



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE ALLIGATOR CIRCUIT



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.

FEBRUARY 2017

Rev. John E. Warren

Senior Pastor

Doug Rogers

Director of
Music & Fine Arts

Randall Bridges

Director of
Christian Education & Youth

Jeff Harris

Donna Rogers

Organists

Norma Bergeron

Administrative Assistant

Samantha Ziller

Nursery Coordinator

Mary Grimes

Lisa Hodge

Nursery Caregivers

FROM PASTOR JOHN:

I have written almost 200 newspaper articles for the *Orange Leader*, I know because I have numbered them. It got me thinking how many sermons have I written in my career? Some churches had two services per week and 3 churches early on had Sunday evening services as well. Then there was the six years I served two different churches while the sermons were similar each one spoke to that church. Consider then that I have been preaching since 1986. So how do you develop a sermon. My professor Dr. Fred Craddock said first to preach to a church you must know the church. By year number six, I think I have a pretty good handle on that one. We have laughed together and cried together and done a few things that were on my bucket list such as the “potato drop” and now VCI. You have followed my lead on this new adventure to renew our church.

From time to time I have taken myself away to focus only on sermon preparation, we are blessed to have a small home in Wimberley and I can go there and not be disturbed by a phone or a tv or anything else. I went there in January, leaving on Sunday afternoon. It is almost a 6 hour drive. I was so excited to spend this time with God. I got everything set up that night and went to bed. I got up early the next day and began my prayer and research. got so enthralled with the process that I didn't go to bed until midnight. The next morning I woke up about 6 am before my 6:30 alarm, with ideas that spoke to me as I slept. I got up and started to work again. I used to keep my computer next to the bed so when I would wake up with an idea I could go to my desk but that doesn't work to well for the health of my marriage!

So I am thrilled to be sharing what has come of the time. Check out the scriptures and sermons coming up in February:

Feb 5	Matthew 5:1-12	Blessed
Feb 12	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and Light and Righteousness Abounding
Feb 19	Matthew 5:21-37	This, NOT That
Feb 26	The Word & Response—Matthew 5	And Now for Your Reward

Mission Statement:

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

The next newsletter will be for the entire month of March. To have information included, please send it to Norma at norma.bergeron@fumcorange.org.

by
Wednesday, February 22.

Church Communications 101 Workshop

Congratulations! You've been invited to serve as a magnificent member, a VCI leader -- or on the Communications Committee of your church and your next assignment is Sunday, February 26.

BONUS: You will pick up communication tips you can apply to your professional life!



vibrantchurch
INITIATIVE

Join us for a Communications 101 Workshop to learn how to take your church communications from “good to great.”

Presented by April Canik, Communications Consultant (and Assistant Communication Director for the Texas Annual Conference)

**Sunday, February 26,
from noon-6 pm
First UMC Orange
Family Life Center**

RSVP to Pastor John by February 20 to ensure enough food and session workbooks

Help your church tell God's amazing story!

What's in it for you?

- ✓ **FOOD!** (lunch /snacks provided by the church)
- ✓ **PRIZES** and fun throughout the day
- ✓ New friendships, hands-on activities and interaction -- and lots of examples and resources
- ✓ Free consultation and tips for your Communication Toolkit (how to consider your audiences, improve your church newsletter, community ties, website, social media and more!)
- ✓ **AND**—You will leave with insight and a starting draft of a **communication action plan!**

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

January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
11:00..... 90	8:00 16	8:00.....23	8:0025	8:00..... 21
	9:00 76	9:00.....73	9:00 74	9:00..... 77
	11:00..... 53	11:00.....54	11:00 62	11:00..... 58
	TOTAL 145	TOTAL 150	TOTAL 161	TOTAL 156

Giving

January 2017	
Income	\$96,274.03
Expenses	\$42,113.13
	\$54,160.90

February Worship

February 5, 2017

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12
Sermon: *Blessed*

Ushers: Team #1

8:00 –Kenneth Wheeler, Jean Whitley, Elaine Cooper
11:00 – Bob Izer, Ricky Harper, Frank Beauchamp, John Cochran

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal

9 am Greeters: Greg & Dina Defrates

Parking Lot Greeters:

9:00 – Sherri & Jeff Fruge
11:00 – Sandra Hoke & Betty Merchant

Lay Readers:

8:00 – Marilyn Powell
9:00 – Leighia Barron
11:00 – Lyn Fields

Children's Sunday School

Helpers Trisha & Jennifer

February 12, 2017

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20
Sermon: *Salt and Light and Righteousness Abounding*

Ushers: Team #2

8:00 – Pie & David Bridges
11:00 – Brown Claybar, Phil Grooms, Jim Pledger, Ken Hillsten

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal

9 am Greeters: Trisha & Bobby Anderson

Parking Lot Greeters:

9:00 – Jeff & Susan Eby
9:00 Youth – Kaylin Abshire
11:00 – Beverly & Charlie Blalack

Lay Readers:

8:00 – Vernon Murray
9:00 – Julie Allensworth
11:00 – Gwen Whitehead

February 19, 2017

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-37
Sermon: *This, NOT That*

Ushers: Team #3

8:00 – Vernon Murry, Jim Snider
11:00 – John Griffith, Jerry Windham, Jim Armstrong, Ron Hopperton

Altar Guild: Novella Toal

9 am Greeters: Julie & Richard Allensworth

Parking Lot Greeters:

9:00 – Richard & Leighia Barron
9:00 Youth – Molly Abshire
11:00 – Lyn Fields & Betty James

Lay Readers:

8:00 – Pie Bridges
9:00 – Barbara Dardeau
11:00 – Sarah Boehme

February 26, 2017

Scripture: The Word and Response – Matthew 5
Sermon: *And Now For Your Reward*

Ushers: Team #4

8:00 – Charlotte & Ed Foreman
11:00 – Mat Taylor, Sarah Boehme, Drew Domas

Altar Guild: Nevella Toal

9 am Greeters: Cindy Reynolds & Donna Benefield

Parking Lot Greeters:

9:00 – Barbara & Dale Dardeau
11:00 – Shirley Hudson & Nevella Toal

Lay Readers:

8:00 – Ken Hillsten
9:00 – Lori Kratzer
11:00 – Sandra Hoke

Please pray for our "Family" of the week

Feb. 5 Daniel & Marie Auchenbach
Feb. 12 Ron & Bonnie Hopperton
Feb. 19 Malissie Bailey
Feb. 26 Mary Helen Campbell



The Praise Center has been renamed the Family Life Center to better represent its purpose. The buildings are also being rekeyed.

Remember the 4th Sunday of each month is **OCS (Orange Christian Services) Collection Sunday.**

You can place donated items in the OCS containers in the Family Life Center or give money (in an envelope labeled OCS).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE DINNERS

Feb 1 - Missions will cook to raise funds for **Change the World.**

Feb 8 - WNL Kids will cook **Bean & Rice & Cornbread** to benefit **Stop World Hunger.**

Feb 15 - VBS will cook **spaghetti.**

Feb 22 - Go Green 3G will cook **Taco Soup.**

\$5 Adult;
\$2 ages 3-12;
\$15 Family;
\$5 Take-out

Dinner is served.



Bakers for Christ

Each Sunday, *Bakers for Christ* provide snacks in the Welcome Center. Your love offering goes to *Stop Hunger Now.*

Bakers:

Feb. 5 Barbara D. & Sandra W.
Feb. 12 Leighia
Feb. 19 Samantha & Brittany
Feb. 26 Priscella & Dana



Youth Sunday School at 10:00 am

Youth Sunday Night 5:00-7:00 pm

Sunday Nights:

Join us for Youth Group in the Family Life Center !

What's Happening Sunday Nights?

CREW—WE WILL NOT MEET 2/26 DUE TO VCI WORKSHOPS THAT DAY

We are starting a new 4 week series called CREW Things (a spinoff of Stranger Things) that will run through February.

Next Youth Event: - April 28-29—30 Hour Famine

We will be joining churches nationwide to fast and raise awareness for kids who go hungry every day worldwide. We are looking for adults who would be willing to help segments of the time including making a meal for us to eat after going 30 hours without food.

Social Media:

To see more of what we've been up to Like us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/fumcorangeyouth or Follow us on Twitter and Instagram: @fumcorangeyouth

Wednesday Night Live

Meal/Fellowship at 5 p.m., Classes from 6-7

Wednesday Night Live's mission is to simulate personal spiritual growth and fellowship. WNL strives to build maturing disciples and maintain an active agenda of informal fellowship. WNL also provides not only FUMC but area residents personal enrichment courses.

January 18 - April 19

From Life Lessons with Max Lucado - Suzanne Magee

Twelve week studies with Reflection questions to begin your study, a Bible Reading section with text in both the NCV and NKJV, Discovery questions to help you explore the Bible, Inspirational thoughts from the writings of Max Lucado, Response questions for discussion, prayer, and room for journaling.

March 22 - April 19 (Starts after Spring Break)

Introduction to Bible Journaling - Nicole Watzlavik & Misty Grooms

Bible Journaling is a popular spiritual practice. If you are wanting to learn a new way to connect with God, to fall in love with your Bible, help with Bible memorization, and leave a legacy while doing so...join us for an introduction into Bible Journaling.

Mr. Doug's First Methodist Kids

1st Methodist Kids will meet with Mr. Doug on Sundays from 5 to 7 pm. We meet on the playground and have dinner together. K-5th graders are welcome.

See you Sunday! Call Mr. Doug with questions, 779-2143.





FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

502 NORTH SIXTH ST.
ORANGE, TX 77630

OFFICE HOURS

Monday- Thursday

8:30am - 4:30pm

Friday

8:30am - Noon

WORSHIP HOURS

8:00a - Traditional service
in the Chapel

9:00a - Celebration service
in the Family Life Center

10:00a - Sunday School
(9:40a Pairs & Spares)

11:00a - Traditional service
in the Sanctuary



VIBRANT PRAYER WITH PURPOSE

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ. ~ Philippians 1:9-10

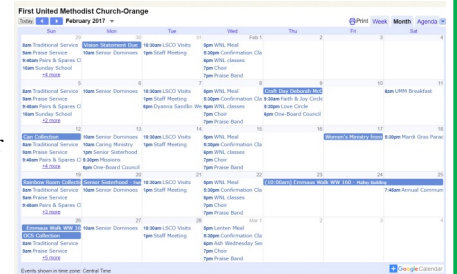
We pray that our love will grow in knowledge and depth of insight so that we can discern how best we may serve you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

FIRST UMC GETTING READY TO LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE

One VCI prescription is to improve communications. The VCI Communications Team was to revamp the website (www.fumcorange.org). Our present website was created for FUMC in 2007 and is no longer easily updated. Since September, the VCI Communications Team has been working to launch a new website, which should go live very soon. The goal is to have the website be a place where guests and members can be more informed about and keep up to date with FUMC Orange.

To get it launched, it is a “work in progress,” with a skeleton of the activities of FUMC Orange posted. If you see something that you feel should be included or updated on the new website (and we are certain more should be added), please let Randall know so the website can be as accurate as possible.

Calendar: The calendar page mirrors the master calendar in the church office. Not only will all of the activities of the church be listed but also details about those activities. For example, each Sunday service is listed, and if you click on a particular Sunday, you will see the scripture, sermon title, greeters, ushers, lay readers, altar team, Welcome Center bakers, etc. This calendar is live and will reflect changes as they are made.



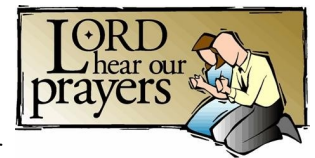
Upcoming Events: This page will showcase the events that are not regularly occurring.

- What activities are planned for Lent—Ash Wednesday (meal and service), Easter Sunday?
- When is VBS? What is this year’s theme? What can you do to help?
- When are the Youth Summer Trips – UMARMY, BigStuf, Camp Eagle, etc.?

This page is a great place to find out!

PrayerBlasts: With one click of the mouse (or one email), you can send a message to the several people who can share that message through emails to the congregation and/or posting on social media. From the new website:

First United Methodist Church recognizes that there are times when members want to get a prayer request out quickly and to as many persons as possible—through email and/or social media. For those prayer needs, please use this [prayer blast request link](#).



Intercessory Prayer Ministry: The PrayerBlasts do not replace the important Intercessory Prayer Team, which still faithfully prays DAILY for the sick, injured, and others in need as shared with them through each confidential prayer request. Requesters will still be able to designate recipients of the team’s “notes of encouragement” to alert the recipient of the unique blessing of comfort that someone is praying on his/her behalf.



News: Since our communication outlets are currently under the responsibility of a group of people, ANYONE who has information to share via newsletter, bulletin, website, social media, press releases or announcements, will be strongly encouraged to send it to ONE email address. The ONE email will be automatically forwarded to ALL the people who can determine how to best use their venue to communicate it to the members.

Online Giving: When you click Online Giving, you will be directed to the HeartSpring Methodist Foundation page. You create your account and then you can make online payments or donations to FUMC Orange by using your credit card or checking account.



Watch your emails, bulletins, social media for notice when the new website is launched and new emails become active!

Experienced or interested into taking pictures?

We are starting a **Photography Team** to capture FUMC events for our new website, newsletter, social media, etc. Contact Dalayna Sandlin at (409) 670-6342 to learn more!



UMM GUMBO LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

10 a.m.—12:30 p.m.
Eat in or take-out



- 1 cup gumbo w/rice, potato salad, crackers & drink - \$5
- 2 cups of gumbo w/rice - \$10
- 3 cups of gumbo w/rice - \$15

Come enjoy some gumbo and support UMM!

Saturday, February 11— UMM meeting at 8:00 am to make gumbo!

Do you shop at Kroger?

Please take 2 minutes to sign up with your Plus Card. Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for FUMC Orange every time you shop at Kroger and use your Plus Card!

To enroll in Community Rewards, go to www.kroger.com; click on community. Our church number is 80600.

FUMC Senior Adults meet on Mondays at 10 am in the Administrative Center. Bring a snack to share and invite your friends and neighbors.



DEDICATION OF THE BLESSING BOX

Have you seen it? Have you seen the beautiful new wooden cabinet with inlay cross doors set by the Family Life Center (formally known as Praise Center) portico drive through and wondered what it was? **It's our community Blessing Box!**

A Blessing Box is a station where people in the church and community can "take what they need, leave what they can, but above all, be blessed."

The box is filled with laundry detergent, dish soap, bar soap, toothbrushes, personal hygiene items, canned goods, school supplies, or whatever God places upon your heart to include. Prayer cards are included so we can pray for community members' needs if they wish to share.

Then, people can take whatever they need from the box or add items at any time of day or night. If you need something, take it. If you feel led to leave items, leave them. Most importantly, we'll leave it in God's hands for those in need. Please be in prayer for our community and those utilizing our Blessing Box.

Our church's box is just one of many around the country and recently, globally. You can see more boxes and follow the movement on Facebook through the Blessing Box page. Special gratitude goes to Richard Allensworth and Richard Barron for beautifully constructing ours.



Rejuvenated

Did you miss me? Don't get me wrong. I really do enjoy writing these articles for the newsletter. However, just like anyone else, it is nice to take a little break from the "grind" of coming up with an article. To be perfectly honest, the research for the articles does take the most time, but it is also my favorite part of the process. But like I said earlier, it was nice to be able to not open Microsoft Word for a little while and just relax.

Every living faith must have within itself the power of rejuvenation if it is to live

— Mahatma Gandhi

When I spent so much time in the hospital, it felt like I had to get rejuvenated every single day. It got difficult to have the energy to just do simple things like roll over or sit up. I just didn't feel like I was making any progress, and that made it difficult to have any hope of improvement. I've said in previous articles that a huge part of getting through tough times is having the support system around you to motivate you to keep going. This is also true for when you just need a break from the rush we call LIFE. At times there will be feelings that we won't be able to move on. That is where our friends and family can come in to help us (or you can help them). We all have the power to pick up where others have left off.

I have to say that because of my medical issues, I am staying home a lot more often and have not been able to get back into a "normal" routine (whatever that is anymore). However I know several people who will tell you that going to church is a great way to get your mind back on track and put things in true perspective. That is one of the best ways to get rejuvenated and I hope you are able to take every opportunity to get on the right track.

Chris' Corner
An Editorial by Chris Day

DONATE ROBOT SUPPLIES FOR THIS YEAR'S VBS—JUNE 19-23!

The Christian Education Committee is collecting your cleaned trash items to make robots for this summer's **Vacation Bible School—Maker Fun Factory!**

We are collecting all types of plastic lids, buttons, cereal boxes, water bottles, etc. Also if you have any spray paint that you no longer need, that would be appreciated too.

Give your donations to Leighia, Nicole, or Randall.

The robots will be found in different areas of the church holding VBS flyers, donation requests, and other opportunities to help / volunteer.



Located inside the Port of Beaumont, the **Seafarers' Center of Beaumont** is an ecumenical ministry serving all foreign and domestic seafarers. Here, seafarers can rest, relax, worship and enjoy a few hours on land before returning to sea. Transportation from the ship to the Center as well as to a variety of destinations is also provided.

Donations of toiletries (travel size hotel items accumulated during travels, pens, notepads, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, combs, or any other variety of little items along this line), magazines, and money can be placed in the labeled containers in the Family Life Center.

The United Women of Southeast District's "In Remembrance 2016"

"In Remembrance" Service and Training
February 4, 2017 at Port Neches UMC

Orange, First - Mary Frances Hartley

Important Reminder for all Members as well as Officers of Units and District Members:
District meeting will be more than **Officer Training** and

In Remembrance Service. It will **benefit all members of your unit**.

Invite other women who might be interested in what UMW is really about.

Reminder of District events for 2017:

- **District Spring Spiritual Growth** - Area cluster meetings—Dates and Location will be announced. If your unit would like to host a cluster meeting, please contact Janice or Donna.
- **District Mission u and Fall Festival** - Sept. 30, 2017 - TBA

Our Deepest Sympathy

To Carolyn and Ken Hillsten



Denise Taylor

May 22, 1967 -
January 4, 2017

Our church family has helped to mend our broken hearts on the passing of our daughter, Denise Taylor.

Your prayers, calls, cards, food and memorials have shown your kindness and generosity that have meant so much. Thank you and may God bless each of you.

Carolyn and Ken Hillsten



Volunteer to support the **Feed My Sheep** soup kitchen at Salem UMC!

First UMC helps next on Sat., February 25, at 10 am.



CHANGE the WORLD!

Change collected during each Sunday service supports local mission projects created by FUMC Orange to serve our community.



FUMC will meet at the corner
of Green Ave. and 5th Street
at 5:30 pm
on Saturday, February 18,
to watch the
Orange Mardi Gras parade
together.

Afterwards, we will have
king cake, gumbo, and fellowship
in the Family Life Center.

Bring lawn chairs and
invite your family, friends, and neighbors!!

This event is sponsored by
Fellowship Life.

22nd Annual Community Trash-Off **Saturday, February 25, 2017 (8 am-1 pm)**

Fellowship Life will coordinate teams from FUMC to clean up the community of Orange during the 22nd Annual Community Trash Off on Saturday, February 25.

Teams will meet in the Infocus parking lot at 7:45 am and supplies will be passed out. They will have gloves, but they are too big for kids.

We will be requesting Strickland Drive towards Luigi's (both sides). When we finish, we will enjoy pizza and prizes at the boat ramp.

Please pick up a registration form in the Welcome Center and turn into Nicole or Randall.

If you have any questions, please text 409-782-6296 or email mrsjcwatz@gmail.com.