

**Orange United Methodist
Church**

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**Open Hearts...
Open Minds...
Open Doors...**

We're on the Web!
www.orangeumc.org

We hope you have had a wonderful start to 2018, and that this year will bring you many blessings! If you would like to send a submission for the next newsletter, please email it to the church office at orangeumc@orangeumc.org by March 20th!



Here to serve YOU!

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The Orange Branch

1st Quarter 2018

January—March

Happy 2018!

I hope you and your family have had a good, safe, joyous entry into this New Year, 2018! Interestingly, there are two explanations of where January got its name. First, and most familiar, is it was named after the Roman mythical God Janus, the God of beginnings and endings, who is depicted as having two faces since he looks to the past and to the future. The second, less known etiology is January is derived from the Latin word for door, *ianua*, since January is the doorway between the old year and the new. This explanation says that Roman Goddess Juno, and not Janus, is the tutelary deity of the month.

As I think about the differences of opinion as to the origin of the meaning of January, it brings me to another interesting, thought provoking question: What will Orange be known for in 2018? Some long-timers in the area might say, "The annual fish fry, for sure." Some might say, "Meals on wheels," others, "VBS," and still others, "The BLAST ministry!" As I think about 2018 at Orange UMC, I hope the church's visibility and presence become a topic of conversation for more and more people in Lathemtown, Freehome, and beyond. I hope in 2018 people will talk about Orange UMC as being a church with a heart, a church that loves and serves, is selfless, generous, helping. Our denominational slogan is Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors. These are good things for a church to be known for. Let's do that: be the church that offers a welcoming heart, that respects ideas, that keeps an open door to all who want to hear a word about Jesus Christ and find a Christian place in which to love, serve, worship, fellowship, and grow. Orange UMC has a great history of doing that. I know in 2018 we will make new inroads (*ianua*) into hearts, into the community, into the world.

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Inside this Issue:

- Music Ministry Updates
- Children's Ministry Updates
- UMW News
- Blast Events
- Wednesday Night Program Information
- 1st Quarter Calendars and Birthdays



...Continued... I want to mention our message series that begins January 21 and goes to Easter: **Road Work: Smoothing Out the Rough Spots.** The truth is life is full of pressures and problems, pitfalls and potholes. Just like the DOT is constantly on the job widening, rerouting, filling in, smoothing out the rough spots in our roads so our travel will be better and smoother, the rough spots of life require work on our part if we are to ride smoothly on the road of life. Scripture guides us to understand that our future can be better than our past. How we deal with life, the problems that confront us, determines whether we will progress or digress in life. I hope this series helps us all smooth out the rough spots we encounter on the road of life and thereby do a better job of living. Invite a friend, classmate, neighbor, colleague, or family member to come to church. Who knows? They might be in the middle of some life road work right now that God can help them with. The following dates are on a tri-fold in the narthex. Pick one up at church for yourself and a few extra to give others!

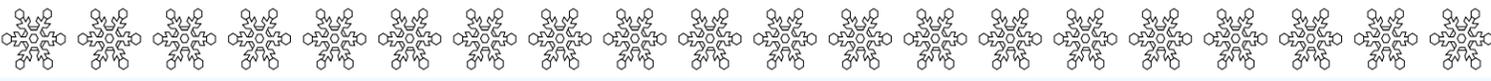
Stress and Distress January 21	Criticism January 28	Being Critical February 4	Depression and Discouragement February 11
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Death February 18	Guilt February 25	Interruptions March 4	Compassion Fatigue March 11
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Limitations
March 18

Be sure to make a note of all the gatherings, worship, fellowship, and ministry dates in this quarter's Newsletter and decide now to be a part of as many as you can. The door, *ianua*, is open for you and offers blessings for you and opportunities to be a blessing to others. Now THAT is a great door to walk through in 2018!

Your Pastor and Friend,
Mark



The Prayer of St. Patrick

I arise today
Through the strength of heaven;
Light of the sun,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftness of the wind,
Depth of the sea,
Stability of the earth,
Firmness of the rock.

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's hosts to save me
Afar and anear,
Alone or in a multitude.

Christ shield me today
Against wounding
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today
Through the mighty strength
Of the Lord of creation.

By Anonymous

Schedule of Events

- * March 7th and 21st Disciple Fast Track from 7-8:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- * March 13th-Meals on Wheels Delivery
- * March 15th-Church Council Meeting
- * March 17th-4th Annual Harry Thigpen SPD Dinner at 6 pm
- * March 19th-UMW Meeting
- * March 24th-Easter Egg Hunt and Hot Dog Lunch at 11:30, BLAST Lock In
- * March 28th-Seniors Bingo at 11:30 am
- * March 29th-Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm



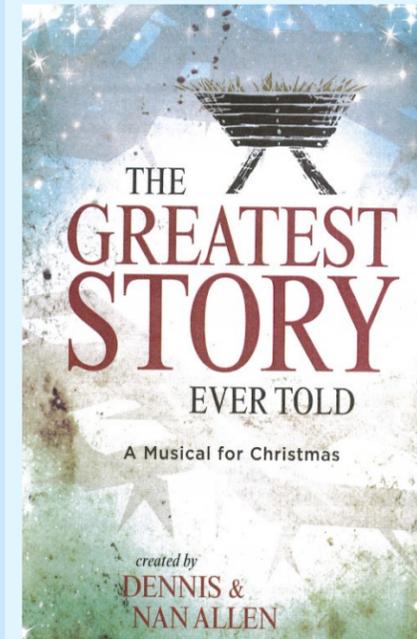
March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<i>4 3rd Sunday in Lent</i> Worship Service-9:00 & 11 am Rise & Shine-9:45-10:45 am Kids Sunday School-9:45 am Blast Sunday School-9:45 Kids Choir-10:30 am	5 BLAST 6-7:30 PM (CO) Trustees Meeting 7pm (CO) Sr. High Youth 6-7:30pm (YR)	6 Choir Practice 7-8pm (S, MR)	7 Disciple Fast Track 7-8:15 (FH)	8	9 Brock/Bray Wedding rehearsal (12pm-3pm) (S&FH)	10 Brock/Bray Wedding 8am-7pm (S&FH)
<i>11 4th Sunday in Lent DST</i> Worship Service-9:00 & 11 am Rise & Shine-9:45-10:45 am Kids Sunday School-9:45 am Blast Sunday School-9:45 Kids Choir-10:30 am	12 MOW Prep Sr. High Youth 6-7:30pm (YR) BLAST 6-7:30 PM (CO) Finance Mig 7 pm (FH)	13 Choir Practice 7-8pm (S, MR) MOW	14	15 Administrative Council Meeting 7PM	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 4th Annual Harry Thigpen SPD Dinner 6PM
<i>18 5th Sunday in Lent</i> Worship Service-9:00 & 11 am Rise & Shine-9:45-10:45 am Kids Sunday School-9:45 am Blast Sunday School-9:45 Kids Choir-10:30 am	19 UMW Meeting (FH) BLAST 6-7:30 PM (CO) Sr. High Youth 6-7:30pm (YR)	20 Choir Practice 7-8pm (S, MR)	21 Disciple Fast Track 7-8:15 (FH)	22 Easter Egg Hunt Set-up-FH & Grounds	23 Easter Egg Hunt Set-up-FH & Grounds	24 Easter Egg Hunt & Hot Dog Lunch 11:30 BLAST Lock in
<i>25 6th Sunday in Lent/ Palm Sunday</i> Blast breakfast (FH) Worship Service-9:00 & 11 am Rise & Shine-9:45-10:45 am Kids Sunday School-9:45 am Kids Choir-10:30 am	26 BLAST 6-7:30 PM (CO) Sr. High Youth 6-7:30pm (YR)	27 Choir Practice 7-8pm (S, MR)	28 Seniors Bingo-11:30 am (FH)	29 Maundy Thursday Service 7 PM	30	31

The Music Department

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season has been fabulous here at Orange, and I want to thank EVERYONE who had a part in making it such a success. From the singers to the cooks -from the prop builders to the clean-up crews-from the narrators & readers to the sound crew-everyone did an amazing job!

The Children's Christmas play was both entertaining and touching. I was blown away with their memories! They stood and performed like adults. Their singing was also wonderful! Our children's group rocks!

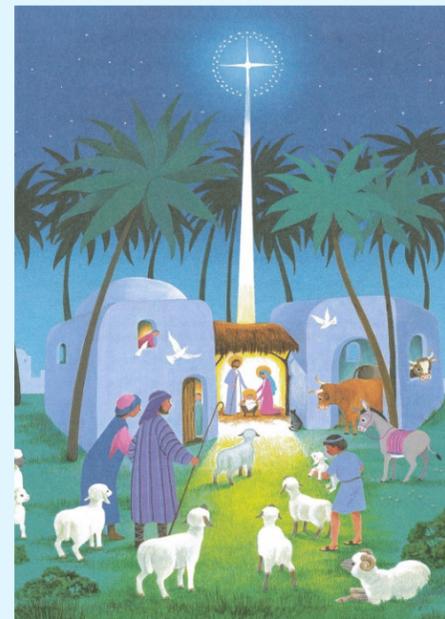


As we start a new year, I look forward to the opportunities we will have to reach people through our music. I would love to have new people join our music program. It is a wonderful way to fellowship with other Christians and also serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Love,

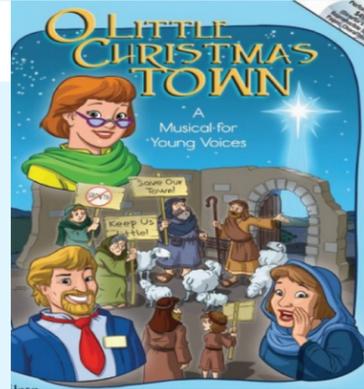
Joy

The adult choir did one of the best cantatas that I can remember! Even though the snow and ice kept us from singing on the original date, we rose to the challenge and did it a week later. Perhaps the extra week of rehearsal helped to make it so exceptionally good! If you missed this performance or would like to hear it again, there is a link in on our website and Facebook page that will connect you to the video on you-tube.



The Children's Ministry

We had such a fun and meaningful holiday season at Orange. We made yummy gingerbread houses, had fun hanging out with Santa, and enjoyed lots of other festive activities.



I was especially proud of how well the kids performed in their Christmas play, "O Little Christmas Town".

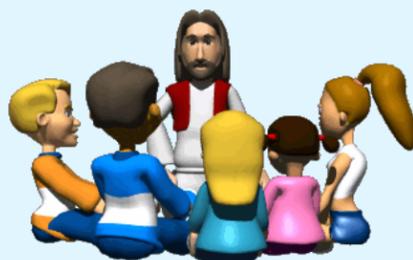
As we move on to 2018, we are already planning some awesome events for the new year. The kids will exchange Valentine's cards on Sunday, February 11th, during Sunday School. We are also planning on visiting the Canton Nursing Center one day in February to sing for the residents. I can't wait for our kids to bless them with their sweet voices.

The Easter Egg Hunt has been tentatively scheduled for March 24th at 11:30. We will have a hot dog lunch, followed by a fun Egg Hunt! This will be an event for the whole community, so please invite all your family and friends!



In Sunday School, we will be studying Jesus' life, as told in the Gospels. We will discuss some of the awesome miracles he performed, including healing people, calming the storm, walking on water, and feeding the multitudes. These are such awesome stories for us all to reflect back on. We will also talk about one of my favorite bible stories – Jesus welcoming the children. When the disciples attempted to discourage parents from bringing their children to see Jesus, Jesus reprimanded them and actually blessed the children. By blessing children, Jesus showed that they were full members in God's Family.

In 2018, may we as a church recognize the importance of the precious children in our church family.



Schedule of Events

- * February 7th, 21st, and 28th-Disciple Fast Track from 7-8:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- * February 10th or 11th-Kid's Choir visiting nursing home
- * February 14, 2018-Valentine's Pancake Dinner hosted by BLAST in the Fellowship Hall at 6 PM and Ash Wednesday service
- * February 13th-Meals on Wheels Delivery
- * February 15th-Church Council Meeting 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- * February 19th-UMW Meeting in the Fellowship Hall
- * February 28th-Seniors Bingo at 11:30 am



February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 JR FH All Day
4 3 rd Sunday after the Epiphany Worship Service-9:00 & 11 am Rise & Shine-9:45-10:45 am Kids Sunday School-9:45 am Blast Sunday School-9:45 Kids Choir-10:30 am JR.FH 1pm-?	5 Sr. High Youth 6-7:30pm (YR) BLAST 6-7:30 PM (CO) Trustees Meeting 7pm	6 Choir Practice 7-8pm (S, MR)	7 Disciple Fast Track 7-8:15 (FH)	8	9	10 Kids Choir visiting Nursing Home today or tomorrow
11 6 th Sunday after the Epiphany Worship Service-9:00 & 11 am Rise & Shine-9:45-10:45 am Kids Sunday School-9:45 am Blast Sunday School-9:45 Kids Choir-10:30 am SCOUT SUNDAY	12 MOW Prep Sr. High Youth 6-7:30pm (YR) BLAST 6-7:30 PM (CO) Finance Mtg 7 pm (FH)	13 Choir Practice 7-8pm (S, MR) MOW	14 Ash Wednesday Valentines Day Dinner and Service at 6 PM	15 Administrative Council Meeting 7PM	16	17
18 1 st Sunday in Lent Worship Service-9:00 & 11 am Rise & Shine-9:45-10:45 am Kids Sunday School-9:45 am Blast Sunday School-9:45 Kids Choir-10:30 am	19 No BLAST/Sr High UMW Meeting (FH)	20 Choir Practice 7-8pm (S, MR)	21 Disciple Fast Track 7-8:15 (FH)	22	23	24
25 2 nd Sunday in Lent Worship Service-9:00 & 11 am Rise & Shine-9:45-10:45 am Kids Sunday School-9:45 am Blast Sunday School-9:45 Kids Choir-10:30 am UMW Souper Sunday Lunch	26 BLAST 6-7:30 PM (CO) Sr. High Youth 6-7:30pm (YR)	27 Choir Practice 7-8pm (S, MR)	28 Disciple Fast Track 7-8:15 (FH) Seniors Bingo -11:30 am (FH)			

- * January 1st--New Year's Day
- * January 10th--Wednesday Night Program Featuring "The Glory Boys"!
- * January 3rd, 17th, 24th, and 31st--Disciple Fast Track from 7-8:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- * January 15th--Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
- * January 22nd--BLAST and Sr. High Youth resume!
- * January 31st--Seniors Bingo at 11:30 am



January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 No BLAST	2 No Choir Practice	3 Disciple Fast Track 7-8:15 (FH)	4	5	6
7 Epiphany Sunday Worship Service-9:00 & 11 am Rise & Shine-9:45-10:45 am (FH) Kids Sunday School-9:45 am Blast Sunday School-9:45 Kids Choir-10:30 am Ministry Planning Day-lunch provided	8 No BLAST	9 Choir Practice 7-8pm (S, MR) MOW	10 Wednesday Night Program 6-7pm (FH)	11	12	13
14 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany Worship Service-9:00 & 11 am Rise & Shine-9:45-10:45 am (FH) Kids Sunday School-9:45 am Blast Sunday School-9:45 Kids Choir-10:30 am	15 MLK DAY No BLAST	16 Choir Practice 7-8pm (S, MR)	17 Disciple Fast Track 7-8:15 (FH)	18	19	20
21 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany Worship Service-9:00 & 11 am Rise & Shine-9:45-10:45 am (FH) Kids Sunday School-9:45 am Blast Sunday School-9:45 Kids Choir-10:30 am	22 Sr. High Youth 6-7:30pm (YR) BLAST 6-7:30 PM (CO) UMW High Tea 6:30	23 Choir Practice 7-8pm (S, MR)	24 Disciple Fast Track 7-8:15 (FH)	25	26	27 ECO ^H * 12-4pm (S & FH) *Eagle Scout Court of Honor
28 4th Sunday after the Epiphany Worship Service-9:00 & 11 am Rise & Shine-9:45-10:45 am (FH) Kids Sunday School-9:45 am Blast Sunday School-9:45 Kids Choir-10:30 am	29 Sr. High Youth 6-7:30pm (YR) BLAST 6-7:30 PM (CO)	30 Choir Practice 7-8pm (S, MR)	31 Disciple Fast Track 7-8:15 (FH) Seniors Bingo-11:30 am (FH)			

BLAST NEWS!

BLAST returns from the long winter break on Monday, January 22nd at our regular meeting time 6:00-7:30! We will meet every Monday night, with the exceptions of February 19th and April 2nd until May 21st.

Our yearlong mission project has been Water For Life with Compassion International. So far, we have funded almost 5 families at \$79 each. Our yearly goal is to furnish 16 families with water kits and education. Please remember to bring donations each week to our Monday night meetings!

Monthly Mission Projects and Activities:

January: Collecting diapers, wipes, and XL female depends for Bethany House.

February: Valentine cards for Meals on Wheels; Valentine/Ash Wednesday Pancake Dinner February 14th, 6:00 PM Orange UMC Fellowship Hall

March: Water For Life; Easter Egg Hunt and Lock-In March 24-25

April: School Supplies Murphy-Harpst; Biblical History Center Field Trip, April 28th

May: School Supplies MUST Ministries, Family Camp Out May 19-20; Last meeting May 21st

Our Bible Study will focus on learning more about the New Testament, mainly Acts-Revelations.

Camp Glisson registration is now open. Go to <http://glisson.org/register/> to register. Financial support through BLAST Ministry will be announced soon.

Please check out BLAST Ministry at <https://www.orangeumc.org/junior-youth-group/> for our complete calendar and pictures!

Blessings!
Lynn Outlaw
BLAST Ministry
678 316-7928
lynnfoutlaw@gmail.com



Orange UMW

Orange United Methodist Women would like to invite the ladies of Orange to "High Tea" at the beautiful home of Judy Powell on Monday, Jan.22, 2018.



This is a special evening in which we don our prettiest hats and treat ourselves to a well deserved evening of relaxation: sipping tea from fine china tea cups and sharing our finest "crumpets." More details to come.

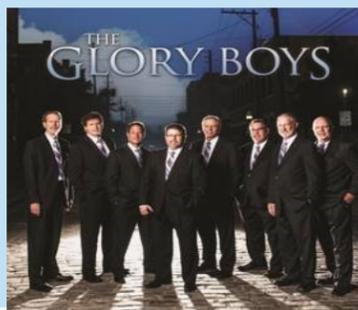
Then in February, we return to reality with a regular meeting Feb. 19, in Fellowship Hall. We will plan our "Souper Sunday" which is a soup lunch on Feb. 25 following the worship service. Come join us! For more info contact Mary Cissell 770 298 6250.



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2018

Wednesday, January 10

The Glory Boys are a local group out of First Baptist of Cumming who sing southern gospel. Assembled in 2008, this group is comprised of eight men (two singing each part). The result is a uniquely rich and powerful blend of harmony that produces a BIG SOUND! The Glory Boys have graciously agreed to put on a full concert in the sanctuary for OUMC on January 10th.



Wednesday, February 14

Valentine's Pancake Supper hosted by BLAST! Bring your sweetheart, family, or friends and enjoy a Valentine's Pancake Supper provided by our own BLAST youth group! Supper starts at 6 PM.

BLAST WILL BE SERVING A PANCAKE SUPPER ON VALENTINES DAY!

As always, children 3 and under are free, ages 4-10 are \$4, and anyone over 11 is \$6. There is a family cap of \$20.

You can RSVP each month by either completing the RSVP slip in the bulletin, or calling the church office by noon the Monday before the supper.

Saturday, March 17

Annual Harry Thigpen Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner!

This is an annual dinner in memory of OUMC member, Harry Thigpen. Remember, this is Saturday and NOT Wednesday! Also, if corned beef and cabbage isn't your favorite, there will be a chicken alternative! So, come out and enjoy a great meal and the great company of your Orange Church family and friends.



1st Quarter Birthdays!

Jon Lathem	January 5
Lacey Kinser	January 7
Dwight Smithwick	January 7
Beth Eastland	January 11
Marion Hicks	January 12
Linda West	January 13
Michelle White	January 21
Charles Orr	January 22
Leslie Shelley	January 23
Amy Walton	January 23
Lisa Liebau	January 26
Hoyt Rogers	January 30
Ione Sloan	February 1
Ronnie Turner	February 1
Jerry Kinser	February 4
Charlie Gibbs	February 8
Kelli Caudill	February 12
Pat White	February 13
Terry Walton	February 14
Benjamin Greene	February 18
Melba Bruce	February 19
Bethany Goode	February 19
Lauren Whitaker	February 20
Annabel Caudill	February 21
Bailey Smithwick	February 24
Brooke Holloway	March 5
Robert (Bert) Sloan	March 11
Paula Smith	March 11
Diane Lathem	March 12
Martha Westray	March 12
David Shelley	March 17
Travis Smithwick	March 19
Logan Lively	March 22
Brian Lough	March 25
Alma Turner	March 26
Jennifer Smithwick	March 29