



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

Sanctuary Worship — 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

“The Broader Way” Worship — 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room

(One Combined Worship on 5th Sundays — 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary)

Nursery care available for children through 3 years old beginning at 9:00 a.m.

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

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



**a worship series about
getting animated
and embracing change**

I once saw a T-shirt that said “Change is good: you go first!” and I couldn’t help but think about how true it is. Deep down, we know that life is impossible without change – change is inevitable, but goodness, the evolutionary resistance to change can be difficult! While our ancestors perhaps had to be suspicious in order to survive, our resistance to change can also cause undue frustration and fear. In the life of church, it can sometimes keep our communities stuck in a way that prevents us from our joy and passion for ministry. Is it possible, especially as people of faith, to embrace change, and let it “animate us” toward new possibilities?

There is no assumption that we are ever “ready” for change, and so it is good to remind ourselves that we are made and equipped by a Creator that knew we would need to be partners and agents of change throughout history. Knowing that we will be asked to change at many points in our individual and communities lives, we must spend time discerning and deepening our understanding this call. I hope you will join us throughout the month of November as we look at how God has equipped us to handle change in so many ways!

- November 3 | **We Were Made for This** | Jeremiah 18:1-6
- November 10 | **Inside Out** | Mark 1:1-15
- November 17 | **Everything Changes** | John 12:20-26
- November 24 | **Be En-Couraged** | Matthew 14:22-31a

Jana

A Message from Rev. Laura

The story of Jesus begins and ends with the ways that God's Word interacts with empires of this world (with many interactions in-between).

Threatened by the rumors of another king being born, King Herod demands, in the 2nd chapter of Matthew, that all baby boys (some translations say all children!) under 2 years of age living in-and-around Bethlehem to be killed. Not knowing where this new kingdom was from, the magi honored Jesus as a king, as one who would reign over the lives and well-being of his people; yet another ruler over the same people living under Herod was a threat to Herod's leadership.

Similarly, in the 18th chapter of the Gospel of John, just hours before his crucifixion, Jesus reminds Pilate that his kingdom does not originate from this world, "my kingdom isn't from here." In the same interaction Jesus also answers Pilate's question about who a king is, and what a king does, saying "you say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth."

We might not ask this in that same exact phrase as Pilate, but when we are on the receiving end of so many different messages every single day, from a variety of sources, it requires us to continually also turn to God-in-Christ as we look for truth, and listen to the voice of the one who came to testify to it. People of God have been seeking divine wisdom for millennia, especially in light of the ways that God's Word interacts with empires of this world, and this week is no different.

For centuries, Christians have had no say in who rules them, and many Christians around the world still have little say in who runs the governments in which they live. As we do live in a country where most of us have a voice in some way shape or form, whether or not we used our voice, or whether or not our voice was affirmed in the outcomes this week, our allegiance and obligations remain the same.

Jesus came to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the prisoners, recovery of sight to the blind, and to liberate the oppressed. No matter who sits in leadership at any level of government, local, state, or nationally, our obligation and allegiance to Christ remains the same; to resist powers that subjugate and dehumanize, and to lift up those on the margins as beloved, worthy, children of God.

The Holy Spirit continues to provide us with the connection to one another that we need to maintain our task, and to keep on remembering the hope of God-in-Christ. I was committed to this before election day, while I was in the voting booth, and now, and I trust you are too. Like a small purple flower peeking through the crack of concrete, the Holy Spirit in all her power, will always persist, each and every time the Word of God interacts with this world.

"Hope for the Holidays" Worship Sunday, November 24, 5:00 p.m.

Each and every year we want to accommodate the full range of emotions that we might feel in these closing months of the calendar. As we approach the last few weeks of 2024, some of us will come to church anticipating a busy season full of events and joy, seeking a moment of calm before the chaos. Some of us will gather at church, taking a deep breath before we get out of the car, because we feel an ache of loneliness and sorrow. Whether you come to church longing with anticipation for a season in which everyone seems a little more loving, or dreading the weeks that are to come, know that you are welcome, and there is a place for you here.

To honor the fullness of this holiday season, and the wideness of our community we will gather for a special worship service at 5:00pm on Sunday, November 24th, in the Fireside Room, to remember that no matter what, there is hope for each of these holidays coming up. We will gather together, though different, as one people before God, focused on where, and who we are this day. All are welcome on Sunday, November 24th, at 5:00pm in the Fireside Room for a "Hope for the Holidays" worship service.



The OPCC offices will be closed on Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. You may still email staff, and they will respond the following week.

THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING



SUPPORTING HIGHER EDUCATION



Impacting the Church and World by Bringing Students and Resources Together

The leaves are falling, the weather is finally cooling, and high school seniors are making decisions about their futures. Some of them will choose smaller liberal arts schools for their college experience. Among these are the 15 colleges and universities related to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Most of them are so small you may not have heard of them. They are mighty and influential beyond their size, providing places where open inquiry is encouraged; and students can develop spiritually as well as socially and intellectually.

Our gifts to the Thanksgiving offering help to continue the long Disciples tradition of support for higher education. With our encouragement, many of these students will go on to become leaders in their professions, their communities and their churches.

This offering also supports the 7 seminaries and divinity houses that train the pastors, chaplains, and professors who provide professional leadership for progressive Christian churches.

Think of the Thanksgiving offering as an insurance policy for the future health of the church. Thanks for giving in November!

OPCC Annual Congregational Meeting & Budget Vote

An OPCC Congregational Meeting will be held following 9:30 Sanctuary Worship on Sunday, November 24, 2024, for the purpose of voting on OPCC's 2025 budget.

Copies of the proposed budget will be available for review before the vote.

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



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 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.

Church Directory

Need an updated OPCC address directory?
Contact Michelle in the church office to
request a printed copy, or to have a
.pdf copy emailed to you.

OPCC Prayer Chain Group

"What a friend we have in Jesus," the old favorite hymn reminds us. "Take it to the Lord in prayer."

The OPCC Prayer Chain is an email group that exists for just that reason: to pray for the joys and concerns shared with us. Only information that you authorize will be shared.

There are several ways to request prayer:

- Write your request on the tear-off attendance slip included in your Sunday worship bulletin, and place it in the glass-paneled box in the hallway on your way out of worship.
- Call or email the church office and ask to have your prayer needs put on the chain.
- Go to www.opccdoc.org, the church Website, and click the prayer request button at the bottom of the home page.
- Contact Lois Wimpey with your request.

Do you want to be added to the prayer chain to pray for others? Let Lois or Jody Cash know.

Middlers Sunday Morning Christian Education Class

**Sundays, 11:00 a.m. – Noon
NW Section Fellowship Hall**

The Middlers' Adult Bible Study meets Sundays at 11am 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.

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.

* **11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 13** – HomeGrown, 11705 Roe Ave, Suite A, Leawood, KS

* **December event to be determined**

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.

Girlfriends

Our Girlfriends group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We are currently studying "The Difficult Words of Jesus" by Amy Jill Levine. This study includes a short video followed by a relevant discussion period and a time of prayer. Whether you are an "already in" Girlfriend, or a new Girlfriend, you are welcome to join us! 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 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room for coffee, study, and fellowship. The Men's group is currently reviewing "The Chosen" video series.

Contact: Emerson Hartzler, 913-422-1378

Empty Nesters

We are sorry, but the November Empty Nesters Soup Supper at OPCC has been cancelled. Watch your email and other communications from the church for information about the next Empty Nester event to be scheduled.

75th Anniversary of Overland Park Christian Church

The 75th Anniversary of our founding as Overland Park Christian Church is coming up in July 2025, and we are excited to celebrate together – especially as our 70th anniversary plans were thwarted by a small thing called "COVID." We are already brainstorming some ideas about how we can celebrate SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS of mission and ministry in Overland Park, and would love your in-put. If you are interested in participating in the planning of our 75th anniversary celebrations, please contact Rev. Laura and let her know!



OPCC Missional Planning

After several gatherings (of church members, OPCC attendees, elders, deacons, and more), our OPCC leadership chose to focus on these **FOUR PRIORITIES** that were identified by those gathered at the 2023 meetings. These priorities have remained at the heart of our ministries this year, as we seek to share God's love with our community, and this little corner of God's world.

- Explore worship opportunities that speak to a broader audience
- Explore the relationship with Broadway Church (DOC)
- Grow our community (both individual growth, and growing our community of faith through invitation and opportunities)
- Maintain a Social Justice focus that moves from education to ACTION!

As we continue to focus on these 4 priorities, your OPCC elders met on Saturday, November 2nd to discern how we can best work through them, and continue to live out who we are as OPCC. Among much fruitful discussion, we shared thoughts about the 75th Anniversary of OPCC (coming this July) as well as ideas about our worship offerings, including Broader Way worship. While our elders do represent a good portion of the community, we know that many of you may have ideas as well.

If you have ideas you'd like to share about the ways we can continue to live into these four priorities, please don't hesitate to get in touch with one of your OPCC elders, or with Rev. Laura as we continue to follow God's vision for our church!

What Does the Food Pantry Need This Month?



November - Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner ingredients, (we will purchase the turkeys)

Please place your donations in the blue barrel by the Receptionist's Desk. Thank you!



It's almost Turkey Time!

At our November and December food pantries, we traditionally share frozen turkeys 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 | ◆ Seasonal Spices |
| ◆ Tea bags | ◆ Instant Coffee |

Volunteer Needs — Still Needed!

The life of the church takes support from each and every one of us! 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 and sign-up for assisting OPCC in making this a welcoming, inviting, place! You can also contact our receptionist office 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*, contact Rev. Laura and she will guide you through how to do this.

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.

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 bathroom? As we continue to welcome new friends into the life and worship of OPCC we need volunteers to serve as greeters on Sundays from 9–9:30am and 10:30–11am to help folks into the building, *especially* on the West or North sides of the building. Thank you for helping us to welcome ALL to OPCC on Sunday mornings.

Property Commission

The past month has been very busy for Property...

1. The 200 new folding chairs for the Fellowship Hall have arrived, along with 3 chair racks to store the chairs on. A big THANK YOU goes out to those who donated to a special fund to purchase the chairs, as well as to Adam Parker (Tiny Pantry Times), Dave Hobbs, Roger Claar, Jim Withers, Steve Glasscock, Mike McLain, Jake Reiter, and Lee Sprinkle for picking up the chairs, unpacking, and carrying them all from parking lot into the hall.
2. Temperature Maintenance was out several times to work on our HVAC system:
 - a. replaced 2 contactors in North chiller
 - b. replaced bearing in North condenser fan
 - c. replaced the compressor in Suite 6, rewired compressor wiring, installed filter dryer
 - d. replaced burnt contactor in Suite 6 air unit
 - e. did the quarterly inspection and servicing of all HVAC units and did the change over to heat
3. The Lawn & Sprinkler Guys winterized the sprinkler system
4. Dave Hobbs and Lee filled Lee's pickup with the following items for Hazardous Waste Recycling:
 - a. 142 fluorescent 4' tubes
 - b. 13 5-gallon paint buckets
 - c. 45 1-gallon latex paint cans
 - d. 9 1-quart latex paint cans
 - e. 87 compact fluorescent light bulbs

Submitted by,
Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Bill Anthony
- ♥ Beverly Barrett
- ♥ Shelli Brown (Sharon McBride's niece)
- ♥ Jolynn Carlton (Pat Warner's daughter)
- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Chuck Elliott
- ♥ Cassy & Bob Evans
- ♥ Pamela Felton
- ♥ Nicole Finley (Sally Withers' niece)
- ♥ Ruth Fletcher
- ♥ Pat Gilling
- ♥ Gordon Harkness
- ♥ Collette Jones (Perri Kolars' sister)
- ♥ Joan Kawa (Theresa Krebs' mother)
- ♥ Laura Krebs (Dennis Krebs' mother)
- ♥ Sue Mallery and family (Cassy Evans' sister)
- ♥ Calvin & Sharon McBride
- ♥ Shirley McGee
- ♥ Bryce Moore
- ♥ Roy Nickum
- ♥ Julie Norman (Lisa Engelken's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Pat Owsley
- ♥ Cheryl Peters & Donna Reiss
- ♥ Pat Phillips (Laura Phillips' mother)
- ♥ Jimmy Reynolds
- ♥ Bette Scafe
- ♥ Mike Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Sharon Shankel
- ♥ Tony Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Barbara & Earl Sheldon
- ♥ Larry & Bernice Stouse
- ♥ Van Swanson (Sharon McBride's brother-in-law)
- ♥ Chuck Warner
- ♥ Mike Williams (Coleen Thigpen's friend)
- ♥ Sally & Jim Withers

Your OPCC Staff

913-677-4646

info@opccdoc.org

(general church e-mail address)

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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
December 3 for December 5 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