



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

An Easter People – a Pentecost Church

As we celebrated Easter on April 20, we now get to consider what it means to be “an Easter People.” Celebrating Easter means that we believe in the power of God to overcome death, and the possibility of new beginnings! We believe that suffering, death, and failure can be transformed into new life.

Being “an easter people” means that we live a life of hope, embrace God’s love, and witness to God’s hope in a way that we see the world through the lens of God’s possibility in the world.

But how do we do this?

In these weeks after Easter we are invited to spend time with some of the characters that pop up after the resurrection of Jesus. These “Easter people,” from the famous, like “Doubting Thomas” to the barely-mentioned, like Lydia or Dorcas, these followers of Christ show us how ordinary people responded to Christ’s new life, and encourages us to imagine how we can do the same.



- Sunday, May 4 | **Thomas** | John 20:19-31
- Sunday, May 11 | **Paul** | Acts 9:1-20
- Sunday, May 18 | **Tabitha** | Acts 9:36-43
- Sunday, May 25 | **Peter** | Acts 11:1-18
- Sunday, June 1 | **Lydia** | Acts 16:9-15
- Sunday, June 8 | **An Easter People** | A Pentecost Church

We will honor and celebrate Rev. Laura and her ministry with Overland Park Christian Church with a luncheon and card shower after worship on June 1st.

The main dish and cake will be provided at the luncheon. If you are able, please bring a potluck side dish or salad to accompany the meal.

So that we may get an estimate of how many folks to plan for, a sign-up sheet is available now on the entryway counter at church, or you may contact Jaime in the church office at 913-677-4646, ext. 221, or office@opccdoc.org to put your name(s) on the list.

The following letter was mailed / e-mailed to OPCC members and friends at the end of April, and is copied here in case you did not receive it:

April 27, 2025

Dear Friends and Family of OPCC:

This is a difficult letter to write as there is no easy way to share this bittersweet news with you. The **sweet** to share is that I have accepted a new call to serve as the Director of Children Worship, Wonder & Welcome with Disciples Home Missions, the general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The **bitter** to share is that I offer my resignation as senior pastor of Overland Park Christian Church in order to pursue this opportunity, and my final day with OPCC will be Sunday, June 1st.

It has given me great joy and pride to serve as your pastor over these last 12+ years, which has made this decision even more difficult. We have engaged in some amazing ministries, imagining and enacting what “church” looks and acts like in an ever-changing landscape (including thriving through a global pandemic!). I am truly honored that I have been invited to be a part of your incredibly sacred moments. I am humbled at the ways I have been welcomed into births, infant dedications, baptisms, weddings, mission trips, moments of growth in faith, social justice movements, memorial services, funerals, and more. However, I know that God is calling me, **and OPCC** (and equipping us both!), to new phases and ministries. We will very soon celebrate 75 years of ministry in this community, and I know that with God’s help, there will be many more years of life-giving ministry to come.

I assure you that my decision to accept this new call is *not* because of anything that has happened – or not happened – here at OPCC. I have had an incredible experience ministering **with** each and every one of you, and give thanks for all that I have learned and experienced in ministry **to** you. I assure you that this decision was not made lightly; I use the word **call** with great intention, and trust that God is calling us, both as individual followers, and as OPCC, to continue sharing Christ’s love with the world in new ways. I am thankful for what we have learned in our time together that will equip us all in our future ministries to the wider church.

There are of course still details to be worked out about how particular aspects of OPCC ministry are carried forward, however they will do exactly that: ministry at OPCC *will* move forward. None of our ministries have ever been about one particular pastor or person, rather they are all fueled by the ways each of *you* are committed to sharing the love of God with our community near and far.

OPCC Leadership is already in contact with the Kansas City Regional Minister and President, Rev. Ron Routledge, and plans for worship will carry you through until an interim minister is named. I know this can happen soon. I also have great confidence in the leaders of OPCC and region, and the opportunities afforded by this new start in the life of OPCC are endless.

Overland Park Christian Church is a very special congregation, with great gifts and potential, and will always hold a very special place in my life. You have lifted me up in ways I could never have imagined; I could not have asked for a more gracious congregation to walk with through so many life-changes. I trust that just as Spirit made a match between us in 2013 through prayer, discernment, and self-study, Spirit is at work even now, preparing OPCC for its next pastor, for new beginnings, new leaders, and the next step of a journey that began when Disciples first gathered in that theater in downtown Overland Park. John and Tobias will continue to worship with OPCC as they too found a wonderfully, supportive, family of faith. As I will work remotely, and remain living in the area, I also look forward to hearing from them about the amazing things happening at 75th & Conser, and the ways that Tobias will continue to grow in faith with his church.

I do hope that each of you will be able to worship with OPCC on my final Sunday, June 1st. I trust this is surprising news to some, and that it may not be the easiest news to hear. To that end, I hope this next month to also be a time in which you can share openly your feelings about this change, and know that I am here to listen, to talk, and above all to pray with and for each of you. I will continue to pray for this entire community as OPCC and its ministry partners navigate new waters. I also hope to share with each of you my great love and thankfulness for having welcomed me into your hearts and lives. There are simply not enough, nor adequate words, to express my gratitude for the mark you have made in my life, and on my heart.

Thank you for the opportunity to walk with you through a small portion of your journey of faith. I am **humbled**. I am **honored**. My life is immensely better for being able to call myself your pastor. I pray I have shared the same love and appreciation with each of you that you have given to me, for I am a far better person for it.

Your Sister in Christ,



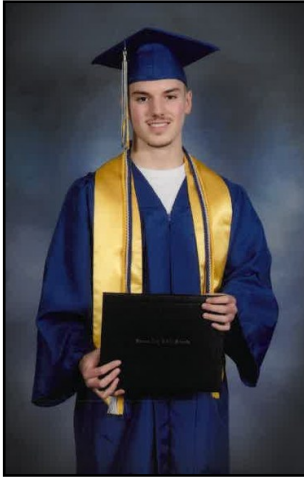
Rev. Laura A. Phillips

Senior Pastor

Overland Park Christian Church (DOC)

🎓 2025 Graduates 🎓

**Congratulations and Best Wishes to all Graduates in our Faith Family!
Graduates will be honored during Worship on Sunday, May 11.**



Jack Perry, son of Katherine Ann Haggard and Joe Perry and grandson of Forrest & Eleanor Haggard, is graduating from Lincoln College Preparatory High School and Metropolitan Community College. He plans to attend college at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida, pursuing a degree in neurobiology.



Christy Reiter, daughter of Michelle & Wally Reiter, graduates from Kansas State University on May 17 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. Christy has accepted a job teaching 4th grade at Oak Grove Elementary in the Turner, KS school district beginning this fall.

photo
not
available

Christina Fletcher Clements, daughter of Jane & Tom Fletcher, will be graduating with her 2nd Bachelor's degree, Bachelor's of Global Management, from Arizona State University this month. She is graduating with the honors Summa Cum Laude.



Kiera Lei Weltmer, daughter of Kirsten & Todd Weltmer and granddaughter of Wayne & Peggy Moore, is graduating from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR, on May 9, majoring in Biology and Marketing.

Another Way Tall Oaks



There's still time to sign up for Church Camp!
OPCC helps sponsor each camper.
Register at www.talloaks.org/doc-camps

Laura Phillips is directing Grandparents Camp 1
and Lisa Engelken is directing Day Camp 2.

DAY CAMP 1	JUNE 25TH
DAY CAMP 2	JULY 19TH
PRIMARY	JULY 14TH-16TH
JUNIOR	JUNE 26TH-29TH
CHI RHO	JULY 20TH-24TH
EIGHTERS	JULY 18TH-24TH
CYF	JUNE 24TH-29TH
ADULT CAMP	MAY 23RD-26TH
GRANDPARENTS CAMP 1	JUNE 20TH-22ND
GRANDPARENTS CAMP 2	JULY 11TH-13TH

Vacation Bible School at OPCC



Mark Your Calendars Now for July 20-24!

At this year's VBS, kids 4 years through 5th grade will be taking a "Road Trip: on the Go with God", and parents and older children/youth are invited to join the fun as volunteers.

Registration open soon on the OPCC website.

Please contact lisa4women@gmail.com if you have any questions or are available to help.

OVERLAND PARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH



CELEBRATING OUR FIRST 75 YEARS



JUNE 28 and 29, 2025

Kitchenaide
75th Anniversary and Rock & Roll
Fundraiser
Presented by Overland Park Christian Church and Tiny Pantry Times
Featuring
THE BASEMENT BOYZ
7600 W 75th Street
Overland Park, KS 66204
Saturday, June 28th, 6-9PM
Fellowship Hall
Monetary Donations Accepted at the Door

Gimme that old time Rock and Roll!!

Take a trip down memory lane to enjoy hits from the 50s, 60s, 70s and more. The Basement Boyz are a local group that plays classic rock 'n' roll to help people smile and tap their toes. Find more about the Basement Boyz at www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559029657389

Invite your neighbors, friends, parents, and kids for music, hot dogs, and fun as we officially kick off the 75th anniversary weekend. This event is a benefit fundraiser to upgrade the fire suppression system in the church kitchen. The upgrade will allow our congregation and our ministry partners to make better use of our kitchen as we move forward. Thank you to Tiny Pantry Times for organizing this evening, and to our sister congregation, Rios de Agua Viva, for food preparation.

Let's party!

SUNDAY, JUNE 29 WORSHIP and CELEBRATION

75 years of ministry can't be adequately celebrated on one occasion or just one weekend. June 29 will be a time to give thanks for our past, celebrate the present, and anticipate what God has in store for our future.

A task group has begun putting together the plans for that day, and we expect to have other events throughout the coming months. Here's what we know as of publication deadline for the May Scene:

10:30 a.m. morning worship will be in our beautiful sanctuary. A guest minister will preach. Our choirs are preparing several anthems, and we hope to have choir "alumni" join. Past ministers and other staff members are being invited for that day. This is a great time to invite former OPCC participants to come home for the celebration. A catered luncheon will follow worship.

Do you have pictures, photo directories, church histories, or any other memorabilia??

We would love to display these on the anniversary weekend, and at other times during the year. You can contact Jaime in the church receptionist office or a task force member for information on how to share your items. Current task force members are Jody Cash, Jan Eilert, Peggy Moore, Roger & Vicki Claar, David & Liz Hobbs, Theresa Krebs, Nancy Corbin, Richard Owens, Katherine Ann Haggard, Dave & Barb Collins, and Lois Wimpey.

If you would like to join this group, contact Jody.

We need you to help make this a great start to our next 75 years!



TACOS FOR A CAUSE

AT TIKI TACO



Tiki Taco

7514 W 80TH ST | DOWNTOWN OP
5400 TROOST AVE | KCMO
1710 W 39TH ST | KCMO
14947 W 119TH STREET | OLATHE

ALL DAY JUNE 6TH

TINY PANTRY TIMES

Stop by Any Tiki Taco Location.

Mention TINY PANTRY when ordering.

20% of sales will be donated back to the TINY PANTRY

ORDER ONLINE WITH CODE : TINY PANTRY



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 meet at the designated restaurants at 11:30 a.m. unless otherwise indicated.

- * Wednesday, May 14 – Olive Garden, 6750 W. 95th Street, Overland Park, KS
- * Wednesday, June 11 – Cheesecake Factory, 6675 W. 119th Street, Overland Park, 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.

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

Tiny Pantry Times Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Jennifer Parker at 913-209-3372 or jennifer@tinypantrytimes.org for more information or 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.

Midders Sunday Morning Christian Education Class

Sundays, 9:00 – 10:15 am
NW Section Fellowship Hall

The Middlers Adult Bible Study class will not meet over the summer. We will meet on May 11 & 18 and then break for the summer.

We will resume meeting on September 7 at 9am in the Northwest section of Fellowship Hall.

Midders 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.

Girlfriends

The Girlfriends group will meet on Wednesday, May 14 and then take a break from meeting over the summer, resuming our regular meetings in the Fireside Room on Wednesday evenings on September 10. All women are invited to join us — and bring a friend!

For more information, contact Peggy Moore.

Prayer List

Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Bill Anthony
- ♥ Beverly Barrett
- ♥ Joyce Brooker
- ♥ Shelli Brown (Sharon McBride's niece)
- ♥ Marvin Byas IV
- ♥ Jolynn Carlton (Pat Warner's daughter)
- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Chuck Elliott
- ♥ Cassy & Bob Evans
- ♥ Pamela Felton
- ♥ Nicole Finley (Sally Withers' niece)
- ♥ Jane Fletcher
- ♥ Ruth Fletcher
- ♥ Pat Gilling
- ♥ Gordon Harkness
- ♥ Collette Jones (Perri Kolars' sister)
- ♥ Sue Mallery and family (Cassy Evans' sister)
- ♥ Calvin & Sharon McBride
- ♥ Bryce Moore
- ♥ Eddie Niemann (Lee Sprinkle's brother-in-law)
- ♥ Julie Norman (Lisa Engelken's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Pat Owsley
- ♥ Pat Phillips (Laura Phillips' mother)
- ♥ Jimmy Reynolds
- ♥ Ann Sandler
- ♥ Bette Scafe
- ♥ Mike Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Sharon Shankel
- ♥ Ralph Sprinkle (Lee Sprinkle's brother)
- ♥ Larry & Bernice Stouse
- ♥ Van Swanson (Sharon McBride's brother-in-law)
- ♥ Jim & Sally Withers

Continued Prayers

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

Military Prayer List

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

Condolences

- ♥ to Jane Hitzelberger on the recent passing of her sister, Jewel Libby, in California.

♥ to Pam Harper and family on the passing of her mother and long-time OPCC member and nursery worker, Sue Keating, on April 6.
www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/san-antonio-tx/virginia-keating-12331198

♥ to Tim McGee and family on the passing of his mother and long-time OPCC member, Shirley McGee, on April 20.
www.johnsoncountychapel.com/obituaries/shirley-mcgee

♥ to Diana & Gary McClain and family on the passing of Diana's father and long-time OPCC member, Marshall Howard, on May 1.
www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/kansas-city-mo/marshall-howard-12362526

Thank You

Thank you OPCC friends for your cards and prayers for Earl Sheldon and our family. Thank you to the people who provided and worked at the lunch. We appreciate all the love and support during this time.

Barbara Sheldon and family

Dear Overland Park Christian Church,

Thank you for your commitment to Tall Oaks! Your continued support has allowed us to welcome a steady flow of groups throughout the year — families, quilters, outdoor enthusiasts, and a wide range of people in various age groups. We truly are fulfilling our mission of providing a safe space for personal growth, renewal, relaxation, and recreation.

Last summer was a busy camp season, and we received enthusiastic positive feedback. With summer right around the corner, we are looking forward to another great year!

Tall Oaks continues to thrive because of gifts like yours. We feel blessed to have your support.

Thank you, again —
The Tall Oaks Board

Thank you for again hosting an AARP Tax-Aide site this season. Because you generously opened your facility to us, we were able to provide free tax preparation services to over 500 people in the community.

Terry Dopp
Tax-Aide Local Coordinator

Volunteer Board Sign-Up

The life of OPCC 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. 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 at 913-677-4646 ext.221 or office@opccdoc.org 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.

We would love to welcome you into worship no matter how you join!

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 to serve as greeters on Sunday mornings from 10 – 10:30am and 4 – 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.

Coffee Fellowship Help

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. If you would like to be part of this hospitality team, contact our receptionist to put your name on the schedule

Pew Supplies Stocker

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.

Sunday A/V Techs

Help run the projection, sound, and recording on Sunday mornings during the worship service. No age requirement. No experience necessary — will receive on the job training. If interested, contact Kent Setty or Teresa Phillips.

Save these Dates!

Amazing things are happening in the life of OPCC, and you surely don't want to miss out. While some of these things are further away, still make sure to put them on your calendar.

KC Pride Fest — June 6–8, 2025

A group of DOC churches from throughout the region are partnering together to staff a booth at the KC Pride Fest. This year OPCC will join with several other congregations to demonstrate the ways that our welcome goes beyond an invitation to simply walk in the doors.

[Mark your calendars for KC Pride Fest, June 6-8, and sign-up to volunteer, here!](#)

Tri-Regional Partnership Mission Service Day — August 16

The Disciples of Christ Regions of Greater Kansas City, Nebraska, and Kansas, continue to partner together in our Tri-Regional Partnership, and will continue this ministry by working together on August 16th at Hillcrest Christian Church in South Overland Park.

More information will be available soon.

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

2025 PENTECOST OFFERING

SUNDAYS JUNE 1 & JUNE 8

IMAGINATION FREEDOM INNOVATION UNITY CREATIVITY

COMMUNITY SPIRITUALITY JUSTICE TRAIN EQUIP ASSIST



THE 2025 PENTECOST OFFERING IS A SPECIAL OFFERING IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW CHURCH MOVEMENT IN YOUR REGION AND ACROSS THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

So, Your Pastor is Leaving...

Our denomination has lots of resources to lead OPCC through this time of transition, including at the regional and general level. There are more (and more robust) resources than this, but this is a basic list of things that will (or have already) happen in coming weeks and months as OPCC searches for its next settled Senior Pastor.

1. **Notify the Regional Minister** – Rev. Ron Routledge, the Interim Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church (DOC) of Greater Kansas City, met with the OPCC Board on Monday, May 5th.
2. **Celebrate the Completion of a Ministry** – We hope you will join in the celebration of shared ministry between Rev. Laura Ann Phillips and OPCC on Sunday, June 1st.
3. **Call a Transitional (Interim) Pastor** – The Pastoral Relations Committee of OPCC is already beginning this work with the support of Rev. Routledge.
4. **Appoint a Search Committee** – The OPCC Board is already in the process of naming OPCC members that will serve in this capacity, and these names will be announced, soon.
5. **Start the Process of Search & Call** – This process will take several months, so have no fear that it does not happen swiftly. The intentional process of discernment is an important step for OPCC's future success.
6. **Select a Candidate** – After a thorough search, the Search Committee will send the name of a candidate to the OPCC Board for approval before being announced to the congregation.
7. **Make a Call** – The entire congregation of OPCC will have the opportunity to vote on the named candidate.
8. **Prepare for the New Minister** – The hope is that when you complete this work in partnership with regional and general leadership, at least three things will have been accomplished.
 - a. You are excited about the person the committee has recommended to the board and congregation, and you believe God was a part of the call,
 - b. You have gotten to know and appreciate your fellow Christians better, and
 - c. You have found that this has been a positive spiritual experience.

Property Commission

Property has been very busy reaching out for estimates on many projects needing care in the near future. Here is the list:

1. The Fireside Room fireplace chimney needs a lot of tuck-pointing. Mortar is beginning to fall out of many joints. We have received one estimate to tuck point the outside of the chimney. Now waiting on another estimate from a second company
2. Our flat roofs need to be replaced over the Fellowship Hall northeast quadrant, over Michelle's office, Prayer Chapel, Congregational Care office, Overflow Room, and the main hallway to the Sanctuary. We THANK YOU for your overwhelming voting support for getting the roofs resurfaced. This project will be paid for out of our Capital Designated Fund.
3. We have received one estimate to add a fire suppression system over the large stove in the main kitchen, Still waiting on a second estimate.
4. The kitchen exhaust hood has been inspected/cleaned at the request of the O.P. Fire Inspector.

On a brighter note, Landscaping has cleaned out all flower beds and finished planting the South and North sides of the front entry. Thank you, Jan Sprinkle! Now on to the Trinity and Memorial gardens.

Submitted by

Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

Your OPCC Staff

913-677-4646

info@opccdoc.org

(general church e-mail address)

Senior Pastor Laura Ann Phillips

laura@opccdoc.org

ext. 222

Pastor of Sacred Spaces Lisa Engelken

lisa4women@gmail.com

Receptionist Jaime Cranford

office@opccdoc.org

ext. 221

Communications Coordinator/

Bookkeeper Michelle Reiter

michelle@opccdoc.org

ext. 223

Director of Choral Music Marvin Byas IV

marvin@opccdoc.org

ext. 229

Accompanist/Bell Choir Director .. Julie Dean

missjupes@gmail.com

Broader Way Music Director Becki Bayless

beckibayless@gmail.com

Building & Grounds Lee Sprinkle

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
June 10 for June 12 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