

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



Volume LVII Issue 9

September 2022



As we begin the fall season, the Sunday morning and mid-week programming that took a break for the summer will soon start up again. Join us on September 11 following the 11 a.m. service for the Fall Kickoff. This will be a time to meet new friends and reconnect with those you may not have seen much over the summer. There will be lunch available for purchase from Black's Sliders Food Truck and activities for kids. All are welcome!

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A Presbyterian minister and writer, Frederick Buechner, passed away on August 15, 2022, at 86. Having published thirty-nine books, Buechner was a preacher, a poet, an essayist, an autobiographer, a novelist, and a theologian. The first book I read of his in college was “Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy and Fairytale.” It’s a collection of essays on homiletics that Buechner delivered at the Yale Divinity School Beecher Lectures in 1976. The book is about our ability to perceive the tragedy of human failure, the comedy of God’s unwavering love for his creation, and the fairy tale of his willingness to enter in and save the world.

In honor of Buechner’s legacy, and as we begin a new academic year with so many activities in store for the church at Mt O, I’d like to share an excerpt from another of Buechner’s books, “A Room Called Remember.” This excerpt is about why we go to church.

“For those of us who are in the habit of putting on our best clothes and going to church from time to time, maybe it is a good idea to consider what a church is, of all things. What are all these churches we keep coming to, year in and year out? A church in the sense of a building is walls and a roof erected on the proposition that this ancient story of Moses and his burning bush is somehow true—that however you choose to explain that story, you cannot all that easily explain it away. Something extraordinary took place a long time ago on the eastern shore of the Gulf of Aquabah, and our presence in churches, and the presence of millions like us, is evidence that the reverberations of that event are felt to this day. It is the reason why churches exist. It is the reason why we go to them though we often forget it and go for shabbier reasons. The old church walls, the old church roofs, were put up in the faith that if God is present anywhere in the world, he is present everywhere, and that if the ground that Moses stood on was holy, then the little patches of ground where churches stand are holy too. The earth is holy because God makes himself known on it, which means that in that sense a church is no holier than any other place. God is not more in a church than he is anywhere else. But what makes a church holy in a special way is that we ourselves are more here.

What I mean is that if we come to a church right, we come to it more fully and nakedly ourselves, come with more of our humanness showing, than we are apt to come to most places. We come like Moses with muck on our shoes—foresore and travel-stained with the dust of our lives upon us, our failures, our deceits, our hypocrisies, because if, unlike Moses, we have never taken anybody’s life, we have again and again withheld from other people, including often even those

who are nearest to us, the love that might have made their lives worth living, not to mention our own. Like Moses we come here as we are, and like him we come as strangers and exiles in our way because wherever it is that we truly belong, whatever it is that is truly home for us, we know in our hearts that we have somehow lost it and gotten lost. Something is missing from our lives that we cannot even name—something we know best from the empty place inside us all where it belongs. We come here to find what we have lost. We come here to acknowledge that in terms of the best we could be we are lost and that we are helpless to save ourselves. We come here to confess our sins.

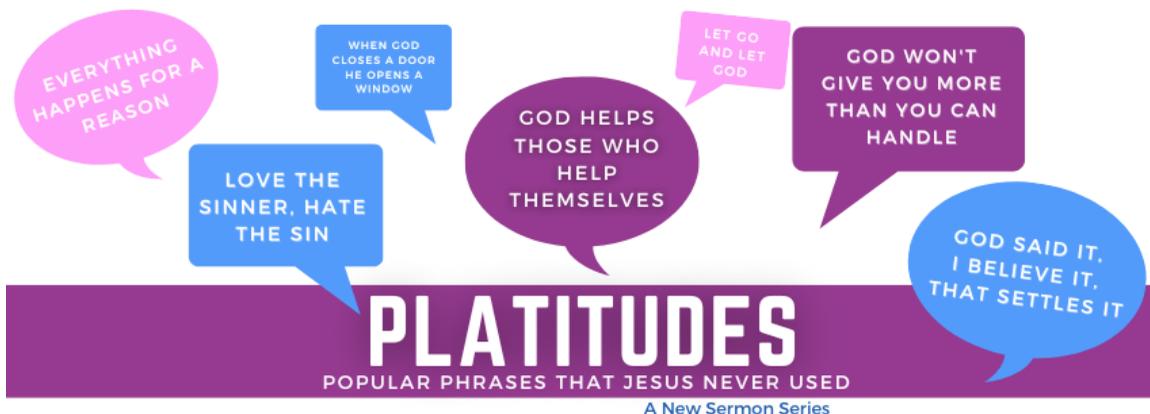
That is the sadness and searching of what a church is, of what we are in a church—and then suddenly FIRE! The bush bursts into flame. And the voice speaks our names, whatever they are—Peter, John, Ann, Mary. The heart skips a beat. YOU! YOU! The voice says. Does it? Does any voice other than a human voice speak in this place? Does any flame other than candle flame on Christmas Eve ever leap here? I think so. I think if you have your ears open, if you have your eyes open, every once in a while some word in even the most unpromising sermon will flame out, some scrap of prayer or anthem, some moment of silence even, the sudden glimpse of somebody you love sitting there near you, or of some stranger whose face without warning touches your heart, will flame out—and these are the moments that speak our names in a way we cannot help hearing. These are the moments that in the depths of whatever our dimness and sadness and lostness are, give us an echo of a wild and bidding voice that calls us from deeper still. It is the same voice that Moses heard and that one way or another says GO! BE! LIVE! LOVE! sending us off on an extraordinary and fateful journey for which there are no sure maps and whose end we will never fully know until we get there. And for as long as the moment lasts, we suspect that maybe it is true—maybe the ground on which we stand really is holy ground because we heard that voice here. It called us by name.”

May we have our ears and eyes open to hear the voice of the One who calls us each by name. May we see Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church as holy ground, too.

With hope,

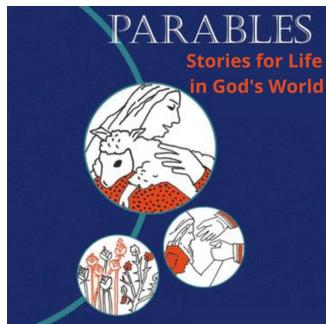
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Pastor Chris



## SEPTEMBER SERMONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE REFERENCES</u>
9/4	<i>Everything Happens for a Reason</i>	Deuteronomy 30:19-20a
9/11	<i>God Helps Those Who Help Themselves</i>	Psalms 10:14, 27-28; Psalm 18:6 & 16; Psalm 121:1-2
9/18	Rich and Trisha Dilworth will preach.	
9/25	<i>God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It</i>	Deuteronomy 23:12-14



In September, the Adult Discipleship Class will kick off the fall season. We will have three special events before beginning a new study, *Parables: Stories for Life in God's World*, on September 25. This study of *Parables* will run for eight weeks and use curriculum from Kerygma. You will be able to purchase the curriculum in the gathering area after 8:30 a.m. worship concludes and before 11:00 a.m. worship begins during September leading up to the first class of the study.

- Sep. 4:** Potluck Brunch – Bring a dish to share
- Sep. 11:** Kenya Mission Trip Meeting
- Sep. 18:** Dilworth Missionary Visit
- Sep. 25:** First Sunday of *Parables* Study

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF MOPC – Women of Faith and Action—Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves: to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of God’s kingdom. This is our Purpose!!

We will be meeting **in person** September 6 in the MOPC Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast with the meeting to begin at 10:00 a.m. Breakfast will be provided.

We will have officer installation by the Synod of the Rocky Mountains PW Moderator, Carol Day (a treasured addition to our MOPC PW). Mardi Lessey will join us via Zoom. She will send out the link and, if you are so inclined, it will be available to you. However, we are excited to meet in person as well! Masks are not required, use your own discretion. We are looking forward to an exciting year now that we can finally have in-house speakers and begin our new Bible Study led by Mardi Lessey, *Celebrating Sabbath*. Hope to SEE and BE WITH you there!



Utah Presbyterian Women’s Fall Gathering will be held September 16-17. The topic for this event will be “Will they know we are Christians by Our Love?” Matthew 25: 35-40. The keynote speaker will be Utah storyteller Lora Schmidt, presenting “More Precious than Rubies, Proverbs 31”.

September 16-17 (5:00 p.m. Friday-2:30 p.m. Saturday) Masks Required  
Trinity Presbyterian Church in Ogden.

Contact Pauline Forster or Marilynn Collins (mcollins1949@hotmail.com) by September 12 to register. There is a \$15 registration fee for three meals.



**Thank you** Marge, Kathy, Nancy, and Lauren for planting, weeding and dead heading the beautiful flowers around the church this year. You are so appreciated!



A new fly fishing group is starting at MOPC! John Terrion and Wes Keller will host the group's first meeting on September 14 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in room 204 at the church. Bring any fly fishing gear you have for a review of equipment and knots, techniques, and suggestions. Anyone with an interest in fly fishing is invited to join. Please contact John Terrion at (801) 232-7614 or [jandk@xmission.com](mailto:jandk@xmission.com) for more information.



An informational meeting for the 2023 Kenya Mission Trip will be held Sunday, September 11 at 9:45 a.m.

The trip is a multigenerational MOPC mission trip planned for June 2023 to Nairobi, Kenya.

If you are interested in participating in this trip or would like more information, please plan to attend this meeting.

# WAYS TO CONNECT THROUGHOUT THE WEEK AT MOPC

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## **Sundays**

Worship Services at 8:30 and 11 a.m.  
9:45 a.m. Adult Discipleship Class  
Programs that begin on 9/18 at 9:45 a.m.  
Parents' Café  
Devos and Donuts for Youth  
Children's Sunday School for ages 3 through 5th grade

## **Tuesdays**

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study held on Zoom

## **Wednesdays**

Programs that begin on 9/14 at 7 p.m.  
Youth Groups for 6th graders through high school seniors  
345 Small Group for kids in 3rd-5th grade  
Fly Fishing Group

## **Thursdays**

7 a.m. Men's Bible Study held at the church  
7 p.m. Women's Bible Study held at the church  
7 p.m. Prayer Meeting held over Zoom

Volunteer opportunities are also available throughout the month. Please contact the church office if you'd like more information about any of these programs or would like to be put on our weekly email list to stay up to date on current activities at MOPC.

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UTAH  
FOOD  
BANK

**MOPC will not be volunteering at the Utah Food Bank in September** due to a special fund drive the organization is having on our normal day. We will resume in October!

Thank you for your continued service MOPC Team!! Rest up and we'll see you in October on the second Saturday of the month, ready and raring to go!!



Every second 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. a group gathers in the MOPC kitchen to prepare sandwiches to be delivered. Also, at 4:30 p.m., MOPC volunteers by serving meals at the St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen. If this is something you would like to participate in please sign up in the gathering area or contact the church for more information. The next opportunity to help will be Friday, September 9.



Food donations for Crossroads may be dropped off in the wagon in the gathering area. We are looking for volunteers to deliver the food to Crossroads two or three times a year. Contact Nancy Petersen for more information.



**WE ARE BACK!** Adult Fellowship Luncheons will resume IN PERSON on Thursday, September 8, at 12 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring along your favorite dish to share for fun, food, and fellowship. A time for catching up from our long hiatus!! Our very own Dave Richerson will be our guest speaker. We will travel to Alaska with him and Mike Richerson. I have never been and am so looking forward to this! See you there. Masks are not required, wear at your discretion!

-Pauline Forster, Coordinator of Adult Fellowship Luncheons

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 am Men Bible 6:30 pm PAL Meeting 7 pm Women Bible 7 pm Prayer Mtg	2 7 pm Rescue Mission 8 pm AA	3 11 am AA
4 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Labor Day Brunch	5 Office Closed Labor Day 8 pm AA	6 9:30 am PW Meeting 6:30 am Men Bible Study	7 7 pm Stephen Min	8 7 am Men Bible 12 pm Adult Fellowship Luncheon 6:30 pm PAL Meeting 7 pm Women Bible 7 pm Prayer Mtg	9 9 am Sandwich Making 4:30 pm Soup Kitchen 8 pm AA	10 11 am AA
11 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Kenya Mission Meeting 12:15 pm Fall Kickoff 3 pm MTB Ride	12 12:30 Staff 8 pm AA	13 6:30 am Men Bible Study 7 pm Deacons	14 7 pm Youth 345 Sm Groups 7 pm Fly Fishing	15 7 am Men Bible 6:30 pm Finance 6:30 pm PAL Meeting 7 pm Women Bible 7 pm Prayer Mtg	16 8 pm AA	17 11 am AA
18 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Discipleship for all ages	19 12:30 Staff 8 pm AA	20 6:30 am Men Bible Study 7 pm Session	21 7 pm Stephen Min 7 pm Youth 345 Sm Groups	22 7 am Men Bible 6:30 pm PAL Meeting 7 pm Women Bible 7 pm Prayer Mtg	23 8 pm AA	24 11 am AA
25 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Discipleship for all ages	26 12:30 Staff 8 pm AA	27 6:30 am Men Bible Study 7 pm Facilities	28 7 pm Youth 345 Sm Groups	29 7 am Men Bible 6:30 pm PAL Meeting 7 pm Women Bible 7 pm Prayer Mtg	30 8 pm AA	



## **MOPC Chronic Conditions Support Group**

If you have a chronic condition and sometimes, or often, feel alone, we encourage you to join our small group. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. over Zoom. Through conversation and prayer, we are able to be real and share what is on our hearts with each other and God. Through listening and/or sharing, we support one another. If you have any questions, please text or call Janet Nelson at 801-560-9044.



The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 7, 2022.  
Zoom Meeting information: Meeting ID: 828 416 7430 Passcode: 826328

The final ride for the Mt. Olympus MTB will be on September 11. If you would like to join please RSVP by emailing Brian Babb at [brian@temploproperties.com](mailto:brian@temploproperties.com) or contact the church office.

**September 11** at Deer Valley starting at 3pm (all abilities welcome). RSVP by September 4.

# Mt. Olympus MTB



The MOPC road cycling group has enjoyed six rides this spring and summer. We typically have between 10-14 riders as you can see in the pictures above of some of our rides this year. This is a wonderful fellowship group. Some of us have even purchased cycling jerseys with the MOPC Cycles logo. On the back of the jersey is Matt 20:16, "The last shall be first!" If you would like to join us on a ride, please contact Dennis Winge at 801-231-7852 or [dennis.winge@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:dennis.winge@hsc.utah.edu).



As we celebrate our Fall Kickoff and head into this next season, I'm so excited to be here and in ministry with all of you. MOPC has had a special place in my heart for many years, and I'm looking forward to getting to know (or, in many cases, catching up with) you in the weeks and months to come!

In partnership with Pastor Chris and the rest of our staff, I will be focusing my time as your Associate Pastor on connectional ministry and events for new members and visitors, small groups, young adult discipleship and fellowship opportunities, preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and supporting our elders and deacons. I've seen glimpses of MOPC's rich history in these various areas, but we're also moving into a post-COVID world with changing needs as individuals and as a congregation. Much of my time in the upcoming months will be spent building relationships and collecting input from all of you about what we could use as a church family to be better connected to God, one another, and our larger community moving forward:

What will fellowship and discipleship look like for you in this season?  
What do you love about MOPC, and where do we have room to grow?  
How can we connect with and support our college students and young adults?  
And most importantly—in and through all of this—How is God moving in our midst, and where is he calling us to follow Him?

I'd love to hear your stories and thoughts. So, please feel free to email, text, call, or schedule coffee with me anytime! Also, if you are interested in leading or participating in small groups or young adult ministry, please reach out; I would love to talk with you.

I am convinced that God uniquely calls and equips each of us and that we are the Body of Christ together. It takes all of us to love and serve as a church and to be built up together in Him. Thank you for all of your prayers and kind welcome, and I look forward to walking this journey with you!

-Associate Pastor Bre Magill

# Youth Ministry Annual Parent Info Meeting

*Be entered to win 1 FREE registration for the  
Annual Winter Retreat for attending.*

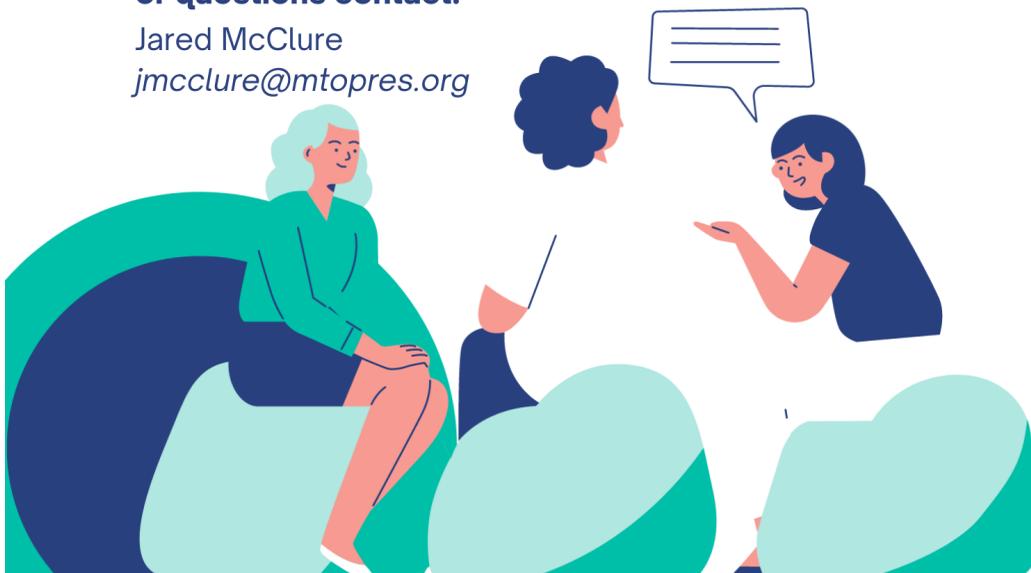
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**Wednesday  
September 7  
7-8:30 p.m.  
Youth Room  
Parents of youth 6th Grade  
through High School**

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**For more information  
or questions contact:**

Jared McClure  
[jmccclure@mtopres.org](mailto:jmccclure@mtopres.org)





**A LIFE RIGHT-SIDE UP IN A WORLD UPSIDE-DOWN.**

This Month is a huge month for both Children and Youth Ministry. It is a time when we launch back into the school year and provide more weekly programming for our children and students. Soon, we will have our annual information meeting for parents of youth, small group leader training, the Fall Kickoff event, and launch our Wednesday night/ Sunday morning programming. Then we will be gearing up for the Family Retreat at Bear Lake in late September!



The group photos below are from our Youth of Utah Presbytery Lake Tahoe retreat with high school aged students from all over the state of Utah and another youth group from Wyoming! Students engaged in worship, spent time reflecting on Matthew 25, and did quite of bit of playing in Lake Tahoe and around the Zephyr Point retreat center campus. The other photo is an early morning donut delivery to Brighton High School students on their first day of school.

-Jared McClure, Director of Youth Ministry





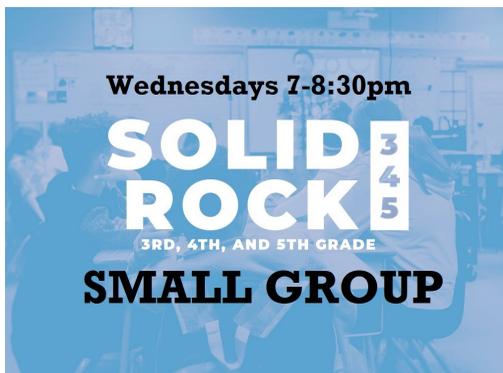
# SOLID ROCK

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

God alone is our rock.... We will not be shaken. Psalm 62:6

Fall is an exciting time at MOPC! Save the Date for our Fall Kickoff on September 11, following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. 345 Small Group will resume for our 3rd-5th graders on Wednesday, September 14 (7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.). Parents' Cafe and Children's Sunday School will begin September 18, 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Children's Church will continue to be offered during both Sunday morning services, and Nursery Care is available Sunday mornings 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. We hope you'll join us as we worship, study, and fellowship together! Please email me for more information ([jchristensen@mtopres.org](mailto:jchristensen@mtopres.org)).

- Jen Christensen, Director of Children's Ministry



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## Ministry Staff

Pastor	Chris Pritchett
Associate Pastor	Bre Magill
Pastor Emeritus	Jeff Silliman
Executive Administrator	Sheila Barnish
Administrative Assistant	Sarah Brozek
Director of Youth Ministry	Jared McClure
Director of Children's Ministry	Jen Christensen
Treasurer	Jeanne Mehlhoff
Director of Childcare	Maddie Woodruff
Facilities Manager	John Mehlhoff

## 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  
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Associate Pastor: [bmagill@mtopres.org](mailto:bmagill@mtopres.org)  
Exec. Administrator: [sbarnish@mtopres.org](mailto:sbarnish@mtopres.org)  
Newsletter Items: [sbrozek@mtopres.org](mailto:sbrozek@mtopres.org)  
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**Website: [www.mountolympuschurch.com](http://www.mountolympuschurch.com)**

**Visit Us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mountolympuspresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/mountolympuspresbyterian)**

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## Elders Serving on Session

### Class of 2022

Lonnie Baskett  
Mike Magill  
Debra Penney  
Kathy Wight

### Class of 2023

Chris Chytraus  
Mindy deHoll  
Dan Shelly  
Jon Woods

### Class of 2024

Brian Babb  
Jim Cobb  
Paige Frame  
Carlee Johnson

## OUR MINISTRY OF CARE

### Board of Deacons

Class of 2022: Mariko Hanabusa, Nancy Harper, Tony Huston, DeeAnn Jorgensen, Karen Krenz, Lauri Winge

Class of 2023: Abby Duzy, Katie Grover, Morgan McClure, Ciska Stinson, Mary Templeman, Amy Wall

Class of 2024: Jill Baskett, Karen Bren, Marina Collins, Sheridan Metcalf, Lorie Seeger, Karen Spackman

### Stephen Ministers

Kathy Terrion\*, Candy Vila\*, Barbara Alexander, Don Alexander, Judy Davis

\* Stephen Ministry Leadership Team