

The OPCC Scene



OVERLAND PARK
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ) 

7600 West 75th Street

Overland Park, KS 66204 • 913.677.4646

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship — 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Christian Education for Children, Youth, and Adults — 9:15 a.m.

Nursery care available between 8:20 a.m. and noon

A Star in the Eastern Sky

**“Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews?
We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth.
We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.”**

— Matthew 2.2 (The Message)

A star in the eastern sky; that was all the Magi had to go on when they began their arduous journey. A star in the eastern sky; a glow on the horizon, a vague but growing sense that something auspicious was in the offing, though it was still far off. Had they been familiar with Isaiah, they might have been reminded of the promise from God he was known for back in the day, “I am about to do something brand-new. It’s bursting out! Don’t you see it?”

A star in the eastern sky; it represented their guide, their growing hope, and their courage. Following the star, they eventually made their way to Bethlehem and the holy crèche in which they found, at long last, the Christ child. And it all began with a star in the eastern sky.

We will soon start our Advent journey, and it will be surprisingly similar to the pilgrimage undertaken by the Magi so long ago. We will begin our journey to Bethlehem on the strength of a glow in our heart that will become a star; a star we can follow all the way to our journey’s end, the birth of the Christ child yet again in our life. From there, who knows? Perhaps this Christmas experience will shape our future. Perhaps it will reveal a journey that has only begun, and will lead us into the world with comfort, hope, and good news. Perhaps, in short, it will fuel the revitalization of ministry we have undertaken, and guide us on our way.

Such is my prayer for this Advent season; that we will see clearly the vision and ministry God has mapped out for us, and summon the courage to live into it. At some point in the future perhaps we too will look back on the journey and say, “it all began with a star in the eastern sky. Won’t you join us – beginning on November 30, Advent 1 – as we follow this star?”

Bo

We need TURKEYS!

We have traditionally given turkeys at our November Food Pantry and our Guests count on us to help them with their Thanksgiving Dinner. In the past we have been able to purchase most of the turkeys from Harvesters. Unfortunately, there are only 28 turkeys available for us to purchase. We plan on serving 90+ households.

Would you pledge a turkey?



We need:

- 60 turkeys, 10-12 pounds (some families prefer chickens and we have plenty of them)
- Freezer space to hold them until Saturday morning, November 22
- Or \$\$ to purchase a turkey. Please write "Turkeys" in the memo section of your check and turn in to the church office.

Come Home 2014 Thanksgiving Offering
www.disciplesmissionfund.org

Disciples Divinity House OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Culver-Stockton
DISCIPLES DIVINITY HOUSE @Vanderbilt
HIRAM
TCU
Lynchburg
EUREKA
BETHANY
JAMES CHRISTIAN
COLUMBIA
Barton
MIDWAY
DRURY
Lexington THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Phillips Theological Seminary
Disciples Seminary Foundation
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
SEMINARY

Received in most congregations on November 9 and 16.

Each year Disciples have an opportunity to make a quality liberal arts or theological education possible for thousands of future leaders in our congregations and communities. Leaders like our own Rev. Laura Phillips, a graduate of Lexington Theological Seminary. Want to make Laura happy and honor her with a great engagement present? Then give generously to the Thanksgiving offering in support of Disciples' higher education!

Better Than Black Friday Community Meal

Our very first "Better Than Black Friday" Community Meal took place the Friday after Thanksgiving 2013 at OPCC. This year we want to continue that tradition, by hosting another "Better Than Black Friday" meal on Friday, November 28th, 2014. As an alternative to the rush, rush, rush, spend, spend, spend, we invite anyone you to join us in recognizing a different way to welcome the Christmas season. Whether you would like to help volunteer or provide food for the meal, or if you are looking for a different place to spend "Black Friday" than the usual, all are invited to this meal.

More about "Better than Black Friday"

Who's invited?

- The OPCC community and friends
- Community neighbors who may be lonely or who need a meal
- Employees of neighboring businesses on lunch break
- Anyone who'd like to come—to help, to be served—anyone!

How can I help?

- Pray for this new ministry to our community!
- Prepare food (You can drop off at church Tuesday or Wednesday 9:30am—3:00pm or Friday from 9:00am—11:00am
 - Soup—4-5 quarts of your favorite! Freeze or refrigerate ahead; or bring in a crockpot on Friday (We need 15-18)
 - Dessert—Brownies, cake, bar cookies, etc. (We need 15-18)
 - Bread—1 dozen rolls/muffins/French bread/corn bread, etc. (We need 15-18)
- Set up tables and chairs on Wednesday (Time TBD by willing volunteers)

Help on Black Friday - November 28, 2014

- Kitchen Help
 - 9:30am—11:30am OR 11:30am—1:30pm
 - ◆ Serve food from kitchen window
 - ◆ Wash dishes WITH the machine (faster and easier!)
 - ◆ Help with clean-up
- Dining Room Help
 - 10:00am—12:00pm OR 12:00pm—2:00pm
 - ◆ Set and clear tables
 - ◆ Assist guests who need an extra hand
 - ◆ Help with clean-up
 - ◆ Greet & Visit with Guests (10:45am—1:00pm)
- Play piano/manage music during the meal

Sign up at the Library Counter (East Doors) TODAY!



Hanging of the Greens

Join us on Sunday, November 30th as we begin our journey through the season of Advent.

On Sunday, November 30th, we will have ONE worship service at 10:30 a.m. However we will also need your help at 9:00 a.m. to help “hang the greens,” and decorate the church. As we ready our hearts and lives for the Christ Child, we will also help ready our church building, our family of faith. Please arrive at 9:00 a.m. ready to help decorate with the Worship & Arts Commission, and then to worship together as one at our regular 10:30 a.m. worship time. Feel welcome to come in jeans or comfortable clothes as we ready the church. We look forward to seeing you on November 30th!

Prayer During Advent

OPCC will again provide a number of Advent devotionals “Partners in Prayer,” for you to use as you prepare your hearts and lives for the arrival of the Christ Child. This year, it is extra special as the authors are *The Bethany Fellows*, a group of pastors in their first five years of service who participate in a mentoring program together. Rev. Laura is one of these Bethany Fellows and has authored one of the devotions!

They will soon be available in a basket on the library counter. Whether with a loved one or on your own, we invite each of you to read the devotions provided each day during Advent, and pray the prayer for that day, continuing through each day until Christmas. If you cannot make it to church and would like to have a copy of the Advent devotional mailed to you, please contact the church office (kourtney@opccdoc.org)



Holiday Pies



The Worship & Arts Commission will be baking pies this holiday season (for Thanksgiving and Christmas) for you to purchase and enjoy. Find order forms and brochures with more information on the library counter, or see Carla Labunski or Nancy Corbin.



Stars for Advent

As Bo mentioned in the lead article, our theme for Advent focuses on following that star that leads us to the Christ Child. In anticipation of our Advent season, the Worship & Arts committee would like to make a display of many different types of stars in the entry way, as we celebrate the season. They need your help with this display! If you are able, we invite you to bring a star from home (labeled), to be used in this display. Perhaps it will be a star your child made in pre-school, perhaps it is a crocheted star that you’ve created, perhaps it is a gift from a dear friend, that makes you smile every time you see it. Whatever the star, you are invited to help us create this display of stars to follow on our way to Bethlehem! Please remember to label your star so that we can all get them back safely. You can leave the stars in the front office at your earliest convenience for the Worship and Arts Commission to get started!

Longest Night Worship Service

For many, the holiday season is a bittersweet time of year. Whether it’s Thanksgiving or Christmas, everywhere we go, the constant refrain and messages of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had.

The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the feelings of being outcast, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation, the grief of losing a loved one – all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of celebrations.

This worship service will offer the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern; *we need to know we are not alone.*

This year our “Longest Night Service” will be on Monday, December 15 at 6:00pm. Join with us to hear scripture, offer prayers for healing and wholeness, and sing music that acknowledges God’s presence is for those who mourn, those who grieve, and those who struggle. God’s Word comes to shine light into our darkness. All are welcome.

OPCC Food Pantry Drive

Mary Martha Circle will be bringing food and paper items for our food pantry in November and December. We are asking the congregation to join us in this project. Donations may be given to any Mary Martha member or placed in the blue Harvesters barrel by the receptionist office.

Christian Women's Fellowship

Mary Martha CWF Circle will meet Thursday, November 13, at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Please bring canned goods or paper products to add to our food pantry. After our meeting, we will have lunch at First Watch at 95th & Metcalf.

CWF Circle 2 The girls will be meeting Monday, November 10, at 7:00 p.m. at Mary Alice Geise's home, 7318 West 54th Street. We studying the book "Balancing Our Wishes and God's Will". All are welcome!

Mitten Tree

Hats - Mittens - Gloves

These are the items that all of us take for granted to keep us warm in winter. The Hat and Mitten tree is now up near the Fellowship Hall waiting to be filled by you with new hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens for men, women, teenagers, and children. These items will be donated to The Clothing Center of the Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA the first week in December.



Alta Vista Window Fund

Our sister church, Alta Vista, is in need of new windows before the winter winds appear.

Their church members are able to contribute one window at a cost of \$331, including installation, but there are 10 more windows that need to be replaced.

Donna Rose-Heim, Regional Minister, has started an account with a gift she received. If you can send a contribution in any amount, it will be added to that fund. Please indicate on your check: Alta Vista Window

checks should be made payable to:
Christian Church of Greater Kansas City
c/o Donna Rose-Heim
7600 West 75th Street, Suite 6
Overland Park, KS 66204

Care & Share

The November gathering of the Care and Share Grief Support Group will be on Tuesday, November 11. We will go to the Grande St. Café located at 8815 Renner in Lenexa, KS. Meet at OPCC at 11:00 to carpool. Please make your reservation with Peggy Moore at 913-856-3833 or wpmoore@wildblue.net by November 10.

Join the Care & Share Greif Support Group for a Christmas lunch at Webster House on Tuesday, December 2. Make your reservation with Peggy before November 28. We will meet at the church at 10:30 am on the 2nd to carpool to Webster House, 1644 Wyandotte, KCMO. Questions? Contact Peggy Moore at 913-856-3833 or wpmoore@wildblue.net.

NOW Group

The NOW group is going to have a potluck dinner directly after the 10:30AM worship service on November 16. This will be held in the Fireside Room. Please come and enjoy fellowship, fun, and good food. We will discuss the future of NOW group after the dinner. We think it is very important that we get together at least 2-3 times a year. We hope to see you there!

Christian Caregivers

The Christian Caregiver Support Ministry is a safe place to receive helpful guidance and accept your calling to be a caregiver. We invite you to join us in the Fireside Room on Monday afternoons from 1:00–2:30 as we seek to support one another in our sometimes challenging and difficult tasks. (We will not meet whenever Shawnee Mission Schools are closed due to inclement weather.)

For more information, contact Peggy Moore at wpmoore@wildblue.net or 913-856-3833.

Girlfriends Unlimited

Women of OPCC join us for study, fellowship and fun! Girlfriends Unlimited 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 will study with a book entitled "Practicing our Faith," written by Dorothy Bass.

The study will help us to explore Christian practices that address our fundamental human needs and that, when woven together, form a way of life. Please join us on Wednesday evenings 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room through November 19. Questions? Contact Peggy Moore at 913-856-3833 or wpmoore@wildblue.net.

Family Ministry

Family Ministry is a concept that tugs deeply at my heart strings. It is more than ministry geared toward the family unit. It is ministry that encompasses the entire church family. People need connections and relationships to feel a part of the family. This allows us to feel accepted, loved, and a part of the whole. When you volunteer to work with our children and youth, you are helping to create these connections. These relationships bind us together in the love of the God who created us. If you are willing to spend some time walking alongside our children and youth on Sunday mornings or during one of our evening get-togethers, your life is sure to be enriched as well. Please contact Lisa Setty at 913-677-4646 x 228 or lisa@opccdoc.org for more information.



Our Children's Worship & Wonder program is now underway during the 10:30 Worship hour. After the Children's Moment, the children are led back to worship in a relaxed and calming atmosphere where they can experience God personally. It is amazing to observe the children's spirituality in this new format. We are still in need of volunteers for this program. If you would like to learn more about the program or already know you want to volunteer please contact Lisa Setty at 913-677-4646 ext. 228 or lisa@opccdoc.org.

Our OPCC Youth will be heading to Nashville, TN this summer to participate in our second trip organized by Disciples Summer Missions. We will be working hard in the next few months to raise money for transportation and other fees. It looks like we may have about 10 youth attending this trip which is exciting! If you would like to sponsor a child or just simply make a donation to our mission trip fund it would help us out immensely and we would be forever grateful! We're looking forward to this experience and being able to share it with you!



for supporting our Youth Group Holiday Sale fundraiser! Funds from this sale will go to help pay for our transportation to Nashville this summer where we will join other Disciples of Christ youth and perform mission work. If you would like to read more about our trip, you can find information at: http://www.disciplesummermission.com/DISCIPLE_SUMMER_MISSION/HOME.html.

Watch the December newsletter about our next fundraiser: BINGO which will be in early January.



All kids are invited to:
PIZZA & A MOVIE

Tuesday, November 25, 6-8 pm
in the Great Hall

Pizza and drink provided.
Bring a treat to share.

Movie will be: "How to Train Your Dragon 2"
RSVP to Lisa Setty at 913-677-4646 ext. 228
or lisa@opccdoc.org by 11/23.

Stewardship Green Moment by Jody Cash

Going green for Thanksgiving

1. Plan to use local and seasonal products when preparing your menu.
2. If you wish to reduce your carbon footprint, prepare a vegetarian dinner.
3. If you plan to have turkey, buy a free-range, organic turkey.
4. Host a potluck dinner
5. To be energy efficient while cooking, use slow cooker recipes.
6. Prepare a thorough shopping list.
7. Take reusable shopping bags with you to grocery shop.
8. Shop at grocery stores close to home and also buy food at local farmers' markets.
9. Use the most direct route to the store and/or farmers' markets.
10. Carpool with family and/or friends to go grocery shopping for Thanksgiving dinner.
11. When cleaning your house for guests, use non-toxic cleaners such as baking soda and water.
12. Light unscented beeswax or soy candles to save energy—this also creates a warm, festive ambience.
13. For centerpieces, use live plants or herb bouquets (like lavender or rosemary). Decorate your house with pumpkins, gourds, pinecones, acorns, and fall fruit.
14. Use real dinnerware, glassware, utensils, cloth tablecloths and napkins.
15. Turn down the thermostat. The extra people and hot oven will create heat.
16. Recycle what you can from your dinner.
17. Freeze, compost, or donate leftovers.

C . L . A . S . S .

Christian Living and Skills Series

Adult Christian Education Classes

"We teach everyone we can that we know about Him, so that, if possible, we may bring all to their full maturity in Jesus Christ." —Colossians 1:28

"Feasting on the Word"

If you are looking for an occasion to explore scriptural passages in ways that are suitable for all participants, please join us on Sunday mornings for discussion and study with *Feasting on the Word*. The fall session will talk about scriptures that frequently follow the scriptural texts in worship on Sunday mornings. This invites learners deeper and deeper into the rhythm of the church year and utilizes our personal experiences to live out our faith.

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Northwest section of Fellowship Hall.

If you have any questions, contact Peggy Moore at 913-856-3833 or wpmoore@wildblue.net

"The Wired Word"

New Sunday Morning Discussion Group!

On Sunday, October 4th at 9:30am we will begin a new discussion group in Room #41 during the Sunday School hour. Using a guide called The Wired Word, we will focus on current events and how the Word speaks to us through our everyday lives. Each week the topic will change, so you are invited to check it out any time! We will honor a variety of topics in this discussion group, so some days it might feel like "Sunday School," while many days it won't. If you are looking for a group that discusses a variety of topics and how our faith, religion & spirituality intersects with those topics, from a variety of view-points, then this is the group for you! We will use books, news clippings & stories, movies, the Bible, and your opinions to facilitate this group. Contact Rev. Laura with questions!

October Gifts

- * a special gift has been given to Children's Worship from Janet Reynolds
- * a special gift has been given to the Courtyard Landscaping Fund from Ed & Betty Burton

The following have donated to the Ben Starks memorial fund

- * Carl & Martha Brockman
- * Jo Ann Altschul (food kitchen)
- * Ed & Jan Eilert (food pantry)
- * Taylor & Gerry Spillers
- * Billie & Dale Warden (Prayer Room)
- * Mary Johnson
- * Jim & Sally Withers
- * Joyce Brooker
- * Alan & Lois Wimpey (food pantry)
- * Mary Alice Geise
- * Wilma Townsend
- * Betty King
- * Wayne & Peggy Moore
- * Doris Hamilton & Harlan Wendell (food pantry)
- * Glenn & Evelyn Eastwood
- * Gordon & Marlene Harkness (food pantry)
- * Bill & Beverly Barrett
- * Sharon & Calvin McBride
- * Earl & Barbara Sheldon (food pantry)
- * Hazel & Dave Ginter (food pantry)
- * Jody Cash
- * Marie Lear (food pantry)
- * Nita Anderson
- * Nancy Corbin
- * Larry & Bernice Stouse (landscaping)

The following have donated to the Charlene Wiles memorial fund for Children's Ministries

- * Sharon & Calvin McBride
- * Don & Barbara Killion
- * Wilma Townsend
- * Diane Barrett
- * Sally Roberts
- * Evelyn Eastwood
- * Jody Cash
- * Billie & Dale Warden

Looking for gift ideas for that special person? Consider an alternative to the usual gloves or gift cards. Check out the websites below for unique gifts and ways to honor someone you love:

Heifer Project, www.heifer.org

Week of Compassion, www.weekofcompassion.org

Church World Service, www.cwsglobal.org

(or stop by their office in OPCC building—ask Kourtney how to find it!)

Interfaith Hospitality Network, www.jocoihn.org

Cross-Lines, www.cross-lines.org

OPCC Food Pantry

Disciples Global Ministries, www.globalministries.org click on "Donate" tab, select "Special Projects"

Prayer List

Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Ed & Betty Burton
- ♥ Bryan Byrd (friend of Roy & Judy Nickum)
- ♥ Glenn (Bud) Eastwood
- ♥ Brodie Gilcrist
- ♥ Nancy Greenwood (friend of Sharon McBride)
- ♥ Carole Ingram
- ♥ Susie Jackson (friend of Laura Phillips)
- ♥ Bob Marangelli (Wilma Townsend's son-in-law)
- ♥ Ann Martin
- ♥ Everett & Ina Fern McBride
- ♥ Gail McCarty (friend of Roy & Judy Nickum)
- ♥ Shelly (Ben Nickum's mother-in-law)
- ♥ Max Norton (Marge White's son-in-law)
- ♥ Jacob Sprinkle (Lee & Jan Sprinkle's grandson)
- ♥ Sandy Teeple
- ♥ Josh Townsend (Wilma Townsend's grandson)
- ♥ Kendall Whitney (Wanda & Duane Whitney's grandson)
- ♥ Elizabeth Withers

Continued Prayers

- ♥ Bill Barrett
- ♥ Virgil & Frances Bruning
- ♥ Lylia Bryant
- ♥ Phyllis & Harvey Cooke
- ♥ Corwin Elliott
- ♥ Haley Elliott
- ♥ Ruth Freeman
- ♥ Dave Ginter
- ♥ Gordon & Marlene Harkness
- ♥ Wilma Huffman
- ♥ Bob & Sue Jenkins
- ♥ Dan Jenkins
- ♥ Dorothy Jimerson
- ♥ Marie Lear
- ♥ Shirley McGee
- ♥ Jack McLain
- ♥ Tony & Florene Miele
- ♥ Roy Nickum
- ♥ Wilma Nickum
- ♥ Wayne Phillips (Teresa Phillips' father)
- ♥ Chuck Reese
- ♥ Nadine Sheldon
- ♥ Laura Starks
- ♥ Dale Warden
- ♥ Miriam & Buck Warren
- ♥ Esther West
- ♥ Jim Withers

Condolences

- ♥ to the family & friends of Charlene Wiles upon her death on October 6
- ♥ to the family of Lorraine Smith upon her death on October 18

Thank You

We want to thank everyone who visited Bill, supported us through our difficult times, and sent cards during Bill's hospitalization and rehab.
Bev & Bill Barrett

Dear OPCC Friends,

Thank you for your calls, cards, and visits to our dear friend Charlene Wiles. She appreciated the welcome you extended to her as a new member of the OPCC family. Your support during her last illness truly demonstrated the love of Christian community.

Sincerely, Lois Wimpey,
for Char's many friends

Thank You OPCC,
ref: Matthew 5:16

"There are two ways of spreading the light,
to be the candle or to be the mirror that reflects it."

Betty and I extend our sincere gratitude for all the prayers, cards, visits, and support shined on us during my recent illness. Through our darkest times, it was your shining light that gave us hope. It is, indeed, a privilege to be associated with the caring Christian community at OPCC. Hopefully, with God's grace, we will be able to reflect that light in return wherever needed.

Bless you and may God's love and care be with you.
Betty & Ed Burton

Military Prayer List

- ✪ Stephan Aelmore (grandson of Mary Aelmore),
US Navy, New York
- ✪ Dustin Doree (grandson of Betty Craney),
US Army, Seattle, WA
- ✪ Tiffany Doree (granddaughter of Betty Craney),
US Navy, San Diego, CA
- ✪ SSG Edward Pinkelman, Jr. (son of Ed & Kathy
Pinkelman), US Army, stationed at Camp
Buehring in Kuwait

To add persons to this list, please forward
information to Michelle Reiter at
michelle@opccdoc.org or 913-677-4646, x223.

Need Volunteers for Worship

We are in need of some volunteers to help read during worship services! Would you be willing to serve as a liturgist and read either scripture or a call to worship provided for you? No age requirement – anyone willing to read is welcome! Please contact Rev. Laura if you would be interested and we will keep your name on a list. We will arrange mutually agreeable days for you to serve so that it works with everyone's schedule. Please contact Laura by email (laura@opccdoc.org) or phone (ext: 222).

Overland Park Christian Church
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Your OPCC Staff

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**The OPCC Scene is generally published
the first Thursday of each month**

**Copy deadline for next issue is
December 2 for December 4 mailing.**

Help us reduce paper and postage costs!

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