



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
“The Broader Way” Worship — 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room
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

Dear Members and Friends of Overland Park Christian Church,

March 31st, 2024 will be my last Sunday at OPCC. This decision has not been made lightly, and it was made only after prayerful consideration and discernment.

Over the past 3 years, I have had the privilege of serving alongside a wonderful community dedicated to faith, fellowship, and service. The experiences and relationships I have cultivated during my time at OPCC have been invaluable and have contributed significantly to my personal and spiritual growth.

I am grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from the leadership team, fellow staff members, and the congregation. The memories we have shared and the work we have accomplished together will forever hold a special place in my heart.

However, after careful consideration and prayerful discernment, I believe it is time for me to embark on a new chapter in my life. This decision is not a reflection of any dissatisfaction with OPCC or its members; rather, it is a step guided by a sense of calling towards a different path of service. Along with the need to spend more time with my family, I feel called to devote more time to the non-profit I'm working on.

My lifelong love of cars and my experiences in ministry are culminating in "Equitable Automotive". With help from many others I hope to serve others with needed automotive repair/maintenance, quality cars free of charge to those in need, road safety education for all, and free education/training/pathways into all areas of the automotive industry. It's starting small, but I have big dreams for the future. My ultimate goal is to provide a free/affordable Technical school for anyone.

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the privilege of being part of the ministry at Overland Park Christian Church. I will continue to keep OPCC, its members, and its mission in my thoughts and prayers as I move forward.

Thank you again for the support, love, and fellowship we have shared. I am confident that OPCC will continue to thrive, and I look forward to witnessing the continued growth of this remarkable community.

May God continue to bless and guide OPCC in all its endeavors.

Sincerely,
Rev. Chuck Pickrel

Lines from Laura

For twelve months now we've engaged on an intentional process of missional planning, to prioritize the missions of our work as a congregation. Or, in other words, we've spent time listening to one another to discover how this group of God's beloved at OPCC want to prioritize how we tell the story of God at work in the world.

These priorities have not and do not change the core values, or identity, of who we are as Overland Park Christian Church; these priorities distill our efforts towards where we currently see the most need, and where we can do the most good for our community, *now*. In July 2023 the Elders and Board of OPCC met to refine the priorities of our congregation through the end of *this year*, through 2024. After reviewing all the information and comments received at the 2023 missional planning gatherings, the following four priorities became our guiding stars for living out our faith, *together*.

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

While I do not know their exact process, we do know that the well-known U.S. retailer, Bed, Bath & Beyond, has also undergone some priority setting in the last couple of years. The core values and identity of who they are as *an institution that sells items for bedrooms, bathrooms, and home goods beyond those two rooms* has not changed, but how they live out their identity has indeed changed, to move beyond the limitations in which they currently find themselves. In a time of economic difficulty Bed, Bath & Beyond closed their physical stores and have gone completely online, as well as partnering with Overstock.com in order to stay viable in an ever-changing business horizon.

Personally, and as a faith community, we all face limitation at times, and we all can benefit from reassessing efforts to live with vitality and move beyond those limitations in healthy and life-giving ways. The New Year is a perfect time to name and face our limitations, *and* prioritize the ways we can move beyond some of those limitations, into newness. The Gospel message that new life is possible beyond what we are currently facing is one that keeps us afloat.

As we've named and faced the limitations of OPCC during our missional planning process in 2023, we've also prioritized the ways that we trust that with God's help, new life is possible beyond what we are currently facing.

What limitations is OPCC facing? We face societal changes in how people trust one another, and especially how they trust religious institutions (or not). We face a deficit budget that says the ministry OPCC wants to enact costs more than what we receive in tithes and building use payments. We face a significant change in our personnel with the Rev. Chuck Pickrel's last day with OPCC on March 31, 2024. OPCC faces a lot, *and* we have the foundation to know who and whose we are, that grounds us as God's beloved. We have the foundation to know that God is with us, and can move us towards new life, no matter what we're facing.

No matter what we face, personally, or as an institution, we have God's support, and will spend time at the beginning of this year grounding ourselves our identity as God-in-Christ's disciples, knowing that God can and will continue to move us through our limitations and beyond.



**In observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day, the OPCC offices
will be closed on
Monday, January 15.**

Winter Weather and Closings

While the end of 2023 was relatively "gentle" on us weather wise, we know the early parts of the year can sometimes bring difficult weather. Any changes about having in-person worship, or not, holding gatherings virtually or otherwise, will all be communicated to you by way of email, phone-tree, OPCC Facebook & Instagram, OPCC website, and if it is a significant change to the planned manner of worship we will use the updates through all four local TV news channels.

Snow removal is contracted out to a company that shovels and clears the parking lot and sidewalks for us, but only if the snowfall is above 3/8 of an inch.

Please use your own judgment in choosing to come to the OPCC building as winter weather arrives. We certainly do not want you to put yourself in danger and you know your own abilities and limitations best.

If these last years have taught us anything, it's that we will still remain community and still "be the church" no matter how we gather!

Broader Ways of Worship

In March 2023 Broadway Church (DOC) approached OPCC about possible partnership of *some kind*, between our two churches, and open to what that relationship might look like. As OPCC leaders also began to discern what this might look like, Broadway asked in July 2023 if we could “speed up” at least one part of this discernment process because their building had sold faster and sooner than they had expected. They requested to worship in the OPCC building beginning in September, yet still as Broadway Church, while we *also together* continued to discern our relationship between our two congregations.

In November 2023 Broadway Church (DOC) discerned that their time as a church entity had come to a close, and held a congregational meeting to vote on their closure as a congregation. That meeting also included discussions by Broadway on where they wanted their legacy to live on in the form of financial gifts to organizations that were *already* living out some of Broadway’s own priorities.

Overland Park Christian Church are the recipients of such a gift, for the ways that OPCC has already been committed to offering expanded forms of worship that speak to a broader audience, and more specifically, because our leadership set that as one of four priorities following our 2023 missional planning sessions.

To that end, our Worship & Arts Commission and our Elders have been in conversation about how we honor this gift, and continue to prioritize exploring worship opportunities that speak to a broader audience. We are also trying to reach out to these (now former) Broadway Church members to invite them to find a home at OPCC. Currently the OPCC Elders are scheduled to meet with the Worship & Arts Commission on **Sunday, January 28** (rescheduled from the 14th), yet we are also aware that weather may reschedule some of this. Stay tuned for more after these groups of leadership work together to focus on the priorities that OPCC set, and how we live out the Good News of God-in-Christ in our world in ways that speak to broader audiences!

OPCC Food Pantry

Wondering how you can help our Food Pantry? Below are suggested items that you could donate by month (although we will take any items at any time!)

Please place your donations in the blue barrel by the Receptionist’s Desk. Thank you!

January - paper towels, facial tissue, paper napkins, small boxes of trash bags

February 5 - Souper Bowl Sunday! Bring your cans of soups, stews, chilis, or any other canned fruits and vegetables

March - Spaghetti sauce (we already have LOTS of pasta), rice, macaroni & cheese

April - small containers of cleaning supplies, (glass cleaner, counter cleaners, grease cleaners, bathroom cleaners)

May - personal hygiene: lotions, hair care, deodorants, lip balms, feminine hygiene, adult incontinence products

June -Children’s (ages 5-12) products: larger sized diapers, Lunchables meals, kid friendly snacks, easy microwavable foods (so kids can prepare their own meals) canned fruits

July - Taco shells (shelf stable), jars of salsa, canned refried beans, cans or jars of jalapenos, dried beans, canned diced tomatoes

August - dried or canned beans: all varieties, canned tuna

September - Peanut Butter, small jars of jelly or jam, bottles of honey (not larger than 8 oz), Almond Butter, Hazelnut spread

October - Candy for Halloween and Christmas treats, hot and cold cereal

November - Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner ingredients, we will purchase the Turkeys

December - Shelf stable spices, packets of seasonings, boxes of salt, black pepper, red pepper flakes, broth or bouillon (vegetable, chicken, or beef)



Music Department Update

The OPCC music department is currently reviewing the plans for the upcoming services in the new year. If you are not currently a member of Reverberations Bell Choir or Chalice Chancel Choir but would like to join us, please contact our music director, Mary Beth Boucher, at marybeth@opccdoc.org.

We would love to have you on board, and the new year is an excellent time to start!

Lastly, we are still seeking feedback from the congregation regarding specific songs you would love to hear in worship. Please contact Mary Beth.

Middlers Sunday Morning Christian Education Class

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

The Middlers' Adult Bible Study meets Sundays 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.

Church Camp 2024

Start planning now for Summer Camp at Tall Oaks!
Register and find more information at:
www.kcdisciplescamps.org/



The image features a logo for Tall Oaks Summer Camp 2024 on the left, which includes a map of the camp area. To the right is a large banner titled "CAMP DATES" listing various camps and their dates:

Camp	Dates
DAY CAMP 1	JUNE 26
DAY CAMP 2	JULY 13
PRIMARY CAMP	JULY 8 - 10
JUNIOR CAMP	JUNE 24-27
CHI RHO CAMP	JULY 14-18
EIGHTERS CAMP	JULY 6 - 12
CYF CAMP	JUNE 18 - 23
GRANDPARENTS 1 CAMP	JUNE 7 - 9
GRANDPARENTS 2 CAMP	JULY 12-14
FAMILY CAMP	JUNE 28 - 30
ADULT CAMP	MAY 30 - 2

Below the banner, the text reads: "LINKED IN LOVE" and "GKC DISCIPLES OF CHRIST".

Your 2024 Giving Envelopes

are now available on the Narthex counter. If you do not have a box of giving envelopes there with your name on it and you would like one, contact Michelle Reiter in the church office at 913-677-4646, x223, or michelle@opccdoc.org.

Care & Share

All are invited to join for lunch, laughter, good food, fellowship, and support once a month with our Care And Share Support Group.

For our January and February luncheons we will meet in the Fireside Room at church at 11:30am on Thursdays, January 25 and February 29. Bring your own sack lunch and drink. We can visit then about where we would enjoy doing our lunches for the rest of the year. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Peggy Moore by email or phone several days before the gathering so she can contact you if there are any changes.

Empty Nesters

Our Empty Nester activities are open to all who would be interested in joining us. We will be planning on several activities for 2024 where we can come together and enjoy this fellowship. A schedule will be coming out soon that will offer some opportunities for you to join us. In the meantime, if you have any ideas or suggestions for us to consider for a service or fellowship activity please email Peggy Moore.

Girlfriends

The Girlfriends group will resume regular Wednesday meetings on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. At that gathering, we will determine the next study we will be using. All are welcome to join us!

Contact Peggy Moore for more information.

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. The Men's group is currently reviewing "The Chosen" video series.

Contact: Emerson Hartzler, 913-422-1378

Prayer List

Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Bill Anthony
- ♥ Marian Bilyea
- ♥ Jolynn Carlton (Pat Warner's daughter)
- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Fran Dawson
- ♥ Chuck Elliott
- ♥ Cassy & Bob Evans
- ♥ Alan Felton
- ♥ Pam Felton
- ♥ Nicole Finley (Sally Withers' niece)
- ♥ Ruth Fletcher
- ♥ Pat Gilling
- ♥ Gordon Harkness
- ♥ Collette Jones (Perri Kolars' sister)
- ♥ Laura Krebs (Dennis Krebs' mother)
- ♥ Audrey Lavelly
- ♥ Sue Mallery and family (Cassy Evans' sister)
- ♥ Mike McLain
- ♥ 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
- ♥ Amanda Sprinkle (Lee & Jan Sprinkle's granddaughter)
- ♥ Mary Sprinkle (Lee Sprinkle's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Larry Stouse
- ♥ Mike Williams (Coleen Thigpen's friend)
- ♥ Jim Withers

Continued Prayers

- ♥ Maurica Campbell
- ♥ Lawana Degraffenreid
- ♥ Laurel Elliott
- ♥ Pat Gray
- ♥ Donna & Marshall Howard
- ♥ Betty King
- ♥ Calvin McBride
- ♥ Christina, Jeff, Scott, & Jenny Packard (Sharon & Bob Shankel's daughter & family)
- ♥ Randy Phillips (Laura Phillips' father)
- ♥ Ann Sandler
- ♥ JoLynn Sloan
- ♥ Bernice Stouse
- ♥ Sandy Teeple
- ♥ Sally Withers

Condolences

- ♥ to Gloria Dunshee and family on the passing of John Dunshee on December 31, 2023

Military Prayer List

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

Congratulations!

- ♥ A donation has been made to OPCC from Lisa & Bill Metcalf in honor of the marriage of Adam & Jordan Metcalf on December 16,

OPCC Prayer Chain

Would you like to have prayer support for yourself or a loved one? Members of the OPCC Prayer Chain are ready to pray for you. To contact the Prayer Chain, simply call or email the church office and give your message to Cody, our church receptionist. You can also write your request on the tear off attendance registration portion of the Sunday worship bulletin. (Please indicate whether this request can be shared, or should be kept confidential to staff only.)

You are also invited to join the Prayer Chain by contacting Cody with your email address or phone number. Intercessory prayer is a powerful way to support our church family.

In Christ,
Your OPCC Elders Circle

Communion

While many of us have returned to in-person worship we recognize that some are still worshipping from home on a regular basis. If you need more communion elements for at-home worship experiences, please contact the church office, or fill out an order form on our website. Cody will call or email you when communion is ready for you to pick up, for your use from home.

<http://www.opccdoc.org/communion.html>

We will continue to utilize these individual communion cups for as long as necessary, to continue welcoming all to the table, and keeping us safe while communing with God and one another.

Property Commission

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We pray your Christmas and New Year's weekends were enjoyable, safe, and full of activities with family and friends. December was busy with final decisions on Insurance and converting the Bride's room bathroom into an ADA and unisex bathroom. Here are more details on both topics:

1. Insurance:
 - a. Purchased from Brotherhood Insurance through insurance broker American Church Group
 - b. 2024 premium for Property and Liability plus Worker's Compensation increased by 8.4%. We are thankful to be with American Church Group as two other insurance groups have increased their premiums by 15-20%...Ouch!!
 - c. One major change is that a 1% deductible for Wind/Hail damage was added to the policy. After much discussion about purchasing Buy Down insurance from a separate insurance company, it was decided not to add the additional premium at this time. A lot of the decision was based on the fact that OPCC's building is brick and the roof is steel which is to withstand 120 mph wind and 2 1/2" hail.
2. The Board and Property Commission have approved plans to convert the Bride's Room restroom into an ADA and unisex restroom. There will be an entrance from the hallway (across from Emerson's office) and an entrance from within the Bride's Room. Estimated cost is \$23,400. This restroom will accommodate participants of all groups at OPCC, including clients of leasees of our building, and outside groups meeting at OPCC.
3. Lee replaced rubber tips on three door stoppers on the West side.

Submitted by
Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

Digital Liturgists

We continue to need volunteers who will share some of the elements of worship, and are especially open to you doing so virtually! If you are willing to read scripture, or share in the Invitation to Worship, or other elements, in-person OR *by recording a video in advance to be included in the worship*, please let Rev. Laura know. She can guide you through how to do this, and would love to welcome you into worship virtually! We would love to welcome you into worship no matter how you join!

Your OPCC Staff

913-677-4646

info@opccdoc.org

(general church e-mail address)

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laura@opccdoc.org ext. 222

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michelle@opccdoc.org ext. 223

Music DirectorMary Beth Boucher
marybeth@opccdoc.org ext. 229

AccompanistJulie Dean
missjupes@gmail.com

Building & GroundsLee Sprinkle
lee@opccdoc.org ext. 237

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 February 6 for February 8 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