

**Blessed NOCC Community** For those of us fortunate enough to have lived a few decades or longer, the Christmas holidays will eventually take on a measure of soulful weight. We are missing beloveds whose love shaped so many of our Christmases. Some families, my own included, lost loved ones at this time of year. Health issues do not take a holiday. We likely know of friends facing serious medical/emotional health challenges right now. Poverty, homelessness, hunger, oppression don't take a holiday either. Christmas can carry all that weight. We wouldn't bother to celebrate it if it didn't, or couldn't. Perfect Love wraps itself in flesh to be with us. "Grace upon grace" makes God known to us as a weight-bearing God. "Grace upon grace" beckons us to be weight bearers for one another, discovering as we do this, that indeed "the Holy One is in our midst." (Isaiah 12)

**NOCC KIDS AND YOUTH** This Sunday 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. Please contact Sara with any questions

**CHURCH CAMP 2019** Dates for another great summer of church camp are posted at [talloaks.org](http://talloaks.org)

**CHERITH BROOK-----THE LATEST** Cold weather needs: Small undies (men's and women's) Tennis Shoes, Blankets Blankets Blankets! Gloves, Hats, Chapstick, Cold Meds, Bike Locks. THE BEES AT CHERITH BROOK had a very good summer! Cherith Brook Honey (it's REALLY good!) is for sale--- possible Christmas gift for yourself or friends! email Eric Garbison to inquire [ericgarb@gmail.com](mailto:ericgarb@gmail.com) UPCOMING WORKDAYS: TOMORROW 9AM TO NOON and February 9 9AM to NOON. To inquire about workdays contact Cherith Brook at [cherithbrookkcmo@gmail.com](mailto:cherithbrookkcmo@gmail.com) 241-8047

**SLEEPY HEAD BEDS---CAN YOU HELP?** We are collecting new pillows, used or new sheets & comforters for Twin XL, Full and Queen size beds. Please bring these items to church. Thank you! Sleepy Head Beds is a local non-profit providing bedding to thousands of kids and families in need. Contact Amy Hearst with questions. <https://sleepyheadbeds.org/what-we-do/>

**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.

**BELLS IN THE HOUSE** Our Jubilation Ringers will beautify worship this Sunday!

**CANTATA PLANNED: BRING FRIENDS!** The NOCC choir, along with a fabulous guitar/stand up bass duo, will present a Christmas Cantata Sunday morning December 23 at 1015AM. 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 joyful lively 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!"

**INTERFAITH WORLD PEACE MEDITATION NEW YEAR'S EVE 6AM** This event is part of a worldwide movement to pray for peace at 12 noon Greenwich Mean Time on New Year's Eve. Here in Kansas City we will share in this event with people from over 20 diverse faith traditions. Rob is planning to attend. Those planning to attend are asked to arrive by 530AM.

**END OF YEAR GIVING** Have you fallen behind in your offering for 2018? If you are able, your kind efforts to "catch up" are deeply appreciated.

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

Saturday 9AM Centering Prayer  
Sunday 9AM Groups  
Sunday 5PM Youth and Kids Northland Disciples Christmas Party  
Monday 6PM Troop 900  
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group  
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900  
Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Sunday December 23 1015AM NOCC CHOIR PRESENTS CHRISTMAS CANTATA (bring friends)  
Monday December 24 Carols and Communion by Candlelight 7PM (Choir and Bells) and 11PM  
Monday December 31 6AM World Peace Meditation at Rime Buddhist Center  
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)

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace...No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. John 1

In Grace Abounding

Rob