



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

Passion, Purpose, and Thankfulness

As we move into November — a month often wrapped in the language of gratitude — we continue our journey of Passion and Purpose. This season reminds us that purpose without gratitude can feel like duty, and passion without thankfulness can quickly run dry. When we bring them together, something beautiful happens: our faith becomes alive with meaning, awareness, and connection.

Scripture teaches that we praise God for who God is, and we give thanks for what God has done. Praise recognizes God’s truth, compassion, presence, and greatness. Thanksgiving, though, is deeply personal — it flows from relationship. It’s how we respond when we experience grace, provision, or peace.

But gratitude is more than a feeling — it’s a way of living. It helps us see one another more clearly and recognize that we are all part of a shared story. It opens space for both celebration and reflection. For many Indigenous peoples, giving thanks has always been a sacred daily practice — long before it became a holiday. Their wisdom invites us to understand gratitude not as a single day on the calendar, but as a continual rhythm of life: one that honors truth, justice, and mutual care for all creation.

This month, as we gather in homes, around tables, and in worship, may we practice thankful purpose. May our praise extend beyond words and songs into acts of compassion and generosity. May our thanksgiving include truth-telling, bridge-building, and reconciliation. And may our passion for God’s love continue to overflow in everything we do and in how we care for one another and the world around us.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever.” — 1 Chronicles 16:34

As we give thanks, may we also remember that not everyone has a table to gather around, a home to return to, or a family to embrace. Gratitude grows deeper when it moves us to awareness and action. Let our thanksgiving open our eyes to those who are hungry, lonely, or without shelter — and let it stir our hearts to be the hands and feet of Christ in a world that is still aching for love and belonging.

With gratitude and grace,
Pastor McTyer





Sunday, November 16

After 16 years, **Lee Sprinkle** has retired from his volunteer Property Manager position at OPCC effective November 15, 2025. (Don't worry — Lee will still be on the Property Commission and helping Jan with the gardens at church!)

Let's celebrate **Lee and Jan** with a **Luncheon and Card Shower!**

Following Worship on the 16th, all are invited to a **Potluck Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall**. So that we may plan accordingly, if you have not signed up yet, please contact Jaime in the reception office at office@opccdoc.org or 913-677-4646, ext. 221 with how many folks from your family will be attending and what dish you plan to bring to share.



Suggested food items to bring are:

- **Main Dish** – last names **A-H**
- **Salad** – last names **I-O**
- **Side Dish** – last names **P-V**
- **Dessert** – last names **W-Z**
(cake will be provided)



Senior Pastor Search Update

Your pastoral search committee has continued to work on the congregational profile. This profile will be shared with our Interim Regional Minister Ron Rutledge by the end of the month. This completes our first step in our search for a new senior minister. During this next phase, our regional minister will make our profile available for anyone interested in this position and will help match us with prospective applicants.

We seek your prayers as we enter this next phase of our journey and for the future of Overland Park Christian Church.

OPCC Annual Congregational Meeting and Budget Vote — November 23, 2025

An OPCC Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following Worship on Sunday, November 23, for the purpose of voting on OPCC's 2026 budget. The budget is available before the vote upon request by contacting Michelle Reiter at 913-677-4646, ext. 223 or michelle@opccdoc.org

If you have any questions about the church budget, voting process, the 2026 Stewardship Campaign, or other operations, please contact any member of the OPCC Board of Directors listed on the back of this, and every, OPCC Scene newsletter.

The OPCC offices will be closed on **Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28,** in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. You may still email staff, and they will respond the following week.



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.

Advent at OPCC



When we gather at a vigil, fear is often present, weighing on us like a heavy fog. The candle in our hands can feel fragile, insignificant, the flame easily extinguished. But when we turn to our neighbors to spread the light, it multiplies, wrapping the whole community in warmth. The darkness is not eradicated; if anything, it further illuminates the flicker of the candles. In these vigil spaces, grief and fear dance with gratitude and hope. In these spaces, we find courage and unity.

We are reminded that God is near.

This vision captures our prayer for this Advent series: that it will illuminate both our hopes and our fears and remind us that God is near.

Several resources following this theme of **“What Do You Fear”** will be available at the church for your use including **Daily Devotionals** and **Advent Calendars**, as well as other activities for families.

Advent Bible Study

Join together for a special Bible Study during this Advent season led by Pastor Terrell. This Bible Study will be via **Zoom** at **6:30pm** on **Tuesdays, December 2, 9, 16, and 23.**

Register in advance for this study at:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/adU6vL56RWWD2_TX8KgRzw

Family Life



Family Faith Adventures

Families of young children are invited to join in monthly gatherings focusing on fellowship, families, and meeting God in Nature.

Our next gathering will be **Monday, November 24 @ 6pm** in OPCC's Fireside Room and Courtyard.

For more info, contact Lisa Engelken at lisa4women@gmail.com



Decorations & Donuts

Saturday, November 29, 9:30am

Help us prepare our church for the Advent and Christmas season! Come enjoy fellowship, fun, and refreshments as we decorate for the holidays.

Music Department



Christmas time is right around the corner, and the music department is looking forward to carrying some Christmas love to those in our OPCC community who are home bound.

All carolers are welcome to join us for hot chocolate and cookies before we fan out and go Christmas caroling! We will meet in the Fireside Room on Sunday, December 14th at 2pm. Join us!

Additionally, we are always looking for folks to share their talents with our congregation. If you have a musical talent (or another talent you'd like to share!), please reach out to Becki to be added to our Sharing of Talents schedule.



To Pray Marvelously Well: the Spiritual Friendship of St. Edith Stein and St. Teresa of Avila

In its World Premiere Weekend, **“To Pray Marvelously Well: The Spiritual Friendship of St. Edith Stein and St. Teresa of Avila”** comes to Kansas City! Written by acclaimed Chicago playwright Jenny Magnus and directed by Virginia Smith, this one-woman show is brought to life by Lisa Wagner-Carollo, who has toured the world in **“Haunted by God: The Life of Dorothy Day.”**

This inspiring new production from Still Point Theatre Collective explores the journeys of two remarkable women in a one-of-a-kind spiritual dialogue across the centuries.

November 22
3:00 pm

O'Shea Conference Room
Marillac Center
4200 S. 4th St.
Leavenworth, KS

November 23
3:00 pm

Precious Blood
Renewal Center
2120 St. Gaspar Way
Liberty, MO

www.StillPointTheatreCollective.org

Hello Overland Park Christian Church Family,


In this time of transition, the board has decided to try a different approach to our annual stewardship campaign. In the past, we would ask for pledges and then try to make that work. This year we are being forthright with our needs by sharing our proposed budget to give us the opportunity to rise to the challenge. This includes investment in ourselves:

- Competitive compensation for our next senior minister.
- Hiring a part-time accountant to help us track our income and costs.
- Salary for a property manager who will continue to help our building serve us and the community.

After worship on Sunday, November 23rd, we will be meeting to vote on this budget. I hope to see you there. In the meantime, please prayerfully consider our 2026 budgetary needs 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 to fill out and return; or email michelle@opccdoc.org your pledge. The board will meet on Monday December 1st to validate these estimates for 2026. We are thankful for your support!

Yours,

Aaron Blackburn, OPCC Board Chairperson

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Overland Park Christian Church 2026 Estimate of Giving Card</h2>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><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></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><h3>Unified Budget Pledge</h3><p style="text-align: center;">\$ _____</p><p style="text-align: center;">weekly bi-weekly monthly quarterly annually <small>(please circle frequency that you will give)</small></p></div> <p style="text-align: center;">___ I/we would like a box of giving envelopes. ___ I/we would like info/assistance with online giving.</p>	
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

75 and MORE for our 75th

PROGRESS UPDATE

Help For Our Food Insecure Neighbors

With the SNAP program, that helps people purchase food, currently in limbo, pressure on all food pantries has increased. We've all seen the news reports that this pressure is expected to continue for some time. OPCC is reaching out to help.

When our own OPCC food pantry closed several months ago, a considerable amount of designated money was left. The OPCC Outreach Commission has been in conversation about best to use these funds for the purpose the givers intended. Jane Fletcher, who directed the pantry from its beginning in 2008, suggested that, in light of this our 75th anniversary year, **we donate \$7,500 to Tiny Pantry Times** to be used for food purchases. The OPCC board approved this action on November 3, and a check was delivered to Jennifer Parker, director of Tiny Pantry Times, on November 4! Thank you to Suzi Boehm, board commission liaison, for helping make this act of stewardship happen.

TINY PANTRY TIMES **Hello to the Congregation of Overland Park Christian Church,**



Take what you need. Share what you can.

“Thank you” seems so insignificant in comparison to the generosity and support all of you have shown Tiny Pantry Times. We came in without a home and you provided us one.

We came in with a need that was outstripping our resources and our space and you provided that too. Your friendship has gone far beyond anything we could have possibly asked for. We feel that we have been welcomed by family. My favorite Bible verse was always, “I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abides in me and I in him shall bear much fruit, but apart from me ye can do nothing.” We work daily to do God’s will even when it seems impossible. With your help we have grown new branches and the fruits of our labor are coming in abundance. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. You have also shown us all your strength and compassion and again we thank you.

Jennifer Parker
Executive Director
Tiny Pantry Times
jennifer@tinypantrytimes.org
(913) 209-3372

want to receive the TPT newsletter? [click here](#)

As OPCC continues to celebrate our 75th anniversary of ministry, we have participated in projects that highlight our values as a church.

Reconciliation Ministry: In September and early October, we were challenged to give in multiples of **75** to support the anti-racism and pro-reconciliation efforts of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As of November 3, donations have reached **\$999.50**, surpassing our 2024 giving!

Micah Ministry Clothing Closet: Responding to an urgent request for men's clothing by Micah Ministry at Independence Boulevard Christian Church, we accepted the challenge to collect at least **75** items of men's underwear from October 12-26. On Thursday, October 30, Richard and Lee filled my car trunk and back seat with your donations of **far more than 75** pairs of socks, boxers, and undershirts, plus other clothing! At IBCC, I was greeted by neighborhood resident and church worker Rodney, who showed me the clothing closet and introduced me to volunteers who sort and organize the donations for distribution on Monday evenings. Rodney spoke from personal experience about the great need of our unhoused and food insecure neighbors in Northeast Kansas City, MO. As cold weather approaches, these needs grow. Thank you for your generosity!

Lois Wimpey
For your Outreach Commission

clothing closet at Micah Ministry



tents and sleeping bags for unhoused people



ACADEMY AWARD WINNER BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE

NO OTHER LAND

A FILM BY BASEL ADRA, YUVAL ABRAHAM, RACHEL SZOR & HAMDAN BALLAL

Join us for a deeper understanding of the current realities in Israel & Palestine, and for an opportunity to connect with collaborative, interfaith responses that honor the dignity of all and seek both justice and peace.

Sunday, December 07, 2025, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Intersect KC, 606 Gladstone Ave, Kansas City, MO 64124

2:00 PM - Doors Open

2:45 PM - Film Starts

2:15 PM - Program Starts

4:15 PM - Dialogue

For half a decade, Basel Adra, a Palestinian activist, films his community of Masafer Yatta being destroyed by Israel's occupation, as he builds an unlikely alliance with an Israeli journalist who wants to join his fight.

No Other Land is an unflinching account of a community's mass expulsion and acts as a creative resistance to Apartheid and a search for a path towards equality and justice.

for more information about this event, please see:

www.intersectkc.org/event-details/films-for-a-cause-no-other-land-2

This event is free, however a \$10 donation is suggested.

Donations will be split between event costs and Kansas-based Palestinian American Medical Association (PAMA) who are "Empowering Hope: Transforming Lives Through Compassionate Giving" and providing proactive relief and resources to those experiencing oppression.

to get tickets, go to: www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/films-for-a-cause-no-other-land



see sign-up sheets on OPCC's front counter for opportunities for you to help with this event or go to <https://forms.office.com/r/D89PLZ63Uj>

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.

Care & Share

The Care & Share group will not meet in November. Our next lunch meeting will be on Wednesday, December 3, at 11:30am at Paulo and Bill, 16501 Midland Dr. in Shawnee, 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.

Empty Nesters

The Empty Nesters are invited to attend the showing of NO OTHER LAND on Sunday, December 7, for our December gathering. See information about this event elsewhere in this newsletter and at church.

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 - *if anyone would like Bo's contact info to visit or send a card, contact the church office*
- ♥ 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
- ♥ 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

Condolences

- ♥ to the family of Bryce Moore on his passing on September 28. www.johnsoncountychapel.com/obituaries/bryce-moore
- ♥ to Jody Cash on the passing of her good friend, Barb Richards, on October 10 www.porterfuneralhome.com/ObituaryDetails.aspx?id=93053&Name=Barbara_Richards

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 Christian 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 Minister.....Terrell McTyer
terrell@opccdoc.org ext. 222

Pastor of Sacred SpacesLisa Engelken
lisa4women@gmail.com

Receptionist.....Jaime 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

Music Director.....Becki Bayless
beckibayless@gmail.com

Building & Grounds.....Richard 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
December 9 for December 11 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