



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.

JANUARY 2018

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

Rev. John E. Warren
Senior Pastor

Doug Rogers
Director of
Music & Fine Arts

Randall Bridges
Director of
Christian Education & Youth

Donna Rogers
Organist

Norma Bergeron
Administrative Assistant

Samantha Ziller
Nursery Coordinator

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 February newsletter, please send it to news@fumcorange.org by **Friday, January 19**, so the newsletter can be distributed before February 1.

The New Year kicks off with a lot of things happening!

The first of many UMC work teams sponsored by the Texas Conference arrives. Some 50 Texas Aggies will create 5 work teams to work on houses. United Methodist homes are to be made safe, sanitary and "livable" says our conference recovery director Rev. Pyppa Johnson. Over 27,000 homes in our area were flooded, but we are just one county out of 15 that are in the Texas Annual Conference bounds. Work teams will be on a case-by-case agreement with homeowners providing such things as Sheetrock insulation and flooring. If you have materials but need installation, that can be arranged as well. The Malloy building will be full of workers all January. We are working on a massive work team of 500 to come in July. Housing will be a challenge as well as having homes to work on.

On **Sunday, January 7**, my friend the Rev. Max Mertz will be preaching. I invited him to bring a work team of college student to Orange over their Christmas break. The icing on the cake is not only are they going to be working on your homes but Max will preach and his students will be sharing their musical gifts. Their Wesley Foundation Band will play for our contemporary service and a gospel group will be singing in the traditional service. If any of you feel so moved to prepare a meal for them, let me know.

On **Sunday, January 14**, the Rev. Marilyn Wadkins will be preaching an encouraging sermon. Marilyn came to us in 2016 as our Vibrant Church Initiative coach, and she has helped us greatly, and patiently prodded us into movement to be God's disciples for Orange. Sandra and I will be at Cook's Point UMC near Caldwell. Twenty seven years ago, I baptized my twin goddaughters there, and this time I will be baptizing Kasey and Nathan Barber's firstborn Bradley Grace. Cook's Point was my first appointment, and Rev. James Thompson was my district superintendent.

More celebrations to come: Mark **Friday, February 2**, on your calendars—The Lamar University Jazz Band and special guests will put on a special concert. A love offering will be taken for the Lamar University students.

January sermon series: **Raise Up!**

As we begin the New Year, our guiding words cause us to respond to God. These are action words verbs that, by their very nature, evoke a response. I hope that you will find a word that will move you on your Faith walk to move and make a difference for God. Remember—*disciple* is both a noun and a verb.



Pastor John has to keep his wits during children's messages!

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

November 26	December 3	December 10	December 17
9:00..... 52	9:00..... 69	9:00..... 60	9:00..... 55
11:00..... 47	11:00..... 51	11:00..... 56	11:00..... 69
TOTAL 99	TOTAL 120	TOTAL 116	TOTAL 124

Giving

November 2017
Income.....\$35,864.57
Expenses.....\$45,748.78
- \$ 9,884.21

Remember
you can
[give online!](#)

January Worship

January 7, 2018

Sermon: **Real Peace**
Rev. Max Mertz,
pastor of A&M Wesley
Foundation, Preaching

COMMUNION

Ushers: Team #1—Bob
Izer, Ricky Harper, Frank
Beauchamp, John
Cochran, Jean Whitley,
Elaine Cooper

Altar Guild: Beverly
Blalock team &
Trisha Anderson

9 am Greeters: Lauren Peet
& Greg Defrates

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

Lay Readers:
9:00 – Lori Kratzer
11:00 – Beverly Blalock

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

Welcome Center Bakers:
Trisha Anderson &
Ginger Williams

January 14, 2018

Sermon: **How In the World
Do I Listen to God?**
Rev. Marilyn Wadkins
Preaching

Ushers: Team #2—Brown
Claybar, Phil Grooms,
Ken Hillsten, Betty
Merchant, Pie & David
Bridges

Altar Guild: Beverly
Blalock team &
Trisha Anderson

9 am Greeters: Sharon &
Randall Bridges

Parking Lot Greeters:
9:00 – Susan & Jeff Eby
11:00 – Beverly & Charlie
Blalock

Lay Readers:
9:00 – Barbara Dardeau
11:00 – Judy Taylor

Welcome Center Greeters:
8:45-10—Lilly Williams
10-11:15—Suzanne Magee

Welcome Center Bakers:
Julie Allensworth &
Suzanne Magee

January 21, 2018

Scripture: Jonah 3:1-3a,
10:4-9
Sermon: **Move**

Ushers: Team #3—Jim
Griffin, Jerry Windham,
Ron Hopperton, Nevella
Toal, Vernon Murray,
Richard Powell

Altar Guild: Beverly
Blalock team &
Trisha Anderson

9 am Greeters: Julie &
Richard Allensworth

Parking Lot Greeters:
9:00 – Leighia & Richard
Barron
11:00 – Lynn Fields &
Betty James

Lay Readers:
9:00 – Angela Abshire
11:00 – Betty Merchant

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

Welcome Center Bakers:
Donna Benefield &
Cindy Reynolds

January 28, 2018

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:
15-20
Sermon: **Answer**

Ushers: Team #4—Mat
Taylor, Sarah Boehme,
Drew Domas, Ed &
Charlotte Foreman

Altar Guild: Beverly
Blalock team &
Trisha Anderson

9 am Greeters: Jennifer &
Chris Smith

Parking Lot Greeters:
9:00 – Dale & Barbara
Dardeau and Trent Brown
11:00 – Nevella Toal &
Archie McLellan

Lay Readers:
9:00 – Julie Allensworth
11:00 – Lynn Fields

Welcome Center Greeters:
8:45-10—TBA
10-11:15—Rose Butler

Welcome Center Bakers:
Marcia Brown &
Gwen Whitehead

Every 1st Sunday—OCS Collection Sundays

Give money (in envelope marked OCS) or
place donated items in OCS containers
in 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 Rainbow Room
4th Sundays—Bring Items for Blessing Box

The church office will be closed
January 1 for New Years Day.

Please pray for our “Family” of the week

January 7	Joyce Kleinknect
January 14	Ruth Mason
January 21	Justin Sanders
January 28	Stephen and Theresa Allen



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.facebook.com/fumcora) to 81010

Facebook: [fumcorangeyouth](https://www.facebook.com/fumcorangeyouth)
Instagram & Twitter: [@fumcorangeyouth](https://www.instagram.com/fumcorangeyouth)

Youth Activities:

January 4—Open Gym for all 6th-12th graders are welcome to join us for basketball games, 1:15-4:45 pm

For those who live in the James Zay Roberts Plaza Apartments—Our FUMC bus will pick teenagers up at 1 pm and drop them off around 5 pm. Pick up will be located at the Gazebo by the playground in the front of the complex.

January 7—C.R.E.W. resumes with One Word lesson and paintings

January 8—Youth feed A&M Work crews; we need help preparing, feeding, and cleaning up the meal.

January 26-27—Hot Hearts, Beaumont

Mark your calendars now for Family Youth Night on **February 25** where the whole family (parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, etc.) are invited to come and hang out with us and see what we do and worship with us.



The youth had a great time at their Christmas party hosted by the Warrens. Above, Wynter Wedgeworth won the Christmas Sweater Contest!



Wednesday Night Live
has a new name:

Family & Friends Night

with an added opportunity to reach more folks who will be with us during the year.

The name change encourages you to invite your family and friends to the short-term lessons and programs and, of course, the meals.

During the year, we may have folks staying in the Malloy who would like to join us for a meal and or a class. (We will ask each group who will be staying to be sure to let us know if they are coming for the meal so we can have enough to eat for all.) We will be blessed by their participation.

It looks to be an exciting time in our church.

Mr. Doug's First Methodist Kids



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.

Family & Friends Night

Wednesdays, January 17 - March 21

(Skip Feb. 14-Ash Wednesday & March 14-Spring Break.)

Meal/Fellowship at 5 p.m.; Topics/Classes at 6 p.m.

At 5 p.m., enjoy a light meal and fellowship in the Family Life Center. Meals are \$5 for adults, \$2 for children, or \$15 for a family.

At 6 p.m., the presentations and/or classes will begin.

A nursery is provided for infants and preschoolers.

The Five Love Languages: How to Express Heartfelt Commitment to Your Mate

by Gary Chapman (facilitators: Ron & Bonnie Hopperton)

Learn the five ways to express and experience love that Chapman calls "love languages": gift giving, quality time, words of affirmation, acts of service (devotion), and physical touch. Examples are given from his counseling practice, as well as questions to help determine one's own love languages. Chapman suggests that to discover another person's love language, one must observe the way they express love to others, and analyze what they complain about most often and what they request from their significant other most often. He theorizes that people tend to naturally give love in the way that they prefer to receive love, and better communication between couples can be accomplished when one can demonstrate caring to the other person in the love language the recipient understands.

Max Lucado's Life Lessons: The Study of Mark – A Life Changing Story

(facilitator: Suzanne Magee)

The Life Lessons series brings the New Testament to life through lessons filled with intriguing questions, inspirational storytelling, profound reflections, and space for journaling. This group will finish the lessons which they started during the spring session of 2017.

Let It Go: How to Stop Running the Show and Start Walking in Faith

by Karen Ehman (facilitator: TBA)

Many women are wired to control. You're the ones who make sure the house is clean, the meals are prepared, the beds are made, the children are dressed, and everyone gets to work, school, and other activities on time. But trying to control everything can be exhausting, and it can also cause friction with your friends and family. This humorous, yet thought provoking book guides you as you discover for yourself the freedom and reward of living a life "out of control," in which you allow God to be seated in the rightful place in your life. Armed with relevant Biblical and current examples (both to emulate and to avoid), doable ideas, new thought patterns, and practical tools to implement, *Let It Go* will gently lead you out of the land of over-control and into a place of quiet trust.

We are working to have Harvest House talk to us about Human Trafficking.

If they can come, we will work around their schedule.

Invite a friend and come enjoy fellowship during a light supper and then grow in your Christian life through a variety of classes.



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!

2018 First UMC Church Council

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

A Chair will be elected when the new Council convenes in January.

Deadline for agenda items to secretary, Sherri Frugé—2nd Thursday, January 11

Next meeting—3rd Thursday—January 18, at 6 p.m.

Thanks to those who served for 2017—Jim Armstrong, Janice Gresham & Jonathan Vogt

Welcome New Members for 2018—Theresa Beauchamp, Tom Henry & Suzanne Magee

FUMC Guiding Principles and Church Council

Meeting Minutes
are [posted on the FUMC website](#)
(under Resources)

**January VCI Team Meetings
with Coach Marilyn Wadkins**
(Teams Scheduled at printing)

Friday, January 12

4:00 - 5:00—

Saturday, January 13

9:00 - 10:00—Communications

10:15 - 11:15—

11:30 - 12:30—

12:45 - 1:45—**LUNCH**

2:00 - 3:00—

3:15 - 4:15—

4:30 - 5:30—

Sunday, January 14

12:30-1:30—Vision

1:45-2:45—Worship Excellence

3:00-4:00—

NEW PROGRAMMING TEAM

After a year with our one-board Church Council format, we have identified a need for another group focused on the PROGRAM of the church. The new PROGRAMMING TEAM will coordinate the church programs in the different focus areas.

Task leaders of all groups listed under each heading will still be led by your existing leaders but will bring reports and needs to the coordinator if your group needs help. The Programming Team will meet quarterly.

- ♦ **Worship**—the Worship Design Team
- ♦ **Discipleship Making**—Leighia Barron and Randall Bridges
- ♦ **Hospitality**—Ginger Williams
- ♦ **Communications**—Marcia Brown and Trisha Anderson
- ♦ **Caring Ministry**—Jeanelle Cochran
- ♦ **Missions**—Stephen Lee

Two new groups provide support but not programming; these people will coordinate with the staff Pastor John and Norma for building needs or help in the office area

- ♦ **Facility**—Jeff Fruge
- ♦ **Administration**—Nancy Vincent

Again, this is not changing any individual group, but hopefully it will give a level of support to each of your groups. Years ago the church had a Council on Ministries—think of it in that fashion.
John Warren



VCI VIBRANT PRAYER WITH PURPOSE

Behold, I will do a new thing; Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
Isaiah 43:19

January Prayer:

Father as we begin this new year, 2018, show us Your path that we may know it and follow You.
Amen!

Worship Leaders of Worship	Disciple Making Leighia & Randall	Hospitality Ginger	Communications Trisha & Marcia	Caring Ministry Jeanelle	Missions Stephen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Design Team • Choir • Praise Team • Readers (Trisha) • Altar Guild (Beverly) • Ushers (Ken) • Worship Shepherds • Flowers (Norma) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends & Family (Leighia) • Sunday School (Leighia) • VBS (Leighia) • Nursery Staff • College (Randall) • Youth (Randall) <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UMW • UMM • 1st Kids (Doug) • Good Guys Grilling (David Sandlin) • Senior Sisterhood (Betty, Lynn) • Unfinished Crafters (Nicole Watzlavik) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greeters (Ginger) • Member Orientation (John) • Gift Bags (Donna & Cindy) • Welcome Center Bakers (Priscella) • Welcome Center Greeters (Ginger) • Malloy Shepherds • Wedding Coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website (Randall) • Newsletter (Norma & Marcia) • Bulletins (Doug) • Malloy ministry ads • Email Notices (Norma) • Church Calendar (Staff) • Photographer • Announcements (Doug & Dina) • Press Releases (Trisha) • Social Media (Randall) • Special Event post-cards, brochures, flyers, business cards (Marcia) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bereavement • Prayer Ministry • Caring • Community Concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to School • UMARMY (Randall) • Flood • Potato Drop • OCS • Rainbow Room • Seafarers • Blessing Box • Foreign • 3G
Facilities Jeff			Administrative Nancy		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make repairs and care for all the buildings and grounds on church property as well as the vans and playground. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen, Labels and mailouts, Answer Telephone, Connect Cards (Staff), Count offering, Scribes (write letters), Librarian, Historian 		

January Events:

[See full calendar on church website](#)

January 4—Open Gym for 6th-12th graders to play basketball games, 1:15-4:45 p.m.

January 9—Education Workday

January 11—Deadline to submit agenda items for Church Council to Sherri Fruge

January 17—Friends and Family Night (was WNL) - Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m.—until March 21

January 17—Safe Sanctuary Training, 5 p.m., Classroom 2 (Upstairs) in Family Life Center

January 18—Church Council, 6 p.m.

January 19—Deadline for February newsletter information

January 21—UMM Gumbo Fundraiser (eat in/take out), serving from 10-12:30

January 26-27—Hot Hearts, Beaumont (Youth)

Upcoming Events:

February 2—Jazz Concert in Family Life Center

February 3—Mardi Gras Parade

February 11—Ladies Tea, after 11 a.m. service, Family Life Center

February 14—Ash Wednesday

February 16-18—Ignite Midwinter

February 18—Ladies' Bible Study, *Daniel Prayer* begins

SAVE THE DATE

COMING
UP



Like or follow:
FUMCORangeTX

ALL ladies of the First United Methodist Church are invited to a **Ladies' Tea on Sunday, Feb. 11 after the 11 a.m. service in the Family Life Center.**



If you can help with the light lunch, set up, or clean up please, let Leighia Barron or Betty Merchant know. There is always plenty to do!

PLEASE come enjoy a light lunch and guest speaker - and so important, fellowship with the ladies in our church.

UMM Gumbo Fundraiser

Sunday, Jan. 21

Serving from 10 until 12:30
Gumbo for eat in or take out!
Raising funds for church projects!

Meet & Greet Mardi Gras Concert

February 2 at 7 pm.

Family Life Center

See the Mardi Gras costumes of the royalty while being entertained by Lamar University jazz band members. Enjoy refreshments, the music, and costumes. A love offering for the band will be taken. All other proceeds go to the ministry of the Malloy Center.



Congratulations to **Katelyn Defrates** and **Austin Dubose**, who were married in December!

Rev. Terry D. Brown, a former pastor at First United Methodist-Orange, passed away on Friday, Dec. 8, 2017. A memorial service was held on Dec. 26, 2017, at Wesley UMC, Beaumont.

In Loving Memory

Safe Sanctuary Training

Wednesday, January 17, at 5 p.m.

Classroom 2 (Upstairs), Family Life Center

If you have any possibility of contact with minors in any of our ministries in 2018 *and haven't been trained since Randall has worked here, please attend.*
This training should take 15 minutes.

Ladies Lenten Bible Study

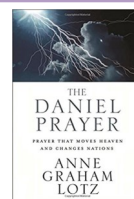
***The Daniel Prayer* by Anne Graham Lotz**

Sundays, beginning February 18

5-7 p.m. in Fidelis Parlor

Leighia Barron, Facilitator

If you have not already purchased a book, please call Leighia Barron (409-745-1119) or church office reserve a \$10 book.



In Daniel chapter 9, Daniel poured out his heart in prayer. What happened? Heaven was moved, a nation was changed, and generations felt the impact. This is the kind of prayer that's possible for your life, and one that Anne Graham Lotz will help you understand in *The Daniel Prayer*. This is not an everyday type of prayer. It's a prayer birthed under pressure. Heartache. Desperation. Grief. Or it can be triggered by a sudden revelation of hope. An answer to prayer. A promise freshly received. A miracle that lies just over the horizon. But whether you pray out of triumph or tragedy, *The Daniel Prayer* works.

Memorials:

In Memory of
Nina Dilbert

Betty Merchant

Jimmie & Carol Allen

Sam & Dee Culpepper

Yvonna Boehme

Sam & Dee Culpepper

Myra McDonald

Steve & Cindy Mann

In Honor of Their
Grandchildren

Olivia, Abigail, Elijah,

John Daniel,

Sam, Edison, Emma,

Lucas and Ryan

Howard & Joan Haddock

♥ 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
(886-7466)



CHANGE the WORLD!

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

THANKS TO ADVENT DECORATORS

Many thanks to all who helped
decorate the church for Advent.

- Doug Rogers for putting up the trees and the crèche.
- Several ladies for hanging the greens and decorating the chapel and Sanctuary.
- Pie Bridges for adding new ribbon to the wreaths.
- Jonathan Vogt for hanging the wreaths behind the choir loft.
- In addition, the Miller family had a beautiful arrangement made for the altar.

Our church is absolutely beautiful for the season,
and all the help was much appreciated.

Altar Guild

Education Workday

January 9, 2018

We will clean the
toys, shelves, etc.
in the children's classrooms. We
will also put our materials back
on the shelves. If needed, we will
also mop the classrooms—so
please bring your favorite mop,
broom, etc. We'll supply cleaning
rags, cleaner, and also Clorox
spray.

If you can help, please let Randall
or Leighia know. THANKS!!



ANGEL TREE

Thanks to everyone
who supported an
Angel for the Salvation
Army. We appreciate
your generosity to our
community.

The 3G Committee

Do you shop at Kroger?

Rewards = \$228.92
1st Qtr = \$65.07; 2nd = \$81.18
3rd Qtr = \$82.67

**Thank you to the
18 households who
helped FUMC by
shopping at Kroger!**

If you would like to do so,
please take 2 minutes to sign
up with your Plus Card. Once
enrolled, you'll earn rewards
for First UMC-Orange every
time you shop and use your
Kroger Plus Card!

Go to www.kroger.com; click
on Community-Community
Rewards. Our church number
is **80600**.

HURRICANE HARVEY FINANCIAL HELP

To financially help people
in our area, please
donate through this link
(<https://tinyurl.com/fumcharveyvictims>)



Be sure to put "Myra
McDonald Fund" in the
Memorial Box to make
sure 100% of your
donation goes straight
towards flood victims in
the Orange area. You
can also write a check
with "Myra McDonald
Fund" in the memo line.

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."*



1. When it's summer and hot, give out cold Gatorades to your mail carrier and garbage men. When it's freezing outside, offer hot chocolate to crossing guards, police officers, and others.
2. Put a surprise note or sketch in with your spouse's or kid's lunch.
3. Send a crazy letter or postcard to make someone laugh.
4. Take a cute photo of someone you love and mail or email it to them
5. Keep an extra umbrella at work, so you can lend it out when it rains.

GROWING STRONGER DISCIPLES



We're going to focus in on four stages of a disciple's growth. You know, Jesus' last words to his eleven disciples were, "Make disciples." (Matthew 8:18-19) In other words, make more people like themselves. People who are growing more deeply in love with Jesus.

These four stages clearly correspond with the four stages that Jesus used in his invitations to become His disciples.

Exploring Christ—Come and See We see that especially in John 1:38-39, where the first disciples come to him and they're wondering, might he be the Messiah? And he says, well, "Come and see." Come and see where I live. The person at this stage is saying, "I may even believe in God." Those early disciples, they were Jews, they believed in God the Father. But hey, Jesus, as the Messiah -- they weren't sure. They didn't know.

Growing in Christ—Come and Follow Me So, Jesus invited the early disciples to come and see, and then he moves onto, "Come and Follow Me." Matthew 4:19 is a good example of that. Many of us have that memorized, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of people." When people first get into this stage, I think that they've come through the exploring Christ stage, they've developed enough trust and confidence in the gospel and in the church, the people that are presenting the gospel. They tend to be kind of excited at the beginning of this stage. They're hungry, and they're learning. Now they're beginning to serve and they're experiencing kind of the rush that goes with seeing Christ at work when you serve in mission and so forth.

Close to Christ—Come and Be with Me At this stage it's a much deeper, more intimate, relationship with Christ. It's a deeper trust. It's a trusting him, in spite of the disappointment. Or, in spite of the injustices in life. In the third stage, You often hear that -- "serve others, because you'll feel better!"

Christ-Centered—Abide in Me Jesus gives a fourth invitation. We find that in John 15, where he says over and over again, "Remain in Me." Or some people would say, "Abide in me." The distinction about this is, this is the person for whom life is an act of obedience. They're willing to sacrifice. That fourth stage, it doesn't matter how I feel. I simply do it out of an act of obedience. The emphasis is off how I feel, and onto "Christ is my all and I will do what I hear him calling me to do."

Excerpt: *Ascending Leaders*, Episode 2, Stages of Faith –Bob Johnson and Dr. Mike Johnson

Communication

News—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

PROPOSED SANCTUARY PROJECT

The VCI Worship Excellence Team ("WET") update in the December 2017 Newsletter referenced a Proposed Sanctuary Project brochure, which was distributed at the last two November worship services and posted on the church website ([link to brochure](#)). It provided background information on the proposed Sanctuary renovation project and some "bullet lists" for the **WHY??**, **WHAT??**, and **HOW??**. Several comments and suggestions were received. Here is background and the status of the proposed renovation project:

Background The WET's VCI Prescription 4 charge is Strive Toward Excellence in Worship and Faith Formation for **ALL** (emphasis added). **ALL** includes the congregation and those in the community we minister to as we seek to accomplish both our Mission Statement (*To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world*) and our Vision Statement (*Rooted in Christ ... Branching Out in Faith ... Disciples Growing Disciples*)

After months of study and prayerful deliberation to develop recommendations to foster Congregational unity in support of the Mission and Vision Statements, WET recommended a Sanctuary renovation project to the Church Council and presented this at the July 2017 Town Hall. This recommendation encompasses the three main goals of the WET under its VCI charge:

- Develop and present a plan that includes how to meet worship staffing and resources needed;
- Evaluate present worship experiences to assess their effectiveness as meaningful and relevant worship for the church and unchurched; and
- Implement strategies to create consistent quality, meaningful worship experiences.

WHY?? The proposed Sanctuary renovation project will allow FUMC-Orange to use existing space more effectively. It will enhance the 11 AM Traditional Service and accommodate the 9 AM Praise Service through increasing the size of the platform at the front of the Sanctuary, enhancing the sound system and adding video capabilities. The 9 AM Praise Service is currently held in the Family Life Center ("FLC"), which is essentially a gymnasium. It is attended by a diverse age group, from infants to retirees, many of whom would prefer to worship in the reverent, inviting atmosphere provided by the Sanctuary, as do the people who generally attend the 11 AM Traditional Service. The proposed Sanctuary renovations would allow **ALL** to worship in the beautiful Sanctuary while freeing up the FLC for youth activities, Church-wide activities, and Community activities. It will also enhance other events in the Sanctuary, including weddings, funerals, and Walk to Emmaus functions. The proposed Sanctuary renovation project will support FUMC-Orange reaching its full potential, inside our doors and beyond into the community!

WHAT?? The proposed Sanctuary renovation project is in its infancy, but possible enhancements include: remove the first two front rows of pews to allow for extending the platform; move the Altar, Pulpit, and Lectern forward to make them more easily accessible; make the platform and choir loft handicap accessible; move the baby grand piano forward to make the choir loft more easily accessible and allow access to electrical power and the sound system; upgrade the sound system; and add unobtrusive video capabilities. The Communion kneeling rails would be moved forward to remain at the edge of the platform.

HOW?? A Sanctuary Project Team is being formed with representation from both the Traditional and Praise Services and the church staff. This team will be cognizant of enhancing worship experiences in the Sanctuary and not detracting from the present worshipful atmosphere.

Funding Opportunities Funds designated for capital improvement expenses only are available. The Church Council will ensure that structural costs do not exceed the funds designated for capital improvements only.

Path Forward: An architect is being consulted to ensure the proposed renovation project maintains the historic features of the Sanctuary worship space while modernizing it. Several Sanctuary renovation projects have been completed since the Sanctuary opened in 1921, nearly 100 years ago (see below). We are the beneficiaries of the forward-thinking Saints who sacrificed that we could worship in the Sanctuary in its current configuration. The proposed Sanctuary renovations allow us to pay that forward by making this beautiful space even more conducive to worship for **ALL**!



Figure 1.
FUMC-
Orange
Sanctuary
in 1929



Figure 2.
FUMC-
Orange
Sanctuary
in 1952



Figure 3.
FUMC-
Orange
Sanctuary
present

In His Service,
Worship Excellence Team—Kaylin Abshire, Jim Brown (Chair), Dina Defrates, Brittany Harmon,
Lori Kratzer, Betty Merchant, Lauren Fruge' Peet, Nancy Vincent, Pastor John Warren

December 2017 FUMC Activities

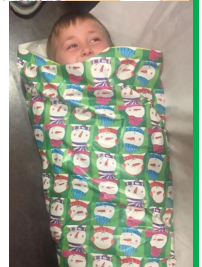


December 3—**1st Kids production of "The First Leon"** followed by **The Grillin' Group's gumbo fundraiser** to support the Youth Angels & Elves shopping trip!



December 10

A huge thank you to all who were involved in this year's **Angels & Elves Shopping Trip.**



This year we were able to shop for 60 people all impacted by Hurricane Harvey. We had 14 amazing adults who sacrificed their Sunday in order to shop, cook, wrap gifts, hang out with youth and kids all day, and more. It was another wonderful year, and everyone had a wonderful time. Thank you especially to those who donated and made this trip possible for everyone.



December—Praise Service worshipped in the Chapel!



December 17—Chancel Choir presented their annual Christmas Cantata!



December 16

Thanks to all who helped make this year's **Winter Advent "Jesus' Love Never Melts"** another fun time for ALL!

