



Messenger

OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1809 HOLLISTER STREET · HOUSTON, TEXAS · www.odcchouston.org 713-789-0060

Advent at Open Door

December 12:

M28 lunch after worship

December 21:

Blue Christmas/
Longest Night Worship
6:30 pm on zoom

December 24:

Christmas Eve Worship
6:30 pm in person, on zoom,
and Facebook live

December

Preaching Schedule

12/05	Carolyn Zephaniah 3:14-20
12/12	Danny Psalm 51:10-12
12/19	Danny Matthew 13:33-35
12/26	Danny Matthew 5: 43-48

What we have learned from Biblical History is that God uses people that the “world” defines average to lead groups of people the “world” defines as less than average to do the greatness of God’s work in the world. God chose Moses to lead slaves out of Egypt to change the world and establish God’s Kingdom on earth as it in Heaven. Today, God has chosen Open Door Christian Church to a similar task. We can find many reasons not to respond to God but there is only one reason we should: God chose us to reform the church, regather God’s People, and begin a new journey in a world of great need of Grace.

The mission of building is about to begin...Will you be a part of “The New Beginning”? After a year of discovering our purpose and God’s vision for ODCC, the time has come to move forward with our new ministry! Come see what the next chapter looks like in 2022!

Are you in?

Call Danny (817-613-6228) or your small group leader for more information and to RSVP!

The New Beginning

Sunday, December 12, 11:00am – 1:15pm

Worship and Luncheon

Korean Community Center
1809 Hollister Street
Houston, Texas 77055

Carolyn's Musings

Contact: Carolyn Allen
nchornedfrog73@yahoo.com



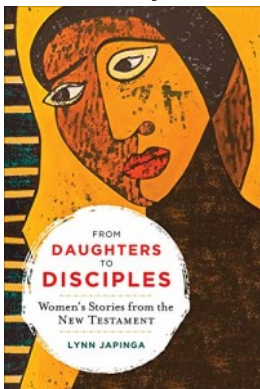
I often use the phrase "I can't wait" when I'm preparing for an exciting event like a vacation or a loved one's visit. But sometimes I feel like I literally cannot wait--because waiting is so hard. Patience doesn't come naturally to me. I want to get the ball rolling on whatever is next to happen! That is why Advent is so important to me. I need to remember to slow down and wait.

The word advent means coming. For followers of Christ, it is a time of preparation in anticipation of his birth. Each Sunday we light another candle and mark the time until we finally light the Christ candle and celebrate Emmanuel, Christ with us. I hope you will join us in Sunday worship and the special services offered this Advent season. God will bless our waiting.



The holidays are often a time of joy and celebration. But some years it is hard to get in the spirit if we are grieving. Grief comes from all kinds of losses, including the life of a loved one, a relationship ending, struggles with mental and physical health, among many other things. It is good and right for us to come to God with our whole selves and that includes our grief and despair. To acknowledge that sometimes the holidays can make us "blue," we will have a Longest Night Worship service at 6:30 pm on 12/21--the longest night of the year. The service will be on Zoom and the code will be sent out through email a few days prior.

Tuesday Night Book Study

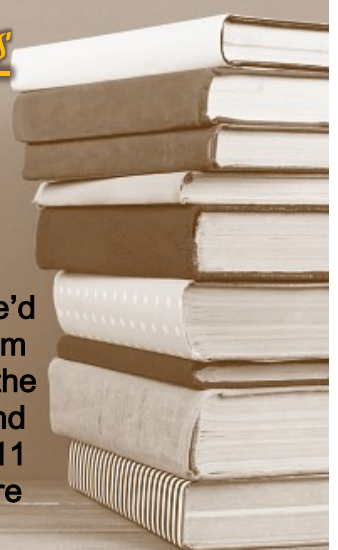


Please join us as we read and discuss *From Daughters to Disciples* by Lynn Japinga. It's about women from the New Testament. Newcomers are always welcome! Please join us Tuesday nights (except the 2nd Tuesday of the month) on zoom at 7 pm.

Shared Reflections

Book Club

This month our book club is reading *The Madness of Crowds* by Louise Penny. We'd love for you to join us on zoom for a lively discussion about the book. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 11 am. Contact Carolyn for more information.





Outreach Ministries

Contact: Frank Conner
fwconner@sbcglobal.net

First, thanks to all who contributed food bags to the "Thanksgiving in a Bag" for East Spring Branch Food Pantry. Again the entire gym floor was covered with sacks of food, and over 1100 families received a turkey, fresh vegetables and 1-2 sacks of dry goods.

Memorial Area Ministries is conducting their "Christmas Share" program. If you wish to contribute you can order online and send the items to MAM or by dropping off the items at 1625 Blalock. Clearly mark the items as "Christmas Share". If it is more convenient, you can deliver items to the church to be delivered to MAM. The children's toys should be new, unwrapped toys, between \$15 to \$50 in cost for ages newborn-12 years. Please, no stuffed/fabric toys and should include extra batteries, if required for the toy's operation. For teenagers, ages 13-17, purchase gift cards(\$25 or \$50) from either Walmart or Target.

During the month of January 2022, there will be a "Mountain of Food" drive for the Food Pantry. There is no limit to the type and quantity of non-perishable items you may choose to purchase. Anytime during January, please drop off food items at the Korean Center. Heavy sacks are available, if needed. Contact Frank Conner, fwconner@sbcglobal.net, for pickup from your home, if needed. The collected food will be delivered to the Food Pantry in February.

Grocery Shopping List

*In any amount, single family size **No glass containers***

Canned Meat	Canned Vegetables	Canned Fruit
Rice	Dried Beans	Soup/Chili
Breakfast Cereal	Peanut Butter	Sugar
Meat/Chicken Broth	Graham Crackers	Coffee/Tea
Pasta/Spaghetti/Mac n Cheese		Jell-o/Pudding
Cake/Cornbread/Biscuit Mix		Box of Crackers



A Message from Your Elders

Contact: Jim Stones, Chair
jestones@sbcglobal.net
713-614-0868

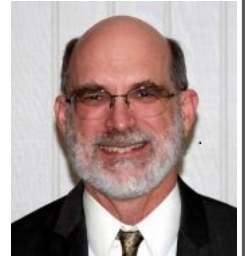
November is the month of Thanksgiving. Although the last two years have been trying, there is much for which to be thankful. We have been able to continue worshipping on Zoom and are now at the point where

gathering together in person is possible. We are thankful for the medical personnel and first responders who have worked so tirelessly and fearfully during the pandemic. We are thankful for the researchers who have developed vaccines. We only waited eighteen months while the Israelites had to wander for 40 years. God is indeed good.

It is always easier to give attention and voice to the things which are going wrong. As Christians, we know that God wants good things for us. Our mental outlook will be much healthier if we focus more on the positive. Both as individuals and as a fledgling congregation, we should be looking forward to making this a better world. With God all things are possible. Amen!

Treasurer's Report

Contact: John E. Lindley, Treasurer
treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com



OCTOBER 2021

General Fund Income vs Expense

	October	YTD	YTD Budget
Giving Income	16,809.33	115,831.38	126,000.00
Other Income	71.71	8,398.77	1,000.00
Expense	16,452.65	147,504.16	174,543.60
Balance	428.39	(23,274.01)	(47,543.60)
Txfer From DF	0.00	25,000.00	0.00
Final Balance	428.39	1,725.99	(47,543.60)

Cash Assets & Debt

General Fund	
Checking	24,766.88
Liabilities & Amortized Inc, Exp	3,936.68
Savings (Charles Schwab)	2,479.18
Church Revitalization Reserve	375,000.00
Undesignated Memorial Funds	180,177.35
Designated Funds	495,235.37
New Beginnings Fund	3,395,348.43
Total	<u>4,476,943.89</u>

Comments

Our giving income in October was up significantly, as it was last October, putting us not very far off the budgeted income for the year. Expenses were little higher than average, but not bad and we were actually in the black for the month. Our deficit remains less than budgeted. If you have any questions, please send an email to treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com.

John E. Lindley, Treasurer. 11/7/2021

*May the love of
Christ fill your
heart with joy
and peace this
Christmas and always.*

Like us on Facebook and click to be notified so you'll know
when we go live on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/odcchouston>

Open Door Christian Church
1809 Hollister Street
Houston, Texas 77080

[Open Door Christian Church](#)

How to reach us:

Website: odcchouston.com

Email: contact@odcchouston.com

Phone: 713-789-0060

*You'll have the opportunity to leave a
message in one of five different mailboxes,
so don't hang up until you're finished!*

Mail: Open Door Christian Church
1809 Hollister Street
Houston, TX 77080

Or Join the Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82094663021?
pwd=bzJ6MldHZ2lqVElFTjRtSXR5UFArQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82094663021?pwd=bzJ6MldHZ2lqVElFTjRtSXR5UFArQT09)

RETURN ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED