



EXCITING FALL EVENTS FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

REGENERATION BACK TO SCHOOL DINNER AUGUST 27, 2023

The ReGeneration Youth Choir Ensemble is made up of 7th through 12th graders. They meet every Sunday 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM in the Music Center (Bldg #2). They have been busy with fun activities with more planned later in the year. In order to kick off the new school year they enjoyed a fantastic meal at the Kyodai Japanese Restaurant on Sunday, August 27. There was no cost for this event.

PUMPKIN PATCH SEPTEMBER 30 THRU OCTOBER 31, 2023

Our annual pumpkin patch is our main fundraiser for the youth ministry. It's an excellent way for our students and their families to work together and earn money for our trips and events. All the money earned by our students and families goes into their student's youth account. It's also a fun way to serve and interact with our community as they come to shop and take pictures in our patch. Our pumpkin patch is open from September 30th through October 31st. We are open daily from 8 AM to 8 PM and Noon to 8 PM on Sundays. We look forward to seeing you out there!

REGENERATION RETREAT (YOUTH) SEPTEMBER 8 - 10, 2023

On Friday evening we will be grilling out at our own VRBO where we will enjoy the pool, the game room and the outdoor recreational facilities. In the morning we will rehearse for upcoming Sunday Services, World Communion Sunday and the 11:00 Service on Christmas Eve. We will break for lunch and load up for that incredibly beautiful Silver Springs State Park which is just two miles down the road. This is a great time for rehearsal, food, fellowship and fun! And we will be back home in time to sing for the 11:00 am service on Sunday, September 10th. The cost is \$45.00.

TRUNK OR TREAT OCTOBER 25, 2023

This annual event has become a holiday delight. You don't have to cook, just make your reservations for dinner (Wonderful Wednesday), bring your children in their favorite costumes, and there will be some 40 plus staging areas for the children to visit and receive holiday goodies. And, as always, it will be a safe and secure event with wrist bands issued to all who come to dinner so they can enter the trunk or treat area. Our local police will be on site to provide a prank-free environment. The cost is \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children (which includes dinner).

NOVEMBER 3 - 4, 2023 JAM (JESUS AND ME) LOCK IN

We will gather Friday night in the Music Center to prepare for our musical and then head to the Family Life Center for dinner and games. We will spend the night at the church and get up the next morning to rehearse with the Carol Choir for our upcoming musical. We will then be off for a surprise, special, fun-filled experience in the afternoon. The cost is \$15.00.

JAM AND CAROL CHOIR MUSICAL NOVEMBER 8, 2023 6:00 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

This is an event you will not want to miss! We were all inspired and blessed by our children's musical last year when nearly 30 children came together to present the fantastic story of "Esther." This year promises to be another spectacular event. All are invited and all should come. There is no cost for this event which occurs following the Wednesday Night Dinner.

YOUTH FALL RETREAT NOVEMBER 10 - 12, 2023

Our Fall Retreat on Friday, November 10th through 12th will be at the North Florida Christian Retreat Center in Keystone Heights. We have cabins on the water with a beautiful view. There are opportunities to kayak or enjoy their slip-and-slide into the lake. They also have a zipline course as well as other fun activities that we can do together. This is a great opportunity for us to relax, worship together, and rest as a youth community after the busy pumpkin patch season. The cost is \$50.00.

CLUB 456 FALL RETREAT NOVEMBER 18 - 21, 2023

Our group will depart on Saturday and will travel to the Methodist Church in the Florida Keys. They will provide us dinner when we arrive and will host our group for their regular worship service on Sunday. After church, our group will go snorkeling and on Monday they will encounter the dolphins. Monday evening we will share in worship with the Haitian congregation which is also part of our host church. An incredible opportunity to fellowship, learn and grow together. The cost for the four days will be \$125.00.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS WITH THE LEVERS DECEMBER 10, 2023

Each year our Senior Pastor Dr. Lever and Mrs. Lever host us at their home for a wonderful family-style dinner. On that night we also have our annual youth gift exchange. We ask each student to bring a gift of no more than \$10 for the exchange. It's a fun night of fellowship before the busyness of the holiday season begins. This year the dinner will be on Sunday, December 10th. There is no cost for this event.

CHRISTMAS PROGRESSIVE DINNER DECEMBER 17, 2023

Our annual Progressive Dinner for our youth is a fun night where we travel around to the homes of church parishioners for a multi-course meal. Each home prepares one of the courses for the evening. It's a fun opportunity for our students and church family to come together to celebrate the Christmas season. The Progressive Dinner will be on December 17th. There is no cost for this event.

OPERATION "SANTA CLAUS" DECEMBER 21 - 22, 2023

Each year our Confirmation Class gathers enough \$50.00 Walmart gift cards for every child at the Methodist Children's Home to have one. This is accomplished through the generosity of our Sunday School Classes and church members. The Confirmation Class this year will leave after lunch on Thursday and head to the Methodist Children's Home in Enterprise Florida. Upon arrival, they will host a Christmas Party for the children where the children will be given their gift cards and are told they will be taken to Walmart at a later date. Friday morning our Confirmands will conduct a service project and then head home. The cost is \$25.00.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WEEKLY EVENTS

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

- 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM during Worship services
- Grades K-6
- Located in the Fellowship Hall

NURSERY

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

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AT 10:00 AM

- Nursery & Toddlers - Rm 6105 in the Family Life Center
- 3 & 4 year old - Rm 4110 in the Education Building
- K - 6th Grade - Fellowship Hall
- Confirmation Class - Rm 4221

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

3RD GRADE BIBLE CEREMONY ON SEPTEMBER 10TH AT THE 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

- This ceremony has been a right of passage and milestone for the children of our church for over 30 years
- All students in 3rd grade will be presented with a new Bible
- If you have a 3rd grader and have not received a letter about this, please contact Ellen Despres at edespres@opmethodist.org or call 904-264-2241 ext. 243



PARENT'S NIGHT OUT ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH FROM 5:30 - 9:30 PM

- **Registration Deadline: Sunday, September 10th**
vbspro.events/p/1aadd1
- \$15 for 1st child, \$10 for the 2nd child with a \$30 max paid per family
- **Drop off-** Family Life Center Lobby (Building #5)
- **Pick up:** Fellowship Hall (Building #7)



KIDS' CAMP: MONDAY, OCTOBER 16TH - NO SCHOOL - TEACHER PLANNING DAY

- 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
- VPK - 6th grade welcome to participate
- **\$30.00 per participant** includes: Breakfast, Lunch, 2 Snacks, Activities, and Trip
- to the Amazing Grace Farms Fall Festival!
- **Register by Monday, October 9th**



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Each year our church offers a Confirmation class to sixth graders to help develop their Christian Faith. Although many young people are baptized as infants or young children, confirmation gives them the opportunity to make their own profession of faith.

- The first Confirmation class will be on **Sunday, September 10th in Room 4221 at 10:00 AM** and will meet there weekly.
- Classes will take place through the month of April, 2024.
- The Confirmands will enjoy a Christmas trip to the United Methodist Children's Home on December 21-22, 2023.
- The Confirmation Spring Retreat will be May 3-4th, 2024.
- If you are interested in having your child join the Confirmation class, please contact Ellen Despres at (904) 264-2241 ext. 243 or edespres@opmethodist.org.

TRUNK OR TREAT

- Orange Park Methodist Church & the Early Education Center Trunk or Treat: October 25th 5:15 - 7:30 PM

- A fun safe night of trunk or treating, bounce houses, pumpkin patch & more!
- Ticket Price: \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for kids. Includes a Wonderful Wednesday Dinner plate!
- Registration for this event is required: <https://vbspro.events/p/fd9c46>
- For the safety of our children, only children, adults, and volunteers with wrist bands will be allowed to participate in the trunk or treat event.
- Wristbands must be worn at all times during the event
- For added security, the Orange Park Police Department has been hired to oversee the event
- Inflatable Fun Zone including Bounce House & Slide: Fellowship Hall lawn
- Pumpkin Patch for pumpkin picking and personal photos: Music Center Parking lot
- We are looking to fill 41 parking spots in the fellowship hall parking lot for this event.



For more information on OPMC Children's Ministry or if you would like to be added to the weekly email, contact Director of Children and Adult Ministries, Ellen Despres at 904-264-2241 ext. 243 or edespres@opmethodist.org.

WEEKLY CHILDREN EMAIL UPDATES

If you would like to receive a weekly update on children's ministry events through email, please contact Ellen Despres at edespres@opmethodist.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday morning, 10 AM - 10:45 AM

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

- 7th - 8th grade: Youth Worship Center
- 9th - 12th grade: Youth Classroom

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

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

FALL RETREAT

Our Youth Fall Retreat on Friday, November 10th through 12th will be at the North Florida Christian Retreat Center in Keystone Heights. We have cabins on the water with a beautiful view. There are opportunities to kayak or enjoy their slip-and-slide into the lake. They also have a zipline course as well as other fun activities that we can do together. This is a great opportunity for us to relax, worship together, and rest as a youth community after the busy pumpkin patch season.

- The Fall Retreat cost is \$50

DINNER WITH THE LEVERS

Each year our Senior Pastor Dr. Lever and his wife host us at their home for a wonderful family-style dinner. On that night we also have our annual youth gift exchange. We ask each student to bring a gift of no more than \$10 for the exchange. It's a fun night of fellowship before the busyness of the holiday season begins. This year the dinner will be on Sunday, December 10th.

- Dinner with the Levers is free! Please bring a \$10 gift for the exchange.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Our annual Progressive Dinner is a fun night where we travel around to the homes of church parishioners for a multi-course meal. Each home prepares one of the courses for the evening. It's a fun opportunity for our students and church family to come together to celebrate the Christmas season.

- The Progressive Dinner will be on December 17th. The Progressive Dinner is free!

FUNDRAISERS

PUMPKIN PATCH

Pumpkin Patch meeting - Sunday, September 10th at 4:30

PM in the Youth Center

Patch setup - Wednesday, September 27th at 5:30 PM

- 1st Pumpkin Unload - Saturday, September 30th at 10:00 AM
- 2nd Pumpkin Unload - Saturday, October 14th at 10:00 AM
- Patch will be open from Saturday, September 30th - Tuesday, October 31st
- Tear down on Wednesday, November 1st

All hours worked in the pumpkin patch by students and student families counts as paid hours. All money raised through hours worked will go into the students account, which can be used for any church trip or activity. The pumpkin patch is our biggest fundraiser of the year and all are encouraged to be a part!

PARENT’S NIGHT OUT - FUNDRAISER

Youth and parents lead kids 0-6th grade in games and crafts, serve dinner, and end the night with a movie in the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds from PNO go directly to the accounts of the students who work the event. Contact Ellen Despres to sign up.

UPCOMING DATES

- September 15th
- October 20th
- November 17th

YOUTH ACCOUNTS

Each student can earn money for use on trips and events that are held in an account for them. Students can earn money working Parent's Night Out events and our biggest fundraiser, the Pumpkin Patch. If you have any questions about youth accounts or would like to check your student's account balance, you can contact Jason at 264-2241 ext. 282.

REGISTERING FOR EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

To register for any upcoming youth event or volunteer opportunity please visit www.youth.opmethodist.org and click on the events page. Under the description of each event you will find a registration link.

WEEKLY YOUTH EMAIL UPDATES

If you would like to receive a weekly update on youth ministry events through email, please contact Jason Williams at jwilliams@opmethodist.org.

EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

Our 2023-2024 school year has begun, and it has started out to be a great one! Our children are getting adjusted to their routines and the rules of the classroom. As adults, the fear of the unknown results in great anxiety. Now imagine how the fear of the unknown makes a child feel; they are already small and surrounded with big things all around them—think how it would also feel to have no idea what will happen next. Studies have proven how much routines matter in a child's life; that is why we are so happy to help the children and families in our program get back to their routines.

We ask for your prayers over the teachers, children, and parents in our program that they all stay healthy throughout this school year.

This month we will be discussing the following themes with our students: their Five Senses, their Families, People in their Neighborhood, and Johnny Appleseed. Our Bible Lessons will cover Joseph and His Special Coat, God Loves My Family, God Loves Everybody, and the Apple Bible Lesson. Our character theme for the month is kindness. Our teachers will accomplish this learning goal by following our mission statement: "Guiding God's children to inspire lifelong learning and good character morals in our students."

During this month we will be inviting parents and children to come to the Wonderful Wednesday Dinners to help all of you meet our parents and so that they can meet our wonderful church family as well.

We are all looking forward to the pumpkin arrival at the end of September! This is such a fun time for the children, and we get to teach them all about how pumpkins grow.

ADULT CLASSES ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Beginning on September 6th, we will be offering the following classes on Wednesday nights. Classes will begin at 6:00 PM after the Wonderful Wednesday dinner. Please make reservations for dinner if you plan to eat before the class.

Disciple IV: Under The Tree Of Life: This is the fourth study in the four-phase DISCIPLE program. The 32-week study concentrates on Old Testament Writings, the Gospel of John, the Epistles of John, James, Jude, and finally, Revelation. Emphasis on the Psalms as Israel's hymnbook and prayer book leads naturally to an emphasis on worship in the study. Present through the entire study is the sense of living toward completion - toward the climax of the message and the promise, extravagantly pictured in Revelation.

- 32 week class starting September 6th
- This class is prepared for those who are graduates of Disciple I
- Led by Danny Koon
- Located in Room 6205
- Cost of workbook \$40.00

Max Lucado's "Jesus, The God Who Knows Your Name"

Max Lucado tells us that "because Jesus became human, it is now possible for us to see God and hear his voice. If we want to know what matters to God, all we need to do is look in the Bible to see what matters to Jesus. If we want to know what God is doing in our world, we need only ponder the words of Jesus. By learning more about the person Jesus was and is, we come to understand more clearly the people we were created to be."

- 6 week class starting on September 6
- Led by Mary Boismier
- Located in Room 6203
- Cost is \$6.00

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

DINNER PRICES

NEW SEASON BEGINS ON September 6th
SEASON TICKET PRICES

ADULT - \$49 AND CHILD (ages 3-12) - \$40
Season is September 6 - October 25

September 6 - Chicken Lemon, rice with gravy, vegetable medley, garlic bread, salad and lemon cake

September 13 - Salisbury Steak with gravy, carrots, baked potato, roll, salad and s'more cake

September 20 - Pork Tenderloin, rice with gravy, broccoli, black eyed peas, cornbread, cole slaw and brownies

September 27 - Chicken parmesan, noodles, sauted vegetables, lima beans, garlic bread, salad and banana pudding

All Menus are subject to change.

METHODIST MEN

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for our next meeting at 8:00 AM on Saturday, September 16, 2023. 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. This month's speaker is Gray Chandler talking about the ramp ministry at our church.

MUSIC MINISTRY

All of the choirs are going strong in September! JAM and CAROL choirs are busy working on their musical that will be performed on Wednesday, November 8. If interested, come join us every Sunday! CAROL choir, grades 1-3 rehearse 5:30-6:10 pm and JAM choir, grades 4-6 rehearse

6:30-7:30 PM in the choir room, Bldg, #2.

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, September 5, 2023 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a fun filled program that will talk all about bees. Please bring a dish to go with hamburgers and bratwursts.

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

UPWARD

Announcing OPMC's 17th UPWARD Season. Early registration runs from September 1st – October 31st (\$90). Late registration runs through December 8th (\$100). Ages for both basketball and cheerleading go from K-12th Grade. Practice for K-1st, 2-3rd, and 4-5th will be on Monday or Tuesdays and 6-8th & 9-12th will practice on Thursdays. Games will be on Saturdays starting on January 6th and running though March 2nd. Practice will begin the week after Thanksgiving. We will be in great need of volunteers as we expand the league back to include high school. Registration links are below:

Online Player Registration: <https://registration.upward.org/UPW84852>

Volunteer Registration: <https://registration.upward.org/UPW84852/volunteer>

VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES

FRONT DESK RECEPTIONIST

We are looking for people who are willing to answer the phone and greet people as they sit at the receptionist desk in the church office. We have various times available. Please contact Robyn Voigt at 264-2241 ext. 273 to volunteer or ask questions.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY
EXTENDS OUR SYMPATHY
To

The family of Robert Fields
Lee Merrill in the death of his wife, Susan Merrill
The family of Pearl McCullough
The family of Margaret Jennings
Pearl Boles in the death of her mother, Evelyn Atkinson
Mary Miciano in the death of her sister, Joanne Mitchell

STAFF DIRECTORY

Church phone number - 264-2241

PASTOR

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

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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.

SEPTEMBER
RECOGNITIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Andy and Terry Dobbs	09/01	5 years
Larry and Linda Vanderwilt	09/03	46 years
Stephen and Nora Logan	09/03	29 years
Frank and Jackie Putnam	09/03	57 years
David and Kathleen Rowlinson	09/04	41 years
Wayne and Sheila Holder	09/05	36 years
Flavio and Jenny Chavez	09/06	10 years
Lee and June Butacan	09/08	50 years
Bob and Ann Hinzman	09/14	54 years
Tim and Susan Helms	09/18	3 years
Rick and Cheryl Sherback	09/18	14 years
Gene and Pat Warren	09/18	13 years
Jim and Carol Studdard	09/19	59 years
Michael and Jaclyn Gallagher	09/22	11 years
Scott and Theresa Barengo	09/22	7 years

BIRTHDAYS

Doug Brown	09/01	Connie Eden	09/18
Doug Westberry	09/01	Janet Ballantine	09/18
John Turpish	09/02	Donna Trumble	09/19
Aimee Turpish	09/02	Hannah Morin	09/19
Susan Griffis	09/03	Cooper Roth	09/19
Aidan Chandler	09/03	Jim Cribb	09/20
Madison Wilder	09/03	Jeff Killian	09/20
Ricky White	09/04	Naomi Anders	09/20
Bryan Crotts	09/04	Alyzabeth Morgan	09/20
Betty Young	09/06	Diane Howard	09/22
Earl Flanagan	09/07	Stacie Lancaster	09/22
Jasmine Wilger	09/07	Derry Dedmon	09/23
Joe Banks	09/07	Rick Sherback	09/23
Matthew Mansen	09/09	Anastasia Turpish	09/23
Gayle Martin	09/08	Aliyah Gray	09/24
Harmen Heeg	09/08	Nancy Dewey	09/25
William Kennedy	09/08	Lynda Davis	09/26
Kathleen Vanhooser	09/08	Jeannette Holliday	09/26
Jarred Dill	09/09	Carlyle Martin Jr.	09/27
Ray Bernard	09/09	Celie Meadows	09/27
Jessica Voigt	09/10	Belinda Spasoff	09/27
Macy Gardella	09/11	Amy Thomas	09/27
Ed Sellars	09/12	Mike Applegarth	09/27
Paige Keen	09/12	Wayne Tison	09/28
Andy Dobbs	09/12	Deborah Terry	09/28
Maddy Kramer	09/12	Maggie Hovda	09/28
Jamie Cioffi	09/13	Joseph Bryan	09/28
Dave Unsicker	09/14	Nick Despres	09/28
Beverly Bernard	09/14	Colette Thomas	09/29
Diane Cowie	09/15	Daniel Ringle	09/29
Vicky Moore	09/16	Ann Freehafer	09/29
Tara Volpe	09/17	Bob Moore	09/30
Dave Mosborg	09/18	Gene Warren	09/30
David McCranie	09/18	Jamie Hovda	09/30