

February 28, 2023



In Our *Prayers*

Please remember these friends in prayer:

Ukraine
LaRue Ingram
Marilyn Storm
George Lunsford
Rae-Jean Burke

Andrew Orr's father
Mary Francis Hedrick (Prayers are much appreciated.)
John Pratt

Lent, our Journey Toward Hope

During Advent we have one week that is dedicated to the idea of hope. Hoping for a better tomorrow. Hoping for change in the world. Hope for a savior who would bring peace to a broken world. Lent though is a time when we consider how we can do better in our own lives. It is a time for reflection and honest introspection. It is a time for fasting, giving up something that helps us to become more aware of our dependence on God. Or, I like to offer an alternative to take on a healthier habit. Putting a positive spin on something, such as saying we are going to eat healthier instead of saying I am giving up sweets.

This idea of giving up and fasting really does not sound very hope-filled. But I see it as a time when we consider where our hope is, and what hope is. First, our hope is in God. During Lent, our hope is to grow closer to God and increase our understanding of Christ. We discover the reality of this hope when we discover that we can overcome temptation, which turns our attention to God when we are asking for help to not give in. That is exactly what hope is. Hope is a set of achievable goals that we establish. With those goals in mind, we can then find the way to reach those goals. But, to achieve that goal takes willpower to follow the pathway that will lead us to achieving our hopeful goal. At first glance, you might think that your goal is make it forty days through Lent giving up chocolate, or soda, or tobacco, or caffeine, or whatever it is you have decided to give up. But then you would be going about this the wrong way. You see, the goal is to work on your relationship with God. To discover that you need God in your life as a source of strength. The fasting during Lent is your pathway toward this goal. When you turn your focus toward God, then you discover the willpower to achieve those goals through God.

This season of Lent I invite you along this journey of discovering how we can become more a people of hope. The hope that we discover through God's grace, and love, that is meant to inspire us to become better, more compassionate people. For truly, the eye of the Lord is upon those who hope in God's steadfast love. Psalm 33:18.

Shalom,

Daniel

It is again that time for the **Pastor's Class**. The Pastor's Class focuses on preparing individuals for baptism. Anyone who is interested in learning about being baptized and what baptism means is invited to contact me or the office to sign up for this class. Pastor's Class will begin on March 12th. If you wish to be baptized on Palm Sunday, please contact the office by March 9th.

Daniel



A Big Word of Thanks To our Western Oaks Family of Faith, we wanted to say a big word of thanks for the generous gift you presented to us back during the Christmas Season. It came at just the right time. We are so thankful for a loving Church to be a part of. Thank you for accepting our family with open arms. We are exceedingly grateful for the love you have shown us, especially to Drew. Each day he asks us if today is a "Church Day"? When it is, he shouts with joy, exclaiming, "Western Oaks is my favorite!" We are looking forward to entering the Season of Lent/ Easter with you. There is a place for you in the Music Ministry. Bells are meeting at 6:00 PM, and Chancel Choir continues at 7:00 PM each Wednesday. No experience is necessary. Won't it be special to hear our Handbells ringing again on Easter Sunday morning? Come, be a part!

Peace and Joy,
Andrew, Sarah, and Drew Orr

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Don't Forget! We are meeting for prayer breakfast the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. This month we meet Wednesday, March 1st and Wednesday March 15th.



REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!
GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023
in Louisville, Kentucky
JULY 29 - AUGUST 1

The 2023 General Assembly is a call for Disciples to strengthen their relationship with God, as individuals and as a part of God's community through an expansive gathering of the church in Louisville. God's limitless imagination holds so many possibilities for our church.

This four-day event will encourage Disciples to celebrate the way that God's expansive love connects us as "kin" and to be part of the larger Kingdom of God.

Join us July 29-August 1, 2023 for worship, workshops, Bible study, a Louisville, mission project, and the sacred work of the church for children, youth, and adults across the life of the church.

If you are planning to attend the general assembly and want to be a delegate, please call the church office as soon as possible.



March 25
Saturday
9:00am - Noon

Bring your yard tools for an all church yard cleaning day. We can use rakes, shovels, hoes, etc. to make our church lawn look beautiful for Easter. Everyone can help with these projects!



Rosa	McCroskey	3/2	Donna	Bradley	3/13	David	Schroeder	3/21
Shirlee	Ruedy	3/2	Stuart	Thorn	3/15	Edward	Hill	3/25
George	Lunsford	3/4	Jack	Graham	3/16	Phillip	Young	3/25
Jodie	Conner	3/5	Mandie	Howry	3/17	Elizabeth	Gray	3/27
Joe	Mars	3/5	James	Frank	3/17	Marilyn	Storm	3/27
Joey	Mars	3/5	Dianne	Beck	3/18	Duane	Wood	3/29
Jamie	Mattox	3/7	Jane	Hughes	3/18	Tamara	Roberts	3/30



Messy Church will return
with our next
fellowship dinner.

Western Oaks Christian Church



The time we have all been waiting for is HERE! You may pick up empty Easter Eggs In the Narthex or outside the church office to be stuffed and brought back by Sunday, April 2nd. Thanks from the many children who come to hunt eggs, make crafts and games!

Your help is needed to distribute eggs at the Easter Egg Hunts on Saturday, April 8th @ 11:00 a.m. We appreciate all who are able to help Kelli with the crafts and/or the games we will play! If you are able to do any of these activities please contact Julia Jordan Gillett 405-821-0108 or the Cindy at the office.



Jackson Gabriel & Charlotte Garbriel



MISSION TRIP UPDATE

Julia and 5 youth planning to go on the mission trip to Fort Worth, Texas in July. We will participate in a **rummage sale** with New Covenant Christian Church at the beginning of June. The proceeds will help pay for food and gas for the vans. Please help our youth by saving new or gently used items to put in the sale. More information to come soon.



Time to start thinking about Church Camp!

Discount Rates are Feb 5-April 23. Regular Rates go in effect April 24-May 15 (Deadline)

Chi Rho Camp (grades 6-8): June 5-9

Discount Rate: \$403

Regular Rate \$475

Discovery Camp (grades 2-3): June 23-25

Discount Rate: \$175

Regular Rate: \$225

CYF Conference (grades 9-12): June 19-24

Discount Rate: \$429

Regular Rate: \$500

Junior Camp (grades 4-5): June 26-30

Discount Rate: \$307

Regular Rate: \$380



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

Attendance	Vimeo Live	Facebook Live	Facebook Live Daniel's	YouTube	TOTAL online Worship	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL on campus Worship	Giving	General	Blessing Fund
2/12/2023	7	30	1	1	39	26	49	75	2/12/2023	\$2,405.	\$55
2/19/2023	5	33	0	0	38	24	47	71	2/19/2023	\$1,644	\$55

*Online attendance taken from respective website reports of number of times the video is viewed on each website.

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbor”



8100 NW 23rd Street
Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»