



## 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  
“Growing In God’s Love” Children’s Sunday School — 9:30 a.m. in Room 32  
Traditional/Blended 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 (Twitter & Instagram) • [www.facebook.com/opccdoc](https://www.facebook.com/opccdoc)

## Turning the World Upside Down

The late writer Madeleine L’Engle wrote a book about the Christian season of Lent called *The Irrational Season*, in which she attempted to make sense of a church year that had fallen on hard times. Given the context in which we now live, she might well have written a book with this suggested title: *The Irrational Teaching: Reflections on the Beatitudes*. Whenever we hear the Beatitudes, how often are we struck with their poetic beauty, yet at the same time, overwhelmed by their perceived impracticality for the world in which we live? Surely, we admire the instruction, but how often do we fear the implications of putting the words into practice?

Living in a time when the “blessings” given seem to be only to those who succeed, often at the expense of others, to be “poor in spirit,” peaceful, merciful, and meek will often get you nowhere in a culture grounded in competition and fear. As Charles James Cook, professor at the Seminary of the Southwest says, perhaps this is why most references to the Beatitudes imply that in giving this instruction, Jesus was literally turning the values of the world upside down.

During the remaining four weeks in October, you are invited to join Sunday morning worship as we take a “deep dive,” into these nine blessings and what they mean for our lives. Rev. Emily Stirewalt will lead us in worship on Sunday, October 8, and then Rev. Laura will return to spend the remaining Sundays in October on this important part of the gospel.

*Laura*

### The Beatitudes ~ Matt. 5:3-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst  
for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will receive mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are those who are persecuted  
for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when people revile you and  
persecute you and utter all kinds of evil  
against you falsely on my account.  
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is  
great in heaven, for in the same way they  
persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## What's Your Story?

We just concluded seven weeks of focusing on the twelve (thirteen) disciples that follow Jesus, and the stories of how they each came to know him, and share his story after his death. Thousands of years later, as those who follow Christ, each of us also have a story to tell. Our congregation has a story to tell, and so, too, do each of us as individuals have a story to tell, about how we see God working in our lives. Sometimes these stories are dramatic – like Saul's conversion to Paul on his way to Damascus – while others are filled with everyday experiences of Divine presence, so robust that we can't help but want to give thanks to God.

As OPCC has committed to prioritize the growth of our community, both as individuals and as a community, we invite you to tell your story, because each of these narratives contribute to the significance of who we are as Overland Park Christian. What better way to help our community grow together, than to tell one another about how we see God working in our lives?

Sometimes it can be intimidating to share our stories of those of God's work in our lives, perhaps because we feel like we don't know the right words, or the exact ways to describe the experience. Yet, none of us need to have all the answers in order to connect with one another. We can each share what we know best, that being your own story, and in so doing participate in inviting others to know the love of God-in-Christ in new ways each day.

You will notice over the next several weeks that we have members and friends of OPCC to share their story of God's love in the world, during the Invitation to Discipleship, during Sunday worship. Some of these stories might surprise you, some will feel familiar. Some might not be anything like your own relationship with God, while others will inspire you to deeper relationship with God-in-Christ.

As you hear these testimonies of how God is at work in the world, you, too, are invited to write a paragraph telling a story of God at work in your life. If you would be willing to share your story during a worship service, or here in the OPCC Scene, we'd also love to keep our congregation growing, by hearing how God is working in one another's lives. If you're willing to share your story during worship you can reach out to Rev. Laura, or if you are willing to share your story in our OPCC Scene, then you can reach out to Michelle Reiter for next month's OPCC Scene.

Thank you for being part of this story of God, here at Overland Park Christian Church, and sharing your story with us.

## 2023 Missional Planning

We continue to discern the best ways to "do ministry" as we live out our core values of Overland Park Christian Church: authentically living in hopeful expectation, serving with heart, intentionally valuing and accepting everyone, lovingly embracing social, spiritual, and cultural diversity, and focusing on that which unites us. Through YOUR participation and voice, the OPCC elders helped discern back in July the following four priorities that will carry OPCC through the end of 2024.

- Exploring the relationship and partnership with Broadway Church
- Exploring worship opportunities that speak to a broader audience
- Growth of our community, both individual growth, and growing our community of faith through invitation and opportunities
- Maintaining a Social Justice focus that moves from education to ACTION!

Our elders met again on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, and our Board on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, keeping in mind these four priorities, and discerning what activities, gatherings, worship experiences, prayers, and financial needs we have in order to live into these priorities.

Board members Alan Felton and Teresa Phillips will continue to represent OPCC leadership as we explore the relationship and partnership with Broadway Church, but have no fear, YOUR VOICE will be included. The role of these leaders is to facilitate opportunities for both churches to meet and explore this relationship, not just act as singular voices.

We continue to look forward in hope to all the ways God is calling us to share the love of Christ in the world, and thank you for your voice in our community!

## Music Department Update

We are actively seeking sopranos and altos for our Chalice Chancel Choir and would love for any new people in our ensemble. Of course, even if you are a tenor or bass singer, we would still happily accept you!

In addition, we need a substitute bell player, so if you are able or know someone who could fill in at the last minute, please let our Director of Music, Mary Beth Boucher, know by email or phone.

- 6:00-6:45pm: RBC rehearsal in the Bell Room
- 6:45-7:15pm: Song Leaders rehearsal;  
RBC & CCC social gathering time
- 7:15-8:15pm: CCC rehearsal in the Choir Room

## Middlers Sunday Morning Christian Education Class

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

The Middlers' Adult Bible Study will resume our regular Sunday morning class on September 10 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 by phone or email for more information.

## Girlfriends

Our Girlfriends Bible Study has resumed meeting on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We are studying the book "Christian Beliefs" by Wayne A. Grudem. (Let Peggy know if you need a copy of the book.)

Whether you are an "already in" Girlfriend, or a new Girlfriend, you are welcome to join us!

For more information, contact Peggy Moore. Call the church office for Peggy's contact info.

## 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. Our current study book is "Joy." Contact: Emerson Hartzler, 913-422-1378

## Empty Nesters

Join the Empty Nester gathering on **Saturday, October 21, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fireside Room for an October Fest. We will be serving brats and German potato salad. Bring side dishes or a dessert that has an international flair. (Think Mexican, Chinese, Italian, or American.)

Our program will be offered by Judy and Roy Nickum who will share photos of their trip to Australia and New Zealand, followed by some international trivia. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend. Prizes for the Trivia King or Queen!

RSVP to Peggy Moore by phone or email by October 16.

## Care & Share

All are invited to join for lunch, laughter, good food, fellowship, and support on the following dates with our Care And Share Support Group. We meet at the designated restaurants on the at 11:30 a.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Please let Peggy Moore know at least 5 days ahead of the luncheon by phone or email if you plan to attend. Don't miss out on the fun! Even if you have not been part of this group before, you are cordially invited to join us, and feel free to bring a friend or guest.

\* Thursday, October 26, 11:30 a.m. — Zarda BBQ, 11931 W 87th St Pkwy in Lenexa. We will be meeting in the side room. RSVP to Peggy Moore by October 23 by email or phone.

\* Thursday, November 16, 11:30am — McLains Market - 5833 Nieman Road, Shawnee. We will be meeting in the Blue Room. When you order, please tell them you are with the group in the Blue Room. RSVP to Peggy Moore by November 13.



## KC DISCIPLES BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY TEAM'S

# RACIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

PUTTING FAITH INTO ACTION.

Discover ways local organizations are leveraging change toward racial justice.

Choose 2 of 8 workshops led by local organizers, connecting you to ways to be part of the movement!



Featuring Keynote Speaker  
Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker

**Saturday, November 4th, 1PM-6PM**  
**Independence Boulevard Christian Church**  
606 Gladstone Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64124

register at the link below:

[Racial Justice Summit 2023 — Independence Boulevard Christian Church \(ibcckc.org\)](https://ibcckc.org)

## **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 in one of the following events 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 in Kansas.
  - Monday, October 9, 6:00pm – 7:30pm  
In-Person at OPCC Fireside Room, or online by way of Zoom ([Click Here to Access the Meeting](#))
- **MORE<sup>2</sup> Annual Transformation Event:**  
**It's a Revival!** – This annual event to celebrate the success of MORE<sup>2</sup> over the last year is going to be pretty great! Gathering at Municipal Auditorium in downtown KC at "The Lex," we are excited to honor the good work of our partner in ministry, MORE<sup>2</sup>
  - Thursday, November 2, 6:00pm – 9:00pm
  - OPCC has a 10-person table available for all who would like to attend. Please contact the church office if you would like to join this table of ten!
    - ADDITIONAL In-person, individual tickets can be purchased for \$85, or \$80 when purchasing 10 or more.



## **It's almost Turkey Time!**

At our November and December 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



## Prayer List

### Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Bill Anthony
- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Chuck Elliott
- ♥ Cassy & Bob Evans
- ♥ Nicole Finley (Sally Withers' niece)
- ♥ Ruth Fletcher
- ♥ Pat Gilling
- ♥ Gordon Harkness
- ♥ Perri Kolars
- ♥ Audrey Lavelly
- ♥ Sue Mallery and family (Cassy Evans' sister)
- ♥ Eileen McIntyre
- ♥ Bryce Moore
- ♥ Roy Nickum
- ♥ Julie Norman (Lisa Engelken's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Pat Owsley
- ♥ Jimmy Reynolds
- ♥ Bette Scafe
- ♥ Mike Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Tony Shankel (Sharon & Bob Shankel's son)
- ♥ Barbara Sheldon
- ♥ Earl Sheldon
- ♥ Dylan Smith (Sally & Jim Withers' nephew)
- ♥ Amanda Sprinkle (Lee & Jan Sprinkle's granddaughter)
- ♥ Mary Sprinkle (Lee Sprinkle's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Larry Stouse
- ♥ Chuck Warner
- ♥ Mike Williams (Coleen Thigpen's friend)
- ♥ Jim Withers

### Continued Prayers

- ♥ Marian Bilyea
- ♥ Maurica Campbell
- ♥ Lawana Degraffenreid
- ♥ Laurel Elliott
- ♥ David Garner (son of Floyd & Marcille Garner, friend of Jody Cash)
- ♥ Pat Gray
- ♥ Donna & Marshall Howard
- ♥ Betty King
- ♥ Calvin McBride
- ♥ Christina, Jeff, Scott, & Jenny Packard (Sharon & Bob Shankel's daughter & family)
- ♥ Randy Phillips (Laura Phillips' father)
- ♥ Ann Sandler
- ♥ JoLynn Sloan
- ♥ 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 Bette Scafe on the death of her daughter, Terry Jacobs, on September 14.  
<https://www.johnsoncountychapel.com/obituaries/teresa-jacobs>

## OPCC Prayer Chain

Would you like to have prayer support for yourself or a loved one? Members of the OPCC Prayer Chain are ready to pray for you. To contact the Prayer Chain, simply call or email the church office and give your message to Cody, our church receptionist. You can also write your request on the tear off attendance registration portion of the Sunday worship bulletin. (Please indicate whether this request can be shared, or should be kept confidential to staff only.)

You are also invited to join the Prayer Chain by contacting Cody with your email address or phone number. Intercessory prayer is a powerful way to support our church family.

In Christ,  
Your OPCC Elders Circle

## All Saints Sunday

In commemoration of All Saints Day, we will remember loved ones we've lost in the last year in a special way in worship on Sunday, November 5th at 10:30 a.m. All Saints Sunday is a service of memory and hope that we look forward to every year, as we honor the saints of this faith community who joined the church triumphant during the last year. We hope that you will make a plan to join us in worship on this special Sunday.

If you have loved ones who have passed away that we want to remember on this day, please be in touch with Michelle Reiter in the church office to coordinate a photo, and to make sure that we have the correct information.

To submit items or to add persons to prayer lists in the Scene newsletter, please forward information to Michelle Reiter at [michelle@opccdoc.org](mailto:michelle@opccdoc.org) or 913-677-4646, x223.

# Property Commission

September proved to be a very busy month for Property. Let's first look at many bills that came in September for work done in August but not received before the September Scene was sent out.

## 1. Temperature Maintenance:

- A. Main chiller high pressure control needed repair and reset
- B. Built a new drip pan for the Fellowship Hall air handler
- C. Cleared the drain line to air handler for the kitchen
- D. Quarterly maintenance of all HVAC equipment
- E. Repairs for leased spaces:
  - a. Classroom chiller needed resetting for tripped phase protector
  - b. North classroom air handler needed a new phase protector with auto reset
  - c. South classrooms air handler needed a new blower motor and capacitor

## September activities:

- 1. Broadway Church moved into OPCC
- 2. Lee cleaned out behind the fridge and stove in kitchenette so the new appliances from Broadway could replace them
- 3. Lee replaced several fluorescent light bulbs throughout the building
- 4. Lee repaired a toilet in the school area
- 5. Richard Owens painted one wall in both the Bell and Choir rooms. He is currently sanding and painting the three Northeast exterior doors.
- 6. Property has contacted Edelman-Lyon to replace 4 transmitters and 2 receivers in the ADA doors at the front entrance
- 7. Landscaping has been cleaning out the gardens and set up a Fall display in the Trinity Garden.

Submitted by

Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

### Your OPCC Staff

913-677-4646

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

(general church e-mail address)

Senior Pastor .....Laura Ann Phillips  
[laura@opccdoc.org](mailto:laura@opccdoc.org) ext. 222

Associate Pastor .....Chuck Pickrel  
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Pastor of Sacred Spaces .....Lisa Engelken  
[lengelken@dhm.disciples.org](mailto:lengelken@dhm.disciples.org)

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[marybeth@opccdoc.org](mailto:marybeth@opccdoc.org) ext. 229

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 2023-2024 OPCC Board of Directors

Roger Claar ..... Chair

Katherine Ann Haggard ..... 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 November 7 for November 9 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)