

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



Volume LXI Issue 8

August 2025



On July 7-11, MOPC held Vacation Bible School 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.

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Dear Friends,

August always carries a particular energy—summer's slow rhythm still lingering, yet the horizon of fall beginning to form. For our church staff, it's a month of sacred reflection. Every August, we pause for our annual performance evaluations. These are more than HR check-ins; they're opportunities to discern the movement of the Spirit—how God has worked through our ministries this past year, and what new possibilities are stirring as we look ahead. I'm so grateful for our ministry staff and all the love and skill with which they carry out their ministries.

As I reflect on my own leadership and look toward the year ahead, a few hopes and priorities are already becoming clear.

First, I'm eager to continue strengthening our leadership culture by partnering with Nikki Zyp, who now serves as both our Clerk of Session and Pastoral Associate. Together, we're working to deepen the trust, clarity, and partnership within our Session. The Presbyterian way is rooted in shared leadership between pastors and elders, and when that partnership is healthy, which it is, our whole church flourishes.

Second, we're focusing on how we welcome new people into our community. From the moment someone steps through our doors to the point where they feel a deep sense of spiritual belonging, every step matters. This fall, there will be an opportunity to officially join the church as a member in October. Membership is more than a name on a roll—it's a covenant. It's how we say to each other: *I'm in this with you*. In our PC(USA) tradition, it also gives you a voice in our discernment, a role in our mission, and a home in our shared spiritual journey.

Another key area we're investing in this year is communication. Within our community, we want to continue growing in how we share information clearly, lovingly, and effectively. And externally, we want to portray the best of who we are—faithful, thoughtful, vibrant—through intentional rebranding and clarity around our core values.

One of those values is our commitment to the contemplative tradition within Christianity. We're already living into this through our monthly contemplative worship service, a number of small groups, and our men's retreat, which is rooted in

contemplative practice. But I believe we are being called to lean in more—to offer deeper teaching and practice in this tradition, not just for our own inner lives, but for the healing of the world. The contemplative path trains us to live awake, to love deeply, and to act justly.

I've also been reflecting on how we might more intentionally leverage the unique gifts of our congregation for the sake of the world. One striking gift in our community is the number of people who serve in the medical field. That's not something every church can say. With the wise advocacy of one of our members who is an attorney, we were recently able to raise our voice in support of the reauthorization of PEPFAR—a medical program that has saved millions of lives from the destruction of AIDS. That's the kind of Kingdom work we want to keep pursuing: contemplative hearts, courageous witness, and compassionate action.

Lastly, I hope to offer more regular devotional resources for you—prayers, reflections, and weekly materials that flow with the Sunday lectionary readings, helping you stay rooted in the Spirit as you move through your days.

This is our work together, friends: to keep becoming the kind of church that blesses one another, our neighborhood, and the world. I'm grateful to walk it with you.

With hope and peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris", with a stylized, flowing script.

Pastor Chris



“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” (Mt. 25:35-36) Recent changes in our national budget have resulted in an increased need for both monetary and food donations for Crossroads Urban Center and the Utah Food Bank. Although MOPC generously supports these groups year-round, we hope to make extra donations in August. Throughout the month, paper bags will be available for filling in our donation wagon in the gathering area, along with suggested food lists. Those wishing to make monetary donations to Crossroads or the Food Bank can do so online at www.crossroadsurbancenter.org or www.utahfoodbank.org

WELCOME NIKKI ZYP



Beginning August 1, Nikki Zyp will be MOPC's new Pastoral Associate as well as the Clerk of the Session. She has been a faithful leader in our church since becoming a member in 2023 and has already served as a deacon and a youth mentor. Nikki will carry on many of the responsibilities that have shaped our communal life—offering pastoral care, nurturing adult discipleship, supporting worship, fostering new small groups, and co-leading retreats. She brings a deep well of compassion, organizational skill, and spiritual maturity to every role she undertakes. With a background in behavior intervention and educational leadership, Nikki's life and work reflect her heart for people, especially those navigating seasons of difficulty or transition. Please join us in welcoming her to our ministerial staff. Nikki can be reached at nzyp@mtopres.org.



AUGUST SERMONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE REFERENCES</u>
8/3	<i>Wealth in the Kingdom</i>	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12–14; 2:18–23; Luke 12:13–21
8/10	<i>Faith in the Kingdom</i>	Genesis 15:1–6; Luke 12:32–40
8/17	<i>Justice in the Kingdom</i>	Isaiah 5:1–7; Luke 12:49–56
8/24	<i>Healing in the Kingdom</i>	Jeremiah 1:4–10; Luke 13:10–17

NEW SERMON SERIES - PARABLES OF GRACE

8/31	<i>Come Take a Lower Seat</i>	Proverbs 25:6–7; Luke 14:1, 7–14
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ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

Adult Discipleship classes at MOPC take place at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday.

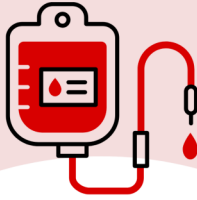
Devotional Classics: Using the book *Devotional Classics*, we will read and discuss excerpts from some of Christianity's most profound thinkers and theologians. Several teachers will lead classes, and copies of the books are available for purchase in the gathering area.

DEVOTIONAL CLASSICS



Some of the class topics in August will be “The Cost of Nondiscipleship”, “Christ in Community”, and “To See Clearly”.

****Materials and information from select Adult Discipleship classes can be found on the Adult Ministries tab on our website.****



DONATE **BLOOD** SAVE LIVES

August 14, 2025

1 pm - 7 pm
Mt. Olympus Gym

Join us for our annual summer blood drive on Thursday, August 14. The drive will be open from 1-7 p.m. in the gym. All blood types are helpful and needed. With each donation, you can save up to three lives! Sign up at: <https://bit.ly/4lyBsMi>

If you are unable to donate blood but would like to help in another way, volunteers are needed to staff the check-in booth. Volunteer shifts run for 2-hour windows. Slots are open from 1-3, 3-5, and 5-7 p.m. Please get in touch with Maddie Woodruff (mwoodruff@mtopres.org), the child-care director, if you are interested.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7 pm Rescue Mission 7 pm AA	2 11 am AA
3 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Adult Discipleship 9:45 am Joyous Journey	4 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	5 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Worship Team 7 pm AA	6	7 7 am Men's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible 7 pm Stephen Min	8 9 am Sandwich Making 4:30 pm St. Vincent's 7 pm AA	9 10 am Utah Food Bank 11 am AA
10 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Adult Discipleship 7 pm Contemplative Worship	11 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	12 6:30 am Men's Bible 6:00 pm Finance 7 pm Deacons 7 pm AA	13	14 7 am Men's Bible 1 pm Blood Drive 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	15 7 pm AA	16 11 am AA
17 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Adult Discipleship	18 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	19 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Session 7 pm AA	20 2 pm Chronic Conditions	21 7 am Men's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible 7 pm Stephen Min	22 7 pm AA	23 11 am AA
24 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Adult Discipleship	25 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm Personnel 7 pm AA	26 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Facilities 7 pm Adult Min Team 7 pm AA	27	28 7 am Men's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	29 7 pm AA	30 11 am AA
31 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Labor Day Pottluck Brunch	BIRTHDAYS AND EVENTS					



UTAH
FOOD
BANK

Our MOPC Utah Food Bank team will meet on Saturday, August 9, from 10 a.m. to noon at 3150 S and 900 W. Come, give as much time as you can, and remember no open-toed shoes are allowed. Children over the age of six are welcome with a parent (or grandparent). Hope to see you there, helping others.



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. The next opportunity to help will be August 8 .



ADULT FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Get ready, get set – Our Adult Luncheons will begin again on September 11. Stay tuned for the subject of our program and for a fun time with our fellow adults.



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 20, at 2 p.m. Please text or call Janet Nelson at 801-560-9044 for the Zoom link or more info.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)



Several women from MOPC recently attended the Synod of the Rocky Mountains Gathering in Ignacio, Colorado. They had the opportunity to work side by side with our Native American Sisters. A heads up, the upcoming September Fall Gathering for PW in Utah will be at Springville Community Presbyterian Church on September 12-13. The theme will be "Walking with Our Native American Sisters". More information to come.

The PC(USA) annual Thank Offering, a long tradition of PW, yielded a total of \$235,897 this year! This money is given in grants to various projects, both in the USA and abroad. The Summer Presbyterian Magazine, Horizons, has a breakdown of the grants awarded. This issue is in the PW slot on the Adult Ministries section of the wall in the Gathering Area. Feel free to borrow it and return it to the wall. This collection, taken in the fall, provides much-needed financial assistance to numerous worthwhile programs not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. Each year, domestic and international projects are carefully and prayerfully selected by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee to help meet a crucial need. Forty percent of this offering is used to support hospitals and community health programs that place priority on helping the most needy members of God's community. The remaining 60% is used for new creative ideas for missions, undesignated in advance. The gifts help chosen recipients find real solutions for projects related to health, education, economic development, and the needs of women and children. Anyone is free to donate to the Thank Offering. We collect it at our PW meeting in November. We hope to see you at our first PW meeting on September 2, at 9:30 a.m., at MOPC for breakfast! Come, be a "Doer" with us.

-Pauline Forster



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 204 at 9:45 a.m.



Mt O Youth

The large group photo of the youth on the left was taken on the final day of VBS. Each year, we have approximately 30 youth volunteers who dedicate an entire week of their summer to compassionately leading the younger children of our church. Seeing this level of love from our students fills our hearts with joy.

The photo on the right was taken at one of our Summer Youth Fellowship activities. Throughout the summer, we have many different events that help bring students together for fun and fellowship, creating stronger bonds among them to help build a community centered on *the love of God*.

-Jared McClure, Directory of Youth Ministry





Mt O Kids

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who made this year's VBS possible! Thank you to our 38 Crew Leaders, 16 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, Director of Family Ministry



Ministry Staff

Pastor	Chris Pritchett
Pastoral Associate	Nikki Zyp
Pastor Emeritus	Jeff Silliman
Executive Administrator	Sheila Barnish
Administrative Assistant	Sarah Brozek
Director of Family Ministry	Jen Christensen
Director of Youth Ministry	Jared McClure
Treasurer	Roberta Bolton
Director of Childcare	Maddie Woodruff

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 2025

Amy Beckler
Shauna Huston
Kaye Freeman
Armand Van Hien

Class of 2026

Carol Day
Megan Judkins
Edward Owens
Mark Templeman

Class of 2027

Dana Baird
Bob Bolton
Brad Hayden
Rick Spratling
Tammy Stevenson

OUR MINISTRY OF CARE

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Jim Sowards, John Terrion, Anne Gerrie van Hien, Nikki Zyp

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