



**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**

**Adult Christian Education Class** — 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

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

Nursery care available for children through 3 years old

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

[www.opccdoc.org](http://www.opccdoc.org) • [@opccdoc](https://twitter.com/opccdoc) (Twitter & Instagram) • [www.facebook.com/opccdoc](https://www.facebook.com/opccdoc)

*October Generosity →  
November Gratitude*

During the month of October we spent time looking at the Biblical practice of Generosity. We explored the ways that generosity is more than giving money in times of plenty, and the ways that we practice generosity each time we share wisdom, our resources, promote justice, and build power among the Body of Christ.

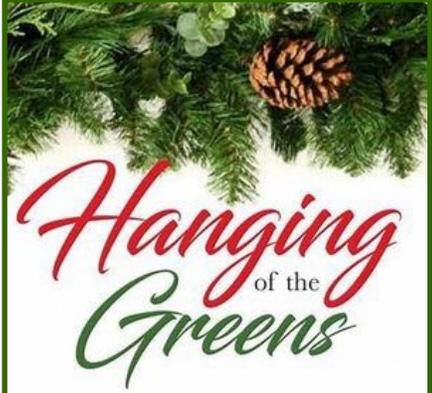
You'll notice that many things in our weekly worship service have the word "response" in them, because just like the physics lesson from Newton – for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction – we are invited to give a reaction to God's goodness, God's word, and God's generosity, each time we are recipients. Each time we hear God's word, we are invited to respond. Each time we experience a blessing, we are invited to respond.

During the month of November we will respond to God's example of generosity, and the generosity of this faith community, by spending some time in thanksgiving. More than just that holiday that lands on the fourth Thursday of November, this season of thanksgiving will involve:

- November 6 – Thanksgiving for the Saints in our lives
- November 13 – An authentic gratitude when there is grief
- November 20 – Gratitude and thanksgiving in all we do

Additionally, you are invited to pick up an "Alphabet of Gratitude" pamphlet, or follow along on social media as we remember to practice gratitude each of these 26 days in November before we begin Advent on November 27.

*Jana*



**Come to church early on Sunday, November 27, to participate in OPCC's traditional Hanging of the Greens!**

We'll begin at 9:00 a.m., adding festive touches to the front entryway, narthex, and sanctuary. There will be cookies and apple cider in the Fireside Room to enjoy as well, before we worship at 10:30 a.m.

Please join us!



It is hard to believe, but we are almost upon the season of Advent when we begin a new church year, and also prepare our hearts and lives for the birth of Christ. In Luke 1:50 that many Christians will read for these occasions of preparation, we find the verse as sung by Mary, "His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation."

The root word of generation is "gen" meaning "origin" or "birth," and so reading this verse invites us to consider, "what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have our ancestors and those who have come before us passed on for us to continue? Who are the spiritual elders in our community who planted the seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seeds are we planting for the future?"

This Advent season we will look at the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. In the midst of narratives, policies, and rhetoric designed to divide us, what does it look like to practice belonging to one another from one generation to the next?

The work of God is always unfolding, and so how are we called to carry it forth?

We look forward to continuing worship with you either in person or online as we prepare to welcome the Christ child into our hearts and homes, beginning the first Sunday of Advent on November 27.

### Prayer During Advent

### Advent Christian Education

OPCC will provide two in-depth and interactive Advent devotionals for all of us to "dig deeper" into "the reason for the season" as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming Christ. Beginning the middle of November both will be available on the entry way counter at OPCC or can be mailed to you. Please contact the church office if you would like them to be mailed.

During the season of Advent, beginning on Sunday, November 27, ALL ARE INVITED to participate in an intergenerational Christian Education opportunity on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Each Sunday will feature an interactive lesson complete with questions for each generation to engage the scripture, and we will do so together, *from generation to generation*. We hope to see you there!

### Nativities from Around the World

Everyone is invited to visit Rev. Margi Colerick's beautiful nativity collection in our Fellowship Hall! Come walk through Bethlehem and explore the true meaning of Christmas!

- Friday December, 9, 9am-4pm — available for group reservations of 12+
- Friday December, 9, 4pm - 7pm — open to the public
- Saturday, December 10, 9am - 5pm — open to the public
- Sunday, December 11, Noon - 5pm — open to the public
- Monday, December 12 — available for group reservations



Refreshments will be available. There will be a scavenger hunt for kids and the young at heart, and a play area where children can experience hands on play with "kid friendly" nativities.

Questions? Email: [margicolerick@yahoo.com](mailto:margicolerick@yahoo.com); call Margi: 816-799-2780; or call OPCC: 913-677-4646

[www.nativitiesfromaroundtheworld.com](http://www.nativitiesfromaroundtheworld.com)

We will need volunteers for set up and tear down — let Sue Elliott know you can help!

### Order Your Poinsettias!

Remember a loved one or honor a special friend at Christmas by purchasing a live poinsettia to help decorate the church for the Advent season. Cost is \$15.00.



Your name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias, in **memory** of: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias, in **honor** of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to OPCC and return with this form to the church office, or put in the collection box on Sunday morning.

Poinsettias may be taken home following the Christmas Eve worship service.

## Food Pantry



### It's almost Turkey Time!

At our November (19th) and December (17th) food pantries, we traditionally share frozen turkeys (10-14 pounds) with each family that comes to our regular

Saturday pantries. We are soliciting donations of \$15 to help offset the cost of each turkey. If you are interested and able, please send your donation to the church office and mark it for the food pantry.

Because of limited freezer space, we are NOT able to accept the actual turkeys. (Instead we buy them at a discounted price from our local grocery store. And, they hold them in their freezer for us until the day of distribution.)

Would you, your family or group like to do more? Then consider purchasing from the following list and place the food donations in the blue barrel in the front reception area.

- ♦ Stuffing mix
- ♦ Canned Yams
- ♦ Potato flakes
- ♦ Canned gravy
- ♦ Canned pumpkin
- ♦ Small bottles of seasonal spices
- ♦ Tea bags
- ♦ Instant Coffee



## MORE<sup>2</sup>

METRO ORGANIZATION FOR  
RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

As part of our Outreach-Mission efforts here at OPCC, we are a partner organization with Metropolitan Organization for Racial and Economic Equity (MORE<sup>2</sup>). Please join to find out how you can be involved:

- **Issues2Action Night** – this is where we decide the work that is important to us, where we discuss how we can work toward racial and economic equity
  - Monday, November 14, 6:00pm – 7:30pm  
Online by way of Zoom
    - Email [marcus@more2.org](mailto:marcus@more2.org) to register
- **MORE<sup>2</sup> Annual Transformation Event: A Night at the Carnival** — TEN members and friends from OPCC celebrated the work of MORE<sup>2</sup> and our partnership with other Kansas City congregations as we work to bend that arc toward justice.



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

The OPCC office and Food Pantry will be closed on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. You may still email staff, and they will respond the following week.

## Music Department Update

Did you catch Sue Elliott's invitation to discipleship last Sunday? She spoke of the benefits of getting involved with groups at church. Naturally, chancel choir and bell choir were used as examples along with other options. In the event you need more motivation, here are some additional benefits of singing in choir from the Sing Adaptive website, with each benefit supported with a research study:

<https://blog.singadaptive.com/happy-singing-feeling-backed-science/>

- Experience a "singer's high"
- Increased life satisfaction and self-esteem
- Less stress
- Help with issues (i.e., anxiety)
- Allows for "fast cohesion between unfamiliar individuals"
- Engenders happiness and raised spirits
- Less Isolation
- Less infection and improved immunity
- Mellow moods by raising oxytocin and endorphin levels

With that in mind, please know that you are always welcome to join us in the bell room or choir room on Wednesday evenings.

Mary Beth Boucher, Director of Music  
[marybeth@opccdoc.org](mailto:marybeth@opccdoc.org) or 913-677-4646, ext. 229

## Children's Ministries

Greetings friends,

You may be aware that "Growing in God's Love" children's Christian education has transitioned to meeting on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour. We are currently in need of some volunteers to help teach this class. If you've ever found yourself wanting to teach pre-K through 5th grade kids, now is your golden opportunity! All materials and curriculum are provided in advance. We do ask that volunteers submit a background check application. The safety of our children is priority one. I hope that some of you feel called to join us in the faith formation and community building that is Children's education.

Please contact Rev. Chuck if you have any questions or you'd like to volunteer!

[chuck@opccdoc.org](mailto:chuck@opccdoc.org) or 913-677-4646, ext. 228

## Empty Nesters

**Saturday, November 12**, join us for a field trip to Historic Lecompton Territorial Capital.

See [www.lecomptonkansas.com](http://www.lecomptonkansas.com)  
[www.facebook.com/HistoricLecompton](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricLecompton)

To carpool, meet at OPCC at 8:45 a.m.

If driving direct, arrive in Lecompton Territorial Hall at 10:00 a.m. Lecompton, KS is located between Lawrence and Topeka. Signs in town will direct you to the Territorial Hall. This is about an hour west of OPCC. "Historic Lecompton was the Civil War birthplace - Where Slavery Began to Die."

We will enjoy a tour of the Territorial Capital Museum, a tour of the largest indoor Christmas tree display in the Midwest, tour Constitutional Hall, shop in the unique gift shops and eat at Aunt Netter's Cafe. Cost is \$10.00.

Reservations needed — call or email Peggy Moore if you will be attending and if you want to carpool.

**Saturday, December 3**, gather for Soup and Salad and Surprises! Bring a Soup or Salad and meet at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room at OPCC. RSVP to Peggy Moore by phone or email to let her know if you will be bringing a soup or salad.

## Middlers Sunday Morning Christian Education Class

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

The Middlers Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study class is open to all who are wanting to study scripture and deepen their faith. Whether you are a current participant or a new-to-class person wanting to make new friends and share your Christian journey, you are welcome.

We are currently studying a Bible Series called "Feasting on the Word" and hope that you will join us in the northwest section of Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:00am - 10:10am.

Contact Peggy Moore at [wpmoore63@gmail.com](mailto:wpmoore63@gmail.com) or 913-592-0179 for more information.

## Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group meets on the first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room for coffee, study, and fellowship. Our current study book is "Mere Christianity." All men are invited.

Contact: Emerson Hartzler, 913-422-1378

## Girlfriends

The Girlfriends Bible Study meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 in the Fireside Room.

Our study is from the book of Philippians. We will be reading and discussing Tom Are, Jr.'s book "Joy: Even on your Worst Days". (Contact Peggy to get your book.)

All women are invited — and to bring a friend!

For more information, contact Peggy Moore at [wpmoore63@gmail.com](mailto:wpmoore63@gmail.com) or 913-592-0179.

## Care & Share

Please join us for lunch, laughter, good food, fellowship, and support. Below are the last two dates for 2022 for these gatherings

Even if you have not been part of this group before, you are cordially invited to join us.

We meet at the designated restaurants on the following dates at 11:30 a.m.

Please let Peggy Moore know at least 3 days ahead of the luncheon by phone or email if you plan to attend. [wpmoore63@gmail.com](mailto:wpmoore63@gmail.com) or 913-592-0179. Don't miss out on the fun!

- \* Wednesday, November 9 – Snooze Eatery, 7012 W. 135th, OP, KS (NE corner 135th & Metcalf)
- \* Wednesday, December 7 – Paulo and Bills, 16501 Midland Dr., Shawnee, KS

## Social Justice Group

Our Social Justice Ministry invites you to the following events. These opportunities give us a chance to help in moving the dial toward justice in our church, in our neighborhood, and in our world.

- √ Thursday, November 17, 7:00 - 8:30p.m., OPCC Fireside Room — "Medical Apartheid: Racial Disparities in Health Care." This presentation is of a video presented by Dr. Harriet Washington, author of Medical Apartheid. Dr. Washington is a Professor of Bioethics at Columbia University. Her presentation addresses how American history contributes to current disparities in health care. Q and A to follow facilitated by Dr. Wayne Moore.
- √ Thursday, December 15, 7:00 - 8:30p.m., OPCC Fireside Room — A discussion on Medicaid Expansion in Kansas led by representatives of MORE<sup>2</sup>.

Contact Peggy Moore for more information

## Prayer List

### Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Mary Aelmore
- ♥ Pat Brennan (Maurica Campbell's friend)
- ♥ Carl Brockman
- ♥ Maurica Campbell
- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Julie Dean
- ♥ Gary Eilert (Jan & Ed Eilert's son)
- ♥ Chuck Elliott
- ♥ Ruth Fletcher
- ♥ David Garner (son of Floyd & Marcille Garner, friend of Jody Cash)
- ♥ Gordon Harkness
- ♥ Perri Kolars
- ♥ Audrey Lavelly
- ♥ Calvin McBride
- ♥ Bryce Moore
- ♥ Roy Nickum
- ♥ Pat Owsley
- ♥ Rhonda Phelps (Roger Claar's sister)
- ♥ Randy Phillips (Laura Phillips' father)
- ♥ Teresa Phillips
- ♥ Bette Scafe
- ♥ Earl Sheldon
- ♥ Larry Stouse
- ♥ Mike Williams (Coleen Thigpen's friend)
- ♥ Laina Willoughby (Pat Owsley's granddaughter)
- ♥ Jim Withers

### Continued Prayers

- ♥ Marian Bilyea
- ♥ Barbara Cash (Jody Cash's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Nancy Coffman
- ♥ Lawana Degraffenreid
- ♥ Evelyn Eastwood
- ♥ Laurel Elliott
- ♥ Pat Gray
- ♥ Donna & Marshall Howard
- ♥ Betty King
- ♥ Rod McBride (Mary McBride's son)
- ♥ Florene Miele
- ♥ Christina, Jeff, Scott, & Jenny Packard (Sharon & Bob Shankel's daughter & family)
- ♥ Ann Sandler
- ♥ JoLynn Sloan
- ♥ Michelle Swanson (Sharon McBride's daughter-in-law)
- ♥ Sandy Teeple
- ♥ Sally Withers

### Military Prayer List

- ♣ PV2 Rachael Dawson (Fran Dawson's granddaughter), Ft. Campbell, KY
- ♣ Cameron McDonough (Cathy Wilson's son)

## Condolences

- ♥ to the family of Lorraine Hartnett on her passing on October 26. A graveside memorial service is being planned for next Spring.
- ♥ to the family of Chuck Reese on his passing on November 2. <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/kansascity/name/charles-reese-obituary?id=37002606>

## Kansas City Disciples Regional Assembly

Thank you so much to *everyone* who helped host the Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (DOC) in Greater Kansas City at OPCC on October 14 & 15. There are so many of you to name, we do not want to miss anyone. However you helped, know that we simply could not do this without you, and we are immensely grateful for helping this inspiring event to happen! [Click here to see more highlights.](#)



# Property Commission

October has brought some challenges to the Property Commission:

1. Putting together a proposed 2023 budget.
2. Sewer line backup within the Monarch School area. Dick Ray came out and opened the line... still waiting for bill.
3. Temperature Maintenance was out to determine the reason for the boiler to stop working during the last week of the month. They replaced a compactor to the boiler motor...still waiting for the bill.
4. Huttinger Construction is reviewing the flat roofs. We currently have some small leaks in roof over the Northeast quadrants of the Fellowship Hall. Will have more on this after receiving their report which will tell us the cost for fixing current issue and condition of the other three areas of flat roofing.
5. Landscaping has started the garden fall clean up. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Submitted by,  
Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair



## Annual Budget Congregational Meeting and Vote

There will be a Congregational Meeting held following worship on Sunday, November 20, 2022, for OPCC members to vote on OPCC's budget for 2023.

If you have any questions about the church budget or other operations, contact any member of the OPCC board of directors.

### Your OPCC Staff

**913-677-4646**

[info@opccdoc.org](mailto:info@opccdoc.org)

(general church e-mail address)

Senior Pastor .....Laura Ann Phillips  
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Associate Pastor .....Chuck Pickrel  
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Receptionist .....Jaime Cranford  
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Congregational Care .....Sharon McBride  
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Accompanist .....Julie Dean  
[missjupes@gmail.com](mailto:missjupes@gmail.com)

Building & Grounds .....Lee Sprinkle  
[lee@opccdoc.org](mailto:lee@opccdoc.org) ext. 237

Nursery Director .....Kourtney Leibman

### Your 2022-2023 OPCC Board of Directors

David Collins.....Chair  
Phill Sigmon ..... Vice Chair  
Teresa Phillips..... Secretary  
Richard Owens ..... Treasurer  
Alan Felton ..... Commission Liaison  
Jody Cash ..... Leadership Development

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

**Copy deadline for next issue is December 6 for December 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](mailto:michelle@opccdoc.org)