



# The OPCC Scene

## 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

**Adult Christian Education Class** — 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

**In-Person 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](http://www.opccdoc.org) • [@opccdoc](https://twitter.com/opccdoc) (Twitter) • [www.facebook.com/opccdoc](https://www.facebook.com/opccdoc)

Hear Worship by Phone (available after 2pm on Sunday): call 913-299-9002



The traditional practices of Lent often emphasize restraint, confession, and piety. We suffer through Lent as a reminder of Christ's suffering on the way to the cross. The origins of Lent were that a person was to leave behind their old life, to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from the rat race, corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and fuller life of faith.

This Lent we will practice an expansive faith, full to the brim, not to ignore or deny our fragmented world or the suffering within it. It doesn't absolve accountability for wrongdoing. We will practice an expansive faith, full of promises of God's abundant and expansive grace right alongside the brokenness. A Lent full to the brim is an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. Lent will disrupt the scarcity mentality that unrestrained capitalism, oppression, and hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path. I pray that you will find this expansive grace, overflowing God's cup of grace and beyond no matter how you join Overland Park Christian Church this Lenten season.

*Jana*

## Lenten Worship

This year, our scripture offerings for each Sunday in Lent are filled with promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise – these sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace, like water spilling over the top into all parts of our lives. We hope you will join worship to be washed in God's grace!

- Sunday, March 6th – Luke 4:1-13
- Sunday, March 13th – Luke 13:31-35 & Psalm 27
- Sunday, March 20th – Luke 13:1-9
- Sunday, March 27th – Luke 15:11b-32
- Sunday, April 3rd – John 12:1-8
- Palm Sunday, April 10th – Luke 19:28-40
- Good Friday, April 15th – John 19:1-30

## Prayer During Lent: Two Options!

OPCC has TWO interactive prayer practices for all of us to lean into as we journey toward the cross and resurrection of Easter Sunday. .

- A physical, daily, devotional book is available on the entry-way counter. Titled *Grace Unbounded*, this devotional provides scripture, reflections, prayers, visual art, reflections, and meditative prompts focusing on the expansive grace of God. You can also purchase an E-version of *Grace Unbounded* as a [Kindle](#), [Nook](#), or [Google](#) book.
  - Additionally, grab a guide for how to use this devotional including songs you might like to sing along with the devotion.
  - Families, grab the drawing prompts and bingo cards for additional ways of using this devotion at home.
- An additional option comes as daily Lenten prayers, arriving by TEXT MESSAGE at 9:00am to your phone by way of our messaging system. To start receiving these devotional prompts, text @OPCCDOC (yes, use the @symbol before the letters) to 22300 to join. You can also email your name and cell phone number to the front office ([office@opccdoc.org](mailto:office@opccdoc.org)) to be added to the list. Standard message and data rates may apply.
- Listen carefully during Sunday worship to hear more about an additional communal place of prayer that reminds us of God's expansive love, grace, and mercy, that *fills us to the brim*.

No matter how you engage in prayer, we look forward to praying together as we overflow with God's love, mercy, and grace!

## Death & Dying Lenten Series

We begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday contemplating our mortality, rubbing ashes on our skin to remind us of what amazing things God can do with dust. Yet, it also reminds us that we *will* return to that dust someday. Though it's an experience we all share... talking about that, returning to dust... talking about the end of life, can be difficult.

Lent has long been a symbol of dying to the old self as we celebrate our new selves in the light of the risen Christ, and so this Lent we consider what that actually means – dying to the old self. Tuesday March 8 - Tuesday April 5 at 6:30 p.m. we will together consider the theological, spiritual, practical, and emotional aspects of what it means to die in this life. Throughout the course of our meetings we hope to offer comfort in the often unknown with trustworthy information and supportive conversation. Some of the topics that will be covered in these five weeks include:

- A Theology of Death: What we as Christians say about death, says something about what we believe about God
- Pre-Planning Arrangements: from cremation, to a traditional casket, to a "green burial," we'll discover a variety of options that you can choose for your loved ones
- Hospice Care: perspectives from a hospice physician, and support from hospice chaplains
- Legal & Financial Planning: what are the 20 documents you need to gather together right now? What will your financial legacy be when you pass?
- Death & Dying at OPCC: what does it look like in my final days, and planning a funeral service with Overland Park Christian Church

We'll plan to meet in the Fireside Room on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. – but if there is enough interest, we will move to the Fellowship Hall as needed. Childcare is not yet arranged, but can be if needed. Please contact the office if you need childcare, [office@opccdoc.org](mailto:office@opccdoc.org)

Worship & Arts will again be decorating the Sanctuary for Easter with flowering plants. If you would like to purchase one of these plants in honor or memory of a loved one, please fill out the information below and return it, along with your check made out to OPCC, to the church office, drop it in the offering box at church, or contact Michelle Reiter at 913-677-4646, x223, or [michelle@opccdoc.org](mailto:michelle@opccdoc.org). Cost is \$15.00 per plant. A list of all those honored will be printed in the bulletin on Easter.

# Easter Flowers



Your name \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants \_\_\_\_\_ Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Daylight Saving Time begins March 13



## OPCC Easter Egg-Stravaganza!

Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. - Noon  
OPCC Playground and West Parking Lot

Mark your calendars to join us for an Easter Egg Hunt, as well as carnival games and a caricature artist. As always, friends and family are welcome! Come join in the fun!



## OPCC Returning Committee Update

The OPCC returning committee continues to meet and study the data of the effects of the Covid pandemic. As spring approaches and the numbers are decreasing, the hope and prayer is that our worship gatherings will eventually look like they did in January and February 2020. As we move forward we do so with caution as our goal remains, and always has been, for *all* of our community to be able to safely worship together. After its most recent meeting, the committee is recommending the following changes at this time:

- We will return to the registration sheets in the bulletin instead of the sign in sheets at the door. This allows our members to not only register their attendance, but also provides an opportunity to communicate prayer requests. Please drop your registration form in the glass-paneled offering box as you leave worship.
- Speakers from the pulpit can be unmasked while speaking.
- The choir will remain masked. This allows the choir to stand close together as an ensemble.
- Congregants, please remain masked. Per our original metrics, we will revisit masking when the positivity rate for Johnson County drops below 5% for a consistent period of 4 weeks, and/or when we have more information on the availability of vaccines for children under the age of 5. You can follow the positivity rate trend, here: <https://bit.ly/JoCoCOVID>
- We will continue to offer individual communion.
- We will remove the ribbons blocking off access to some of the pews.

We know this has been a long process for all of us. The committee thanks each of you for your support as we continue to recommend changes to keep *all* of God's children, safe.

## Congregational Care

One of the strongest ministries we have going at Overland Park Christian Church, is our Congregational Care ministry. We are blessed with many dedicated volunteers who make sure that any of our care and/or grief needs are addressed, reminding us that we are all a community! Let this serve as a reminder that if you are going through something difficult, perhaps in the hospital, or at home and needing care, please don't hesitate to contact our Congregational Care team. Between the Congregational Care team and our pastors, we hope you know how loved and important you are! You can contact the Congregational Care team by calling the church office (913) 677-4646 and leaving a message on extension 224. The team will receive an email of your message and get in touch with you as soon as possible. You can also call one of our pastors. Many thanks for all the ways that each of you care for one another!

## Music Department

We are excited that we have a couple of new singers in Chancel Choir! Please know that we still have room for more people to join us. If you start now, you can sing in the cantata we will be sharing on Easter Sunday morning. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7-8:30 pm. We also have rehearsal recordings for singers who desire individual practice.

The Reverberations Bell Choir is still seeking substitute bell ringers. If you read music well (or know someone who does) and would like to ring bells without a continuous commitment, please consider being one of our substitute bell ringers.

Contact our music director, Mary Beth Boucher, at [marybeth@opccdoc.org](mailto:marybeth@opccdoc.org) or by calling the church for more information on the above items or any other questions or comments regarding music at OPCC.

## Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group meets on the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room for coffee, study, and fellowship. Our current study book is "Mere Christianity."  
All men are invited.

Please call the church office for contact info.

## Middlers Sunday Morning Christian Education Class

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

Looking for a Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study? Join the Middlers Class on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the northwest section of Fellowship Hall for a Bible study class utilizing the *Feasting on the Word* series that follows the lectionary Bible series. These scriptures that we will study will be the same scriptures that Laura's preaching series during worship will focus on, too. Come and be a part of this lively discussion — we would welcome your participation!

Questions? Please call the church office for Peggy M's contact information.

## Girlfriends

**Wednesdays, 7:00 pm, Fireside Room**

Women looking for an evening Bible Study? Join our Girlfriends Bible Study and Support Group on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 - 8:30pm. in the Fireside Room! March 9 - April 13 we will be studying "Full To The Brim". This is a Lenten focused study that allows us to come together in community to expand our experiences during Lent in order to draw closer to God and deepen our faith in Jesus Christ. We would be delighted for you to join us.

Beginning April 20, Girlfriends will finish our study on "The Characters of Christmas: The Unlikely People Caught Up in the Story of Jesus."

For more information, call the church office for Peggy M's contact information.

## Grief & Loss Support Group

The OPCC Grief/Loss Support Group will be changing our meeting dates and times for 2022. We will meet on the first TUESDAY of every other month starting in March. We will be meeting for lunch at Cozy's Café, 6740 W. 75th Street (just east of Price Chopper at the corner of 75th and Metcalf) at 11:30 a.m. for support and discussion.

Our remaining meeting dates for 2022 are:  
May 3, July 5, September 6, and November 1

Please call the church office for more info.

# Social Justice Opportunities at OPCC

Please join us in these opportunities to participate in Social Justice Work at OPCC.

Questions? Contact Peggy Moore.

**“Earth Democracy”** — Thursday, March 24, 7:00-8:15 pm, OPCC Fireside Room

This presentation shows the need for the care of the earth preservation and was first shown as a UMKC Diversity Training Program. The presenter is Vandana Shiva, a leading voice in the struggles for global justice. Shiva is a renowned environmental activist and physicist in Earth Democracy.

**“Just Mercy”** — Thursday, April 28, 7:00-9:00 pm, OPCC Fireside Room

Movie based on the life work of civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson, offered to those who are interested in learning more about the systemic racism that plagues our society. [www.justmercyfilm.com](http://www.justmercyfilm.com)  
Questions and discussion session to follow the viewing of this movie.

Also, there are several books on the entryway counter near the front door of the church available for your reading on issues of current social injustice issues. We are adding two new books for your opportunity to learn about the inequity for so many of our neighbors who experience food scarcity. The two new books are “Food Town USA: Seven Unlikely Cities That Are Changing the Way We Eat” by Mark Winne, and “Reinventing Food Banks and Pantries: New Tools to End Hunger” by Katie S. Martin. Please use these reading opportunities to help us learn and know how to live and move in the world as Jesus would call us to do.

## UMKC's Martin Luther King Jr Lecture featuring Yamiche Alcindor and host Glenn Rice

Recording from UMKC Division of Diversity and Inclusion now available for viewing until May 14.

The Moores watched this video and found it to be informative and delightful and have shared the link. This video features Yamache Alcindor, a professional journalist in Washington, D.C., who discusses her origins and her joy of being a writer and narrator for several national news circuits.

She has the ability to break down complex and difficult conversations into pieces that the general public can grasp. We can learn from her.

### To view the recording:

1. **Follow this link to the website:**  
<https://info.umkc.edu/diversity/recording-of-2022-mlk-lecture-featuring-yamiche-alcindor-with-host-glenn-rice/>
2. **Enter in this password: MLK2022!**
  - a. Enjoy the viewing!
  - b. **Technical Note:** Embedded video will not work on a Safari web browser, you can follow the link on the webpage

Check out our next events by following us on [Facebook](#), or visiting our [website](#)!

## MORE<sup>2</sup>

METRO ORGANIZATION FOR  
RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

As part of our Outreach-Mission efforts at OPCC, we are a partner organization with Metropolitan Organization for Racial and Economic Equity (MORE2). Please join in one of the following events to find out how you can be involved:

- **Issues2Action Night** – this is where MORE<sup>2</sup> decides the work that is important to us, where we discuss how we can work toward racial and economic equity in Kansas.
  - Monday, March 14, 6:00 – 7:30pm  
by way of Zoom ([Click Here to register](#)) (<https://bit.ly/opccMORE2>) Check out the [website](#) or [Facebook page](#) to be sure!

## What Does the Food Pantry Need This Month?

**March** – canned fruit and macaroni & cheese  
Please place your donations in the blue barrel  
by the Receptionist's Desk. Thank you!

# Registration is now open for Tall Oaks Camps for this summer!

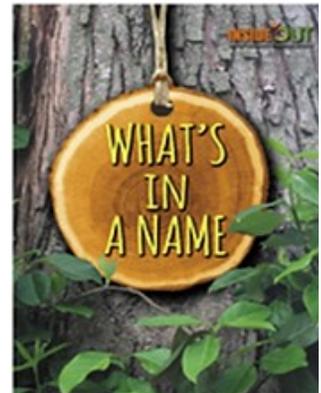


Tall Oaks Camp and Conference Center, located in Linwood, KS, is the regional campground for our denomination.

Summer camps are available for a wide variety of ages from Grandparents Camp and Day Camp for the younger members, to CYF camps for our high schoolers.

Go to [www.talloaks.org](http://www.talloaks.org) or [www.kcdisciples.org/gkc-youth-programs--camp.html](http://www.kcdisciples.org/gkc-youth-programs--camp.html) for more information or to register. Please email any questions about camp to Camp & Conference Coordinator Shandra Yost-Soltani at [shandra@kcdisciples.org](mailto:shandra@kcdisciples.org) or call 913-433-6672.

- \* Day Camp 1 (completed Grades K-3) - June 11; Cost \$50.00
- \* Day Camp 2 (completed Grades K-3) - July 23; Cost \$50.00
- \* Primary Camp (completed Grades 2-3) - July 25-27; Cost \$264.00
- \* Junior Camp (completed Grades 4-5) - July 11-14; Cost \$315.00
- \* Chi Rho Classic (completed Grades 6-7) - July 25-29; Cost \$ 382.00
- \* Eighther's Camp (completed Grade 8) - July 8-14; Cost \$499.00
- \* CYF (completed Grades 9-12) - June 21-26; Cost \$417.00
- \* Grandparents Camp 1 (completed Grades K-3) - June 11-13; Cost \$ 227.00
- \* Grandparents Camp 2 (completed Grades 4-6) - July 15-17; Cost \$ 227.00



## *Hello OPCC Family & Friends,*

I'm going to borrow a phrase from Peggy Moore last Sunday and say that we all need something to look forward to. So with that being said, **SAVE THE DATE - Sunday, June 12th** following worship service! We are hoping to plan our first community gathering in quite some time! Details to follow later as preparations are made. In the meantime, please enjoy this Irish blessing since on St. Patrick's Day we are all Irish!

May the friendships you make,  
Be those which endure,  
And all of your grey clouds  
Be small ones for sure.  
And trusting in Him  
To Whom we all pray,  
May a song fill your heart,  
Every step of the way.



Theresa Krebs  
OPCC Board Chair on behalf of the Board

## *Church Directory*

Updates have been made to our pictorial church directory!

If you have one of the 3-ring notebook directories that were distributed in the last couple of years and would like updated replacements for the staff pages and the address/phone number lists, OR if you need a whole directory, please contact Michelle in the church office at [michelle@opccdoc.org](mailto:michelle@opccdoc.org) or 913-677-4646, ext. 223.

Also, if your photo is not in our directory, we would love to add it! Please send a digital or printed copy to Michelle. Thank you!

## Prayer List

### Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Pat Brennan (Maurica Campbell's friend)
- ♥ David Carlburg
- ♥ Harper Claar (Roger & Vicki Claar's granddaughter)
- ♥ Jan Conner (Lorraine Hartnett's daughter)
- ♥ Penny Curry
- ♥ Brianna Dean (Julie Dean's daughter)
- ♥ Julie Dean
- ♥ Chuck Elliott
- ♥ Gordon Harkness
- ♥ Lorraine Hartnett
- ♥ Ruth Fletcher
- ♥ Tom Fletcher, Sr.
- ♥ David Garner (son of Floyd & Marcille Garner, friend of Jody Cash)
- ♥ Audrey Lavelly
- ♥ Kourtney Leibman
- ♥ Eric McIntyre (Eileen McIntyre's brother, Carla Labunski's and Laura Edgington's cousin)
- ♥ Christina, Jeff, Scott, & Jenny Packard (Sharon & Bob Shankel's daughter & family)
- ♥ Rhonda Phelps (Roger Claar's sister)
- ♥ Randy Phillips (Laura Phillips' father)
- ♥ Linda Peter (John Peter's mother)
- ♥ Bette Scafe
- ♥ Earl Sheldon
- ♥ David Shields (Piper, Bella, & Maddie Shields' father)
- ♥ Leslie Smith (Calvin McBride's friend)
- ♥ Jim Withers
- ♥ Joe Zacher

### Continued Prayers

- ♥ Mary Aelmore
- ♥ Marian Bilyea
- ♥ Barbara Cash (Jody Cash's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Nancy Coffman
- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Lawana Degraffenreid
- ♥ Evelyn Eastwood
- ♥ Gary Eilert (Jan & Ed Eilert's son)
- ♥ Jan Eilert
- ♥ Laurel Elliott
- ♥ June Faltermeier (Nancy Coffman's sister)
- ♥ Pat Gray
- ♥ Donna & Marshall Howard
- ♥ Betty King
- ♥ Shirley McGee
- ♥ Florene Miele
- ♥ J.D. Price (Pat Warner's son)
- ♥ Ann Sandler
- ♥ JoLynn Sloan
- ♥ Tamara Strange
- ♥ Sandy Teeple
- ♥ Doris Watts
- ♥ Sally Withers

## Military Prayer List

- ✪ Rct. Luke Dagit (Mary Beth Boucher's son)
- ✪ PV2 Rachael Dawson (Fran Dawson's granddaughter), Ft. Campbell, KY
- ✪ Cameron McDonough (Cathy Wilson's son)
- ✪ SSG Edward Pinkelman, Jr. (Ed & Kathy Pinkelman's son)

## Thank You

To the Food Pantry,

Thank you so much for sharing your food pantry with me. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Jane Ketchell

I want to thank my church family for all the help I received during month and a half that my right wrist was broken. First it was in a cast and then a brace. Thanks to everyone who provided the "meal train", rides to the doctor and grocery store, Barb & David Collins for rides to church on Sunday morning and Wednesday nights, and a special thanks to Sharon McBride for all of her over-and-above help.

Nancy Corbin

A big thank you to my OPCC church family for the cards, calls, e-mails, texts, and Facebook posts wishing me a Happy Birthday. I am truly honored to be a part of this kind and thoughtful congregation.

Jody Cash

## Volunteers for Worship Leading

Would you be willing to serve as a liturgist and read either scripture or a call to worship provided for you? No age requirement – anyone willing to read is welcome! Please contact the front office if you would be interested and we will keep your name on a list. We will arrange mutually agreeable days for you to serve so that it works with everyone's schedule. Please email [office@opccdoc.org](mailto:office@opccdoc.org) or call the main church number and leave a message on ext. 221.

*To add persons to prayer lists or to submit items for the newsletter, please forward information to Michelle Reiter at [michelle@opccdoc.org](mailto:michelle@opccdoc.org) or 913-677-4646, x223.*



Though Ukraine and Russia are on many of our minds, Week of Compassion – the outreach and development arm of the Christian Church (DOC) – continues to support those in need all around the world, for a variety of reasons. We’ve received updates from Week of Compassion that your gifts have already been put into action, providing shipments of canned food, flour, sugar, oil, rice, pasta, biscuits, long-life milk, tea, and hygiene products for individuals escaping danger. They are also engaged in the very real possibility that this will be a long-term event, mobilizing with partners for on-going response.

Your gifts to Week of Compassion do help families create homes, strengthen their communities, and have peace of mind. Your gifts invest in the future of our sisters and brothers in Christ. Our yearly special offering collected in February donated \$756.25 to Week of Compassion on behalf of OPCC, and, you still have the opportunity to donate if you are feeling led. THANK YOU OPCC!

To support any of the various ways that Week of Compassion lets love flow, you can do so by giving to OPCC with “Week of Compassion” in the memo line (check and online), and 100% of what you give goes toward this important work.

To see more about the many ways Week of Compassion is at work “around the world and around the year,” or to donate directly, go to [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org)

**Your OPCC Staff**

**913-677-4646**

[info@opccdoc.org](mailto:info@opccdoc.org)

(general church e-mail address)

Senior Pastor .....Laura Ann Phillips  
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Communications Coordinator/  
Bookkeeper..... Michelle Reiter  
[michelle@opccdoc.org](mailto:michelle@opccdoc.org) ext. 223

Building & Grounds .....Lee Sprinkle  
[lee@opccdoc.org](mailto:lee@opccdoc.org) ext. 237

Nursery Director .....Kourtney Leibman

**Your 2021-2022 OPCC Board of Directors**

Theresa Krebs .....Chair

David Collins..... Vice Chair

Terri Bookless..... Secretary

Richard Owens .....Treasurer

Phill Sigmon..... 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 April 5 for April 7 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](mailto:michelle@opccdoc.org)