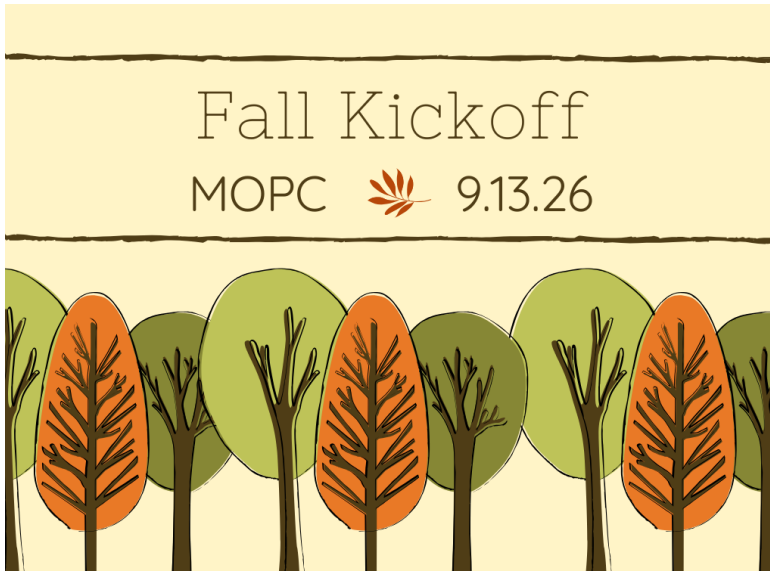


The mission of Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church is to invite people to experience Jesus Christ and become his passionate followers.



Volume LXII Issue 9

September 2026



We invite everyone to join us on Sunday, September 13, following the 11 a.m. worship service for our annual Fall Kickoff event. This is a great opportunity to reconnect after a summer full of activities and travel, or to get to know some new faces around MOPC. There will be food available to purchase from the Apollo Burger food truck, fun activities for kids, a cornhole tournament, and a shaded area for adults to sit and chat. All are welcome!

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Even though school has been in session for almost a month for most of us, I still think of September as the month of transitioning back to routines and schedules after several months of summer chaos. The vacations, slower mornings, and more casual schedules of summer are wonderful and always a welcome break. But come mid-August, I usually find myself longing for a little more structure and routine. Like January 1, September feels like a fresh beginning—a time to make plans, set intentions, and think about what I hope the coming months will hold.

I love this time of year. I enjoy making schedules and meal plans, looking ahead to fall and winter activities, and setting a few goals for myself. There is something satisfying about gathering up the loose ends of summer and preparing for what comes next.

The life of our church follows a similar rhythm. September is when we kick off—or reignite—many of the programs and ministries that pause during the summer. Sunday School, Youth Group, and 4/5 return to their regular schedules, and many of our community groups begin gathering again. Adult Discipleship is especially excited to add a second Sunday morning class with a topical focus. There are some wonderful opportunities for learning, growing, and connecting in the year ahead.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1 we read, **“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”** Our Fall Kickoff is more than simply a return to the church calendar. It is an opportunity for us, as a community, to recognize that we are entering a new season. We move from the rest and looseness of summer back into a season of vocation, growth, relationship, and shared purpose.

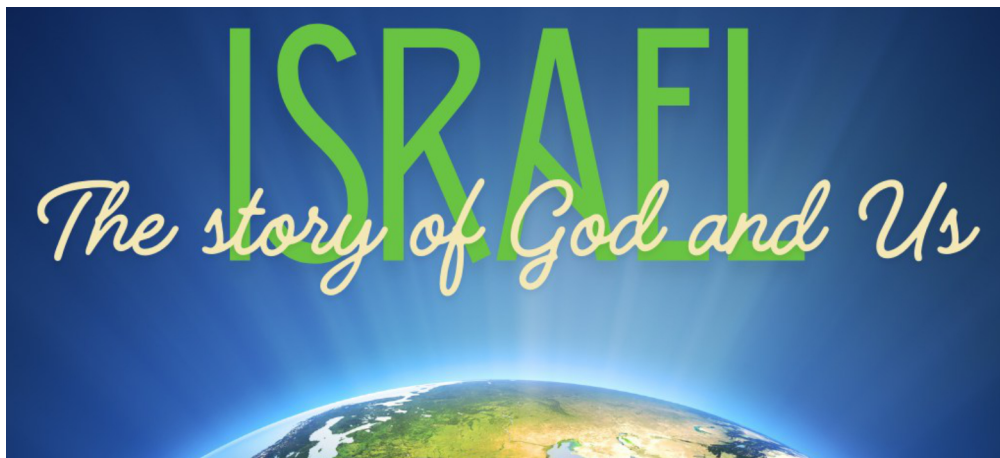
This year, we also have the joy of welcoming Pastor Chris back from his sabbatical. As he prepares to return with renewed energy, vision, and intention, we too have an opportunity to prepare ourselves—not only to welcome him back with gratitude, but to reflect on what we have learned during his absence and consider how God is calling us forward together.

Every change of season offers us an invitation to pause and reflect before rushing ahead. What has God been teaching you? What have you learned about yourself, your relationships, or your faith? And perhaps most importantly, where do you sense God inviting you to grow in this next season?

As we settle into new routines this fall, I hope you will make some space for reflection—and then, with intention, step into what God has next for you.

Blessings,

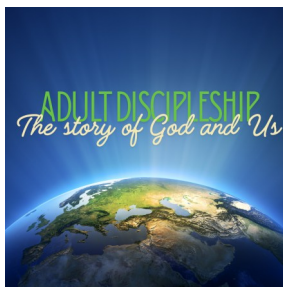
Nikki Zyp
Nikki Zyp



SEPTEMBER SERMONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Title</u>	<u>Scripture References</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
9/6	<i>Speak, Lord</i>	1 Samuel 3:1–10	JR Baker
9/13	<i>David Anointed</i>	1 Samuel 16:1–13	Rev. Robin Nygaard
9/20	<i>Davidic Covenant</i>	2 Samuel 7:1–7, 11–16	Rev. Mirjam Haas-Melchior
9/27	<i>Solomon's Wisdom</i>	1 Kings 3:5–14	Rev. Chris Pritchett

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP



The Story of God and Us: We will continue throughout the in September 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.

The Adult Discipleship Team is excited to kick off our topical classes with **On The Cusp of Faith**, taught by our own Beth Akers. This class will start September 13 at 9:45 a.m. Watch for more details soon.



The church office will be closed on Monday, September 7, for Labor Day.



MT O HIKERS

Come join the Mt O Hikers on one of our upcoming hikes! We'd love to have you!

September and October hiking outings:

Friday, September 18th, locations TBD

Monday, October 19th, location TBD



*Welcome Back
Bagels*
with Pastor Chris

Sunday, September 27 - 9:45 to 10:45 a.m

Join us in the gym on September 27 between services to reconnect with Pastor Chris on his first Sunday back after his 12-week sabbatical. We will not have Adult Discipleship classes this Sunday.

WE'RE ALREADY MAKING A DIFFERENCE - THE EARTH CARE TASK FORCE

Since introducing the Earth Care Task Force last month, we have been identifying the many ways our congregation is already caring for God's creation—and there is a lot happening!

Our church's solar panels produce approximately 91,724 kilowatts/yr of free energy from the sun, preventing 74 tons of carbon dioxide pollution from warming the atmosphere. Our community hikes help us appreciate one another and the natural world around us. Our worship services include prayers asking for God's guidance in healing and restoring creation. We provided training to other congregations on how people of faith can write opinion pieces for the newspaper, asking legislators to enact solutions to address increasing wildfires and air pollution.

We would love to hear from you. What are you doing to steward God's gift of creation in our church, at home, or in our community? Perhaps you are conserving water or considering an electric/hybrid vehicle for your next car. Maybe you are a gardener and would like to help our childcare center start planning a garden. Please share your ideas with the Earth Care Task Force and with each other. You may inspire someone else!

One Earth Care Idea for September: Leave the Seed Heads!

As you begin fall cleanup, consider leaving some flower seed heads and stems standing. Your perennials can provide food for birds during fall and winter. Standing stems and plant material also provide valuable shelter and overwintering habitat for native bees and other beneficial insects.

What looks a little "untidy" to us can be food and shelter for the creatures sharing our neighborhoods.



One small step. One faithful choice. A whole congregation making a difference.

Carol Day (our session representative) - carolanneday@gmail.com
Joel Holtrop - joelholtrop@gmail.com
John Mehlhoff - bigbaadjohn@hotmail.com
Nan Merrow - nwmerrow@gmail.com
Mark Jackson - mjax5@msn.com
Karen Jackson - kejax@msn.com
Micah Mahaney - yenaham@hotmail.com

KENYA MISSION TRIP JUNE 2027

The mission team for our June 2027 trip to ByGrace schools in Nairobi, Kenya, will start to be assembled this September. The tentative dates for this multi-generational mission trip are June 3-16. We will spend five days working at the ByGrace school and one day worshipping with them, then go on a four-day safari adventure exploring Amboseli National Park and Tsavo West. Please pray about whether God is calling you to join this mission effort. Junior high and senior high youth are welcome to join the team with a parent. We hope to limit the number of team members to 34. We have done two previous mission trips to the ByGrace school in 2023 and 2025. Contact Dennis Winge for more details at dennis.winge@hsc.utah.edu



Tentative Schedule for the Trip:

Thursday, June 3: Depart on flights to Nairobi

Friday, June 4: Arrive in Nairobi and take transportation to the Kijiji Guest House on the campus of African International University

Saturday, June 5: Introduction to ByGrace and campus tour

Sunday, June 6: Worship at ByGrace and an afternoon hike in Ngong Hills

Monday, June 7 to Friday, June 11: Work projects at ByGrace

Saturday, June 12: Depart for Amboseli National Park with lodging at the Kibo Safari Lodge, with an evening safari drive

Sunday, June 13: Safari drive in Amboseli National Park, lunch and dinner at Kibo Lodge

Monday, June 14: Drive to Tsavo West, afternoon safari drive at Tsavo; stay at Kilaguni Serena Safari Lodge

Tuesday, June 15: Drive back to Nairobi, farewell at ByGrace, and depart for US

Wednesday, June 16: Arrive in Salt Lake



The Thursday morning Women's Bible Study will begin on September 10 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 206. Our study, "Making Sure of the Truth," is about the dangers of "adding to" or "subtracting from" the true Christian faith. Peter, John, Paul, and Jude addressed some of these dangers in the epistles of Philemon, Colossians, 2 Peter, and 1,2,3 John, which we will study. Join us to explore these issues that are still relevant today.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Office & Tech 7 pm AA	2 7 pm Mt O Youth Pizza & Games	3 7 am Men's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	4 7 pm Rescue Mission 7 pm AA	5 11 am AA
6 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Labor Day Potluck Brunch	7 Office Closed 7 pm AA	8 6:30 am Men's Bible 6 pm Finance 7 pm Deacons 7 pm AA	9	10 7 am Men's Bible 9:30 am Wm's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	11 9 am Sandwich Making 4:30 pm St. Vincent's 7 pm AA	12 10 am Utah Food Bank 11 am AA
13 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Adult Discipleship 7 pm Contemplative Worship	14 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	15 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Session 7 pm AA	16 9 am Men's Coffee Group 2 pm Chronic Conditions 7 pm Mt O 45 7 pm Mt O Youth	17 7 am Men's Bible 9:30 am Wm's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible 7 pm Security Team	18 7 pm AA	19 11 am AA
20 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Discipleship for All Ages	21 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm AA	22 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm Adult Ministry 7 pm Facilities 7 pm AA	23 7 pm Mt O 45 7 pm Mt O Youth	24 7 am Men's Bible 9:30 am Wm's Bible 6:30 pm Wm's Bible	25 7 pm AA	26 11 am AA
27 8:30 & 11 am Worship 9:45 am Welcome Back Bagels	28 12:30 pm Staff 7 pm Personnel 7 pm AA	29 6:30 am Men's Bible 7 pm AA	30 7 pm Mt O 45 7 pm Mt O Youth			
Family Retreat						



It's September and another school season has begun. Hunger still prevails. Our MOPC Team will meet at the Utah Food Bank, 3150 S and 900 W, Saturday, September 12, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. to do our part in fighting hunger. See you there! Children 12 and older are welcome with a parent. Remember to wear closed-toed shoes. Come, help those less fortunate!



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 September 11.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



It's our new Adult Fellowship Luncheon season! We will welcome our own Joel Holtrop as our guest speaker. Joel will present two films that highlight the unique values and challenges of birds in the Yellowstone ecosystem and at the Great Salt Lake. Joel will add his own experiences and perspectives, and use these films to further explain MOPC's effort to be certified as an Earth Care Congregation. Come bring along your favorite dish to share, and a friend for fun, food, fellowship, and a chance to bird-watch from your seat! See you there, Thursday, September 10 at 12 p.m. Chirp!! Chirp!!

INTERESTED IN JOINING A MOPC COMMUNITY GROUP?



Many MOPC folks participate in community groups that meet on a regular basis for fellowship and/or study. Each group consists of approximately 8-10 individuals. The meeting frequency varies from weekly to once every two weeks to monthly. Many of the groups have a book study focus with dessert and group prayer time, others are more fellowship gatherings.

If you are interested in joining such a group this fall, please contact either Nikki Zyp (nzyp@mtopres.org) or Dennis Winge (dennis.winge@hsc.utah.edu) for more information.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)

September, cooler temperatures are coming soon, so they say We're getting ready to renew being a "doer" each day!!

At our May luncheon meeting, we made monetary contributions to the Coffee Depot/Well Spring Ministries/Shogrens and The Stone of Hope.

We are beginning a new season and invite you to breakfast in Room 206 at MOPC at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 1, the first Tuesday of the month. We will begin our new Horizon's Bible Study "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other" and perhaps install officers for 2026-2027. We will review the Fall Gathering to be held September 25-26 at Wasatch Presbyterian Church where Karen Jackson and Deb Penney will present "Women's Health," and Natalily Kyremes-Parks will present "The UN's Commission on the Status of Women".

- Pauline Forster



Save the date for our next Women of Wisdom Gathering on **October 11 from 12:30-2 p.m.** Lunch and free childcare will be provided. Our theme will be political engagement with special guest speaker Monica Schaffer from The League of Women Voters. Watch for more details.



Welcome Back

Fall is an exciting time at MOPC! Save the dates for our fall programming:

- September 13 – Fall Kickoff, following the 11 a.m. worship service
- September 16 – Small Groups will begin for our 4th-12th graders
- September 20 – Parents' Café, Devos and Donuts, and Children's Sunday School

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 p.m.

We hope you'll join us as we worship, study, and fellowship together!

Please email us for more information:

- Matt Vaughan, Director of Youth Ministry (mvaughan@mtopres.org)
- Jen Christensen, Director of Family Ministry (jchristensen@mtopres.org)

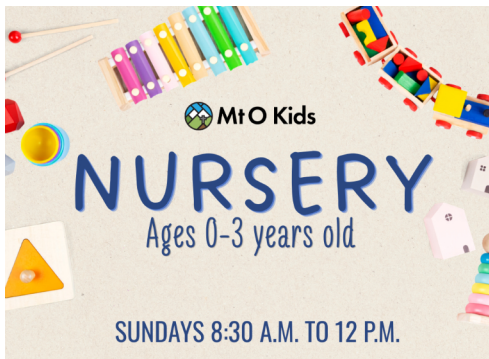


WEDNESDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 16

Mt O Kids and Youth



SUNDAY MORNINGS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 20



SUNDAY MORNINGS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

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

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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

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