

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



Volume LXII Issue 10

October 2026



Sunday, October 11 × 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Lunch Provided & Childcare Available

Join us for the next Women of Wisdom Gathering on Sunday, October 11. Our theme will be political engagement. Find your voice, make a difference, stay hopeful. We are excited to welcome guest speaker Monica Schaffer, a retired pediatrician and leader of the Wasatch Back League of Women Voters.

Childcare is provided, and lunch is available for \$10.

Please RSVP to Alie (650-823-2670) or Nikki (nzyp@mtopres.org)

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I just started my first seminary class. It is called *Prayer and the Practice of Theology*, and our first assignment was to read the Book of Job and write a reflection on prayer. I hope you don't mind if I share here some of what I am learning on my journey.

The Book of Job may seem like an unusual place to begin thinking about prayer. Job is full of suffering, anger, questions, and a God who seems frustratingly silent. Job's prayers are not particularly polite. In the midst of his suffering, Job cries out, "*Let the day perish in which I was born*" (Job 3:3). He questions

God. He demands answers. He expresses anger, grief, confusion, and despair. He keeps talking to God, and for much of the book, God doesn't answer.

Job's persistence tells us something important about prayer: prayer is not simply about saying the right words or asking for the right things. It is about remaining in relationship with God—even when God seems silent.

Job's friends have a very different understanding of that relationship. They are convinced that suffering must result from sin, and therefore Job's response should simply be repentance and acceptance. Their understanding of God is almost transactional: do good, receive good; do wrong, receive punishment. There isn't much room for questions, listening, or mystery. But Job's relationship with God is different. Job trusts God enough to be completely honest. He knows God's character well enough to bring his anger and confusion directly to God rather than walking away.

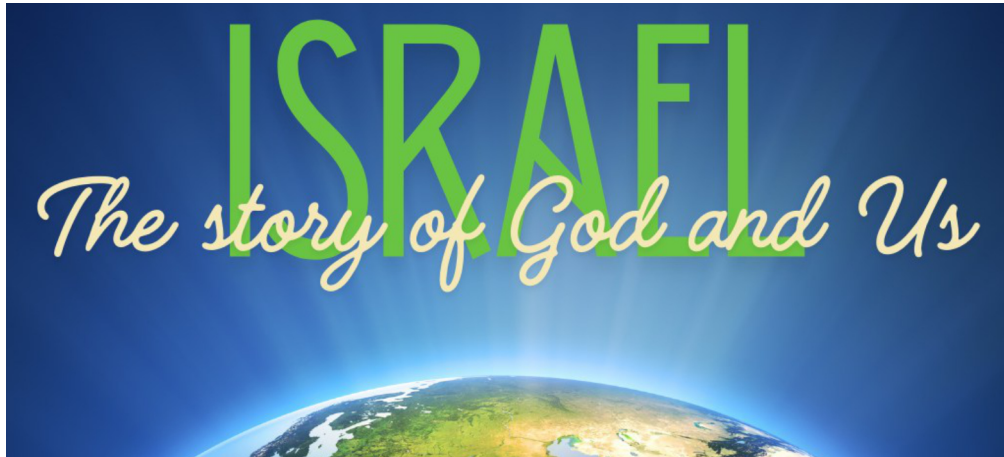
And eventually, God speaks. God does not give Job the neat explanation he has been demanding. Instead, God gives Job a larger perspective. Job begins to see beyond his own suffering and toward a world much bigger than himself. And somehow, being heard and encountering God changes him.

I think that is the heart of prayer. Prayer is an ongoing conversation with Someone we love and trust. It is bringing our whole selves to God—the gratitude and the anger, the joy and the questions, the faith and the doubt. Sometimes we speak. Sometimes we listen. Sometimes we sit in silence and wait. And through that ongoing relationship, God changes us.

So, this month, I invite you to pray a little differently. Talk honestly with God. Ask the hard questions. Don't be afraid of silence. And keep the conversation going throughout your day.

Blessings,

Nikki Zyp
Nikki Zyp



OCTOBER SERMONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Scripture References</u>
10/4	<i>Elijah on Carmel</i>	1 Kings 18:20–24, 36–39
10/11	<i>Justice Rolls Down</i>	Amos 5:14–15, 21–24
10/18	<i>Comfort My People</i>	Isaiah 40:1–5, 27–31
10/25	<i>Lions' Den</i>	Daniel 6:10–12, 16–23

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP - SUNDAYS AT 9:45 AM



On The Cusp of Faith (Room 501): What happens at the boundary between belief and unbelief. Through an examination of contemporary essays and short selections from writers, thinkers, skeptics, and believers, we'll explore the many ways people approach, lose, recover, or simply live alongside faith: through reason, experience, suffering, community, practice, and the gradual choice to make room for belief amid uncertainty. This is a discussion rather than a lecture, intended for believers, doubters, and anyone curious about the strange and ambiguous territory at the cusp of faith.



The Story of God and Us (Room 502): We continue with our Bible study which parallels the sermon series, by exploring the themes and Scriptures in small group discussion and exchange. Come with your questions, ready to learn from one another!



We will hold an Intro to MOPC class on Sunday, October 18, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. This class is for anyone who wants to know more about what MOPC believes and how it operates. It is for both newcomers and those who have attended for a while. Whether you are looking to become a member or just curious to find out more about MOPC. RSVP to the church office by October 13. Childcare is available upon request.

KENYA MISSION TRIP JUNE 2027

The mission team for our June 2027 trip to ByGrace schools in Nairobi, Kenya, has begun to assemble. This will be a multigenerational mission trip for youth in junior high through adults. The tentative dates for the trip are June 3 through June 16. We will spend five days working at ByGrace School, spend another day in worship and celebration with them, and take a four-day safari adventure exploring Amboseli National Park (iconic backdrop: Mount Kilimanjaro) and Tsavo West (known for the famous Mzima Springs). Please pray about whether God is calling you to join this mission effort. Contact Dennis Winge at dennis.winge@hsc.utah.edu for more details.



FIRE EVACUATION DRILL

Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church will conduct a fire evacuation walk-through during both Sunday worship services on October 11. The drill will exercise the procedures already established in the church's Emergency Action Plan (EAP).

Objectives:

- Familiarize everyone with the evacuation route and the assembly point.
- Give ushers, greeters, AV techs, and floor monitors practice in their EAP roles.
- Test that the building can be swept and reported clear in an orderly way.
- Practice a simple, orderly child reunification flow at the reunification area.
- Identify areas for improvement.

Please Note: Everyone who can use the stairs should plan to exit through the emergency exit doors at the front of the sanctuary.

Accessibility: Anyone who cannot take stairs should exit through the gathering area/foyer and the accessible main entrance — to the assembly point.

Children's Ministry: Each class will exit through its designated doors, and teachers will escort children to a reunification point along Olympic Way. Parents should exit the building and walk around the church along 3900 S to reunite with their children.



MOPC EARTH CARE TASK FORCE

One goal of our Earth Care Task Force is to help us deepen our relationship with God's creation—and sometimes that begins simply by slowing down and delighting in it. Beauty, wonder, awe, pleasure, and surprise invite us to pay attention: to notice a wildflower, touch the grass, watch the changing light on the mountains, or listen to birds along a trail. As we spend time in creation, we develop a deeper sense of kinship with the earth. Caring for creation then becomes less an obligation and more an expression of gratitude and devotion to God.

Our **MOPC hikes** are one way to nurture that connection. Hiking together gives us a chance to slow down, enjoy fellowship, notice what surrounds us, and experience firsthand the creation we are called to cherish and protect. We can carry that experience home by asking a simple question: *How do my everyday choices affect God's creation and the relationships around me?*

One simple answer can begin right at our dinner tables: **Make Monday Meatless!** Choosing a plant-based meal—even just one day a week—is a small, practical way to care for creation by reducing the heat-trapping pollution associated with our food choices. Try bean chili, lentil soup, or veggie tacos.

From the trail to the table, small choices can become acts of gratitude and care for God's creation. One meal. One day. One simple way to make a difference.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 BIRTHDAYS AND EVENTS				1 7 am Men's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	2 7 pm Rescue Mission 7 pm AA	3 11 am AA
4 World Communion 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Discipleship for All Ages 9:45 am Joyous Journey	5 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm Stephen Min 7 pm AA	6 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Office & Tech 7 pm AA	7 7 pm Mt O 45 7 pm Mt O Youth	8 7 am Men's Bible 9:30 am Wm's Bible 12 pm Adult Fellowship Luncheon 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	9 9 am Sandwich Making 4:30 pm St. Vincent's 7 pm AA	10 10 am Utah Food Bank 11 am AA
11 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Discipleship for All Ages 12:30 pm Women of Wisdom Luncheon 7 pm Contemplative Worship	12 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	13 6:30 am Men's Bible 6 pm Finance 7 pm Deacons 7 pm AA	14 7 pm Mt O 45 7 pm Mt O Youth	15 7 am Men's Bible 9:30 am Wm's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible 7 pm Security Team	16 7 pm AA	17 11 am AA
18 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Discipleship for All Ages 12:30 pm Intro to MOPC	19 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm Stephen Min 7 pm AA	20 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Session 7 pm AA	21 9 am Men's Coffee Group 2 pm Chronic Conditions 7 pm Mt O 45 7 pm Mt O Youth	22 7 am Men's Bible 9:30 am Wm's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	23 7 pm AA	24 11 am AA
25 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Discipleship for All Ages 2 pm Trunk or Treat	26 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm Personnel 7 pm AA	27 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Adult Ministry 7 pm Facilities 7 pm AA	28 7 pm Mt O 45 7 pm Mt O Youth	29 7 am Men's Bible 9:30 am Wm's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	30 7 pm AA	31 11 am AA

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



Next Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Sunday. We will focus on what God is doing around the globe by inviting you to connect with those we support between services in the gym. Take a tour and step into the world of sharing Christ in a different culture. Taste and see what God is doing. Communion will be served during worship instead of the second Sunday of the month.



UTAH
FOOD
BANK

Let's begin our fall season as "doers" at the Utah Food Bank, Saturday, October 10, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 3150 S and 900 W. Remember to wear closed-toed shoes, and children over the age of 12 are able to help along with a parent. Come and help and enjoy fellowship as we work to help others.



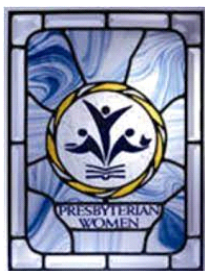
Every 2nd Friday of the month, volunteers from MOPC help serve our community by giving their time to assist St. Vincent de Paul in providing food to those in need. On these Fridays, at 9 a.m., we gather in the MOPC kitchen to prepare sandwiches to be delivered. Then, at 4:30 p.m., MOPC volunteers serve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

ADULT FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



Our October Adult Fellowship Luncheon will be Thursday, October 8, at noon in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Richard Markosian, editor and publisher of the Utah Stories magazine. He also launched the Utah Stories Podcast and Faces of Utah magazine, which profiles the people, businesses, and entrepreneurs who make Utah unique. Utah Stories is about the people who shape Utah. When Richard isn't working on a story, he enjoys running in Utah's mountains with his dogs and exploring the places and people that make the state worth writing about. Come along, bring a friend for fun, food, fellowship, and Utah Stories by Richard Markosian.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)



Here comes October: pretty leaves, false faces, and all Surely Doers feel ambitious in the fall.

Our MOPC PW monthly meeting will be Tuesday, October 6, at 9:30 a.m. for light refreshments and then our meeting. Someone from Rescue Haven will come and speak to us. As in the past, October is our paper shower for Rescue Haven (paper towels, toilet tissue, napkins, etc.) If you can't make the meeting, you can still participate by leaving your paper products in Room 206 upstairs, just past the library, before October 6. All MOPC attendees are invited to participate in this worthy project. In September, we donated money for a meal for the PW Fall Gathering at Wasatch Presbyterian Church. We worked on our yearly bulletin to schedule hostesses and Bible Study leaders. We will install officers in November. Hostesses for October 6 are Sue Alcorn and Marilyn Marshall. As we will have a speaker, no Bible Study will be scheduled. Hope to see you all there!

- 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 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, October 21, at 2 p.m. Please text or call Janet Nelson at 801-560-9044 for the Zoom link or more info.



Mt O Youth

We loved welcoming families to our fall kickoff in September, and our weekly events are back in full! 37 youth attended our first Wednesday night youth group, and 16 students attended our Devos & Donuts class on Sunday morning. We love our 6th–12th graders and their families!

Did you know that our youth regularly lead the beginning of our 11 a.m. worship service? Most churches don't have youth in leadership, so this is something to celebrate about Mt O!

We share special thanks to our weekly volunteers for their care and engagement of our youth: Jesse Allen, Brian Babb, Courtney Babb, Eric Brozek, Laura Combe, Ty Johnson, Joshua Jones, DeeAnn Jorgenson, Matt Madigan, Tamara Pluth, Alie Serrato, John Yang, Linda Zipprich, and Kris Zyp.

Upcoming events include our annual Trunk or Treat on October 25, Incarnation Night in December, and Winter Retreat in January, as well as the return of Confirmation for high school students in the Spring. We're also working on Summer 2027 trips for both middle school and high school students.

-Matt Vaughan, Director of Youth Ministry



1st Devos and Donuts this year



Junior High Fry Tasting Event



Youth Leading at service



Some of our volunteers



Mt O Kids

Last month's Fall Kickoff was a wonderful time of food, fellowship, and fun! We welcomed new families, caught up with "old" friends, and enjoyed playing, talking, and spending time together with families from both the church and childcare center. The Fall Kickoff also marked the beginning of our fall programming: Sunday School, Mt. O 45 Small Group, and Parents' Café. Along with our weekly programs, we have several special events coming up, including Third Grade Bible Presentations and our annual Trunk or Treat. Fall is an exciting time at MOPC, and we're looking forward to all that's ahead!

-Jen Christensen, Director 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

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

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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

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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