

January 3, 2023



In Our
Prayers

Please remember these friends in prayer:

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

Happy New Year

As we begin a new year, it is customary to pause and consider the year that we are leaving behind. For some, 2022 was filled with struggles that are best left behind. For others, 2022 was filled with great joy. As we gaze back over the year that was, may we consider those things in our lives that we hope to change to improve ourselves. Consider the things that we need to let go of, so we can focus on the hopes and dreams that come with the new year. For the new year brings the possibility of change. The days grow longer with more daylight and the warmth replaces the cold, fresh buds appear on trees soon to grow into leaves and new flowers poke up from the ground to blossom into full blooms. We now anticipate the rebirth of the world around us, the new life that emerges after a cold winter. And we are reminded that amidst this change, there is one constant found in God's eternal love. Remember the words found in Lamentations 3:22-24, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, the mercies from God never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in God.'"

At Western Oaks Christian Church we are experiencing change as well. Dr. Ron Manning retired as our music director and we were thankful for the years of beautiful music he provided and were sad to see him go. We rejoiced with him, hopeful he will enjoy his retirement. But I am so grateful that Andrew Orr has joined our music ministry team as our new music director and what beautiful music he has brought to enhance worship. Check out his article about restarting a bell choir. This past year we also said goodbye to Lawrence Johnson, who retired after 25 years of dedicated service to the church. He will be impossible to replace, but I look forward to what God has in store for us.

Other amazing and wonderful ministries happening this past year are creating excitement for the coming year. This past year the women making quilts in the CWF donated 395 quilts to Citizens caring for children, this ministry brings warmth to lives of foster children who are experiencing dark moments in their lives. Another ministry, the 23rd Street Alliance has been reaching out to our nearby schools and once again provided a breakfast and blessing for the teachers and faculty at PC West. This last summer we also hosted 35 children as a YMCA day camp site, offering a safe space and a message of God's love to these children.

Looking back on 2022 there were many wonderful things to be thankful for at Western Oaks Christian Church, reminding us of God's love active in the world today. Let us be glad and rejoice as we consider the new possibilities awaiting us in 2023.

Shalom,

Daniel



thank you

The Christmas holiday is always so busy but it is a time of great joy. You helped to make this Christmas season all the more delightful with the Christmas cards and gifts. Thank you for brightening my family's and my holiday season with your generous love. You are a blessing.

Daniel



Can you help us restock our Christmas trees?

Many of our trees and decorations are more than 15 years old and some had to be retired this year.

So if you can help us restock some of these decorations/ trees in the Christmas sales, we can have new decorations for next year and the years to come.

Thank you so much for your help!

Congratulations to Jacob Foster

Jacob graduated December 17th from O.U. with a degree in Business Finance. He will be moving to Dallas, Texas to work for Invitation Homes as a risk analyst.

We are very proud of Jacob!

Jenna Droke



Western Oaks Handbells Returning Soon

Good News! The New Year is bringing New Opportunities to the Western Oaks Music Ministry, this time with the hopeful return of our Handbell Choir!

A Handbell is an instrument designed to be rung by hand. To ring a handbell, the ringer grasps the bell by its slightly flexible handle and moves the arm to make the hinged clapper strike the inside of the bell. An individual handbell can be used simply as a signal to catch people's attention or summon them together, but handbells are also often heard in tuned sets, and when played together, will enhance our Worship greatly.

It is okay if you can't read Music yet...We will teach you!

If it is difficult for you to stand for a long period of time, it's no problem... You may be seated while playing!

If you need to miss a Rehearsal here and there along the way...It's okay, we are flexible.

Please consider being a part of this wonderful opportunity to Worship together in a new way. There will be a short Informational Meeting about the Handbell Choir, immediately following the 11:00 Worship Service on January 22 in the Sanctuary. We hope to begin Rehearsals on Wednesday, February 1, with our first Performance being on Easter Sunday, April 9. Rehearsal times and location will be released following the Meeting. If you are unable to attend the Meeting, please let me know, and I will get the information to you.

Again, I hope you will consider being a part of this special ministry! It is an honor to serve with you!

Peace and Joy,
Andrew



PRAYER BREAKFAST

Don't Forget! We are meeting for prayer breakfast the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. This month we meet Wednesday, January 4th and Wednesday January 18th.

Aanika	Gillett	1/3
Joshua	Mars	1/6
Janice	Andrews	1/9
Mike	Merry	1/10
Phil	Halpain	1/14
Robin	Plumb	1/15



Angela	Wilkinson	1/11
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Patricia	Orr	1/12
Cathy	Routon	1/16
Mike	Buckley	1/17
Lois	Northcutt	1/21
Daniel	Burke	1/21
Cindy	Cannon	1/23

Becoming the Faces of Change

January 14-16, 2023

For Chi Rho & CYF Groups and their Sponsors

Cost: \$75 per person

How can we be the faces of change in our culture?

One way is learning from the past, even the hard stories,

so that the next generation (that's you) doesn't repeat their elder's mistakes. Come and learn the stories not taught in school and trust that intentional Christian community can manage the conversations and learnings. This is a great mid-winter retreat (Saturday afternoon-Monday Morning).

Included in the Fee

Greenwood Rising Museum & Program

Housing & Meals: Camp Christian near Chouteau

Good Conversations, Laughs, Games & Worship

Sponsored by the Youth Groups at New Covenant Christian Church, Crown Heights Christian Church, Western Oaks Christian Church, and the Regional Youth Council.

Western Oaks Christian Church

**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**



Coming in January:

Messy Church resumes before the Chilli Cook-Off in January.

The Youth will meet for an afternoon of games in January as well.



I would like to take this opportunity at the beginning of 2023 to thank you for the monetary gift you gave my family at Christmas. I would also like to thank you for all the times we have worked side-by-side doing projects for our children like the Easter Egg Hunt, Vacation Bible School, Trunk or Treat, the Christmas play and the many smaller meetings! A special thanks to everyone for their patience as we have rebuilt our programs for children and

young people: those who teach Sunday school and those who are our story tellers and greeters for Children Worship & Wonder. I am thankful we could be safe with our COVID protocols as we returned slowly to our regular activities.

You have been a blessing to me as well as my family. Thank you for your love, concern and care for myself, but more importantly for my whole family!

Love and blessings,

Julia Jordan Gillett



COMING SUNDAY, February 12th

Youth Valentines Luncheon and Dessert Auction.

The youth are planning a mission trip.

More details will be coming your way!

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

Congregational Meeting

January 8, 2023

9:00 and 11:00 AM

Services



Thank you all for the well wishes, cards, and gifts during this Christmas season. I enjoy working with everyone.

Cindy Cannon

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
12/18/2022	4	60	60	3	127	16	54	70	12/18/2022	\$2,240	\$30
12/24/2022	2	18	53	4	77		75	75	12/24/2022		
12/25/2022	5	24	91	0	120		35	35	12/25/2022	\$2,445	\$50

*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»