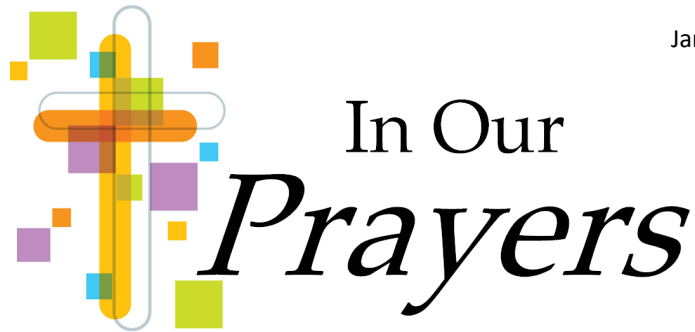


January 31, 2023



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 |

The Doctor is In

First, I want to say thank you to everyone who has supported me and made this journey possible for me to pursue a doctorate. It has been an amazing journey and I have learned so much through my coursework. I still have some edits to prepare for my final paper to be published through the seminary. Nevertheless, I am now on track for graduation in May.

On Saturday the 21st I presented my work to other doctoral students who then gave me feedback to help make my presentation better. It is always good to have others looking at your work and helping you to catch mistakes that you have missed. However, this only gave me two days to make edits. Then my advisor tossed in another curveball. She wanted more information on a couple of topics that were in my paper, but not in my presentation. This required more edits before presenting on Tuesday. I went into the class on Tuesday, with edits in hand, and my freshly updated presentation. I had faculty from the seminary waiting in the audience for my presentation. Some of them I had never met before now. After a forty-minute presentation, they asked questions for about another forty minutes. This time flew by. Then they asked me to step outside of the room.

Waiting in the hallway was nerve-wracking. What if they did not like the presentation? What if there was something they wanted me to fix and would I need to go through all this again? Why didn't I eat lunch before the presentation? It felt like forever. Fortunately, a staff member of the seminary was wandering the hall and they stopped to talk to me. This took the edge off. Then, Dr. McCallie, who has been the director of the Doctorate of Ministry program during my time there, came out to let me know I could come back in. But what she said was, "Dr. U'Ren, I would like to invite you to come back in." There it was. The thrill and excitement washed over me. I was done. I had made it.


Then Friday came and I had the oddest sensation. Suddenly I felt anxious. I felt like I need to be working on a sermon, or working on a paper, or just something. Instead, I actually had a day to relax and do nothing. I had not really had a day like that in so long. It took me some time to remind myself I could just relax. To give myself permission to not stress out about anything and simply do nothing.

Then, I realized that doing nothing, in this sense, is still doing something. I was recharging. I was refreshing my mental state. It is so important to have those moments to allow yourself the time just to take care of yourself. Even Jesus did this. Not only observing the Sabbath, a day of rest, but also he would often go off by himself to rest.

Thank you so much not only for allowing me time to complete my doctorate but also for the time to relax afterward. Now, I can't wait to see you on Sunday morning!

Shalom,

Daniel



End-of-year Giving Statements

We would like to thank you for your generous giving to Western Oaks Christian Church in 2022. Last week the end of year giving statements were emailed or mailed to those who do not have an email address. If you have not received your statement, need a paper copy, or if there are corrections that need to be made, please email or call the church office and Cindy will be happy to help.



What a great turn out we had for our Annual Chili Cook-Off.

We had nine wonderful pots of chili made by our amazing chefs: Billy Griffin, Fern Melton, Gay Teter (x2), Kelli Fearing, Kelly Griffin, Jamie Maddox, Pat Brown, and Rocky Fearing. We had ten judges that came early to get the first taste!



The winners were: 1st Place- Pat Brown, 2nd Place- Billy Griffin, and 3rd Place- Kelly Griffin.

Thanks to everyone who attended and brought a side or desert. A special shout out to everyone who stayed and helped clean up after the event.

Thank you from the Fellowship Committee!



Bingo Matinee

Sunday, February 19

12:30 - Snacking begins

1:00- Let's Play BINGO!!!

Please bring a snack (Examples: Chips and Dip, Cookies, Vegi Tray, Fruit Tray, etc)
The Fellowship Committee will provide small sandwiches and drinks.

**If you would like to donate a Gift card or other prize for bingo, please bring the item(s) that day. We will have prizes for Adults AND Children, so everyone is welcome!*



| | | |
|---------|----------|-----|
| 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 |





Messy Church will resume in March. We want everyone to enjoy the BINGO that Fellowship will have on February 19th.

Western Oaks Christian Church



Valentine's Day Par-Tea & Dessert Auction Sunday February 12 12:15p.m.

Please join us for a fun twist on a traditional tea party!

We will have soup and sandwiches along with our tea. After the Par-Tea we will have a dessert auction, which will include cakes from Duane Wood and more!!



The money we raise will help our youth 6th to 12th grade go on a mission trip to Fort Worth, Texas with New Covenant Christian Church and Crown Heights Christian Church. We will work with Connect Ministries who will work with us to put our faith into action in ways that are relational, sustainable, and dignity-affirming. Our efforts will be to learn more about hunger and what we are able to do in Fort Worth and then bring this home to Oklahoma City.

Greeters are needed for Children Worship & Wonder!

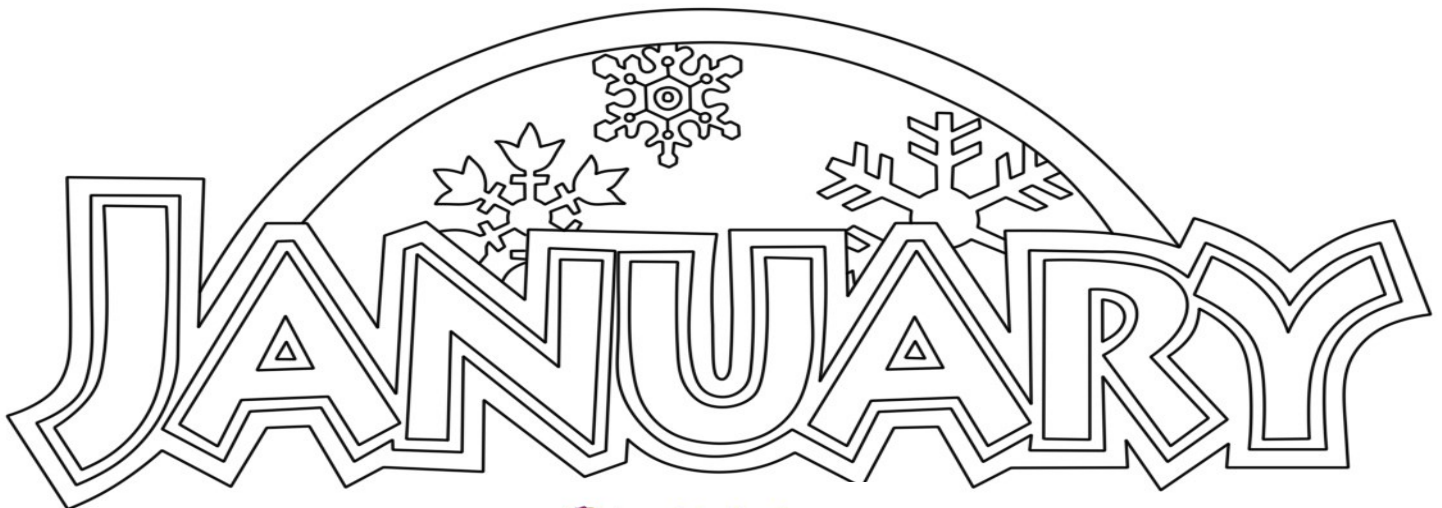
One Sunday a month please think about being a greeter or learn how to be a Storyteller.



Our children are growing their faith in worship that is age appropriate.

Your mentoring is always welcoming!

Contact Julia if you have questions.



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

PRAYER BREAKFAST

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

| 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 |
|------------------|------------|---------------|------------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|----------|-------------------------|------------------|---------|---------------|
| 1/15/2023 | 12 | 38 | 38 | 1 | 89 | 24 | 46 | 70 | 1/15/2023 | \$2,315 | \$30 |
| 1/22/2023 | 7 | 53 | 0 | 1 | 61 | 25 | 42 | 67 | 1/22/2023 | \$3,249 | \$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»