

The OPCC Scene



OVERLAND PARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ) 

7600 West 75th Street

Overland Park, KS 66204 • 913.677.4646

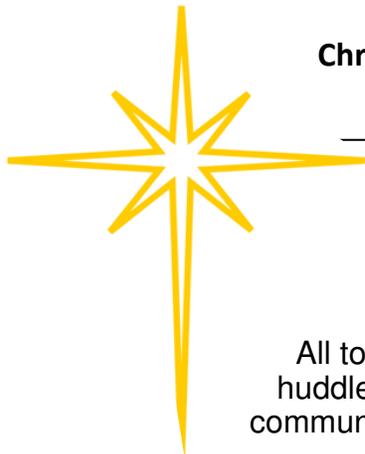
www.opccdoc.org • @opccdoc (Twitter) • www.facebook.com/opccdoc

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



“Christmas Again... for the First Time” *Christmas Eve at OPCC*

All too quickly our Advent pilgrimage will be behind us, and we will find ourselves huddled together on that silent night, shielded from winter’s biting winds by our faith community, awaiting yet again the birth of the Christ child into our hearts and our world.

Christmas Eve – silent and holy – is no night to recount a story *about* Jesus’ birth, it is no night to sing *mindlessly* the carols we have heard since well before Thanksgiving; it is no night to while away the hours before Santa lavishes gifts on our children. Christmas Eve – silent and holy – is the night that Light will shine into our darkness, when Word will become flesh & blood and live among us; and on this night, we will want to be together to experience Christmas again... for the first time!

We invite and encourage you to join your faith community in worship on this holy night... and to bring family, friends, colleagues, and anyone you chance upon along the way! OPCC’s Elder Circle will host ***Come & Go Communion*** from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in our worship space, and our Christmas Eve ***Candlelight Worship*** will begin at 7:00 pm. The gathering will feature music from all our ensembles (Chalice Chancel Choir, Reverberations Bell Choir, insideOUT), sharing the Christmas story, a special Christmas message by Bo and, this year, an intimate celebration of communion as the Messianic Banquet that offers a foretaste of things as they will be when the promise of Christmas is fulfilled. Of course, this worship gathering will conclude with candles held high to the strains of Silent Night as we welcome the Christ Child with glowing hearts and joyful spirits. We hope to see you then.

Merry Christmas from your OPCC staff!

Bo
Chris
Lisa
Michelle
Lee
Laura
Kourtney
Amy G



Prayer During Advent

OPCC has again provided 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 are 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 devotionals 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).

Christmas Offering for Regional Ministries

Received December 14 & 21



Your offering will support the cooperative ministries of the 85 churches of the Greater Kansas City Region. Watch for your offering letter and envelope in your mailbox! BTW, our Region has a great Facebook page, www.facebook.com/CCGKC.

Longest Night Worship Service

For many, the holiday season is a bittersweet time of year. 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, and that light can still shine even in intense darkness.

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.

What happened to the Thanksgiving Offering???

"Hey, I think we Disciples have a special Thanksgiving offering to support our colleges and seminaries. Why didn't we get our special offering envelopes?"

"Don't worry! Your Outreach Commission believes that our gratitude can be shown at any time, so we plan to receive the Thanksgiving offering in January. Disciples higher education is so important we want to give it the attention it deserves."

"Oh, good! I couldn't agree more!"

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 Christmas season. Cost is \$12.00.

You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve service.



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 Reiter at the church or put in the offering plate on Sunday morning.



Scrip

So it's that time of year and you are scratching your head trying to think of the perfect gift—right? I've got it. It's a Scrip Card from OPCC! That way OPCC and the recipient both receive a gift from you! What a great way to spread the spirit!

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

December Theology on Tap

This month's Theology on Tap, Tuesday December 16th, will discuss "the War on Christmas," and what that even means?!

ToT is a great opportunity that takes God out of the walls of a church building and into the daily lives of young adults by offering a series of topics in a relaxed and fun environment. It offers friends the opportunity to meet in a comfortable setting to explore faith, how it affects our lives and the chance to get your fill on engaging topics and fellowship with a table-full of Young Adults – all at a great grill and bar location. Theology on Tap will meet on Tuesday, December 16th at The Peanut on Santa Fe in Downtown Overland Park. (All ages of people are invited, and we intentionally will also meet somewhere we can all enjoy a good meal!) Please contact Rev. Laura with any questions or concerns.



Holiday Pies



The Worship & Arts Commission will be baking pies again for 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.

Family Ministry



Thursday, December 18
6-8 pm

All kids 4th-6th grade are invited to an extended Jr. Youth Group activity: A PARTY!

Pizza, snacks and FUN!
Lisa will send information as we get closer!

Youth Mini-LOCK In

Friday, December 19
6 pm—midnight

Pizza, snacks, movies, games, and FUN!

Bring a white elephant gift and some Christmas cheer!

Watch our youth Facebook page and Lisa's emails and texts for more information!

BINGO				
15	28	37	51	73
6	17	32	45	61
9	15	★	60	70
12	26	44	52	66
7	22	34	48	72

Saturday, January 3, 2015
7-8:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

Sponsored by OPCC Youth Group as a fundraiser for the Summer 2015 Youth Mission Trip

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 on Thursday, December 11, at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Since we will be hosting the CWU Forum on January 23, we will not have our Christmas luncheon in December. Please just bring some goodies to share during our December meeting as we plan our January Forum. We will also collect canned and paper goods for the Food Pantry. All are welcome.

Church Women United Forum Human Rights Celebration

Overland Park Christian Church
January 23, 9:30 a.m.

Congregational Care/ Stephen Minister Team

Please plan to meet on Monday, December 15, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. We will be reviewing the opportunity to serve communion to those in our faith community who have difficulty getting to church.

Christian Caregivers

"Let's Do Lunch" on December 15!

Meet at OPCC at 11:30a.m. and we will go to a Mystery Restaurant for a Christmas Lunch. Lunch is a gift from one of our members.

The Christian Caregiver Support Ministry is a safe place to receive helpful guidance and accept your calling to be a caregiver, usually meeting in the Fireside Room on Monday afternoons 1:00–2:30.

We will not meet December 29, nor whenever Shawnee Mission Schools are closed due to inclement weather.

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

Empty Nesters Christmas Fellowship with a Meal and a Movie

Friday, December 12
Emerson and Marge Hartzler's home
Lakeview Village - Southridge Apts
14001 West 92nd Street, Lenexa, KS
913-422-1378

Arrive between 5:30 and 5:45
Dinner will be served at 6:00

A movie after dinner — title will be a surprise!
Dinner is \$18.43 That includes tax and there is NO tipping. Checks made payable to Emerson.

Menu for that evening will include:
Beef brisket with BQ sauce on the side
Roasted Pork Loin with cranberry glaze
Tossed green salad with
Ranch and Honey Mustard dressings
Grilled asparagus or green beans
Whipped sweet potatoes
Rolls
Iced tea and coffee
Pecan pie

Reservations and checks should be to the Hartzlers by December 5th.

Solo Sidekicks

Friday, December 19, 6:00 p.m.
OPCC Fireside Room

Soup and sandwiches will be provided
Please bring paper products for the Food Pantry

Sign up sheet at Library Counter
Questions? Call Jean at 913-541-8837

Girlfriends Unlimited

Girlfriends will not be meeting during Advent and January. We will resume Girlfriends on February 7th at 7:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Peggy Moore at 913-856-3833 or wpmoore@wildblue.net.

Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group meets on the first Saturday of each month from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room for breakfast, study, and fellowship. All men are invited to join us.

For more information, contact Wayne Moore at 913-856-3833 or Emerson Hartzler at 913-422-1378.

Looking for gift ideas for that special person?

Consider an alternative to the usual gloves or gift cards. Check out the display table in the narthex or 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!)

Cross-Lines, www.cross-lines.org

OPCC Food Pantry

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

Interfaith Hospitality Network, www.jocoihn.org

Unique, Handmade Gifts
Relaxed Shopping Atmosphere



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES®

7947 Santa Fe Dr., Overland Park, KS

Sunday, December 21, 12PM-4PM
JoCo Interfaith Hospitality Network
will receive 15% of sales at
Ten Thousand Villages

Unique merchandise at the retail store is handmade by artisans in 38 countries around the world who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. Ten Thousand Villages creates opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to our markets through long-term, fair trading relationships.

Ten Thousand Villages supports local non-profits through special community shopping events. Everyone is welcome to shop. No affiliation with IHN or any other congregation is required so tell your neighbors, friends and family about this opportunity to shop.

Complimentary refreshments will also be served. Special orders, Oriental rugs, or sales before or after the event time will not be included in the donation total.



Interfaith Hospitality Network Christmas

If you would like to donate to the IHN Christmas party/families you can do one or more of the following:

Last year, you were so generous to support the IHN Holiday Party by providing gift cards, gifts for kids store, or food for the holiday party food baskets. We hosted 90+ guests and expect about the same number of guests at this year's party. The guests are graduates of the program as well as those families who are currently homeless. St. Thomas Episcopal Church will host the tenth annual IHN Holiday Party on Saturday, December 13, 2014. It is a wonderful event full of laughter, joy and a yummy lunch.

I hope I can count on you again this year to provide gift cards, gifts for the kids store or food baskets. Ways you can participate:

SPONSOR A FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL – GIFT CARDS (\$20)

Sponsors will purchase gift cards at local retailers (Target or Wal-mart). These gift cards will be distributed to our IHN adult guests. This will allow the guests to shop for their own families.

PROVIDE FOOD BASKETS FOR A TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY MEAL & SUPPLIES TO STOCK SHELVES (priceless)
Families that have graduated from the program are provided a food basket that includes items for the holiday meal + some extras for kids on Winter Break. (A great way to partner with friends or neighbors).

DONATE GROCERY GIFT CARDS (3 - 4 cards in \$10 range)

Each food basket also contains gift cards for families to purchase meat or perishable foods for their holiday meal. Price Chopper is preferred.

GAS GIFT CARDS (\$20-25)

Quik Trip cards are a great help to our families with the cost of gas.

KIDS STORE ITEMS (\$5 - \$10 range)

Donate new gifts for kids to give to parents, guardians, teachers and siblings. For example: wallets, small tool kits, ball caps, lotions, nail polish, Barbies, Transformers, gift cards (eg. AMC, Subway, Pizza Hut).

DROP OFF: Drop gifts/gift cards/food baskets off at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 12251 Antioch Rd, OP, KS 66213 (123th & Antioch) on December 7th between 12:30-2:30 PM.

TO SPONSOR, DONATE OR IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION, contact Barb Collins.



Stewardship Green Moment

by Jody Cash

Green Moment for December

Our grandparents and great grandparents often lived a "green" lifestyle,
we can learn from the things they did!

1. Your grandmother probably did her best to make sure her furnishings, carpeting, and appliances lasted as long as possible. Each week, when a grandmother washed sheets, she would rotate the mattress to make it wear more evenly and thus, last longer. She would dust out the appliances on a regular basis and run vinegar through the washing machine to clean out its insides. The point I want to make is that landfills are full of furnishings and appliances that could have been used longer if they had been properly taken care of—so do your part to not throw out things that can still be used.
2. Grandmothers often made their own cleaning solutions or bought cleaners that had many uses. For cleaning windows, she would use vinegar and newspapers; for cleaning sinks and bathtubs, she would use vinegar and baking soda or maybe lye soap. When using liquid dish soap, a grandmother would use a small amount and use "elbow grease" to clean the dishes. The type of "green" cleaning a grandmother used can be used by us as it reduces the chemicals in the air, keeps the water supply cleaner, and reduces what goes to landfills.
3. Some grandmothers would freeze leftover vegetable scraps and bones and when she had enough saved, she would make chicken stock or beef stock. Scraps from the stock were composted for the garden. By not putting the scraps down the disposal, you are saving water and electricity and ultimately the work done by wastewater treatment plants.
4. Grandparents generally only went to the grocery store once or twice a month. Grandmothers often canned fruits and vegetables and kept a pantry full of staples. They would often buy meat from a local farmer and freeze it for the winter. Cooking from scratch is less expensive and better for you than buying food from a deli—less trash from empty containers. If you have the storage space, buy in bulk as that will save you money and also keep all the packing materials from buying small amounts of supplies out of the landfills.
5. Grandmothers often made cookies, pies, cakes, and candy for their families. These items did not have preservatives or added chemicals in them, yet the taste was excellent. By reducing the amount of prepackaged food we buy, we cut down on the pollution of the air and water caused by industrial food factories, plus it cuts down on the packaging that ends up in the landfills.
6. Grandmothers often sewed clothes for themselves and others. If something got ripped, she would mend it, if a sock got a hole, she would darn the hole shut. Some grandmothers made quilts, hot pads, and some even made rugs. Although most of us do not do these things, if we wish, we can learn to sew or even make rugs. Another thought—if a shirt needs mending and you do not sew, take it to the dry cleaners to be mended—that is cheaper than buying a new shirt. By mending clothing or handing it down to someone or donating clothing, you help cut down on the amount of clothes that end up in the landfill.
7. Grandparents didn't need to worry about getting enough exercise—they worked very hard every day. However, we now depend on our cars so much, we often fail to do much walking. If you cannot walk to do some of your errands, combine as many errands as you can and make fewer trips—this saves the air from pollution and cuts down on the amount of gas you use—which is a good money-saver. When possible, try to get more exercise too!
8. Teach children how to grow vegetables and fruit, as well as how to cook. Our grandparents did these things, but we have become a society of fast foods, prepackaged foods. By teaching a child about gardening and cooking, you will help them lead a healthier lifestyle,
9. Teaching grandchildren how to do things such as sewing and some basic home maintenance skills will be very good for them. It will help the environment and it will help them financially as they grow up and have their own families. If you know how to needlepoint, or quilt, or other useful crafts. teach them to your grandchildren.
10. Grandparents can teach their grandchildren about budgeting. You can give them \$1 and tell them "You can buy a candy bar with this and in a few minutes, it will be gone, or you can save that \$1 and add to it as time goes on, then buy a toy you really want." Going green is important, but by learning to budget, the grandchildren, as they grow older, will (hopefully) learn that going green can save you money which you can spend on other things that you may want or need.

Prayer List

Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Ed & Betty Burton
- ♥ Bryan Byrd (friend of Roy & Judy Nickum)
- ♥ Glenn (Bud) Eastwood
- ♥ Brodie Gilcrist
- ♥ Nathan Greene (Celia Greene's (CWS) son)
- ♥ Nancy Greenwood (friend of Sharon McBride)
- ♥ Carole Ingram
- ♥ 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)
- ♥ Jane Vogt (Marjory McNaghten's sister)
- ♥ Kendall Whitney (Wanda & Duane Whitney's grandson)
- ♥ Elizabeth Withers

Continued Prayers

- ♥ 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
- ♥ Dale Warden
- ♥ Miriam & Buck Warren
- ♥ Esther West
- ♥ Jim Withers

Condolences

- ♥ to Pat Gilling upon the death of her sister, Janell Chester, in Pat's hometown, Statesboro, GA
- ♥ to Laura Phillips and family upon the death of family friend Susie Jackson

November Gifts

- * a gift has been given to the Ben Starks memorial fund from Frances Beattie
- * a gift has been given to the Lorraine Smith memorial fund from Jody Cash

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.

Better than Black Friday

Thank you to those who had shown interest in our "Better than Black Friday" community meal for this year. With some of our community partners not being able to make it work, and some of our own volunteers having other commitments, while we did have some interest, we wanted to be mindful of our volunteers and the amount of work that would have been placed on them in order to make it happen. We are definitely looking at ways to make it happen again in 2015, and the ways that many can be involved. We know it is a great alternative to being in community with one another as we begin the Christmas season right after Thanksgiving. Thank you for the continued support as we seek to reach out to the Overland Park community – keep it going!

Needed: 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
7600 West 75th Street
Overland Park, KS 66204-2894

Your OPCC Staff

913-677-4646

info@opccdoc.org (general church e-mail address)

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Congregational Care Peggy Moore
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Children & Youth Pastor..... Lisa Setty
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Receptionist..... Kourtney Leibman
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Music Director Amy Luckenbill
amy@opccdoc.org

Assistant Music Director..... Chris Elliott
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Homeschool Christian Academy Molly Fisher
homeschoolchristianacademy@msn.com ext. 238

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Help us reduce paper and postage costs!

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