



**Come and Join Our Church Family
in a
Vacation Bible Camp Celebration
on
Sunday, July 26, 2026**

**We will be Celebrating
Our FAITH in worship,
Our FELLOWSHIP through
coming together &
Our BLESSINGS through
sharing a common meal.**

**JOIN US FOR THIS
TIME OF CELEBRATION**

**Lunch Will be Served at No Cost
Following the 11:00 AM Service
Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Green Beans,
Mac & Cheese, Brownies
Lemonade, Tea, Coffee and Water**

**All Volunteers and Participants
in Vacation Bible Camp
will Be Recognized
during Our Services &
our Vacation Bible Camp Choir
will Sing**

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

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY SUMMER KIDS CAMP 2026

- Kids Camp is a single day version of our summer Vacation Bible Camp. This ministry is a full day program from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. The purpose of this ministry is to meet the needs of the families in our church and community, while teaching children about Jesus Christ. The day includes breakfast, lunch, two snacks, an exciting field trip & other activities. If interested in volunteering, please contact Ellen at edespres@opmethodist.org or (904) 264-2241 Ext. 243
- Cost: \$40.00 per child per event
- To register your child, please visit www.opmethodist.org or email Ellen Despres at edespres@opmethodist.org

KIDS CAMP DATES & ACTIVITIES:

- Wednesday, July 1st: Sweet Pete's Lollipop Making Class
- Wednesday, July 8th: Bowling, Laser Tag, & Arcade at Batt Family Fun Center
- Wednesday, July 15th: IMAX at Epic Theatres Oakleaf
- Wednesday, July 29th: Swimming at Madison Blue Springs

VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2026 – RAINFOREST FALLS

Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

- Dates: July 20-24, 2026
- 7:30 AM-5:30 PM Daily
- Includes breakfast, lunch, two snacks, exciting field trips and experiences, and more!
- Grades PreK– Rising 6th Graders
- Exciting field trips and experiences including Summer Waves Water Park, Marine Dolphin Adventure, Falling Creek Falls State Park, Dave & Busters & more!

COST AND PAYMENTS

- Participant Cost: \$210 per child
- Youth/Adult Volunteer Cost: \$90 per person
- To register your child, or to register as a volunteer, call Ellen Despres at 904-264-2241 ext. 243.

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

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

MOVIE DAY

- Thursday, July 2nd, 2026
- Destination: Oakleaf, FL
- Cost: \$40

ICHETUCKNEE RIVER FLOAT

- Thursday, July 9th, 2026
- Destination: Ichetucknee Springs, FL
- Cost: \$40

JACKSONVILLE DAY

- Thursday, July 16th, 2026
- Destination: Jacksonville, FL
- Cost: \$40

NEPTUNE PARK AND PINBALL PALACE

- Thursday, July 30th, 2026
- Destination: St. Simon's Island / Brunswick, GA
- Cost: \$40

Events are all day. 8 AM - 5 PM

Register for all events by scanning the QR Code and selecting the correct link



UPCOMING EVENTS

YOUTH/PARENT MEETING - SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND.

4:00 PM - 5:00 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 2nd

5:30-5:50 PM - Dinner

5:50-7:30 PM - Activity in the field

FUNDRAISERS:

PUMPKIN PATCH

Its getting close to that time of the year! Mark your calendars!

Our pumpkin unload dates are:

September 26th

October 17th

EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

Our teachers work each day to build self-esteem and self-confidence in every child. Children also grow in their faith through weekly chapel with Mr. Nick and Ms. Ellen, along with Bible stories shared in the classroom.

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AND ENROLLMENT

We offer special activities for parents and grandparents to enjoy with their child. If you know a family interested in full-time childcare, please call 904-264-7330 or 904-704-9762 for more information, or visit our website under The Early Education Center.

We currently have openings in our full-day VPK program, as well as for children ages two and up. Availability in the nursery and one-year-old classes is limited.

IMPORTANT DATE

Our facilities will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

JULY THEMES

- Week of June 29: American Patriotic theme
Bible lesson: *Jesus Gives Us Freedom from Sin.*
- Week of July 6: Pond Life, Frogs, and Nature
Bible lesson: *Jesus Loves the Little Children.*
- Week of July 13: Watermelons and Picnic Week
Bible lesson: *Ruth and Naomi*, with a focus on loyalty.
- Week of July 20: Bugs, Insects, and Bees
Bible lesson: *The Parable of the Lost Coin.*
- Week of July 28: Superheroes and My Hero
Bible lesson: *God Is My Superhero / Jesus Is the Ultimate Superhero.*

SUMMER FUN

Our children especially enjoy water play on Wednesdays—it helps them stay cool during the summer heat.

We hope you are all having a wonderful summer. Please continue to pray for our families, and we will keep all of you in our prayers as well.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

DINNER PRICES

ADULT - \$8 AND CHILD (ages 3-12) - \$6
Non-season reservations must be made weekly.
Please call 904-264-2241 ext. 278

- July 1** - Pot Roast with carrots and gravy, green beans, potatoes, salad, cornbread and bread pudding
- July 8** - Seasoned boneless pork chop, field peas, cheesy scalloped potatoes, cornbread, coleslaw and carrot cake
- July 15** - Chicken Parmesan, vegetables, succotash, garlic bread, salad and apple crisp
- July 22** - NO Wednesday night dinner due to Vacation Bible Camp
- July 29** - Salisbury Steak with gravy, roasted carrots, garlic mashed potatoes, roll, salad and brownie with fudge icing

All Menus are subject to change.

ORANGE PARK METHODIST MEN

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for our next meeting at 8:00 AM on Saturday, July 18, 2026. The program will be presented by Dave Milsten and the program will be The Last Full Measure: Behind the Scenes. 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.

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 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.

- 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.

- 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

- 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, July 7, 2026 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be Patriotic celebration. Please bring a dish to go with hamburgers.

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

MISSIONS

ANNUAL 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') as well as local elementary schools. We care deeply for these children, and will begin collecting for back-to-school in July and 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 children and 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 23rd!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Here is a listing of the upcoming committee meetings.

JULY

Monday, July 13	SPR Meeting
Tuesday, July 14	Endowment (6:00 PM)
Tuesday, July 14	Trustee's Meeting
Monday, July 20	Finance Committee
Tuesday, July 21	Church Council

BOOK CLUB

You are invited to attend our Book Club! We meet on the first Monday of every month to discuss the book that we just read. We meet in Room 1107 in Park Square at 5:00 PM. Here are the dates we are meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

July 6 and August 3

For more information, please call Donna Macleod at 904-910-4227.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY EXTENDS OUR SYMPATHY To

The family of Barbara Fisher
Mark Meier in the death of his wife, Debi Meier
The family of Madelyn Christofoli

STAFF DIRECTORY

Church phone number - 904-264-2241

PASTOR

Dr. Charles C. Lever, Sr. Pastor, ext. 273
clever@opmethodist.org

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Robyn Voigt, Director of Pastoral Communications, ext. 273
rvoigt@opmethodist.org
Debbie Frendahl, Director of Finance, ext. 281
dfrendahl@opmethodist.org
Mari Anne Peeples, Director of Congregational Care, ext. 272; mpeeples@opmethodist.org

EDUCATIONAL STAFF

Ellen Despres, Director of Children and Adult Ministries, ext. 243; edespres@opmethodist.org
Pat Noonan, Director of Early Education Center, ext. 230
pnoonan@opmethodist.org
Jason Williams, Director of Youth, ext. 282
jwilliams@opmethodist.org
John Thielen, Director of Culinary Services, ext. 235
jthielen@opmethodist.org
Connor Hanks, Facility Manager, ext. 273; chanks@opmethodist.org

MUSIC STAFF

Nick Despres, Director of Music Ministries, ext. 236
ndespres@opmethodist.org
Ruth Loomis, Music Administrative Assistant, ext. 245
rloomis@opmethodist.org
Janic Reid, Accompanist, ext. 237

THE GATHERING ON SUNDAYS

Plan to join us for a time of wonderful breakfast foods as well as fellowship in the Family Life Center Gym Building 6. Coffee and breakfast foods are available each week between 10:15 AM and 11:00 AM and it is FREE!

A special gathering for children between Sunday School and Worship will be held in the Fellowship Hall featuring items like tater tots and chicken nuggets.

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.

JULY RECOGNITIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Don and Cheri Briggs	07/01	59 years
Peter and Cindy Groeneveld	07/03	25 years
Don and Gaye Maconi	07/05	40 years
Tom and Julie Williams	07/05	18 years
Ken and Marie Bendy	07/08	66 years
Danny and Cindy Koon	07/10	56 years
Jimmy and Judith Matthews	07/11	5 years
David and Connie Eden	07/12	51 years
Debbie and Bob Bradshaw	07/12	18 years
Jimmie and Carol Seeley	07/15	64 years
Gray and Nancy Chandler	07/19	51 years
Heather and Jack Lawson	07/22	15 years
Curtis and Jill Schmidt	07/22	31 years
Gary Wagner & Sandy Jones	07/24	9 years
Andy and Joyce Manson	07/25	556 years
Nick and Ellen Despres	07/25	11 years
Ron and Karen Gebhard	07/26	40 years
Gary and Pat Meeks	07/30	32 years
John and Ann Tabor	07/30	43 years

BIRTHDAYS

Kavannah Schutter	07/01	Barbara Hoops	07/18
Samuel Stofsky	07/01	Brad Robinson	07/19
Morgan Bailey	07/01	Debi Meier	07/19
Shannon Clark	07/01	Mary Edwards	07/20
Joyce Manson	07/02	Bob Johnson	07/20
Hannah Heyer	07/02	Rosanna Housend	07/20
George Hoskins	07/02	John Roberson	07/21
Millie Murray	07/02	Raiden Applegarth	07/22
Catherine Drawdy	07/03	Gary Wagner	07/22
Rod Fisher	07/03	Jeanne Young	07/23
LaVonne Maxfield	07/03	Cindy Cummins	07/23
Amy McMaster	07/04	Michela Figueroa	07/23
Linda Gardella	07/04	George Tyree	07/24
Sharon Neglia	07/05	Theo Hovda	07/24
Peter Groeneveld	07/07	Diane Bazemore	07/24
Joan Bradley	07/08	Daniel Manning	07/25
Lauren Martin	07/08	Abigail Hines	07/26
Ethel Bell	07/08	Brandon Chandler	07/27
David Watkins	07/09	Jeff Knafelc	07/27
Daniel Watkins	07/09	Michael Maxfield	07/27
Sandy Jones	07/10	Sean Cronin	07/28
Cindy Groeneveld	07/11	Alexei Turpish	07/28
Pat Johnson	07/13	Norma Lee	07/28
Ron Davis	07/16	Darrell White	07/28
London Seeley	07/16	Millie Martin	07/28
Paul Burshuliak	07/16	Jo-Ann Cox	07/28
Diane Rood	07/16	Timea Chandler	07/30
Kristin Messler	07/17	Pat Warren	07/30
Rhett Sessions	07/17	John Banton	07/30
Doris Owens	07/18	Michael Stanley	07/30
David Young	07/18		