




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

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

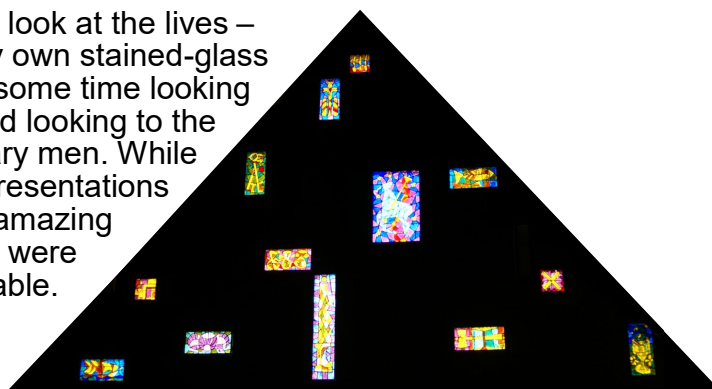
www.opccdoc.org • @opccdoc (Twitter & Instagram) • www.facebook.com/opccdoc

Twelve Ordinary Men

While we know that colored glass is not unique to stained glass windows (it has been used for things like cups and vases long before windows), we do know that stained glass windows truly began through the building of churches. One of the earliest known uses of stained-glass windows is attributed to Benedict Biscop who commissioned French artists to create stained glass windows for the monastery of St. Peter in the year 675. More robust biblical scenes were seen in stained glass church windows as early as the 10th century in both Germany and France, and really gained popularity during the Middle Ages when the mostly illiterate faithful learned biblical stories through this artistic expression. Windows, and symbols within those windows, have long been a way Christians pass on the faith to future generations, including here at Overland Park Christian, where we have 13 different windows that reflect the light of God into our community each and every time we gather.

For the next six weeks of worship, OPCC will take a look at the lives – and symbols – of the first disciples, inspired by our very own stained-glass windows on the east side of the sanctuary. We’ll spend some time looking at the symbols that represent each of these disciples and looking to the scriptures for inspiration from the lives of these 12 ordinary men. While there have certainly been some extraordinary artistic representations of the disciples and their lives of faith, one of the most amazing things about the disciples that Jesus chose is that they were ordinary, hopelessly human, and remarkably unremarkable.

As author John MacArthur has asked, if Christ can accomplish his purposes through the lives of common men like these, imagine what God has in store for you!



I hope you will join us during these next six weeks as we look to the lives of the disciples for inspiration in our own journeys of following the way of Christ.

- ♦ August 13 – Andrew & Peter (John 1:35-42 and Matthew 16:13-20)
- ♦ August 20 – James & John (Mark 10:35-45 and John 21:20-25)
- ♦ August 27 – Bartholomew & Philip (John 1:43-51 & John 14:8-14)
- ♦ September 3 – Thomas & James the Lesser (John 14:1-7, Mark 15:40 and Matthew 18:1-5)
- ♦ September 10 – Matthew & Simon (Matthew 9:9-13 and Acts 1:12-14)
- ♦ September 17 – Thaddaeus, Judas Iscariot, & Matthias (John 14:21-17 and Matthew 26:14-16)

Laura

Music Department Update

The Bell Choir and Chancel Choir rehearsals will resume Wednesday, September 6.

If you are thinking about joining us for either or both of these ensembles, we would love to have you! If you are concerned about a lack of music reading skills, we can work with you on that!

- Reverberations Bell Choir: rehearses every Wednesday 6:00-6:45 pm in the bell room
 - They play one Sunday a month September through May, as well as at Christmas Eve service.
- Chalice Chancel Choir: rehearses every Wednesday 7:15-8:30 pm in the choir room
 - The choir generally sings one to two Sundays a month, as well as at the Christmas Eve service.

If you are interested in joining us, please let Mary Beth Boucher, our director of music, know via email at marybeth@opccd.org or by phone at 913-677-4646, ext. 229. In addition, if you have a family member or friend who may be interested, please let them know as well.

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, for more information.

Social Justice Focus Planning Session

A planning session will be held on Thursday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room for anyone interested in sharing discussion of organizing, educating, and moving forward with more action-based plans around Social Justice opportunities at OPCC.

Contact Peggy Moore for more information and find out how you can be part of this ministry.

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 3 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.

- * Wednesday, August 23, 11:30am —
McLain's Market, 5833 Nieman Road, Shawnee
- * Wednesday, September 13, 11:30am —
Antioch Park, 6501 Antioch Road in Merriam.
Enter the north entrance. We will be in the Patio Shelter near the administration building and covered pavilion. Bring a sack lunch and drink.

Girlfriends

Our Wednesday night Girlfriends Bible Study will resume on Wednesday evening, September 6, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Whether you are an "already in" Girlfriend, or a new Girlfriend, you are welcome to join us. The title of our next study will be published in the September Scene.

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. Our current study book is "Joy."

Contact: Emerson Hartzler, 913-422-1378

Empty Nesters

The next Empty Nester event will be Friday, September 8, at 6:00 p.m. at the Patio Pavilion at Antioch Park, 6501 Antioch Road in Merriam, KS. Catered sandwiches and bottled water will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share. (Donations may be made for the sandwiches.)

If you plan to attend, RSVP to Peggy Moore by September 5 by email invitation or phone.
Hope you will join us!

Property Commission

July activities were as follows:

1. **THANK YOU, THANK YOU** to all the volunteers (20 from OPCC and 7 from RAV) who came to the July 15 work day and completed the following:
 - a. Cleaned the entire main kitchen
 - b. Organized the kitchen storage area
 - c. Power washed all the white tables
 - d. Cleaned all the tables in Fellowship Hall and classrooms
 - e. Scraped and painted the North and South exterior peaks (facia boards) of the Great Hall
 - f. Scraped and painted the two wood windows on the West side of the Great Hall
 - g. Scraped and painted the West entry doors and trim
 - h. Repaired and painted the dry rot in the soffit area at the Northwest entry
 - i. Repaired, sanded and stained the pulpit and table in the large courtyard
 - j. Rehung and sanded the courtyard fireplace cover
2. 2nd **Work Day** – this coming Saturday, August 12. We will gather in the Fireside Room at 9:30am.
3. Hobart Services repaired the kitchen dishwasher.
4. Temperature Maintenance were out 3 times during July:
 - a. After the storm, they had to restart the HVAC unit above Monarch classrooms
 - b. Replaced a leaking water vent above the teacher's lounge
 - c. Repaired the water leak above the hallway in front of the Fellowship Hall kitchen
5. Freedom Electric replaced 4 ceiling fluorescent lights (one in Honey Bee area, 3 in West hallway entry) with LED lights.

Submitted by

Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

What Would You Do?

A few weeks ago, a fierce storm blew through Kansas City. Several homes were damaged. For some of our neighbors, Jim and Mary, a beautiful, majestic tree cracked and fell into their home, making it unlivable for a couple of weeks. This couple is retired, living on their Social Security and had about \$2,500 in savings. Their children and grandchildren don't live in the area and are unable to bring the couple to live with them. After a couple of days, Mary and Jim found out their insurance deductible was \$5,000. The estimate for home repairs was \$7,000 to restore the structure of their home to the way it was before the storm. That was financially impossible for them, so they negotiated with the repair company and had the minimum repairs done to make the home barely habitable again for only \$2,500.

As you can imagine, things were getting tough.

After putting their motel costs on the credit card and paying for the home repairs, Jim and Mary realized they just didn't have enough money to buy groceries and pay the utilities. In tears and humiliation, they decided to apply for SNAP (food assistance), just for a month or two until they could get back on their feet. They went to the government office (spent almost a 1/2 day waiting for their turn to talk with a case manager) and discovered they were too wealthy to qualify! They each had a monthly SS check of \$1,300, for an monthly household income of \$2,600 or \$31,200 per year. And, because they own their house, valued at \$150,000, and a car valued at \$1,300, they have too many assets.

SNAP eligibility requirements for 2 person household:

- The total household annual income must be \$25,636 or less.
- At least one person in the household must be elderly or disabled.
- Household assets can't total more than \$4,250. This includes the house, car, savings or other money accounts, etc.

What would you do if you were Jim and Mary?

(This is a fictional story, a compilation of several family stories of the neighbors we serve at our OPCC Food Pantry. However the information about SNAP is from current Federal and State documents.)

Our Food Pantry needs Plastic Grocery Bags!

If you have plastic bags to spare, please donate them to the Pantry. Bags should be clean with no holes, and may be put in the blue barrel by the Fireside Room. Thank You!

Setting the Scene: Two friends hiking up Pikes Peak on Barr's Trail...

Ethan: This view is breathtaking!

Matt: So is the altitude!

Ethan: That patch of quartz we just walked over was surreal. The stones were shining like diamonds in the sun. This whole experience is a little piece of Heaven!

Matt: Well, I wouldn't know about Heaven, but the beauty is exceptional.

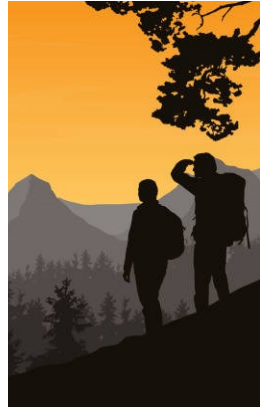
Ethan: Matt, in all the time I've known you, I don't even know if you are a Christian? Do you ever think of spiritual things?

Matt pauses.

Matt: I can't believe you asked me that! When I woke up this morning there was one question on my mind. I said, "God if you really exist, show me a sign".

The hikers continue up the trail with a new vigor.

Ethan: You know Matt, I never feel closer to God than when I'm on a mountain. Let me tell you how I came to Christ...



To the OPCC Congregation — if you are a Christian, you have a story to tell. As we continue our focus on evangelism, we invite you to tell your story, because every testimony is significant. How did you come to Christ? You don't need to have all the answers in order to reach out to others. You can share what you know best, that being your story, and in so doing participate in bringing others to Christ. So please, write a paragraph telling your story and let us know if you would be willing to share your story during a worship service or in our OPCC Scene newsletter.

Save the Date: we plan to show the recent movie, ***Jesus Revolution***, on September 16, 2023, in the OPCC Sanctuary. This movie is based on a true story and is sure to entertain, inspire, and inform.

Jesus Revolution was created with the desire to inspire yet another Jesus revolution. Greg Laurie, the teenage apprentice in the movie, is now the mega church pastor and evangelist at Harvest Ministries, in California. Greg's sermons are a daily feature on BRN Radio and Greg is a board member for the Billy Graham organization. Discussion groups will follow the showing. There will even be popcorn. Hope to see you there as we grow our evangelism skills!

Thank-you,

Your OPCC Board

2023 Missional Planning

Since the beginning of 2023, OPCC has engaged in several conversations, activities, and lots of prayer, to discern the priorities of our congregation for the next 12 - 18 months. These priorities do not change the core values, or identity, of who we are as Overland Park Christian Church, yet distill our efforts towards where we see the most need, and where we can do the most good. On Sunday, July 9, and Monday, July 10, the Elders and Board of OPCC met to refine the priorities of our congregation through the end of 2024. After reviewing all of the information and comments received at the missional planning gatherings, the following four priorities became clear:

- Exploring the relationship and partnership with Broadway Church ([as first reported in the May 2023 Newsletter](#))
- 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!

To that end, we give thanks for your presence and fellowship on August 6 as we welcomed Broadway Church into worship and the potluck following. As Broadway discerns their next steps in an upcoming congregational meeting, we will continue to be open to where the Spirit of God is leading our congregations as we seek to be Christ's presence in the world today. If you have any questions or inspirations regarding these priorities outlined by the congregation, I encourage you to chat more with the pastoral staff, the OPCC elders, and/or OPCC board as we look to the future God has planned for us!

Prayer List

Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Bill Anthony
- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Julie Dean
- ♥ 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
- ♥ 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
- ♥ Sharon McBride
- ♥ Christina, Jeff, Scott, & Jenny Packard (Sharon & Bob Shankel's daughter & family)
- ♥ Randy Phillips (Laura Phillips' father)
- ♥ 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 Piper, Bella, & Maddie Shields and family on the death of their father, David Shields, on August 4.

Congratulations!

- ♥ to Lisa & Bill Engelken on the birth of their fourth grandchild, a boy, Cooper Edward Beck born on August 4 to Jenna & David Beck.

To add persons to prayer lists or to submit items for the newsletter, please forward information to Michelle Reiter at michelle@opccdoc.org or 913-677-4646, x223.



Bring the family and friends and join us for fun and fellowship at a multi-congregational Trivia Night, Nacho Bar, and Dessert Contest!

All ages are welcome – there will be questions for EVERYONE. Come play as a team, or join with others when you arrive! This will be a fun, relaxed event so we won't have rules for teams, but teams of 5 to 8 work best. Topics include pop-culture (music, movies, and TV), logo identification, flag identification, art, automotive, and Bible/religion with five questions per topic ranging from "easy" to "Who in the world would know that?!"

Nobody should do trivia on an empty stomach. Come enjoy the open Nacho Bar, and Dessert Contest! We are always mindful of food allergies, but be sure to ask when you arrive about any allergies you may have.

You are invited to bring a dessert to share as a contest entry. Please label your dessert and include a list of ingredients. The dessert with the most votes will win a TROPHY!

Hope to see YOU there!

HELP WANTED / VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- * **Dossal Candles & Lighters** — The seven candles at the front of the Sanctuary that are lit during our worship services need regular maintenance. Generally, they need refilling with oil once a month. Also, every few years the tall barrels of the candles must be cleaned and repainted, and their anchors adjusted from time to time. The lighters need checking before each service. The learning curve isn't steep, but I'll show you how to keep the candles shining brightly for each service or special occasion.
Contact: Calvin McBride
- * **Pew Supplies Stocker** — Straighten and restock the pew racks with pencils, hymnals, Bibles, and giving envelopes each week. This can be an individual or a team effort, and is best done on Fridays or Saturdays.
Contact: Rev. Chuck Pickrel
- * **Sunday Coffee Fellowship Ministers** — More and more of us are gathering for coffee in the Fireside Room on Sunday mornings, and so we need help organizing the coffee "fixings" each Sunday morning. Instructions and guidelines will be provided, and an email will be sent to remind you each week that you are scheduled.
Contact: Cody Kreutzer
- * **Sunday Worship Liturgists** — read the scripture, call to worship, invitation to stewardship, or invitation to discipleship during worship. No age requirement – anyone willing to read is welcome. Readings are written and provided to you before your assigned Sunday. Or, if you prefer, you are welcome to write your own invitations to stewardship and/or discipleship.
Contact: Cody Kreutzer or Rev. Laura Phillips
- * **Sunday Greeters** — People needed at the West and North doors from 10:10am – 10:40am on Sunday mornings to greet folks into the building and direct them to the Sanctuary as needed.
Contact: Cody Kreutzer
- * **Sunday Projectionists** — Run the PowerPoint slides on Sunday morning. No age requirement and no experience necessary. If you can click a button on the computer, we would love for you to join our rotation of people in the booth. On the job training will be provided.
Contact: Barb Collins
- * **Sunday Sound Technicians** — Help set up mics, monitor the sound board, and manage recording of the worship service on Sunday mornings. No experience necessary – no age requirement – will receive on the job training.
Contact: Kent Setty or Teresa Phillips

Your OPCC Staff

913-677-4646

info@opccdoc.org

(general church e-mail address)

Senior PastorLaura Ann Phillips
laura@opccdoc.org ext. 222

Associate PastorChuck Pickrel
chuck@opccdoc.org ext. 228

ReceptionistCody Kreutzer
office@opccdoc.org ext. 221

Communications Coordinator/
Bookkeeper..... Michelle Reiter
michelle@opccdoc.org ext. 223

Music DirectorMary Beth Boucher
marybeth@opccdoc.org ext. 229

AccompanistJulie Dean
missjupes@gmail.com

Building & GroundsLee Sprinkle
lee@opccdoc.org ext. 237

Pastor of Sacred SpacesLisa Engelken
lengelken@dhm.disciples.org

Nursery DirectorKourtney Leibman

Your 2023-2024 OPCC Board of Directors

Roger ClaarChair

Katherine Ann HaggardVice Chair

Teresa PhillipsSecretary

Richard OwensTreasurer

Alan FeltonCommission Liaison

Jody CashLeadership Development

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

**Copy deadline for next issue is
September 5 for September 7 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