



CHURCH COUNCIL APPROVES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Church Council (following the unanimous recommendation of the Work Area on Worship, the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee) approved a capital campaign to cover the costs of:

1. A New Sanctuary Roof
2. the costs of disaffiliation
3. and exterior lighting for the Sanctuary and Park Square

SANCTUARY ROOF

All the members and Friends of Orange Park Methodist Church should have received a letter about the need and approval of a new sanctuary roof. If you did not, you can request one from Robyn Voigt via email and she will send you one. In summary the sanctuary roof has been leaking for over a decade and minor repairs have been made each year, often costing thousands of dollars. The tile on the roof is no longer available and has to be picked up from a boneyard in Tampa, a costly addition to each repair. Recently, we have had leaks over the chancel area and the sanctuary pews, getting closer to damaging our organ and sound system. So, the Trustees were asked to get a quote on repair and replacement. Although concrete tiles are supposed to last a hundred years, the underlayment is not guaranteed and generally lasts only twenty to thirty years requiring replacement which is usually as costly as replacing the entire roof. Instead of going back with concrete tiles, the Trustees asked our preferred roofer and architect what they would recommend. Each said; for the warranty (which is 40 years parts and labor against leakage) the manufacturers warranty (which is not dependent upon the installing entity) and the cost being a third less than concrete tiles, that the asphalt roof was the best fit for our situation.

DISAFFILIATION COSTS

In 2023 our church family voted to leave the United Methodist Church under a special paragraph in the Discipline that expired on December 31, 2023. The decision was made in regard to an ongoing discussion within the United Methodist Church over the divinity of Christ. The discussion came to light when Bishop Whittaker (of the Florida Annual Conference at that time) challenged Bishop Sprague (of the Chicago Area Conference at that time) regarding his book, "Affirmations of a Dissenter." Bishop's Whittaker's concerns grew out of Bishop Sprague's openly defiant statements regarding God as a Supreme Being and the divinity of Jesus.

- One such statement in his book was, "If the virgin birth did not occur in a physical, historical sense, if Jesus was born of human parents, as I affirm he was, and if Jesus did not possess transhuman, natural powers, as I do not believe he did, what sense can we make of the miraculous stories about him in the Gospel accounts" (page 40).
- Another such statement was, "God is not a Supreme Being 'out there' in the great beyond. Rather, the word of God is the sound image we humans employ to point to the very essence of it all." (page 40).

Laity and clergy alike found his words heretical and charges of heresy were filed against him. However, a panel of his peers found him not guilty. Although there had been concern about his theology for years, it only came to the attention of the general church with the publishing of his book in 2002. When Paragraph 2553 emerged in the Discipline, which allowed churches to withdraw because of seemingly irreconcilable differences with the United Methodist Church, many churches took advantage of this opportunity to leave. In Judicial Ruling 1453, the Judicial Council upheld the Alabama-West Conference policy to "not explore the reasoning of a local church in deciding to disaffiliate." The Florida Conference allowed churches to leave because of the action or inaction of the annual conference concerning the Discipline. Our church family voted, with an 83% margin, to leave the United Methodist Church. Although each individual's vote was by secret ballot, and no one knows why each individual voted as he or she did, there was unanimous agreement that, in sharp repudiation of Bishop Sprague's theology, we affirm God as a Supreme Being, the creator of the Universe and Jesus, the Christ, as His Son.

EXTERIOR LIGHTING PROJECT

Over the last ten years the Board of Trustees, in addition to providing paved parking throughout the campus, has worked to light up the entire campus at night. They have made steady progress often doing a single building a year. All that is left at this point is the Sanctuary and Park Square. Although the parking around them is lit up, most of the exteriors of each is not. This additional lighting will complete this ten year project.

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

You will be receiving additional information about the Capital Campaign in the coming weeks regarding how you can participate. We encourage you to read the information and ask any questions that you have of our church leaders and staff. And, after prayerful consideration, giving as you are able to it. We realize that many within our congregation give sacrificially to our church and are unable to do more. We understand. And, of course, we do not want you to make a contribution to the Capital Campaign if it will require a reduction in your giving to the church budget. Your love and devotion to our church family is greatly appreciated. What we do as a church family we could not do without your continued support. You enable us to do what we do!

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
- Confirmation Class: Room 4221 in the Education Building

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

MAY 17TH - PARENTS NIGHT OUT

- Infant - 6th Grade
- Attendees will enjoy playing games, making crafts, having pizza and fruit for dinner, as well as watching a movie!
- Cost: \$20 for the first child, \$15 for each additional child
- Drop Off: Family Life Center Gym (Building 5) at 5:30 PM
- Pick Up: Fellowship Hall (Building 7) by 9:30 PM
- Registration Deadline: Sunday, May 12th
- To register, scan the QR Code below



WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY SUMMER KIDS CAMP 2024

- 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, or to find out more information, scan the QR Code next to the event!

KIDS CAMP DATES & ACTIVITIES

- Wednesday, June 5th - Horseback Riding at Batton Family Ranch
- Wednesday, June 12th - Shrimping on the Amelia Island Shrimp Boat River Tour
- Wednesday, June 26th - Jumbo Shrimp Baseball Game
- Wednesday, July 3rd - Lazer Tag, Bowling, and Arcade at Bravo Entertainment Center



- Wednesday, July 10th - St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum
- Wednesday, July 17th - Catty Shack Ranch
- Wednesday, July 31st - Madison Blue Springs



VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2024- SCUBA: DIVING INTO FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

Take kids deep into an amazing undersea adventure where they'll experience the ever-flowing, never-ending love of God. At Scuba VBC, kids will be immersed in the Word, and discover what living water is really all about!

- Dates: July 22-26
- 7:30 AM-5:30 PM Daily
- Includes breakfast, lunch, two snacks, exciting field trips, and more!
- Grades PreK- Rising 6th Graders
- Field Trips include the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum, Shipwreck Island Waterpark, the Alligator Farm, and the GTM Research Reserve!

Cost and Payments

- 50% Refundable Deposit Due Upon Registration. (Full refunds on deposits/payments are available if cancellation is on or before June 12th)
- Early Registration: \$170 per Child (March 2nd- May 8th)
- General Registration: \$195 per Child (May 9th- June 12th)
- Early Youth Volunteer Registration: \$75 per Youth Volunteer (March 2nd- May 8th)
- General Youth Volunteer Registration: \$85 per Youth Volunteer (May 9th- June 12th)
- Deadline for Registration & Final Payment- June 12th
- To register your child, or to register as a volunteer, scan the QR Code below:



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

GRADUATING SENIORS

Graduation is right around the corner! We are honored that over the years you have let Orange Park Methodist Church be a part of raising your child in the faith! To celebrate their accomplishments and the next chapter of their life we will recognize graduating seniors on May 19th in the 11 AM service.



To have your senior recognized in the worship service, please register them by using the QR code:

Thank you so much and congratulations to our seniors!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING RETREAT

- Friday, May 10th – Sunday, May 12th
- North Florida Christian Retreat Center in Keystone Heights
- This is first retreat that our rising 7th graders/confirmation students can participate in.
- We look forward to having a big group this year!
- This year we are going to have tubing in the lake!

WIFFLEBALL

- Every Sunday Night in May
- Dinner is \$5
- 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

SUMMER EVENTS

SUMMER MISSION TRIP

- Saturday, July 6th - Saturday, July 13th
Destination: Western Kentucky (La Center)
Mission Organization: Team Effort
- All the details about the trip are available by scanning this QR code



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 at the event. Contact Ellen Despres at edespres@opmethodist.org.

The Parent's Night Out is on May 17th.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

VBC VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

- Monday, July 22nd through Friday, July 26th: 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM
- Early Registration: \$75 per Youth Volunteer (March 2nd-May 8th)
- General Registration: \$85 per Youth Volunteer (May 9th-June 12th)

YOUTH VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- Crafts Assistant (2)
- Actor/Actress (2)
- Crew Leader Assistants (20)
- Games/Recreation Assistant (2)
- Imagination Science Station Assistant (2)
- Bible Lesson Assistant (2)



VBC FIELD TRIPS

Summer Waves Water Park, Alligator Farm, St. Augustine Lighthouse, GTM Research Reserve

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.

EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

This month we will be appreciating our Teachers, celebrating our Mothers and sharing God's Word with the children. Our Bible themes for the month are Joshua and the Battle of Jericho, Mother's Day, Saul becomes Paul and The Bible is God's Word.

On May 3rd, we will have a celebration with the children for Cinco de Mayo with piñatas and a parade around the school with instruments that the children will make.

We will celebrate our teachers the week of May 6th. We ask parents to bring in a small gift such as a flower for their teacher to show how much they appreciate her/them. We thank you for your prayers and ask that you continue to keep praying for them.

Our children will be making special presents to honor their moms for Mother's Day on May 14th. Please pray for all the moms in our program. The Early Education Center will offer our prayers for all the moms in the church during our weekly chapel time.

Our facilities will be closed on May 27, 2024 in honor of Memorial Day to remember those who gave their lives for our country.

Our Character Trait for May will be Citizenship and the color is purple. Philippians 3:30 – For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus.

Our Pre-K/Kindergarten will be practicing hard for the Graduation Ceremony scheduled for May 21st @ 6:45 P.M.

This is a wonderful ceremony for our VPK children, and they look forward to this delightful night. We will serve punch and cake for the special occasion.

Please remember to register your child or tell a friend that we still have some space available. We provide full-time care for children ages 2 months to VPK from 6:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

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 TICKET PRICES
Adults - \$56 and Child - \$45

May 1 - Beef Stroganoff with noodles, glazed carrots, lima beans, roll, salad and Klondike bars

May 8 - Blackened boneless pork chop with rice and gravy, seasoned black-eyed peas, mixed vegetables, cornbread, coleslaw and apple crisp

May 15 - Chicken Parmesan with noodles, vegetables, succotash, garlic bread, salad and carrot cake

May 22 - Salisbury steak with gravy, potatoes, broccoli, potatoes, roll, salad and chocolate cake with icing

May 29 - Hawaiian pork with rice and gravy, mixed vegetables, sweet potato casserole, cornbread, coleslaw and pineapple upside down 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, May 18, 2024. The program will be presented by Carroll H. Schlader who practices as an Eldercare and End of Life Financial Planner. 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 SPRING BBQ

Come enjoy food and fellowship at the Spring BBQ!

- Sunday, May 19th, from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM
- Pulled pork BBQ sandwich 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

ORANGE PARK METHODIST WOMEN

METHODIST WOMEN'S SPRING DINNER

PASTA PASTA PASTA

Get ready for pasta-bilities!

Orange Park Methodist Women are having their Spring Fundraiser, Sunday, June 9th immediately following the 11:00 AM Service. A Spaghetti Dinner with salad, garlic bread, drink and dessert. Red and white sauce available. Gluten-free options available. Tickets will be \$10. Tickets will be available to purchase beginning in May. Funds will go to church and local missions. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship, buon appetito.

MUSIC MINISTRY

BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for your support with ReGeneration's Dinner Theater in April! We couldn't have done it without you! What's coming up? Our seniors graduate soon and we look forward to hearing about their adventures in college: Nathan Bartholomew, Nathan Reid, and Gigi Sessions. We have one last trip with them-- ReGeneration's choir tour through Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana! We leave Sunday, June 2 right after the 9:30 AM service, and return

Saturday, June 8. We'll experience Dollywood and share our Dinner Theater show with First United Methodist Church in Newport, Tennessee. Then we're off to visit Abraham Lincoln's boyhood home, the Louisville Slugger Factory, Churchill Downs, Squire Boone Caverns, Noah's Ark, a Cincinnati Red's baseball game, and finish up with a hike in the Smoky Mountains before coming home! Whew!

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

JAM and CAROL choir (K-6th grade) are busy having fun! They sound amazing! Look for them on Mother's Day when they sing a special piece with the Chancel choir!

Our group that attends the Jacksonville Symphony has one more concert. Our seats are in the choral terrace, where you get a unique view from behind the musicians, and an amazing sound! The best part is, you don't have to drive! Come park at the church and we provide transportation, using the church bus and van! There's still room for you! Interested? Please contact Martha or Ruth- (904)264-2241 x245 Tickets are \$29 per person.

Friday, May 17- 7:30 PM
Vahghan Williams- The Lark Ascending
Walton Symphony No. 1

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, May 7, 2024 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be Songs by Melody White. Please bring a dish to go with a taco bar. Seasoned hamburger and chicken will be provided. Invite a friend and join us. If you have questions, please call Cindy Koon at 904-210-3546.

GREAT TIME AT THE CLAY COUNTY FAIR

We took a group of 20 people to the Clay County Fair and had a fabulous time. We saw the animals and exhibits as well as ate the great fair food!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY
EXTENDS OUR SYMPATHY
To

Dennis and Nancy Dewey in the death of
his mother, Shirley Dewey

Carol Studdard in the death of
her husband, James Studdard

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
Martha Reid, Assoc. Director of Music, ext. 237
mreid@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. Space is limited. All submissions are subject to available space and are subject to approval and redaction at the sole discretion of the editor.

MAY
RECOGNITIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Donna Dvorak and Rick Schimmel	05/01	4 years
Norman and Alisa Jones	05/05	45 years
Billy and Becky Wall	05/07	58 years
Bob and MaryAnn Harvey	05/07	57 years
Grady and Pearl Boles	05/09	54 years
Paul and Debbie Frendahl	05/10	22 years
Harold and Robyn Voigt	05/19	34 years
Larry and Dianna Shivertaker	05/20	57 years
Jerry and Mary Cioffi	05/23	54 years
Dave and Diantha Owen	05/23	38 years
Marty and Tonya Wilson	05/23	56 years
Pat and Patrice Dougher	05/24	4 years
Rick and Pam Jacobs	05/25	50 years
Jerry and Molly Sidner	05/26	57 years
Tony and Alma Quails	05/27	46 years
Bill and Lisa Adams	05/30	43 years
John and Carol Visaggio	05/31	44 years

BIRTHDAYS

Amber LaBelle	05/01	Nicole Strong	05/17
Charlie Aiken	05/01	Sydney Killian	05/18
Ian Strong	05/01	Mary Lou Carter	05/19
Ken Johnson	05/02	Margie Davis	05/19
Taylor White	05/02	Leslie Kennedy	05/19
Alex Mosborg	05/03	Blake Griffith	05/19
Lillian Andujar	05/03	Carol Ann Freehafer	05/20
Harriet Kicklighter	05/04	Tanya McCranie	05/21
Shirley Theurich	05/04	Anna Gardella	05/21
Stephen Adams	05/05	Scotty Scott	05/22
Deanna Graham	05/05	Lynn Tyree	05/23
Sue Anne Rubright	05/06	Dee Unsicker	05/23
Bill Kennedy	05/06	Dolores Pierson	05/23
Kary Bruce	05/07	David Gardella	05/23
Jackie Davis	05/08	Dave Owen	05/23
Chris Schoolfield	05/08	Jason Butacan	05/23
Chandler Cioffi	05/08	Elaine Carden	05/23
Cera Gentry	05/08	Stacee Reape	05/24
Beverly Beardsley	05/09	Hattie Heyer	05/25
Russ Sessions	05/10	Aaron Turpish	05/25
Max Brooke	05/10	Brooke Tabor	05/26
Jim Pierson	05/11	Connie Killian	05/27
Nancy Mitchell	05/12	Jenny Wagner	05/28
Eddie Dayrit	05/12	Bud Pace	05/28
Tony Quails	05/12	Ron Gebhard	05/29
David Mitchell	05/13	Nerina Berberi	05/29
Donna Hunt	05/13	Stephanie Wilder	05/30
John Tabor	05/15	Larry Shivertaker	05/31
Tim Barnes	05/15	Alex Turpish	05/31
Andy Manson	05/16	Keira Hernandez	05/31
Emma Lawson	05/16	Jada Butacan	05/31
Michael Moore	05/16		