Volume 22, Issue 7 **August 2026**

The OPCC Scene

Overland Park Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

7600 West 75th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204
913-677-4646 • www.opccdoc.org

Church Office Hours

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

Sunday Services

"The Middlers" Adult Christian Education Class — 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
Worship — 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Children Worship & Wonder — 11:00 a.m. in the Children Worship & Wonder Room

www.instagram.com/opccdoc/ • www.facebook.com/opccdoc • www.youtube.com/@opccdoc

Sunday Worship is Live-Streamed on our YouTube Page

Pastor's Pen

A message from my heart to yours

OPCC Family,

It's hard to believe I've already been with you for a little over a month! Time has flown by, and I want you to know how grateful I am to be part of this wonderful church family.

You have welcomed Roary, my kids, and me with such warmth, kindness, and genuine openness. From the very beginning, you've made us feel at home, and I cannot thank you enough for the love you've shown our family. My children have settled in wonderfully, and we have all felt deeply blessed by your encouragement, kindness, and hospitality.

I have loved getting to know many of you over these past few weeks, and each Sunday I become even more excited about what God is doing in and through OPCC. I am especially looking forward to beginning our visioning process together as we prayerfully seek where God is leading us. I truly believe our greatest days are found in faithfully following Christ together, and I can't wait to see what God has in store for us.

As we've been discovering in our Summer School series, following Jesus is about much more than gaining information. Week by week we've been learning that questions matter, words matter, seeing matters, listening matters, and even who we allow to teach us matters. Every lesson reminds us that discipleship becomes the way we live each day. So here's a simple question to carry with you this month:

What is God trying to teach me today?

You may be surprised where the lesson appears. It might come through Scripture, a conversation with a friend, a challenge you didn't expect, or even a quiet moment of prayer. When Christ is our Teacher, every day becomes a classroom. It is truly a blessing to serve alongside you, and I look forward to continuing this journey together.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19

Blessed to Be Your Pastor,

🩷 Gina

Children's Ministries

Thank you to all our VBS volunteers who helped make our Compassion Camp a success. With your help, we welcomed at least four families from our neighboring community, made 24 School Kits for Church World Service, and shared priceless moments with the children. I appreciate all your gifts of time and talent. Thank you also to all of our OPCC families for participating in VBS this year; I am always impacted by the spirit you bring when we gather.

If you and/or your children were not able to attend the Blessing of Backpacks, please let Pastor Lisa know at lisa@opccdoc.org. I have a backpack tag for you.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Lisa Engelken

Music Department

Happy August, friends!

As a public school teacher, I have a firm rule for myself- I do not spend *any* time working on school things until August 1st. As a matter of fact, I don't even look at our school calendar until August 1st! That's because as a 30 year veteran of the classroom, I know that being a teacher means working hard and loving hard, *every* day, for ten months, and I know that I can only be the kind of teacher I want to be when I've also allowed my body and my mind the kind of rest that they need during the summer break.

In the same vein, I want to thank you all, as a congregation, for allowing our musicians to take time to rest over the past couple of months. Giving them the freedom to rest on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings means that they have been able to travel, to enjoy their friends and families, and to gather their strength for a new year of leading our beloved community in worship. Thank you for your support!

And now, musicians, Welcome back! Julie and I have missed you all, and we are excited to be back with you! Leading our congregation in worship is a special privilege, but we also love the sense of community that we gain from meeting with our friends and fellow worshippers each Wednesday evening.

Whether you are new to the music department or a seasoned "pro", all are welcome! The Bell Choir meets on Wednesdays at 6:00, and the Chancel Choir meets on the same nights at 7:00, and we will resume our rehearsals on September 2nd. Reach out to Julie or me if you have any questions at all!

Becki Bayless, OPCC Music Director

Property Commission

The following activities occurred in Property between July 1st through August 8th:

1. Commercial Kitchen Services has completed cleaning the kitchen stove's ten burners and replacing 3 pilot light lines and their controls at a cost of $1,129.21. HURRAY, stovetop is now available to use.
2. JP Company scraped, primed, and painted the ceiling of overhang just outside of the Monarch classrooms at a cost of $650.00.
3. Four of five air fresher canisters have been replaced with new canisters.
4. New carbon monoxide detector was purchased and replaced the old detector in Room 40.
5. Regal Plumbing fixed the leaking toilet flush valve in the women's main restroom at a cost of $85.00.

Reminders on how to help keep utility costs down at OPCC — please do the following:

- Turn off the lights after your meeting
- Turn off any fans (ceiling or floor) you use during your meeting
- Turn off the AC in the Fireside Room after your event
- Report any faucet or stool water leaks to the front office
- Thank you!

Submitted by Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

Outreach Commission

We are grateful to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) for their grant, which has allowed us to provide essential hygiene kits to our immigrant neighbors.

And YOUR generosity, OPCC folks, has been incredible:

- 1st Quarter: The grant enabled the purchase of 18 kits, while your donations provided an additional 30.
- 2nd Quarter: Our youth recently finished assembling kits; the grant covered 28, and your generous contributions provided another 44!

Thank you from the Outreach Commission to you and especially to our youth for supporting this project (see photos below of our youth and families assembling the hygiene kits).

Stay tuned for our 3rd quarter collection, where we will change our focus and collect cleaning supplies.

Thank you for continuing to make a difference!

2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BEYOND: LOVE SURPASSING

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

The Apostle Paul, in his message to the Ephesian Christians, prayed for them to have strength from the Holy Spirit:

"I ask that you'll have the power to grasp love's length and width, height and depth, together with all the believers. I ask that you'll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge… Glory to God who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine..."(Ephesians 3:18-20, CEB)

This was the theme of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), which met virtually on July 10 and 11. At home and in over 100 watch parties around the U.S. and Canada, Disciples gathered for worship, study, business, and community building. For well over a century, Disciples have gotten together in person at conventions and assemblies. These General Assemblies have been held every 2 years. Delegates to the 2025 assembly decided to change the in-person meetings to every 3 years, and to hold virtual assemblies in between, beginning with 2026.

The change was made so that a larger and more diverse group of Disciples will be able to participate. As the general representative body of our denomination, the General Assembly receives and acts on resolutions, proposed policies and programs. **A priority for education, discussion and prayer for Disciples during the next year is Economic Justice**.

I attended an interactive watch party at Country Club Christian Church, as a voting delegate from OPCC. Speakers described how our churches and the communities we serve are facing ongoing economic challenges. In small groups, we shared ideas about the top issues our community is facing, what God's surpassing love looks like in our congregation, and actions we are taking. Notes from each group were submitted to be shared with our general church leadership. These ideas will help guide our leaders in their public statements in the coming months. For our part, let us continue to share God's surpassing love with our neighbors in Overland Park and far beyond!

Honored to be a representative for OPCC,
Lois Wimpey

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. We usually meet at a local restaurant at 11:30am and are done around 1 or 1:15pm. Extra friends are welcome!

* Thursday, August 27 — Whataburger 9505 Metcalf Ave, Overland Park, KS
* Wednesday, September 2 — Fazoli's 6345 Quivira, Shawnee, KS

RSVP to Peggy Moore by phone or email at least 3 days before the luncheon if you plan to attend so she can contact you if there are any changes.

Middlers Sunday Morning Christian Education Class

The Middlers Adult Bible Study class will resume meeting on Sunday, September 13, at 9:00 a.m. in the Northwest section of Fellowship Hall.

Middlers is open to 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.

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.

Contact: Emerson Hartzler, 913-422-1378

Girlfriends

Our Wednesday night Girlfriends Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 9, 7:00-8:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Whether you are an "already in" Girlfriend, or a new Girlfriend, you are welcome to join us — and bring a friend!

For more information, contact Peggy Moore.

Prayer List

Prayers of Concern

♥ Bill Anthony
♥ Beverly Barrett
♥ Raelene & Ken Berry
♥ Jolynn Carlton (Pat Warner's daughter)
♥ Jon Cash (Jody Cash's brother)
♥ Denny & Marcia (Lois Wimpey's friends)
♥ Gary Eilert (Jan & Ed Eilert's son)
♥ Chuck Elliott
♥ Cassy & Bob Evans
♥ Pamela Felton
♥ Nicole Finley (Sally Withers' niece)
♥ Ruth Fletcher
♥ Loretta Garza (Calvin McBride's sister)
♥ Norma Hultgren
♥ Collette Jones (Perri Kolars' sister)
♥ Betty King
♥ Sue Mallery and family (Cassy Evans' sister)
♥ Mary McBride
♥ Julie Norman (Lisa Engelken's sister-in-law)
♥ Richard Owens
♥ Jimmy Reynolds
♥ Ann Sandler
♥ Bette Scafe
♥ Scott & Marie (Roy & Judy Nickum's friends)
♥ Mike Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
♥ Sharon Shankel
♥ Larry & Bernice Stouse
♥ Jim & Sally Withers

Continued Prayers

♥ Nancy Corbin
♥ Bo Crowe
♥ Carole Flagler
♥ Calvin & Sharon McBride
♥ Rodric McBride (Calvin McBride and Mary McBride's son)
♥ Roy Nickum
♥ Kristina Owen
♥ Jami Schmideskamp (Jan & Ed Eilert's daughter)
♥ Tony Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
♥ JoLynn Sloan
♥ Carla Stouse (Bernice & Larry Stouse's daughter)
♥ Chuck Warner
♥ Emily Weatherford (Barb & David Collins' daughter)
♥ Angla Young

Condolences

♥ to Janet Martin and family on the passing of Ron Martin on June 20. www.cullenfuneralhome.com/obituaries/ronald-martin
♥ to the family of Pat Owsley who passed away on June 29. www.johnsoncountychapel.com/obituaries/patricia-owsley
♥ to the family of Gordon Harkness who passed away on June 30. www.amosfamily.com/obituaries/gordon-harkness

OPCC is Seeking a Caring and Reliable Person for Our Nursery on Sunday Mornings

Are you a caring and experienced nanny looking for a part-time job? We are seeking a nurturing and reliable nanny to provide exceptional care for children 0-4 years old on Sunday Mornings.

About Us:

Overland Park Chrisitan Church is a friendly, mission-oriented community. OPCC strives to provide a nurturing, stimulating, spiritually engaging environment for our children.

Job Responsibilities:

- Providing care for the children in a safe and supportive manner.
- Engaging the children in age-appropriate activities that promote learning, creativity, and social development.
- Assisting with light housekeeping tasks related to the children, such as tidying up the play areas and changing diapers.

Requirements:

- Prior experience as a nanny or in a similar role with excellent references.
- Ability to create a stimulating and engaging environment for the children.
- Be willing to update parents with information about their time in the nursery.
- First Aid and CPR certification preferred but not required.
- OPCC will be doing a back ground check before hiring.

Compensation and Benefits:

- We will provide a written work agreement
- Pay is $15/hr
- Paid professional development opportunities such as First Aid or CPR certification.

Schedule: This is a 2-3 hour/week position on Sundays 10:00am-noon. Additional hours during the week may be needed for special events or meetings at OPCC.

If interested, contact the church office @ 913-677-4646 and Pastor Lisa Engelken will be in contact.

Your OPCC Staff

913-677-4646

office@opccdoc.org
(general church e-mail address)

Senior Minister ..... Gina Johnson
gina@opccdoc.org ext. 222

Pastor of Sacred Spaces ..... Lisa Engelken
lisa@opccdoc.org ext. 224

Receptionist ..... Jaime Cranford
office@opccdoc.org ext. 221

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

Music Director ..... Becki Bayless
beckibayless@gmail.com ext. 226

Accompanist/Bell Choir Director ... Julie Dean
missjupes@gmail.com ext. 226

Building & Grounds ..... Lee Sprinkle
lee@opccdoc.org ext. 225

Your 2026-2027 OPCC Board of Directors

board@opccdoc.org

Aaron Blackburn ..... Chair
Sue Elliott ..... Vice Chair
Mike Poggie ..... Secretary
Bob Shankel ..... Treasurer
Suzi Boehm ..... Commission Liaison
Barb Collins ..... Leadership Development

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

Copy deadline for next issue is September 8 for September 10 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