

Blessed NOCC Community Sunday marks the beginning of the Christian seasonal year. So we get to make new year's resolutions a month ahead of those who do that on January 1. What "fresh start" might make sense for you right now...especially as it relates to your spiritual growth and well being? The beauty of this season of Advent can support such a fresh start. Why not treat yourself to worship every Sunday in December? Or look for ways to be randomly kind to people you know or to strangers. As you allow God to beautify your soul, as you "make room" for the light to come into you, you beautify the world, you enlighten the world. "Behold," says the Lord. "I am about to do a new thing." I reverently glory in awe at what new thing God intends for you, for me, for the life we are sharing together in Christ.

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IS THIS SUNDAY to elect Board members and Elders and to approve a 2019 budget. Please plan to be in attendance. This meeting usually takes 20-30 minutes. Child care will be extended that day. Kids and youth will also have a chance to rehearse Talent Show in the annex.

NOCC KIDS AND YOUTH It's time for our annual Kids Talent Show. It is so much fun! Friends are welcome. Any and all talents are welcome. Helpers and stage crew are welcome. Artists are welcome. Is there someone who wants to be in it, but doesn't know what to do? Let Sara know, we need a super special volunteer. Please fill out the Talent Show Registration form. This helps us plan and organize the acts.

December 16 is the Christmas Party with our Northland Youth Group. We will meet at Park Hill Christian Church from 5 to 7 p.m. Grades 2 through 12 are invited and friends are welcome. Is there a parent that could volunteer to take younger kids to Park Hill this evening? Our older youth will be working on a project this evening, but I don't want any of our younger kids who'd like to attend the Christmas party to miss it.

Please RSVP for this one so we can plan accordingly.

December 2 is also our first rehearsal for the annual Kids Talent Show! The Talent Show is a North Oak tradition and all are invited to come and showcase their talent. We've had dancers, musicians, artists, gymnasts, readers, and just about everything you can imagine including a Michael Jackson impersonator. Rehearsals will be right after worship, we will meet in the childcare room. This is also the timing of the congregational meeting.

December 9 is the Talent Show. The show begins at 6 p.m. Performers and stage hands should arrive at 5 p.m. for a quick run through and pre-show pizza. Refreshments will be served after.

December 14 is Movie Night from 6 to 8 p.m. We will be watching The Star. All kids age 4 and up are welcome to attend. Drop the kiddos off and have a night out to do some Christmas shopping or a have date night. Donations to help cover the cost of food are welcome (suggested \$5 per child). Surplus will go toward our Heifer International fund.

Please contact Sara with any questions

CHURCH CAMP 2019 Dates for another great summer of church camp are posted at talloaks.org

CHERITH BROOK-----THE LATEST Keep these items in mind as you consider the remarkable ministry happening down on 12th Street. Baking Soda, Sugar, Creamer, Dish Soap, Rice, Salt and Pepper, Tissues, Toilet Paper, Deodorant, Razors, Toothbrushes, Feminine Products, Ibuprofen and Tylenol, Shower Gel, Sleeping Bags. Special Need: An Industrial Refrigerator.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING In December we will be receiving the fourth of five special offerings in 2018 to support various ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North America. Your over and above giving to this cause in December will support the work of the Christian Church of Greater Kansas City. Special envelopes for this offering are located in the entryway.

CANTATA PLANNED: BRING FRIENDS! The NOCC choir along with a fabulous band, will present a Christmas Cantata Sunday morning December 23 at 10:15AM. NOCC members and friends are urged to consider their friends who may not have a church home and who may be especially receptive to an invitation to join you for this service of beautiful music.

CHRISTMAS EVE 7PM AND 11PM NOCC'S annual Christmas Eve Services of Carols and Communion by Candlelight will be held Monday evening December 24 at 7PM. The NOCC Choir and our Jubilation Ringers will be featured. A second service will be offered at 11PM which is being planned as a quieter and simpler service of communion by candlelight. Child care will be provided for the early service only. The story of the Nativity is perhaps the most familiar to us in all of the Bible. Yet it continues to bring us to a place of awe and humility, speechless in wonder at the ways of our God whose ways are always perfect, and whose love is ever faithful. Come to the manger, and marvel. "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!"

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

Tomorrow 745AM Men's Breakfast at Kate's
Tomorrow 9AM Centering Prayer
Tomorrow 10AM Homes Association Meeting

Sunday 9AM Groups
1130AM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
1130AM TALENT SHOW REHEARSALS
Monday 6PM Troop 900
Monday 630PM NOCC Elders
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900
Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday December 9 Talent Show 5PM (bring friends)
Sunday December 23 1015AM NOCC CHOIR PRESENTS CHRISTMAS CANTATA (bring friends)
Sunday February 3 SOUPER BOWL ALL CHURCH SOUP FEST
Saturday February 9 Introduction to Centering Prayer--led by Kevin Kelley

SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY APRIL 14 3PM NOCC WELCOMES REZOUND BELL CHOIR IN CONCERT (bring friends)

If we care to embrace hope despite what encompasses us, the impossibility of life and the inevitability of death, then we must embrace a vision that will endure beyond our failures. We should not journey toward a world in which "solutions" to the "problems" are sought, but a world that acknowledges the possibility of the existence of grace beyond even the greatest of traumas.

Makoto Fujimura

In Grace Abounding

Rob