



SPOTLIGHT ON
YOUTH

December 3, 2019

Western Oaks Christian Church

**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**



Our **WOCC youth** will have their annual Christmas party on December 15.

More details are coming soon!

The Creatures Christmas Play is coming!

Sunday, December 9th from 12:30 - 2p.m. - lunch and practice

Saturday, December 15th at 10a.m. - dress rehearsal

Sunday, December 16th at 10a.m. - dress and practice our songs in the Choir Room

Our children want to thank Stephanie and Daniel U'Ren for a yummy lunch of pizza before play practice, Sunday, December 1st. It always helps us focus after we have had a great lunch with great conversation!!

Immediately following the Christmas play at our 11a.m worship, children and families come and enjoy lunch with a special friend!! We will read a Christmas story right before our special visitor makes an appearance.



Start the new year with Messy Church!



January 12, 2020

5:00 PM

This is a simple children's format that consists of a warm welcome, an hour of hands-on activities around a Bible theme, a short gathered celebration (worship time), and a meal around the table with others in our community during our fellowship dinner.

Julia is looking for volunteers to facilitate the hands-on activities as well as advertising in our community. Thank you for offering to minister to others as Christ has ministered to us! Please contact Julia Jordan Gillett at the church or cell phone 405-821-0108.

Act of Kindness Tree

Tracy Smith who wrote *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home* describes making an “Act of Kindness Tree” to focus on Advent.

Materials:

1. Acts of kindness ornaments (visit <http://www.traci-smith.com/5-advent-calendar-ideas-that-focus-on-family-time-kindness-and-service/> for a link to printable ornaments, or suggestions to make your own.
2. Small Christmas tree or branch.

Directions:

Make 25 acts of kindness ornaments for your advent tree. Cut out 25 shapes (stars, bells, candy canes, etc.) and write the 25 following instructions on them (one per ornament).

1. Give someone a compliment.
2. Feed the birds.
3. Write someone a thank-you note.
4. Leave an encouraging note around the house.
5. Pick up trash around your house or school.
6. Do a chore for someone.
7. Tell a family member why they are important to you.
8. Send a card to someone who needs extra love.
9. Donate food to the food pantry.
10. Make a homemade gift for someone.
11. Smile at everyone you see today.
12. Do something kind for a neighbor.
13. Pass on a book or toy to a friend.
14. Hold the door open for someone.
15. Leave some pennies (heads up) on the sidewalk to wish someone a happy day.
16. Share with your family five things you are grateful for.
17. Let someone go ahead of you in line.
18. Bring flowers or cookies to a nursing home or hospital.
19. Volunteer to tidy up your room (or a common area).
20. Tell your postal worker that they are doing a good job.
21. Pray for a country that is far away from your country.
22. Share a photo of something beautiful with someone.
23. Draw a picture or write a poem for someone else.
24. Find little ways to help the planet.
25. Spend time with family or friends instead of watching TV or other electronics.



Place ornaments on the tree or branch.

Take an ornament off the tree (or use a basket to place the ornaments) each day and do the act of kindness it suggests. Repeat step 3 each day.

There is a danger in this activity becoming “just one more thing” to do during Advent. I advise a spirit of flexibility and grace for this activity. If your family isn’t able to complete an activity one day, no worries. Pick it up the next day, after Christmas, or simply let it go.