

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,  
and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

Dear Church Family!

Summer is coming 😊 Are you excited? I love summer and with it the promise of outdoor activities, gathering with neighbors, family, and friends. Summer is also a time for a change of routine (just a bit) and hopefully a little more time to intentionally spend with the Lord. My prayer for each of you is that you will make the time to do this! Take advantage of the warm weather, take a walk, pray, get into a regular rhythm of reading His word, plan family devotions, seek his face for your family, relationships, and for OEPC. You may even want to check out a good book from the church library! We have a wonderful collection!

As Summer provides opportunities for personal growth, I want to make you aware of opportunities to join in God’s work here at OPEC. In our ever-changing world, the demands on time press in on each of us. Carl Sandburg wrote, "Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent." Is time precious? Absolutely! Here are some ways you might prayerfully spend it.

- Pray about serving. Currently, the Session is seeking more Elders to serve the church in offering spiritual oversight and guidance to the congregation. Has God called you to this? I’ve heard folks say, ‘I’m not equipped for that.’ Well, the truth is that none of us are 😊, but if God calls you, he is faithful and will equip you for this mission.
- Are you gifted in music? Talk with Beth and join the worship team.
- Are you good at reaching out to your neighbor? Maybe God is calling you to form a team to reach out to the community.
- Do you just want to get to know folks better in the church? Think about leading a small group this fall and talk to our elder John Esterahi.
- Maybe you’re an athlete and want to start a running group that meets to run and then spend some time praying for each other. (The ideas of practicing community are as big as the calling and gifts God has given each of us.)
- This fall, the CE team is restructuring the Sunday morning CE hour for young children (Ages 4 through 8). We are committed to the church's mission to disciple children. Kidz Connect, meeting twice a month on Thursdays for Preschool to 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders, has become a well-attended mid-week program for young children. This mid-week program will be replacing traditional Sunday School for our young children. During our Sunday Morning worship hour, children’s worship is another avenue that offers biblical teaching, Bible memorization, and worship through song.
- CE is planning to offer a six-week class (yet TBD) for parents, during which childcare will only be provided for the youngest age group (ages 4-8). Maybe God will call you to help take care of these kiddos during this time?. (All other age groups will continue to be connected in their age-appropriate groups throughout the fall semester.)

We trust God’s guidance as we make these options available to families. I hope that you will be in prayer seeking how God may be calling you to use the gifts he’s given you for his glory and his kingdom. Let’s pray and work to this end! Blessings in Christ, my friends,

Pastor Dan