



**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**

**Sanctuary Worship** — 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary (10:30 a.m. beginning 1/5/24)

**“The Broader Way” Worship** — 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room (4:30 p.m. beginning 1/5/24)  
(**One Combined Worship on 5th Sundays** — 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary)

Nursery care available for children through 3 years old beginning at 9:00 a.m.

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

[www.opccdoc.org](http://www.opccdoc.org) • @opccdoc (Twitter & Instagram) • [www.facebook.com/opccdoc](https://www.facebook.com/opccdoc)

*Always Evolving: We Were Made for Change*

The results of a Mission Insite report conducted in 2023 show that 61% of adults surveyed in the Kansas City Metro area are not regularly involved in any religious organization or congregation. With about 2,700+ religious organizations and churches in the greater metro area, it certainly isn't because there is a lack of Sunday morning opportunity.

This is why we at OPCC identified the need for worship opportunities that speak to a broader audience. With 61% of adults in the KC metro unaffiliated with a church or religious organization, we also know that there are a good number of folks who still seek a faith community, but one that can respond to their specific needs and/or hopes for what that looks like – and perhaps that looks different than worship in a sanctuary on Sunday morning.

In keeping with the four mission priorities that we identified in 2023 (including “explore worship opportunities that speak to a broader audience”), and with the conversation held by our elders on November 2, and by our OPCC Board held on December 2, OPCC will shift the worship services again, beginning January 5<sup>th</sup> as we continue to seek ways to offer more welcome into this community of faith.

On December 29, 2024 all will worship *together* at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary, with a variety of music, and a shared style of worship. Beginning on January 5, 2025 *sanctuary* worship will again begin at 10:30 a.m., and the Broader Way Worship experience will shift to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons, still in the Fireside Room around the table. By making broader opportunities for worship a priority of OPCC, we are hoping to give space to those for whom a traditional, sanctuary worship might not be the most comfortable or attractive. Simultaneously, we want to keep offering quality worship opportunities on Sunday mornings as we have for close to 75 years, now.

**Thank you so much** for your continued flexibility and “changeability” as we continue to seek ways to share God’s love with the world. As we were reminded in our recent worship series, “Re-Shaped,” we know that God made us with the capacity for change – especially when it means searching for all who are looking for the love of God in a community like OPCC.

*Laura*



# Advent and Christmas at OPCC



## Devotions and Calendars During Advent

TWO in-depth and interactive Advent devotionals, and TWO Advent calendars are available at OPCC for all of us to “dig deeper” into “the reason for the season” as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming Christ. You can choose all four of these resources, or just one, taking as many copies as you need for yourself or to share, as we can always print more of each of these resources.

**Advent Devotionals** — You are invited to pray individually, but together as a community. Each devotional provides a daily activity to read, or respond, to scripture, poetry prayers, visual art, reflections, and meditative prompts for this season of waiting (perhaps in weariness). Take either version of these devotionals for yourself and your family, or whoever might like to participate in this special time.

**Advent Calendars** — Take one, or both, of these family-friendly Advent calendars for a map of action prompts to guide your family through this season of waiting, through the month of December.

## Christmas Eve Worship

OPCC will again offer two opportunities to worship on December 24. We hope you will make one of these services a part of your family’s plans on Christmas Eve.

- ★ From 4:30pm – 6:00pm OPCC will offer “Come and Go Communion,” where you will be welcomed to light a candle, receive communion, and take a few moments to spend in contemplation and prayer. Come and go as your schedule allows from 4:30pm – 6:00pm.
- ★ At 7:00pm we will offer a Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with scripture, hymns, readings, and special music from our Chancel Choir and our guest harpist, Grace Cross, as we welcome the Christ Child with one another.

Please invite your family and friends and join us for either or both of these services to celebrate the coming of Christ.

## Advent Book/Bible Study Wednesdays, 7pm, Fireside Room

Throughout the month of December, worship focus will of course prepare us for the birth of the Christ child that we will celebrate on December 25th.

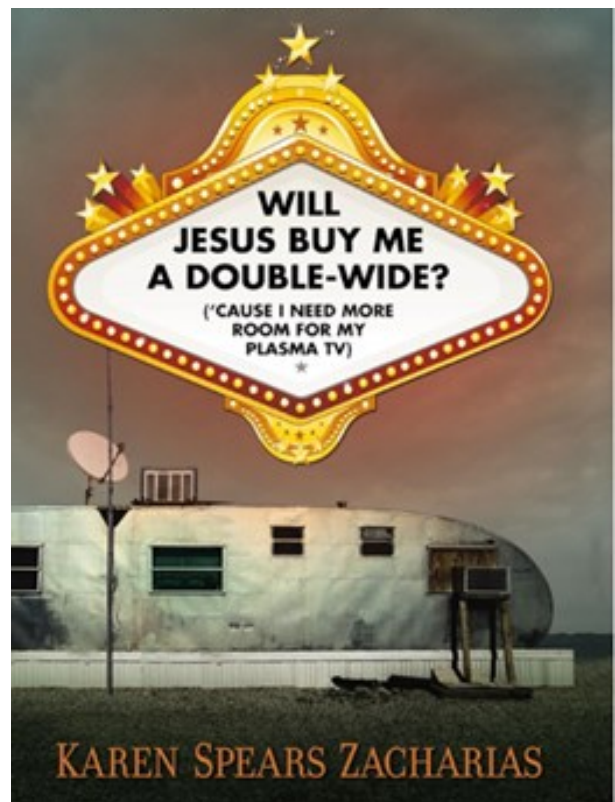
We will also consider the ways that we bless others, and are blessed, as we too end and begin particular parts of our lives.

*Words for the Beginning* encourages us to not only look at the words of blessing that we offer through all these transitions in life, but also invites us to look at what we consider a “blessing,” to be.

What does it mean when someone says, “I am so blessed,” or “you are so blessed”? How can we embrace the blessings of God when we also feel overwhelmed by the parts of the world that don’t feel blessed at all?

Join us Wednesdays, December 4, 11, & 18 at 7pm in the Fireside Room as we discuss the book *Will Jesus Buy Me a Double-Wide?* by Karen Spears Zacharias. Karen and the scripture of Advent will help guide this conversation as we remember all the ways we are blessed by God.

To get a PDF copy of the chapters of the book that will be used in this study emailed to you, or printed out for you, contact Laura or Michelle.



## Middlers Sunday Morning Christian Education Class

**Sundays, 11:00 a.m. – Noon**  
**\*9:00 - 9:15a.m. beginning Jan. 5, 2025**  
**NW Section Fellowship Hall**

The Middlers' Adult Bible Study meets on Sundays mornings in the Northwest section of Fellowship Hall. Through December 22, 2024, we will meet at 11:00 a.m. Our meeting time will change back to 9:00 a.m. on January 5, 2025. (No class on December 29).

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.

## Girlfriends

The Girlfriends group will NOT meet in December, but are invited to join the Advent Bible Study on Wednesday evenings, December 4, 11, and 18, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

We will resume regular weekly meetings on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. All women of the church 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. The Men's group is currently reviewing "The Chosen" video series.

Contact: Emerson Hartzler, 913-422-1378

## Church Office Closings

**In observance of the Christmas  
and New Year's holidays, the  
church offices will be closed:**

Wednesday, December 25,  
Thursday, December 26,  
Friday, December 27;  
Tuesday, December 31,  
Wednesday, January 1.

## Prayer List Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Bill Anthony
- ♥ Beverly Barrett
- ♥ Shelli Brown (Sharon McBride's niece)
- ♥ Jolynn Carlton (Pat Warner's daughter)
- ♥ Chuck Elliott
- ♥ Cassy & Bob Evans
- ♥ Pamela Felton
- ♥ Nicole Finley (Sally Withers' niece)
- ♥ Ruth Fletcher
- ♥ Pat Gilling
- ♥ Victoria Elizabeth Green (Marijane Green's granddaughter)
- ♥ Gordon Harkness
- ♥ Collette Jones (Perri Kolars' sister)
- ♥ Laura Krebs (Dennis Krebs' mother)
- ♥ Sue Mallery and family (Cassy Evans' sister)
- ♥ Calvin & Sharon McBride
- ♥ Shirley McGee
- ♥ Bryce Moore
- ♥ Julie Norman (Lisa Engelken's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Pat Owsley
- ♥ Cheryl Peters & Donna Reiss
- ♥ Pat Phillips (Laura Phillips' mother)
- ♥ Jimmy Reynolds
- ♥ Bette Scafe
- ♥ Mike Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Sharon Shankel
- ♥ Tony Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Barbara & Earl Sheldon
- ♥ Mary Sprinkle (Lee Sprinkle's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Larry & Bernice Stouse
- ♥ Van Swanson (Sharon McBride's brother-in-law)
- ♥ Chuck Warner
- ♥ Mike Williams (Coleen Thigpen's friend)
- ♥ Jim & Sally Withers

## Continued Prayers

- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Laurel Elliott
- ♥ Carole Flagler
- ♥ Pat Gray
- ♥ Betty King
- ♥ Roy Nickum
- ♥ Ann Sandler
- ♥ JoLynn Sloan

## Condolences

- ♥ to the family of Barbara McCoy upon her death on May 18, 2024  
[www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/overland-park-ks/barbara-mccoy-11825781](http://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/overland-park-ks/barbara-mccoy-11825781)

# A Gift Anyone Can Make

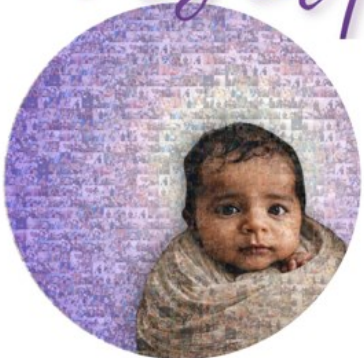
As we enter the season of gift-giving, we know that everyone, during their lifetime, accumulates “things.” Whether they are gifts to us, or things we acquire on our own, personal property such as vehicles, jewelry, real estate, and savings or other financial accounts all make up the “stuff” we gather during our lifetimes.

But what happens to those things at our deaths? Who decides where these things go? You can, if you act to create a will or other trust document. This allows you to distribute your assets to the people and causes you select; otherwise the legal system will determine the distribution – at a cost. Through your will, you can designate a gift to our church that will bless the Christian witness forever. Including OPCC or the wider DOC church in your will costs you nothing now, yet makes a wonderful faith witness for your family, friends, and others. It is a gift anyone can make, and costs nothing to them during their lifetime.

To learn about ways to make legacy gifts through your will, contact the area representative Christian Church Foundation for Greater KC, Kirby Gould, at (816) 665-8446. The Foundation is the general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) designed to help church members create a lasting legacy through planned gifts.

*By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ~ Hebrews 11:3*

God's love  
*visible*



 2024 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

## Christmas Offering for Regional Ministries December 15 and 22

As you are completing your holiday to-do list, please include a gift to the annual Christmas Special Day Offering. One hundred percent of your gift will be used to support the ministries of our Greater Kansas City region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). For example, our region provides Christian camps and conferences for youth, sponsors actions for racial justice, works with congregations in transition or seeking pastoral leadership, and supports clergy.

**Through the Christmas offering  
"God's love is made visible!"**

## 2025 Mid-Winter and Summer Church Camp at Tall Oaks

Midwinter is a weekend retreat for youth in grades 9 through 12. Come and enjoy small groups, fun fellowship activities, worship, and GREAT food. register at: [www.talloaks.org/cyf-camp](http://www.talloaks.org/cyf-camp)

AND... start planning now for Summer Camp! Register and find more information at: [www.talloaks.org/doc-camps](http://www.talloaks.org/doc-camps)


OPCC has scholarships available for Tall Oaks — just let us know and we will make sure it happens!

SAVE THE DATE

### KC DISCIPLES CAMPS 2025



CYF MID-WINTER	JAN. 3-5
CHI RHO MID-WINTER	FEB. 7 - 9
DAY CAMP 1	JUNE 25
DAY CAMP 2	JULY 19
PRIMARY CAMP	JULY 14 - 16
JUNIOR CAMP	JUNE 26 - 29
CHI RHO CAMP	JULY 20 - 24
EIGHTERS CAMP	JULY 18 - 24
CYF CAMP	JUNE 24 - 29
ADULT CAMP	MAY 23 - 26
GRANDPARENTS CAMP 1	JUNE 20 - 22
GRANDPARENTS CAMP 2	JULY 11 - 13



**Sunday, December 15  
3:00p.m.**

Whether it feels angelic or joyful or somewhere in between, ALL are invited to join in some Christmas caroling on December 15th. It isn't so much about making perfect music, but more about the smiles and warmth we will bring to those who are often unable to join worship in-person. Meet in the OPCC Fireside Room at 3pm to join in bringing Christmas cheer to shut-ins either at their homes, or in their facilities.

**SAVE THE DATE**


RETIREMENT  
*Celebration*



**REGIONAL MINISTER  
WILLIAM "BILL" ROSE-HEIM**

12. 13. 2024 - 6pm  
Merriam Christian Church

**What Does the Food Pantry Need This Month?**



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



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

**Church Directory**

Need an updated OPCC address directory? Contact Michelle Reiter in the church office to request a printed copy, or to have a .pdf copy emailed to you.

Likewise, if you have moved, dropped your landline, changed your email address, etc., please let us know so that we can update our records.

**Order Your Poinsettias and/or Turkeys!**

Remember a loved one or honor a special friend at Christmas by purchasing a live poinsettia to help decorate the church OR a turkey to be given to a guest at our December Food Pantry. (If you have already donated to the Food Pantry for a turkey and would like to honor or memorialize someone with that donation, just let Michelle know.)

A donation of \$15 is requested for each of these gifts.

Your name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias, in **memory** of: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias, in **honor** of: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ turkeys, in **memory** of: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ turkeys, in **honor** of: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to OPCC and return with this form to Michelle in the church office, or put in the collection box on Sunday morning. A list of memorials and honorariums will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias may be taken home following the evening Christmas Eve service.*

# Property Commission

November was a slower month for the Property Commission...see activities below:

1. We finally got the increase for our Building and Worker's Compensation which was surprising lower than expected. We had built a +12% into the 2025 budget and the actual increase came in at +8.9%. Hurrah! Many churches had been notified that their policies were being cancelled.
2. Freedom Electric changed out 7 - 2' x 4' fluorescent ceiling lights in the hallways to the South and West of the Choir room. They also have purchased 4 additional ceiling LED fixtures for Michelle's office and hallway to the Great Hall.
3. Now that the new folding chairs for Fellowship Hall are here, all the old chairs are in process of being recycled. Honey Bee personnel had removed the seats and backs to 145 chairs. The frames were taken to a recycling facility and brought in \$81.00 which was given to Honey Bee for their monthly activities. Honey Bee plans to help do the same to the remaining 85 chairs in the North hallway.
4. KC Cleaning has cleaned the carpet at the North entrance and the main hallway.

Submitted by,  
Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

# Winter Weather Closings

As winter weather approaches, we want to remind you of how to find out if OPCC will be open! Generally, during the week, the OPCC office will follow the direction of Shawnee Mission School District. If SMSD is closed for the day, so too will the OPCC office close.

Sundays and during the week, we will make sure to post closing specifications to all four local news channels, our website, Facebook page, and Instagram account. On Sundays, we will also send a phone tree if an announcement about weather is necessary.

Snow removal is contracted out to a company that shovels and clears the OPCC parking lot and sidewalks, but only if the snowfall is above 3/8 of an inch. Please use your own judgment in choosing to attend worship or other OPCC activities when winter weather arrives. We do not want you to put yourself in danger — *you* know your own abilities and limitations best!

## Your OPCC Staff

**913-677-4646**

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

(general church e-mail address)

Senior Pastor ..... Laura Ann Phillips  
[laura@opccdoc.org](mailto:laura@opccdoc.org) ext. 222

Pastor of Sacred Spaces..... Lisa Engelken  
[lisa4women@gmail.com](mailto:lisa4women@gmail.com)

Receptionist .....  
[office@opccdoc.org](mailto:office@opccdoc.org) ext. 221

Communications Coordinator/  
Bookkeeper ..... Michelle Reiter  
[michelle@opccdoc.org](mailto:michelle@opccdoc.org) ext. 223

Director of Choral Music ..... Marvin Byas IV  
[marvin@opccdoc.org](mailto:marvin@opccdoc.org) ext. 229

Accompanist/Bell Choir Director .. Julie Dean  
[missjupes@gmail.com](mailto:missjupes@gmail.com)

Broader Way Music Director..... Becki Bayless  
[beckibayless@gmail.com](mailto:beckibayless@gmail.com)

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

## Your 2024-2025 OPCC Board of Directors

Roger Claar .....	Chair
Alan Felton .....	Vice Chair
Teresa Phillips .....	Secretary
Mike Poggie .....	Treasurer
Aaron Blackburn .....	Commission Liaison
Katherine Ann Haggard .	Leadership Development

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

**Copy deadline for next issue is January 7 for January 9 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)