

# NORTH OAK CHRISTIAN CHURCH-DISCIPLES 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.*

May 25, 2025 – Sixth Sunday **OF** Easter

Worship Leader-Seth Bass, Elder-Debbie Herrick, Elder-Linda Daniels,

Music-Dee Dee Brewer, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

## Gather to Worship

**Prelude** **Dee Dee Brewer**

**Graduate Recognition and Blessing** **Rev. Mark Willis**

**Invocation** **Seth Bass**

**Call to Worship** **Seth Bass**

One: In a world filled with violence and war,

**Many: We gather together to celebrate the promise of peace.**

One: In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,

**Many: We gather together to celebrate the promise of justice for all.**

One: In a world filled with hunger and greed,

**Many: We gather together to celebrate the promise of plenty for all.**

One: Our hope is in the name of the Almighty God,

**Many: The Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of heaven and earth.**

**Songs of Praise** **Congregation**

**“This is the Day” Chalice Hymnal #286 (All)**

**“How Lovely Lord, How Lovely” Chalice Hymnal #285 (All)**

**First Scripture Reading: Galatians 1:13-24** **Seth Bass**

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when the one who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterward I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days, but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, “The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.” And they glorified God because of me.

**Songs of Adoration****Congregation****“Come and Find the Quiet Center” Chalice Hymnal #575 vs 1,3****“My Faith Looks Up to Thee” Chalice Hymnal #576 (All)**

*Children’s Church is provided for all children. Children may leave worship now and go to Early Childhood Education (first door on left down hall).*

**Prayers of the People****Rev. Mark Willis**

*(Please make your requests & praises known by sharing aloud or emailing [pastor@nocckc.org](mailto:pastor@nocckc.org))*

**People’s Response****Congregation****“On Eagle’s Wings” Chalice Hymnal #77****Scripture Reading: Galatians 2:11-21****Seth Bass**

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face because he stood self-condemned, for until certain people came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But after they came, he drew back and kept himself separate for fear of the circumcision faction. And the other Jews joined him in this hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not acting consistently with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the gentiles to live like Jews?” We ourselves are Jews by birth and not gentile sinners, yet we know that a person is justified not by the works of the law but through the faith of Jesus Christ. And we have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by the faith of Christ and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing.

**Message****“The Faith of Christ”****Rev. Mark Willis****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 Song****Congregation****“Let Us Break Bread Together” Chalice Hymnal #425 (All)****Communion Prayer****Elder- Debbie Herrick**

**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****Dee Dee Brewer****CELEBRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE****Offering****Congregation**

Elders will pass the offering plates. Place your tithe or offering in the plate, or you can give online through [nocckc.org](http://nocckc.org).

**Offering Prayer****Rev. Mark Willis****Closing Song****Congregation**

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian" Chalice Hymnal #589 vs 1,3

**Benediction****Rev. Mark Willis****Postlude****Dee Dee Brewer**

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**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](http://www.nocckc.org) [www.kcdisciples.org](http://www.kcdisciples.org) [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)**

**Contact Pastor Mark Willis at 816-616-9746 [pastor@nocckc.org](mailto:pastor@nocckc.org)**

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## **Our Life Together**

**NOCC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party**

NOCC's landmark 50th Anniversary is on June 8, 2025! Invite family and friends, former members and participants to join in on this special day. Worship will include former pastors, the choir and bells, STRUM, If you are interested in helping, please contact Corrie Tice at [corriegravestice@gmail.com](mailto:corriegravestice@gmail.com).

**Waterers Needed for Labyrinth Flowers**

We need your help! We recently planted new flowers and greenery in the Labyrinth in preparation for our 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration. These new plantings need to be watered every three days. We will show where the

supplies are and how to go about getting water to our new plants. Consider volunteering to help keep the water flowing. Let us know you can help by signing up at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050444A8A96-56754325-water/5436143#/>

### **NOCC at KC PRIDEFEST**

All who wish to express their support and affirmation of members of the LGBTQ+ community are invited to join other NOCC parishioners and Northland Pride Network in marching in the KC Pride Parade on Saturday, June 7. Custom "Pride themed" T-shirts identifying wearers as members of NOCC are available at a cost of \$13 each and will be delivered on Sunday, June 1. Today is the last day to place your order, which you can do in the foyer after worship. Show your solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community and invite them to join us at North Oak Christian Church! See Mel Adams for more info.

### **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](mailto:prayers@nocckc.org), and it will then go out to the congregation (unless privacy is requested).

### **Backpack Ministry Updates**

On behalf of Bell Prairie Elementary School families, a huge thank you to Linda Daniels for packing and delivering food for the month of May! NOCC has also paid \$360.00 in lunch debts.

The Backpack Ministry will be "at rest" for now, but we'll be back in "business" in August, preparing for the 2025-26 school year. Thank you to all who have supported this ministry financially, prayerfully, and have volunteered your time to pack and deliver the much-needed food.

NOCC is so blessed that we can help our neighbors.

### **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. Whether it's kitchen duties, serving meals, assisting in clothes donations, sorting food, laundry and cleaning, 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](mailto:thompsod5000@att.net)) for more information.

### **Cherith Brook**

Cherith Brook is humbled and appreciative by the wonderful support given by NOCC during the Lenten season. NOCC has provided donations of 405 rolls of toilet paper, 4 quarts of hand sanitizer and a dozen disposable razors. In addition, over 40 bags of clothing have been provided by our ministry partner, The Resale Shop. The Lenten offering taken up for Cherith was \$1,645, which will be donated to expenses in Cherith's program. Seven members of Cherith Brook's Elders and their Adviser Kate Schulte joined us during Lent to provide witness and testimony to the impact of his ministry. Thank you Church for the gifts of support to our community. To help, contact Dale Herrick for more information at

[drherrick03@gmail.com](mailto: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. The first Sunday each month is led by Pastor Linda Miller, and the last Sunday each month is led by Pastor Mark Willis. 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.

**Monthly Men's Breakfast at Kate's Kitchen**

All those who identify as male are invited to a men's breakfast at Kate's Kitchen, 8002 North Oak Trafficway on the first Saturday of every month at 7:45 a.m. This gathering is for fellowship and connection as we begin our Saturday together with 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 Pastor Mark at [markswillis@gmail.com](mailto:markswillis@gmail.com) for the link.