

# OPEN DOOR CHRISTIAN CHURCH

# Messenger

APRIL 2022



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We have been talking a lot about replacing the ambiguous term of “member” with the mission oriented and purposeful term of “Disciple” to describe ourselves. After all, Jesus calls us to be his Disciples. So, we have been changing the playing field a little bit to better understand our role in God’s world.

A good definition of a Disciple is someone who has moved from being the **RECIPIENT** of the Church’s mission to being **RESPONSIBLE** for the Church’s mission. For that to happen we must consider a few things:

1. To be a disciple means we change our focus FROM ourselves TO the needs and lostness of others and bring them into the Grace of God.
2. To be a disciple is to keep ourselves humble and grounded with the help of each other, so our insecurities, fears of rejection, or the small voices in our head that tell us that we are not good enough do not control our actions.
3. To be a disciple is to accept and be patient with those whose behavior reveals they don’t trust another way of life other than the messy life they are living (that includes ourselves). Acceptance does not mean approval. Disciples are not in the “approval business” we accept, welcome, show the love that comes from God, and move them to become disciples with us if they so choose.
4. To be a disciple means that everything Jesus stood for is what we stand for. And we have each other to keep us grounded and faithful.

Being a Disciple is hard but rewarding. Intentional and challenging. Life giving and purposeful. It requires strength from within and from those who are taking this journey with us. See you Sunday!

*Danny*



## Guest Article

By: Michael Miller

This past Sunday, we continued to discuss the important topic of the Body of Christ Comes Together.

We looked at Paul’s letter to the Romans, Chapter 12, concentrating on verses 3-8. Here we see that Paul views the members of the church as being gifted and called to function using those gifts. The folks of the Open Door congregation are a group of individuals with specific God-given gifts, talents, and abilities designed by God to build up God’s kingdom on Earth. These gifts are a great and wonderful thing when used for Christ’s agenda, not ours as individuals.

When we try to make it “all about me,” we go astray. It’s not about us. We are here to do the work of Christ. While we each have gifts, talents, and abilities, we must remember that for God’s work to be done as it’s meant to, we need to come together as a body.

We are to work together and use our gifts TOGETHER. We also need to remember that there is no hierarchy in our gifts and in our serving in our ministries. Each is vital to the mission. The senior minister is not any more important than the greeter at the front door. All are critical!

Finally, we cannot let personal pride nor humility get in the way of us using our God-given gifts to serve. We can’t think of ourselves too highly nor too lowly. We can’t think of ourselves too highly nor too lowly. We are ALL ministers and need to take ownership of our gifts and this church, put on a jersey, get off the bench and make Open Door Christian Church God is calling her to be.

Peace. Michael Miller

# Carolyn's Musings

Contact: Carolyn Allen  
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*"Violence is a symptom of impotence."*

—Anais Nin



It's hard to push away the violence of this world. It comes in so many forms and seems all pervasive at times. Since Russia invaded Ukraine, just under a month ago as I write this, I've been thinking a lot about this quote. Some synonyms of impotence are uselessness and powerlessness. These feelings are very often associated with fear.

Powerlessness is something I can relate to. As a person in recovery, I concede and admit that I am powerless over my addiction--on my own. But I am not on my own!! When I lean on God and my friends in recovery, I don't have to give into the fear that could lead to relapse.

Our scriptures tell us over 100 times to "have no fear" or "be not afraid." I don't believe this is because bad things don't or won't happen. But consider this: if we give into fear, we live in that sense of powerlessness. What happens next is usually some form of destruction, some form of violence to self or others.

I cannot see a day when there will be no more war, no more violence. I am powerless over controlling world events and the actions of others. But I'm choosing to do my best to not live in fear today. In doing this, I hope that I can follow Christ more closely, refraining from answering violence and fear with more violence and fear. To borrow a thought from a well-known prayer, I pray that I may be an instrument of God's peace.

## April Preaching Schedule

4/3	Carolyn	John 12:1-8
4/10	Danny	Ephesians 2:17-22
4/17	Danny	Acts 2:41-47
4/24	Danny	TBD

## Tuesday Night Book Study

We will begin a new book on 4/19.

Stay tuned to your email for more details!!

# From Your President

Contact: Carol Neal  
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In Sunday school, we are studying the Book, "Sermon on the Mount" by Amy-Jill Levine. It is a Beginner's guide to the Kingdom of Heaven. In it she explains what she thinks Jesus is doing on the Sermon on the Mount.

"I think what Jesus is doing on the Sermon on the Mount is beginning the creation of a new movement with disciples, but not a movement in the way we think of political parties. I think what he's doing is setting up a new family or a new community. How do you live in the group? What would it look like to live in this new family where people actually did what the Sermon on the Mount thinks people should do and where people actually are what the Sermon thinks people should be? When that support comes, then God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Then the disciples can say, "Ours is the kingdom of heaven."

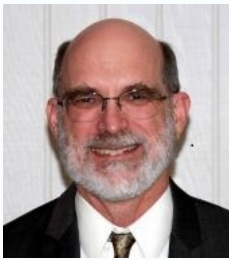
I believe this is what Danny is trying to accomplish with Open Door Christian Church with the M-28 meetings. Over the next few months we will be looking at how to discover our gifts and we will be given the opportunity to use them.

We will have 5 Ministry teams.

1. Community Outreach Events – 1-2 events a year
2. First Impressions and Follow up- Greeting and Assimilation
3. Family Life - Children and Youth along with their families
4. Worship Experience – Worship and Technology
5. Small Groups and Diving Deeper - Spiritual Maturity

I encourage you to search your heart and see what ministry or ministry team speaks to you and join Danny as he meets with each team and explains what it does. If you would like to join in those meetings please let me or Danny know.

We are all part of a gigantic puzzle as we interconnect with one another. Your puzzle piece may be planning or cleaning up after events, mentoring someone, making visitors feel welcome when they come to church, working with children, youth or families, leading a Bible Study or small group, or by being a good listener. Every way we show God's love makes a difference. When we use the gifts God gives us, the pieces of the puzzle fall into place to create a marvelous picture of God's grace and mercy.



## Treasurer's Report

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

FEBRUARY 2022

### General Fund Income vs Expense

	February	YTD	YTD Budget
Giving Income	11,469.13	17,914.13	20,000.00
Other Income	60.18	126.73	130.00
Expense	18,026.68	35,754.67	39,208.85
Balance	(6,497.37)	(17,713.81)	(19,078.85)
Txfer From DF	5,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Final Balance	(1,497.37)	2,286.19	921.15

### Cash Assets & Debt

General Fund	
Checking	9,736.12
Liabilities & Amortized Inc, Exp	26,318.15
Savings (Charles Schwab)	2,479.26
Church Revitalization Reserve	345,000.00
Undesignated Memorial Funds	181,954.10
Designated Funds	497,485.72
New Beginnings Fund	3,429,085.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,492,059.08</b>

### Comments

We had some catch up contributions in February which have brought our giving income for the year closer to the budgeted amount and our deficit to within the budget. I was also able to bring down the amount taken to from our reserve to the budgeted amount. I'm still concerned that our income will be less than I assumed in the budget. If you have any questions, please send an email to [treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.mdcc@gmail.com).

John E Lindley, Treasurer. 3/6/2022



You can easily make a one-time or repeating donation to Open Door Christian Church from your debit/credit card. You can choose the fund, and your gift will be processed immediately.

To make a gift now, go to

<https://mdcc.ccbchurch.com/goto/giving>

## Outreach Ministries

Contact: Frank Conner  
fconner100@yahoo.com



As we approach Easter the Disciples churches collect an Easter special offering. You may give online or use a check or cash in a special offering envelop at worship. The offering is to support the Disciples Mission Fund around the globe.

Several members have asked about helping/donating to the needs of the Ukraine situation.

The **Global Ministries** group of the church tends to have long-term programs, but not many people on the sites. For information go to <https://disciples.org>. For a statement regarding the Ukraine, <https://disciples.org/general/disciples-ministries-across-the-church-respond-to-ukraine/> and for donating to the church's outreach efforts... <https://donate.globalministries.org/onlinegiving>

The **International Red Cross** is providing immediate and direct resources (food, medical, shelter) using volunteers in each of the countries affected. For current information about the International Red Cross and Ukraine use ... <https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/europe-central-asia/ukraine> For donating to the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) use... <https://www.icrc.org/en/donate/ukraine>

## A Message from Your Elders

Contact: Jim Stones, Chair  
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As I have been watching March Madness, I have thought about some parallels to our own challenge at ODCC. There is a mixed group of tournament entries. Some come from traditional dynasties like Duke, Kansas, UCLA, and Kentucky. Others are from schools you might not know, such as Wright State, Longwood, and St. Peters. All, however, are present with one thing in mind. Likewise, we are a mixed group of people with different backgrounds but with one thing in mind: being the church of Christ in today's society.

March Madness generates tremendous excitement among school supporters, bracket watchers, and general sports fans. Hopefully we can kindle some excitement of our own as we move forward.

There is one big difference that I see. We never know who will win the tournament until the very end. With the church, however, we know that in the words of Doug Skinner as he recapped the book of Revelation: God wins!



# HOLY WEEK

## APRIL 10—17, 2022

### Open Door Christian Church

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

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

#### **Or Join the Zoom Meeting**

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

#### **How to reach us:**

Website: [odcchouston.com](http://odcchouston.com)

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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!*

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