

August 15, 2023



In Our *Prayers*

Please remember these friends in prayer:

Ukraine
Hald Dawes
Marilyn Storm
Rae-Jean Burke
Duane Wood

Hawaii – fires
Suzanne Parker – death of Bill
Lisa Sloan



For Our Home Centered

Suzanne Parker
Dean Lunsford
Deana Smith
Duane Wood
Dwaine Bradley
Eunice Lassiter
Hald Dawes
Katherine Jordan

LaRue Ingram
Lonnie Maytubby
Lyeal Amos
Margaret Blackerby
Rhea Todd
Shirlee Ruedy
Vera Ruffner
Verona Burke

WOCC Back to School Bash Pics

For Western Oaks Elementary School, Western Oaks Middle School, and PC West



The Music We Sing

The music that we sing is an expression of our faith and our beliefs. It is in many ways the heart of our worship. Music can be moving and expressive and definitely encompasses the faith we sing. Whether it is those old, wonderful hymns that we know by heart or something more modern that stirs our soul. I typically ask people to pay attention to what it is we are singing. Sometimes we find songs with great music, a moving beat, a wonderful melody, and catchy words, but sometimes the theology is questionable. I actually once had a minister friend tell me they hated “Amazing Grace” because the song assumes that “he was once lost, or needing saving.” For this reason, they said it had bad theology. I disagree and would counter I think it is sung from an individual’s experience of how they discovered grace and forgiveness. I believe many can relate.

However, there are songs that are what I call “theologically light” in that they are fun to sing, but the theology is lacking or goes against the teaching we want to lift up. But, sometimes there are also songs that we love that we later question why we sing them when we discover the origins of those songs and discover something more sinister connected to them. In this spirit, Ben Frantz, our Praise Band Leader approached me with an idea to remove all praise songs attributed to Hillsong. He had several people suggest to him that he check out the documentaries that have been made about the megachurch known as Hillsong. This is one of those churches that is designed more like attending a concert and their ministers are treated like celebrities.

The documentary highlighted many things including the songs being designed to make money, but also were designed intentionally to stir emotion, using psychological studies in how to really influence people. Ben spoke with the praise band about the idea that he had to remove these songs from their repertoire and they agreed unanimously. This sparked an interest to watch the documentary for myself. The songs were the basis of the empire that had become Hillsong, run more like a fortune 500 corporation than a church. The documentary describes the songs as hypnotic, and so much has been revealed in recent years of the extent of manipulation and violence toward women happening in this church. I not only concur with Ben and the praise band for their decision to disassociate from this group by removing these songs, I applaud their honest desire to be forward thinking and taking seriously the importance and impact the music we sing has on everyone. If you have questions regarding this, I encourage you to watch one of the documentaries that have been produced. The scary thing is this, one of the ministers who was the primary focus of these documentaries is now serving a church in Oklahoma.

I do want add to this that we do continue to sing our faith and praise God through a joyful noise. Music will always be the heartbeat of our worship services and I am thankful for the musical leadership we have in Ben and Andrew.

Blessings,

Daniel

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/#>

WOCC Back to School Bash

I am so proud of [Western Oaks Christian Church](#) and the heart for serving our neighbors in demonstration of our love for God. Pat Brown and Fern Melton started a 23rd Street Alliance partnering with the Western Oaks Elementary, Western Oaks Middle School, and Putnam City West High School all of which join Western Oaks Christian Church along 23rd Street. We met with the schools in order that we could listen to them sharing what they saw as their greatest needs. They informed us then that 95% of the school population in this area qualifies for free and reduced lunches. From these meetings we collaborated with the schools in planning what supplies were most needed and how we can best help the schools kick off the new school year. We provided 300 bags filled with school supplies, plus over 100 heavy-duty backpacks designed to carry their laptops. We ran out of school supplies quickly and created a waiting list and provided more bags with more supplies to the schools to deliver to students on the first day of school.



Additionally, through another partnership with another Disciples of Christ ministry called Foster Shoes, we helped them to expand their grant by providing shoes at our event. We have provided 100 pairs of brand new, name brand shoes. All of this was made possible by the various partnerships with other agencies, all coming together to provide resources to local families. Some of these groups included the girl scouts, Oklahoma City-County Health Department, TSET, Metro Library, OKC Regional Food Bank, the OKC police department, the local fire department, and many others. We had a number of hair stylists and barbers donate their time providing free haircuts. Each school will also receive a gift card for one lucky student to help get the year off to a great start.

Donations from the Oklahoma Education Credit Union and our bank First Fidelity really helped with supplies and prizes. We also handed out hundreds of hotdogs,



McDonald's hamburgers, happy meals, and Wendy's donated chili. The whole church showed up, worked hard, served many neighbors and all were exhausted but filled with excitement for the service provided. It is good to be at Western Oaks Christian Church with so many who have a passion for supporting our public education system and have a heart for justice and caring for children and youth!



Back to School - continued

I am sure I am missing some other great things we did (like games and activities, cheerleaders performing, girl scouts performing, and Elsa and Anna from Disney's Frozen making surprise appearances). I am so thankful for the school counselors and principals who all participated in planning and being present for this collaborative back to school event! Oh wait, there was more...we also had face painting! So much fun, but even more provided in free resources to the neighborhood through the various people and agencies coming together to support family. All of this would not have been possible without the grant we received from the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation.



But wait, there is more school fun! Western Oaks Christian Church went to PC West last week to provide our annual back to school breakfast for the teachers. For over 20 years we have been going to the school with the most delicious breakfast casseroles, fruit, Danishes, and so much more and providing a feast for the teachers. We wanted to let them know how very important public education is to us and that we recognize the great responsibility they have taken on to educate these children.



In the words of Fred Rogers, "I believe that appreciation is a holy thing – that when we look for what's best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we are doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we are participating in something sacred." As we serve our schools, and our neighbors, and we support the students in the surrounding neighborhoods regardless of demographics, we are participating in the sacred acts of loving our neighbors as God intended.

Thank you WOCC for being the sacred presence of God in the lives of so many!

Daniel

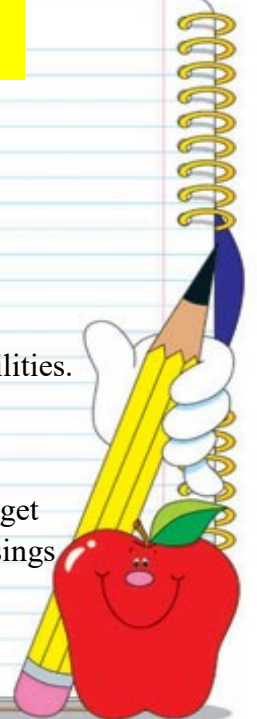
TEACHERS

- A teacher opens minds to new wonders.
- A teacher provides the tools to stimulate creative thinking.
- A teacher motivates problem-solving.
- A teacher guides the exploration of the scientific method.
- A teacher leads an adventure revealing the sometimes difficult truths in history.
- A teacher encourages diverse voices along the journey in literature.
- A teacher inspires abstract thought and freethinking as they open doors to new possibilities.

But, more so than all of this, a teacher is the heart of every classroom, the soul of every school. You are the one who makes learning cool.

So thank you teachers, you are in our prayers as you begin a new school year. We pray that you get the support you need. Let us all now take a moment and each in our own way, consider the blessings we desire for all students, teachers, faculty, and the schools they serve for this coming year.

We are so blessed to have a public education system.





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!!

- 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.

Western Oaks Christian Church



Sunday School Classes for all ages- 3 classes for adults, Children & Youth Sunday School Classes

Back to Sunday School Launch

All Church Pancake Breakfast

August 27th at 10:00 am
served the Youth Area

Hosted by Life's Lessons Sunday School Class and the Education Committee

Get a plate of pancake goodness and go to your Sunday School Class

Everybody ought to go to
Sunday School &
learn the Golden Rule

Thanks Tobi Frank for making the awesome



bulletin board welcoming all to join us for Sunday school and worship!!

You will find the board by the work room that leads to the children and youth wing



Check out the new 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!

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: Aidan U'Ren
office@woccdoc.org

in Loving Memory

Bill Parker July 11, 1940 - August 09, 2023
 Funeral 11:00 am Friday 8-18-23
 Western Oaks Christian Church

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
7/30/2023					**	16	40	56
8/6/2023	9	27	81	0	117	14	38	52

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
7/30/2023	\$1,090	\$0
8/6/2023	\$1,975	\$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 23rd Street
 Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»
 «Address»
 «City»