

# 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.*

July 6, 2025 – Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

Worship Leader-Tom Hawley, Elder-Laraine Walters, Elder-Ellen Lewis,

Music-Regina Kellogg, Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

## Gather to Worship

**Prelude**

**Regina Kellogg**

**Invocation**

**Tom Hawley**

**Call to Worship**

**Tom Hawley**

One: Freedom is coming!

**Many: We can hear it in the voices of the oppressed.**

One: Hope is coming!

**Many: We can see it in the eyes of all those who despair.**

One: God is here!

**Many: We count on God's presence with us to guide, heal and uplift our spirits. Amen.**

([www.ministrymatters.com/](http://www.ministrymatters.com/))

**Songs of Praise**

**Congregation**

**"He Has Made Me Glad" TFWS#2270 (All)**

**"I Will Call Upon the Lord" TFWS #2002 (All)**

**First Scripture Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-15**

**Tom Hawley**

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

**Songs of Adoration**

**Congregation**

**"The Lone, Wild Bird" TFWS #2052 (All)**

**"Praise to the Lord" TFWS #2029 (All)**

**Prayers of the People**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

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

**People's Response**

**Congregation**

**"Bless the Lord" TFWS #2013**

*Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.*

**Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14**

**Tom Hawley**

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to your dreams that you dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord. For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

**Message "Jeremiah: Bloom Where You Are Planted"**

**Rev. Mark Willis**

**Special Music**

**Regina Kellogg**

**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**

**"Come to the Table" TFWS #2264 (All)**

**Communion Prayer**

**Elder- Laraine Walters**

**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**

**Regina Kellogg**

## CELEBRATION OF THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE

### Offering

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

### Congregation

Rev. Mark Willis

### Closing Song

### Congregation

"Joy in the Morning" TFWS #2284 (All)

### Benediction

Rev. Mark Willis

### Postlude

Regina Kellogg

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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

### Waterers Needed for Labyrinth Flowers

We need your help! The labyrinth flowers and gardens need to be watered regularly. We will show how and where this is done. 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#/>

### Mowers Needed

We have the equipment and will teach you how to use it. MOWING MAY BE DONE ANY DAY OF THE WEEK, WHATEVER WORKS BEST FOR YOUR SCHEDULE. Question? See Bob Lewis for questions. Please consider signing up to help mow by following this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050444A8A96-55138393-2025/69580391#/>

### Alliance Q Donation

Alliance Q is the organization that provided resources for us to go through the Open and Affirming Process in 2023-24. This organization helps DOC churches but does not receive any funding from our General Ministries. The NOCC Board has approved an offering to be taken up July 13th for Alliance Q to help fund their ministry and support future churches going through this process. If you would like to contribute, you

can give in the offering plate today or next Sunday, July 13, 2025. Please make the check to “NOCC” but indicate “Alliance Q” in the memo line or on an envelope. You can also give online this week and next through the NOCC website. Please select “Special Day Offering” there.

#### **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**

The Backpack Ministry will be “at rest” for now, but we’ll be “back in business” next month, 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. The balance in the Backpack Ministry account for the end-of-the-year 2024-25 school year is \$4,166.37!  
NOCC is so blessed that we can help our neighbors.

#### **Family Promise**

NOCC is looking for someone to lead and organize our efforts with Family Promise. Debbie Herrick has done this for several years and is stepping back to focus on other ministries. If you are interested in being our liaison for Family Promise, please talk to Pastor Mark.

#### **Cherith Brook**

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. 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. All those who identify as male are welcome to participate. 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/2025/01/narrative\\_lectionary\\_summer\\_2025.pdf](https://www.workingpreacher.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/narrative_lectionary_summer_2025.pdf). All those who identify as male are welcome. Email Pastor Mark at [markswillis@gmail.com](mailto:markswillis@gmail.com) for the link.