

Orangethorpe United Methodist Church: Latest News — December 13, 2018

This is an informal collection of recent news items about people and events in the life of our church. **Your** contributions are always welcome.

- **December 2018.** Who's celebrating a birthday this month? Please visit our [birthdays page](#).



- **December 8.** Our accompanist, **Alice Song**, is out sick, so we have an *a capella* service this morning. But **Lambert** is back to assist Parson John, and the **Speckman** family — Blanca and Joe, plus Logan and Chris — lights the Advent candle.
- **December 2.** One of the highlights of today's service is the Christmas music — "[Mary Did You Know?](#)" — so beautifully sung by **Mikaela McFarland Curtis**.
- And, speaking of "PK's", **Stephawn Spears** is back among us today to teach Sunday School. Stephawn told us of an interesting article about his brother, **Marcel Spears**, who is one of the stars of the TV show, "[The Neighborhood](#)". Be sure to [read the article](#), at the **Backstage** web site.
- **December 1.** At today's food distribution, we were joined once again by members of our own **Cub Pack 1294**, and their parents, who wish to continue to serve regularly as our first-Saturday volunteer group. We welcome their participation, and hope they'll be able to do so.

- **November 25.** **Alice Song** is unavailable, but sends her good friend, **Sarah Cheng**, to accompany our worship. Sarah has been with us several times in the past, and brings her husband and three beautiful children with her today. Parson John's inspiring message is once again based on the theme of "**Priming the Pump**", and he uses the same prop as last week to help us visualise our support for our church.
- **November 18.** At this morning's service, we welcome six of our preschool teachers, as we celebrate the role which the **Orangethorpe United Methodist Preschool** plays in our mission. An old-fashioned hand pump is the prop for Parson John's message **Substantial Faith: Bethlehem Water**. We rejoice that our sister **Lorri Goldman** has returned to our midst after several months' absence due to health problems, and we pray for our sister **Mary Lou Pemberton**, who has just had surgery.
- **November 17.** When people ask me how many families receive groceries at our Saturday morning food distributions, I usually tell them, "Oh, about a hundred." Well, this morning, for the second time in recent months, we serve *exactly 100 families!*, with a lot of help from **St. Jude Medical Center's** Education Department employees.
- **November 11.** Cub Pack 1294 joins us yet again, leading the flag salute at our Sunday morning worship service, as we celebrate Veterans Day. Parson John is back from Big Bear and kicks off a sermon series built around the theme of **Prime the Pump!**
- **November 4.** Parson John and his family are vacationing in Big Bear. This morning's worship is led by our gifted musicians, **Alice Song** and **Nate Brown**.
- **November 3.** This morning, we distribute food from the Second Harvest Food Bank to 106 neighbor families, and we are assisted by no less that **fifty-five (55)** members of our own **Cub Pack 1294**, and their parents. We are amazed at how well everything goes, as the food is passed out with great compassion and enthusiasm by our volunteers. [See the pictures](#) which which **Patricia Liu** took today!

- **October 28.** We receive and baptise new members today in a very unique and special bilingual service. A font is installed in our sanctuary for the baptism by immersion of those who wish to be so baptised, and Parson John dresses in a special black baptismal robe for the occasion. Once again the title of his sermon is ***Baptism for Life!***. Six-year-old **Melody** has asked to be baptised, and the following persons also are baptised, or renew their vows:
 - **María**
 - **Cristina**
 - **Tom**
 - **William**, and,
 - **George**
- **October 21.** Back among us at today's service are **Joe Manson**, who moved away a few months ago, and **Wolf Tolson**, who has been in and out of the hospital while undergoing chemotherapy. We've missed both of you!
- **October 20.** Once again, we distribute food to our neighbors in need. **See the photos** which two of our volunteers snapped this morning!
- **October 14.** While listening to the evening news, we learn that our sisters and brothers at **St. Andrew United Methodist Church**, in Panama City, Florida, were right in the path of **Hurricane Michael**, and that their church building was badly damaged. However, outdoor services were held today and they are doing a wonderful job of helping their neighbors, who were affected by the hurricane, including providing food to hurricane victims. Let us pray for this church and for all those people in the Southeast who have been affected by hurricanes.
- **October 14.** This morning, Parson John treats us to another inspiring message — ***Baptism for Life!*** — in which we are reminded of **Noah** and the **Ark**:
- **October 9.** Thank you, **Kendall McFarland**, for making available an **internship application** for those persons who may wish to get more involved in the work of the United Methodist Church. Fill it out for yourself, or show to a friend!
- **September 23.** After spending his summer in Hollywood, working on TV shows, **Stephawn Spears** is back at OUMC today, attending our Sunday worship service, then teaching a Sunday school class. We hope we'll see Stephawn again from time to time during his final year of graduate studies at **Chapman University**.
- **September 16.** Parson John is back in the pulpit today, delivering a spirit-filled message entitled ***"Holy Spirit Overview"*** in which he tells of such symbols of the Holy Spirit as:
 - Dove,
 - Oil,
 - Water,
 - Wind, and,
 - Fire!
- **September 15.** We have yet another wonderful food distribution experience this morning, when a young lady named **Mika** celebrates her 15th birthday by inviting her friends to help her pass out groceries to the needy people of our neighborhood. **See the photos!**
- **September 12.** Hermanos **Marcelo y Nedda Soriano** depart for Perú, where they will remain until late October. Pray for a happy journey, as they visit their families there, and for a safe return.



The news, in print. A number of copies of an up-to-date printed version of this web page are placed on the table in the narthex nearly every Sunday for the benefit of those persons who do not access the internet regularly. When you come to church, please pick up a copy for your own use, or to share with your friends. We urge you, however, to visit the OUMC web site ***regularly***, to get the full benefit of the information which is available there for you.