

August 1, 2023



# In Our *Prayers*

**Please remember these friends in prayer:**

Ukraine	
Hald Dawes	
Marilyn Storm	
Rae-Jean Burke	
Duane Wood	
Family of Daniel U'Ren	
Lisa Sloan	



*For Our Home Centered*

Bill & Suzanne Parker	LaRue Ingram
Dean Lunsford	Lonnie Maytubby
Deana Smith	Lyeal Amos
Duane Wood	Margaret Blackerby
Dwaine Bradley	Rhea Todd
Eunice Lassiter	Shirlee Ruedy
Hald Dawes	Vera Ruffner
Katherine Jordan	Verona Burke

## General Assembly 2023

To borrow the words of Pat Brown, “If you have never attended a General Assembly, you need to put it on your bucket list.” There is just something about gathering with other Disciples from across the Nation and Canada and worshipping together. Another mark of who we are is the way we come together to discuss the business of the General Church. We have several resolutions that are discussed and voted on. Some resolutions impact who we are such as the Design of the church and other resolutions are a “sense of the Assembly” which creates a statement of how we see ourselves as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As we discuss these each item, multiple points of views are expressed and listened to even when they are dissenting. We don’t always fully agree on every resolution, but we discuss the issues, we listen to one another, and we vote for the best sense of who we are. In fact, that is what makes us Disciples, we listen, we discuss, and we express who we are as followers of Christ.

With that in mind, some of the resolutions that have been passed during this assembly include:

GA-2336 The Pension Fund will no longer offer health benefits as part of a healthcare package for clergy. This will ratify the ongoing practice that began several years ago and transfer funds to clergy relief.

GA-2338 The Assembly passed a resolution for Food Waste, Food Insecurity and Environmental Justice. This resolution encourages all congregations to take seriously our impact on the world around us, urging all to do what we can to reduce greenhouse emissions, and not support efforts that create “unjust, unhealthy, and unsustainable living conditions for all creatures, including humans” and that all will advocate for measures that create “just, healthy, and sustainable life on Earth.”

GA-2339 passed a resolution in response to the treatment of Palestinians and to seek ways to improve relations between Israel and Palestine. The resolution includes a statement “that all people living in Palestine and Israel are created in the image of God deserving of equal dignity and their human rights.” And as a denomination we will reject and condemn “speech and acts of antisemitism” but also that we oppose any act of oppression, including Palestinians, and that we reject “any theology or ideology including Christian Zionism, supercessionism, antisemitism, or anti-Islam bias that would privilege or exclude any one nation, race, culture, or religion.”

GA-2341 Is another resolution passed as a sense of the Assembly resolving to oppose Christian Nationalism. “Christian Nationalism is a cultural framework that fuses a radically exclusionary form of Christian supremacist identity with the political and civic participation of a nation’s citizens through the appropriation of Christian language and imagery to amass political power.” This resolution indicates how Christian Nationalism is beginning to promote violent rhetoric and authoritarian approaches to civic life and public policy and these teachings are not congruent with the teachings of Christ. **“THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denounces Christian Nationalism in all its forms as a distortion of the Christian faith, and commits to opposing it wherever it appears, for the sake of the gospel and the good of the human family.”

GA-2343 Amended the Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with various changes but one important change allows the business of the church to be conducted digitally. Other changes includes frequency of meetings, and the composition of the board.

If you would like more updates on the business of the church please go to the following website.  
<https://ga.disciples.org/business/>

Shalom, *Daniel*



Check out the new [WWW.WOCCDOC.ORG](http://WWW.WOCCDOC.ORG) website! It is still under construction and we will be tweaking some things as we go. There is a new look and feel thanks to the volunteer work of Aspen with Aspire Design & Brand!

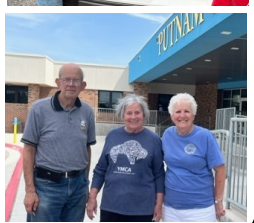
Best made plans of Mice and Men...Unfortunately, I had to make last-minute changes to my journey to General Assembly. Due to some medical emergencies with extended family, I need to extend my time with my mom and siblings in Michigan rather than attend Assembly. I have stayed up on the business of the church during this time and will be home in Oklahoma this week. But, please keep my extended family in your prayers.

Blessings, Daniel

**Success!** Lunch, consisting of hot dogs, watermelon, and salad was delivered to **Putnam City West** for the band!



Thanks for all the help!  
 Pat Brown, Fern Melton,  
 Tony and Charlene Majetic,  
 Sandra Spillman



**- NEEDED -**

**Audio/Video Technician and Nursery Attendant**

Do you know of anyone who might be interested in either of these positions? Have them contact the church office with a resume.

Rich has so graciously volunteered his time and energy to help with morning worship by running the power points for worship and overseeing the youth helping to run the soundboard. He is now stepping down and we are seeking someone new to help out with technology during worship.

We are also now seeking a nursery attendant to work on Sunday mornings during worship at 9am and 11am and during Sunday school.

**Upcoming**  
 EVENTS

- August 9**                    **PC West Teacher Breakfast**
- August 12**                **BBQ with Josh Bell**  
                                   for all elders & region
- Sept 24 & Oct 1**        **Reconciliation Offering**



Ashley	McConnell	8/3
Ariel	Isaacson	8/12
T.J.	Johnson	8/15
Twila	Ballard	8/16
Bill	Droke	8/16
Rhea	Todd	8/18
Verona	Burke	8/18

Richard	Wilkinson	8/20
Andrea	Teter	8/21
Sarah	Orr	8/22
Bob	Melton	8/23
Linda	Fortin	8/26
Jason	Bass	8/27



Adam Haynes Orr was born at 8:30 am on Wednesday, July 26 in Ada, Oklahoma. He was 7 lbs, 2 oz - 19 inches long.

Sarah, Andrew, and big brother Drew are so excited to have you all meet sweet baby Adam.

Western Oaks Christian Church



## Sunday School Launch Party/Breakfast

*All are invited Sunday, August 27th at 10am in the youth room*

The Life Lessons Sunday School Class is making pancakes and bacon for all ages to share, as we prepare for our next year of Sunday School.



## Children Worship and Wonder: Training for Storytellers and Greeters

*Saturday, August 19th 10am to noon in the Worship and Wonder room*

We are in need of volunteers feeling called to worship with our children once a month. This training is for you to see how Worship and Wonder works.



**Worship and Wonder is a special time to get acquainted with all our awesome children!!**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023** We have enjoyed the General Assembly and felt renewal! We were glad to worship with Pat Brown and others from our Oklahoma Region, the United States and Canada and many from around our world!

Blessings to all,

Julia



2024 Sign up TODAY!  
Assembly at Sea



Western Caribbean Cruise to Cozumel, Mexico

Sailing from Galveston, TX

July 11-15, 2024 on the Carnival Breeze



We are so excited to offer something new, exciting, and unique for our Oklahoma Regional Assembly! You can get reservations now and join other Oklahoma Disciples at sea by registering here:

<https://okdisciples.org/2024-regional-assembly-at-sea/#>

## Church Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Daniel U'Ren  
 Associate Minister: Rev. Julia Jordan Gillett  
 Music Director: Andrew Orr  
 Pianist: Rosa McCroskey  
 Praise Band Leader: Ben Frantz  
 Praise Band: Natalie Griffin and Zach Jones  
 Nursery Attendant: Janet Harper  
 Admin Assistant: Cindy Cannon  
 Sound Technician:

[office@woccdoc.org](mailto:office@woccdoc.org)

**Card Shower** for Verona Burke, August 18,2023.  
 Please help me celebrate Verona's birthday. David Burke

Verona Burke  
 Arbor House Assisted Living  
 850 N. Clear Springs Road  
 Room #222  
 Mustang, Oklahoma 73064



Attendance	Vimeo Live	Facebook Live	Facebook Live Daniel's	YouTube	TOTAL online Worship	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL on campus Worship
<b>7/16/2023</b>	6	17	55	4	<b>82</b>	27	43	<b>70</b>
<b>7/23/2023</b>	9	55	0	4	<b>68</b>	29	43	<b>72</b>

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
<b>7/16/2023</b>	\$3,983	\$30
<b>7/23/2023</b>	\$1,575	\$30

\*Online attendance taken from respective website reports of number    \*\*\* Financial info counted in following week

\*\* Technical difficulty prevented online worship.

*“Loving God, Serving our Neighbor”*



8100 NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
 Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»