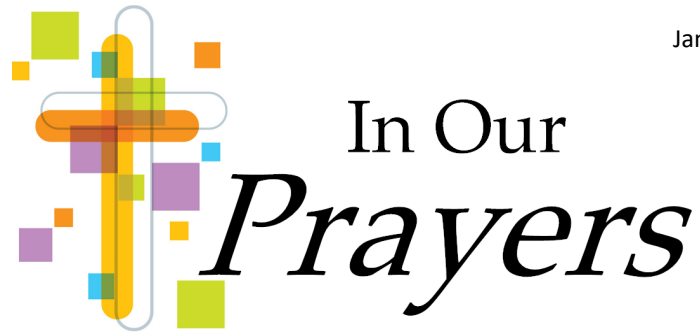


January 17, 2023



Please remember these friends in prayer:

Ukraine	Margaret Blackerby
LaRue Ingram	Mary Francis Hedrick
Lyeal Amos	(Prayers are much appreciated.)
Deana Smith	Hald Dawes
Lonnie Maytubby	John Pratt
Lisa Sloan	Rocky Fearing
Andrew Orr's father	Rae-Jean Burke

Cleaning Up

Looking back it feels as though it was almost a different life altogether. It was a long time ago, and there I stood, my toes carefully placed to “toe the line”. Our drill sergeant was screaming at this batch of young recruits. What he was yelling was firmly implanted into our brains. The words came out of his mouth, “Your momma is not here to clean up after you anymore!” For many of the recruits, even the basic things of making your own bed was something someone else had always done for them. For me, my dad had been military police in the Army and believed in bouncing a quarter off of a tightly made bed. I did not struggle as much as the others. But it was not just making our beds. The entire platoon worked together daily scrubbing toilets, washing out the sinks, sweeping and mopping the floors, and weekly we stripped and waxed the floors. All of this was done after morning exercise and before breakfast, usually before sunrise.

Folks, I am here to tell you, “Lawrence is not here to clean up after you anymore!” We were so fortunate to have someone with a heart for the church and for keeping everything clean. Cindy came in this morning and realized she had left just a tiny little piece of her lunch from the day before and realized, “if Lawrence was here that would have been cleaned up, I better do that.” It is going to take all of us, working together, to clean up after ourselves, empty our own trash, vacuum the spaces used, and make sure we turn off the lights, lock the doors, and set the alarm. Lawrence always came in after us like the shoemaker’s elves doing all the work practically unseen, but we always knew it was done because when we came in the next day, the doors were all locked, the lights were all off, and everything had been cleaned. We are feeling Lawrence’s absence and we need your help.

Not only are we asking you to clean up after yourselves, but we are also seeking volunteers to help with cleaning the church weekly. Just some light vacuuming and picking up at the end of the week to help make sure everything looks good for Sunday. We can’t expect the property chair to do it all for us.

Also, the personnel committee is in the process of working on making job position announcements and discussing what our needs at the church are. But even once they get all of that figured out we still need to all pitch in to take care of God’s house.

Shalom,

Daniel

The Christian Church in Oklahoma has a new logo.

The logo is meant to symbolize the invitation of Jesus to all people to communion, feasting at the table in grace and forgiveness. It is a reminder of our covenant with God to love one another and to love all of God’s creation, called together to do the work and ministry of God in the world around us. The scissortail represents not only Oklahoma but is also a symbol of spreading the song of peace and love throughout Oklahoma and out into the world. The logo is meant to tell a story. This beautiful logo is meant to tell the world who we are as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



WHIZ KIDS

When we began the Whiz Kids program years ago, we heard the stories of the impact the program and mentorship has on these young people. It was one of those things that is difficult to see immediate results. However, these young people were connected to more than tutors here at the church, but rather mentors meant to make a difference in their lives. Most of these children were identified by teachers as someone struggling to learn to read. The mentors at Western Oaks Christian Church spent hours reading and listening to their students read, but also developing a relationship. Recently, one young man was reminiscing about his mentor at the church and asked his dad if he could reach out, and so he contacted Pat Brown.

When Jacob called to Pat to see how she was doing they set up a time to get together. He is now almost a straight A student but is working to get the only B up to an A. He is in orchestra, but also plays football, runs track, and wrestling. This little boy that Pat mentored is now 14, and over 6 feet tall. He now attends PC Original and now is looking toward attending OSU and studying Psychology. I am not saying that the mentoring and tutoring in Whiz Kids is the reason for his great success, but we are proud that Jacob has worked hard, pushing himself in his own education. I think having a mentor who took interest in his life, who showed him that someone cared, and that learning to read was important and unlocked various aspects of success later on. Never underestimate the power of love, and having someone who takes the time to be a part of a young person's life.

We have several volunteers who helped with Whiz Kids and even if you have not heard from your young person, I am positive that you made a difference in their lives too.

Jacob is now 14. He attends PC Original. He made all As except one B on his last report card. He is Wrestling, runs track and plays football. He wants to go to OSU and major in psychology.



Gifts for the Kasongo Family Please share with your congregation the Kasongo family's gratitude for a wonderful Christmas! They say thank you so much and God bless you. Thank you for all your support and kindness Daniel. You are a blessing to the region.

Rev. Mary Heath, Chair, Refugee and Immigrant Ministries



William	Compton	2/3
Mark	Gillett	2/3
Kelsoo	Ferguson	2/4
Zadie	Grigsby	2/5
Rita	Walker	2/5
Martha	Buchanan	2/5
Okie	Merry	2/7
Pat	Brown	2/7

Bobby	Beck	2/8
Nevonna	Schroeder	2/9
Wayne	Nivin	2/9
Jerry	Cobb	2/11
Suzanne	Parker	2/13
Terry	Singleton	2/17
Jimmy	Ille	2/22
Eli	Mars	2/27





Western Oaks Christian Church



Regional Youth Event: Becoming the Faces of Change We are glad Aidan and Liam U'Ren were able to participate in the Regional Youth Event: Becoming the Faces of Change this past weekend in Tulsa. They were able to go to the Greenwood Center and Museum as well as go to the Martin Luther King Day parade.

Valentine Tea & Dessert Auction

Sunday February 12 12:15p.m.

Our 6th to 12th grade youth have been invited to join New Covenant & Crown Heights to do a **Youth Mission Trip to Fort Worth, Texas July 9th to July 14th**. Please join us at the Valentine Tea & Dessert Auction to find out more information!!



Messy Church will follow the Chili Cook off! The children will play games this week along with an activity. We will meet for one hour.

IT'S BACK!!!



WOCC CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, January 22



SCHEDULE FOR CHILI COOK-OFF

- 3:00- 3:15 - **Chili Check- In** (Anyone that brings chili after voting has started, will be able to share his/her chili, but will not be included in the voting.)
- 3:20- 3:45 - **Taste Test Voting** (Anyone can vote during this time period, as long as you try EVERY Chili)
- 4:00 - **DINNER TIME!!!**

VOTING RULES

Round One- Taste Test ONLY!

1. Get your blank ballot and pen ready.
2. Sample a tasting cup with just enough chili to taste.
3. Taste it and make notes on back of card, if needed.
4. Repeat the process for ALL Chili entries.
5. You must taste ALL Chili entries to vote!
6. Fill out your ballot, selecting your Top 3.
7. Place entry in the designated Ballot box.
8. Find a table and a seat, and wait for Round 2

Round Two- Dig In and ENJOY!

Votes will be counted.

Awards Ceremony will commence

WHO WILL BE DEEMED THE CHILI CHAMP?

Church Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. 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
1/1/2023	4	24	65	1	94		45	45	1/1/2023	\$2,335	\$30
1/8/2023	9	0	0	1	10	14	47	61	1/8/2023	\$2,576	\$30

*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»