

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



Volume LXI Issue 10

October 2025

The poster for the "Intro to MOPC" class features a background image of a mountain range at sunset. At the top, it has the Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church logo. Below the logo, the text "MOUNT OLYMPUS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH" is written in a smaller font. The main title "INTRO TO MOPC" is in large, bold, olive-green letters. Below the title, the date and time "Sunday, October 12 12:30 to 3:30 p.m." are written in white, followed by "LUNCH PROVIDED" in a smaller white font. At the bottom, "Childcare available upon request" is written in white.

We will hold an *Intro to MOPC* class on Sunday, October 12, 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. For those who are new and those who have attended for awhile. Whether you are looking to become a member or just curious to find out more about MOPC. Childcare is available upon request.

Sign up in the gathering area if you would like to participate.

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Why Membership Matters: The Three C's

When I invite someone to consider becoming a member of MOPC, I am often met by a puzzled look. By the time I ask, they're already deeply involved: they attend worship, have joined a Bible study, or found a place to serve. So the question naturally comes:

"Why? I'm already involved. Why do I need to sign a piece of paper to make it official?"

Interestingly, it's the same question I get from couples who are co-habiting without a sense of need to ever get married: *"Why do I need to sign a piece of paper? We're already committed."*

At MOPC, we understand church membership as an invitation to live more deeply into your identity in Christ and your connection with God's people. In the Presbyterian tradition, membership is framed through the Three C's:

1. Covenant

Membership begins with God. Long before we choose the church, God has already chosen us and entered into covenant with us, promising, *"I will be your God, and you will be my people"* (Leviticus 26:12).

Through baptism, we are marked as God's own, and when we join the church, we respond to God's covenant love by making promises of our own — to worship, to grow in faith, and to follow Jesus within this community. Membership is our wholehearted "yes" to God's "yes."

This, by the way, is also where we get the idea of the Covenant of Marriage.

2. Commitment

Membership is a commitment to grow in faith, to serve with your gifts, and to remain connected to God and to one another. In a world where schedules shift and priorities compete, making space for worship, prayer, service, and fellowship forms us in lasting ways.

Each member is called to be a minister in their own way, offering time, talents, and presence. Through steady, intentional participation, membership shapes us and deepens our shared life together.

3. Community

The Apostle Paul describes the church as the body of Christ: *"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it"* (1 Corinthians 12:26). Membership places us within this living, breathing body where we support and strengthen one another.

We worship together, learn together, and serve together. We show up for each other in times of celebration and in times of need. Through these shared rhythms, membership nurtures relationships where God's presence becomes tangible.

What Membership Means in the PC(USA) Context

1. Entrance

The PC(USA) recognizes several forms of entry into membership:

- Public Profession of Faith (after a conversation with the session)
- Certificate of Transfer from another congregation
- Reaffirmation of Faith, for those previously baptized and professed in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

2. Ministry of Every Member

Membership is both a gift and a responsibility. PC(USA) calls members to:

- Proclaim Christ in word and action,
- Participate fully in congregational life,
- Pray for and support one another,
- Study scripture and living faith,
- Use time, talents, and resources in service,
- Promote justice and care for creation,
- Participate in church governance, and
- Regularly reflect on one's membership and ways to grow in participation in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

3. Belonging to Something Bigger

As part of the PC(USA), MOPC shares in a denominational heritage rooted in Reformed theology, representative leadership, and social commitment—dating back to the Reformation and enriched by a spirit of social justice, inclusion, and mission.

This vision empowers every person not just to belong—but to serve and contribute to the church's flourishing.

So, Why Join MOPC?

- You receive pastoral care, belonging, and opportunities to grow spiritually.
- You can influence decisions, serve in leadership, and participate in shaping the church's future.
- You'll partner in God's mission—locally and globally—through the broader PC (USA).
- You'll find deeper connection, rooted belonging, and meaningful ways to love God and neighbor.
- Membership at MOPC means embracing Covenant, Commitment, and Community—and becoming part of something larger still: the PC(USA)'s reach, history, and shared mission.

Invitation to Belong More Deeply at MOPC

If you’ve worshiped with us for a while—or sensed a gentle nudge toward deeper belonging—here’s how you can take the next step:

- Intro to MOPC Class — **Sunday, October 12 at 12:30 p.m.**
Learn about who we are—the three C’s, how membership connects to PC(USA), and how you can engage more fully.
- Dinner with the Elders — **Tuesday, October 21**
A relaxed meal to share your story, ask questions, and explore what involvement might look like for you.
- New Members Received in Worship — **Sunday, October 26**

We’ll celebrate together as those sensing a call to formally join our church family. If you’ve been waiting for the right time, this may be it. Come and belong.



Pastor Chris

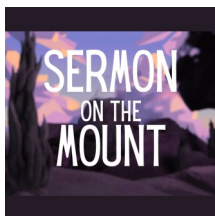


OCTOBER SERMONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE REFERENCES</u>
10/5	<i>Faith Like a Mustard Seed</i>	Luke 17:5–10
10/12	<i>One Came Back</i>	Luke 17:11–19
10/19	<i>Always Pray and Don't Lose Heart</i>	Luke 18:1–8
10/26	<i>God, Be Merciful to Me</i>	Luke 18:9–14

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

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



SERMON ON THE MOUNT: In October, we will continue our series on one of the most well-known, yet challenging and, sometimes, perplexing passages in the New Testament--the Sermon on the Mount. Join us for an exploration of Jesus' teachings on ethics in daily life and living as a citizen of the Kingdom of God. This class will meet in Room 501

LOVING AND CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION: Beginning October 12, Joel Holtrop will lead a seven week class on how we can be caretakers of God's creation. We will examine our changing climate, discuss the many beautiful and fascinating aspects of God's creation, explore what creation reveals about God, and consider how we should respond as Christians. This class will meet in Room 502.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Join us on Sunday, October 26, for our annual Trunk or Treat event! Trunk decorating will take place from 1-2 p.m. and children are welcome to come Trick or Treat from 2-3 p.m. This is always a fun event, we hope to see you there!



DINNERS FOR EIGHT

MOPC is organizing Dinners for Eight to take place in October and November. The sign-up sheets will be available from October 5 through 19. These fellowship dinners consist of eight people meeting at the home of a host on a prearranged date and time. The host coordinates the

menu and what the guests can bring. These dinners are an excellent way to connect with others in the church. If you are interested in attending or hosting, please sign up in the gathering area in October or contact Dennis Winge (dennis.winge@hsc.utah.edu).



We live in a world of extremes. In the span of a single day, we may encounter the breathtaking beauty of a sunrise over the mountains, and then, hours later, hear of the heartbreak of violence in our communities. Reconciling such contrasts is not easy—and I am convinced we were never meant to face them alone. We need community.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in *Life Together*, writes: “*We belong to one another only through and in Jesus Christ... The Christian needs another Christian who speaks God’s Word to him... The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother’s is sure.*”

This truth has been deeply real for me this past year. I’ve walked through the grief of losing a beloved grandmother, the joy of watching our daughter graduate, the shifts of a new job, the change of sending a child out of state, and the daily blessings and challenges of being a partner, parent, daughter, and friend. I imagine your year has been just as full—of both joy and hardship.

Through it all, I’ve been sustained by community: people who love me, know me, and walk beside me. They’ve celebrated, wept, prayed, and reminded me of who I am in Christ when my own faith felt weak. They haven’t “fixed” my problems—they’ve simply been present. And that presence has been Christ to me.

At Mount Olympus, we are rich with opportunities for this kind of life together. Whether through Sunday worship, community groups, Parents’ Café, Adult Discipleship classes, Presbyterian Women, or Men’s Coffee, we practice being the Body of Christ for one another. My encouragement is this: don’t miss the opportunity to receive this gift of community! And if you’re unsure where to begin, I’d love to help you find your place.

Grace and peace,

Nikki
Zyp

Nikki

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7 pm Mt O Youth 7 pm Mt O 45	2 7 am Men's Bible 9:30 am Wm's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible 7 pm Stephen Min	3 7 pm Rescue Mission 7 pm AA	4 11 am AA
					Family Retreat	
5 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Adult Discipleship 9:45 am Joyous Journey	6 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	7 6:30 am Men's Bible 9:30 am PW 7 pm Worship Team 7 pm AA	8 7 pm Mt O Youth 7 pm Mt O 45	9 7 am Men's Bible 9:30 am Wm's Bible 12 pm Adult Fellowship Lunch 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	10 9 am Sandwich Making 4:30 pm St. Vincent's 7 pm AA	11 10 am Utah Food Bank 11 am AA
Family Retreat						
12 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Discipleship for All Ages 7 pm Contemplative Worship	13 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	14 6:30 am Men's Bible 6 pm Finance 7 pm Deacons 7 pm AA	15 2 pm Chronic Conditions 7 pm Mt O Youth 7 pm Mt O 45	16 7 am Men's Bible 9:30 am Wm's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible 7 pm Stephen Min	17 7 pm AA	18 11 am AA
19 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Discipleship for All Ages	20 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	21 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Session Team 7 pm AA	22 7 pm Mt O Youth 7 pm Mt O 45	23 7 am Men's Bible 9:30 am Wm's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	24 7 pm AA	25 11 am AA
26 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Discipleship for All Ages 2 pm Trunk or Treat 7 pm Art Fellowship	27 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm Personnel 7 pm AA	28 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Facilities 7 pm Adult Min 7 pm AA	29 7 pm Mt O Youth 7 pm Mt O 45	30 7 am Men's Bible 9:30 am Wm's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	31 7 pm AA	



UTAH
FOOD
BANK

MOPC's Team will meet on Saturday, October 11, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Utah Food Bank, 3150 S and 900 W, to volunteer to help those less fortunate with whatever task the food bank has in store for us. Repacking, sorting, and all projects are fun and good fellowship with other organizations and churches from all over Utah. Please note that children over the age of six are welcome with an accompanying adult. No open-toed shoes for your safety. See you there!



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 October 10.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



Do you hear it? Guitars strumming! Get ready for some fine entertainment here at MOPC – Russ Fericks (Wasatch Pres) and Bob Day (Carol Day's spouse) will play some folk songs for us on their guitars and share the stories behind them. Put it on your calendars for October 9 at noon at MOPC in the gym – bring along a friend and your favorite dish to share for some great entertainment, food, and fun.

ART



ART FELLOWSHIP

All are welcome to join us for an Art Fellowship time on Sunday, October 26, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Bring a project you are working on or pick up a project provided. Come and join us as we fellowship and create! Call Bonnie (801-864-4287) or Deb (801-582-2262) for more information.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)



It's October, and PW is back to meeting. Come join us, we'll give you a cheerful greeting!

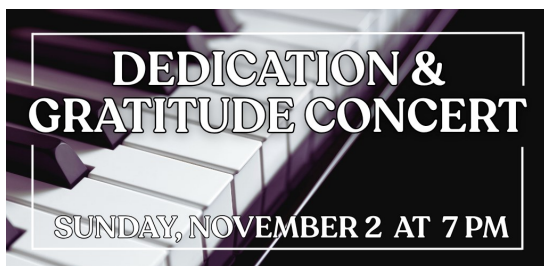
We began our monthly MOPC PW meeting on Tuesday, September 16, with the installation of our officers: Mardi Lessey and Pauline Forster as Co-Moderators, Candy Vila as Secretary, and Sue Acorn as Treasurer. Carol Day, Moderator of PW in the Synod, did the honors, using "Clothed With Christ" by Reverend Doctor Wendy Neff as the Service of Installation for PW. We discussed programs for 2025-2026, and hostesses and Bible Study leaders for the year signed up. Our new Horizons Bible Study is titled "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." Carol Day began this study for us in Mardi's absence. We welcomed Marge Ditolla and are delighted to have her with us!!

The Presbytery of Utah Matthew 25 Fall Book Club is reading *The Four Vision Quests of Jesus* and meets via Zoom on Wednesdays beginning October 1 through December 3, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Contact Ami Nashiravan at aninordland@gmail.com or Carol Day for registration and the Zoom link.

The PW hostesses for October 7 will be Julie Davidson and Sue Alcorn. The Bible Study leader will be Mardi Lessey. All women are invited to join us at 9:30 a.m.

The latest Horizons Magazine has an article by Carol Day on the Synod of the Rocky Mountains Gathering in Ignacio on page 34. A copy of this will be in the PW slot on the wall in the gathering area under Adult Ministries.

-Pauline Forster



In gratitude to the congregation for the new organ and piano we acquired over the last year, the Worship Committee will hold a Dedication & Gratitude Concert on Sunday, November 2, at 7 p.m., featuring our new instruments. Pastor Chris will dedicate the instruments during this event. Everyone is invited to attend!

We would also love to have musical contributions from those in the congregation. Musical artists of all ages are encouraged to participate if they would like to perform music of any type for the concert. Solos, duets, and small groups are all welcome. Accompaniment on the piano can be provided as needed. If you are interested in participating, please email Tammy Stevenson at tjstevenson93@gmail.com by October 20.



Mt O Youth



The youth ministry year is off to a great start! On Sunday mornings, students gather for Devos and Donuts, a time to share in Scripture, reflection, and fellowship (with something sweet, of course). Then, during worship service, we invite our students to sit in the first two rows of the sanctuary. This is intentional—because our youth are not simply the future of the church, they are the church right now. Their presence, voices, and leadership matter deeply, and by placing them front and center, we affirm how much they are loved, valued, and essential to the life of our congregation.



Our small groups have also begun meeting on Wednesday nights, creating space for deeper conversation, prayer, and connection. The rhythm of these Wednesday night and Sunday morning programs helps our students grow in faith and in community together.

-Jared McClure



Mt O Kids

Children's Church (during both the 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. services) and Sunday School (9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m.) on Sunday mornings are wonderful opportunities for kids to grow in faith and community!

Sunday School meets during the school year in age-based small groups, giving kids a chance to dive deeper into the Bible while also building close relationships with caring volunteers and friends.

Children's Church is offered year-round in a larger group setting. The Children's Church lessons use the same scripture passage that Pastor Chris preaches on in worship, helping kids connect to the message in a meaningful way. In both settings, children have time to share about their week and enjoy free play together. We hope your children will join us for one or both of these programs!

-Jen Christensen, Director of Family Ministry



(Photos from 11 a.m. Elementary Children's Church)

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
Treasurer	Roberta Bolton
Director of Childcare	Maddie Woodruff

Contact Information

Office Hours:
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Pastoral Associate: nzyp@mtopres.org
Exec. Administrator: sbarnish@mtopres.org
Newsletter Items: sbrozek@mtopres.org

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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

Board of Deacons

Adrienne Alward, Jill Baskett, Lonnie Baskett, Sherrie Bertrand, Chris Birch,
Chris Chytraus, Thea Hayden, Julie Holtrop, Jan Ingerson, Karen Jackson,
Marilyn Marshall, Debora Owens, Tamara Pluth, Becky Sowards,
Jim Sowards, John Terrion, Anne Gerrie van Hien

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