



Overland Park Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) ☩

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www.opccdoc.org • www.facebook.com/opccdoc • @opccdoc (Twitter)

Lines from Laura

What happens when our world falls apart?

What does it look like to search for God
in the gray area of our lives?

How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans
unravel into loose threads?

What do we become when our identity —
or the path we're on — comes undone?

What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be?

I asked these same questions in September 2019,
and goodness, it seems appropriate to ask them again.
So we're again looking at where our lives are headed when
we're experiencing such an intense amount of Unraveling.

Each week through the middle of September will look at
six NEW stories of unraveling in our scriptures, and six new
opportunities to see God in each of these situations.

When I presented this series in September 2019, I was generally
looking at how we respond when things we love are unraveling
around us, and to some extent that might still be the case.

Yet, I remind us that sometimes we need to be unraveled,
systems need to be unraveled, expectations need to be
unraveled. Patterns and identities that cause harm and
separate us from God, need to be unraveled.

To unravel is to acknowledge what has fallen apart, regardless
of its inherent worth, and to allow God's newness to unfurl.

These next few weeks provide us with examples of where God
meets us in the spiraling, unraveling our plans — and us —
into something new. These stories and our worship experiences
around them and provide opportunities for deep reflection,
meaningful connection, and perhaps a bit of clarity.

Won't you join us in becoming unraveled? *Laura*



----- ☞ STUDY JOURNAL ☞ -----

Please join us in expanding
your experience of unraveling
through our Unraveled Journal.
This journal includes prompts
and artwork that enhance our
experience of these scriptures,

and are available at your
convenience. During regular
business hours you can pick
up a journal from the Main
Entrance of OPCC. Please

wear a mask when coming into
the building, and the journals
are available on the entry way
counter. After business hours
you can find a copy of the
journal at the Northwest
entrance to the building (the
entrance rarely used, near the
dumpsters in our parking lot).

The Northwest entrance has
a covered vestibule where we
can hide dry copies of these
journals on a cart just outside
the door for your access,
at your convenience.

If driving to the church building
is not an option for you, [please
contact Eileen in our front office](#)
and she can mail a copy to you.

Physically Distant, and Spiritually Connected

Based on the survey results of the congregation, large, in-person, inside worship, will not be the focus of our energies for a while as stated in the letter sent to the congregation in July.* Does this mean we are going to just rest on online worship as our only form of gathering? **Absolutely not!**

This means that we focus our energies on how we gather as a community in the ways that are as safe as possible, maintaining an acceptable level of risk, and keeping in mind how we welcome people to our congregation in ways that they feel safe. We're shifting our energies to figure out how we grow together as a community until such time that large, in-person, inside worship is possible again.

During Advent we often talk about "active waiting," in which we are active in our anticipation.

When we focus on Christ's coming, both in his birth, and his second coming, we don't just wait for Christ to come again for when he will make all things right with the world. Year after year we actively work towards God's kin-dom here on earth, that God's will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

In the same way, OPCC is active in its waiting for a return to large sanctuary worship. We are open to and excited about some alternative ways we can remain physically distant and spiritually connected with alternative forms of worship, Christian education, and community building. Drive-in worship?

Outdoor vespers? Front-porch pastoral visits? What are your ideas? How can you help plant these seeds of community growth, and cultivate these new fruits of ministry?

**If you did not receive this letter by USPS or by email and would like to, please contact Eileen in the church office at 913-677-4646 or office@opccdoc.org*

Virtual Community at OPCC

Please continue to check out our OPCC Website and Facebook pages for information on how to "be community" even when we aren't physically in the same space. Nearly everything we are doing virtually is available on our website, www.opccdoc.org. There are three blogs in particular that you will want to visit.

- <http://www.opccdoc.org/worship-this-week-blog> (Weekly Worship available here!)
- <http://www.opccdoc.org/families-youth--children-during-covid-19> (For Families)
- <http://www.opccdoc.org/a-community-of-voices-blog> (General/Community)

You can also [visit our Facebook page](#) where these same things are being shared.

By visiting these events and information through Facebook, it gives an interactive aspect to worship.

However, we are aware that not everyone enjoys Facebook, and so we will continue to share our information and opportunities on both our website and Facebook page.

Worship by Phone

Are you still struggling to join us for virtual worship on your computer, tablet, or smart phone? Or maybe you don't use a smart phone, tablet, or computer? Have no fear!

You can now LISTEN to a portion of our worship on your phone just by dialing this local phone number:



913-299-9002

There are no other numbers to input, and no other computer programs to learn.

Call in on Sunday morning, or any time throughout the week when you are available, to listen to the scripture, meditation, prayer, and songs on your phone! You can even call in as many times as you would like to listen to the service again.

Zoom Links and Update

This month we remind you that the links to many Zoom experiences have likely changed. Zoom now requires a password for meetings to take place; this shouldn't affect too many people as you can still simply click on the link(s) below, but make sure you are using the most up to date link/meeting ID.

You can join Zoom in one of two ways. Both manners of joining will allow you to participate with the various meetings listed throughout this newsletter.

- Download Zoom to your computer, tablet, or cell phone, and after creating an account, you can join the meetings by clicking on each weblink.
- Call into Zoom from your phone (home or cell), to any of these numbers below and utilize the Meeting ID listed in the newsletter to join that specific meeting.

(346) 248 7799 (301) 715 8592 (312) 626 6799

Middlers CE Class

The Middlers Sunday Morning Christian Education will meet weekly at 9:00am on Sunday Mornings for a discussion of scripture following the Revised Common Lectionary scriptures. All are welcome!

- Please [email our church office](#) to find out how to connect with the Middlers Sunday Morning Class

Choir and Bells

We invite all members of the Chalice Chancel Choir and Reverberations Bell Choir to join us online via Zoom for some reconnection time and an opportunity to share ideas for music in our upcoming online worship videos. Tune in every other Wednesday, August 5th & 19th, at **7:00pm**.

- Please [email Director of Music, Mary Beth Boucher](#), to find out how to connect with this gathering of our music ministry!

Seeking Musical Talent:

If you have a musical talent to offer our congregation or know of someone we should personally invite, please contact Mary Beth Boucher at marybethboucher2@gmail.com or 913.488.7796.

Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group continues to meet over Zoom, on the first Saturdays at 9:00am:

- Please [email our church office](#) to find out how to connect with the Men's Fellowship Group

Growing in God's Love: Virtual Family Faith Formation

Starting August 12th OPCC families are invited to join for a time of faith formation using the Growing in God's Love Story Bible and the theme of "People Jesus Met." This Zoom gathering on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. will be accompanied by the Home Kit delivered the week of August 9th. Please see Pastor Lisa's note here in the newsletter about this awesome opportunity!

- Please [email Pastor Lisa](#) to find out how to connect with this Faith Formation for Families opportunity

Girlfriends Unlimited

The Girlfriends Group will resume their weekly meetings on Wednesday, September 9, 7-8:30pm. Contact Peggy for more information.

Youth Group

The OPCC Youth Group has continued their meetings over Zoom, each Sunday evening at 7:30pm. Join us for fun, games, discussion, prayer, and more!

- Please [email our church office](#) to find out how to connect with the OPCC Youth Group

The Youth also recently got together (in-person but socially responsibly) to celebrate Ian Lee's graduation from Blue Valley Northwest by decorating his yard, driveway, and car! Congratulations again, Ian!



Associate Pastor/ Youth Minister Search Committee Update

The Associate Pastor/Youth Minister search committee has received some applications.

We are in the process of reviewing the applications and will be scheduling interviews in the very near future.

Stay tuned for more updates!

MORE² METRO ORGANIZATION FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

As part of our Outreach-Mission efforts at Overland Park Christian Church, we are a partner organization with MORE² (Metropolitan Organization for Racial and Economic Equity).

However, we are more than just a pastor-led partner, and invite you to join in our efforts.

Please join in one of the following events to find out how you can be involved:

- **Faith Votes Training** – at its core this issue is near and dear to the heart of Disciples of Christ. In the same way that we believe there should be no barriers to The Lord's Table, there should be no barrier to citizens voting in and for their communities. Faith Votes Training helps us to do the important work of making sure our community voices are heard! Join us on Saturday morning, August 15th, for this helpful training!
 - August 15th at 9:00am by Zoom
 - Register at www.more2.org/IVE
- **Kansas Issues2Action Night** – this is where we discuss how we can work toward racial and economic equity in Kansas.
 - August 17th at 6:30pm by Zoom
 - [Contact Rev. Laura for the Zoom link](#) closer to this date
- **MORE2 Board Meeting** – the leaders of MORE2 determine the direction of the organization and implement strategic planning to see this important work to fruition. OPCC has two spots available on the MORE2 board – won't you take part in directing this important work?
 - August 25th at 6:00pm by Zoom
 - [Contact Rev. Laura for the Zoom link](#) closer to this date



Johnson County Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)

Our next IHN host week begins August 23rd and runs through the 30th. It will not look like any week we have hosted before. Our COVID 19 Committee has recommended that we not host in our church building.

The volunteers gave feedback that OPCC (and supporting churches) said they preferred to pay for Extended Stay rooms (3) for the week and purchase gift cards to Target or Walmart to let them purchase the food they need. This accomplishes 2 things:
1) it keeps our church and volunteers free of exposure
2) we continue to support our IHN families

We have been ministers of the IHN program for 16 years and feel it is especially important to continue in these very difficult times. Even if you are not a volunteer, you can support IHN financially. You may mail your donation to the church, made out to OPCC with 'IHN' in the memo; or you may also donate online on our website www.opccdoc.org referencing IHN.

If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Barb Collins at barbcollins919@gmail.com.

Thank you for prayerfully supporting our program in whatever way you are able.

OPCC Food Pantry

YOUR help is needed to get the word out to people who need our pantry assistance! The response for volunteers has been generous (thank you!). But, we know there are more people out there who need food.

We know there are people out there who have to choose between utilities, housing, clothing, or food. Let's help them with food.

Consider picking up some yellow cards from the church office and dropping them off at local schools or police or fire stations so they can share the information to people they may encounter. Consider emailing our pantry information to your HOA or Next Door group. Consider posting our information on your social media. Consider posting or delivering our pantry information anywhere you are involved.

Our next pantry dates:

Tuesday, August 11 — 5:30-7:30 pm

Saturday, August 29 — 9:30-11:30 am

Those receiving food will be able to stay safe in their cars while we load them up with groceries. We only ask people to bring a photo ID (if available). We will ask them their name, zip code, and ages of those living in their household.

Thank you for your help serving our hungry community.

Family Ministry Updates

Dear OPCC Families,

May God be with you....This is my prayer for you.

We here at OPCC want to partner with you and your family while we continue to stay apart but we are together in spirit. Here are some ways we want to share how we can continue to be church:

1. **Growing in God's Love Virtual Family Faith Formation** will start on Wednesday evenings beginning August 12th, 2020, via Zoom at **5:30** p.m. Please contact us for the Zoom Meeting ID/ Password. Our Theme: **People Jesus Met. Kits will be delivered the week of August 9th.** Do not worry if you cannot join us — go to our website and check out what we have been doing.
2. Please visit our church website www.opccdoc.org and click on the **Resources for Faith Formation for Family, Children and Youth** on the front page to help you stay connected to the CW&W stories told by our CW&W storytellers and our recent VBS-The Lord's Prayer.
3. Thank you to all who participated with us during the **VBS-The Lord's Prayer**. I want to thank Pastor Laura Phillips and Judy Nickum for their leadership.
4. **OPCC Children's Library** — Beginning August 9th you and your family will have the opportunity to check out some of the great books in the CW&W/Lisa's Library. If your family wants to stop by the church during regular office hours, there will be a display of books outside of the CW&W room for you to check out. Please return when you are finished. There will be a check in/out sign-in sheet to record the books checked out.

Remember I am here for you and your families. Please do not hesitate to call if you need anything, even if we just pray together.



Grace and Peace,
Pastor Lisa Engelken
lengelken@dhm.disciples.org

Property Commission

First, a quick update on Lee...

By the time you receive the Scene, Lee should be released by his pulmonologist after 6 weeks of quarantine. Hurray!!

Lee wishes to **thank** all of you for the thoughts, prayers, car drive by, balloons, and the many cards. Each of these helped during my recovery and quarantine time.



Now, down to the business of property:

1. Update on the East wall: next time you see or talk to Dave Hobbs or Roger Claar, thank them for continuing to keep this project going. After review of costs and options from foundation companies and discussions with the structural engineer, it was determined that the wall is stable and by adding support under the outside brick façade, this project can move forward. Expect to complete the project by month end or early September. Thank you to Dave Farley for purchasing supplies and putting up the yellow taped area around the work area.
2. The Lawn and Sprinkler Guys replaced a sprinkler head.
3. The gazebo has been removed from the large courtyard, plus Freedom Electric had to disconnect the power circuit, sound box, and conduit.
4. Dick Ray Plumbing was out to repair a water leak in one of the sinks in Monarch's classroom.

Submitted by Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

Prayer List

Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Raelene Berry
- ♥ Marian Bilyea & Rick Everist
- ♥ Pat Brennan (Maurica Campbell's friend)
- ♥ Maurica Campbell
- ♥ Barbara Cash (Jody Cash's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Harper Claar (Roger & Vicki Claar's granddaughter)
- ♥ Phyllis Cooke
- ♥ Julie Dean
- ♥ Bud & Sara Reiter Donaldson (Wally Reiter's step-father & mother)
- ♥ Lorraine Hartnett
- ♥ Carol Huffman (Peggy Fach's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Barbara Killion
- ♥ Audrey Lavelly
- ♥ Rhonda Phelps (Roger Claar's sister)
- ♥ Ada Phillips (Teresa Phillips' mother)
- ♥ Randy Phillips (Laura Phillips' father)
- ♥ Earl Sheldon
- ♥ Billie Warden
- ♥ Joe & Jean Zacher

Continued Prayers

- ♥ Mary Aelmore
- ♥ Margo Brown
- ♥ Frances Bruning
- ♥ Nancy Coffman
- ♥ Barb Collins
- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Lawana Degraffenreid
- ♥ Gary Eilert (Jan & Ed Eilert's son)
- ♥ Jan Eilert
- ♥ Laurel Elliott
- ♥ June Faltermeier (Nancy Coffman's sister)
- ♥ Pat Frisbie (Maurica Campbell's friend)
- ♥ Pat Gray
- ♥ Donna & Marshall Howard
- ♥ Rowena Hutchinson
- ♥ Ina Fern McBride
- ♥ Shirley McGee
- ♥ Florene Miele
- ♥ Pat Phillips (Laura Phillips' mother)
- ♥ Teresa Phillips
- ♥ Lori Rapoff (Laurel Elliott's daughter)
- ♥ Ann Sandler
- ♥ Sandy Teeple
- ♥ Gordon & Iline Toms
- ♥ Doris Watts
- ♥ Evan Yoder (Cassy and Bob Evans' grandson)
- ♥ Judy Zeman

Military Prayer List

- ✦ Jamie Crowe (Bo & Chris Crowe's son)
- ✦ Cameron McDonough (Cathy Wilson's son)
- ✦ SSG Edward Pinkelman, Jr. (Ed & Kathy Pinkelman's son)

Condolences

- ♥ to Chuck Reese and his family on the death of his daughter, Heidi.
- ♥ to the family of Wilma Townsend on her death on July 28.

Coronavirus Prayer List

- ♥ Charmaine Cherrell (Monica Fuentes' friend)
- ♥ Bud Donaldson (Wally Reiter's step-father)
- ♥ Ronita & Mike Espinoza (Monica Fuentes' niece and her husband)
- ♥ Garden Terrace
- ♥ Lakeview Community
- ♥ Amelia Pantoja (Monica Fuentes' sister)
- ♥ Carma & Matt Roberts (Jimmy & Edith Reynolds' daughter & son-in-law)
- ♥ Heather King Smith (Dan Horton's friend)
- ♥ Villa St Francis Care Center

To add or remove persons from this or any of the prayer lists, please contact Michelle Reiter at ext. 223 or michelle@opccdoc.org

Congratulations!

to Marijane Green on the birth of a new grandson, James Santiago Green, born to Stephen & Cristina Green on July 20, 2020.

Thank You

Thanks to all those who sent cards, made phone calls and said prayers during my surgery and rehabilitation during June and into July. Appreciate continued prayers for my recovery.

Maurica Campbell

Dear OPCC friends,
Thank you for the prayers & cards we received upon the death of Nadine Sheldon. Thank you Card Ministry for the cards you sent to Nadine; she really enjoyed reading them.

Fondly,
Earl & Barbara Sheldon
and Family

Volunteers for Virtual Worship Leading

We are in need of volunteers who will share some of the elements of worship, virtually!

If you are willing to read scripture, bring in the Light of Christ, share the Invitation to Worship, or other elements, please let Rev. Laura know. She can guide you through how to do this and would love to welcome you into helping lead our on-line worship!

Giving to OPCC

You might consider setting up electronic payment to the church. You can set up an auto-debit plan with *your* banking institution, or use our secure online giving (www.opccdoc.org/online-giving) so you can give more consistently without bringing it in-person regularly. Online giving is also great for individual donations if you aren't ready to put a weekly or monthly plan into place. We can also receive checks through the USPS mail if that is your preference.

If you have any questions about online giving or EFT transfers through your bank, contact Michelle (michelle@opccdoc.org or ext: 223) in the office.

Dear friends of Overland Park Christian Church,

I want to thank you for the support you have consistently given to Week of Compassion. We celebrate with you the commitment OPCC has shown, helping fulfill the vision of transforming suffering into hope. Your gifts are deeply appreciated and bring joyful affirmation to the mission we share. (Your example of outreach in Jamaica inspired me — and members of my church in Arlington Heights, IL — to do the same. Your Christian network thrives!)

We know that all churches are facing challenges related to the pandemic and social unrest. We pray that your congregation continues to experience community locally and globally. And we join our prayers to yours for health and wellness for all.

As a member of the board I am happy to respond to your thoughts or questions. It is encouraging to see that Week of Compassion is featured on your website. We are all blessed by your commitments and ministries.

Gratefully,
Judi Frost, Board of Stewards



Your OPCC Staff

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Help us reduce paper and postage costs!

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list or to receive this publication by e-mail, please contact Michelle Reiter at 913-677-4646, ext. 223, or michelle@opccdoc.org