

**Blessed NOCC Community** I've just posted to Facebook a piece from the New York Times by Jonathan Merritt suggesting it's getting more difficult in our culture to talk about God. "Spiritual Conversations," even among people who profess to be religious or spiritual, are fairly rare. (Thankfully, there are quite a number of groups within our congregation where spiritual conversation is available) Then there is the fear of many folks to mention God in polite company for fear of appearing too pious or self-righteous. Interesting. The article also touches upon a notion that lots of good church folks aren't quite sure HOW to use the vocabulary of faith with comfort. In other words, what DO some of the important words of Christianity really mean? Salvation. Grace. Kingdom. Atonement. Redemption. Sin. Evil. Justice. And what DOES that word "Gospel" mean anyway? Are there additional spiritual/theological words that confound you or intimidate you? Please pass them along to me. I am considering a sermon series on some of these words and their meaning and how they can help us find our spiritual grounding in this era of extraordinary change. Take a look at the article---I'd welcome your thoughts.

**CHERITH BROOK-----THE LATEST** Call 816-241-8047 to volunteer. Volunteer teams are being formed to help at Cherith Brook as they work with KC's homeless. Teams are needed to help take care of shower facilities, do laundry, cook breakfast, tend the garden, food rescue from local grocers and building maintenance. CURRENT WISH LIST: Men's Underwear, women's sports bras, tennis shoes, small men's pants, mugs, cups, forks, dish soap, sugar, butter, bus passes, ibuprofen, reading glasses, bike locks. Call 816.241.8047 to volunteer or contact Dale Herrick or Mike Wilson.

**JOIN ROB AT AN INTERFAITH SEMINAR AT BEAUTIFUL TALL OAKS** The Kansas City Interfaith Council has planned an outstanding program designed to deepen our appreciation for the rich diversity of faith groups in our area on Wednesday October 24 830AM to 3PM. Registration is \$75 payable at the door. Call Tall Oaks 913-301-3004 to RSVP. Continental Breakfast and Lunch provided.

**MOVIE GROUP SOON** Watch the movie "Wonder" starring Julia Roberts and join us for snacks/drinks Saturday October 27 7PM at the home of Ann and David Nelson.

**TRUNK OR TREAT!** Join us and invite friends to participate in a VERY FUN Halloween Celebration. PLUS-----Chili by some of NOCC's finest Chili Chefs! Click here to let us know you'll be decorating your trunk. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4fa9a723aaf85-nocc> Or Contact Sara Woolfolk.

**TALL OAKS GALA AT ARROWHEAD** There is still time to RESERVE your seat for the 2018 Tall Oaks Masquerade Gala! The evening of November 9th at Arrowhead Stadium North Club will be full of fellowship, food, auctions, and the magic of whimsical disguise. Your presence is primary to the support of a unique ministry and the future evolution of Tall Oaks for children and the community. Plan on having a fun night! Don't forget your mask! Don't forget to sign up!"

**ROAD TRIP TO WESTPORT** Our favorite UKE BAND, STRUM, has been invited to perform at Westport Presbyterian Church at part of an arts series sponsored by Westport Center for the Arts. [www.wcakc.org](http://www.wcakc.org). Make plans to bring a brownbag lunch (or get food to go in Westport) and join your NOCC friends on Friday November 16 at noon.

**OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** to elect Board members and Elders and to approve a 2019 budget is planned for Sunday December 2 following worship. Please plan to be in attendance. This meeting usually takes 20-30 minutes. Child care will be extended that day.

**KEVIN KELLEY NEEDS STUDENTS** Rob has been training a cohort of people this year to present workshops on Centering Prayer. Our former beloved seminary intern Kevin Kelly is in the cohort. After several training experiences and lots of reading, Kevin is ready for his final test. He needs to do a three hour presentation on centering prayer to a group of willing folks while Rob observes. Would you be willing to be part of his "test audience?" Saturday February 9 2019 9AM to noon at NOCC. Our centering prayer "veterans" are welcome to attend plus people who have decided it's time to learn what centering prayer is all about. Even if you are not interested in centering prayer but want to be helpful to Kevin-----please come. Contact Rob with your interest. Child care available if needed.

**SOWING A SEED--GROWING OUR VISION** Thanks to all of you who made a three year pledge to support our efforts to rebuild our parking lot, support youth ministry, and reduce our debt. We are in the final year of our pledge period. Your steadfast faithfulness is appreciated! Our campaign prayer: We want what you want God. Open each heart and mind to Christ, our Light. Guide us together by your Holy Spirit, to trust in your will, amen

## THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday---9AM Groups  
Sunday 1145AM Bells Rehearse  
Sunday Following Worship-----NOCC youth to Red Wok for final planning re Trunk or Treat

Monday 6PM Troop 900  
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group  
Tuesday 1230PM Women's Bible Group  
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900  
Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry  
Saturday 7PM Movie Group at Nelson home  
NEXT SUNDAY-----JOIN US FOR TRUNK OR TREAT AND CHILI 5-7PM

## LOOKING AHEAD

Friday November 9 Tall Oaks Gala 6PM  
Friday November 16 STRUM at Westport Presbyterian Arts Series 12noon Brownbag Lunch  
Sunday November 18 All Church (bring a friend) Thanksgiving Pot Luck 12noon Entertainment!  
Sunday December 2 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ELECT LEADERSHIP AND APPROVE 2019 BUDGET  
Sunday December 9 Talent Show 5PM  
Sunday December 23 NOCC CHOIR PRESENTS CHRISTMAS CANTATA-----INVITE A FRIEND!

**All human nature vigorously resists grace because grace changes us and the change is painful.**

**Flannery O'Connor**

With you in Ministry

Rob