



OPMC STAFF

We are a blessed church and we have such a wonderful group of staff members. We would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about each of them. To do so, we asked what is your favorite part of your job here at OPMC and what is an interesting fact about you.

DR. CHARLES LEVER

Dr. Lever was appointed as Senior Pastor of our church family in July of 2013. Since his appointment he has found great joy in watching our church family grow through several difficult times including the closure of our church for six months by the bishop during covid and the disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church.



Although these were challenging times, they were also times for our church family to come together to enable our ministry and outreach to grow. And our church family did! Dr. Lever enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren in the mountains and on family outings. Interesting fact about Dr. Lever is that he enjoyed hang gliding while he was in college.

DEBBIE FREND AHL

Debbie has been our Finance Director since November 1995. Her favorite part of her job is being able to help the staff and the congregation in their stewardship of the financial resources that God has so richly blessed us with. In her free time she loves to spend time kayaking, camping in their RV and traveling where she can take pictures of the natural world around her. An interesting fact about Debbie is she has an identical twin sister who lives in Utah.



MARI ANNE PEEPLES

Mari Anne has been our Director of Congregational Care since October 2017. The relationships that she has developed with the staff and the congregation has been what she enjoys most about her job. During her free time, Mari Anne enjoys working in her yard, trying new recipes, and spending time with her kids and grandchildren. An interesting fact is that Mari Anne took dance lessons for 18 years and was planning to go study dance in New York when she met Hugh and got married.



ROBYN VOIGT

Robyn has been on staff since February 1999. She was the Director of Children and Adult Ministries for 17 years and then became the Director of Pastoral Communications in May of 2016. What Robyn has enjoyed the most about her job has been the friends she has made and being with them during all the special times in their lives. During her free time, Robyn enjoys being outside and playing pickleball. While in college, Robyn won a trip to Hawaii on a smile contest.



NICK DESPRES

Nick was hired as our Praise Band leader in March 2022 and then he became our Director of Music Ministries in October of that same year. The favorite part of his job is encouraging new people to explore music. When he is not working he enjoys spending time with his kids. Interesting fact about Nick is that his first job was teaching and coaching gymnastics.



RUTH LOOMIS

Ruth has been a member of Orange Park Methodist for over 34 years and has been on staff as the Music Administrative Assistant since September, 2018. Ruth's favorite part of her job is accomplishing tasks. Doing things with her family and friends is what Ruth enjoys in her free time. An interesting fact is that Ruth has traveled the United States in her RV for 5 years and visited 48 states.



ELLEN DESPRES

Ellen has been our Director of Children and Adult Ministries since August 2023. Her favorite part of her job is getting to know so many amazing children and families, and witnessing the spiritual growth of all involved in this ministry. In her free time she enjoys spending quality time with her family, unplugging while camping or going to the beach, and singing. Something that not all may know about her is that she and Nick are expecting their third child this December! A baby boy!



JASON WILLIAMS

Jason has been our Director of Youth Ministry since February 2020. Helping support the teenagers and their parents at our church navigate life is what he enjoys most about his job. During his free time, Jason enjoys watching movies, reading, playing disc golf, and painting. An interesting fact is that Jason played hockey in high school and in college.



CONNOR HANKS

Connor Hanks has been our Building and Grounds Supervisor since October 2023. His favorite part of the job is the people he encounters in every ministry of the church. Connor enjoys spending time at the beach, working with amateur radio and farming with his family. An interesting fact about Connor is that he has his 2nd degree black belt.



JOHN THIELEN

John has been our Director of Culinary Services since May 2023. His favorite part of his job is that he enjoys seeing people eating the food he has prepared and the camaraderie that they share over a meal. John enjoys spending time with his family during his free time. An interesting fact about John is that he loves decorating the inside and outside of his home for all holidays.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WEEKLY EVENTS

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

- Held during the 9:30 AM Worship Service
- Nursery & Toddlers: Room 6105 in the Family Life Center
- 3 & 4 year olds: Room 4110 in the Education Building
- K - 3rd Grade: Fellowship Hall
- 4th- 6th Grade: Room 6204 in the Family Life Center

CHILDREN'S GATHERING: 10:15 AM TO 11:00 AM

In between Children's Sunday School and Children's Worship, children can gather in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy food, drinks, and fellowship while listening to some of their favorite worship songs!

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

- Held during the 11:00 AM Worship Service
- Grades K-6
- Located in the Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY

- Open 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Ages 0-2: Room 6105 in the Family Life Center
- Ages 2-4: Room 4110 in the Education Building

SUNDAY NIGHT CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS 4:30 - 7:30 PM

- All 1st- 6th graders are welcome to a night full of Faith, Food and FUN!
- The night will include Bible Discovery, Choirs, Games, Activities, and more!
- Dinner: \$5

Club 456/JAM Choir (4th - 6th graders)

- 4:30 PM: Drop off in the Fellowship Hall (Building #7)
- 7:30 PM: Pick up in the Music Center (Building #2)

Kids Club/ Carol Choir (1st - 3rd graders)

- 4:30 PM: Drop off in Fellowship Hall (Building #7)
- 7:30 PM: Pick up in the Fellowship Hall (Building #7)

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 3RD: ACOLYTE TRAINING

Acolytes are a very important and symbolic tradition in the Methodist Church. Acolytes' responsibilities include lighting the candles and helping with communion. All 2nd - 6th graders are welcome to participate.

- Training will be held on Sunday, August 3rd from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM in the Sanctuary
- Training will include completing parent forms, learning about the purpose and history of the Acolyte program, fitting for robes, and practicing the craft!
- Please contact Ellen Despres at edespres@opmethodist.org or (904) 264-2241 Ext. 243 if your child would like to be in the Acolyte program.

KIDS CLUB/CLUB 456 SUMMER WAVES BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

- Saturday, August 9th from 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM
- Cost: \$40.00
- This event is for Kids Club and Club 456 Members, or Prospective Members
- Breakfast, lunch, snacks, and ticket to Summer Waves Water Park included
- Register by August 3rd by scanning the QR Code, or contacting Ellen Despres at edespres@opmethodist.org or (904) 264-2241 Ext. 243



AUGUST 15TH: PARENTS NIGHT OUT

- Infant– 5th Grade
- Attendees will enjoy playing games, making crafts, having dinner, and watching a movie!
- Cost: \$20 for the first child, \$15 for each additional child
- Drop Off: Family Life Center Gym (Building 5) - 5:30 PM
- Pick Up: Fellowship Hall (Building 7) by 9:30 PM
- Registration Deadline: Sunday, August 10th



KIDS CLUB/CLUB 456 BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR PARENT MEETING

- Sunday, August 17th
- 7:00 - 7:30 PM
- Located in the Music Center

- We will be discussing plans for the 2025-2026 school year, and notarizing child liability waivers.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

In September, we present each Third Grader a Bible during a special Worship service.

- Sunday, September 14th, 2025
- Held during the 11:00 AM Worship service
- All Third Graders are welcome to participate!
- Please contact Ellen Despres at edespres@opmethodist.org or (904) 264-2241 Ext. 243 if your child would like to receive a Bible and participate in the ceremony.

YOUTH MINISTRY

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School - 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM

We join together in the Youth Classroom and then break into smaller conversation groups.

SUNDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

- 4:30 - 5:30 PM - Service opportunities:
Youth Choir, Children's Ministry, or Church A/V training
- 5:30 - 5:55 PM - Activity/Game in the Gym
- 6:00 - 6:20 PM - Dinner (\$5) in the Gym
- 6:25 - 7:00 PM - Worship in the youth worship center
- 7:00 - 7:30 PM - Age appropriate small groups

MISSION TRIP 2025 RECAP

We had a great trip working with Mark and Shari Somerville at their church in Hattieville, Belize.

We were able to repair the church's roof and some damaged drywall, paint the whole exterior, and dig and install the posts for what will be a chain-link fence. We had a great time bonding with our hosts, with each other and growing in our relationship in the Lord Jesus.

We are looking forward to returning to working with the Somerville family and their church in the summer of 2026!

Thank you to our church family for supporting trips like this financially and through your prayers. You are a blessing to our students and the folks we serve on these trips.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

YOUTH/PARENT MEETING - SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH - 4:00 PM—5 PM

At this meeting, we will go over the annual youth schedule, including all fundraisers, activities, and trips. We will also renew our medical release forms.

If you are a youth parent, please come to hear about all of our ministry opportunities this year! Students are encouraged to join this meeting until the ReGeneration Youth Choir starts at 4:30 PM.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH - SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH

5:30 - 7:30 PM – Slip and Slide Kickball at the Youth Wiffleball Field

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL RETREAT

- Friday, November 14th – Sunday, November 16th
- Location: North Florida Christian Camp - Lakeside Lodge
- Registration Deadline: October 6th
- Our Fall Retreat is always a great time for students to get away from the busyness of school, grow spiritually, participate in fun activities, and build relationships in our group.
- Cost: \$80
- Register by scanning the QR code:



FUNDRAISERS

PUMPKIN PATCH

Its getting close to that time of the year! Mark your calendars! Our pumpkin unload dates are September 27th and October 11th.

EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

We are having a wonderful summer, and all the children

have been enjoying the fun activities we have had going on at school. Our teachers are beginning to gear up for the wonderful school year that lies ahead!

We will have a Meet and Greet on August 7th from 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM with parents and students; this time is intended for families to talk with the teachers and find out what the students will be learning throughout the year.

Our school year for VPK children will begin on Monday, August 11th. We are excited that Mrs. Susan Nowlan will be the Starfish VPK teacher and Mrs. Lynne Rhodes will be the Dolphin VPK Teacher. Please remember to tell your friends about The Early Education Program and how we share the love of God with our children!

We are a **full-time** facility with hours from 6:30am to 6pm, and we care for children aged 2-months through VPK. We provide a wonderful breakfast and lunch – cooked every day by our wonderful chef, John. At this time, we still have a couple of spaces available in the VPK classes.

Our test scores for all of our children from last year were above average which shows how great our teachers are. We are also pleased with our computer room which has been a wonderful aid in the teaching of our children ages 3 and up. For the month of August, we will finish our summer curriculum teaching our children about Superheros and Sports and Team Spirit. We will then be starting our Welcoming to School and Practicing Routines and Rules. The Bible lesson will be God is My Superhero, God Created the World, Adam and Eve and God Created Me – I am Special. We will be teaching the children that God wants us to love our families and friends.

We ask for your continued prayers for our staff, families, and children—that we all stay healthy and continue to have a blessed year. In addition, we will ask our children to pray for all of you during their scheduled chapel time each week with Mrs. Ellen and Mr. Nick.

2025 – 2026

CONFIRMATION CLASS

We believe Confirmation is a sacred occasion. It is a worship service where confirmands publicly accept the salvation offered through Jesus Christ, profess their love for God and become members of the church. We believe that young people should know what they believe and why, and what it means to be a disciple, a growing Christian and a church member. During this 30 week Confirmation class, confirmands learn about the history of Christianity, teachings of the Methodist Church, and an explanation of the baptismal and membership vows. We invite all 6th graders to take a significant step in their journey of faith by joining our Confirmation class.

- Classes meet Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM (during the 9:30 AM Worship service) and are held in Room 4221 in the Education Building
- Classes begin in September and end in May
- All 6th Graders are welcome!
- Service opportunities include raising funds for the Residing Hope Children's Home and mission trips!
- Please contact Suzy Williams at suzyq614620@bellsouth.net or (904) 591-1918 if you are interested in your child participating.

WONDERFUL

WEDNESDAYS

DINNER PRICES

ADULT - \$7 AND CHILD (ages 3-12) - \$5
Non-season reservations must be made weekly.
Please call 904-264-2241 ext. 278

August 6 - Pork Tenderloin with rice and gravy, broccoli, sweet potato casserole, roll, salad and pineapple upside down cake

August 13 - Chicken lemon', lima beans, corn casserole, roll, salad and lemon bars

August 20 - Meatloaf with gravy, green beans, mashed potatoes, roll, salad and bread pudding

August 27 - Pulled pork, baked beans, potato salad, cornbread, coleslaw and banana pudding

All Menus are subject to change.

GRIEF SHARE

Grief Share is a support group to help you move through the grief process. This support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief.

Through this 13-week study group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability - and gain solid support each step of the way.

- Group starts on August 27 and meets every Wednesday
- Meeting time is from 6:00 - 7:30 PM in Room #1107 in Park Square
- You can sign up online at <https://www.griefshare.org/findagroup> and choose Orange Park Methodist Church
- Cost is \$20 to cover the workbook
- Please contact Robyn Voigt at (904) 264-2241 x273 with any questions

ORANGE PARK

METHODIST MEN

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for our next meeting at 8:00 AM on Saturday, August 16th. It will be an exciting program. All men of the church are members of the Methodist Men and are encouraged to come and enjoy one of our delicious breakfasts prepared by one of our cook teams.

METHODIST MEN'S BBQ

Come enjoy food and fellowship at the BBQ!

- Sunday, August 24th, from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM
- Pulled pork BBQ with baked beans, coleslaw, drink and dessert
- All for only \$12.00! Dine in or take out
- ALL PROCEEDS GO TO OPMC MISSIONS
- For tickets, see any member of the Methodist Men

MUSIC MINISTRY

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

Come join a choir! With the new school year starting this is a perfect time to join a choir. There are choirs for everyone from ages 5 years to 99+ years. Everyone is welcome!

CAROL CHOIR - K through 3rd grade - meets Sunday at 5:30 PM - 6:10 PM in the Music Center

- Carol Choir is part of the Sunday Kids Club and sings several Sundays through out the year.

JAM (J.esus A.nd M.e Choir) - 4th through 6th grade - meets Sundays at 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM in the Music Center

- JAM Choir is part of Club 456 on Sundays and sings for several services, including World Communion, Christmas Eve Processional, their own Children's musical and goes on an annual choir trip.

ReGENERATION - 7th through 12th grade - meets Sundays 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM in the Music Center

- ReGeneration is a vocal youth ensemble who sings for Worship services throughout the year including Advent, Christmas Eve, Lent and Easter. They present a Dinner Theater in the Spring and go on a Choir Tour in the summer.

CHANCEL CHOIR - Adult Choir - meets Thursdays 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM in the Music Center

- The Chancel Choir involves singers with varying levels of experience. They sing for the 11:00 AM worship service every Sunday and for Advent, Christmas Eve, Lent and Easter.

INSPIRATIONS - Women's Choir - meets Thursdays 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM in the Music Center Rehearsal Room

- The Inspirations is a Women's choir for experienced singers. They sing several Sundays throughout the year including Advent, Christmas Eve, Lent and Easter. (starts Thursday, August 21st.)

DYNAMICS - Men's Choir - meets Thursdays 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM in the Music Center Room 2103

- The Dynamics is a Men's choir for experienced singers. They sing several Sundays throughout the year including Advent, Christmas Eve, Lent and Easter. (starts Thursday, August 21st.)

CHANCEL BELLS - meets Tuesdays 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

- The Chancel Bells play several Sundays throughout the year. Music reading skills are helpful but not required. (starts Tuesday, August 19th.)

PRAISE BAND - meets Tuesdays 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM in the Sanctuary

- The Praise Band sings for the 9:00 AM worship service every Sunday and for Advent, Christmas Eve, Lent and Easter. Please contact Nick Despres if you are interested in the Praise Band at (904) 264-2241 ext. 236.

If you are interested in any of the choirs or have questions, please call the Music Center 904-264-2241 ext. 245.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

ROCK "N" AGES

Start your month right by joining us at the Rock N' Ages Luncheon. It will be held on Tuesday, August 5th at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be the Shag Dancers. Bring a dish to go with Fried Chicken.

Invite a friend and join us. If you have questions, please call Cindy Koon at (904) 210-3546.

MISSIONS

ANNUAL OP HIGH SCHOOL BACKPACK SUMMER COLLECTION PROGRAM

We will collect school supplies and basic survival non-perishable items for the Orange Park High School Homeless and Displaced teens (sometimes called 'couch surfers'). We care deeply for these teenagers, and will begin collecting for back-to-school in August. There will be a container for drop off in the Family Life Center. If you can't make it to drop off location, contact Tracy Frandsen, and she will make pick up arrangements. Her phone number is (904) 514-0298.

Below is the list of items needed for High School Teens -

- Teenage style backpacks and high school supplies (pens, pencils, notebook paper, Composition notebooks, spiral notebooks, pocketed folders, calculators, etc.)
- Rain jackets or ponchos, umbrellas
- Personal care items - toothpaste, toothbrushes, bodywash, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, disposable razors, hand sanitizer, mosquito repellent, etc.
- Non-perishable foods/snacks.
- Lightweight blankets
- Flashlights and batteries

DEADLINE TO DONATE ITEMS IS SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY EXTENDS OUR SYMPATHY

The family of Cindy Groeneveld in the loss
of her brother, Billy Parsons

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

THE DOVE is a faith based publication of Orange Park Methodist Church. It is not a forum for community news, political debate or personal opinion. Submissions are to be made in Microsoft Word attachments sent via email to rvoigt@opmethodist.org. Space is limited. All submissions are subject to available space and are subject to approval and redaction at the sole discretion of the editor.

AUGUST RECOGNITIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff and Sandy Knafelc	08/01	33 years
Brad and Glenda White	08/02	23 years
Dennis and Nancy Dewey	08/04	35 years
Michael and Julie Griffis	08/04	18 years
Ross and Melissa Arrowood	08/08	16 years
David and Jeanne Young	08/08	55 years
Russ and Natalie Sessions	08/08	27 years
Jamie and Robin Stowers	08/08	45 years
Ed and Fran Marynik	08/09	11 years
Bob and Barbara Broach	08/10	57 years
Brock and Traci Foreman	08/10	23 years
Bob and Mistie Heyer	08/10	6 years
Joey and Leslee Bryan	08/10	22 years
Charlie and Linda Yow	08/12	59 years
Paul and Cindy Cummins	08/13	42 years
Brandon and Timea Chandler	08/14	21 years
Chauncey and Martha Lever	08/14	49 years
Ron and Sandy Davis	08/16	45 years
Fred and Kresten Mansen	08/16	44 years
James and Morgan Bailey	08/16	11 years
Ray and Debbie White	08/19	47 years
Harmen and Grace Heeg	08/19	58 years
George and Mary Hoskins	08/21	59 years
Jim and Kathy Cribb	08/22	38 years
Ron and Bettie Adams	08/23	56 years
Charles and Xiommy Lever	08/23	45 years
Glen and Karen Godwin	08/23	39 years
Jacob and Lauren Butacan	08/25	18 years
David and Shirley Theurich	08/26	58 years
John and Cynthia Schoolfield	08/27	37 years
Austin and Victoria French	08/29	3 years
Brian and Marti Boatright	08/30	39 years
Danny and Karen Powers	08/30	51 years
Barry and Alice Allred	08/31	57 years
Bob and Bonnie Rustmann	08/31	62 years

BIRTHDAYS

Randy Bunn	08/02	Alice Gentile	08/16
Cynthia Mosborg	08/03	Tami Maeder	08/17
Genevieve Edwards	08/03	Gigi Sessions	08/17
Elle Foreman	08/03	Sawyer Butacan	08/17
Nancye Hale	08/03	Rick Jacobs	08/18
Elaine Lowder	08/03	Cohen Cioffi	08/18
Donna Macleod	08/04	Nancy Westberry	08/18
Teri Haisten	08/04	Michael Morris	08/19
Elmer Posick	08/05	Brenda Parkes	08/19
Billy Wall	08/05	Jerry Cioffi	08/20
Audrey Francis	08/05	Erin Lee	08/20
Brock Foreman	08/05	Ruth Boyer	08/20
Fred Nagle	08/05	Isabelle Gardella	08/21
Jackie Putnam	08/06	Don Briggs	08/21
Heather Swart	08/06	Dianna Shivertaker	08/22
Jamie Gerrity	08/07	David Rowlinson	08/22
Bob McKenney	08/08	Mary Cioffi	08/24
Carol Seeley	08/09	Katie Costea	08/24
Karen Godwin	08/09	Shane Fleming	08/24
Dana Frandsen	08/09	Mason Schutter	08/24
Gary Meeks	08/11	Marty Wilson	08/25
Bob Hinzman	08/11	Jimmy Matthews	08/25
Buzz Johnson	08/11	Scott Drawdy	08/27
Daniel Alderson	08/11	Jennifer Flanagan	08/28
Cathy Kibbie	08/11	Marc Fleming	08/28
Barbara Sharp	08/13	John Schoolfield	08/28
Judi Corbin	08/14	Alyssa Turpish	08/28
Ann Tabor	08/14	Nathan Bartholomew	08/28
Victoria French	08/14	Jamie Stowers	08/28
Robin Fabianek	08/14	Janyce Coussens	08/29
Dennis Dewey	08/15	Kathleen Crook	08/30
Tara Ingerson	08/15	Matthew Voigt	08/30
Wanda Hellman	08/15	David Bossinger	08/30
Karen Powers	08/15	Bonnie Gorman	08/30
Amy Cronin	08/16	June Butacan	08/31