

The mission of Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church is to invite people to experience Jesus Christ and become his passionate followers.



Volume LXII Issue 8

August 2026



On July 13-17, MOPC held our Rainforest Falls VBS for over 150 kids aged 4 through those who completed 5th grade. The children spent the week singing, playing, and learning how to trust Jesus in a wild world. It was a fun and exciting week. Thank you to all who helped make this great event possible. Turn to page 11 for more pictures.

IN THIS EDITION:

Message from Nikki Zyp	Pages 2-3
August Sermons	Page 3
Blood Drive Information	Page 4
Earth Care Task Force	Page 6
PW Fall Gathering Information	Page 9



Building One Another Up in Love

We are about halfway through Pastor Chris's sabbatical. Nearly every week, someone at MOPC asks me how things are going while Chris is away and whether there is anything they can do to help. The overwhelming message I have received from this congregation is that you are personally invested in the vitality and well-being of this church.

Recently, I was speaking with the executive director of a local nonprofit here in Salt Lake City. He participates in a leadership development program that encourages executive directors to take sabbaticals. One reason for this practice is that a sabbatical can function as a kind of stress test for an organization. It reveals where too much responsibility has accumulated and highlights both the strengths and vulnerabilities of the organization as a whole.

As I have reflected on that conversation over the past several weeks, I have found myself thinking about Mount Olympus. While I would not describe this season as a stress test, it has given us an opportunity to see something beautiful: the willingness of this congregation to step forward when there is a need.

I believe this is in the very DNA of this church. We have seen this even before Pastor Chris left for his sabbatical. A most recent example was during our search for a new director of youth ministry, when a dedicated team of volunteers stepped in to coordinate activities, build relationships with our young people, and sustain the ministry on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Their commitment was deeply encouraging.

Since Chris has been away, I have continued to witness that same spirit throughout the church. People have offered their time, shared their gifts, checked in on one another, and taken ownership of the ministries they care about. Rather than asking, "Who will do this?" many have simply asked, "How can I help?"

The Apostle Paul describes the church this way in Ephesians 4:15–16:

"Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

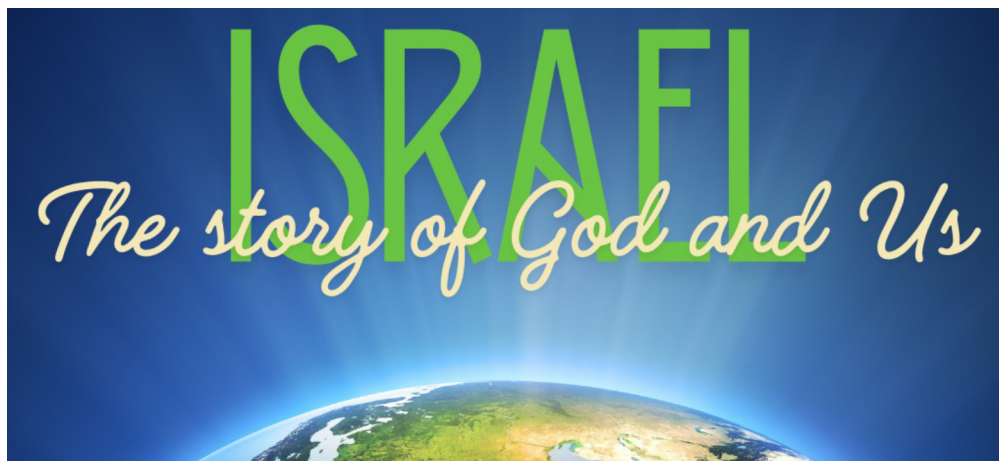
Building one another up in love—that is what I see every day at Mount Olympus.

I am grateful for the ownership so many of you take in this community, for the countless acts of service that often go unnoticed, and for the faithfulness with which you invest your time, energy, and care. The strength of this church has never rested on one person. It is found in a community of people seeking to follow Christ together.

Thank you for all you do. May our life together continue to bless our neighbors, strengthen one another, and glorify God.

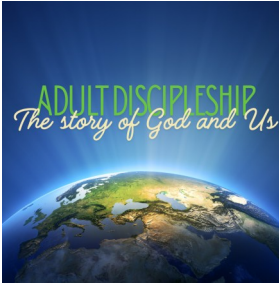
Blessings,

Nikki Zyp
Nikki Zyp



AUGUST SERMONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Scripture References</u>	<u>Guest Preacher</u>
8/2	<i>Ten Commandments</i>	Exodus 20:1–17	Matt Vaughan
8/9	<i>Golden Calf</i>	Exodus 32:1–6, 19–24	Rev. Robin Nygaard
8/16	<i>Spies</i>	Numbers 13:25–33; 14:1–4	Nikki Zyp
8/23	<i>Choose This Day</i>	Joshua 24:1–3, 14–24	JR Baker
8/30	<i>Gideon</i>	Judges 6:11–16, 36–40	JR Baker



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

The Story of God and Us: We will continue throughout the summer with our Bible study that parallels the sermon series by providing an opportunity to further explore the themes and Scriptures in small group discussion and exchange. Come with your questions, ready to learn from one another! Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in Room 501.



Celebrate
MORE LIFE. GIVE BLOOD.



Blood Drive **Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church**

Thursday, August 13, 2026
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: MtOly to schedule an appointment.



Come to give blood in August for a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. Terms: rcblood.org/August.



Scan to schedule an appointment.

Rev. Bre Magill, our former Associate Pastor, is conducting a study for her PhD research. If you or someone you know fits the criteria and would like to participate, please follow the link on the flyer below. The survey will close September 12, 2026.

Infertility & Christian Faith Study

Participants Needed

One in six people worldwide will struggle with infertility. For many, this crisis goes unresolved—and it has the potential to dramatically alter the way we understand and relate to ourselves, God, and the people around us.

How has infertility impacted your faith?

Requirements

- 18+ years old
- Self-identify as Christian
- Currently experiencing unresolved infertility (inability to conceive)

Aspects of this study



Brief screening
survey



Creative
reflection



Online
interview

Interested?

Fill out the survey at bit.ly/infertilityandfaithstudy

Questions? Contact Breanne Magill, PhD Researcher (b.magill.25@abdn.ac.uk)

Rights and Privacy

Participation is voluntary and expression of interest does not entail commitment. For details of our legal basis for using personal data, the rights you have over your personal information, and the contact details of our Data Protection Officer for any data protection queries, please see the University of Aberdeen privacy information at abdn.ac.uk/privacy/.



INTRODUCING THE MOPC EARTH CARE TASK FORCE—TENDING GOD'S GARDEN

Genesis 2:15: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

The MOPC Earth Care Task Force is excited to begin working toward the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Earth Care Congregation Certification. This process helps congregations deepen their commitment to caring for God's creation through worship, education, sustainable practices in our facilities and on our property, and outreach to our community. As people of faith, we believe caring for the earth is an expression of loving our neighbors and honoring God's gift of creation. Over the coming months, the task force will assess where our church is already making a difference, identify new opportunities, and invite the congregation to participate. Whether your passion is gardening, energy conservation, environmental justice, or simply learning more, we welcome your ideas and involvement as we grow together in faithful stewardship of God's creation.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

Carol Day (our session representative) - carolanneday@gmail.com

Joel Holtrop - joelholtrop@gmail.com

John Melhoff - bigbaadjohn@hotmail.com

Micah Mahaney - yenaham@hotmail.com

Nan Merrow - nwmerrow@gmail.com

Mark Jackson - mjax5@msn.com

Karen Jackson - kejax@msn.com



ONE MINUTE EMAIL UPDATE

Give us one minute and we'll keep you in the loop!

Are you signed up for our weekly One Minute Email Update? It's a great way to stay up to date on what's going on each week at MOPC. If you'd like to receive these emails, please contact the church office at 801-277-2674 or email sbarnish@mtopres.org and we'll add you to our One Minute Email list.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 11 am AA
2 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Adult Discipleship 9:45 am Joyous Journey	3 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	4 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Office & Tech 7 pm AA	5	6 7 am Men's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	7 7 pm Rescue Mission 7 pm AA	8 10 am Utah Food Bank 11 am AA
9 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Adult Discipleship 7 pm Contemplative Worship	10 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	11 6:30 am Men's Bible 6 pm Finance 7 pm Deacons 7 pm AA	12 2 pm Chronic Conditions	13 7 am Men's Bible 1 pm Blood Drive 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	14 9 am Sandwich Making 4:30 pm St. Vincent's 7 pm AA	15 11 am AA
16 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Adult Discipleship	17 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	18 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm AA	19 9 am Men's Coffee Group 2 pm Chronic Conditions	20 7 am Men's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible 7 pm Security Team	21 7 pm AA	22 11 am AA
23 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Adult Discipleship	24 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	25 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Adult Ministry 7 pm Facilities 7 pm AA	26	27 7 am Men's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	28 7 pm AA	29 11 am AA
30 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Adult Discipleship	31 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm Personnel 7 pm AA					



Hunger still hurts in the summer. Join the MOPC team to help at the Utah Food Bank on Saturday, August 8, from 10 am to noon (or as long as you can help). Remember, on Saturdays, children need to be 12 years old to help with a parent. Let's show up and help out at the Utah Food Bank, 3150 S and 900 W. See you there? For your safety, no open-toed shoes.



Every 2nd Friday of the month, volunteers from MOPC help serve our community by giving their time to assist St. Vincent de Paul in providing food to those in need. On these Fridays, at 9 a.m., we gather in the MOPC kitchen to prepare sandwiches to be delivered. Then, at 4:30 p.m., MOPC volunteers by serving meals at the St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall. Children 12 and older may help. The next opportunity to help will be August 14.



Joyous Journey is a monthly gathering of parents and allies as we walk the journey of life with our LGBTQ+ loved ones. We spend time learning and discussing how to care for and support the LGBTQ+ community and each other. Content includes educational videos, affirming Christian books, and fellowship. Please join us the first Sunday of every month in Room 206 at 9:45 a.m.



MOPC CHRONIC CONDITIONS SUPPORT GROUP

If you or a loved one is affected by a chronic condition, we invite you to check out our support group. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month via Zoom to talk, pray, and encourage one another. Our next meeting is Wednesday, August 19, at 2 p.m. Please text or call Janet Nelson at 801-560-9044 for the Zoom link or more info.



Fall Gathering

September 25-26

5:00-8:30pm (Friday)
9:00-2:30pm (Saturday)

WASATCH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1626 S 1700 E, SLC, UT 84108

Join us for conversation, community
building, worship and learning with:

Women's Health-
Karen Jackson & Deb Penney

The UN's Commission on the
Status of Women-
Natalily Kyremes-Parks

RSVP: 801-368-9130 or
carolanneday@gmail.com

Welcoming All in Love

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF UTAH



Mt O Youth

Summer is Almost Over

The highlight of our summer season was Youth Week in early July, with 25 youth participating in service, fun, and recreation! We'll make this a tradition to repeat in 2027! Check out some photos from that week below.

-Matt Vaughan, Directory of Youth Ministry



Remaining Summer Schedule

New 6th graders and new 9th graders will move up when school starts in mid-August, so check out the two special events for just high-schoolers and middle-schoolers on August 15th and 19th! Details will be in our weekly youth email, so keep an eye out for that or contact Matt to get on the email list!

- **August 5 – Millcreek Canyon Cookout**, for all completed 6th-12th graders, food is provided.
- **August 15 – High School Move-Up Day and Climbing Event** for all completed 8th-12th graders. New 9th graders are invited!
- **August 19 – Middle School Move-Up Day and Fry Tasting Tour**, for all completed 5th-7th graders. New 6th graders are invited!





Mt O Kids

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made this year's VBS possible! Thank you to our 38 Crew Leaders, 12 Station Leaders and Assistant Station Leaders, our fearless Kitchen Crew, our tech gurus, actors, greeters, and check-in volunteers, our set-up and clean-up crew, those who donated items, and those who prayed for VBS throughout the week. VBS was amazing, and I'm humbled by and grateful for your support.

-Jen Christensen, Directory of Family Ministry



Ministry Staff

Pastor	Chris Pritchett
Pastoral Associate	Nikki Zyp
Executive Administrator	Sheila Barnish
Administrative Assistant	Sarah Brozek
Director of Family Ministry	Jen Christensen
Director of Youth Ministry	Matt Vaughan
Treasurer	Roberta Bolton
Director of Childcare	Jolie Bawden
Facilities Manager	Serene Cutler

Contact Information

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Phone: (801) 277-2674

Fax: (801) 277-2059

Pastor: cpritchett@mtopres.org

Pastoral Associate: nzyp@mtopres.org

Exec. Administrator: sbarnish@mtopres.org

Newsletter Items: sbrozek@mtopres.org

Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church

3280 East 3900 South

Salt Lake City, UT 84124

Website: www.mountolympuschurch.com

Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/mountolympuspresbyterian

Elders Serving on Session

Class of 2026

Carol Day
Megan Judkins
Edward Owens
Mark Templeman

Class of 2027

Brad Hayden
Rick Spratling
Tammy Stevenson
Dawn Wright
Kris Zyp

Class of 2028

Mike Bicker
Sarah Jelsema
Gary Peterson
Alie Serrato
Brian Strike

OUR MINISTRY OF CARE

Board of Deacons

Adrienne Alward, Sherrie Bertrand, Vicky Bicker, Chris Birch,
Mara Chinchilla, Chris Chytraus, Thea Hayden, Julie Holtrop, Kristy Hyres, Jan Ingerson,
Karen Jackson, Jean Keller, Micah Mahaney, Pam Mahaney,
Marilyn Marshall, Tamara Pluth, Becky Sowards, Jim Sowards, Judy Spratling

Stephen Ministers

Eric Brozek, Bethany Jones, Mike Magill, Kristina O'Neal*, Susan Parker,
Danielle Vaughns, Jim Wight, Kathy Wight, Lauri Winge*

*Stephen Ministry Leadership Team