

NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLS OF CHRIST

*In the grace of God, we embrace unity, we celebrate diversity
and demonstrate Christ's love as an open and affirming faith community.*

December 24, 2024 – Nativity of the Lord

Worship Leader- Linda Daniels, Elder- Ellen Lewis, Elder- Tom Hawley,
Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

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Christmas Eve Worship Service

Prelude		Regina Kellogg
Special Music	“Still, Still, Still”	Jubilation Ringers
Lighting of the Christ Candle		The Tice Family
Call to Worship		Linda Daniels
One: We gather: people of faith and no faith, people of hope and no hope,		
Many: People of peace and no peace.		
One: We gather with the longing to be made whole again		
Many: If just for this time, here and now		
One: We gather with a prayer, however vague and tenuous, that despite the absence of virgins and angels, wise men and shepherds,		
Many: We might still be a witness to the birth of all love.		
One: We gather as ready as we'll ever be,		
Many: For this story of faith to unfold.		
Invocation		Linda Daniels
Opening Songs		Congregation
	“Angels We Have Heard on High” Chalice Hymnal #155 v 1,3,4	
Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38		Rev. Mark Willis
	“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” Chalice Hymnal #150 (All)	
Scripture Reading: Luke 1:46-55		Linda Daniels
	“O Little Town of Bethlehem” Chalice Hymnal #144 v 1,3,4	
Scripture Reading: Luke 1:67-79		Rev. Mark Willis
	“Away in a Manger” Chalice Hymnal #147 (All)	
Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7		Linda Daniels
Prayers of the People		Rev. Mark Willis
(Please make your requests & praises known by sharing aloud or emailing pastor@nocckc.org)		

Prayer Response **"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"** **Congregation**
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Sermon Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7 **Linda Daniels**
In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Message **"No Place for Them in the Inn"** **Rev. Mark Willis**

Special Music

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

Welcome to the Table/The Words of Institution **Rev. Mark Willis**

Communion Hymn: **Congregation**
"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Chalice Hymnal #148 (All)

Communion Prayer **Elder-Ellen Lewis**

The Lord's Prayer **Congregation**
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

Partaking of Communion
Music During Communion "Silent Night, Holy Night" NOCC Choir

Bring your unlit candle and come forward to take communion. Take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and eat. Then proceed to encircle the worship space. Once everyone has had communion, the pastor will light a candle from the Christ candle, and we will pass the light to one another.

CELEBRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

Closing Hymn **"Silent Night, Holy Night"** **Congregation**

Benediction **Rev. Mark Willis**

Postlude **Regina Kellogg**

TO OUR GUESTS---WELCOME!
SHAPED BY GOD'S WORD AND GRACED AT CHRIST'S TABLE
WE WALK HUMBLY, LOVE DEEPLY, LIVE SIMPLY, AND SERVE JOYFULLY
More information about NOCC and the Disciples of Christ is available via Facebook & these websites:
www.nocckc.org www.kcdisciples.org www.disciples.org
Contact Pastor Mark Willis at 816-616-9746 pastor@nocckc.org

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Our Life Together

Pajamas and Pastries

On Sunday, December 29, 2024, at 10:15 a.m. we are having a party for worship! Come to worship on this fun day in your favorite or newest Christmas PJ's. Ellen Lewis is looking for people to bring delicious pastries, donuts, and other fun breakfast fare. Let her know if you can help. On the 29th, come grab some yummy food and warm tasty beverages in your pajamas as we sing the songs of this Christmas season at the top of our lungs!

NOCC 50th Anniversary Party Planning

Planning is starting now in anticipation of NOCC's landmark 50th Anniversary on June 8, 2025! If you are interested in participating in the planning and execution of this momentous occasion, please contact Corrie Tice at corriegravestice@gmail.com.

Prayer Requests

Jayne Bruno is coordinating and disseminating prayer requests via email. If you would like to make a prayer request, send it to Jayne at prayers@nocckc.org, and it will then go out to the congregation (unless privacy is requested).

Backpack Ministry Updates

During this season of giving, NOCC's generosity abounds! Thank you to Santa's helpers, Jan Brooks and Marcia Malotte, and to all the many generous elves who brought their 35 wrapped gifts for seven Bell Prairie children. Jan and Marcia loaded their sleigh and delivered gifts on Monday, December 16. Many thanks to Wing Ng and Laraine Walters for donating their time packing the weekly food in December for the nine backpack families and to all who contributed to purchasing Aldi gift cards, thank you on behalf of the Bell Prairie families for making the holidays just a little brighter. And, once again, Culver's, provided gift cards for 20 adult meals and 35 meals for children over Christmas break! Please thank the manager, Tommy Holliday, when you eat there!

As of December 15, with all bills paid, the balance in the Backpack Ministry account is \$3098.89! Yes, generosity abounds! If you would like to volunteer for the Backpack Ministry, times are flexible and can meet your schedule.

Contact Terry Becker for questions and more information: tennisterry40love@gmail.com

Family Promise

Give the gift of time by volunteering to serve at Family Promise of the Northland, located at 4406 NE 45th Terrace, Kansas City, MO, 64117. Family Promise provides temporary shelter and services for transient and unhoused people in the Northland and Kansas City area. The ability to provide guests with basic human needs such as food and clothing is vital for their survival. Whether it's kitchen duties, serving meals, assisting in clothes donations, sorting food, laundry and cleaning, the promise to you is this: your gift of time and loving aid will have a significant impact on the lives of others.

The Center is open on Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Contact Debbie Herrick (816.510.6859) or email (thompsod5000@att.net) for more information.

Cherith Brook

Cherith Brook provides its guests with showers, a hot meal, laundry services and replacement clothing. Many unhoused guests find this program a safe harbor to rest and restore their bodies and spirits. NOCC provides donations of clothing and other items, as well as volunteering. Items in need now: sleeping bags, summer sausages, bike locks, nice gloves, hand warmers, winter coats, winter socks, tarps, bike toolkits, and men's pants (especially size 30-34). To help, contact Dale Herrick for more information at drherrick03@gmail.com

Sojourners Adult Sunday School Class

To “sojourn” is to stay someplace a short time. We meet every Sunday from 9-10 a.m. to have moral and spiritual discourse. Bring your favorite cup of tea or coffee and join us for shared ideas and conversation. At North Oak Christian Church we are welcoming to all members of the human family and celebrate the delightful diversity of God’s creation. You are invited to join in and to suggest a current topic or issue for discussion.

Women’s Daytime Bible Study

The Daytime Women’s Bible Study group is on hiatus until April. We will meet from 2:00-3:30 on the first Tuesdays, April-December 2025, at Ann Nelson’s home. If you are interested in joining, please contact Jayne Bruno (jaynesuebruno@gmail.com) now to learn about our study, “Awakened: A 52-Week Progressive Christian Devotional” by Caleb J. Lines (Chalice Press). See you in April!

Monthly Men’s Breakfast at Kate’s Kitchen

On the first Saturday of every month, all those who identify as male, are invited to a men’s breakfast at Kate’s Kitchen, 8002 North Oak Trafficway, at 7:45 a.m. This gathering is for fellowship and connection as we begin our Saturday together with some good food and good friends.

Men’s Bible Study

The Men’s Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 9:45 a.m. We discuss scripture and relevant topics together via Zoom. We are following the Narrative Lectionary which can be found at: <https://www.workingpreacher.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/WP-Narrative-Lectionary-2024-25-Luke.pdf>. All those who identify as male are welcome. Email David Nelson at humanagenda@gmail.com for the Zoom link and join in!