



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

Sanctuary Worship — 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, every Sunday

“The Broader Way” Worship — 12:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room, 2nd Sunday of the month

Sunday Worship is Live-Streamed on our Facebook and YouTube Pages

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

Follow Us Also on Twitter & Instagram - @opccdoc



What do you fear?

Insisting on Hope This Season

This Advent, we're asking a vulnerable question: **What do you fear?**

Not to dwell on anxiety, but to help us tell the truth about our lives.

Naming our fear is an act of courage.

It reveals what matters, where we long for healing, and where we need God close.

Advent is a season rooted in hope — but not a shallow or sentimental hope. It's the kind of hope that grows in the dark, waits with expectation, and believes that God is moving even when we can't yet see the evidence. Scripture shows us that fear and hope often travel together: Zechariah trembles, Mary questions, Joseph hesitates, the shepherds shake, and John the Baptist struggles in confinement. Yet to each one, God responds with the same promise: **“Do not be afraid.”**

That's the heart of Advent. Hope doesn't ignore fear — it insists on showing up anyway.

And soon, Christmas arrives to make that truth visible. Christ is born into a fearful world, not after it gets better. Christmas reminds us that God doesn't wait for perfect conditions or perfect people. God steps into real lives, real uncertainty, real struggle — turning hope into something we can touch and trust.

So this season, we're practicing that kind of resilient hope.

Hope that pays attention to small mercies.

Hope that pulls us toward one another.

Hope that prepares room for Christ in our lives, our community, and our future.

As we move toward Christmas, may our fear become an opening for grace.

May our waiting make us tender.

May our hope take shape in compassion and connection.

“Do not be afraid; I bring you good news of great joy for all people.” — Luke 2:10

And as we celebrate, may we remember those approaching Christmas with more fear than joy — those who are grieving, hungry, displaced, or alone. The hope of Christ invites us not only to receive the light, but to reflect it.

With hope and peace,
Pastor McTyer

Music Department



Like millions of other music lovers, this week I opened my "Spotify Wrapped", a year-end calculation of all of the music I've listened to on Spotify this year. Among the tidbits of information came this nugget — my "listening age" is 85! What? What music do I listen to that makes the program assume that I'm 85 years old? My only guess is that it's because I listen to a lot of jazz music!

The fact is, though, music is something that can unite us across all ages and stages. That's one of the great things about being part of a musical performing group. Making music together is a unifying, joyous experience.

That's why I hope you'll join us this coming **Sunday, December 14th at 2pm for our Christmas Caroling** excursion. We'll be making music together and bringing joy to some folks who will be happy to receive it! And then... consider joining the Chancel Choir or the Bell Choir in the new year. We are always happy to have new folks join us in our music making.

I hope you all have a wonderful Advent and Christmas season. It's my absolute joy to make music together with all of you.

Becki Bayless
OPCC Director of Choral Music
beckibayless@gmail.com



Christmas Eve Worship at OPCC

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, as we welcome the Christ Child with one another.

Invite your family and friends and join us for either or both of these gatherings to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Church Office Holiday Closings

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

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

Your OPCC Staff wishes blessings on you and your family for a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season!

Order Your Poinsettias and/or Micah Donation Honorariums

Remember a loved one or honor a special friend at Christmas by purchasing a live poinsettia to help decorate the church OR donate to Micah Ministry's Monday evening dinner ministry.



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 donate to Micah Ministry meals, in **memory** of: _____

I/we would like to donate to Micah Ministry meals, 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.

TALL OAKS SECOND ANNUAL

Luminary Walk

DECEMBER 20TH
 5:00-8:30PM
 AT TALL OAKS
 FREE-WILL DONATION
 2025 TALL OAKS ORNAMENTS
 WILL BE AVAILIABLE!

12778 189th Street, Linwood, KS 66052

Tall Oaks is excited to present, for a second year, our Luminary Walk. Please join us anytime from 5:00-8:30pm on December 20th for a casual walk through a lighted path. There will be Tall Oaks ornaments for sale, as well as free hot chocolate. This is a free event, but donations are accepted.

FAITH IN THE WILDERNESS

Navigating God Through the Unknown

Greater Kansas City Christian Church Disciples of Christ
 2026 Mid-Winter retreats at Tall Oaks
 Camp & Conference Center

CYF CHI RHO
 JANUARY 2 - 4 FEBRUARY 13 - 15

At both our CYF (high school) and Chi Rho (middle school) Mid-Winter retreats, we will explore how to navigate difficult times in our lives and show love to others during these times, through the teachings of Jesus, and what that means for youth today. www.kcdisciples.org/youth

...the One who began a good work in you will continue to complete it...
 ~Philippians 1:6



THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

2025 CHRISTMAS OFFERING
 supporting the work of your Region and its ministries

*Received in many congregations on
 December 7 & 14, 2025*

Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.

<https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give/>

Social Justice Commission Sponsors *NO OTHER LAND* Screening

The Social Justice Commission of Overland Park Christian Church (OPCC), along with others, sponsored a screening of the Academy Award-winning documentary *No Other Land* for an audience of nearly 100 people.

The film, made by a Palestinian activist and a Jewish Israeli journalist, provides an account of how the people of Masafer Yatta in the West Bank are being violently forced out because of Israel's occupation. It highlights the directors' teamwork to find equality and justice. Despite winning an Oscar and being picked up in 24 other countries the controversial documentary faced obstacles reaching U.S. audiences.

In a situation compared to soft censorship, it was unable to get a U.S. distributor until it was very recently made available for streaming.

Following the film, a panel discussion featuring both Jewish and Palestinian perspectives was held fulfilling the event's goal to facilitate collaborative, interfaith responses and offer a deeper understanding of the current realities in Israel and Palestine.

Donations above the event expenses went to the Kansas-based Palestinian American Medical Association (PAMA).



the panel included a Kansas City rabbi, an Israeli Jew, and three Palestinian voices



attendees included former Regional Minister Bill Rose-Heim and OPCC representatives Judy Sydner, Theresa Krebs, Jo Fleckenstein, and Rev. Terrell McTyer



also attending from OPCC were Judy Nickum, Jim Withers, Steve Glasscock, and Roy Nickum

OPCC Needs YOU!

***Sunday Morning Coffee Preparers** — **ONE MORE person** is needed to fill out our Sunday hospitality team — needed is someone to make coffee and organize the “fixings” on the fourth Sunday of each month. Instructions are available, and an email will be sent to remind you each week that you are scheduled. Contact Michelle Reiter in the church office if this is you!

***Dossal Candles and Lighters Caretakers** — The seven candles at the front of the Sanctuary that are lit during our worship services need regular maintenance, and the lighters need checking before each service. If you can help keep our candles shining brightly, contact Calvin McBride, 913-387-9634.

Middlers Sunday Morning Christian Education Class

Sundays, 9:00 – 10:00 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.

Men's Fellowship Group

All men are invited to the Men's Fellowship Group on the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room for coffee, study, and fellowship.

Contact: Emerson Hartzler, 913-422-1378

Girlfriends

Women of OPCC, join us for study, fellowship, and fun! Our Girlfriends Bible Study and Support Group is a mid-week offering for women who are looking for ways to deepen their relationship with God by practicing their faith in everyday life.

We meet on Wednesdays 7:00–8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We are currently studying Richard Foster's book Celebration of Discipline.

For more information, contact Peggy Moore.

Thank You

Lee and Jan Sprinkle say THANK YOU to OPCC for the wonderful Pot Luck Retirement luncheon for us and our family. The food was great and the kind words were well received!

Prayer List

Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Bill Anthony
- ♥ Beverly Barrett
- ♥ Raelene & Ken Berry
- ♥ Jolynn Carlton (Pat Warner's daughter)
- ♥ Jon Cash (Jody Cash's brother)
- ♥ Bo Crowe
- ♥ Ed Eilert
- ♥ 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)
- ♥ Pat Gilling
- ♥ Gordon Harkness
- ♥ Collette Jones (Perri Kolars' sister)
- ♥ Sue Mallery and family (Cassy Evans' sister)
- ♥ Peggy Moore - *knee surgery on Nov. 12*
- ♥ Eddie Niemann (Lee Sprinkle's brother-in-law)
- ♥ Julie Norman (Lisa Engelken's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Mary Owens (Richard Owens' niece)
- ♥ Pat Owsley
- ♥ Alan Peyton
- ♥ Jimmy Reynolds
- ♥ Ann Sandler
- ♥ Bette Scafe
- ♥ Jami Schmideskamp (Jan & Ed Eilert's daughter)
- ♥ Mike Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Sharon Shankel
- ♥ Ralph Sprinkle (Lee Sprinkle's brother)
- ♥ Carla Stouse (Bernice & Larry Stouse's daughter)
- ♥ Larry & Bernice Stouse
- ♥ Jim & Sally Withers

Continued Prayers

- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Carole Flagler
- ♥ Jaime Cranford
- ♥ Pat Gray
- ♥ Betty King
- ♥ Calvin & Sharon McBride
- ♥ Nathaniel Naylor (Jody Cash's cousin)
- ♥ Roy Nickum
- ♥ Tony Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ JoLynn Sloan
- ♥ Chuck Warner


Property Commission

November was very busy... see activities listed below:

1. Hank Price cleaned all the entry windows, Trinity Garden windows, Reception Office windows, Fellowship Hall windows, and Northeast entry windows.
2. Cintas Fire Protection serviced all 24 fire extinguishers, replaced 2 extinguishers, tested all exit lights, and performed the 90 minute lighting test of exit lights.
3. Everon replaced the security wi-fi communication box.
4. H & R Lawn trimmed all the shrubs along the South wall of the Sanctuary.
5. The Lawn and Sprinkler Guys came out to shut down and blow out the lawn/flower bed sprinkler lines.
6. Smallwood Lock and Supply repaired the Northeast door lock.
7. Lee disconnected all the flower bed sprinklers, plus outdoor (5) hoses.
8. Richard replaced screws to one of the Sanctuary bench sets so it doesn't sway anymore, plus re-glued door trim along one of Monarch's classroom doors.
9. Richard and Lee are still working with roofing company to get a small leak taken care of.

Submitted by Lee Sprinkle
Property Commission Chair

Note: If you have not done so yet, please prayerfully consider your giving to OPCC for the coming year and fill out one of our Estimate of Giving cards. You may print, fill out and return the one below; pick up a card at the front counter at church; or email michelle@opccdoc.org your pledge.

	Overland Park Christian Church 2026 Estimate of Giving Card	
	<i>Through the grace of God and in thanksgiving for all God's blessings, I/we pledge our gifts and resources for the mission of the OPCC community.</i>	
	Unified Budget Pledge \$ _____ weekly bi-weekly monthly quarterly annually (please circle frequency that you will give)	
	___ I/we would like a box of giving envelopes. ___ I/we would like info/assistance with online giving.	
Name(s) _____	_____	_____
Printed Name(s)	Signature	Date
<i>I/we understand that this estimate of giving may be adjusted should the need for change arise.</i>		

(back)

As part of our community of faith, I covenant with God to give of myself in ways that are not limited to financial giving. I celebrate that I am part of the body of Christ, and that my presence is important in the church and in our world.

As a way to give back to God, this year I commit to:

- Pray regularly for Overland Park Christian Church
- Participate regularly in worship, commissions, and/or small groups that build up the body of Christ
- Donate food items to Tiny Pantry Times
- Volunteer in worship leadership
- Donate my time to social justice efforts on behalf of OPCC
- Donate my time to the care of the OPCC building, grounds, and facilities
- Donate my time to the visitation and care of the OPCC family of faith

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

info@opccdoc.org

(general church e-mail address)

Transitional MinisterTerrell McTyer
terrell@opccdoc.org ext. 222

Pastor of Sacred SpacesLisa Engelken
lisa4women@gmail.com

ReceptionistJaime Cranford
office@opccdoc.org ext. 221

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

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

Choral Music DirectorBecki Bayless
beckibayless@gmail.com

Property ManagerRichard Owens
lee@opccdoc.org ext. 237

Your 2025-2026 OPCC Board of Directors

Aaron Blackburn Chair

Katherine Ann Haggard Vice Chair

Roger Claar Secretary

Mike Poggie Treasurer

Suzi Boehm Commission Liaison

Bob Shankel Leadership Development

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

**Copy deadline for next issue is
January 6 for January 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