New Year, New Decade, Same Promises

“New Year, new you!” This is the message we get from pop culture, year after year. This year we have the added benefit of a “new decade” to celebrate and make even more promises to ourselves. We vow to make changes to our diet, exercise habits, or lifestyle, but in spite of those resolutions, most things stay the same. This may be cause for disappointment, but there is some consistency we can celebrate.

God’s promises to us do not change with the calendar or the latest fitness trend. Rather than focusing our energy and attention on making (and in all likelihood breaking) promises to ourselves, let’s spend the first part of the new year appreciate God’s unbreakable promises!

January 12 – God’s Promise of New Life (Matthew 3:13-17 and Psalm 29)
January 19 – God’s Promise of Faithfulness (1 Corinthians 1:1-9 and Psalm 40:1-11)
January 26 – God’s Promise of Ministry (Matthew 4:12-23 and Psalm 27:1, 4-9)

Blessed are the Crazy

Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness
To be blessed… to be in the right and loving protection of God; to be the recipient of extraordinary favor and to know that the eyes of the loving Creator and Sustainer are ever with you. Blessed are the hungry. Blessed are the poor in spirit. Blessed are the crazy. In our world, so many people are affected by mental illness and mental health, but even more don’t have the tools and language to talk about it. Furthermore, the church has long been reluctant to seek out those tools, to speak that language, and bless those whom society shuns. As a culture, we are not comfortable talking about mental health/illness. All too often we think of mental illness as a character flaw or as a weakness, a sign that something is deeply wrong with the person suffering, and for far too long the church has remained silent. During the month of February we will break that silence and begin a worship series, and a book study entitled “Blessed are the Crazy.” Stay tuned for more information about how the month of February will help us listen to and walk beside our friends and families as they carry crosses we cannot see. Only by breaking the silence surrounding mental illness can we understand and share the power of God’s healing love.

Please Note: In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the OPCC offices will be closed on Monday, January 20.
Middlers Christian Education
OPCC offers a Bible study class for adults on Sunday mornings from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Northwest Section of Fellowship Hall. This class follows the Living Word Series and studies from the scriptures that we have in worship. Come and join us in this discussion to pursue God, build community, and embrace compassion as we study from scripture to discern God’s provision for us.
All are welcome.
If you have questions, contact Peggy Moore at 913-592-0179 or the church at 913-677-4646

Empty Nesters
The Empty Nesters are invited to a planning session for events in 2020. We will meet on Wednesday evening, February 12th, at 6:00pm in the Fireside Room for this planning session. Bring your ideas!

Grief/Loss Support Group
All are welcome to join us on the first and third Mondays of the month. We will resume our sessions on February 3rd and February 17th in the Fireside Room at 1:00.
For more information, contact Peggy Moore at wpmoore63@gmail.com or 913-592-0179.

The Care and Share Support Group
We will meet in the Fireside Room on Wednesday, February 5th at 11:00 to plan our meetings for the year. Bring your sack lunch and come with ideas for our lunch times together!
For more information, contact Peggy Moore at wpmoore63@gmail.com or 913-592-0179.

Chancel and Bell Choirs
The OPCC Chancel and Bell choirs are always looking for new friends with whom to make music! If you don’t read music, but want to learn, if you're looking for a new way to get involved - all skill levels welcome!
The Reverb Bell Choir meets at 6:00pm, the Chalice Chancel Choir at 7:15pm, both on Wed. nights. Childcare is available.

Solo Sidekicks Singles
Friday, January 17th, at 1:30 pm
Meet at Pegah’s, 11005 Johnson Drive; Shawnee.
All are welcome and bring a friend!
Please RSVP by signing up at the front counter at the church or call at 913.677.4646.

The Caregivers Support Group
The Caregivers Support Group will resume meeting on the second and forth Mondays of the month at 1:00 pm in the Fireside Room. These meetings will resume on January 13 and 27. If you have the responsibility of caring for another person, or if you are the primary person caring for yourself, you are welcome to join our Christian Caregivers Support Group. Join us for support and encouragement and words of wisdom from our caregiving community.
For more information, contact Peggy Moore at wpmoore63@gmail.com or 913-592-0179.

Girlfriends Unlimited
Women of OPCC, join us for study, fellowship, and fun! Girlfriends Unlimited is a mid-week offering for women who are looking for ways to deepen their relationship with God by practicing their faith in everyday life. Please join us on Wednesday evenings, 7:00–8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Questions? Contact Peggy Moore at 913-592-0179 or wpmoore63@gmail.com.

Outreach Update
In December, OPCC continued its regular donations to local and global outreach efforts, including, Disciples Mission Fund, Interfaith Hospitality Network, Salvation Army Family Lodge, the OPCC Food Pantry, Tall Oaks, Cross-Lines Sack Lunches and MORE2. Additionally we made contributions to our Special Christmas Offering to support our Regional Ministries, and we received $760.00 on Christmas Eve to go to future outreach efforts! Way to go OPCC! What a wonderful way to make a difference in our world!

CWF (Christian Women’s Fellowship)
will take a break for the winter. Our next meeting will be Monday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All women are welcome!
Prayer Lists

Prayers of Concern
♥ John Bilderback (Bob Shankel’s cousin)
♥ Marian Bilyea & Rick Everist
♥ Pat Brennan (Maurica Campbell’s friend)
♥ Harper Claar (Roger & Vicki Claar’s granddaughter)
♥ Phyllis Cooke
♥ Nancy Corbin
♥ Bob Gentry (Friend of Maurica Campbell)
♥ Lorraine Hartnett
♥ Carol Huffman (Peggy Fach’s sister-in-law)
♥ Melody Jerden (Judy Snyder’s sister)
♥ Barbara Killion
♥ Audrey Lavely
♥ Rhonda Phelps (Roger Claar’s sister)
♥ Ada Phillips (Theresa Phillips’ mother)
♥ Michelle Reiter
♥ Theresa Phillips
♥ Earl Sheldon
♥ Nadine Sheldon
♥ Billie Warden

Continued Prayers
♥ Mary Aelmore
♥ Margo Brown
♥ Frances Bruning
♥ Bob Carter (mentor of Larry Swanson, Sharon McBride’s son)
♥ Nancy Coffman
♥ Barb Collins
♥ Mark Conner (Lorraine Hartnett’s grandson)
♥ Lawana Degraffenreid
♥ Gary Eilert (Jan & Ed Eilert’s son)
♥ Jan Eilert
♥ Christopher Elliot
♥ June Faltermeier (Nancy Coffman’s sister)
♥ Pat Frisbie (Maurica Campbell’s friend)
♥ Pat Gray
♥ Alex Horton
♥ Donna and Marshall Howard
♥ Bill Horton
♥ Rowena Hutchinson
♥ Ina Fern McBride
♥ Mary Johnson
♥ Barbara Killion
♥ Shirley McGee
♥ Florene & Tony Miele
♥ Max Norton (Marge White’s son-in-law)
♥ Ann Sandler
♥ Lloyd Snell
♥ Sandy Teeple
♥ Gordon and Iline Toms
♥ Wilma Townsend
♥ Doris Watts
♥ Wanda Whitney
♥ Evan Yoder (Cassy and Bob Evans’ grandson)
♥ Joe and Jean Zacher

Military Prayer List
♥ Jamie Crowe (Bo & Chris Crowe’s son)
  US Marines
♥ Dustine Doree (Betty Craney’s grandson)
  US Army Ranger trainer
♥ Cameron McDonough (Cathy Wilson’s son)
  US Navy, stationed on the USS Gonzalez DDG 66
♥ MAJ Amber R. Pippps (Daughter of Dale & Nancy Pippps)
  US Army stationed on the Special Forces Compound—Camp Brown in
  Kandahar, Afghanistan
♥ Dustin Doree (Betty Craney’s grandson),
  US Army Ranger, Iraq
♥ SSG Edward Pinkelman, Jr. (Ed & Kathy Pinkelman’s son), US Army, stationed at
  Camp Buehring in Kuwait

Condolences
♥ To the family of Harlan Wendell on his death on December 14. Services will be
  held on Saturday, January 18, at OPCC with visitation at 12:00pm and funeral at
  1:00pm.
♥ To the family of Rosemary Munday on her death on December 18. Services
  were held at OPCC on Sunday, December 22nd.
♥ To the family of Lloyd Snell on his death on December 20. Services were held
  on Sunday, December 29 in Spring Hill, Kansas.
♥ To the family of Mary Johnson on her death on January 7th. Services will be
  held on January 18th at Johnson County Memorial Gardens.. Visitation is at
  1:00 p.m. and service at 2:00 p.m with graveside service to follow there.
♥ To the family of Luella Roemer on her death on January 7th. There will be
  private services and burial in her home town of Healy, Kansas, also on Jan. 18.

Prayer Chain
Did you know that OPCC has a telephone prayer chain? Would you be interested in participating in
this meaningful ministry of praying for others, especially when it is most needed? If you would
like to join the telephone prayer chain, please
contact the church office:
office@opccdoc.org or 913-677-4646

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When your kids ask the hard questions are you prepared to respond? Utilizing conversations with one another, and the book, *When Kids Ask Hard Questions* (edited by Bromleigh McCleneghan and Karen Ware Jackson), together we will learn how to craft faithful conversations and be better prepared to tackle the tough stuff with our kids. This study will help us model faithful responses to the big questions about some of today’s toughest topics: race, bullying, suicide, mental illness, death, gender identity, divorce, money, generosity, technology, faith and more! While the book itself is aimed at supporting parents with children aged 5-12, our discussions will range from pre-school to older kids and teenagers, drawing on resources and one another!

**Join us on Sundays:**

January 19 – February 23 at 9am
In Room 43 (right next to children’s Sunday School in Room 42) for 6 weeks of support and guidance about being a faithful parent in today’s world!

Junior Youth Group meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 6-7 pm in the basement youth room and is open to all children in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. We focus on making the teachings of Jesus relevant to our lives in an age appropriate way. Questions are encouraged as we attempt to find answers together.

In January we will meet on the 3rd & 5th Wednesdays

Our Youth ended 2019 with a Christmas lock-in that was busy from start to finish. We participated in the Family Advent Experience, ate dinner and snacked all night, played numerous games of Hide and Seek Tag, and were finally exhausted enough we put on a movie and rested for a bit. Thank you Michelle Reiter & Jennifer Lee for acting as sponsors for this event!

Youth Group meets twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm in the youth room and is for all kids in 7th-12th grades.

In January we will meet on the 3rd & 5th Wednesdays
**Volunteer Opportunities**

**Projectionists and Sound Operators**

Sunday mornings during 10:30am worship service. No experience necessary.
No age requirement.
You will receive On the job Training!

Contact Doris Hamilton or Barb Collins!

**Our Children need YOU!**
We are in need of storytellers and greeters for our Sunday morning **Children Worship & Wonder**.
You will receive all the necessary training to help you feel comfortable in this new position! It’s a small time commitment that makes a lasting impact on our children.

Want to learn more? Contact Lisa Engelken at lengelken@dhm.disciples.org or ext. 228.

**Volunteers Needed**

at Garden Terrace Church Ministry

OPCC has a long tradition of leading worship services for the residents and family members at Garden Terrace Care Center located at 7541 Switzer. This ministry is currently in need of more volunteers to help serve communion, as well as piano players. Services are from 10:30-11:00 on Sunday mornings.

If you also deacon at OPCC, you will have time to serve communion at Garden Terrace and will return in time for Communion at OPCC.

If you are interested in helping or if you have questions, please contact Doris Hamilton.

**Food Pantry Needs**
Volunteers are always needed to help in our Food Pantry held on one Tuesday evening and one Saturday morning each month.

All skill levels, time availabilities, and physical abilities are accepted.

Contact Jane Fletcher (2fletcher@att.net) for more information.

**Sanctuary Flower Fund**
Do you have a special occasion or event you would like celebrated at church?
If you would like to sponsor flowers in the chancel on any Sunday (in honor or memory of a loved one, a special event, etc.), please contact Pat Warner.

Would you be willing to serve as a liturgist and read either scripture or a call to worship provided for you?

If you are interested in serving during worship, but have not yet contacted us, please let us know!

We will keep your name on a list and will arrange a convenient time for you to serve.

No age requirement – anyone willing to read is welcome!

Please contact Eileen in the front office (office@opccdoc.org); Phone: 913-677-4646, ext. 221; or in person during regular church office hours. Thank You!
Property Commission Report

Updates from last month:

1. Basement wall water leak repair has been delayed in the contractor’s schedule until early March.
2. Sunken sewer line in West hallway has been fixed by Dick Ray. We still have floor tiles to lay since we needed to wait for the concrete to cure.
3. Trinity Garden tree removal cost came to $400.00 versus an estimate of $475.00.
4. Kitchen exhaust fan motor could not be rebuilt. Freedom Electric is searching for a new fan and louvered vent which will fit in the exiting wall opening. Stay tuned for future updates!!
5. Committee is still searching for an under-the-counter ice maker plus new sink faucet for the Fireside kitchenette. One of our outside groups has donated $300.00 towards this project.
We currently have $1,500.00 but still need $400.00.

Other activities:

1. OPCC had two snow removals and salt applications this past month at a cost of $2,298.00.
2. Property is gathering cost estimates to convert “The Great Hall” into two new classrooms with bathrooms. Once the cost are gathered and shared with the Board, additional discussions will take place with the Montessori School. If discussions go well, a formal proposal will be presented to the Congregation for approval.
3. Lee took one of the bell tables to JHart Metal Works to have welding done on the table legs. Jeff (Emerson’s son) did the work at no charge. Thanks, Jeff!!
4. Lee continues to change light bulbs throughout the building.

Submitted by: Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

Winter Weather & Closings

As winter weather approaches, we want to remind you of how to find out if OPCC will be open!
Generally, during the week, we will follow the direction of Shawnee Mission School District.
If SMSD is closed for the day, then so too will the OPCC office close. We will also make sure to post closings specific to OPCC on KCTV5, KMBC, and Fox 4 stations. You can check their TV broadcasts or websites for our name.
We will also post on our website, our Facebook page, and our Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Snow removal is contracted out to a company that shovels and clears the parking lot for us, but only if the snow fall is above 3/8 of an inch. Please use your own judgment in choosing to attend worship or other OPCC activities. We certainly do not want you to put yourself in danger, and know that you know your own abilities and limitations best. Stay safe and warm!

Giving Made Easy

OPCC can now accept donations online, either by credit card or directly from your bank!
Electronic gifts are fast and secure, and they reduce administrative costs, allowing more of every dollar to fund the important work we are called to do. Give anytime, anywhere to your favorite funds. Schedule and manage recurring donations, make one-time donations, or pay for events, programs, and other activities.

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website at www.opccdoc.org and look for the Click Here to Donate Online button.

Save Your Treasures!

The date is still being determined, but WE WILL HOST A RUMMAGE SALE in March or April 2020. Start saving your stuff for this annual fundraiser that will benefit future mission trips! Since we don’t yet know the date, please keep your treasures at home, until we are able to publish the appropriate drop-off schedule. Please contact Rev. Laura with any questions.
The OPCC Scene is generally published the first Thursday of each month except July.

Copy deadline for next issue is February 7 for February 9 mailing.

Help us reduce paper and postage costs!
If you would like to be removed from this mailing list or to receive this publication by email, please contact Michelle Reiter at 913-677-4646, ext. 223, or michelle@opccdoc.org