



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 2019

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

Rev. Lani Rousseau

Senior Pastor

Pastor@fumcorange.org

Norma Bergeron

Administrative Assistant

Office@fumcorange.org

Randall Bridges

Director of

Christian Education & Youth

Youth@fumcorange.org

Caroline Dennis

Director of

Music & Worship Arts

Music@fumcorange.org

Scott Lawson

Custodian

TBA

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 next newsletter,
please send it to

news@fumcorange.org

by Wednesday, Dec. 18,
so the newsletter can be
distributed before January 1.

Can it be that we are nearly finished with 2019? Are we anxiously awaiting the return of Christ? I have seen so many photos on Facebook where folks decided to forgo waiting to decorate their homes for Christmas and just set up the tree and decorations. It seems many of us don't want to prolong our wait. If the trees are out and the holiday décor is everywhere, then why should we wait?

Advent marks the season of a new Christian year. We celebrate the four Sundays before Christmas as times of preparation. Preparing for the Christ child to be born. Births can't be rushed. They come in their own time. (At this writing, we all eagerly await the arrival of Randall and Sharon's baby boy.)

So much of the season is filled with symbols and traditions. We will light the advent candles with readings and prayers. Our spaces will be brightened with trees and Crismons (ornaments of Christ Symbols). There will be garland and special music and wreaths. There is much to celebrate this year. You have had special endings and new beginnings. The time to reflect on our many blessings is here. For some, this will be a first Christmas (or Thanksgiving) without a loved one at the table. These days can be especially difficult for them. Here are some wonderful thoughts as we approach this beautiful, yet often hectic season from my friend Terry Hershey:

Today will never come again.
Be a blessing. Be a friend.
Never underestimate the power of affirmation.
Encourage someone.
Take time to care.
Let your words heal and not wound.
Leave people better off than you found them.

The reason we celebrate this season is because of Jesus. It is his birthday, after all! He taught us to love and care and be present with all of God's children. We are his body—the Church. We are called to worship God and to share with others grace and hope and joy and love. Our church is living into the promises of Christ, working to fulfill the great commission and to live by the greatest commandment.

December also means that the books will be closing on another church year. If you are caught up in your pledge or have completed it, thank you so much. If you aren't sure, please contact Norma in the church office, and she can let you know. It takes so much to keep ministries for Jesus running smoothly, and we rely completely on your generous offerings. We are short going into year-end, but I am confident that if we all pitch in and give, we can make up our deficit with ease.

May you feel the presence of Christ this holy season.

Pastor Lani

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

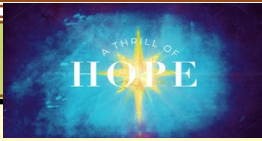
Our Faithfulness

Worship Attendance Since Last Newsletter

Nov. 3	Nov. 10	Nov. 17	Nov. 24
9:0064	9:0066	9:0076	9:0065
11:0041	11:0044	11:0057	11:0062
TOTAL 105	TOTAL 110	TOTAL 133	TOTAL 127

Giving

October 2019	You can also give online!
Income.....\$34,996.85	
Expenses.....\$45,823.01	
- \$10,826.16	



December Worship

Sermon Series: **A Thrill of Hope**

December 1, 2019

Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon: **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

December 8, 2019

Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon: **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

December 15, 2019

Matthew 19:13-15

Sermon: **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

December 22, 2019

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon: **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

December 29, 2019

Assorted Scriptures

A Lesson in Carols

COMMUNION

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal team & Trisha Anderson

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

9 am Inside Greeters:
Lauren & Sydney Peet

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

Lay Readers:
9-Barbara Dardeau
11-Judy Taylor

Welcome Center Greeters:
9:30-10-Pat McCombs
10:30-11:15-Kay Butler

Welcome Center Bakers:
Bridget Teaff & Debbie Taylor

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal team & Trisha Anderson

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

9 am Inside Greeters:
Charlotte & Ed Foreman

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

Lay Readers:
9-Greg Defrates
11-Beverly Blalack

Welcome Center Greeters:
9:30-10-**Available**
10:30-11:15-Suzanne Magee

Welcome Center Bakers:
Gloria Jackson & Leighia Barron

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal team & Trisha Anderson

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

9 am Inside Greeters:
Julie & Richard Allensworth

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

Lay Readers:
9-Leighia Barron
11-Lynn Fields

Welcome Center Greeters:
9:30-10-Pat McCombs
10:30-11:15-Kay Butler

Welcome Center Bakers:
Sue Stephenson & Barbara Dardeau

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal team & Trisha Anderson

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

9 am Inside Greeters:
David & Pie Bridges

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

Lay Readers:
9-Angela Abshire
11-Gwen Whitehead

Welcome Center Greeters:
9:30-10-**Available**
10:30-11:15-Suzanne Magee

Welcome Center Bakers:
Dina Defrates & Theresa Allen

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE
at 10 a.m.
Sunday School at 9 a.m.

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal team

Parking Lot Greeters:
Bobby Anderson & Bart Williams

Inside Greeters:
Trisha Anderson & Ginger Williams

Ushers: Team #5
Travis Miller, Barry Bates, Don & Debbie Bayliss

Lay Reader:
Sandra Hoke

Welcome Center Greeters:
9:45-10-**Available**

Welcome Center Bakers:
Sandra Hoke & Debbie Bayliss

Most 11 a.m. services will be held in the Slade Chapel!

Dec 22—11 a.m. service (Cantata) in the Sanctuary

Dec 29—ONE SERVICE at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

will begin at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



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 Welcome 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

4th Sundays: Bring books for Back to School

Please pray for our "Family" of the week

Dec 1	Betty Jagan
Dec 8	Jerry & Susan Pennington
Dec 15	Tad & Terese McKee
Dec 22	Ken & Judy Pittman
Dec 29	Roland & Grace Guillot



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 C.R.E.W. from 5-7 p.m.

Christians Ready, Equipped, and Willing
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 Activities:

December 6: Orange County Christmas Parade

December 14: Jesus Love Never Melts, Advent VBS, Family Life Center

December 15: Angels & Elves Shopping Trip, 1:30-6 p.m.

December 18: Child Care and Gift Wrapping Available for a Good Cause

December 22: Youth Christmas Party

December 29: No C.R.E.W.



Colorado Canyon
Putt Putt
on November 17



On November 10, our congregation members were asked to wear blue to church for **Stand Sunday**. Stand Sunday is a day to learn ways we can pray, stand and change the destiny of children in foster care.

Throughout the next year, we will be participating in the "One Child Campaign" and will **pray for Dayton**—a local 15-year-old boy awaiting adoption.

On his profile, Dayton says, "When I look in the mirror, I say, 'You're handsome, you're smart, you're funny.' I want a mom and dad and my forever home."



2019 First UMC Church Council

Lay Leader—Carol Allen (Chair); Finance—Sherri Frugé & Tom Henry;
Trustees—Gary Bonneaux & Brown Claybar; SPR—Theresa Beauchamp & Greg Debrates;
Members at Large—Jerry Pennington, Betty Merchant & Trisha Anderson;
Secretary—Suzanne Magee; Pastor—Lani Rousseau

Deadline for agenda items —1st Thursday—December 5

Email to suzanneM97@gmail.com

Next meeting—2nd Thursday, December 12, 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
Approved
Church
Council Meeting
Minutes**
are
[posted on the
FUMC website](#)
(under
Resources)



**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service**

6 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Luke 2:1-20

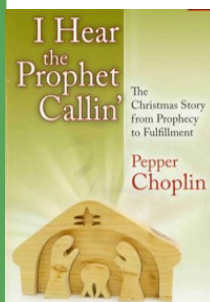
**A Thrill of Hope:
O Holy Night**

On Sunday,
November 24,
the congregation
was asked to
give a second
offering **to help
the churches
affected by
Imelda.**

Thank you for
giving
\$1,053!

Sunday, December 22—11 a.m. Service
Cantata—I Hear the Prophet Callin':

The Christmas Story from Prophecy to Fulfillment



The Chancel Choir will present their annual cantata on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 11 a.m. Inspired by his Appalachian-style anthem of the same name, Pepper Choplin presents a refreshingly different Christmas cantata. With original anthems that celebrate the distinct musical flavors of Appalachian, Irish, Latin, Cajun, and Early American music, and scripture readings, Choplin accomplishes a sense of familiarity and a seamless marriage of such earthy music with the true story of the Gospel. Join us as we celebrate the gift that Christmas always brings—the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

End of Year Giving

Sunday, December 29,

will be the last day of the year for giving.

Final donations will be posted on December 30.
Church Offices are closed on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

71ST ANNUAL
ORANGE CHRISTMAS PARADE
A "Disney" Christmas

*Dress as your
favorite Disney
character!*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2019

The 71st Annual Orange Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Orange, will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, December 6, 2019. Parade forms can be downloaded from the Kiwanis Club of Orange, TX Facebook page or picked up at Mann Insurance Agency, 1505 Park Ave., Orange. Forms are also available at the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce. All registration fees offset the cost of the parade. Tuesday, December 3, 2019 is the deadline to submit registration forms. Registration is required. On-site entries will not be accepted.
For more information: www.facebook.com/orangetxkiwanis

 **Kiwanis**

FUMC Float in Parade

FUMC will have a float in the upcoming Kiwanis parade on Friday, December 6!

A crew have been busy planning, creating, decorating, etc. Thanks to all who have helped get everything completed!

We need walkers in Disney costumes to hand out candy canes along the parade route. Please let the church office know if you can walk or have a costume that someone can use in the parade!

December Events:

[See full calendar on church website](#)

Sundays—Ladies Bible Study of *Uninvited*, 5 p.m.

Dec 4—Education Meeting, 4 p.m.

Dec 5—Deadline for Council agenda items

Dec 6—Kiwanis Christmas Parade

Dec 9—Caring Ministry, 10 a.m.

Dec 12—Salvation Army Angels Deadline

Dec 12—Church Council, 6 p.m.

Dec 14—UMM Breakfast, 8 a.m.

Dec 14—Jesus Love Never Melts, Advent VBS, 9-11:30 a.m.

Dec 16—Senior Sisterhood, 10 a.m.

Dec 18—Deadline for January newsletter information

Dec 18—Child Care and Gift Wrapping Available for a Good Cause, 5-8 p.m.

Dec 22—Christmas Cantata at 11 a.m. service

Dec 24—Christmas Eve Service, 6 p.m., Sanctuary

Dec 24-25—Church Office CLOSED

Dec 29—**ONE SERVICE at 10 a.m. in Sanctuary (Sunday School at 9 a.m.)**

Dec 29—Senior Sisterhood Blanket Drive Ends

Dec 31-Jan 1—Church Office CLOSED

Upcoming Events:

Jan 18—Programming Team Meeting—2020 Calendar, 9 a.m.—noon

Jan 24-25—Hot Hearts (Youth)

SAVE THE DATE

**COMING
UP**



Like or follow:
FUMCOrangeTX

Jesus' Love Never Melts Advent Vacation Bible School



Saturday, December 14—9-11:30 a.m.
For Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Opportunities to volunteer include crew leaders to walk the children to the different rotations, snack leaders, photographer, registration, and just because we want you there to enjoy the morning!!
Talk with Leighia Barron if interested in helping!! Thanks!!

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

**Child Care and
Gift Wrapping Available
for a Good Cause Event**
Wednesday, Dec. 18
5-8 p.m.



To help our community through the hectic holiday season!

On December 18, from 5-8 p.m., the community is invited to bring in presents for the youth group to wrap or Christmas cards that need to be addressed to the Family Life Center.
Cost—Donations

The Family Life Center will be open for the youth to provide a night of childcare so parents can Christmas shop that night.
Cost—Donations. Register your child online here:

<https://tinyurl.com/childcaregiftwrapping>

All donations will go to the Youth's Angels and Elves shopping trip in which we bless our community by buying gifts for less fortunate families in our city.

To help out in this event, contact Randall or fill out this form online: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XwxPu-aJiPd-0j1-Y-iYhPJjg2VFfsIQevY6zuCDoHU/edit>



Senior Sisterhood is sponsoring a "Give & Take Blanket Drive"

Give & Take means:
Give a blanket if you can and take a
blanket if you know someone who
needs one.

Please help us reach our goal of 50
blankets to be donated to Orange
Christian Services. Our Blanket Drive
will end on **Sunday, December 29.**

Donations on Sunday mornings can
be dropped off at the Family Life
Center or the Welcome Center.
Donations during the week can be
dropped off at the church office.

Thank you for your support!

Salvation Army Angels

Salvation Army Angels
are due by
**Thursday,
December 12,**
either at church or
the Salvation Army
building on MLK & Strickland.



Each angel has instructions with
a list of clothing sizes and a toy
for each child. Purchase what
you want; you're not obligated
to buy everything on the list!

Please Do NOT wrap gifts.
You may include gift wrap & gift
bags with your gift. You also
may donate gift wrap & bags,
tissue paper, and/or Scotch
tape/stickers for any gifts.
Monetary donations are
welcome.

ALSO, any help would be
appreciated for sorting gifts on
Saturday, December 14, and/or
on December 16-17.
Families pick up their gifts on
December 18.
Call Salvation Army 409-291-
8400 to help.

Thanks for making Christmas
special for these children.



Memorials:

in Memory of

Don Reasonver

Ken & Carolyn Hillsten

Gerald Taylor

Ken & Carolyn Hillsten

O'Neal Waldrop

*Ken & Carolyn Hillsten
George & Beverly Millsap*

Nancy Finchum

*David & Pie Bridges
George & Beverly Millsap
Charlie & Beverly Blalack
Richard & Patsy Herrington*

You can still sign up for curbside
recycling with Recyclops!



HELP BRING RECYCLING TO ORANGE COUNTY!

PRE-SIGN UP FOR RECYCLING!
ONCE 300 HOMES PRE-SIGN UP
SERVICES WILL BEGIN!

• ONLY \$10/MONTH
• TWICE-MONTHLY PICK UPS

FOR MORE INFO VISIT
RECYCLOPS.COM/ORANGE



The price is
\$10 a
month for
unsorted
curbside
pick up on
the second
and forth
week of the
month.

Sign-up at the website
recyclops.com/orange.

If you do not want to use the
computer, you can call
801-709-1509.

Lots of hugs and huge thanks to all who showed up
to decorate for Advent. Everything is beautiful!

A very special thanks to **Pie Bridges** for the beautiful
new decorations in the Sanctuary. She did all of them
herself. Please express your thanks when you see her.

Bev Blalack, Altar Guild



DEC 3G TIP

Go digital!

Advanced technology means reliance on
physical items can be reduced. No more
purchasing CDs, DVDs, or books!

Instead, buy them and download onto your
computer, tablet, or smartphone. Doing this will
not only reduce clutter in home/office but also
reduce the carbon imprint on our world.



CLAYBAR

Luminary Service of Remembrance

Saturday, December 14, 2019

Service begins at 4:30 p.m. at Hillcrest

Lighting of the Luminaries will occur following the service at Hillcrest Memorial
Gardens. (Families with loved ones buried at any other cemetery are invited to
take a luminary to light their family member's grave)
Bring your lawn chairs. Light Refreshments will be served.

For Information Call: (409) 735-7145

Growing Stronger Disciples

Seeing and Reaching All The People—Part 2

Big Front Porch

As we look at the current and future challenges of making disciples in the 21st century, I see a growing need for our churches to develop a Big Front Porch understanding. What I mean by this is creating more intentionality in the front areas of our discipleship systems. If you think along the lines of stages of growth, I am talking about the opportunities that we offer in the Searching and Exploring areas. How can your church be more intentional about creating spaces and opportunities for people who are searching for spiritual meaning in life or exploring Christianity? How will you help your leaders understand the importance of creating such spaces and equip them with the best ways to interact with those who are searching and exploring?

We already see efforts to do this across our connection in many ways. **Fresh Expressions** is one example of churches creating safe places for non-church folks to begin to rub shoulders with the church. These efforts are usually connected to lifestyle or hobbies, such as skateboarding, surfing, rock climbing, etc., but can also coalesce around music or coffee.

As your church begins to create such spaces and experiences, make sure your intentionality does not end there. If you create a coffee shop or a skateboard park that never offers opportunities for deeper community or invitations to discipleship, you just help coffee drinkers and skateboarders. Make sure you are also building a sense of community with opportunities to introduce the beginnings of discipleship. As people on the Big Front Porch begin to explore the ways of Jesus, how will you assist with next steps? In what ways will you help explorers become beginners? At the same time, do not let the Big Front Porch go away as more people become followers of Jesus. If this happens, you will have a Christian coffee shop or Christian skateboard club. The intentional spaces and experiences that you create for those who are searching and exploring must continue for the next group of searchers and explorers. Through Big Front Porch systems, your church must be intentional about continuing to offer safe places where people can search for spiritual meaning and explore Christianity.

Developing an Intentional Discipleship System: A Guide for Congregations Junius B. Dotson

Fresh Expressions for First United Methodist Church-Orange

What are some ideas you have for First United Methodist Orange?

How can we share our awesome facilities with the community??

Please share your ideas with Randall or Leighia—

we'll be working on the 2020 calendar very soon. Thanks!!

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!

Eleanor Joy Sanchez baptism November 17, 2019

Daughter of Dr. Charles and Sarah (Byers) Sanchez
and granddaughter of Cecil and Nancy Byers



The Bell Choir is practicing for
Christmas Eve! Come hear them on
Tuesday, December 24, at 6 p.m.
in the Sanctuary!



FUMC Welcomes New Members

**Theresa Cronin
Ann Wright
Dena Keltz
Kate Dean
Denise St. Pierre
Mike Cordell (Not Pictured)**



Theresa Cronin



Ann Wright &
Dena Keltz

Randall and Sharon Bridges enjoy
their shower to prepare for the arrival
of baby Joseph!



Denise St. Pierre & Kate Dean



Two of our
own FUMC
members,
Ken Hillsten

and **Rock Rothrock**, were honored
during a Veterans Day Program at
North Early Learning Center. They
both introduced themselves, told
about their service, and then
shook hands with all 300 kids!!!! Thank you to them and all our veterans for your service!



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. Look for order forms 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 8.

Poinsettias \$15.00



In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Check _____ Cash _____

Deadline for orders is December 8.

Poinsettias \$15.00



In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by _____

Check _____ Cash _____

Deadline for orders is December 8.



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 Chapel

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!