



**Come and Join Our Church Family  
in a  
Vacation Bible Camp Celebration  
on  
Sunday, July 27, 2025**

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

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**JOIN US FOR THIS  
TIME OF CELEBRATION**

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**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**

# 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 2025

- 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 Despres at edespres@opmethodist.org or (904) 264-2241 Ext. 243
- Cost: \$40.00 per child
- To register your child, please visit opmethodist.org or email Ellen Despres at edespres@opmethodist.org as soon as possible, as space is limited. If the event you are interested in is (FULL), you may email Ellen Despres to be added to the waitlist.

### KIDS CAMP DATES & ACTIVITIES

- Wednesday, July 2nd: Kingsland Station Train Ride in Kingsland, GA
- Wednesday, July 9th: St. Augustine Pirate Ship Cruise (FULL)
- Wednesday, July 16th: Sweet Pete's Candy Making Class (FULL)
- Wednesday, July 30th: Swimming at Madison Blue Springs (FULL)

### VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2025- EGYPT: JOSEPH'S JOURNEY

At Egypt VBC, everyone gets to explore first-hand the culture of Joseph's world. Alongside Joseph, they'll experience the heartbreaking 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 Skate Park, Tree Hill Nature Center, live camel rides, and Shipwreck Island Waterpark!

### COST AND PAYMENTS

- Participant Cost: \$200 per child

- \$100 Refundable Deposit Due Upon Registration.
- Youth/Adult Volunteer Cost: \$85 per person (this cost covers field trips, shirt, and meals)

Please contact Ellen Despres at edespres@opmethodist.org or (904) 264-2241 Ext. 243 for any questions about VBC!

### 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 offering and 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 (904) 264-2241 ext. 243 or edespres@opmethodist.org.



# 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

### SUMMER WAVES

- Tuesday, July 1st, 2025
- Destination: Jekyll Island
- Time: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM
- Cost: \$35



### MINI GOLF NIGHT

- Tuesday, July 8th, 2025
- Destination: Anastasia Mini Golf
- Time: 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM
- Cost: \$20



### ST. SIMON'S ISLAND + PINBALL MUSEUM

- Tuesday, July 15th, 2025
- Destination: St. Simon's Island
- Time: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM
- Cost: \$40



### MOVIE NIGHT: THE FANTASTIC FOUR

- Tuesday, July 29th, 2025
- Destination: AMC Orange Park
- Time: 8:00 PM - 11:30 PM
- Cost: \$20



### YOUTH/PARENT MEETING - SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM IN THE YOUTH ROOM

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**

5:30-5:50 PM - Dinner in the FLC Gym

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 27th

October 11th

**EARLY EDUCATION  
CENTER**

Our teachers work to instill a sense of self-esteem and self-confidence in each child. Our children learn about God through our weekly chapel experiences with Mr. Nick and Ms. Ellen and the classroom Bible stories that are read. Our facilities will be closed on Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> for Independence Day.

Our themes for the month of July are as follows:

**Week of June 30<sup>th</sup>** - we will be talking about the American Patriotic theme – Bible Lesson is Jesus Gives Us Freedom from Sin.

**Week of July 7<sup>th</sup>** - Theme will be Pond Life/Frogs/Nature Detectives – Bible Lesson is Let the Children Come Unto Me and Jesus Loves the Bible.

**Week of July 14<sup>th</sup>** - Watermelons/Picnic Week - Bible lesson is Ruth and Naomi and will focus on Loyalty.

**Week of July 21<sup>st</sup>** - Theme is Bugs/Insect/Bees - Bible lesson is The Parable of the Lost Coin.

**Week of July 28<sup>th</sup>** - Theme will be Sports/Team Spirit – Bible lesson is God is My Superhero/Jesus is the Ultimate!

Our children love water play on Fridays – IT KEEPS THEM COOL in this hot weather.

In April and May we celebrated two of our employees Ms. Vickie and Ms. Margaret Howard. They have been at the Early Education Center for 25 Years!

If you know of anyone interested in full-time childcare, please call (904) 264-7330 or (904) 704-9762 for more information or visit our website at [www.opmethodist.org](http://www.opmethodist.org) under Early Education Center. Right now, we have room for VPK (Voucher pre-k) in our full day program, as well as one -year olds and up.

Hope you all are having a great summer – and please remember to pray for our families and we will have the children keep all of you in their prayers.!

**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 1, 2025 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be a Patriotic theme presented by John Roberson. 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.

**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 JULY/AUGUST

Adults - \$49 and Children - \$40

**July 2** - Pot roast with onions and carrots, potatoes, green beans, roll, salad and bread pudding

**July 9** - Seasoned boneless pork chop, field peas, cheesy scalloped potatoes, cornbread, coleslaw and carrot cake

**July 16** - Chicken parmesan, noodles, green beans, garlic bread, salad and Apple crisp

**July 23** - No dinner due to Vacation Bible Camp

**July 30** - Salisbury steak with gravy, broccoli, mashed potatoes, roll, salad and brownie

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 19, 2025. The program will be presented by David Stallings on Emmaus. 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**

Now is the perfect time to join a choir! We are learning new music and going strong through the summer.

**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 and joins with the JAM choir in a musical each year.

**JAM CHOIR - (JESUS A.ND ME)** - 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 a choir trip.

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

- ReGeneration is a vocal youth choir who sings for Worship services throughout the year including Advent, Christmas Eve, Lent, Easter, a musical and a Choir Tour every summer.

**OUR CHURCH FAMILY  
EXTENDS OUR SYMPATHY  
To**

The Family of Nancy Garrett

Les Townsley in the death of his wife, Sandra Townsley

Harold Voigt in the death of his father, Harold Voigt Sr.

Kenneth Plummer in the death of his sister-in-law,

Patricia O'Brien

Janet Robertson in the death of her mom, Frankie Blanton

The Family of Jack Dean

# COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Here is a listing of the upcoming committee meetings.

## JULY

Tuesday, July 15     Trustee's Meeting  
Monday, July 21     Finance Committee  
Tuesday, July 22     Church Council

# 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  
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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

# 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](mailto: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.

# 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 6206 in the FLC at 10:00 AM (we take off July and August). 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! For more information, please contact Karen Gebhard at (904) 505-4427.

# 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 when there is a 5th Sundays at the 9:30 AM service. Please call Mari Anne Peeples if you are interested in helping.

# JULY RECOGNITIONS

## ANNIVERSARIES

|                            |       |          |
|----------------------------|-------|----------|
| Don and Cheri Briggs       | 07/01 | 58 years |
| Peter and Cindy Groeneveld | 07/03 | 24 years |
| Don and Gaye Maconi        | 07/05 | 39 years |
| Tom and Julie Williams     | 07/05 | 17 years |
| Ken and Marie Bendy        | 07/08 | 65 years |
| Danny and Cindy Koon       | 07/10 | 55 years |
| Jimmy and Judith Matthews  | 07/11 | 4 years  |
| David and Connie Eden      | 07/12 | 50 years |
| Debbie and Bob Bradshaw    | 07/12 | 17 years |
| Jimmie and Carol Seeley    | 07/15 | 63 years |
| Gray and Nancy Chandler    | 07/19 | 50 years |
| Heather and Jack Lawson    | 07/22 | 14 years |
| Curtis and Jill Schmidt    | 07/22 | 30 years |
| Gary Wagner & Sandy Jones  | 07/24 | 8 years  |
| Andy and Joyce Manson      | 07/25 | 55 years |
| Nick and Ellen Despres     | 07/25 | 10 years |
| Ron and Karen Gebhard      | 07/26 | 39 years |
| Gary and Pat Meeks         | 07/30 | 31 years |
| John and Ann Tabor         | 07/30 | 42 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 |
| Joyce Manson      | 07/02 | Mary Edwards      | 07/20 |
| Hannah Heyer      | 07/02 | Bob Johnson       | 07/20 |
| George Hoskins    | 07/02 | Rosanna Housend   | 07/20 |
| Millie Murray     | 07/02 | John Roberson     | 07/21 |
| Catherine Drawdy  | 07/03 | Raiden Applegarth | 07/22 |
| Rod Fisher        | 07/03 | Gary Wagner       | 07/22 |
| LaVonne Maxfield  | 07/03 | Jeanne Young      | 07/23 |
| Amy McMaster      | 07/04 | Cindy Cummins     | 07/23 |
| Linda Gardella    | 07/04 | Michela Figueroa  | 07/23 |
| Sharon Neglia     | 07/05 | George Tyree      | 07/24 |
| Peter Groeneveld  | 07/07 | Theo Hovda        | 07/24 |
| Joan Bradley      | 07/08 | Diane Bazemore    | 07/24 |
| Lauren Martin     | 07/08 | Daniel Manning    | 07/25 |
| Ethel Bell        | 07/08 | Abigail Hines     | 07/26 |
| David Watkins     | 07/09 | Brandon Chandler  | 07/27 |
| Daniel Watkins    | 07/09 | Jeff Knafelc      | 07/27 |
| Sandy Jones       | 07/10 | Michael Maxfield  | 07/27 |
| Cindy Groeneveld  | 07/11 | Sean Cronin       | 07/28 |
| Pat Johnson       | 07/13 | Alexei Turpish    | 07/28 |
| Ron Davis         | 07/16 | Norma Lee         | 07/28 |
| London Seeley     | 07/16 | Darrell White     | 07/28 |
| Paul Burshuliak   | 07/16 | Millie Martin     | 07/28 |
| Diane Rood        | 07/16 | Jo-Ann Cox        | 07/28 |
| Kristin Messler   | 07/17 | Timea Chandler    | 07/30 |
| Rhett Sessions    | 07/17 | Pat Warren        | 07/30 |
| Doris Owens       | 07/18 | John Banton       | 07/30 |
| David Young       | 07/18 | Michael Stanley   | 07/30 |