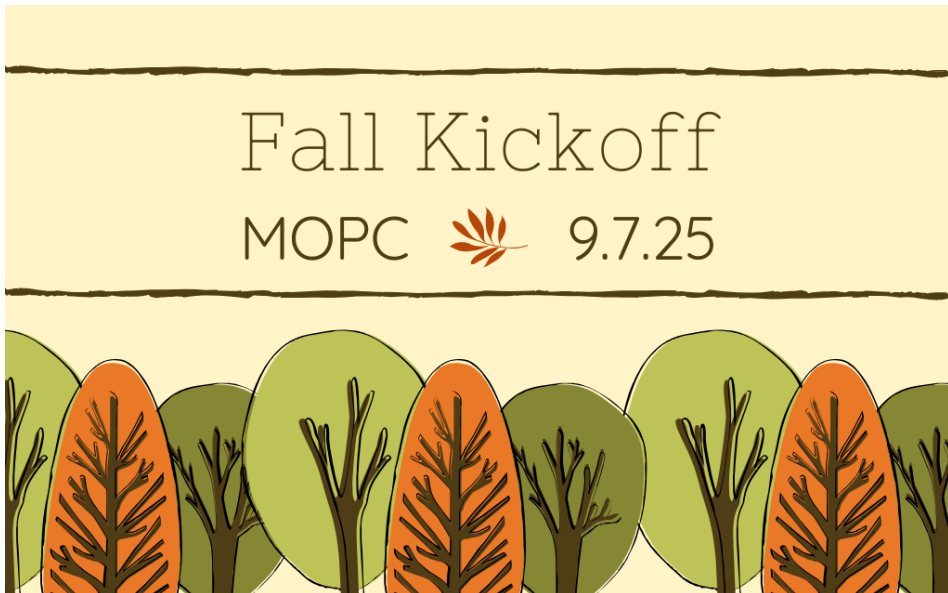


The mission of Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church is to invite people to experience Jesus Christ and become his passionate followers.



Volume LXI Issue 9

September 2025



We invite everyone to join us on Sunday, September 7, 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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THE SACRED GIFT OF TRANSITIONS

By Pastor Chris Pritchett

September always feels like a hinge in the year. The air sharpens, the light shifts, kids head back to school, and our daily rhythms change. The season itself seems to whisper that one chapter is ending and another is beginning.

In the spiritual life, these in-between times are what the contemplatives call *liminal space*—that threshold between what was and what will be. Liminal space is rarely comfortable. It's a place of uncertainty, vulnerability, and openness. But it's also where God often does God's most profound work in us. It's where we are refined, reoriented, and made new.

This fall, our church is in its own liminal season. In addition to saying goodbye to Pastor Bre as she begins her PhD journey, we now prepare to send off our beloved youth director, Jared McClure, as he steps into his next calling as Pastoral Associate at First Presbyterian SLC. Jared has poured his heart into our youth, walking alongside them with grace, humor, and deep faith. We will miss him greatly, and we bless him as he follows God's leading.

The faith we profess knows that just as God brought us Nikki Zyp to step into a reimagined role largely filled by Pastor Bre, but bringing her own unique gifts for exactly what we need in this moment—so too can we trust God to provide the leadership and vision our youth ministry needs for the next chapter.

The contemplatives remind us: transitions are not interruptions to “real life.” They *are* the real life of faith. In these threshold moments, we are invited to slow down, listen deeply, and pay attention to the quiet ways God is shaping us. If we embrace them with open hands and open hearts, transitions can deepen our trust, strengthen our community, and prepare us for what lies ahead.

So, as the leaves turn and the school bells ring, let us welcome this liminal space as holy ground. Let us grieve what we are losing, give thanks for what we have been given, and anticipate with hope the new life that is on the way.



PARABLES OF *Grace*

A New Sermon Series

SEPTEMBER SERMONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE REFERENCES</u>
9/7	<i>The Cost of Grace</i>	Luke 14:25–33
9/14	<i>The Lost Are Found</i>	Luke 15:1–10
9/21	<i>Grace Is Not Fair</i>	Luke 16:1–13
9/28	<i>Beyond the Gates</i>	Luke 16:19–31

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP

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

The first Sunday in September, we finish our series on Devotional Classics with Thomas Merton's "Ways of Meditation."

September 14th begins a new 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.

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



I am so honored to enter this new role as Pastoral Associate here at Mount Olympus. This position is both exciting and humbling, and I'm grateful for the trust and encouragement you've shown me as I step into it.

My journey with MOPC began a little over three years ago, when my family and I first walked through the doors and experienced the warmth of this community. Since becoming a member in 2023, I've had the privilege of serving and connecting in various ways. Each role has deepened my love for our congregation and my appreciation for the beautiful and diverse ways God is at work among us.

I'm excited for the opportunities this new role will bring—to serve our church, connect more deeply with each of you, and continue growing together in faith. I have a genuine love for organization and for finding creative ways to make our work more effective and life-giving. I look forward to blending these passions as I serve alongside Pastor Chris and the Session, working together to strengthen our ministry and mission.

A little about me personally: I grew up in Oregon, but have called the Salt Lake area home for the past 17 years. My husband, Kris, and I have been married for 21 years, and we're parents to two amazing teenagers, Jennika and Korban. For the past eight years, I've worked in various roles at a local elementary school, and I'm currently pursuing a bachelor's degree with the goal of earning a master's in counseling.

When I'm not working or studying, I enjoy planning fun events, cooking, hiking, skiing, and connecting with people.

I'm stepping into this season with a heart full of gratitude and anticipation. I look forward to walking alongside each of you as we seek to love God, serve our neighbors, and grow in faith together. Please feel free to reach out, stop by, say hello, and share what's on your heart—I'd love to connect with you. And finally, thank you for so warmly welcoming me into this role—I'm excited to see what God has in store for us!

Grace and peace,

Nikki
Zyp
Nikki



Want to enable community and "live life together" with other Christians at Mt. O? The Adult Discipleship (AD) team at MOPC is excited to launch new community groups this fall—and we'd love for you to be a part! There are opportunities to join or facilitate a group.

Sign-ups are currently open for facilitating a community group. As a group facilitator, you'd choose the meeting day, time, and frequency; the AD team will provide training, resources, and ongoing support. Your responsibilities would be simple: commit to a season of regular meetings (October–May), send a brief email before each meeting, and arrange a host space (some groups rotate homes).

Sign-ups for joining a new group are available through September 7. Groups will kick off in early October! Groups usually have 8–12 people and meet weekly or every other week for fellowship, study, and prayer. Each group decides its format and study focus.

Members of our current groups find great joy in building friendships and experiencing spiritual growth together. Please pray about whether you'd like to join or co-lead a group, and reach out if you're interested to nzyp@mtopres.org.



The church office will be closed on Monday, September 1, in observance of Labor Day

PRESBYTERY OF UTAH MATTHEW 25 BOOK CLUB

The Presbytery of Utah Matthew 25 Book Club will be starting a new virtual book club in September. The book club will meet on Zoom each Wednesday from October 1 to December 3 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Join us as we read “The Four Vision Quests of Jesus” by Steven Charleston. This book provides a unique look at Christian biblical interpretation and theology from the perspective of Native American tradition. It focuses on four specific experiences of Jesus as portrayed in the synoptic gospels. It examines each story as a “vision quest,” a universal spiritual phenomenon, but one of particular importance within North American indigenous communities.

Weekly Schedule:

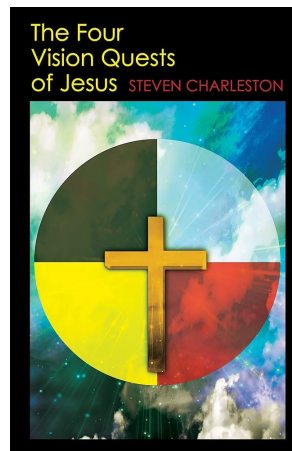
- Week 1:** Introduction: The Circle
- Week 2:** Chapter 1: The Quest
- Week 3:** Chapter 2: The Circle
- Week 4:** Chapter 3: The Voice
- Week 5:** Chapter 4: The Messiah
- Week 6:** Chapter 5: The Clown
- Week 7:** Chapter 6: The Wilderness
- Week 8:** Chapter 7: The Mountain
- Week 9:** Chapter 8: The Garden
- Week 10:** Chapter 9: The Cross

Copies of the book will be available in the gathering area.

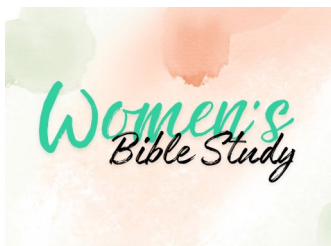
To register for the book club, go to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/I_xl7UsnTi-G7DQl8ntKJA

For more information, contact Carol Day at carolanneday@gmail.com



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES



On September 4 at 9:30 a.m., the Thursday morning Women's Bible Study will resume in Room 502. We will examine the Book of Daniel, using a DVD-driven study by Beth Moore. So many things we face in today's culture are not new; temptations and pressures to compromise were also present in Daniel's day. We will take a look at how he faced them and lived a life of integrity. Then we will explore and discuss the prophecies in the last chapters of this fascinating book.

If you are interested in joining the Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study, please contact Gwen Mitchell at gsmitchell@hotmail.com as this group meets in someone's home.

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



UTAH
FOOD
BANK

Our MOPC Team will meet on Saturday, September 13, from 10 am to noon at the Utah Food Bank, 3150 S and 900 W. Please note that open-toed shoes are not allowed for safety reasons. Children over the age of 6 are welcome to attend with a parent. See you there, to help others less fortunate be fed and cared for.



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 September 12 .

ADULT FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON



When we think of September, we think of school starting, so our September 11 luncheon will feature our own MOPC, Dr. Beth Akers, presenting "The Future of Higher Education in America". Beth received her Ph D from Columbia University in economics and is a Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, where she focuses on the economics of higher education. Prior to this, she was a Senior Fellow of the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, a Fellow at the

Brookings Institution, and a member of the Council of Economic Advisors under President George W. Bush. She is a noted author and has testified before Congress, and her writing and research have been published or featured in Bloomberg View, Boston Globe, Education Next, and several others, including the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, The Washington Post, and USA Today. We look forward to her presentation, so come along, bring a friend, and share your favorite dish, for fun, food, fellowship, and a timely program. September 11 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. See you there!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW)



ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT ALERT

September is here, and a new PW season has begun. Won't you come join us and have some fun!!

Our September meeting has been changed to September 9 at 9:30 a.m. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall due to construction on the upper level. We will have a light breakfast as we catch up with each other and prepare for the Fall Gathering of the Utah PW. MOPC PW Officers will be installed by Carol Day. We will begin our new Horizon's Bible Study, "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ." Come join us and be a "doer".

The Fall Gathering of the Utah PW will be held on Friday, September 12, and Saturday, September 13, at the Community Presbyterian Church, located at 245 S and 200 E in Springville, Utah. To register, please contact Emily Lower at scpcoffice@gmail.com or 801-979-5751 by September 5. The registration fee is \$15 and includes Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. Please let Emily know if this is your first gathering, any food restrictions, and whether you need a ride!

-Pauline Forster



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, September 17, at 2 p.m. Please text or call Janet Nelson at 801-560-9044 for the Zoom link or more info.

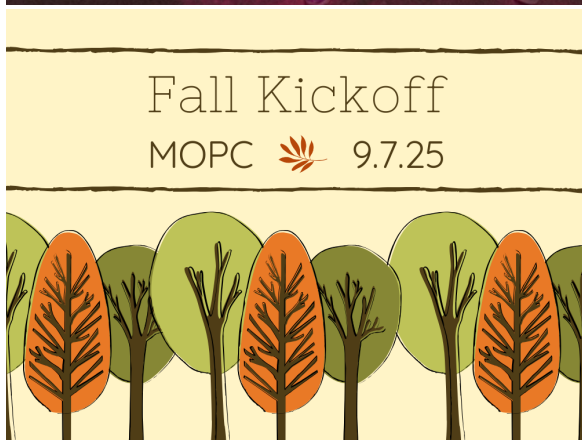


Joyous Journey is a monthly gathering of parents and allies as we walk the journey of life with our LGBTQ+ loved ones. We spend time learning and discussing how to care for and support the LGBTQ+ community and each other. Content includes educational videos, affirming Christian books, and fellowship. Please join us the first Sunday of every month in Room 204 at 9:45 a.m.



Welcome Back

Fall is an exciting time at MOPC! Save the Date for our Fall Kickoff on September 7, following the 11 a.m. worship service. Small Groups will resume for our 4th-12th graders on Wednesday, September 3. Parents' Café, Devos and Donuts, and Children's Sunday School will begin September 14.



Mt O Kids and Youth

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.

-Jen Christensen, Director of Family Ministry (jchristensen@mtopres.org)
-Jared McClure, Directory of Youth Ministry (jmccclure@mtopres.org)



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
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Pastoral Associate: nzyp@mtopres.org
Exec. Administrator: sbarnish@mtopres.org
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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

Board of Deacons

Adrienne Alward, Jill Baskett, Lonnie Baskett, Sherrie Bertrand, Chris Birch,
Julie Davidson, 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