



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

The Economy of Jesus

We live a time of anxiety... especially about our wellbeing and sustenance. The rhetoric of late has highlighted that fear reigns and many are living in an attitude of “taking care of our own.” But time and time again we are reminded that in the Kin-dom of God, who we should consider “our own” crosses many perceived boundaries. Not only does baptism – ours and Jesus’ – connect us to the *whole* family of God, but we are also called by Jesus to take care of all in need, especially those most vulnerable.

For many this anxiety comes from the feeling that we’re “running out” of so much, and scarcity is shutting down the party (think of the wedding party in John 2!). In these moments, we are invited to turn to the currency and economy of Jesus. In *his* economy, the true measure of abundance is fullness for the *whole* community, not just for some.

Whether its political rhetoric during an election year, or conversations around “end-of-year” and “new budgets” as the calendars turn over, the concept of economy is ever-present, and shapes who we are. Yet, the stories of Jesus also point to the topsy-turvy way that Jesus was proclaiming an “economy” in which wealth is shared and utilized for the good of all.

As with all prophetic leaders, some were not so happy about Jesus’ message.

We might not even be happy about revisiting what Jesus says is the right thing to do when it comes to caring deeply for another and requires something different from us.

Yet, his plan was clear from the beginning – an anointing to bring good news to the poor.

And as his followers, it is important for us to proclaim this and act on it here and now – for such a time as this. Who will protect the vulnerable in these turbulent times?

Church, this has been our mission since “day one.”

If we are looking for a way to be “relevant” in our age, this is it.

Jana

(continued on next page)

In these first weeks of the year, we'll be invited to discern how we can build the Kin-dom of God by remembering our own value as a child of God, and drawing from jars of Hope, Purpose, Healing, Meaning, Vision, and Grace for all of God's children. I hope you will join us in on Sundays in Sanctuary Worship at 10:30am or Broader Way at 4:30pm as we explore these themes, further.



January 19 | **Fill My House with Hoping** | John 2:1-11
January 26 | **Fill My Plans with Purpose** | Luke 4:14-21
February 2 | **Fill My Wounds with Healing** | Luke 4:21-30
February 9 | **Fill My Days with Meaning** | Luke 5:1-11
February 16 | **Fill My Future with Vision** | Luke 6:17-26
February 23 | **Fill My Cup with Grace** | Luke 6:27-38

OPCC Food Pantry Update

Dear Family,

In 2008 OPCC decided to open a Food Pantry. The decision grew out of our Angel Food Ministry program that began a couple of years prior with Laura and Paul Martin.

Over the years we have had the privilege of sharing food with thousands of people that needed a helping hand reaching out to them. For many, we were their church. As a bonus, we as individuals and as a church family grew into a fuller understanding of the old adage, "it's better to give than to receive." We have had the opportunity to share the joys and tears of many of our friends that received the food.

However, like everything there is a season, and the season of the OPCC Food Pantry is changing. It's a little unsettling to not see clearly the path God is preparing for our ministry, (ok, sometimes a lot unsettling!). But, in Exodus we read that God leads with pillars of cloud, so take a big breath and let's step into the journey.

We are OPCC. We will never stop ministry to our neighbors as long as we have breath, hands, and in some cases, chair. We will do many things that matter to make lives better for others. Some great ideas are bubbling around in discussions between OPCC staff, leadership, and the Global Outreach Committee. If you have an idea, talk to someone from any of these groups - we have never been short of ideas, nor afraid to express them!

So, keep watching how the path unfolds ahead of us, and Keep Your Sleeves Rolled UP!

With Love
Jane Fletcher

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!



Winter Weather & Closings

As winter weather continues, 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, though staff will continue to work from home.

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. If you need to be added to the phone tree calling list, please contact the front office and we will make sure to add you!

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 certainly do not want you to put yourself in danger, and *you* know your own abilities and limitations best.

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)
- ♥ Sue Mallery and family (Cassy Evans' sister)
- ♥ Calvin & Sharon McBride
- ♥ Shirley McGee
- ♥ Bryce Moore
- ♥ George Moore (Lois Wimpey's brother)
- ♥ 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
- ♥ Tony Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Earl & Barbara Sheldon
- ♥ 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

Military Prayer List

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

Condolences

- ♥ to the family of Marge White upon her passing on December 22.
www.amosfamily.com/obituaries/anna-white
- ♥ to Ralph Sprinkle (Lee Sprinkle's brother) and family on the death of his wife, Mary Sprinkle, on January 15.
www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/belton-mo/mary-sprinkle-12202226

Middlers 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.

Meet our Interim Regional Minister: Ron Routledge

Our Regional Board is pleased to welcome Rev. Ron Routledge as our incoming Interim Regional Minister beginning February 1, 2025. Ron and his wife Louise Ann have four children and two grandchildren and enjoy life on a small organic farm in Brookfield, MO. Ron holds a BSED in Education with a Minor in Religious Studies from MU-Columbia and an MDiv from Lexington Theological Seminary with an emphasis in Congregational Transformation. He has served four congregations as Senior Minister and five congregations as Transitional Minister. He is grateful to be serving as Regional Minister in the DOC Mid-America Region since November 2018 and has announced his retirement on January 31, 2025. His life is built on stewardship: of his gifts, of the land and of the people he serves. Through teaching, preaching, and collaborative leadership, Ron remains close to the Spirit of the Risen Christ and Scriptures to nurture communities toward discipleship, celebration and mission. He is a big-picture administrator and combines that with creative energy and pastoral care. Ron is an intentional listener, a compassionate guide, and a builder of relationships of trust. He fully embraces that we are 'a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world' and his guiding trajectory for church transformation is: "We are called to be pioneers not preservationists!"

Ron is pictured here with his grandson Kaisyn at the CCMA Regional Assembly.



Chi Rho Mid-Winter at Tall Oaks

All youth in grades 6th through 8th are invited to join us for Chi Rho Mid-Winter February 7th - 9th. Our theme this year is "Ignite in Faith" and we will be studying Exodus 3.

Directed by Colton Pasquale, this retreat will include youth-led worship, small groups, interest groups, games, and more!



EXODUS 3
HIGH SCHOOL: JANUARY 3 - 5
MIDDLE SCHOOL: FEBRUARY 7-9

Be sure to register by January 24th!!

www.talloaks.org/chi-rho-camp

Summer Church Camp

AND... start planning now for Summer Camp!

Register and find more information at:

www.talloaks.org/doc-camps

OPCC has scholarships available for Tall Oaks — just let us know if you want to go but need help with paying, 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

Volunteer Board Sign-up

The life of the church takes support from each and every one of us! We also know that we have a lot of different schedules to juggle as we hope to include you. To facilitate sign-up for each of our needs, we've been utilizing a **Volunteer Bulletin Board** near the front entrance of the church.

Please take a look the next time you are here and sign-up for assisting OPCC in making this a welcoming, inviting, place! You can also check out our needs here in the newsletter, and contact our receptionist office (913-677-4646 ext.221) to put your name on the schedule for the coming weeks.

* **In-Person and Virtual Liturgists**

We need volunteers who will share some of the elements of worship, and are excited to include those who worship in-person, or 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*, we can get you scheduled. Rev. Laura can guide you through how to do this virtually, or you will receive the information by email on the Friday prior to your schedule. We would love to welcome you into worship no matter how you join!

* **Coffee Fellowship Help**

As we settle into our new Sunday schedules (again), more and more of us are gathering for coffee in the Fireside Room on Sunday mornings and so we need your help organizing the coffee "fixings" each week. We DO have instructions and guidelines to help you on Sunday mornings, and an email will be sent to remind you each week that you are scheduled.

* **Greeters at OPCC Doors**

Our building can seem daunting if you've never been here. Where to park? Which door to come in? Where's the coffee? Where's the nursery? Where's the bathroom? There's two courtyards? As we continue to welcome new friends into the life and worship of OPCC we need volunteers (that our receptionist will organize) to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings from 10:00am – 10:30am and 4:00pm – 4:30pm to help folks into the building, *especially* if they are arriving on the West or North sides of the building. Thank you for helping us to welcome ALL to Overland Park Christian for a warm and inviting worship experience.

* **Deacons and Communion Preparation**

OPCC deacons are elected to this position, and tasked with preparing and serving communion each week. In our new COVID-informed manner, our deacons serve communion by way of making sure that folks pick up a communion cup and bulletin on their way into the sanctuary to be used in worship.

Other Areas of Volunteer Need

* **Chancel Candles Tender**

If you enjoy the candles in our services, please consider helping keep them and the lighters in good shape. Unless we have weddings, funerals, or extra events, about 30 minutes to an hour each month does the trick. I am not thinking of retiring from the job, but my recent sojourn in the hospital shows I need backup. I will train you well, and you can shadow me while you decide whether candle tending could be part of your stewardship to OPCC. If interested in this position, please contact Calvin McBride at 913-387-9634 or ctmcbride1936@outlook.com.

* **Pew Supplies Stocker**

Volunteers needed to straighten and restock the pew racks with pencils, hymnals, Bibles, and giving envelopes each week. This can be an individual or a team effort, and is best done on Fridays. For more details, contact Michelle Reiter in the church office at extension 223 or michelle@opccdoc.org.

* **Sound Technician**

Help with sound and recording during worship on Sunday mornings. No age requirement. No experience necessary — will receive on the job training. For more information, contact Kent Setty or Teresa Phillips.

Property Commission

December was a very busy month as we tried to do some year-end project wrap-ups. See below:

1. Freedom Electric performed the following projects:
 - a. Purchased and installed 7 - 2'x4' LED flat panel ceiling lights in Choir Room and back hallways.
 - b. Purchased and installed 2 - 1'x4' LED ceiling lights in the hallway to the Great Hall.
 - c. Purchased and installed 2 - 1'x4' LED ceiling lights in Michelle's office.
 - d. Checked out the receptacles in the kitchenette as disposal quit working. Found the disposal blew the breaker as it was locked up.
2. Temperature Maintenance was called out twice:
 - a. Checked out the operation of the fan coil unit in Fellowship Hall.
 - b. Checked out the air handling unit above the kitchen storage area. Found that the snow storm had taken out one of the three phase lines to the building and it caused the unit's control panel to burn out the contacts plus all the wiring. Waiting for the invoice.
3. Hank Price was out mid-December to wash all the courtyard and entrance windows.
4. Fire Inspector from the O.P. Fire Department was out and found violations:
 - a. Must keep exit paths clear from the sanctuary and Tiny Pantry area.
 - b. Need to have the fireplace chimneys inspected and report on file.
 - c. Surge protector extension cords must be plugged directly into an outlet. Cannot attach two extension cords together.
 - d. Coffee pots and other appliances must be plugged directly into an outlet, not a power strip or extension cord.
 - e. Must get an inspection/cleaning report for the kitchen hood and have report on file
 - f. **Biggest violation**, we CANNOT use the kitchen gas stove for cooking any grease-laden items, raw proteins, or frying in oil. This stove can only be used for WARMING until OPCC installs an Ansul hood suppression system. Property Commission will check into a suppression system and review costs with the Board.
5. We are still waiting for a date from Affordable Mudjacking on a date for polyjacking under the North wall of the Conference Room.

Submitted by,
Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

Your OPCC Staff

913-677-4646

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(general church e-mail address)

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Accompanist/Bell Choir Director .. Julie Dean
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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 February 4 for February 6 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