



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.

MARCH 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

Mission Statement:

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

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

Wednesday, March 22
so it can be completed
before April 1

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

Speaking with His Purpose in Mind

When I had the call to ministry, it was a calling to be a pastor. When I looked at the pastors in my life, it didn't take me long at all to know the footsteps of the pastor I wanted to follow. I had two in my life that profoundly spoke to me. One was the first person who looked upon me as just a boy and saw a person of God. He showed it in his interest and care as I took part in confirmation classes. The second one was the man I went to when I had the call; he inspired me by his generosity with the church and taught me how to be a giving person.

To be a disciple, it means that we give in response to God's gift to us made possible through the life of Jesus Christ. I give of my finances and I give of my time and abilities. I did this long before I became a pastor because I became a Christian first. What it really boils down to is this: I responded to their preaching, teaching and example. That is what I have tried to do in each church I have been called to serve. So what does this have to do with you?

Every Sunday we pass around a sheet of paper to "register your attendance." As a pastor, I feel like that is not enough information. Of course, I want to know if you were here, but I also want to know if you were listening! I want to know if, after our time of worshiping together, you will take a "next step" in response to what God is saying to you that day. In other words, I want to know I haven't been talking to the wind. So, I have created a new type of registration called a **CONNECTION CARD**.

On the front side, you will put your name address, e-mail address, the best phone number for contacting you, and whether you are a first or second time guest, a regular attender or a member. You will also find a place to mark if your information changes.

What is new is on the back side! The purpose of the backside is to let us know your next step. This step will change from week to week. You will find two columns. On the left, it will ask you what next step you are willing to take (such as I will read the scripture given each day the following week, or I will attend an activity or a new class). The right column will be where you request more information (such as how do I become a member, how do I join the choir, what mission activities are available, or what service areas can I be a part of). I am even considering the possibility of having a place for prayer requests on this side of the card so we have only one card to fill out thus simplifying our way of communication.

The cards will also be placed in the bulletin and turned in before prayer time should you wish for your concern to be added to our prayers of the day.

Our goal is to be... Rooted in Christ ... Branching Out in Faith...Disciples making Disciples. It's what we do!

See you Sunday if not before!
John

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

February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
8:00 19	8:00 22	8:00 19	8:00 22
9:00 75	9:00 52	9:00 54	9:00 63
11:00 48	11:00 47	11:00 64	11:00 50
Total 142	TOTAL 121	TOTAL 137	TOTAL 135

Giving

January 2017 (final)	February 2017 (to date)
Income ... \$96,274.03	Income ... \$47,800.67
Expenses: <u>\$42,113.13</u>	Expenses: <u>\$46,456.48</u>
\$54,160.90	\$1,344.19

March Worship

March 1, 2017

ASH WEDNESDAY

**Noon & 6 p.m.
Chapel**

Scripture: Luke 18:18-25

Sermon: *What to do with Sin?
There are 7, and they are deadly.*

DANGER! Sloth



Change Clocks!

March 12, 2017

Scripture: Luke 22:24

Sermon: ***DANGER! Envy***

March 5, 2017

Scripture: John 4:3-11

Sermon: ***DANGER! Pride***

Ushers: Team #1

8:00 – Kenneth Wheeler, Jean Whitley, Elaine Cooper

11:00 – Bob Izer, Ricky Harper, Frank Beauchamp, John Cochran

Altar Guild: Nicole Watzlavik

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 – Greg Defrates
11:00 – Annely Domas

Bakers for Christ:

Doug Rogers

Ushers: Team #2

8:00 – Pie & David Bridges

11:00 – Brown Claybar, Phil Grooms, Jim Pledger, Ken Hillsten

Altar Guild: Nicole Watzlavik

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 – Barbara Dardeau
11:00 – Sarah Boehme

Bakers for Christ:

John & Sandra Warren

March 19, 2017

Scripture: Luke 6:21

Sermon: ***DANGER! Gluttony***

Ushers: Team #3

8:00 – Vernon Murry, Jim Snider

11:00 – John Griffith, Jerry Windham, Jim Armstrong, Ron Hopperton

Altar Guild: Nicole Watzlavik

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 – Brittany Harmon
11:00 – Theresa Beauchamp

Bakers for Christ:

Available

**Please pray for our
“Family” of the week**

Mar. 5 Dale & Barbara Dardeau

Mar. 12 Jeff & Susan Eby

Mar. 19 Lynn Fields

Mar. 26 Jordan Gray

March 26, 2017

Scripture: Psalm 49 1-14

Sermon: ***DANGER! Greed***

Ushers: Team #4

8:00 – Charlotte & Ed Foreman

11:00 – Mat Taylor, Sarah Boehme, Drew Domas

Altar Guild: Nicole Watzlavik

9 am Greeters: Cindy Reynolds & Donna Benefield

Parking Lot Greeters:

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

Lay Readers:

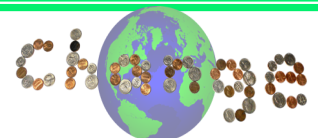
8:00 – Ken Hillsten
9:00 – Tom Henry
11:00 – Beverly Blalack

Bakers for Christ:

Trisha Anderson

**Life Way
Blood Drive**

**March 26th
8 a.m.–noon
Tow Inn**



CHANGE the WORLD!

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



During Communion, all offerings left at the rail go to **Orange Christian Services.**

Every 1st Sunday:

OCS (Orange Christian Services) Collection Sunday

You can place donated items in the OCS containers in the Family Life Center

Every 3rd Sunday:
Rainbow Room Collection

To help children who have been removed from their homes, FUMC donates diapers, wipes, and new clothing. Place items in the labeled containers in the foyer of the Family Life Center.



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 !

Deposits for summer activities are due ASAP!
(Big Stuf, UMARMY, and Camp Eagle)

Youth Event: May 12-13—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 p.m.

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 1—No Classes—Ash Wednesday

March 15—Spring Break—NO CLASSES

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE DINNERS AT 5 P.M.

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

March 1 - Ash Wednesday
Lenten Meal
prepared by UMW

Dinner
is
served.



March 8 - Brittany Harmon will prepare
Enchiladas.

March 15 - SPRING BREAK

March 22 - Charlotte Foreman will prepare the
meal.

March 29 - Altar Guild will serve a Salad Bar.

Mr. Doug's First Methodist Kids

1st Methodist Kids will meet with Mr. Doug on Sundays from 5 to 7 p.m. We meet on the playground and have dinner together.



K-5th graders are welcome. See you Sunday!
Call Mr. Doug with questions, 779-2143.



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

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

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

February VCI Team Updates

Communications Team - The new website is nearly complete. FUMC also has a new Twitter and Instagram account (please follow fumcorangetx). The Communications 101 Workshop was held on February 26. The team's next project will be visitor assimilation based in large part on the book *Fusion*.

Community Connection Team - This team is to create two community events. Presently they are thinking about having a Festival of the Fish consisting of fish frying teams and booths.

Community Liaison Team - This team is looking at ways that the community connects with the church. At this time they are studying ways to develop a coffee shop study hall in the youth room two evenings a week for Lamar students to expand our connection with LSCO.

Disciple-Making Team - This team is looking at our church programs to see how they fit into our mission and will advise whether to keep them or adjust them to comply with our mission.

Hospitality Team - A bid for new signs both inside and outside our buildings was approved by the board.

Vision Team - On February 19, this team presented the vision statement to the congregation for review. They are also working on a new logo.

Worship Excellence Team - The team has formed an interim Worship Design Team for the 9 a.m. Praise Service that is working closely with the Praise Team to implement new ideas to make a more effective and spiritual worship service. The Team has proposed that a similar Worship Design Team be formed for the two traditional services. Worship expert Dr. Craig Gilbert will meet again with both the Worship Excellence Team and the Praise Team on Sunday, March 26.

Monthly VCI Team Meetings with Coach Marilyn Wadkins

Saturday, March 4:

10:30-11:30 - Disciple-making
11:45-12:45 - Communications
2:45- 3:45 - Open
4:00- 5:00 - Hospitality

Sunday, March 5:

Noon-1:30 - Vision
1:45-2:45 - Worship Excellence

EVERYONE INVITED!
Mark your calendars for
Sunday, April 2, at noon
Covered Dish Luncheon
in the Family Life Center

Followed by
1st Quarterly VCI Town Hall Meeting
updating everyone on VCI progress



FUMC One-Board

Finance – Chris Abshire & Greg Debrates, Trustees – Gary Bonneaux & David Bridges, SPR – Jim Armstrong (Board Chair) & Jonathan Vogt, Communications - Ginger Williams, Lay Leader - Carol Allen, Members at Large – Janice Gresham & Betty Merchant, Secretary – Sherri Frugé, Secretary Assistant - Barbara Dardeau, Pastor - John Warren
Next meeting - Thursday, March 16 at 6 p.m.; deadline for agenda items - Thursday, March 9

Since FUMC Orange started the VCI process, a prayer team has been sharing a *Vibrant Prayer with Purpose*.

While these prayers are updated in the bulletin, please add them to your daily prayers during this VCI process:



VCI VIBRANT PRAYER WITH PURPOSE

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 1:1-2

Prayer:

**Jesus, strengthen us to run the race
and not give up.**



Memorials:

Denise Taylor

*Mary L. McKee
Beverly Hanes
Beth Holm
John & Gail Griffith
Wilda Hart*

Mary Arnold

*Mary L. McKee
Tim & Joy Hughes
Beverly Hanes
Wilda Hart*

Bill Bailey

*Beverly Hanes
John & Gail Griffith
Wilda Hart*

Frank Finchum

*Beverly Hanes
John & Gail Griffith
Wilda Hart*



Our church family has helped to mend our broken hearts on the passing of my husband Bill Bailey. Your prayers, calls, cards, food and memorials have shown your kindness and generosity that have meant so much to me and our daughter and son. Thank you and may God bless each of you.

Malissie,
Sylvia Bailey Hicks,
and Bill Bailey II



The Field of Plenty invites the congregation to the garden at 2120 Wickard (directly behind Orange Christian Services) on Saturday, April 22, at 9 a.m. to celebrate Earth Day by planting pecan trees at the garden.

The Go Green for God committee is sponsoring this as the church's way to celebrate Earth Day by being kind to the Earth. The pecan trees will have a sign with the church's name and will be bought using a donation from FUMC missions committee to the garden.

Several activities at the garden entitled "Preserving the Earth's Bounty" begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday. The sessions offered at the Field of Plenty will be instructions on how to can, freeze and dehydrate your harvest; how to maintain a growing garden; and how to know when your veggies are ready to be picked. An introduction to herb gardening will be hosted by Debbie McHenry of Cottage Cuttings of Orange.

These sessions are open to the public free of charge.

COMMUNITY BLESSING BOX

The beautiful new wooden cabinet with inlay cross doors set by the Family Life Center (formerly known as the Praise Center) portico drive is **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, can 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.

Mark your Calendars:

April 2—VCI Town Hall Meeting following Covered Dish lunch at noon

April 9—Palm Sunday

April 13—Maundy Thursday Service, 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel

April 16—Easter Sunday

May 7—ONE SERVICE—Confirmation Sunday

May 28—ONE SERVICE at 11 a.m.— Youth Choir from
Christ UMC College Station

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.



Welcome Center Bakers for Christ Needed



Many people enjoy the time of fellowship between services and Sunday School in our Welcome Center. Visitors too!

Please consider volunteering to help provide treats for the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings. These items can be delicious home-made or purchased goodies that can be put out for everyone to enjoy.

If you like to bake or would be willing to help with this ministry, please contact the church office.

March Volunteers:

March 5—Doug Rogers
March 12—Sandra & John Warren
March 19—Available
March 26—Trisha Anderson

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



We Need Your Help!!

Can you volunteer to help?

Any skill can be helpful!
Answering the phones,
helping in the kitchen,
stuffing envelopes,
yard work, etc.

Please call the church at **886-7466** to volunteer!

SENIOR SISTERHOOD



Every third Monday at 10 am, this group meets in the Family Life Center. We had 19 women at our first meeting. All women in the community that consider themselves a senior are welcome to attend. We will be planning events, trips and speakers at our next meeting.



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 is provided from the ship to the Center and to a variety of destinations.

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.

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's VISION STATEMENT:
ROOTED IN CHRIST ... BRANCHING OUT IN FAITH ... DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES**



Painting the Education Building



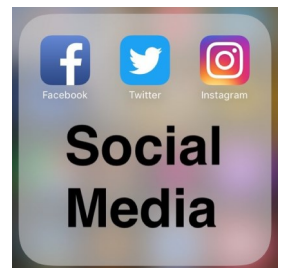
FUMC Cleaning Orange Streets



FUMC Youth Cleaning Graffiti



www.fumcorange.org



The website should be updated very soon.

Watch for emails; check social media!

Like or follow:
FUMCOrangeTX

- **Calendar**—See current and future activities as well as details about those activities!
- **News & Announcements**—Send ONE email to several people who can share via bulletin, newsletter, social media, email, paper, etc.
- **Online Giving**—Make online payments or donations through Heartspring Methodist Foundation
- **Intercessory Prayers**—Request confidential prayers and notes of encouragement
- **Prayer Blasts**—Send ONE email so info shared publicly with as many as possible via email and social media