



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

Hear Worship by Phone (available after 2pm on Sunday): call **913-299-9002**



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

At this point we are well into the season of Advent and almost to the season of Christmas. (Did you know the season of Christmas BEGINS on December 25 and goes for 12 days until the season of Epiphany begins on January 6?)

These first weeks of Advent, through Christmas, and into Epiphany, we've been focusing on our theme "From Generation to Generation." In Luke 1:50 that many Christians have already read for this season of preparation, we find the verse as sung by Mary in the Magnificat, "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, through Christmas, and Epiphany, 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?

I look forward to continuing worship with you either in person or online as we welcome the Christ child into our hearts and homes on Christmas morning, and beyond.

Jana

Prayer During Advent

OPCC has provided 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. Both versions of the devotional are available in the entryway at OPCC, or can be mailed to you. Please contact the church office if you would like them to be mailed.

Nativities from Around the World

This is the week!

Come see Rev. Margi Colerick’s beautiful nativity collection in our Fellowship Hall! Everyone welcome!

Friday December 9, 4pm - 7pm
Saturday, December 10, 9am - 5pm
Sunday, December 11, Noon - 5pm

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? Contact Margi at 816-799-2780
or margicolerick@yahoo.com

www.nativitiesfromaroundtheworld.com

We will need help with tear down next week — let Sue Elliott know that you can help!



Advent Christian Education

During the season of Advent, ALL ARE INVITED to participate in an intergenerational Christian Education opportunity on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. 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!

Advent Gifts

Whether it’s for a dearly beloved grandmother who passed away this year, a parent who has been gone for years, a neighbor who brings joy this day and more, or a friend who gives laughter and comfort — there are many reasons to purchase a “gift” from OPCC this Advent season. Each gift is \$15.

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one, we will display those poinsettias in the sanctuary during the worship services closest to Christmas. Your gift will help us adorn our space, and our hearts, for the Christmas season. Poinsettias can be taken home (or to your friends’) after Christmas Eve.

If you would like to provide for a turkey/ham in honor or in memory of a loved one, we will share that gift with our neighbors and clients who visit the food pantry on December 17. Your gift will help us to provide for a family in need, sharing the love of Christ with those who need it. Turkeys/hams will be given to each family who visits our food pantry.

Each of the gifts given in honor/memory of loved ones will be listed in our worship bulletins on December 24th and December 25th.

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.





- Repeat the sounding joy
of young KC Disciples stepping up to lead
- Repeat the sounding joy
of congregations welcoming their new pastor
- Repeat the sounding joy
of all persons finding affirmation for ministry
- Repeat the sounding joy
of congregations exploring creative partnerships
- Repeat the sounding joy
of our KC Disciples addressing racial inequities
- Repeat the sounding joy
of innovation and transformation grant recipients
- Repeat the sounding joy
of new congregations-in-formation among us

Regional Church ministries may not be your first thought when you ponder Advent and Christmas giving. After all, this is a season of miracles — not a fundraising season for an administrative ministry. Yet, through Regional Church ministries, we see miracles every day!

The Christmas Special Day offering supports the many miracles, repeated throughout our Region, the repeat of sounding joy. Your generous gifts make a difference in our shared ministries as Disciples in Greater Kansas City. The Christmas Special Offering will be received in our worship services on **December 11 and 18**. We hope you will join in making a gift towards these miracles to bless the ministries of our Region carried out through the Disciples congregations of Greater Kansas City.

Christmas and New Year's at OPCC

Christmas Eve Worship

OPCC will offer two opportunities to worship on December 24th. We hope you will make one or both of these services a part of your family's plans on Christmas Eve.

- From 4:00pm – 6:00pm in the Sanctuary and 4:00pm – 7:00pm in the Prayer Chapel, OPCC will offer “Come and Go Communion,” where you will be welcomed to light a candle, receive communion, enjoy traditional and contemporary versions of Christmas carols, and take a few moments to spend in contemplation and prayer. This year we've added a NEW prayer journey suitable for all ages that can take as much or as little time as you have. Come and go as your schedule allows.
- At 7:00pm we will offer a Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with scripture, hymns, and readings as we welcome the Christ Child with one another. Please join us for either or both of these services to celebrate the coming of Christ.

End of Year Worship

The last time that Christmas was on a Sunday (2016), we offered a “Worship from Home” opportunity for those who might want to worship from their living room on that day. Boy, were we ahead of our time! 😊

This year on Christmas morning we will celebrate the Christ child at 10:30am in-person and online celebrating “Jammies and Jesus.” If you are up for it, we invite you to wear your most festive Christmas pajamas for Christmas morning worship, hearing the story of the Christ child, and singing our beloved Christmas songs together. Whether you have Christmas jammies or not, come as you are, casual and comfortable, and ready to celebrate the Christ child together!

Similarly, we WILL have worship in-person and streaming online on New Year's morning, January 1, 2023, at 10:30am. Come as you are, casual and comfortable, and ready to celebrate the New Year, together!

Church Office Closings

In observance of Christmas and New Year's holidays, the church offices will be closed: Monday, December 26; Tuesday, December 27; and Monday, January 2.

Music Department Update

OPCC is having a hymn-sing service on Christmas morning where we will be singing ALL Christmas songs! Please be sure to join us in worship that morning. If we have missed singing a particular Christmas hymn or song you find especially meaningful to you, please email our music director at marybeth@opccd.org by December 13 to have it included in our hymn-sing service.

With this being the last newsletter of 2022, we would like to thank everyone who has served in the Reverberations Bell Choir and the Chalice Chancel Choir. Our musicians have been so faithful to bless us by serving OPCC with their musical gifts. If you see one of our musicians, please be sure to thank them for their service.

Mary Beth Boucher, Director of Music

MORE²

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 (MORE²). Please join in one of the following 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, December 12, 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Online by way of Zoom
 - Email marcus@more2.org to register
- **MORE² Annual Public Meeting** – Overland Park Christian will have the opportunity to host MORE²'s 2023 Public Meeting right here in our sanctuary! Join live or online for **Giants do Fall**, featuring a line-up of community leaders organizing to dismantle the giants of injustice in our own time.
 - Thursday, February 23, 6:00pm – 7:30pm
In-Person at OPCC and Online at the MORE² Facebook Page

Social Justice Group

Our Social Justice Ministry invites you to join on Thursday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the OPCC Fireside Room as we learn about Expansion of Medicaid Health Insurance. Marcus Winn from MORE² will be with us to help us become more informed. Feel free to invite anyone you feel will be interested in this topic.

Contact Peggy Moore for more information

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 or 913-592-0179 for more information.

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 or 913-592-0179.

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

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
- ♥ Emerson & Marge Hartzler
- ♥ Perri Kolars
- ♥ Audrey Lavelly
- ♥ Kathy Lewis
- ♥ Laurie, Allison, & Aaron Loudenback
- ♥ Calvin McBride
- ♥ Sharon McBride
- ♥ Bryce Moore
- ♥ Roy Nickum
- ♥ Pat Owsley
- ♥ Rhonda Phelps (Roger Claar's sister)
- ♥ Randy Phillips (Laura Phillips' father)
- ♥ Teresa Phillips
- ♥ Bette Scafe
- ♥ Barbara Sheldon
- ♥ Earl Sheldon
- ♥ Larry Stouse
- ♥ Leslie Twite (Carl Brockman's daughter)
- ♥ 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 Emerson & Marge Hartzler and their daughter, Laurie Loudenback, and her children, Allison and Aaron, on the death of Scott Loudenback on November 11.
www.newcomerstlouis.com/Obituary/256559/Scott-Loudenback/St%20Peters-MO
- ♥ to Sally & Jim Withers on the death of Sally's sister, Katie DeVeney, on December 2.
<https://kccremation.com/ObituaryDetails.aspx?id=35854>

Thank You

Dear Pastor Laura and the OPCC,
Thank you for officiating the beautiful service of our father, Chuck Reese. Thank you OPCC members for attending that day. It is greatly appreciated by the family.

*During a time like this
we realize how much
our friends and relatives
really mean to us...
Your expression of sympathy
will always be remembered*

— The Reese Family
Carol, Charley, & Chris

The **new microwave** in the Fireside Room kitchen was a gift from Quivira Crossing DAR chapter in honor and memory of Billie Marie Warden who was a charter member of the chapter. Billie was instrumental in scheduling the monthly meetings in the Fireside Room. Quivira Crossing is thrilled to return to meeting at OPCC this year after being unable to meet here during the pandemic.



Worship by Phone

is working properly again!



If you do not have a computer, smart phone, or tablet, but still want to worship with us virtually, you can join us over the phone!

Just call 913-299-9002 from your home or cell phone on Sunday afternoon (after 2pm), or any time throughout the week when you are available, to listen to the worship service from the previous Sunday on your phone! The audio is the same prayer, music, and message, continuing to connect us no matter how we worship!

Property Commission

Each month continues to bring us some challenges and November followed suit. Here were the activities for the month:

- a. Good news – we have a new microwave in the Fireside Room kitchenette. THANK YOU to DAR for providing it and Sheila & Don Cohenour installing it. See the “Thank You” section on page 5 of this newsletter for more information!
- b. Hank Price washed all the entryway and courtyard windows.
- c. Tim Meeker (mower of our large yards) removed all the leaves from the East and North.
- d. General Parts has ordered parts for the ice maker (in main kitchen) and for the large sprayer near the dishwasher. Final charges will come after the parts are installed.
- e. Regal Plumbing replaced the flush valve in the North men’s restroom, plus replaced two sink water faucets in the West restrooms. Waiting on bill.
- f. Next time you see these men (Earl Sheldon, Dave Farley, Lee Sprinkle, Roger Claar, Peter Lee, David Collins, Dean Hutchinson, and Emerson Hartzler) give them a big THANK YOU for all the mowing and weed eating they performed this Spring through Fall.
- g. Currently waiting for a competitive insurance bid for our building.
- h. Lee built a platform and step extension in the choir loft.

Submitted by,
Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

From Rev. Chuck..

The deadline to register for CYF midwinter is December 20th. Be sure to register ASAP. Don't forget that we have scholarships available, if you want to go we will make sure it happens. The dates are January 6th 6pm through January 8th 11am.

Midwinter is a weekend retreat for youth in grades 9 through 12. Come and enjoy small groups, fun fellowship activities, worship, and GREAT food. It's always great to spend time at Tall Oaks. I hope to see you there!

kcdisciplescamps.org/cyf-camp

For more info about Children and Youth Ministries at OPCC, contact Associate Pastor Rev. Chuck Pickrel at chuck@opccdoc.org or ext. 228.

Your OPCC Staff

913-677-4646

info@opccdoc.org

(general church e-mail address)

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lee@opccdoc.org	ext. 237
Nursery Director	Kourtney Leibman

Your 2022-2023 OPCC Board of Directors

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

**Copy deadline for next issue is
January 3 for January 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