



Overland Park Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) 

7600 West 75th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204
913-677-4646

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday Services

“Middlers” Adult Christian Education Class — 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
 “Growing In God’s Love” Children’s Sunday School — 9:30 a.m. in Room 32
 Traditional/Blended Worship — 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
 Nursery care available for children through 3 years old

Sunday Worship is Live-Streamed on our Website and Facebook Page

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

Hope in Hospitality

Since 2014, OPCC has been intentional in discerning how we live out our mission as God’s church, and in particular, we have focused on how we steward the gift of our amazing building and property here at 75th and Conser. **During that 2014 visioning process, it was made clear that OPCC wanted to stay in this neighborhood, and steward our building to further God’s reign in our community, also allowing us to stay in our building and worship as we desire.**

Subsequently we have engaged in tenancy partnerships with several communities, sharing space, grace, and ministry with Iglesia Rios de Agua Viva (RAV), Homeschool Christian Academy, Church World Service, The KC Region of the Christian Church (DOC), Monarch Montessori, Advocacy in Motion, Case Management Services, Emerson Hartzler’s Financial Management Services, and Honey Bee Community Services. This is of course *all in addition* to the ministries facilitated by OPCC members and friends, such as the OPCC Food Pantry, Interfaith Homeless Network, OPCC Men’s and Women’s groups, youth group, Children Worship & Wonder, *and* all the community groups that use our building throughout the month, such as 12-step recovery groups, the HAM radio club, PEO and DAR groups, and more. **All of this responsible building stewardship has allowed us to continue worshipping as OPCC, and to not only manage, but share, the amazing gift we have in our building.**

It is no surprise, then, as Broadway Church (DOC) was discerning their own future in late 2022 and early 2023, they saw OPCC as a hopeful collaborator in ministry because of our significant hospitality, and so approached us with a proposal for future partnership as [we first shared with in the May 2023 OPCC Scene](#). In concert with this proposal from Broadway Church (DOC), OPCC has been in its *own* [Missional Planning conversations, activities, and prayers](#), throughout 2023, culminating in two meetings on July 9 and 10, of the OPCC Elders and OPCC Board, to refine the priorities of our congregation through the end of 2024. After reviewing all the information, comments, thoughts, and prayers received at the missional planning gatherings in the first half of 2023, the following four priorities of Overland Park Christian, became clear:

- Exploring the relationship and partnership with Broadway Church (DOC)
- Exploring worship opportunities that speak to a broader audience
- Growth of our community, both individual growth, and growing the membership of our community of faith through invitation and opportunities
- Maintaining a Social Justice focus that moves from education to ACTION

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Following the refining of these priorities, the OPCC Board approved a proposal that was *sent back* to Broadway Church (DOC), that included their renting space from OPCC through the end of 2023, along with intentional discernment about what future partnership will look like. On August 16, Broadway Church accepted that proposal and indicated to OPCC that they would like to rent space from us beginning in September, through the end of 2023, along with engaging in intentional discernment activities and conversations about what partnership will look like. This intentional discernment will allow both OPCC and Broadway congregation members and leadership to get to know one another even more, and to discern specifics about finances and personnel. This will all include leadership and direction from our Regional Minister and President, Rev. Bill Rose-Heim as we together consider the hope we find in radical hospitality shared with one another.

Broadway Church (DOC) will rent one office from OPCC and then share communal space, in the same way RAV, Honeybee, CMS, AIM, and Monarch pay for their own exclusive space, and then share communal space, together as the calendar allows. Broadway Church will worship at 11:30am on Sundays in the Fireside Room, to honor that unique way of worshiping in discussion around tables, and OPCC will continue to worship at 10:30am in the sanctuary in the same manner we have.

We know that moving forward in hopeful expectation involved a lot of patience, and trust. Like Thomas, we might even have some doubts. Yet no matter what, we continue in hopeful expectation because we know God is guiding us, and leading our faith community into a future with hope.

Laura

From the Editor — the minutes from the August 7, 2023, OPCC Board Meeting were not available at the time of the printing of this newsletter. Look for that report in the October OPCC Scene (mailed copy), or contact any of your Board representatives listed on the back of this and every OPCC Scene newsletter.

What is it to Live Forever?

For our early ancestors in the faith, living forever meant having progeny -- bearing children so that your name would “not depart from the earth.” Eternal life was through your “seed.”

Scholars believe that after the exile, a notion of the soul came to believe that the soul could live on after death, and some believed in the possibility of resurrection, where not only the soul would live on, but the body as well would enter into some kind of afterlife.

There are many thoughts in the world about afterlife, whether we are on the great wheel of karma, or whether we meet Peter at the pearly gate, or whether our children are our way to live on. The Apostle Paul considered the afterlife a mystery and a blessed hope. And many of us simply understand that the gospel is much more about “Thy Kingdom come, on earth . . .” than trying to get into some afterlife eternal real estate.

No matter where you land on these thoughts of what it means to “live forever,” one very practical and gospel way to live on is through legacy giving. A legacy gift continues our influence, our intentions, our goals and our values even after we have crossed over into the mystery. It funds “Thy Kingdom come, on earth . . .” Even after we pass on, we live on.

Churches that encourage planned gifts often can provide ministries that “non-legacy giving churches” can only imagine -- youth programs, lecture series, mission trips, facility upgrades and repairs. Overland Park Christian has continued through many tumultuous financial years, *because those before believed their love could live forever, through OPCC in some way.*

As we continue in our missional planning for the present and future of OPCC, may we be aware of the gifts from so many faithful people before us who sacrificed, gave, and passed to us this amazing church. As we receive these gifts, let's be willing to match their faithfulness and generosity so that folks fifty years from now will be blessed by the generous faithfulness of our time in the life of the church. Legacy giving is one faithful way of living on.

Rev. Laura and Michelle Reiter would be happy to talk to you more about legacy giving, and get you connected with The Christian Church Foundation for even more options.

Music Department Update

August was a busy month for the music department with the recent construction changes in the bell room and choir room. Last spring, it became evident that we needed an entry into the bell room without stairs, with the easiest solution of creating new a door between the two rooms. Because of the recent remodeling, we have a list of thanks you we would like to share for all those who made everything possible:

- Lee Sprinkle and Jim Withers for removing the existing cabinetry
- Richard Owens for painting the walls containing the new door
- All the staff who moved furniture: Rev. Laura, Rev. Chuck, Michelle, Cody, and Lee
- All the ringers and singers who moved the two rooms back into place

With that being said, we hope you can stop by and take a peek or join us for rehearsals that officially begin on Wednesday, September 13. Times for the music department are as follows:

- 6:00-6:45pm: RBC rehearsal in the bell room
- 6:45-7:15pm: Song Leaders rehearsal; RBC & CCC social gathering time
- 7:15-8:15pm: CCC rehearsal in the choir room

If you are interested in joining us, now is the perfect time! Please let Mary Beth Boucher, our director of music, know via email or phone.

Middlers Sunday Morning Christian Education Class

**Sundays, 9:00 – 10:10 am
NW Section Fellowship Hall**

The Middlers' Adult Bible Study will resume our regular Sunday morning class on September 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the Northwest section of Fellowship Hall. Middlers is open for all persons to join in fellowship and grow in faith as we study scripture utilizing the Feasting on the Word curriculum.

Contact Peggy Moore for more information.

Elders Meeting

OPCC Elders — please mark your calendars for an important Elders gathering on Sunday, September 24, following morning worship. We will meet in Fellowship Hall; topics will include an update on the recent General Assembly, and discussion about OPCC's relationship with Broadway Church. [RSVP to Lois Wimpey](#).

Care & Share

All are invited to join for lunch, laughter, good food, fellowship, and support on the following dates with our Care And Share Support Group. We meet at the designated restaurants on the at 11:30 a.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Please let Peggy Moore know at least 5 days ahead of the luncheon by phone or email if you plan to attend. Don't miss out on the fun! Even if you have not been part of this group before, you are cordially invited to join us, and feel free to bring a friend or guest.

- * Wednesday, September 13, 11:30am — Antioch Park, 6501 Antioch Road in Merriam. Enter the north entrance. We will be in the Patio Shelter near the administration building and covered pavilion. Bring a sack lunch and drink.
- * Thursday, October 26, 11:30 a.m. — Zarda BBQ, 11931 W 87th St Pkwy in Lenexa. We have a room reserved. RSVP to Peggy no later than October 21st.

Girlfriends

Our Girlfriends Bible Study has resumed meeting on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We are studying the book "Christian Beliefs" by Wayne A. Grudem. (Let Peggy know if you need a copy of the book.)

Whether you are an "already in" Girlfriend, or a new Girlfriend, you are welcome to join us! For more information, contact Peggy Moore .

Men's Fellowship Group

All men are invited to the Men's Fellowship Group on the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room for coffee, study, and fellowship. Our current study book is "Joy." Contact: Emerson Hartzler, 913-422-1378

Social Justice Focus Planning Session

A planning session will be held on Thursday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room for anyone interested in sharing discussion of organizing, educating, and moving forward with more action-based plans around Social Justice opportunities at OPCC.

Contact Peggy Moore for more information and find out how you can be part of this ministry.

Help Needed

Do you have a heart for people in our area that are food insecure? Do you wish there was something you could do that would really make a difference? The OPCC Food Pantry has recently lost one of our food donors for reasons beyond their control. And, Harvesters Food Bank has had such a significant drop in donations from their major supplies, that the amount of food available through them has dropped by approximately 50%.

Would you be willing to give an hour or two weekly, twice a month, or monthly to help pick up donated food and bring it to OPCC on behalf of our food pantry?

There are several opportunities to receive donated leftover bakery items and sometimes fresh produce. We need a small team of volunteers to help us so we can continue serving our hungry neighbors with our food pantry.

If you would like more information, contact Jane at 913-449-5785 or jane Fletcher1210@gmail.com

Reconciliation Ministry is the anti-racism and pro-reconciling emphasis of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Funds from the annual special offering provide grants for training and education programs to help pastors and congregations in this essential work. Please give generously. Thank you!

Sound the Trumpets:

Unmuted Ministry:

Uncommon Love;

United Service

Numbers 10:4-7

RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

SPECIAL OFFERING

SEPTEMBER 24th - OCTOBER 1st



www.reconciliationministry.org



Prayer List

Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Bill Anthony
- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Chuck Elliott
- ♥ Cassy & Bob Evans
- ♥ Nicole Finley (Sally Withers' niece)
- ♥ Ruth Fletcher
- ♥ Pat Gilling
- ♥ Gordon Harkness
- ♥ Perri Kolars
- ♥ Audrey Lavelly
- ♥ Sue Mallery and family (Cassy Evans' sister)
- ♥ Eileen McIntyre
- ♥ Bryce Moore
- ♥ Roy Nickum
- ♥ Julie Norman (Lisa Engelken's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Pat Owsley
- ♥ Jimmy Reynolds
- ♥ Bette Scafe
- ♥ Mike Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Tony Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Barbara Sheldon
- ♥ Earl Sheldon
- ♥ Dylan Smith (Sally & Jim Withers' nephew)
- ♥ Amanda Sprinkle (Lee & Jan Sprinkle's granddaughter)
- ♥ Mary Sprinkle (Lee Sprinkle's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Larry Stouse
- ♥ Chuck Warner
- ♥ Mike Williams (Coleen Thigpen's friend)
- ♥ Jim Withers

Continued Prayers

- ♥ Marian Bilyea
- ♥ Maurica Campbell
- ♥ Lawana Degraffenreid
- ♥ Laurel Elliott
- ♥ David Garner (son of Floyd & Marcille Garner, friend of Jody Cash)
- ♥ Pat Gray
- ♥ Donna & Marshall Howard
- ♥ Betty King
- ♥ Calvin McBride
- ♥ Sharon McBride
- ♥ Christina, Jeff, Scott, & Jenny Packard (Sharon & Bob Shankel's daughter & family)
- ♥ Randy Phillips (Laura Phillips' father)
- ♥ Ann Sandler
- ♥ JoLynn Sloan
- ♥ Michelle Swanson (Sharon McBride's daughter-in-law)
- ♥ Sandy Teeple
- ♥ Sally Withers

Military Prayer List

- ✦ PV2 Rachael Dawson (Fran Dawson's granddaughter), Ft. Campbell, KY
- ✦ Cameron McDonough (Cathy Wilson's son)

Property Commission

Like most months, Property Commission always has activities to follow and/or coordinate. See list for this past month below:

- A. Temperature Maintenance had to build a new drip pan for the Fellowship Hall air handler. This was a major undertaking but completed with success. Still waiting for the bill.
- B. Bell Choir members may now enter the Bell room from the Choir room. JP Company cut through the common wall and installed a new 36" metal door. While doing this, we had to have Freedom Electric come and reroute some outlets wiring.
- C. Choir room has also gone through the following changes:
 - a. Jim Withers and Lee removed a partial wall and cabinets
 - b. Lee removed another counter top and cabinets
 - c. All cabinets and counter tops were provided new homes
 - d. Lee installed a wall shelf
 - e. Superior Flooring stripped and waxed the entire choir room floor
- D. THANK YOU to all the volunteers (19) who came to the second work day at OPCC. Great work completed and fellowship enjoyed.

Submitted by
Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

Your OPCC Staff

913-677-4646

info@opccdoc.org

(general church e-mail address)

Senior Pastor Laura Ann Phillips
laura@opccdoc.org ext. 222

Associate Pastor Chuck Pickrel
chuck@opccdoc.org ext. 228

Pastor of Sacred Spaces Lisa Engelken
lengelken@dhm.disciples.org

Receptionist Cody Kreutzer
office@opccdoc.org ext. 221

Communications Coordinator/
Bookkeeper Michelle Reiter
michelle@opccdoc.org ext. 223

Music Director Mary Beth Boucher
marybeth@opccdoc.org ext. 229

Accompanist Julie Dean
missjupes@gmail.com

Building & Grounds Lee Sprinkle
lee@opccdoc.org ext. 237

Nursery Director Kourtney Leibman

Your 2023-2024 OPCC Board of Directors

Roger Claar Chair
Katherine Ann Haggard Vice Chair
Teresa Phillips Secretary
Richard Owens Treasurer
Alan Felton Commission Liaison
Jody Cash Leadership Development

The OPCC Scene is generally published the first Thursday of each month, except in July.

Copy deadline for next issue is October 3 for October 5 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 e-mail, please contact Michelle Reiter at 913-677-4646, ext. 223, or
michelle@opccdoc.org