



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

Sanctuary Worship — 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Nursery care available from 9:00 a.m. — noon

“The Broader Way” Worship — 4:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room

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

www.opccdoc.org • @opccdoc (Twitter & Instagram) • www.facebook.com/opccdoc



everything [in] between

Meeting God in the midst of extremes

2025 Sunday worship services thus far have focused significantly in the Gospel according to Luke, and so as we begin the 2025 *Lenten* season, we will continue to explore what it means to follow Jesus, reading from his disciple, Luke. Beginning on Ash Wednesday (March 5) we will, like Jesus, set our face toward Jerusalem and then continue each Sunday with many well-loved stories —

the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the fruitless fig tree, the Lost Sheep, Zaccheus, and more.

Many of these stories are well-known in both sacred and secular imagination, carrying cultural relevance and lore. Have you ever heard someone identify as either a “Mary” or a “Martha?” The “Good Samaritan” title alone could reference a hospital, a charitable organization, a type of law, or a good deed. Perhaps you grew up singing “Zaccheus was a wee little man” in Sunday School. So many of these scriptures hold significance in pop culture, church history, politics, and everything in between.

Jesus’ ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. As modern readers, we sometimes lose the “shock factor” behind Jesus’ words, as his teaching tactics likely felt extreme for those in his context. He describes a stigmatized Samaritan as a good neighbor. He emphasizes the value of 1 sheep in a herd of 100. He dines with a tax collector who amassed wealth through extortion. While dying on the cross, he tells a convicted criminal he will soon find paradise. In these narratives, Jesus intentionally highlights the cultural and political polarities of his time to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God.






When we study these stories in their historical and cultural context, we see how they mirror the cultural and political divides many of us experience in our families, churches, and communities today.

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So, in this Lenten season, we will be invited to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness. Each week we will explore two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “rest & growth” or “grief & hope.” We often consider these ideas to be opposing.

However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We see that these dichotomies are false. We begin to see a full spectrum beyond black and white, finding that God is not only in the gray areas [in] between, but in the full spectrum of the rainbow of our world.

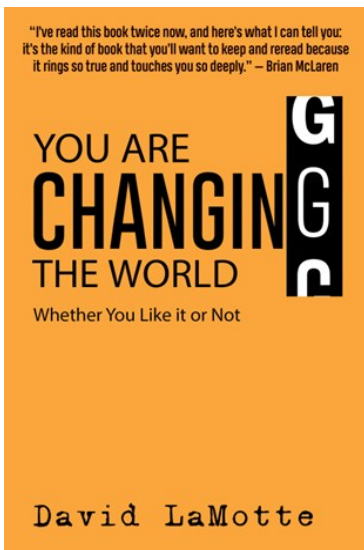
And so, this season, we invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to notice the dichotomies that attempt to define our lives, but also imagine where God is meeting us beyond the categories we create. Perhaps you might be trying to find your way through an undefined space, or feel as if we are living in a divided world. This Lenten season is for those who seek a spiritual life that engages with complexity instead of avoiding it. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere [in] between.

-  Ash Wednesday, March 5 | **intention & action** | Luke 9:51-62
-  1st Sunday in Lent, March 9 | **stranger & neighbor** | Luke 10:25-37
-  2nd Sunday in Lent, March 16 | **faith & works** | Luke 10:38-42
-  3rd Sunday in Lent, March 23 | **rest & growth** | Luke 13:6-9
-  4th Sunday in Lent, March 30 | **lost & found** | Luke 15:1-7
-  5th Sunday in Lent, April 6 | **righteousness & mercy** | Luke 19:1-10
-  Palm Sunday, April 13 | **shouting & silence** | Luke 19:29-40
-  Maundy Thursday, April 17 | **power & humility** | Luke 22:1-27
-  Good Friday, April 18 | **acceptance & resistance** | Luke 23:32-49
-  Easter Sunday, April 20 | **grief & hope** | Luke 24:1-12

Jana

Lenten Book Study

As we consider the ways that we can always find God in the midst of the extremes, we know that there is a “messy middle” of how we engage with this world. As we study the ways that we cannot always exist in the extremes of “faith OR works,” “rest OR growth,” “stranger OR neighbor,” in worship, we will also challenges some deeply held, though seldom examined, ideas about how large societal changes happen and what our own roles in those changes can and should be.



This Lenten season we will use the book ***You are Changing the World: Whether You Like it or Not*** by David LaMotte in a weekly study. You are invited to study and read scripture with one another, specifically as we look at questions of daily vocation, helping us discern our potential to have an impact that we design, because we “are changing the world, whether we like it or not.” Anyone who wants to live a life that matters will find a meaningful, potentially world-changing lesson in this reading and in our discussions.

It is NOT required that you obtain the book in order to participate in our conversation, yet, if you would like a copy of the book, you can find digital versions on [Kindle](#), [Nook](#), as well as through the library. You can also let the church office know if you would like a book and we will have copies available for purchase.

Join the study and discussions on
Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room beginning March 11,
OR virtually on **Thursdays at Noon via Zoom**, beginning March 13.



Prayer During Lent

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

- ◆ A physical, weekly, **devotional book** is available on the entry-way counter. Following the theme of *Everything [in] Between: Meeting God in the Midst of Extremes*, this devotional will provide scripture, reflections, prayers, and meditative prompts for each week as we remember the ways that God is present in every spectrum of humanity. You can take a large print version, a booklet version, or you can contact the church office for a digital Flipbook version of the devotional.
- ◆ Prayer Chapel - Each week OPCC will have a **reflection center** in the Prayer Chapel to reflect on the dichotomy thinking that we are challenging. You are invited to spend a few minutes each week during Lent as your time allows in prayer, meditation, and reflection. We hope that you find time to dwell with the Spirit of the Holy no matter when you are at church.

No matter how you engage in prayer, we look forward to praying together. As faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows, we can take inspiration by Jesus' ministry disrupting the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. Jesus intentionally pointed out cultural and political extremes to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God that is available to us all.

Lenten Season for Families

Each of our families with young children will be given a Lenten Faith Box — or the materials to add to the one you already have — to help you follow our “everything [in] between” at home. On Sunday morning in Children Worship & Wonder, we will work with the children with stories, wonder, and work around the same biblical stories as worship each week during Lent. Children will then be able to share those experience with their families as we all share the Sacred together.

For the Lenten season for families we will have available:

1. Devotional Books/Cards-Theme Everything (in) Between
2. Children's Book "Twas the Season of Lent"
3. Skits for an at Home Theatre of the weekly stories
4. Lenten Calendar
5. Parable of the Good Shepherd

Please check out the table outside of the CW&W room to get your Lenten Journey materials.

During Lent, Mary Poggie will be leading, during worship, a tablescape that children will be invited to help create. She has a theme each week that, after the six weeks of Lent, will be a tablescape that all children will have made, similar to the quilt that was made during Advent.

Thank you for being part of this faithful community and look forward to our journey together during Lent.

If your family needs resources for your spiritual, grief/loss, creation care, LGBTQ+, neurodiversity, God and sex, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Lisa Engelken, Sacred Spaces
Lisa4women@gmail.com

Update From Your Global Outreach Commission

Each calendar year, a percentage of the OPCC unified budget is designated for causes beyond our local congregation. Your Global Outreach Commission decides how to allocate these funds, in line with the mission priorities of OPCC. Here are just some of the ways we are reaching out to our neighbors.

Supporting stable families and housing:

For 20 years, we were a host congregation for Johnson County IHN (Interfaith Homeless Network) and contributed financially to its operation. IHN is now concluding its ministry. For 2025, most of the outreach funds that were designated for IHN will be used to increase our giving to the Salvation Army's Johnson County Family Lodge in Olathe. OPCC "long timers" may remember helping to sponsor a room at the Lodge when it opened.

In addition, we contribute to Project 1020, the cold weather emergency shelter in Lenexa; Micah Ministry, and KC for Refugees.

Fellowship and Spiritual Growth:

During the snowstorm and extreme cold weather in January, several buildings at Tall Oaks Conference Center experienced burst pipes and water damage. Using some discretionary funds from our outreach budget, OPCC has made a gift to help with cleanup and repair.

If you'd like to know more about OPCC's outreach and social justice ministries, you may contact me or any member of the commission.

Lois Wimpey,
For Global Outreach

Week of Compassion

On March 2 we focused on the ministries of Week of Compassion, and the ways that they help our ministries to be "heard" and "seen" all around the world. Together, we raised \$910! for Week of Compassion this year, and we still have a chance to donate. If you'd like to donate specifically to Week of Compassion, you can still do so through OPCC, simply mark it for WoC, or you can donate directly on their website, www.weekofcompassion.org

Ramadan 2025 with The Dialogue Institute of Kansas City

The Dialogue Institute of Kansas City invites you to join one of its Ramadan 2025 dinners. Partnering with 38 different organizations, these dinners help foster harmony, peace, and unity during this sacred time for our Muslim siblings. You can find a full list of the available dinner dates, but you might particularly be interested in these, below. All dinners below are hosted from 6:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

- March 12 @ Crossroads Church
- March 15 @ Hillcrest Christian Church
- March 17 @ Shawnee Community Christian Church
- March 20 @ City of Overland Park
- March 24 @ Community Christian Church (Plaza)
- March 25 @ St. Andrew Christian Church

Medicaid Expansion Social Justice Event

Join the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas
for a rally at the Kansas Statehouse

March 12, 2025, 12:30pm–1:30pm
2nd floor rotunda

- Hear from advocates why expansion is so critical.
- Set up time to meet with your legislators.

Bus transportation available — Information & Registration at: expandkancare.com under events

Tiny Pantry Times Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Jennifer Parker at 913-209-3372 if you can help out with any of these needs:

- Filling the Pantry
- Restocking the Pantry
- Folding shopping bags
- Checking in Donations
- Building Kits
- Food Recovery
- Farmer's Market Assistance
- Fundraising
- Canvassing for Sponsorships and Donations

TINY PANTRY TIMES



Take what you need. Share what you can.

75th Anniversary of OPCC

Mark your calendars for the weekend of June 27-29 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our church. Plans are still in the works for how this whole season of celebration comes together, but we know that we will start the celebration on that last weekend in June.

We hope to see you here for all the ways we celebrate the Body of Christ in Overland Park Christian Church for these last 75 years!



Prayer List

Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Bill Anthony
- ♥ Beverly Barrett
- ♥ Shelli Brown (Sharon McBride's niece)
- ♥ Marvin Byas IV
- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Jolynn Carlton (Pat Warner's daughter)
- ♥ Chuck Elliott
- ♥ Cassy & Bob Evans
- ♥ Pamela Felton
- ♥ Nicole Finley (Sally Withers' niece)
- ♥ Ruth Fletcher
- ♥ Pat Gilling
- ♥ Gordon Harkness
- ♥ Collette Jones (Perri Kolars' sister)
- ♥ 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
- ♥ Ann Sandler
- ♥ Bette Scafe
- ♥ Mike Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Sharon Shankel
- ♥ Larry & Bernice Stouse
- ♥ Van Swanson (Sharon McBride's brother-in-law)
- ♥ Chuck Warner
- ♥ Mike Williams (Coleen Thigpen's friend)
- ♥ Jim & Sally Withers

Continued Prayers

- ♥ Carole Flagler
- ♥ Pat Gray
- ♥ Betty King
- ♥ Roy Nickum
- ♥ Tony Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ JoLynn Sloan

Military Prayer List

- ☉ Lieutenant Colonel Michael Worsley (Amber Phipps' husband) stationed in Poland

Condolences

- ♥ to Barbara Sheldon and family on the passing of Earl Sheldon on January 29.
www.amosfamily.com/obituaries/earl-sheldon

Midders Sunday Morning Christian Education Class

Sundays, 9:00 – 10:15 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.

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 would be delighted for you to join us — and bring a friend!

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 a.m. in the Conference Room for coffee, study, and fellowship.

Contact: Emerson Hartzler, 913-422-1378

Empty Nesters

Please watch your email and future issues of the OPCC Scene for updates on 2025 gatherings.

Property Commission

Always keeping busy in the Property area, see activities below:

1. Temperature Maintenance performed the following:
 - a. Checked out the NE wall HVAC unit.
 - b. F/U to last month's article: initial kitchen HVAC problems from electrical outage which burnt the starter and wiring.
 - c. Quarterly servicing of all HVAC equipment has been completed.
2. Regal Plumbing performed the following:
 - a. Replaced the flush valve meter and ripple on an urinal in the men's main restroom.
 - b. Replaced both sink faucets, flush meter for toilet, and rusted out toilet flange for the stool in men's North restroom, plus replaced the flush meter and ripple to one of the middle stools in North women's restroom.
4. OPCC has moved up to job #2 on Affordable Mudjacking schedule. What this means:
 - a. Now need to polyjack under both the North and South walls of the custodial closet (across from the Fireside Room).
 - b. Preparing for the work required Jan and Lee to remove all gardening tools and supplies from this closet.
 - c. One or two days before work begins, the carpet in the Conference Room will need to be rolled back 8-9' from the North wall so polyjacking can take place in that area. When this happens the Conference Room will be OUT OF SERVICE until all work is completed.
5. Cintas came out and reviewed the kitchen stove and hood area. They will be supplying us an estimate for a fire suppression system. Once we get this estimate, discussions will take place on whether to install a system or just use stove for warming...no cooking of grease laden foods.
6. Polyjacking of the North and South walls of the custodial closet (across from Fireside Room) is planned for Wednesday 3/12/25 and follow up on Thursday 3/13/25. The Conference Room will be OUT OF SERVICE from 3/11/25 – 3/14/25.
7. Everon was out to test our fire alarm system. No issues were reported.
8. Landscaping cleanup of flower beds has been started by Jan Sprinkle.
9. The last of the old Fellowship Hall chairs have been dismantled by Dave Hobbs and Lee Sprinkle. The metal frames plus the old patio tables have been recycled.
10. Lee replaced the wheels on the small folding chair cart stored in the Fellowship Hall.

Submitted by Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

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Your 2024-2025 OPCC Board of Directors

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

Copy deadline for next issue is April 8 for April 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
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