

SUNDAY MORNING
COFFEE CONNECTION

9:30am in the Fireside Room



MEET



CONNECT



GROW



SERVE

10:00AM
WORSHIP SERVICES

THE GATHERING / CONTEMPORARY
LEGACY / TRADITIONAL

"COME EARLY, STAY LATE!" CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

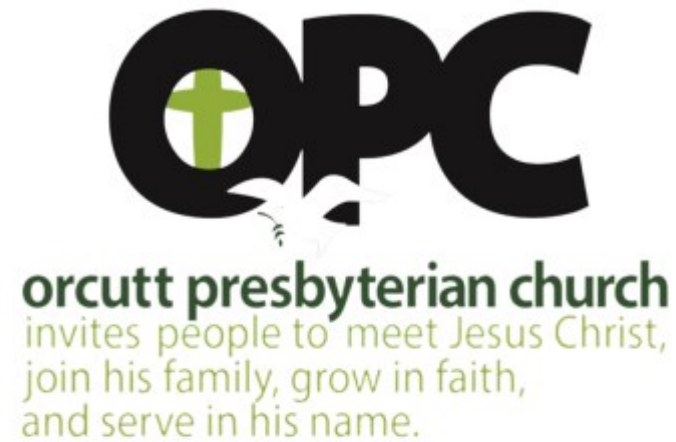
OPG MONTHLY NEWSLETTER / APRIL 2024

WHEN MY HEART IS
OVERWHELMED LEAD ME TO

The Rock

THAT IS HIGHER
THAN I.

PSALM 61:2



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Working Behind the Scenes Today's Scripture: 1 Chronicles 10-16

"He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch." - Mark 13:34

A lot of Christians feel discouraged because they can't preach or sing or stand up in front of a group. Sometimes they begin to think their gifts and abilities don't count for much in the kingdom of God.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Over the years, I've been involved in hundreds of Christian conferences and church meetings. And while the speaker often gets the most attention, it is usually someone else who deserves the most credit. Someone sent invitations, handled the registration, prepared the room, and prayed for the Lord's blessing. The speaker stands on a platform of service provided by those who work unnoticed and out of sight.

In 1 Chronicles 12, we see that thousands of men, with a wide variety of gifts and abilities followed David and swore allegiance to him. Some were advisors and some were warriors. In the midst of their celebration of turning Saul's kingdom over to David, the Bible tells us that people came bringing provisions—flour, cakes of figs and raisins, wine, oil, cattle, sheep. And we read that there was joy in Israel.

Those who work behind the scenes have a ministry just as important as those who stand up front and lead. Perhaps God has given you a gift of ministry behind the scenes. If so, thank God for it and for its importance in the building of His kingdom.



PASTOR CHARLIE

I am writing this in the midst of Holy Week and all that we are doing and thinking and preparing for as Easter approaches. We are well into our **Lenten “experiment”** with two simultaneous worship service times, exploring how to strengthen the unity of our church as one body as we do this. I have sought your feedback in personal conversations during this time, and what I’ve seen and heard has been mostly positive. The **Coffee Connection** time has been a joy to behold! Lots of people, mingling, sitting, and standing while enjoying coffee and food. I can’t say how much ‘cross-pollination’ is taking place between folks worshipping across the patio, but hopefully that’s happening. Our first attempt at **live-streaming the sermon** from one building to the other had some hiccups – coordinating the service elements to coincide exacting at the same time when it came to the sermon was off by about 7 minutes, so that needs work...sound quality was an issue early on before it was corrected...and the picture quality was negatively impacted by my wearing a white shirt. So, things to work on if this has a chance to be a viable, sustainable strategy. We will have another chance at it on **April 14 when I will be live-streamed from the Sanctuary to Wedaa Hall.** After that, the Session, with input from the congregation, discuss how best to move forward.

NOTE: **I will take one vacation week** beginning April 21 (Sunday). That means I will be unavailable **Sunday–Saturday, April 21-27**, but back on Sunday the 28th. Mike Aguillon will preach on the 21st.

An update on the progress of **Rod’s Fund** for camp scholarships. As of last Sunday (March 24), we have raised **\$3,425!** Thank you to everyone who has given so far. We didn’t set a goal amount to raise, but in my mind was a figure somewhere between \$5,000 - \$10,000. So we’re definitely on course to hit that first figure, and hopefully end up somewhere in-between the two.

Not many suggestions came in for a name for our combined worship service. **“Combined”** Service was one, which is exactly what it is, so that might be a simple solution. **“Fusion”** Service was another. Fusion is used to refer to food that in cooking “incorporates elements of diverse cuisines,” which gives a vibe that goes along with inevitable diversity of preferences within a congregation, and the idea of food and feeding aligns with what happens in worship. And then there is **“Tapestry”** service, which has the image of a variety of different colors and threads woven together into something beautiful. From the back side it looks rather random and messy, but the front reveals its inter-connected beauty. In the end, it’s ‘just’ a name, and whether we ever decide on one is less important that what actually happens when we gather together.

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I can say after three months that I have definitely achieved **homeostasis!** That's a fancy word that means *"the tendency toward a relatively stable equilibrium between interdependent elements, especially as maintained by physiological processes."* That equilibrium between interdependent elements includes two houses, two cities, a highway, a truck, two electric shavers (I got tired of forgetting at which interdependent element the one I had was located), two suits (bought another one after more than once I was without a belt, a tie, or an entire coat, shirt, & pant ensemble), etc. etc. I've been the recipient of the hospitality in four different homes in this journey to homeostasis, and currently have developed a good rhythm in the home of a couple in which the wife is a former member of the youth group when I was here...which gives extra meaning to the feeling of 'back home again.'

Due to ongoing back management issues, Laura (my wife) is not yet able to drive herself down to attend in person regularly, so that's the one 'element' that is yet to achieve equilibrium, but hopefully it will happen. For Easter, our plan is for me to come in a bit later in the morning so we can drive down together so she can share in the celebration. So, on that note SEE YOU ON EASTER SUNDAY!

Faithfully yours in Christ Jesus,

Charlie

*"Children are a gift
from the Lord; they are
a reward from him."*

—Psalm 127:3





Children's Ministry
is looking for volunteers!
Please see Lauren, if you are
interested in teaching our
preschoolers - 6th grade children
OR if you'd like to care for the
babies in the nursery.



Hello, wonderful church family!

I'm thrilled to share some exciting updates from our children's ministry with you all. Our kids' choir absolutely stole the show on Palm Sunday - there is something so unbelievably precious about a bunch of kids singing hosanna to our Savior! It's such a joy to see them shine.

Our Kids for Christ (KFC) gatherings have been buzzing with excitement as well! We've been having fantastic turnout and loads of fun diving into lessons about the fruits of the Spirit. It's been a wonderful opportunity for our children to grow in their faith and build meaningful connections with one another.

And let me tell you about our Sunday school time - it's been truly special. Spending time praying with and for each other and just getting to know each other better has been amazing. It's such a blessing to see our kids supporting and uplifting one another in prayer.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for some fantastic fellowship opportunities over the summer months. From picnics to game nights, we're planning some memorable events where our children can continue to deepen their relationships with God and each other.

Before I sign off, I would like to ask that you continue to keep our ministry in prayer. Your prayers mean the world to us and help us to keep moving forward with passion and purpose.

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement!

Blessings,
Lauren Hotchkiss - Children's Ministry Director

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church Office Closed today	2	3 6:30PM Route 66 Bible Study in the book of Acts/CO 6:30PM Jr. High & High School/GR 6:30PM Women's Study/FR	4 10:30AM Wisdom Class/WH 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal/S	5 2-4PM Food Distribution & Clothes Closet / OPC	6
7 9:30AM <u>Coffee Connection</u> 10:00AM <u>Worship Service</u> in the Sanctuary *Following the Service: • All are invited to enjoy a meal in the Hall	8 Church Office Closed today	9 6:00PM Session Meeting/FR	10 6:30PM Joyful Noise/S 6:30PM Route 66 Bible Study in the book of Acts/CO 6:30PM Jr. High & High School/GR	11 10:30AM Wisdom Class/WH 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal/S	12 2-4PM Food Distribution & Clothes Closet / OPC	13
14 9:30AM <u>Coffee Connection</u> 10:00AM <u>WORSHIP SERVICES</u> • The Gathering in the Hall • Legacy in the Sanctuary	15 Church Office Closed today	16 7:00PM Deacons Meeting/FR	17 6:00PM KFC/WH 6:30PM Route 66 Bible Study in the book of Acts/CO 6:30PM Jr. High & High School/GR 6:30PM Women's Study/FR	18 10:30AM Wisdom Class/WH 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal/S	19 2-4PM Food Distribution & Clothes Closet / OPC	20
21 9:30AM <u>Coffee Connection</u> 10:00AM <u>WORSHIP SERVICES</u> • The Gathering in the Hall • Legacy in the Sanctuary	22 Church Office Closed today	23	24 6:30PM Joyful Noise/S 6:30PM Route 66 Bible Study in the book of Acts/CO 6:30PM Jr. High & High School/GR	25 10:30AM Wisdom Class/WH 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal/S	26 2-4PM Food Distribution & Clothes Closet / OPC	27
28 9:30AM <u>Coffee Connection</u> 10:00AM <u>WORSHIP SERVICES</u> • The Gathering in the Hall • Legacy in the Sanctuary	29 Church Office Closed today	30	<div style="background-color: #cccccc; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> FR = Fireside Room GR = Game Room S = Sanctuary WH = Wedaa Hall YB = Youth Building CO = Church Office </div>			