



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

502 N. 6TH ST. ~ ORANGE, TEXAS 77630

OFFICE (409) 886-7466 ~ FAX (409) 886-0489 ~ WWW.FUMCORANGE.ORG

To access the Southeast Texas District newsletter, visit southeastdistrict.org.

DECEMBER 2018

ROOTED IN CHRIST ... BRANCHING OUT IN FAITH ... DISCIPLES GROWING DISCIPLES

Rev. John E. Warren

Senior Pastor

Doug Rogers

Director of
Worship and Music

Randall Bridges

Director of
Christian Education & Youth

Norma Bergeron

Administrative Assistant

Scott Lawson

Part-time Custodian

Donna Rogers

Organist

Mary Grimes

Lisa Hodge

Nursery Caregivers

Mission Statement:

*To make disciples
of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of the world.*

To have information included
in the January newsletter,
please send it to

news@fumcorange.org
by Wednesday, Dec. 19,
so the newsletter can be
distributed before January 1.

Advent Ushers in the Christmas Celebration

FUMC has a number of activities to usher in the Christmas spirit—beautiful music and seasonal messages, a wonderful children's program, and the yearly shopping trip our youth hold to give families in need at Christmas. New traditions for the season include our Saturday VBS "Jesus' Love Never Melts" and the Grief Group covered -dish dinner at the parsonage. The highlight will be the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. The offering this year will support the mission of the church that serves the Orange community.

Merry Christmas!

To the wonderful
folks of FUMC:

Sandra and I
THANK YOU
for all the notes
and
remembrances
shared with us
during Pastor
Appreciation
Month. You have
been a blessing
to us both!



Advent marks the beginning of another church year that presents the love of God revealed to the world. The Prepare the Way sermon series combines Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany together to illustrate how we are to "prepare the way of the Lord."

Week One of Advent points directly at Christ's coming—hope and encouragement. Though fear and foreboding are significant elements of this event, Jesus says, "[stand](#) up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near" (Lk. 21:28). Signs will be given, and God's people must be alert, constantly praying for strength, in preparation to "stand before the Son of Man" (Lk. 21:36).

Week Two begins with the question from Malachi, "who can stand when he appears?" (Mal. 3:2), which serves as a hinge point from the "stand" imagery of week one. Week Two's readings address issues of justice, purification, and [refining](#) that will accompany Jesus' coming.

Week Three of Advent is always an occasion of joy and an expectation that the people of God will "[do](#)" something to be a part of the inheritance promised to Abraham. Zephaniah instructs the people to "not let your hands grow weak" (Zep. 3:16), and John offers further teaching: "Bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Lk. 3:7-16).

The promise to Abraham is not forgotten in **Week Four**, in which Mary sings and recalls the covenant of old that shows God's mercy and justice. There are senses of preparation and nesting as both Bethlehem and Mary receive word of Jesus' coming. Both Bethlehem and Mary will be agents of [welcoming](#) God in flesh to earth.

Christmas Eve then becomes the point of arrival as Christ—the "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"—comes to the world. In the ways Jesus comes, however, it is often easy to become so overwhelmed that we cannot see the presence or work of Christ around us.

Just like Mary and Joseph, we find ourselves searching for Jesus, despite knowing all the places and ways in which Christ can be found. With enough searching, however, the promise we are given with the story of the **Epiphany**, is that all who [search](#) for Jesus will find him.

Jesus is coming! It is our responsibility to "prepare the way" and get ready!

**First 100 DAYS
of 2019:**

**Scriptures to
start your year
off on the
right foot.**

PREVIEW—Our presidents have made promises of things they hope to accomplish in their first 100 days in office. Pastor John is twisting that idea as a way to focus and begin our new year rooted in scripture! Those who Facebook can see a new one each day on the church Facebook page. Pastor John will also produce a devotional booklet for those who do not get our Facebook page of one-a-day scriptures for the new year that will go along with our New Year Sermon Series.

Lord, help us to be a family of faith, to worship you, learn, grow in your likeness, and serve you by serving others. Amen.

Our Faithfulness

Worship Attendance Since Last Newsletter

Oct 28	Nov. 4	Nov. 11	Nov. 18	Nov. 25
9:00.....75	9:00 77	9:0057	9:00 55	9:00 54
11:00.....51	11:00 47	11:0041	11:00 56	11:00 42
TOTAL 126	TOTAL 124	TOTAL 98	TOTAL 111	TOTAL 96

Giving

October 2018	You can also give online!
Income..... \$50,867.55	
Expenses. ... \$37,320.38	
+ \$13,547.17	

December Worship

December 2, 2018

Scripture: Luke 21:25-36
Sermon: **Prepare the Way: STAND**

December 9 2018

Scripture: Luke 3:1-6
Sermon: **Prepare the Way: REFINE**

December 16, 2018

Scripture: Luke 3:7-18
Sermon: **Prepare the Way: DO**

December 23, 2018

Scripture: Luke 1:39-55
Sermon: **Prepare the Way: WELCOME**

December 31, 2018

Scripture: Luke 2:41-52
Sermon: **Prepare the Way: SEARCH**

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal team & Trish Anderson

Parking Lot Greeters:
9:00—Jeff & Sherri Frugé
11:00—Sandra Hoke & Betty Merchant

9 am Greeters: Greg Defrates & Lauren Peet

11 am Ushers: Team #1
Ricky Harper, Frank Beauchamp, John Cochran, Jean Whitley, Elaine Cooper

Lay Readers:
9:00—Jim Brown
11:00—Judy Taylor

Welcome Center Greeters:
8:45-10—Volunteer Needed
10-11:15—Donna Benefield & Cindy Reynolds

Welcome Center Bakers:
Bridget Teaff & Debbie Taylor

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal team & Trish Anderson

Parking Lot Greeters:
9:00—Susan & Jeff Eby
11:00—Charlie & Beverly Blalack

9 am Greeters: Sharon & Randall Bridges

11 am Ushers: Team #2
Brown Claybar, Phil Grooms, Ken Hillsten, Betty Merchant

Lay Readers:
9:00—Brittany Allen
11:00—Annely Domas

Welcome Center Greeters:
8:45-10—Volunteer Needed
10-11:15—Suzanne Magee

Welcome Center Bakers:
Dana Sandlin & Priscella Burns

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal team & Trish Anderson

Parking Lot Greeters:
9:00—Richard & Leighia Barron
11:00—Drew & Annely Domas

9 am Greeters: Julie & Richard Allensworth

11 am Ushers: Team #3
John Griffith, Jerry Windham, Ron Hopperton, Nevella Toal, Vernon Murray, Richard Powell

Lay Readers:
9:00—Leighia Barron
11:00—Sandra Hoke

Welcome Center Greeters:
8:45-10—Pat McCombs
10-11:15—Donna Benefield & Cindy Reynolds

Welcome Center Bakers:
Gloria Jackson & Leighia Barron

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal team & Trish Anderson

Parking Lot Greeters:
9:00—Dale Dardeau & Ken Wheeler
11:00—Archie McLellan & Nevella Toal

9 am Greeters: Chris & Jennifer Smith

11 am Ushers: Team #4
Mat Taylor, Sarah Boehme, Drew Domas, Wayne Mulhollan

Lay Readers:
9:00—Sandra Warren
11:00—Theresa Beauchamp

Welcome Center Greeters:
8:45-10—Jonathan Vogt
10-11:15—Suzanne Magee

Welcome Center Bakers:
Sue Stephenson & Barbara Dardeau

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal team & Trish Anderson

Parking Lot Greeters:
9:00—Trisha & Bobby Anderson
11:00—Volunteer Needed

9 am Greeters: Charlotte & Ed Foreman

11 am Ushers: Team #5
Hubert Hancock, Travis Miller, Barry Bates, Don & Deborah Bayliss

Lay Readers:
9:00—Tom Henry
11:00—Donna Bell

Welcome Center Greeters:
8:45-10—Volunteer Needed
10-11:15—Suzanne Magee

Welcome Center Bakers:
Dina Defrates & Theresa Allen

11 a.m. services will return to the Sanctuary in December.

The Church Office be closed
**December 24 & 25 for Christmas and
December 31 & January 1 for New Years**



Every 1st Sunday— OCS Collection Sundays

Give money (in envelope marked OCS) or place donated items in OCS containers in the Family Life Center. During Communion, all offerings left at the rail go to **Orange Christian Services.**

2nd Sundays—
Bring Cans to Recycle

3rd Sundays—
Bring Donations for the Rainbow Room

**Monday, December 24
Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Communion Service**
will begin at 6 p.m.
in the Sanctuary.



Please pray for our “Family” of the week

Dec. 2	Tommy Harmon
Dec. 9	Betty Jagen
Dec. 16	Paul & Maureen Lucas
Dec. 23	Tad & Terese McKee
Dec. 31	Ken & Judy Pittman



Join us in the Family Life Center!

Youth Sunday School at 10 a.m.

We share how God is working in our lives and look more in depth at the Bible!

Sunday Night **CREW** from 5-7 p.m.

Christians **R**eady, **E**quipped, and **W**illing
Join us for a meal, fellowship, worship, music, skits, games, and Jesus.

Social Media

Join our text message group to get reminders about upcoming FUMC Youth announcements by texting [@fumcora](https://www.fumcora.com) to 81010

Facebook: [fumcorangeyouth](https://www.facebook.com/fumcorangeyouth)

Instagram & Twitter:

[@fumcorangeyouth](https://www.instagram.com/fumcorangeyouth)

Youth December & Upcoming Activities:

December 2—Youth Fundraiser Meal at 5:30 p.m. (prior to 1st Kids Performance)

Youth will serve spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and dessert.

December 8: Advent VBS—Jesus' Love Never Melts, 9-11:30 a.m.

December 9: Angel & Elves Christmas Shopping Trip—Meet at FUMC

A time for us to bless our community by buying gifts for less fortunate families in our city. We get to spend a little bit of time with one of the kids from each family as they help us shop. We all gather back at the church to play games with the kids and then take them home to bring their gifts to their families. **Please register to volunteer or attend this event as a youth. With our youth group being a little larger than last year, this preregistration will make sure our transportation needs are met correctly:**

<https://tinyurl.com/angels-elves> (more event information in link as well).

December 16: Youth (6-12th graders) Christmas Party at the Goleman's Home.

Cost: Bring a white elephant gift \$5 or less; Last name A-L bring a dessert. Last name M-Z bring a drink. Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater, and bring a white elephant gift as we celebrate Jesus' birth and the end of the semester!

January 20: Youth Bonfire at Abshire's House (6-12th graders).

Keep warm in January during our Youth Bonfire. More information coming.

Youth Programming

Would you like to come speak to our youth for 10-30 minutes on a Sunday night?

Contact Randall to share with our Youth.

Can you help feed the youth at 5 p.m. on Sundays?

This meal would serve about 15-20 people and can be something simple like hot dogs, pizza, soups, lasagna, corn dogs, sandwiches, etc.

If you are willing to feed the youth, available Sundays for spring include Jan. 6, Jan. 27, and Mar 24.

Email or call Randall to claim one!



We brought 20 youth and 3 adults to our District Turkey Fest where 60 youth from our district came together for worship, testimonies, games, food, and fellowship.



We had fun at The Big Event 6th Grader Retreat with most of our 6th graders being able to attend.

1st Methodist Kids

Sunday nights from 5-7 p.m.

1st Methodist Kids meet with Mr. Doug on Sundays from 5 to 7 p.m. We meet on the playground and have dinner together. K-5th graders welcome. Call Mr. Doug with questions, 409-779-2143.



Thanks for those who donated to Spook their friends during our Spooked Fundraiser.



December Events:

[See full calendar on church website](#)

December 2—Youth Fundraiser Meal at 5:30 p.m. followed by
1st Kid's Christmas Musical—"A Star is Born"
December 5—Education Meeting, 4 p.m.
December 6—Deadline to submit items for Church Council agenda
December 8—Jesus' Love Never Melts, Advent VBS, 9-11:30 a.m.
December 9—Youth Angels & Elves Christmas Shopping Trip
December 10—Caring Ministry, 10 a.m.
December 12—Salvation Army Angel gifts deadline
December 13—Church Council, 6 p.m.
December 16—Poinsettia order deadline
December 16—Youth (6-12th graders) Christmas Party, 5-7 p.m., Golemon's House
December 17—Senior Sisterhood, 10 a.m.
December 17—Good Grief Group, 6:30 p.m., Pot Luck dinner at the parsonage
December 19—Deadline for January newsletter information
December 24 & 25—Office Closed for Christmas
December 24—Candlelight Communion Service, 6 p.m., Sanctuary
December 31 & January 1—Office Closed for New Years

Upcoming Events:

January 16—Wednesday Night Live Spring semester begins

SAVE THE DATE

**COMING
UP**



Like or follow:
FUMCOOrangeTX

Sunday, December 2

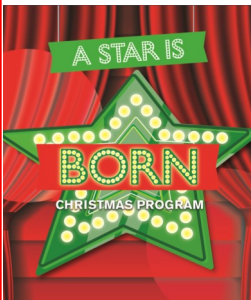
Youth Fundraiser Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Youth will serve spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and dessert.



Following the meal, 1st Kids Present "A Star Is Born"

A Star Is Born is a children's Christmas Musical created by Celeste Clydesdale that teaches us to "get down" in humility and allow God to use us for his glory. As the children prepare to televise their production, they lead us through many shining moments, such as "The Greatest Story Ever Told," "We Three Kings," and "Get Down." When Sophia, the actress hired from 1- 800-BIG-STAR, arrives to play Mary, the director, Mr. Spielman, and the other actors try to help her understand that the star of any Christmas production is Jesus Christ.



Saturday, December 8—9-11:30 a.m.

ADVENT VBS—Jesus' Love Never Melts For Kindergarten through 5th grade

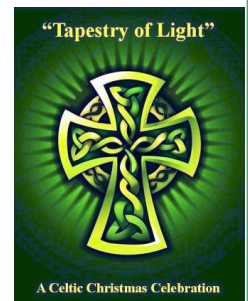


Opportunities to volunteer include: crew leaders to walk the children to the different rotations, snack leaders (making Candy Cane Snow), photographer, registration, and just because we want you there to enjoy the morning!!

Please share the date with your families and friends! And come enjoy the morning sharing the Love of Jesus with others!!

Sunday, December 16—11 a.m. Service Annual Cantata—Tapestry of Light

Tapestry of Light, the cantata the Chancel Choir will present on Sunday morning, December 16 at 11 a.m. is a joining of traditional carols, primarily of the British Isles, with scripture. Inspired during his visit to Ireland, Wales, Scotland, and England, Joseph Martin composed this cantata, which celebrates that rich heritage of seasonal song that has been and remains one of our great traditions.



2018 First UMC Church Council

Lay Leader—Carol Allen (Chair); Finance—Chris Abshire & Tom Henry;
Trustees—Gary Bonneaux & David Bridges; SPR—Theresa Beauchamp & Greg Defrates;
Members at Large—Barbara Dardeau, Suzanne Magee, Betty Merchant, & Ginger Williams;
Secretary—Sherri Frugé; Pastor—John Warren

**Deadline for agenda items to secretary Sherri Frugé—
1st Thursday—December 6**

Next meeting—2nd Thursday—December 13, at 6 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns for Church Council, send
ONE email to council@fumcorange.org that will go to ALL council members!

**FUMC
Guiding
Principles
and
Church
Council Meeting
Minutes**
are
[posted on the
FUMC website](#)
(under Resources)

Charge Conference News

The joint charge conference was held at Faith United Methodist Church. Officers approved at conference were the Church Council, Nominations and Trustees. The Trustees is restarting in 2020 as was recommended by the Church Council. All other Program Ministry positions will depend on who signed up in November. A complete roster will be prepared once names are collected.

End-of-Year Donations

All donations need to be turned in to the church office by Sunday, December 30. Bookkeeping will be closed out on the morning of Wednesday, January 2, when Norma returns to the office.

In Loving Memory

Memorials:

In Memory of

Bob Izer

Richard & Patsy Herrington
Jim & Joanne Pledger
Gerald & Judy Taylor
Pete & Janice Gresham
Jerry Windham
Dick Powell

Greg Rogers

(Brother of Doug Rogers)
Jim & Joanne Pledger
Pete & Janice Gresham
Richard & Patsy Herrington

Lana Ostermaier

Jim & Joanne Pledger
Dick Powell
Pete & Janice Gresham
Law Office of Jim Sharon Bearden
George & Beverly Millsap
Robert & Cynthia Mittag
Patrick & Helen McParland

Rudy Lege

(Father of Barbara Dardeau)
Jim & Joanne Pledger
Pete & Janice Gresham
Jerry Windham

Good Grief Group

Life just throws a curve some-times. You may not even know it is coming, but you know when it happens. It is valuable to us to walk through life with others who have walked on a similar path. Our lives have been marked with instances of grief, some more recent, but all real.

*Grief never ends...but it changes.
It is a passage, not a place.
Grief is not a sign of weakness,
nor a lack of faith...
it is the price of love.*

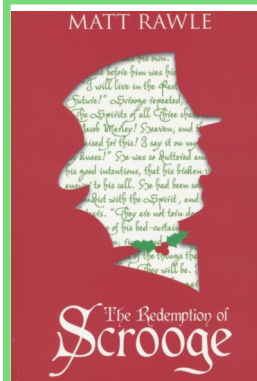
The Good Grief Group will have a Pot Luck dinner on **Monday, December 17, at 6:30 p.m.** at the parsonage (4907 Woodway Drive). Anyone wanting to join is welcome to come.

ADVENT STUDY

Everyone is still welcome to join the Advent Study over *The Redemption of Scrooge*.

This Advent study, based on *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, will explore the world of Ebenezer Scrooge. Meet the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come and learn about living in a world blessed by Jesus.

Join the New Beginnings Sunday school class (upstairs in the Education Building) to explore this topic from November 25-December 23.



Growing Stronger Disciples

How Love Can Transform Our Children's Lives - part 2

Ramona Vincent

One way we can teach our children how to be more loving and cultivate a more loving environment at home is to strive to love one another in situations that normally challenge us and encourage our kids to do the same! Here are a few practical ways to we can begin to express more love in our daily lives:

- ♥ When we're standing in line at the supermarket or sitting in bumper to bumper traffic, **let's remember that "love is patient"** and bless those around us by not complaining about slow cashiers or impatiently blasting our car horn!
- ♥ When we're in a bad mood, **let's remember that "love is kind"** and refrain from taking out our frustrations on our spouse, kids, or any unsuspecting stranger that happen to cross our path!
- ♥ **Since "love does not envy,"** let's tame our inner green-eyed monster once and for all by celebrating the blessings God has bestowed upon our friends and neighbors and joyfully thanking God for all the wonderful gifts that He has given to us! (James 1:17)
- ♥ **Since "love always protects,"** let's make sure we are trustworthy confidantes that our kids can count on, especially during their tumultuous teen years. Let's faithfully guard their secrets, speak the truth in love, and always have their best interests in mind!
- ♥ **Since love is "not easily angered – it keeps no record of wrong,"** let's learn to hold our tongues instead of lashing out, give others the benefit of the doubt instead of jumping to conclusions and thinking the worst of them, choose to not be so easily offended, practice letting bygones be bygones, and always be willing to forgive.

How we raise our children matters, but as our kids grow up and look back on their childhood, we are likely to find that the greatest spiritual impact we have on them will come not from the number of programs we enroll them in, but from how consistently we demonstrate the love of Jesus to them every day of their lives!

Communication

News—News Release online form OR News@fumcorange.org

When you have something you want others to know about, please use the **NEWS RELEASE form located on the church website**—at the bottom of the home page or under Resources—FUMC documents. If you have pictures or other attachments you may send ONE email to those who work on the bulletins, newsletters, website, social media, print media, calendar, etc.

Prayer Blasts—Quick way to get prayer requests out
= PrayerBlasts@fumcorange.org

Prayer Requests—For confidential prayers, use form on Intercessory Prayer webpage or send email to PrayerRequests@fumcorange.org Include an address to have a note of encouragement sent!

Calendar—To add or update something on the website calendar, please send an email to office@fumcorange.org

Church Council—Send any questions or concerns for Church Council, to council@fumcorange.org that will go to ALL council members!

♥ BY GIVING
SERVICE
TO OTHERS,
♥ I GIVE
SERVICE
TO GOD. ♥

Jesus Taught us how to Serve Others

To volunteer to serve in one
of these ministries, please
call the church office
(409-886-7466)

5:02 Prayer Initiative



All church members are asked to pray
at 5:02 in the morning or evening
for God to work in and through us:

*"God, we lift First United Methodist Church
to you with our prayers.*

*Please do what we cannot do ourselves,
including your changing us without limits.*

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

Salvation Army Angel Tree



Names of Special Christmas Angels
from the Salvation Army became
available on Sunday, November 25,
at both services. Each name has a
packet with gift suggestions,
instructions for marking gifts, and a
bag for returning items when
purchases are completed. Gifts, which
are to be unwrapped, may be returned
to our church or to the Salvation Army
by **December 12**. Please follow directions, to ensure
your special Angel gets his/her gifts from you.

Questions? Please call Carolyn Hillsten at 409-
670-7145.

Thanks for making Christmas special for area
children, who otherwise might not have any
Christmas this year.



Update

Kroger has a new Community Rewards system,
and First United Methodist Church has
a new account number = **NV689**

Go to www.kroger.com; click on
Savings & Rewards—Kroger Community
Rewards. To enroll now, new members can
search for the **new number** or the
name of your organization.

2018 1st Quarter Rewards = \$39.93
2018 2nd Quarter Rewards = \$77.99
2018 3rd Quarter Rewards = \$53.04

**Thank you to all the households who help
FUMC by shopping at Kroger!**

Acts of Kindness for the Christmas Season

1. Support the Children's Christmas Program and the Youth's Angels & Elves Shopping Trip
2. Buy an Angel from the Salvation Army Christmas trees (see Carolyn Hillsten)
3. Bake Christmas "goodies" for a friend
4. Sent an invitation to a friend to attend a Christmas service with you
5. Leave your postal carrier a Christmas card and gift
6. Take a plate of Christmas cookies to a local school – show our local educators your support
7. North Early Learning Center always has a need for children's socks and underwear (size 2–6), Kleenex, and baby wipes (see Julie Allensworth or Leighia Barron)
8. Take a local animal shelter food, dog treats, and bedding
9. Volunteer at the VBS Jesus' Love Never Melts (Saturday, December 8—9-11:30 a.m.)
10. Volunteer to help rebuild the playground at Mauriceville Elementary School on Saturday, December 8 (see Jeremy Watzlavik for times)





Rooted In Christ • Branching Out In Faith
Disciples Growing Disciples

502 NORTH SIXTH ST.
ORANGE, TX 77630

OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Thursday

8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Friday

8:30 am - Noon

WORSHIP

9 am - Praise service in the
Family Life Center

10 am - Sunday School

11 am - Traditional service
in the Sanctuary

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—ORANGE'S VISION ROOTED IN CHRIST ... BRANCHING OUT IN FAITH ... DISCIPLES GROWING DISCIPLES

At First UMC-Orange, we grow Disciples who grow Disciples! It is just that simple! It's what we do!

From revival and renewed spirit through worship, we move people from the sanctuary to the community delivering God's message of hope and grace through Jesus Christ. Whenever and wherever we come together, we do so in His name, modeling His Grace and sharing His Word.

For saints and seekers; for individuals and families; for those more or less fortunate; for young and old alike...The *good news* is for all people. We are the voices and the hands branching out in Faith to encourage and support people. We provide worship, programs, and activities for families and individuals that will help you take God's word and apply it to *your* circumstances so He can change *your* life in ways you knew not possible.

Through Christ, we will facilitate the transformation of individuals into His People and our community into His community! At First UMC-Orange, we grow disciples who grow disciples! It is just that simple! It's what we do!

POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTARS

Years ago, the E.W. Brown family always decorated our church on Christmas and Easter. On these special occasions, the altar was banked with many poinsettias and lilies giving our church a wonderful tribute for these occasions. We really took it for granted! Then after deaths in the Brown family, their generosity stopped. Our congregation decided to buy flowers to decorate our church at these special times.

It's that time once again. Poinsettias will be \$15 and can be bought in memory or honor of loved ones. Order forms will be in the church bulletins or you can print and complete the form below. Put it with payment in the offering plate or send it with payment to the church office.

Deadline to submit orders is Sunday, December 16.

Poinsettias \$15.00



In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Check _____ Cash _____

Deadline for orders is December 16th

Poinsettias \$15.00



In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Check _____ Cash _____

Deadline for orders is December 16th