

THE DOVE

AUGUST 2026

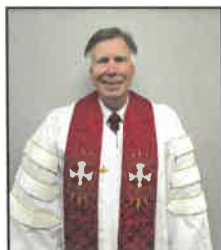


OPMC STAFF

We are a blessed church and we have such a wonderful group of staff members. We would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about each of them. To do so, we asked them where they were born, what brought them to Orange Park to name one item on the Bucket list and what is their favorite season and why.

DR. CHARLES LEVER

Dr. Lever was appointed as Senior Pastor of our church family in July of 2013. He was born in Anderson, South Carolina. Dr. Lever grew up on the Southside of Jacksonville and served many churches in the area. On Dr. Lever's Bucket list is to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. His favorite season is the Winter since it has so many family holidays.



DEBBIE FRENDAHL

Debbie has been our Finance Director since November 1995. She was born in Hialeah, Florida. Debbie moved to Orange Park after her ex-husband finished his 4 years in the Army as a Green Beret and moved here to be closer to her twin sister. Debbie would like to go on an African Safari and photograph all the animals in their natural habitat. Her favorite season is Spring because she loves to see her plants come to life.



MARI ANNE PEEPLES

Mari Anne has been our Director of Congregational Care since October 2017. Mari Anne was born in Brunswick, Georgia. When her husband, Hugh, was transferred to Florida, they settled on Orange Park. That is where her son, Ryan, played for the Rangers Soccer team. On her Bucket list, is a trip to see the tulips in Holland. Mari Anne's favorite season is Spring because it symbolizes renewal with the flowers blooming, green leaves on the trees and milder temperatures.



ROBYN VOIGT

Robyn has been on staff since February 1999. She was the Director of Children and Adult Ministries for 17 years and then became the Director of Pastoral Communications in May of 2016. She was born in Laredo, Texas. Robyn moved to the Orange Park area when her husband, Harold, was transferred to the area with UPS. Robyn's bucket list item is to go on an African Safari and see all of the exotic animals. Her favorite season is Fall because of college football.



NICK DESPRES

Nick was hired as our Praise Band leader in March 2022 and then he became our Director of Music Ministries in October of that same year. Nick was born in Jacksonville but was always in Orange Park visiting his grandparents. One item on Nick's Bucket list is to learn a foreign language. His favorite season is the Christmas season and spending it with his children.



RUTH LOOMIS

Ruth has been a member of Orange Park Methodist for over 34 years and has been on staff as the Music Administrative Assistant since September, 2018. Ruth was born in Chicago, Illinois. She moved to the Jacksonville area when her husband was transferred here. She moved away but came back to be with her children and granddaughter. Traveling to Norway and the British Isles is one thing on Ruth's Bucket list. Her favorite season is the Fall because it gets cool and she likes all the autumn smells and colors changing.



ELLEN DESPRES

Ellen has been our Director of Children and Adult Ministries since August 2023. After graduating from Jacksonville University, Ellen met her husband while performing at the Orange Park Community Theater and they settled in the Venetia area. Ellen's Bucket list item is to travel to Bali and witness the Balinese Monkey Chant. Her favorite season is the Winter because she loves getting cozy with a hot coffee or tea.



JASON WILLIAMS

Jason has been our Director of Youth Ministry since February 2020. Jason was born in Eden, North Carolina. He moved to Orange Park when he accepted the Youth Director position. On Jason's Bucket list is to backpack the Camino de Santiago in Spain. His favorite season is Summer due to sunshine and long evenings.



CONNOR HANKS

Connor has been our Building and Grounds Supervisor since October 2023. Connor was born in Ashland, Kentucky. He moved to Florida to be closer to his brother. On Connor's Bucket list is to see the Aurora Borealis in Alaska. Connor's favorite season is the Fall because of the cooler weather and the changing colors.



JOHN THIELEN

John has been our Director of Culinary Services since May 2023. John was born in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. After he was discharged from the Army, he moved to Jacksonville to be closer to his family. He moved to Orange Park when he got married. On John's Bucket list is to travel to Machu Picchu to see the beautiful scenery. His favorite season is the Fall because of all the holidays.



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

AUGUST 2ND: 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 2nd 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 BACK TO SCHOOL TRIP TO WILD ADVENTURES

- Date: Saturday, August 8th, 2026
- Times: 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM
- Includes breakfast, lunch, two snacks, and entry into Wild Adventures in Valdosta, GA
- Kids Club & Club 456 Members or Prospective Members Only
- Participant Cost: \$40 per child
- Youth/Adult Volunteer Cost: \$40 per person
- Register no later than August 2nd by scanning the QR Code



KIDS CLUB/CLUB 456 BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR PARENT MEETING

- Sunday, August 16th
- 7:00 - 7:30 PM
- Located in the Music Center
- We will be discussing plans for the 2026-2027 school year, and notarizing child liability waivers.

AUGUST 21ST: PARENTS NIGHT OUT

- Infant- 5th Grade
- Attendees will enjoy playing games, making crafts, having dinner, and 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, August 16th



2026 - 2027 CONFIRMATION CLASS

We believe Confirmation is a sacred occasion. It is a worship service where confirmands publicly accept the salvation offered through Jesus Christ, profess their love for God and become members of the church. We believe that young people should know what they believe and why, and what it means to be a disciple, a growing Christian and a church member. During this 30 week Confirmation class, confirmands learn about the history of Christianity, teachings of the Methodist Church, and an explanation of the baptismal and membership vows. We invite all 6th graders to take a significant step in their journey of faith by joining our Confirmation class.

- Classes meet Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM (during the 9:30 AM Worship service) in Room 4221 in the Education Building
- Classes begin in September and end in May
- All 6th Graders are welcome!
- Service opportunities include raising funds for the Residing Hope Children's Home and mission trips!
- Please contact Suzy Williams at suzyq614620@bellsouth.net or (904) 591-1918 if you are interested in your child participating.

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

In September, we present each Third Grader a Bible during a special Worship service.

- Sunday, September 13th, 2026
- Held during the 11:00 AM Worship service
- All Third Graders are welcome to participate!
- Please contact Ellen Despres at edespres@opmethodist.org or (904) 264-2241 Ext. 243 if your child would like to receive a Bible and participate in the ceremony.

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

MISSION TRIP 2026 RECAP

We had another great trip working with Mark and Shari Somerville at their church in Hattiesville, Belize.

This year, we were able to install three split unit air conditioners in the church, construct a driveway over a drainage ditch onto the property, remove an interior wall to accommodate a larger kitchen and finished the chain link fence project we started last year. We had another great year of building relationships and sharing in ministry with our friends in Hattiesville.

Thank you to our church family for supporting trips like this financially and through your prayers. You are a blessing to our students and the folks we serve on these mission trips.

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL RETREAT

Our Fall Retreat is always a great time for students to get away from the busyness of school, grow spiritually, participate in fun activities, and build relationships.

- Friday, November 13th - Sunday, November 15th
- Cost: \$80

FUNDRAISERS

PUMPKIN PATCH

Its getting close to that time of the year!

Our pumpkin unload dates are:

- September 26th and October 17th

EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

So hard to believe that we are finishing up our summer fun with our Superhero God. The water days and summer fun helped make the hot summer go by. Thank you all for your prayers for safety of our children and families.

We will be having our VPK parents visit in August for a Meet and Greet with their new teachers. Our parents and younger children will have an Open House, and we invite them to come have a Wonderful Wednesday dinner with the Church family.

Although our children have been here for summer, going up into a new classroom with a new teacher begins a new learning experience. They will learn the classroom routines and rules and discuss how to be a good friend by caring for each other.

Our Bible lessons for the month are God Created the World, God Created Me – I am Special, and I Can Love My Friends. Mrs. Ellen and Mr. Nick will continue praying with the children for all the Church community and we ask your continued prayers for all of us at the Early Education Center. Please tell your family and friends about us and invite them to bring their children to our facilities.

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

August 5 - Hawaiian Pork with rice and gravy, field peas, sweet potato casserole, roll, cole slaw and pineapple upside down cake

August 12 - Mexican seasoned chicken with yellow rice, black beans, Mexican corn, garlic bread, Caesar salad and apple cobbler

August 19 - Meatloaf with gravy, Italian green beans, mashed potatoes, roll, salad and blueberry white chocolate bread meeting

August 26 - Pulled Pork, baked beans, potato salad, cornbread, coleslaw 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, August 15, 2026. 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 BBQ

Come enjoy food and fellowship at the BBQ!

- Sunday, August 23, from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM
- Pulled pork BBQ 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

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, August 4, 2026 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The program will be given by Tracy Frandsen on the homeless teen problem in Clay County. Please bring a dish to go with Chicken Pot Pie.

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

MUSIC MINISTRY

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY

CONCERT SERIES

Are you ready for another exciting season with the Jacksonville Symphony? We have a wonderful lineup of concerts planned, and we’d love for you to join us! Tickets are \$40 per concert, and we will once again be enjoying Terrace seating, located above the stage, for most performances. This season, we’ve also added three extra concerts to the schedule, giving you even more opportunities to experience outstanding Classical music.

We’ll also be attending the Holiday Pops Concert, with tickets available for \$60.

Your ticket price includes round-trip transportation, making it easy to sit back, relax and enjoy the evening. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, as seating is limited. Payment is due at the time you reserve your ticket. The deadline to purchase tickets is one week prior to each concert.

If you have any questions or would like to reserve your tickets, please contact Ruth Loomis at 904-264-2241 ext. 245

SYMPHONY CONCERT DATE

Sat. Sept. 26, 2026	Mozart & Tchaikovsky
Fri. Nov. 6, 2026	Mahler’s Ninth
Fri. Dec. 4, 2026	Holiday Pops (tickets \$60)
Fri. Jan. 8, 2027	Elgar’s Cello & Second Symphony
Fri. Jan. 29, 2027	Tristan & Aida Suites w/ Chorus
Fri. Feb 19, 2027	Beethoven’s “Eroica”
Fri. March 19, 2027	Tchaikovsky & Brahms
Fri. April 9, 2027	Ravel & Shostakovich
Fri. April 30, 2027	Rachmaninoff’s First Symphony
Fri. May 21, 2027	Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto w/ Chorus
Fri. June 11, 2027	Beethoven’s Ninth w/ Chorus

ADULT CLASSES ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

DISCIPLE II: INTO THE WORD, INTO THE WORLD

This is the second study in the four-phase DISCIPLE program. This study proclaims the transforming power of Scripture while teaching Bible study skills that take participants deeper into the Scripture.

- 32 week class starting August 19th
- This class is prepared for those who are graduates of Disciple I
- Led by Kathy Rowlinson and Located in Room 6205
- Cost of workbook \$40.00

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.

August 3	November 2	February 1
September 14	December 7	March 1
October 5	January 4	

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

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!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY EXTENDS OUR SYMPATHY To

Judy Matthew's in the death of her sister, Paula Miller
The Family of Les Townsley

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.

AUGUST RECOGNITIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff and Sandy Knafelc	08/01	34 years
Brad and Glenda White	08/02	24 years
Dennis and Nancy Dewey	08/04	36 years
Michael and Julie Griffis	08/04	19 years
Ross and Melissa Arrowood	08/08	17 years
David and Jeanne Young	08/08	56 years
Russ and Natalie Sessions	08/08	28 years
Jamie and Robin Stowers	08/08	46 years
Ed and Fran Marynik	08/09	12 years
Bob and Barbara Broach	08/10	58 years
Brock and Traci Foreman	08/10	24 years
Bob and Mistie Heyer	08/10	7 years
Charlie and Linda Yow	08/12	60 years
Paul and Cindy Cummins	08/13	43 years
Brandon and Timea Chandler	08/14	22 years
Chauncey and Martha Lever	08/14	50 years
Ron and Sandy Davis	08/16	46 years
Fred and Kresten Mansen	08/16	45 years
James and Morgan Bailey	08/16	12 years
Ray and Debbie White	08/19	48 years
Harmen and Grace Heeg	08/19	59 years
George and Mary Hoskins	08/21	60 years
Jim and Kathy Cribb	08/22	39 years
Ron and Bettie Adams	08/23	57 years
Charles and Xiommy Lever	08/23	46 years
Glen and Karen Godwin	08/23	40 years
Jacob and Lauren Butacan	08/25	19 years
David and Shirley Theurich	08/26	59 years
John and Cynthia Schoolfield	08/27	38 years
Austin and Victoria French	08/29	4 years
Brian and Marti Boatright	08/30	40 years
Danny and Karen Powers	08/30	52 years
Barry and Alice Allred	08/31	58 years
Bob and Bonnie Rustmann	08/31	63 years

BIRTHDAYS

Randy Bunn	08/02	Alice Gentile	08/16
Cynthia Mosborg	08/03	Tami Maeder-Banton	08/17
Elle Foreman	08/03	Gigi Sessions	08/17
Nancye Hale	08/03	Sawyer Butacan	08/17
Elaine Lowder	08/03	Rick Jacobs	08/18
Donna Macleod	08/04	Cohen Cioffi	08/18
Teri Haisten	08/04	Nancy Westberry	08/18
Elmer Posick	08/05	Michael Morris	08/19
Audrey Francis	08/05	Jerry Cioffi	08/20
Brock Foreman	08/05	Ruth Boyer	08/20
Fred Nagle	08/05	Isabelle Gardella	08/21
Jackie Putnam	08/06	Don Briggs	08/21
Heather Swart	08/06	Dianna Shivertaker	08/22
Jamie Gerrity	08/07	David Rowlinson	08/22
Bob McKenney	08/08	Mary Cioffi	08/24
Carol Seeley	08/09	Katie Costea	08/24
Karen Godwin	08/09	Shane Fleming	08/24
Dana Frandsen	08/09	Mason Schutter	08/24
Gary Meeks	08/11	Marty Wilson	08/25
Bob Hinzman	08/11	Jimmy Matthews	08/25
Buzz Johnson	08/11	Scott Drawdy	08/27
Bella Hartzell	08/12	Marc Fleming	08/28
Barbara Sharp	08/13	John Schoolfield	08/28
Judi Corbin	08/14	Alyssa Turpish	08/28
Ann Tabor	08/14	Nathan Bartholomew	08/28
Victoria French	08/14	Jamie Stowers	08/28
Robin Fabianek	08/14	Kathleen Crook	08/30
Ron Kart	08/14	Matthew Voigt	08/30
Dennis Dewey	08/15	David Bossinger	08/30
Tara Ingerson	08/15	Bonnie Gorman	08/30
Wanda Hellman	08/15	June Butacan	08/31
Karen Powers	08/15		
Amy Cronin	08/16		