



THE SEASON OF EPIPHANY IS UPON US!

Epiphany is one of the three oldest festivals in the Church. Only Easter and Pentecost have been celebrated with as much intensity and duration over the years. Epiphany is generally believed to have been originated in the Eastern Church. In its primitive form it incorporated the commemoration of Christ's birth into its celebration. Since the late fourth or fifth century the Epiphany has given up the celebration of Christ's birth to the Christmas festival of the Roman Church on December 25th.

WE HAVE FORGOTTEN

Sadly enough, however, much of the history of this festival of the Eastern Church has been lost and few in the Western Church are aware of the fact that the Epiphany was the earliest festival commemorating Christ's birth. In fact, the Anglican Church has come to understand this celebration of Epiphany in terms of Christ's baptism, the star that led the Magi to the Christ child, and Christ's first miracle which was turning water into wine.

This is clearly reflected in The Calendar of the Prayer Book. It states that the "Epiphany is the Greek word which signifies Manifestation, and has been of old used for this day whereon the star appeared to manifest Christ unto the wise men. There are three manifestations of our Lord, commemorated jointly by the Church on the Feast of Epiphany, all of which, S. Chrysostom says, happened on the same day, although not in the same year. The first manifestation was that of the star, the Gentiles' guide to Christ; the second, the manifestation of the Trinity at His Baptism, Luke 3: 22; the third, the manifestation of his glory or divinity, at His first miracle, that of turning water into wine, John 2: 11." The Calendar of the Prayer Book (London: Parker and Company, 1888), pp. 1-2.

MANIFESTATION AND REVELATION

McArthur, however, disapproves of the Anglican's approach to Epiphany. He states that the phrase, "Or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles," which follows the title, "The Epiphany," in The Book of Common Prayer is misleading. McArthur notes that it would be more suitable to insert the phrase, "the Manifestation, the Revelation of God to the World in Jesus Christ," as opposed to limiting it simply to, "the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles." Allan A. McArthur, The Evolution of the Christian Year (London: SCM Press, Ltd., 1953), p 31.

THE THREE MANIFESTATIONS OF JESUS CHRIST

Allan Hauck deals more adequately with the Epiphany, or manifestation of Christ to the world. He maintains that there are basically three epiphanies. One of which is to the Jews, one is to nature, and one is to the Gentiles.

The most significant of the three epiphanies is the epiphany to the Jews, or the baptism of Jesus. It was in Jesus' baptism that his earthly ministry was begun and he was clearly identified as the Messiah. The second epiphany was symbolized by his first miracle and it established his Lordship over nature. In his first miracle Christ turned the water into wine at the wedding of Cana. The third epiphany commemorates Jesus' Lordship over the Gentiles. This was symbolized by the Magi, who were Gentiles, who came bearing gifts to the Christ child. Allan Hauck, Calendar of Christianity (New York: Association Press, 1961), pp. 76-81.

EPIPHANY AND METHODISM

The Book of Worship states that the lection in the Gospel of Matthew concerning the Wise Men or Magi is to be used on the first Sunday in Epiphany. In the Methodist Church, therefore, it is only the Magi tradition that is celebrated on the first Sunday in Epiphany.

There is no Epiphany Day service to commemorate the coming of the Magi, Christ's baptism, and Christ's first miracle. In fact, there is no Epiphany Day service at all unless by coincidence the first Sunday in Epiphany falls on January 6th. The season of Epiphany in The Book of Worship runs from Epiphany Day on January 6th to the beginning of the Lenten season (which is determined by the date on which Easter falls). The Book of Worship (Nashville: The Methodist Publishing House, 1966), pp. 61-64.

THE GENERAL THEME OF EPIPHANY

Clarence Seidenspinner in his book, Great Protestant Festivals, writes "the general theme of the Epiphany festival is the relation of Jesus to the world: the way in which his sights illumine our darkened times; the way in which his spirit of love may bring the nations of the world together; the way in which his devotion to the Kingdom of God may bring to pass the beloved community upon the earth (p. 72)."

In the Methodist Church the lectionary follows this general theme throughout the season of Epiphany. It begins with

- the periscope concerning the Magi which speaks to Christ's Lordship over the Gentiles (Matthew 2: 1-12);
- the relationship of the old law to Christ and the new stage which has been set by him (Matthew 5: 14-20);
- his early childhood experiences in the temple of which he spoke to his parents of his "father's house" (Luke 2: 39-52);
- his calling forth amongst the crowd for his father to glorify his name and the heavenly reply of reassurance (John 12: 20-36a);
- his baptism in which his divinity was proclaimed to the Jews (John 1: 19-30);
- his relationship with the Samaritan woman to whom he declared his Messiahship (John 4: 7-26);
- the testimony of Nathaniel concerning Jesus' Lordship and Kingship (John 1: 35-51);
- Jesus' insight into eternal life and the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37);
- and on the last Sunday in Epiphany the Gospel lection speaks of Christ calling forth to his disciples and his desire to make them "fishers of men" (Mark 1: 14-22).

All of these lections reflect the revelation of God being made manifest in the world through Jesus Christ. Unlike the Epiphany Day celebration of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Church's, which celebrate the three manifestations of Christ's Lordship, the Methodist Church has no such celebration on January 6th unless that date marks the first Sunday in the season of Epiphany. In such a case as this the celebration is, according to the lectionary of the Methodist Church, concerned only with the tradition of the Magi and no others. Christ's baptism is celebrated on the fifth Sunday in Epiphany but the miracle at Cana is not celebrated at all during this season. The season itself, however, is a celebration which commemorates the revelation of God made known to the world in the Incarnation of Jesus, the Christ.

LET US CELEBRATE GOD'S GRACE!

LITURGICAL COLORS FOR EPIPHANY

The liturgical color for the first Sunday in Epiphany is white. The meaning of this color is noted in the previous section of this paper. The liturgical color for those Sundays following the first season in Epiphany is green. Green is the color which is most favored by nature and which is a symbol of growth in both nature and the Church. It is also the color most favored by nature and consequently is used on ordinary days in the Church.

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH: PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

- Dinner, crafts & activities, and watch a movie on the big screen!
- \$20 for 1st child, \$15 for each additional child
- **Drop off:** 5:30 PM in the Family Life Center Lobby
- **Pick up:** No later than 9:30 PM in the Family Life Center Lobby
- Scan the QR Code to Register by Sunday, January 12th



VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2025- EGYPT: JOSEPH'S JOURNEY FROM PRISON TO PALACE

At Egypt VBC, everyone gets to explore first-hand the culture of Joseph's world. Alongside Joseph, they'll experience the heart-breaking trials, joyous victories, and tear-filled celebrations of this unique Bible hero.

- Dates: July 21-25, 2025
- 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 Skate Station, Tree Hill Nature Center, live camel riding and more!

COST AND PAYMENTS

- Participant Cost: \$200 per child
- \$100 Refundable Deposit Due Upon Registration. (Full refunds on deposits/payments are available if cancellation is on or before June 23rd)
- Youth/Adult Volunteer Cost: \$85 per person (this cost covers field trips, shirt, and meals)
- Deadline for Registration & Final Payment- June 23rd
- To register your child, or to register as a volunteer, scan the QR Code:



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

ROCK THE UNIVERSE

- Friday, January 24th – Sunday, January 26th
- Rock the Universe is an unforgettable weekend of faith and fun. On Friday the 24th and Saturday the 25th of January, experience powerful beats from Christian Music's brightest stars and thrilling rides at Universal Studios Florida. There is a waiting list.

SPRING BREAK TRIP (TAMPA BAY)

- Friday, March 14th – Monday, March 17th
- Stay at Lake Magdalene Methodist Church in Tampa, FL
- We are going to Busch Gardens for a day and to enjoy the beautiful beach at Honeymoon Island State Park.
- We will also worship at Lake Magdalene on Sunday morning.
- Cost: \$200



SPRING CONFIRMATION RETREAT

- Friday, April 25th – Sunday, April 27th
- This is the first retreat that our rising 7th graders/confirmation students can participate in. We look forward to having a big group this year! There are opportunities to kayak or enjoy their slip-and-slide into the lake. This year we are going to have tubing in the lake!
- Cost: \$70



SUMMER EVENTS

SUMMER INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIP

- Friday, June 20th - Friday, June 27th 2025
- Destination: Belize
- Mission Organization: Praying Pelican Missions
- Registration Deadline: January 12, 2025
- Student Cost: \$800
- Chaperone Cost: \$1,200



FUNDRAISERS

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. She can be reached at 904-264-2241 ext. 243.

UPCOMING DATES

January 17th, February 14th, March 7th and April 11th

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 904-264-2241 ext. 282.

EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

The Early Education Center staff would like to wish all the members of the church a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Please continue praying for the staff, parents, and children in The Early Education Center.

We are glad to start off the New Year sharing God's Word with the children and hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. Our themes for this month are: Ringing in the New Year, Snow Week, Outer Space, Pets and At the Farm. Our Bible Lessons will include Keep the Christmas Spirit in the New Year, God Made the Seasons, Martin Luther King Jr., Unique as Snow, and Pets are a Blessing.

We are so excited to announce that Ms. Ellen does Chapel every Thursday along with Ms. Martha and Mr. Nick. Mr. Nick and Ms. Martha also play music every Tuesday with the children.

During the week of January 13th, we will be setting up for our annual Florida "Snow" week. The children will be able to experience snowballs, cold, ice and different aspects of snow and cold. We also look forward to Gray Chandler coming to visit with the children and teaching them about train safety. Our Character Trait for January is Fairness, and our children will wear orange on January 24th to represent fairness. We will be teaching the children that there is no partiality with God.

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

SEASON TICKETS FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY

Adults - \$49 and Children - \$40

January 8 - Salisbury Steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, roasted carrots, roll, salad and chocolate cake

January 5 - Hawaiian pork with rice and gravy, succotash, sweet potato casserole, roll, cole slaw and pineapple upside down cake

January 22 - Chicken Lemon with rice and gravy, lima beans, corn pudding casserole, garlic bread, Caesar salad and lemon bars

January 29 - Meat loaf with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, salad and blueberry cake

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, January 18, 2025. The program will be Dr. Charles Lever giving a report on the growing ministries of the church. All of the Methodist Men are encouraged to come and enjoy one of our delicious breakfasts prepared by one of our cook teams.

MUSIC MINISTRY

COME JOIN A CHOIR

Happy New Year from the Music Department!

We are so excited for this coming year and we have lots of activities, trips and musicals planned for the year.

This is the perfect time to join a choir as we are starting all new music and we have a choir for all ages:

Carol Choir (K - 3rd Grades) - Sundays from 5:30 - 6:10 PM
JAM Choir (4th - 6th Grades) - Sundays from 6:30 - 7:30 PM
Regeneration Choir (7th - 12th Grades) - Sundays from 4:40 - 5:30 PM

Chancel Bells - Tuesdays from 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Praise Band (must audition) - Tuesdays 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Dynamics (Men's Choir) - Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Inspirations (Women's Choir) - Thursdays 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Chancel Choir (Adult Choir) - Thursdays 7:00 - 8:30 PM

If you have any questions please contact the Music Department at 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, January 7, 2025 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be Your Health and What You Can Do to Improve your life. Bring a dish to go with a variety of soups.

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

STAFF DIRECTORY

Church phone number - 904-264-2241

PASTOR

Dr. Charles C. Lever, Sr. Pastor, ext. 273
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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.

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 January 5 and meets every Sunday
- Meeting time is from 5:00 - 6:30 PM in Room #4224
- 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 264-2241 x273 with any questions

ORANGE PARK METHODIST WOMEN

COME JOIN A CIRCLE

Deborah Circle

Chair - Connie Eden (904-343-5612)
Meets 4th Tuesday at 7:00 PM
Meets in Room 6203

Elizabeth Circle

Co-Chairs - Sandy Carlson (904-945-9346) and
June Butacan (904-707-3771)
Meets 3rd Thursday at 9:30 AM
Meets in Fellowship Hall

Mary Lydia Circle

Chair - Cindy Koon (904-210-3546)
Meets 3rd Wednesday at 10:00 AM
Meets in Fellowship Hall

METHODIST WOMEN FUNDRAISER

METHODIST WOMEN SOUP & CHILI FEST

Mark your calendars on January 26, 2025 for the Soup and Chili Fest held by the Methodist Women in the Family Life Center after the Sunday church service. Details have not been determined at this time, but flyers will be displayed early in January and tickets will be sold by members of the three circles. We plan to give more information as to price, types of soup and chili, and what will be served with them. Keep your eye out for more information in the church bulletins on Sundays.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY EXTENDS OUR SYMPATHY To

Julie Killian in the death of her father, Bill Shenton
Jeff Provow in the death of his mother, Denelda Provow

MISSIONS NIMBLE NEEDLES

Looking for a ministry to share your creative, crafty talents? Or just looking to put your unused fabrics and yarn to good use? Nimble Needles welcomes you and/or your donations! Members of this unique ministry create items of comfort for Clay County residents who are in less than desirable circumstances. Those in nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, assisted living and memory care centers, Quigley House, etc. Our handmade items include lap robes, wheelchair and walker totes, shawls, bibs, fidget quilts, baby blankets, and youth quilts. Perhaps you have an item of comfort, you'd like to see created. We share ideas, patterns, and donated items, as well as, create great friendships. Nimble Needles meets every second Wednesday of the month in Room 6202 in the FLC at 10:00 AM. Donations of yarn and fabric can be dropped off at the church office between 8 AM - 4 PM, Monday through Friday. Join us and help make a difference in our community!

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Here is a listing of the upcoming committee meetings.

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 7	Altar Guild - 3:00 PM
Monday, January 13	SPR Meeting - 7:00 PM
Tuesday, January 14	Trustee's Meeting - 7:00 PM
Monday, January 21	Finance Committee - 6:00 PM
Tuesday, January 21	Church Council - 7:00 PM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

USHERS

We need ushers at both the 9:30 and 11:00 AM worship services. Ushers are responsible for handing out bulletins, greeting the congregation members as well as helping collect the offering. They rotate on a weekly basis. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Mari Anne Peeples at 904-264-2241 x272.

COMMUNION SERVERS

If you are interested in helping serve Communion at either the 9:30 or 11:00 AM worship service, please contact Mari Anne Peeples at 904-264-2241 x272.

COMMUNION SET UP

We need help setting up Communion on the 4th Sunday of each month at the 9:30 AM service. Please call Mari Anne Peeples if you are interested in helping.

JANUARY RECOGNITIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Randy and Tara Bunn	01/02	37 years
Dale and Marilyn Freeman	01/08	71 years
David and Janet Ballantine	01/21	41 years
John and Erika Lippincott	01/24	16 years
Wilbur and Sue Anne Rubright	01/27	35 years
Joe and Peggy Grantham	01/29	53 years
Toby and Janyce Coussens	01/30	60 years

BIRTHDAYS

Sara Burge	01/01	Leel Knowles	01/19
Dale Freeman	01/01	Jill Schmidt	01/19
Jerry Habeck	01/02	Lillian Bell	01/20
Nancy Garrett	01/03	Tyler Fleming	01/20
Jose Claudio	01/03	Aurora King	01/20
Kelley Drawdy	01/04	Jaxon King	01/20
Jacob Butacan	01/04	Ken Eberlein	01/21
Peggy Stone	01/05	Lauren Magin	01/21
Brenna LaBelle	01/06	Kelsey Eiswerth	01/22
Oliver Manning	01/08	Aedan Bonneval	01/22
John Lippincott	01/06	Mary Johnson	01/23
Alicia Turpish	01/08	Isabella Oyola	01/23
George Martin	01/08	Dave Harwood	01/23
Bill Bazemore	01/08	Walker Stowers	01/23
Charlie Schmidt	01/08	Wyatt Stowers	01/23
Linda Renehan	01/09	Sharon Noel	01/24
Hailey Fleming	01/09	Sharlene Schlichtman	01/24
Marti Boatright	01/10	Andrew Turpish	01/24
Kathleen Rowlinson	01/10	Karen Toth	01/24
Richard Carden	01/11	Kitty Baker	01/25
Kathy Wray	01/11	Dave Conaway	01/25
Dave Bily	01/12	Norma Allgood	01/25
Carolyn Sellars	01/13	Joanna Armistead	01/26
Dorothy Davis	01/13	Logan Seeley	01/26
Pat McCarty	01/13	Catelyn Waters	01/27
Sandy Austin	01/14	William Strong	01/27
Charlotte Terry	01/14	Kathleen Moore	01/27
Andrew Mansen	01/14	Anna Freehafer	01/28
Geneva Gray	01/14	Jim Reape	01/28
Erika Lippincott	01/14	Mark Meier	01/28
Charlotte Ryan	01/14	Norman Jones	01/28
Lee Lobello	01/15	Ashlyn Eden	01/29
Ray White	01/16	Mindy Maconi	01/30
Stasha Martin	01/16	Lynn Murphey	01/31
Nolan Stowers	01/16	Martha Reid	01/31
John Norton	01/17	Michael Griffis	01/31
Julia Cramer	01/18		