

May 23, 2023



In Our *Prayers*

Please remember these friends in prayer:

Ukraine
LaRue Ingram
Marilyn Storm
Rae-Jean Burke
Margaret Blackerby
Jasper Wage

Cathy Routon's family
Mary Francis Hedrick (Prayers are much appreciated.)

Do You Hear That?

If you are in the church during the week you will more than likely hear the delightful sounds of laughter and squeals of joy emanating down the hallway. You might also hear the sounds of excited cheers coming from tiny voices filling these sacred halls. You might even hear the sound of tiny footsteps running around. Amidst the joyous noise, we smile with shared delight knowing there are children here.

Yes, it is that time of year when the YMCA helps to fill our sacred space with children. We have an ongoing partnership with the local YMCA to allow them access to our property as a place where they can have their summer day camps. Parents who register with the YMCA can drop their children off at the church for daily fun and supervision. The YMCA provides this as a service to our community and in many ways it is a form of ministry offering parents a place for kids to have a safe place during summer months while school is out.

Not only does the YMCA provide a space and an active and engaging day filled with activities, but the Oklahoma Regional Food Bank also provides healthy meals for these children. In this way, these organizations are helping us to live out the gospel when Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." But it is not just the kingdom of heaven that Jesus is talking about regarding children, but they belong here in the church.

But to welcome children as Christ commands means that there is more than the sounds of excited voices laughing in merriment coming down the hall. You might also hear the unhappy cries of a little one who is wanting a parent to come to their rescue or a child who is not getting their way. You might hear the sounds of a child who is struggling to fit in and who is learning to follow the rules of the YMCA. Things might get a little messy, or something may have been moved, or something unexpectedly used. There might suddenly be a mark on a wall that had not been there before or signs of the building being used might become more evident. All of this and more comes from sharing spaces with others and it is a sign of us living out the gospel. When we take the gospel to heart we do not discover pristine walls and spaces. Instead, we discover life happens and we are changed as we are charged with sharing the good news with others, especially little ones.

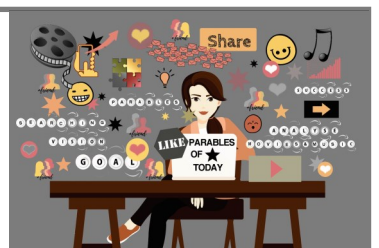
I am reminded of two things as I write this article today. I remember one day my nephew was caught drawing with crayons in his grandmother's wall. She could have washed the wall, she could have removed the markings, but instead she did something that astounded me. She took one of those crayons, drew a border around his art and wrote, "Joey's art" and dated it.

I am also reminded of how we are called to show hospitality and we should be gracious for this opportunity. To those parents trusting to bring their children here, we say thank you. Thank you for bringing your children here to grow, to learn, and to discover God's love here. We are glad that you are bringing your children into God's house and we pray that your experience here is a pleasant one. We hope that you will discover here a place you will be comfortable to also experience worship, but even if you never grace us with your presence on Sunday morning, trust that our doors will always be open to you.

Thank you,

Daniel

Summertime is here, school is out, pools are open, vacations are planned, and time again for our summer sermon series. Once again we will be exploring parables of today. These are the stories found in music, movies and multimedia that hold a message from the gospel. As always, I am looking for inspiration from unusual, popular and secular voices where we hear a message of truth and love from the Bible. If you have a song, movie, or something else you want me to consider finding the message within. Send it my way. Daniel





Hot Diggety Dog



Help send our children to camp! Sunday, June 4th 12:15 pm

Our children and youth help to prepare and serve Hot Dogs with all the fixins'.

No Need To Bring Anything! But be ready to bid on some fun and unique gift baskets.

Proceeds will help fund the camping experience for our WOCC campers.

New Audio/Video Technician NEEDED

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. However, he has decided not to continue and so we are seeking someone new to help out with technology during worship.

Next steps with New Beginnings

The Church Extension Office of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be sending David Moore to be our leadership trainer as we continue the program "New Beginnings."



David will be here at the church on Friday, June 9th. Anyone from the congregation interested in learning more about the house meetings is invited Friday evening. A light dinner will be served Friday at 6 pm followed by a discussion led by Mr. Moore. On the following Saturday, Mr. Moore will be meeting with people who have agreed to lead small groups who will be leading us through the New Beginnings process. We will be encouraging everyone from the congregation to participate in one of these small groups once they are established, so please be watching for more information.

Western Oaks Music Minute

As we begin preparations for another busy Summer Season, I wanted to take an opportunity to say thank you for allowing me to serve as Director of Music at Western Oaks Christian Church. Our family looks forward to spending time with each of you each week!

I am so proud of our Music Department! These wonderful friends give of their time and talents to help lead us in Worship. Hasn't it been wonderful to hear a live Bell Choir ringing in Worship again? Hasn't it been special to have our Chancel Choir sing an Anthem each week? Rosa's Preludes and Postludes? The list goes on and on...These extraordinary things don't happen by chance, so, if you see our music folks, please take the time to tell them how much they are appreciated. This includes our wonderful Audio/Visual volunteers in both services. Our services do not function smoothly without them! Seek them out and say thank you!

With this being said, they deserve a short break. The Chancel Choir will be singing a wonderfully uplifting Anthem again on May 28, then will be off for the month of June. We will regroup for Independence Day Sunday, and then be back again each week beginning in August. Bells of Praise will also resume in August, as we prepare for monthly musical offerings and the Advent Season. There is always room for more! We need you! "Strength in numbers" couldn't be more true in Music. Please prayerfully consider serving our Lord through this Ministry. No experience is necessary, and all are welcome.

Lastly, the newest addition to our family, Adam Haynes Orr, will make his arrival in the last week of July. Please be in prayer for us as we prepare for this joyous occasion. We are so thankful to have a wonderful Family of Faith to raise him in at Western Oaks. Thank you for loving us. It is a joy to serve alongside each of you!

Peace and Joy,
Andrew, Sarah, and Drew Orr



Western Oaks Christian Church



Vacation Bible School

June 12 – 15 5:45 - 8:15 PM Meal begins at 5:45 PM

Join us in Babylon, where we'll explore what life was like for Daniel and his friends, captives in a strange land. You'll craft cool projects in the Marketplace, laugh as you play Bible-times games, visit with Daniel, and eat some interesting food. Plus, you'll meet lots of new friends!

Supplies Needed for VBS:

**Paper sacks - Magazines and newspapers
Stuffed Lions (large and small)
for Decorations**

Drop supplies in the basket by the church office our VBS activities.

I will be away from the Church from Friday May 19th to Thursday May 26th: including Sunday May 21st. During this week, I will be joining my husband Mark as he is installed as the President of the Public Housing Authority Director's Association (PHADA). PHADA is an advocacy organization which represents over 2,000 Housing Authorities across the nation. Specifically PHADA develops legislation, regulations and appropriation requests to ensure low-income persons have a home.

Blessings,

Julia

Church Camps are fast approaching! How exciting to have 9 campers and 2 counselors at Church camp this summer! Here are dates and addresses. We have 5 new campers and letters will be appreciated!!

Cho Rho Camp June 5th -9th

Oakridge Camp and Conference Center
20007 State Highway 9, Anadarko, OK 73005

Campers: Bailey and Jaidan Morris, Alorah Ross, Aidan and Liam U'Ren

CYF Conference June 19th-24th (New camp site.)

The Disciples Center at Camp Tawakomi
8492 SW Tawakomi Rd, Augusta, KS 67010-8111

Counselor: Julia Jordan Gillett

Discovery Camp June 23th -25th (New site)

Camp Christian Conference Center
275 Camp Christian Lane, Chouteau, OK 74337

Campers: Aaliyah Boyd and Genova Wage

Counselor: Aanika Gillett

Junior Camp June 26th – 30th

Camp Christian Conference Center (see address above)

Campers: River Rayburn-Joseph and Adele Ross

Counselor: Julia Jordan Gillett



MISSION TRIP & RUMMAGE SALE

Julia and 5 youth are going on the mission trip to Fort Worth, Texas in July.

We will participate in a **rummage sale** with New Covenant Christian Church on **Saturday, June 3, 8am to 3pm**. The proceeds will help pay for food and gas for the vans.

Please donate gently used clothes, shoes, books, kitchen items, & furniture. Please **do not** bring mattresses or VHS tapes.

Bring your donations to New Covenant Church located at 12000 N Rockwell Ave, OKC, OK 73162. Donations are accepted between 2-7p.m on Wednesday, May 31 or Thursday, June 1.

Please do not bring donations to WOCC.

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



Kelly	Kabir	6/3
Samuel	Compton	6/5
Pairis	Ferguson	6/7
Tobi	Frank	6/12
Jim	Ellis	6/13
Mason	McDown	6/15
Ben	Frantz	6/16
Irene	George	6/17
Nance	Cunningham	6/21

Raychel	Bradley	6/23
Henry	Dolive	6/24
R.J.	Ferguson Jr.	6/25
Seth	Nevel	6/26
Noah	Mars	6/28
Sarah	Mars	6/29
Cindy	Hill	6/30
Daniel	U'Ren	6/30

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
5/7/2023	8	24	59	1	92	17	55	72	5/7/2023	\$2,755	\$30
5/14/2023	8	17	56	4	85	22	53	75	5/14/023	\$2,445	\$30

*Online attendance taken from respective website reports of number

** Technical difficulty prevented online worship.

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbor”



8100 NW 23rd Street
 Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»