

## A NOTE FROM MATT

By the time you read this, I will be off on my sabbatical. As I head into this time of rest and renewal, I want to let you know what a privilege it is to serve as your pastor and how grateful I am for our Church Family. I feel blessed to serve such great people and humbled by how well the Church has treated my family and me over the years. This sabbatical is just another sign of that care. And, as much as I am looking forward to this time of rest and renewal, I am also looking forward to returning in July with renewed excitement and energy!

As I have said, the church will be in good hands while I am away. Pastor Josh will be in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and is reachable by phone and email at other times. We also have a wonderful slate of guest preachers lined up for Sundays, many of whom are well-known to Orchard. The sermon series during this time will be on The Parables of Jesus, and I think it will be exciting to explore the amazing stories that Jesus told from the perspectives of these different preachers.

As April draws to a close and May begins, the Preschool will have its annual Spring Art Show on April 30 and May 1 at 6 PM. The children's artwork will be on display in the worship building on Sunday, May 4. We hope that you'll enjoy seeing their art and be reminded of this important ministry of our church. Although my sabbatical has already begun, I will accompany the preschool program on guitar as I always do. I couldn't let the kiddos down!

Also, in May, we will honor Moms on the 11th and those who gave their lives for our country on the 25th in worship as we do every year.



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

## A NOTE FROM JOSH

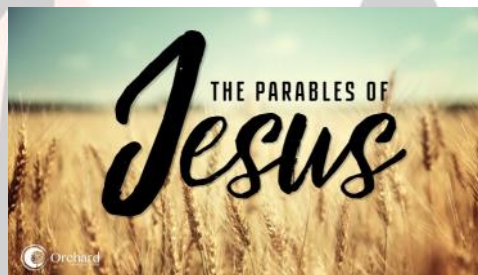
Hello Orchard!

It has been so great to lead the Pastor's Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 10 am and begin to get to know more of you. Thank you for the warm welcome on my first Sunday preaching. I am looking forward to serving and walking along side you while Matt is away. Please reach out to me if you need anything.



Regards,  
Pastor Josh Matthews  
[josh@orchardventura.org](mailto:josh@orchardventura.org)

## SUNDAY MESSAGES



### May 4 - The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Preacher: Melinda Hoyt  
Luke 15:1-7

Melinda is the Director of Family Ministry and Outreach. She is also an ordained pastor who has served several Churches.

### May 11 - The Parable of the Great Banquet

Preacher: Wes Haystead  
Luke 14:15-24

Wes is a former member of Orchard who moved up to Santa Barbara a few years ago. Wes has preached at Orchard many times.

### May 18 - The Parable of the Wise & Foolish Builders

Preacher: Lynn Hutton  
Title: Building to Withstand the Storms  
Matthew 7:24-27

Lynn is an ordained minister with preaching experience. She serves Orchard as a part of our intercessory prayer ministry.

### May 25 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Preacher: Jim Witty  
Luke 15:1-7

Jim is an ordained Presbyterian minister and holds doctoral degrees in Psychology and Ministry. He is the founder and President of Care Corps International. Jim is a Trauma Specialist and has an extensive background in conflict management. He has served as a pastor, counselor, seminary professor, and missionary.

## FAMILY MINISTRIES & OUTREACH



Melinda Hoyt  
Director of Family Ministries & Outreach  
[Melinda@OrchardVentura.org](mailto:Melinda@OrchardVentura.org)

## YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

**Young Adult Social Event at Golf N Stuff:** Tuesday, May 27, 6-8 pm (Meet at Golf N Stuff). Register online with the option to pay \$10 online or in cash when you arrive. We have a growing group of young adults at Orchard, and we'd love to help you get connected. Friends welcome! If you can't make it this month, we hope you'll join us next month. Questions? Contact Melinda at 805-901-4714 or [melinda@orchardventura.org](mailto:melinda@orchardventura.org). When you





have kids on the waiting lists who would love to come, so if you're thinking of volunteering, please sign up online now. Then, we will be able to open our waitlist! We are mostly in need of small group leaders and helpers, kitchen crew, and audiovisual for the first hour of VBS only.

donation to support youth camps! All of our spaces for youth summer camp are full, and now we need to help them get there and experience an amazing week with Jesus in the mountains.



**Adventure Day Camp** June 16-20, 9 AM-noon; kids choose classes like sewing, music, art, games, etc.

**VBS** June 23-27, 9 AM-noon  
We will celebrate both camps on Sunday, June 29, at 10:30 AM under the tent. Come help us welcome the children and their families for worship and lunch!



### OUTREACH

Hey Friends! Thanks for hosting Easter so well! We had so many guests join us, and I know they felt right at home because of the great hospitality they

received. Our next big day for welcoming guests is VBS Sunday, June 29. Please plan to be here and help greet the families who joined us at our two June day camps. Wear your Orchard hat or shirt and show your church family spirit. We hope to have more hats and shirts available in the coming weeks if you need one! Bumper stickers are another great way to remind the community we are here for them. We'll get a stack of those out at the welcome center soon!

## SONSHINE PRESCHOOL



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

This is our last month of school! How did that even happen? It was just September, wasn't it? There is a saying regarding parenting: "The days are long, but the years are short." This also seems to apply to preschool. We have had an incredible time getting to know these children and their families. We have watched them learn, grow, and, hopefully, make lasting memories!



This year has been full of great things, from field trips to performances to simple things like having a picnic during snack time. We have watched children move from solitary play to parallel play and from parallel play to cooperative play. We have watched children develop motor skills, make huge strides in language development and communication, and grow their social and emotional development.



## YOUTH MINISTRY



**Sara Francis**  
[sara@orchardventura.org](mailto:sara@orchardventura.org)



**Everett Reagan**  
[everett@orchardventura.org](mailto:everett@orchardventura.org)

**Burrito Sunday, May 18!** Support our youth by eating a free breakfast burrito or two and leaving a little (or not so little)

We truly feel honored when families pick Sonshine as their preschool, and saying goodbye is always a challenge. We will celebrate our last days on May 29th and 30th! Then, our preschool will be quiet for

arrive, a few people will be wearing Orchard shirts, so you'll be able to find us. We hope to see everyone there! !

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Hey, **CURRENT 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS!** Save the date: **Sunday, June 1 is your LAST elementary Sunday School at 10:30 AND your FIRST Middle School Youth Group from 4-6 PM in the Youth Center** (building behind the Worship Center along Telephone Rd). Children's Ministry will miss you tons and hope that you'll want to come back as a leader! For those interested in becoming a leader for Children's Ministry, join us for our **C.O.R.E.** training on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-5:30 PM. Sign up with [melinda@orchardventura.org](mailto:melinda@orchardventura.org) and give us your t-shirt size! Leaders can sign up to lead Kids Club, VBS, Nursery, and Sunday Orchard Kids. The youth group can't wait for you to join them on June 1. Feel free to invite a friend or two if you like!

**BIBLE PRESENTATION** for current 2<sup>nd</sup> graders (and upper elementary students who haven't received one yet) is on Sunday, June 1, during the Worship service. Please contact Melinda if your child wants to participate in the Sunday Bible Presentation.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Orchard Family:** VBS and Adventure Day Camp are just around the corner! We

a few weeks! Teachers will be off, relaxing and having fun, and Phyllis and I will be in and out of the office, closing out the 2024-2025 school year and preparing for the 2025-2026 school year.

Thank you for the prayers and support of Sonshine during this last school year. We are so grateful for you!

## DISCIPLESHIP CORNER

**Rich Smith & Jerry Horstmeyer**  
Discipleship Elders

Merry Spring! I've been enjoying both wild and garden flowers, the good weather, and time with people. I hope you have, too. It seems like a time of freshness and newness. Some ideas for putting spring into your Orchard experience is to step into one of the 9 AM Adult Enrichment Hour classes, join a bible study or common interest group, or join the conversation in the Everyday Devotional discussion group. Lot's of opportunities!

One of the participants in the Lenten adult enrichment class told me how thankful she was to learn more about the true meaning of the Bible and how it applies to her. Another enjoyed the fellowship and encouragement. Join us where good things are happening.

Other ways to grow and make connections are 9 AM **Men's Fellowship Group** (Conference Room) and the **Intercessory Prayer Group** (9:15 AM in the Farmhouse). Childcare is available with advanced notice. **Pastor's Bible Study** Tuesdays at 10 AM in the library.

Other small groups are available for Bible study or common interests during the week. **These are great ways to make connections and let God work on growing your faith.** Join one!

**Rich Smith**  
Discipleship Elder

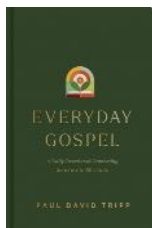
**HELLO!**  
**ORCHARD**  
SMALL GROUP



## "HELLO ORCHARD!" SMALL GROUP

"Hello Orchard!" is a new Small Group, focused on walking with those newer to our Orchard community. The plan is to meet alternating weeks following Sunday worship to orient, assist, and share opportunities through fellowship. We want to meet those seeking new spiritual life at Orchard, and welcome and assist them in finding a path for growth and community at Orchard. We will be introducing group members to the different programs, events, leaders, and opportunities that exist at Orchard, and walk with them through a transition in finding each individual's further path and plans. We welcome all those seeking information on Orchard's programs. If you would like to assist in this Small Group ministry, please contact Jerry Horstmeyer at [jerzorchard@gmail.com](mailto:jerzorchard@gmail.com).

## EVERYDAY GOSPEL



Join in on the daily discussion!

[Rich Smith](#) will provide a question for the day's reading each day. To participate in the chat, scan the QR code to join the group discussion. Free copies of Paul David Tripp's *Everyday Gospel* are available in the church office.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Hello Orchard Women!

We were so happy to be with some of you last month at our One Day Retreat! We had such a great time spending most of the day being together doing things we enjoy, eating, talking, and of course laughing! It was so great to see some new women with us - thank you for taking a chance on us. We're excited to be planning some events for later this year and our big retreat next year. See below for more info!

## MOM'S GROUP

Mom's Group (for moms of school-aged kids) is



continuing on, every Sunday from 4-6 PM. Those of you that participated in yoga at the mini-retreat know that Liz will be teaching another session to this group sometime this spring. If you'd like to be on the list for the mom's group or for yoga specifically, please contact Liz or Melinda ([elizabethranalli@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethranalli@yahoo.com) or [melinda@orchardventura.org](mailto:melinda@orchardventura.org)).



Scan the QR code or find the group in the Church Center App & [request to join!](#)



## SUMMER BIBLE STUDY

Are you interested in joining a Bible study for the summer? Women's Ministries is excited to offer a look at women in the Bible who changed the world. We will discuss a different woman of the Bible for four weeks, using Max Lucado's book *Ten Women of the Bible: One by One They Changed the World*.

We will meet Wednesday mornings from July 9 to July 30 from 9:30 to 11:30 AM in the church admin conference room. If you can't come on a particular Wednesday, no problem. Just come when you can. Register online or in the office. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact LuAnn Smith at [luannsmith@gmail.com](mailto:luannsmith@gmail.com).



## FALL EVENT

If you have an idea of what you'd like to see for our fall event, please let me (Deya) know. In the past, we've done a soup potluck, craft night, movie night, and game night. We've sometimes even combined a few of these things! If you



have a specific idea, please let me know - otherwise, look out for more info soon.

### SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars! Our next weekend-long retreat is coming up March 6-8, 2026 in Solvang, CA. We heard your feedback that you wanted to be closer to town, so we will be staying in the Corque Hotel, which is walking distance to everything! More info to come, and registration will begin this fall, but we wanted you to get it on your calendar now so you can make plans to be there.

Any other ideas you have, please send them my way! See you soon at Orchard!

### Deya Jacob

Women's Ministry Chair  
[Deya@orchardventura.org](mailto:Deya@orchardventura.org)

## MEN'S MINISTRY

### MEN'S SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Sundays | 9 AM | Conference Room

Spend time in the Bible walking together through our faith.



### TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S BREAKFAST

Tuesdays | 8 AM | Main St Restaurant and Steakhouse

3159 East Main Street, Ventura

Tuesday morning men's breakfast is a time where the men of Orchard and any of their invited guests meet to hang out, discuss their interests from football to family, and have a delicious breakfast. Definitely Christian based with prayer for those in need, but in a very low key atmosphere where all individuals are valued and accepted. First time attendees are highly encouraged.



### MEN'S PIZZA & MUSEUM TOUR

May 17 | 10 AM-4 PM



All the men are invited to experience maritime cultures, stories, model ships, art, and artifacts from around the world at the **Channel Islands Maritime Museum in Oxnard**. We will meet at the church at 10 AM and carpool to Topper's for pizza. Afterwards we will head to the museum for a guided tour.

Contact the Men's Ministry Leadership Team [mensministry@orchardventura.org](mailto:mensministry@orchardventura.org) if you have questions or want to get plugged in!



### CARD GROUP DINNER

1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
12:30-2:30 PM in the Library



Join the [Card Game Common Interest Group](#) and RSVP to this event!



### WALKING GROUP

Come when you can!

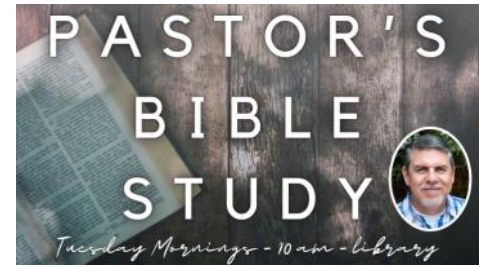
[Join the group](#) for more info & to stay up to date!



**Wednesday Morning from 7-8 AM**  
Kimball Park

**Thursday Evening from 6:15-7:15 PM**  
Riverview Linear Park

**Sunday Afternoon from 3-4 PM**  
San Buenaventura State beach



### PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays | 10 AM | Library

A Bible Study and discussion about a book of the Bible in the Library at Orchard. No homework or study ahead is required. The class is open to everyone and it is a fantastic time to learn from and discuss the Bible, theology, and life application with our Pastor. (Led by Josh Matthews while Pastor Matt is on sabbatical)

## LOCAL MISSIONS

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



Local Missions is going strong! We had a successful workday at the ARCH by **Mercy House**, the local year-round shelter. We organized the basement and interacted with the residents with jigsaw puzzles, magnetized darts, bingo and singing. Thank you to Nagi Basta, Rich Smith, Tito Ontiveros, Lyle Olson, John DeFusco, Russ Gruhke, Mike McGovern, Pam Martin, Judy Alexandre, Joan Smith, Laura McGovern, Lauri Kail, Shirley Gapper and Priscilla Anderson for signing up to help with this event.



This month we begin our **Kitchen Collection**. Individuals,

couples, and families, with help from their case manager, are moving into permanent

housing and adjusting to a safe indoor environment, a process that can take almost a year. A common challenge is lacking essential household items. To assist with this transition, we aim to provide 30 Kitchen Basic Kits. Please scan the QR code to see needed items and register items you can provide. Donations don't need to be new but should be in good condition. Items can be dropped off on Sunday mornings (look for the bins) or at the church office (M-Th 9 AM - 3:30 PM). **For a complete list of what is needed please scan the QR code or [find the sign up on the Church Center app](#).** Only these items will be accepted. The completed kitchen kits will be delivered by the Moving In Project.



Our next meal at Tender Life will be in mid-May. If you'd like to help provide the meal, contact [Priscilla Anderson](#) at [prillu1950@gmail.com](mailto:prillu1950@gmail.com).



Coming in July, during our tent time, will be our annual **Food, Hygiene and Flip-flop/shoes**

**Collection**, as well as, **Breakfast-in-a-Bag**. Also in July, we will have our **Summer Education Series**. This year we will be looking at domestic violence and human trafficking. More information on this will be coming.



## VC BELIEVE CENTER

1st Quarter Report  
January – March 2025  
Bringing Hope, Healing, and Home

Dear Friends and Faithful Champions,

As we reflect on the first quarter of 2025, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for all that God has done through your generosity and partnership. Because of your support, we've continued to walk faithfully in our mission:

"We have been commissioned to bring Hope, Healing, and Home to those in need. Sharing the hope of the Gospel with

people experiencing hardship. Offering pathways to healing through diverse programs, we create a community our participants call home."

### By the Numbers – Q1 Highlights

- 154 Case Management Sessions
- 50 Biblical Counseling Sessions
- 112 New Participants Welcomed
- Two Participants are on track to move into their own homes in April 2025

These numbers represent lives touched, stories changed, and hearts filled with renewed hope.

### Weekly Outreach in Action

Our team is active in the field every week, meeting people where they are—bringing not just resources, but relationship and restoration.

- **Monday** – Backpack Medicine: We visit homeless encampments throughout the county, offering case management and essential support.
- **Tuesday & Wednesday** – 1 Stop Resource Center: We provide direct case management services to unhoused residents.
- **Tuesday & Thursday** – Ventura Street Outreach: In partnership with a local organization, we meet people on the streets to offer resources and prayer.
- **Saturday** – Street Outreach in Oxnard: We engage with individuals in need, building trust and extending care.
- **Sunday** – Todd Road Jail Ministry: We minister to incarcerated women, offering Biblical counseling, hope, and healing.

### Living Our Core Values

- **Hope:** Every session, every visit, every prayer is rooted in the hope of the Gospel.
- **Healing:** Our biblical counseling, life

skills classes, mentorship, and discipleship provide real tools for healing and growth.

- **Home:** We are thrilled to share that two of our participants will be moving into their own homes this year—proof that transformation is happening!

Your continued support is the reason we're able to serve with love and consistency. Thank you for standing with us as we bring light into dark places.

With gratitude,  
The Ventura County Believe Center TEAM

Isaiah 58:12

"You will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings."

### ROYAL FAMILY



**KIDS CAMP** is busy getting geared up for this year's camp at the beginning of July.

There are already 26 foster children signed up and we expect many more. There are so many ways that you can help give these children a week of positive memories. There are opportunities to volunteer full-time or part-time at the camp, there are ways to help with pre camp preparation. You can be praying for the campers and the staff for God to touch their hearts. You can also provide supplies for camp by looking at our Amazon wish list at

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3AQ5V75RPURR1?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3AQ5V75RPURR1?ref=wl_share)

With so many ways that you can help we hope that you can join in and help the children see the love of Jesus by being the hands and feet of The Kingdom.

**Greg Pels**, Director RFKC Ventura  
[gpels61@gmail.com](mailto:gpels61@gmail.com)

The Local Missions Committee is looking forward to our community outreach, working together with the congregation in 2025. **If you are interested in joining** with us, please contact Judy Alexandre ([judyalexandre@gmail.com](mailto:judyalexandre@gmail.com)), [Joan Smith](#) or [Priscilla Anderson](#).





## GLOBAL MISSIONS

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11: 25-26

Our global mission partners do believe this!

Their focus during Lent in addition to their usual ministries has been to prepare for sharing the message of Easter.



**In Ukraine Nita Hanson and God's Hidden Treasures** made home visits to their

clients who are homebound, some living in homes with dirt floors and some bedbound in high rises with no elevators. Nita said she and her staff spend time listening, praying for the people and in each home gave them a loaf of Ukrainian Easter Bread. This Easter bread, Paska, for Christians, is the symbol of the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of new life.

God's Hidden Treasures also extended their program providing heat (either wood or payment to the utility provider) for some of their clients who would otherwise be without heat last month as temperatures plummeted during an early April snow.



**In Turkey** where there is political unrest and increasing persecution of Christians, Ramazan Arkan and the Antalya Evangelical Church were preparing during Lent for a public Easter Service. They boldly advertised

with a 2 minute video invitation and a dramatic reel on Facebook along with the pictured invitation and translation below.

"As Antalya Bible Churches, we are happy to serve our city for 33 years.

Just like every year, we would like to invite you to our Easter Celebration, where we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and we will be glad to see you among us! You are invited to the Glass Pyramid - Ataturk Cultural Center (AKM) Aspendos Hall on Sunday, April 20, 2025 at 15:00! "Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25.

**From Dana Bates:** One of our first IMPACT clubs in East Africa:



Tana River, Kenya. Blessed Easter to all!



**From Brandi Bates:** He is risen!

Easter day she posted from Pope Francis Easter homily, "Today we celebrate the great truth the empty tomb tells us: Death defeated, hope restored, life changed forever! Resurrection reminds us that no matter what darkness we face, the Light shines forever. Let us shout for joy: Christ lives!



**Significant Sacrifice** A total of \$7501 was donated by our Orchard Community this year for Significant Sacrifice. Thank you Orchard for your amazing generosity!!! We surpassed our goal of \$6000.

From Todd Luke's update...."At the end of 2024 the Cistern Ministry had built 679 cisterns. During the typical six-month dry

season, a family can draw about 35 gallons of water per day from its cistern. All our cisterns, added together, can store and supply over eight million gallons of water annually.

A reliable water source improves family health, but we understand that access to the ever-replenishing source of 'Living water' is infinitely more valuable."

Impact partners with the Mexico Cistern Ministry and interested people from Orchard can be thinking and praying about joining a team in 2026 to help build a cistern for a family, and sharing the love of Jesus.

Learn more about the ministry from these links. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKvXisOXqQg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnGroPaxRQM>

**Prayer requests and contact information for our mission partners.**



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

Please pray for those who attended our Easter event that they will seek to learn more about Jesus and come to salvation and growth in faith. Please pray for Muslims who have become Christian believers, for spiritual growth, a supportive Christian community and courage in situations where they experience rejection. Pray also for the church's continuing work with earthquake victims.



**Bila Tserkva, Ukraine— Nita Hanson, [Home | GHT MAIN](#)**

Nita is currently at home in Ukraine. She asks for prayers for staff and herself for protection as they are serving. For wisdom in ministry. For a just peace in the war.

"And of course for the spirits of everyone in Ukraine as they struggle with what is going on politically in addition to being bombed!"



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

[Brandi.brianna@gmail.com](mailto:Brandi.brianna@gmail.com) or [d.bates@ocmc.org](mailto:d.bates@ocmc.org) or [OCMC Missionary Dana Bates - Orthodox Christian Mission Center](http://OCMC Missionary Dana Bates - Orthodox Christian Mission Center) Pray for Dana and Brandi for the Lord's leading in their ministry and their family. Pray for provision and insurance coverage for the jaw surgery their daughter Brianna needs to have to correct a severe overbite that impacts her overall health. Brianna is currently living in CA for a gap year and hopes to be able to have this procedure before beginning college in the Fall. *\*\*Note: Their Impact program is a different ministry than Impact with Kristy LaBarge.*



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

[Unión Bíblica de Honduras | Facebook](http://Unión Bíblica de Honduras | Facebook)

Praise for new opportunities to share Jesus teaching on character. Please pray the government will continue to allow them to present their program in the public schools and for Orlando and Sylvia for health and protection. Pray for many to come to know Jesus and his way of life as they begin a new school year.



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

Pray for Kristy and for those going out on teams this summer as they prepare for their trips.



**Arabian Peninsula, Nat (who grew up at Orchard), and Wes, with their two sons Tobias and Jet—Please pray**

for Nat as she continues to recover from recent surgery and a parasite infection. Pray for Wes for protection. Pray for their boys Tobias and Jethro for health, a breakthrough with treatment for Tobias' speech/stutter and that they will grow in faith. Pray for the local "brothers and sisters" who are often rejected and even tortured because of their faith for restoration and healing in their bodies.

Some are in prison and many are persecuted.

**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 and spiritual oppression. For their prayer letters or further information please reach out to Rich Smith at [r\\_smith122@hotmail.com](mailto:r_smith122@hotmail.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 Michael McQuillan at: [irishidr@gmail.com](mailto:irishidr@gmail.com).



**DEACONS**

Are you or a Church friend feeling beaten down by life's necessities? Could you use a temporary hand-up?

The Orchard Deacons want to help with compassionate and practical aid, such as emergency meals, groceries, transportation, or a little boost up if you have an unexpected bill. The Deacons would like to help, so please contact the Church Office or speak with one of our compassionate Deacons. All is kept confidential.



**SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL SESSION MEETING**

The Session of Orchard Community

Church met on April 10, 2025 in the Library. Before the meeting was called to order, Session had shared prayer and a devotional on 1 Corinthians 3:9 regarding being co-workers with Christ and each other, led by Matt. Josh Matthews had chosen to attend to get a refresher on how Session operates, and he was given voice for the meeting.

**Pastor's Report**

Matt shared several prayer concerns and needs in the congregation and how elders could be praying for them or reaching out to them. He noted that Ruth Schneider, long-time member of Orchard who had moved to Texas with most of her family, had passed away. Matt discussed his Sabbatical plan in more detail for this year, April 21 (the day after Easter) until July 20 (first Sunday in the Tent). Matt won't be travelling for the most part, he will be in town but will be disconnected from Orchard so that he can have a true sabbatical. Session discussed how this will be communicated to the congregation.

**Administration**

In the Clerk's report, Sue Hockenmaier reminded everyone that the Session meeting will be on Tuesday May 6th, next month.

It was suggested that all committee and ministry minutes include full names of the members, versus just first names or first names and last initials, so that everyone knows who's on the committees. This is also part of the permanent records of Orchard.

Julie Graves' membership was reinstated. Julie (Watt) originally joined EPC in 1986 and was taken off the rolls in 2009 when she had moved out of state and didn't get the letter asking if she wished to retain her membership. Welcome back (officially), Julie!

It was decided that all staff should have Elder Abuse and Child Safety training courses in addition to the state-required Sexual Harassment training.

**Personnel**

The Personnel Committee brought a 7



motion to approve the revised job description for the Facilities Maintenance and Custodian position. There was discussion about the need for more hours than the current budget, and that the increase to 25 hours/week more accurately reflects the need. Chuck will get approval for any excess hours in the future from the Facilities Elder, and meet with the Office Coordinator weekly to review and prioritize projects. With these changes, the job description was approved.

**Local Missions**

Elder Judy Alexandre gave an update on Local Missions and several decisions they have made recently. One of these is that the funds not used for food for the Winter Warming Shelter, because there was not a weather need on the days Orchard would have handled it, will be donated to Food Share. She also commented on the need for workers for the April 26 Mercy House work day.

**Outreach**

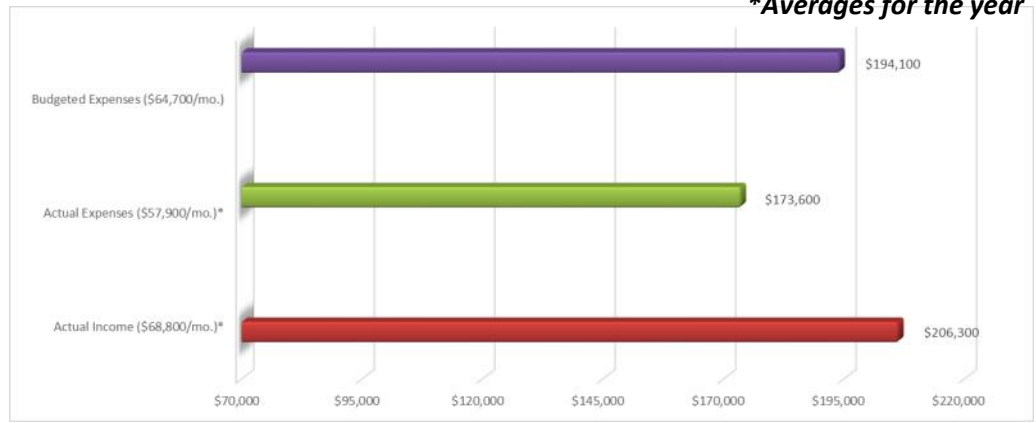
Elder Barry Reagan brought up the need for a revamped website to improve our outreach efforts and accessibility to newcomers, and suggested we might hire an outside consulting firm to do the “remodel,” with some of the excess funds set aside. Session referred this to the Outreach Committee to come up with recommendations.

**Youth Building Upgrades**

Proposed upgrades to the Youth Building were approved, with the priority being on painting everything but the bathrooms first, and replacing squares of damaged carpet. Then the second phase of proposed bathroom and other remodels will be done, coordinating efforts and timing between the Facilities and Youth committees. This is part of the final phase of the Thrive project, and the funds are already set aside.

**Goals and Strategic Planning**

Discussion of goals and strategic planning was continued, first reviewing changes already accomplished in Outreach and



Youth ministry. It was noted that office staffing is still to be figured out, especially if and when our current temporary hire has to leave. Session did some brainstorming on other efforts towards our goals, specifically in the areas of discipleship and growing the church (growing deeper and wider). Matt encouraged the elders to keep thinking and working on this while he is on sabbatical.

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 JANUARY 2025**  
**FINANCIAL RESULTS**

March saw \$72,800 of giving while we spent \$59,100. Thus, we continue our unusual winter surplus. Staffing is still below our target levels, but we do have new youth staff, much to our delight, beginning in April.

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

Thank you for all you do for Orchard ministries and missions



Scoop Hockenmaier,  
For the Finance Committee



Stay up to date with all that is happening around Orchard by [subscribing](#) to our weekly email.

Sent every Thursday afternoon!



# Royal Family Kids Camp

## FUNDRAISER AT PRESTO PASTA

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025

Eat at Presto Pasta anytime on this day and they will donate 20% of your total bill to Royal Family Kids Camp. Valid on dine in or take out. Simply show printed flyer or display on your phone at the restaurant. Flyers may not be distributed at Presto Pasta.

Presto Pasta Ventura, 5722 Telephone Rd  
805-658-2898

KEEP THIS HALF TO SAVE ON CATERING!



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10 - 500?

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ask for details & catering menu

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younglife

# GOLF TOURNAMENT

## 2025

Help send  
kids  
to camp!

Olivas Links 3750 Olivas Park Drive

Check in at  
3:30

May 15th  
THURSDAY

TICKET  
\$80

REGISTRATION : NOW OPEN!

<https://ca53.younglife.team/2025-golf-your-way-home>

# BREAKFAST BURRITOS

Orchard Youth



SUNDAY, MAY 18 - CAMP FUNDRAISER

Sonshine Preschool is Fundraising at...

# SNAPPER JACK'S



## TACO SHACK

Join us!

May 20, 2025

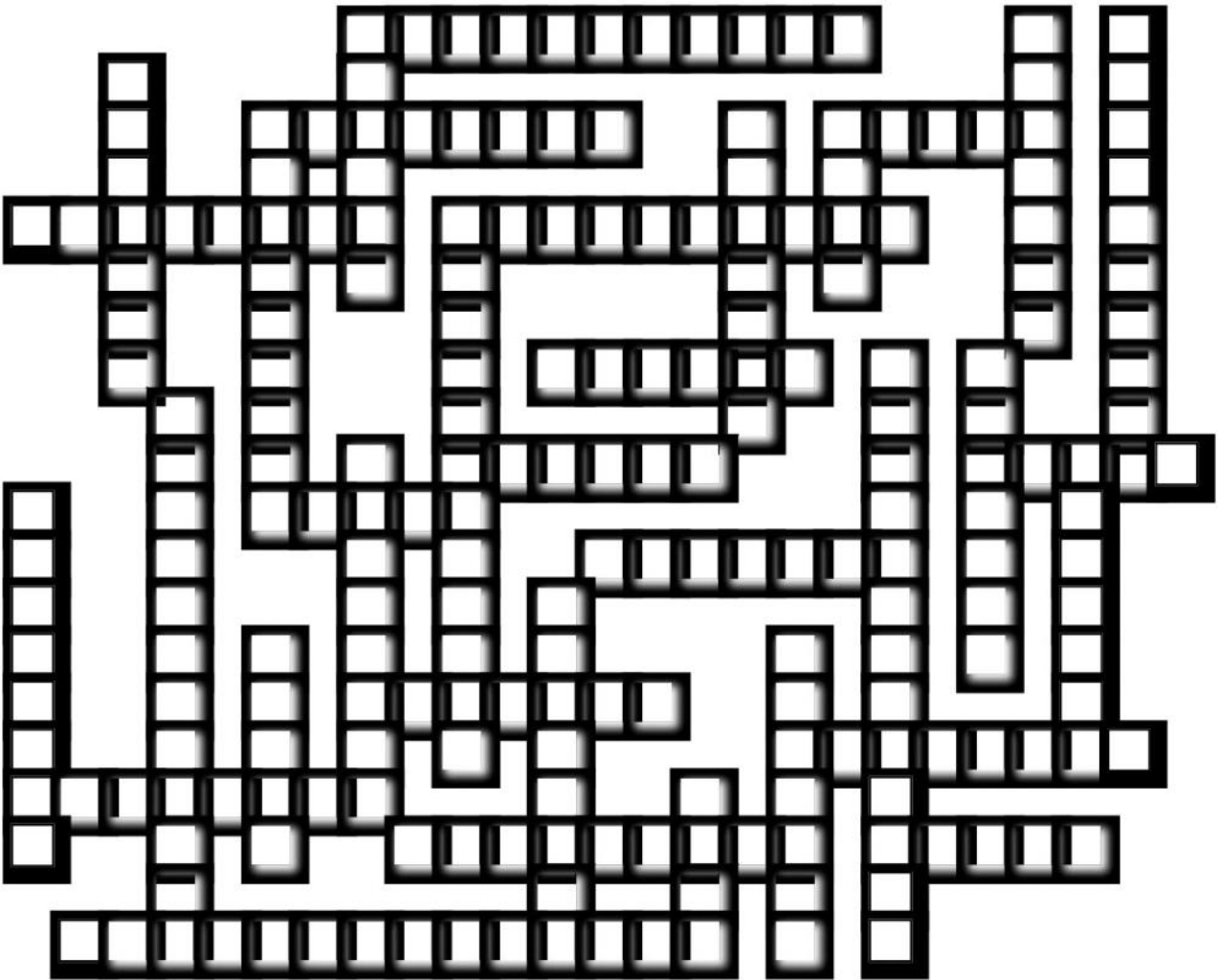
11:00am—9:00pm

5100 Telegraph Road  
Ventura, CA 93003  
(805) 642-5111

Must present this flyer.

# Parables of Jesus

Fit the words into this Bible Fill In Puzzle!



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## 4 LETTERS

SONS  
WISE

## 5 LETTERS

DEBTS  
PEARL  
SOWER  
TARES  
WIDOW

## 6 LETTERS

LEAVEN  
MASTER  
WICKED

## 7 LETTERS

BANQUET  
FIG TREE  
FOOLISH  
LOST SON  
TALENTS  
TENANTS  
WEDDING  
WORKERS

## 8 LETTERS

BUILDERS  
FAITHFUL  
LOST COIN  
PHARISEE  
RICH FOOL  
SERVANTS  
VINEYARD

## 9 LETTERS

LOST SHEEP  
WINESKINS

## 10 LETTERS

FISHING NET  
TEN VIRGINS

## 11 LETTERS

MUSTARD SEED

## 12 LETTERS

GOOD SHEPHERD  
TAX COLLECTOR

## 13 LETTERS

GOOD SAMARITAN

## 14 LETTERS

HIDDEN TREASURE



## WHAT WE BELIEVE

Orchard Community Church stands for Biblical faith as taught in Scripture. Below are a number of our core theological beliefs. Orchard is part of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO). To learn more about what we believe, see the Essential Tenants and Confessional Standards of ECO.

**The Trinity:** We believe in one God who has revealed himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that He is a God of love, power and grace (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14, I John 4:8).

**Creation:** We believe that God created the world and it belongs to Him, therefore we should value and take care of it (Genesis 1:1-25; Psalm 24:1-2). We believe human beings have a special place in creation because we were created by God in His image as male and female and are deeply loved by him (Genesis 1:26-27; John 3:16) although our ultimate identity is rooted in Christ and not rooted in either male or female identity (Gal. 3:28).

**Fallen Humanity:** We believe that there is pain and suffering in this world because human beings are fallen and sinful, and therefore alienated from God and one another (Genesis 3:17; Romans 3:23; Colossians 1:21). We believe however, that sin and suffering will not have the final word because God will make things right (redeem) and renew harmony with Himself and His Creation (reconciliation) (Colossians 1:21-23; Romans 8:18-23; Revelation 21:1-5).

**Jesus:** We believe that God has most fully revealed Himself to us in His Son Jesus through His life, teaching, death and rising from the dead (resurrection) (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:19).

Therefore, we believe that Jesus is the Lord. We find forgiveness in Him. He calls every person to believe in Him and His teachings (faith) find salvation in Him alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:12) and that He calls every person to faith (Matthew 11:28).

**Salvation:** We believe that Jesus came and lived the right life that we're supposed to live, but don't, and then offered his good life to God on the cross in place of our sinful lives, paying the price for our sin (atonement) and bring us grace and peace with God (Romans 3:25; Hebrew 2:17). We believe that salvation is found through the finished work of Jesus Christ. When we put our faith in Him, we have eternal life and citizenship in the kingdom of heaven based on Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension to His throne in heaven.

**Sin and Grace:** We believe that if we regret our sin and seek to leave it behind (repentance) we can do so by confessing it to God who will not only forgive us, but will wipe the slate clean and give us a fresh start (grace) (I John 1:9, 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:4, 8-9).

**Scripture:** We believe that the Scriptures are the living and active word of God, by which he reveals Himself to us. The Old and New testaments are God's inspired word ("God-breathed") and perfect (infallible) in their instruction. Scriptures are authoritative in their application to our lives (Matthew 4:4, 17-18; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:21, 3:15-16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13).

**The Holy Spirit:** We believe that God's Spirit fills our own spirit inwardly and is active, but unseen externally with us here and now to give us faith, to teach, to heal, and to empower us to live for God (John 14:26, 15:4-16; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26; Ephesians 1:13-14).

**The Church:** We believe that the church is the body of Christ and that He is the head of it (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22). We believe that the Church is the community through which God has chosen to bring the good news of God's love and grace in Jesus to all people and that he invites all who are willing to trust and follow Jesus to join (Matthew 16:18, 18:18-20, John 1:12-13; Acts 1:8; 1 Peter 2:9). We believe that the church is called to continue Christ's work in the world until Christ returns and his Kingdom is fully established (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Luke 10:25-37).

**Kingdom:** We believe that Jesus was born to inaugurate his Kingdom outside the boundaries of the world and reigns as King of this Kingdom presently and in the future. We experience the kingdom as future and not yet reality. We know it is not yet complete. Yet, our lives are bound to the unseen ways of King Jesus who transforms our lives as we seek Him. As King, He rules over our lives and our world with divine means that empower the weak and deny power to the those who seek to wield power over the poor, the weak, and the defenseless (Matthew 4:13, 23, 24, 31, 33, 23, Matthew 5, Mark 11:10, John 12:13).

**The Future:** By faith, we live with hope, because we know Jesus will return one hope, giving us the hope that his love and justice will prevail, and that God will set the world right (Matthew 24:30-31, 36; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 21:1-5).



**Orchard Community Church**

8180 Telephone Rd

Ventura CA 93004

## Connected & Growing.

Connected to God, each other, & our community. Growing in Christ & love for each other.

Sunday Morning Enrichment Hour

# Ten Most Impactful Stories in the Old Testament

9 am | Library

