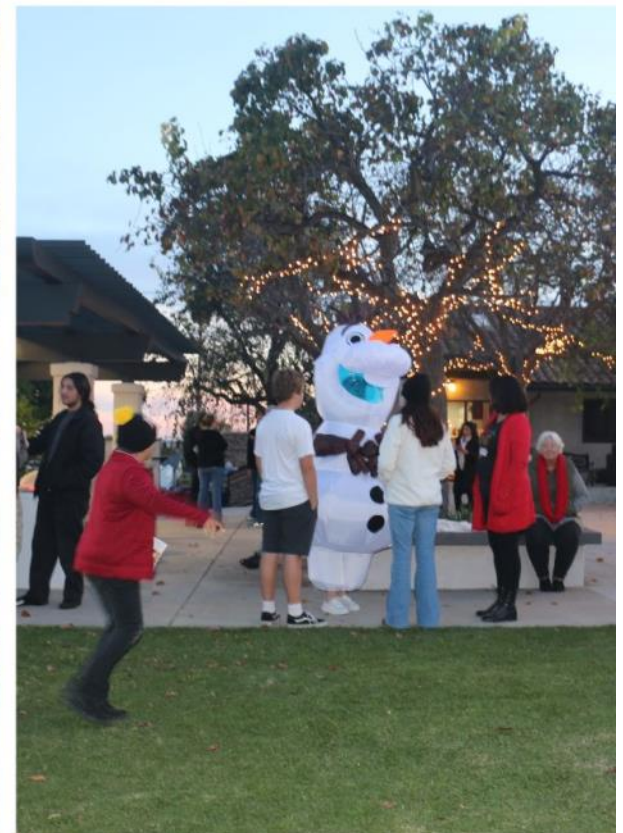
Father God, I come before you today with a heart full of questions and uncertainties about the path that lies ahead. I recognize that I don't always understand your plan, but I trust in your wisdom and goodness. I pray for the grace to find peace in your plan, knowing that you are always with me, guiding me, and providing for me. Strengthen my faith, and help me to walk in confidence and assurance that you are working all things together for my good. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

*24 New Year Prayers and Blessings to Start 2024 with Hope—Christianity.com*



**Orchard**  
community church







Children's Ministry  
C'mon,  
Join the fun!

Orchard  
community church

# Kids Club

**WEDNESDAYS**  
**3 - 4:30 PM**  
August 30, 2023 - April 24, 2024  
Preschool - 5th grade

**Resumes January 17!**

After-school activities, Bible lessons, Games,  
Music, Arts & Crafts, Drama, Service Projects, and MORE!



# 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



Orchard  
community church

8180 Telephone Rd. Ventura CA 93004  
OrchardVentura.org - 805-647-3757



## Urbane Café—Sonshine Preschool Fundraiser

Come enjoy a delicious meal on **January 11 from 4-9 pm** at either of the Urbane Café locations and a portion of your bill will go to Sonshine Preschool. Funds raised go to extra fun activities like snow day and field trips. Make sure to mention Sonshine when you place your order! 4960 Telephone Rd # 105, Ventura, CA 93003 or 811 E Thompson Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001

10-SESSION BIBLE STUDY  
WITH VIDEO ACCESS

**JEN WILKIN**

# ABIDE

*A Study of 1, 2, & 3 John*

## Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. - 1 John 2:24

How can we hold onto assurance of our faith? How can we discern the truth from a lie? How can we know God loves us? In these three short letters, the apostle John reminds an early church facing division, deception, and doubt to hold fast to what they know and to live like they believe it. And he reminds us, as well.

In this Bible study on the letters of 1, 2, and 3, John, Jen Wilkin helps you see how two thousand years later, his words call to Christians in similar challenges to recall a great salvation and to abide in the truth.

This group meets Wednesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 am in the Orchard Worship Center. The morning begins with a large group worship time and then is broken out into assigned small groups.

Women of all ages are welcome! The study will begin on February 21, 2024. [Register NOW!](#)

We will use the Ventura Unified School calendar for our holiday schedule. The book with full video access is \$25. For questions about the Wednesday morning Women's Bible Study, please contact [LuAnn Smith](#).



Orchard Community Church  
8180 Telephone Rd  
Ventura CA 93004



*January 28*  
*5-7 pm*

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

# FOOD, **FACES**, FACTS, & **FUN**

Please join us at FFFF (Food, Faces, Facts, & Fun), our annual congregational meeting on January 28. The word "meeting" might not sound exciting, but FFFF is really more like an Orchard family reunion. We'll get together and share a good old-fashioned potluck meal together (Food), have a great evening of fellowship including a game or two (Fun), a slideshow of last year's events (Faces), and just a bit of business (Facts), including the presentation of the 2023 budget. **Potluck Assignments:** By last name: A-J - Side Dish, K-Q - Dessert, R-Z - Main Dish