

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.*

December 7, 2025 – First Sunday of Advent
Worship Leader-Tom Hawley, Elder-Debbie Herrick, Elder-Ellen Lewis,
Music-Regina Kellogg, Violinist-Joseph Toma,
Minister-Rev. Mark Willis

Advent: A Season of Preparation

Prelude

Regina Kellogg

Call to Worship

Tom Hawley

One: May the joy of the advent season with its message of mighty peace be with you all!

Many: And also with you!

One: The Spirit of God has brought us here.

Many: The Lord has set us down here, though our bones are tired.

One: Can these dry bones live?

Many: Yes! The Breath of God will revive us! The Word of God will awaken us!

One: Today, we come together to experience new life.

Many: Let us give thanks to the Wild, Life-Giving Spirit of God!

(written by Amy Loving, <http://worshipcloset.com/>)

Invocation

Tom Hawley

Songs of Praise

Congregation

“Come Down, O Love Divine” Chalice Hymnal #582 (All)

“Comfort, Comfort You My People” Chalice Hymnal #122 (All)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Seth Bass and Anna Killen

Song of the Advent Candle

Congregation

“One Candle Is Lit” Chalice Hymnal #128 (Vs. 1,2)

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-6

Tom Hawley

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.”

Prayers of the People**Rev. Mark Willis***(Please make your requests & praises known by sharing aloud or emailing prayers@nocckc.org)***People's Response****Congregation**

*His name shall be, Wonderful, Counselor,
His name shall be, Everlasting Father,
His name shall be, Prince of Peace, Mighty God,
His name shall be Emmanuel.*

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37:7-14**Tom Hawley**

So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

Message**"Dem' Dry Rattlin' Bones"****Rev. Mark Willis****Special Music****"Evermore"****NOCC Choir****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****"Dona Nobis Pacem" Chalice Hymnal #297 (3x)****Communion Prayer****Elder-Debbie Herrick****The Lord's Prayer****Congregation**

Our Creator, 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

Congregation

*Elders will pass the offering plates. Place your tithe or offering in the plate,
or you can give online through nocckc.org.*

Offering Prayer

Rev. Mark Willis

Closing Song

"Deck the Halls"

Congregation

Deck the halls with boughs of holly, fa la la la la, la la la la.
'Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Don we now our gay apparel, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, fa la la la la, la la la la.
See the blazing Yule before us, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Strike the harp and join the chorus, fa la la la la, la la la la.

Follow me in merry measure, fa la la la la, la la la la.
While I tell of Yuletide treasure, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Fast away the old year passes, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, fa la la la la, la la la la.
Sing we joyous all together fa la la la la, la la la la.
Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la la la, la la la la.

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 or pastor@nocckc.org

Music used with permission through our CCLI Copyright License Number 21523835 and Streaming License Number 21523842.

The Journey Together

REZOUND! Handbell Concert

The REZOUND! Handbell Choir will be in concert on December 12, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at St. James Lutheran Church, 1104 NE Vivion Rd., Kansas City, MO 64118. There will be a love offering. We

would love to get a group from NOCC to go, as REZOUND will be doing a concert HERE in December 2026! If interested, let Pastor Mark know at pastor@nocckc.org.

Backpack Ministry Christmas Gifts

NOCC can help make Christmas so very special for 8 children at Bell Prairie Elementary School.

Each child will receive 5 gifts provided by NOCC participants.

Thank you to all who have already bought, wrapped, and returned gifts (with the paper tree taped to the bottom of each!) for children at Bell Prairie!

1. ALL OF THE GIFTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THE TREE! Love and generosity abound at NOCC!
2. About taking the paper tree off the display: Please tell Marcia Malotte which item(s) you take.

Two items have been taken from the tree, but we aren't sure which ones?

3. About taping the tree to the bottom of each package: Tape the tree with the written part showing. We need to know the child's number so the packages can be sorted and go to the correct children.
4. All wrapped gifts are **DUE by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14** (for December 15 delivery to Bell Prairie).
5. Please contact our special elf, Marcia Malotte, with any questions:
marciasnaturalsoaps@gmail.com

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Board of NOCC is calling a congregational meeting for Sunday, December 14, 2025, immediately following worship. This annual business meeting is open to all who participate in the ministry and mission of NOCC. We will be discussing nominations for Elders and Board members and our 2026 projected budget. This meeting is open to all who participate at NOCC.

NOCC Social Justice Seekers Forum: Storytelling Concert

You are invited to enjoy a storytelling concert over Zoom on Tuesday evening, December 16, 2025, at 7 p.m. Enjoy masterful talent without having to buy a ticket or dress up or leave the house!

This virtual event is inspired by a cherished annual storytelling concert at Community Christian Church in Tempe, Arizona, called "Winter's Light." Doug Bland, Master Storyteller, is the creator of this event, and he and Rev. Linda Miller will co-host a playbill of storytellers for a heartwarming hour of tales featuring darkness and light. More details and the Zoom link are available from revlindamiller@gmail.com. There is no fee for this Forum event, and you may unsubscribe at any time.

North Oak Preschool Christmas Party

Come celebrate the Christmas season with some of Santa's smallest helpers on Friday, December 19th, at 3:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our preschool will present its Christmas program, complete with a visit from Saint Nick himself and a chance to get a photo with him--and you are invited! Come kick off your Christmas week with adorable kids and the sounds and sights of the season!

Longest Night Service

On Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., NOCC will provide a "Longest Night" worship service. This holiday service is a recognition and acceptance of grief and grieving during what is a joyous, glee-filled season. Worshipers gather together to share a gentle moment of remembrance for

past loved ones and precious memories with one another. Come join in this special service as we edge closer to the Christmas event.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Come start your Christmas celebrations with a service full of Word and song. All are invited to join in the Christmas Eve service with choir and bells and communion and candles. Come sing the songs of the season as we welcome the baby Jesus into our lives again.

Pajamas and Pastries

Sunday, December 28, 2025, at 10:15 a.m.

The first Sunday after Christmas is a time for fellowship and fun! We gather for Sunday morning worship in our best Christmas pajamas and we feast on delicious pastries! You don't want to miss this joyous seasonal celebration. Put on your favorite jammies, bring your favorite breakfast pastries to share and sing your hearts out!

Cherith Brook

As you go through your fall and winter clothing, please consider sharing items that you no longer need. Warm jeans, pants, sweaters, sweatshirts, and jackets/coats are always appreciated. Long underwear is a luxury. Stocking caps, warm gloves, heavy socks, and boots are needed. Ground tarps/tarpettes, sleeping bags and backpacks are always important.

Thanks to all for your consideration. Place your donations in the donation containers at NOCC.

MICAH Ministry

The MICAH Ministry at Independence Boulevard CC is in dire need of children's shoes and children's clothing, new or gently used, all ages and sizes. If you have kid's shoes, clothing, and especially boy's coats(!) you can donate, bring them to Marcia Malotte on Sunday.

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.

Women's Bible Study

If you would like to join in the daytime women's Bible study next year starting in April, there is room for you here! The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month, April-December, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. at the home of Ann Nelson. The book chosen for next year's study is "12 Daring Women of the Bible." If you would like to explore the book, go to this Amazon link to see and read samples from the book:

<https://www.amazon.com/Daring-Women-Bible-Study-Streaming/dp/0310170699>

To join in next April, let Terry know NOW that you want to order a book. She will order all the books together by December 2025 and then be reimbursed by each person. For more information or to join, please contact tennisterry40love@gmail.com.

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 7:30 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/2025/02/WP-Narrative-Lectionary-2025-26-John.pdf>. All those who identify as male are welcome. Email Pastor Mark at markswillis@gmail.com for the link.