

October 24, 2023



# In Our *Prayers*

**Please remember these friends in prayer:**

Ukraine
Hald Dawes
Family of Marilyn Storm
Rae-Jean Burke
Latricia Pratt
Verona Burke

Israel
Palestine
Lisa Sloan
Duane Wood
Linda Patzack



*For Our Home Centered*

Suzanne Parker
Dean Lunsford
Deana Smith
Duane Wood
Dwaine Bradley
Eunice Lassiter
Hald Dawes
Katherine Jordan

LaRue Ingram
Lonnie Maytubby
Lyeal Amos
Margaret Blackerby
Rhea Todd
Shirlee Ruedy
Vera Ruffner
Verona Burke

**Fellowship Dinner** - Thanks to everyone who attended and participated on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Sorry if you didn't make it. The parade of Boo-tiful hats was outstanding. It highlighted the creative and light-hearted side of the congregation.

Our next Fellowship event will be our All-Church Thanksgiving Dinner on November 19th at 5:00pm. Be watchful for information concerning this dinner.

Several people asked for the recipe for Tuscan Beans & Mushrooms. The company at your table on October 15<sup>th</sup> might have improved its flavor.

## Tuscan Cannellini Beans and Mushrooms

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons oil
- 3 cloves garlic minced
- 1 small onion or 1/2 of a medium finely diced
- 1 teaspoon salt and pepper
- 1 12-ounce pkg mushrooms stems removed & sliced
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme
- 1 teaspoon fresh oregano
- 2 14-ounce cans fire roasted tomatoes with juice
- 6 14-ounce cannellini beans undrained
- 2/3 cup sun dried tomatoes roughly chopped in oil

### Instructions

- In a large skillet heat oil over medium-high heat until starting to shimmer add the mushrooms, stir until sautéed and slightly brown--about 5 minutes or so. Add the salt and pepper and stir well. Transfer to the plate.
- In the skillet, add the onion and cook until softened and translucent--about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook one minute.
- Add all the ingredients into a slow cooker and stir. Place slow cooker on high & cook for 4 hours.

Again, we Thank You for participating in fellowship events. Being part of congregational activities is another way we are able to grow in Christian faith and love.

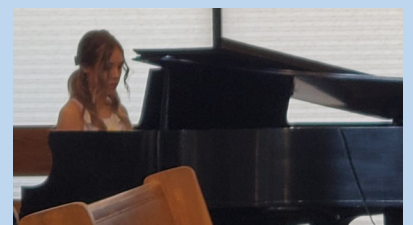
Kindest Regards,

Fern Melton, *Fellowship Committee Member*

## Children's Sabbath

The multi-faith Children's Sabbaths weekend engages places of worship across the country in focusing prayers, worship, education programs, and action on learning more about the urgent problems facing our nation's children. Most importantly, the Children's Sabbath brings awareness and encourages everyone to improve the lives of children.

At Western Oaks Christian Church we celebrated the end of the 40 days of prayer with worship being led with Rev. Julia Jordan Gillett along several children and youth.





## Fellowship Fun

A Fa-~~Boo~~-lous time was had by everyone who attended the Bean Supper, and the Hat Making Contest and Parade. We have some very creative children and Adults that made Spooktacular hats! Our Top Hat Adult winner was Jamie Mattox, and Top Hat Child winner was Genova Wade. Congratulations!

THANK YOU to our MANY judges and bean eaters, and to those who donated food items and money to our wagon to fill the blessing box.

## The WINNERS!





## ***Finding the Holy in Holidays***

I have always been fascinated by the historical origins of some of the festivals and holidays we celebrate today. When Christianity spread to the land of the Celts and what would become the British Isles they encountered a people with a rich spiritual belief system. One of the festivals that was popular at the time was called Samhain. Samhain took place on November 1st, and it was a day to honor the dead. But it was believed to be a day when the veil between the world of the dead and the living was the thinnest. They would wear masks to hide them from evil spirits but also it was a harvest festival that had people going door to door getting part of the harvest to share with the community. Usually, there would be a big bonfire celebration and many would carve out a gourd to put burning embers from the fire into the gourd in order to light their way home, but also to bring the embers home to start a fire in their fireplace. Thus was the jack-o-lantern born.

Early Christians saw that the festival was good, but also they struggled with a few things about it. So, what did they do? They did not attack what they did not like. They adopted what they liked about it and began to make it their own. Instead of trying to cancel out a people's ideas or beliefs that were different, they blended two ideas making it easier for others to understand their Christian beliefs. From this, All Saints Day was moved to November 1st. You see, in the 7th century CE Pope Boniface the IV established All Saints' Day on May 13, and over a hundred years later Pope Gregory III moved it to November 1st. The night before became known as All Hallow's Eve, and eventually blended into what we now call Halloween. In case you were wondering, some thought we should celebrate all instead of just the saints and so All Souls Day was established on November 2nd.

Interestingly, much of Central America and South America have a similar holiday on the same days called el Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead. It is also a day of honoring the dead and remembering loved ones who have died.

Other holidays have also seen similar origin stories associated with other faith traditions. Easter originally followed the Jewish calendar observing the 14th day of Nisan in the Jewish calendar to observe the day of the crucifixion on the same day as the Jewish Passover. The Council of Nicea in 325 CE decreed they should celebrate the resurrection on the first Sunday following the first full moon of the Spring Equinox instead. But the name for Easter might just come from a time when once again, Christians encountered those of another faith and chose to adopt customs to help others to better understand the teachings of Christ and the love of God. In Norse, Anglo-Saxon, and Germanic mythology, Ēostre was considered a goddess of the spring and new life who once had a fight with Odin. Odin sent his eagle to capture Ēostre's bird who laid colored, spotted eggs in the springtime. To hide her bird, and protect it, she transformed it into a rabbit. Children would search the countryside for these colored eggs thought to be left by this rabbit.

Even Christmas has origins blending with the Roman holiday Saturnalia which was a winter festival which took place on the Winter Solstice and usually celebrated between December 17th and 24th.

Holidays - continued

Yule was a similar festival observed by Germanic people. The first recorded Christmas celebration took place in Rome in the year 336 CE, but it would not be until 567 CE that the Council of Tours made Christmastide official as the "12 Days of Christmas" to take place before the celebration of Epiphany.

I have always been fascinated by the stories of early Christians who chose not to attack other traditions, but instead looked for the similarities that could be used to help others discover a message of God's love. Maybe we too can look for the good in those with different opinions, ideas, and beliefs.

Shalom,

Daniel

### We have a new Freezer

Our 30 year old freezer was having issues. Mobile Meals purchased a brand new commercial freezer to match our commercial refrigerator to use in the big kitchen.

It is large enough to hold all of the supplies they regularly use each week to minister to our Mobile Meals neighbors.



## LET US GIVE THANKS THANKSGIVING POTLUCK DINNER

### November 19, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

SIGN UP to bring a Turkey or Ham,  
OR a Festive Side Dish or Dessert.

The Fellowship Committee will provide  
Rolls, Dressing, Drinks, and Condiments.

SIGN UP SHEETS WILL BE POSTED ON OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup>.  
Please RSVP to bring your family and friends.



*The elders who direct the affairs of the church will be worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.  
1 Timothy 5:17*

Please join us in celebrating the remainder of "Pastoral Appreciation Month," October, 2023 by communicating to Daniel and Julia your love and support. This coming Sunday there will be thank you/support cards available for your use after first and second services along with celebratory goodies to eat.

Thank you Daniel and Julia for who you are and what you do for WOCC.

Pastoral Relations Committee

**FELLOWSHIP MONTHLY MISSION**

### October Canned Food Drive

**HELP US FILL OUR WAGON**  
WITH  
CANNED BEANS, CORN, FRUIT, CANNED SOUPS, AND OTHER NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS.

(Items will be used to fill the Blessing Box and help our community.)

MusePrintables.com



**Come join the activities!!  
Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 3-5p.m.**

**We Need Candy!** Bring the candy to the tub by the Office by Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. We would LOVE to have more trunks decorated. Julia has some games if you would like to have an activity. If you are participating in Trunk or Treat, **please arrive by 2:30p.m.** to set up your trunk! You can contact Julia at 405-821-0108.

OKC ZOO DAY

**The zoo trip was great fun!!** Who knew it would be in the eighties in October!! Everyone had a good time and we saw quite a few animals.

Thanks to Jamie Mattox and Sasha Wage for walking around the zoo with all the children and me.






More ZOO pics next time!

*Christmas in November* Advent is just around the corner!

Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> after the 11am worship, we will meet in Schwind Hall for pizza, to put together Advent books and gather crafts your family may use during Advent in preparation for Christmas.





Gretchen	Dolive	11/1
Fern	Melton	11/2
Virginia	Johnson	11/4

Skylar	Frank	11/8
Melanie	Ellis	11/11
Steve	Teter	11/13
Elaine	Baty	11/17
Dave	Brown	11/17
Darrel	Bradley	11/28
Debby	Newell	11/28



**Marilyn Storm**  
*Passed away October 6, 2023*

Cards may be sent to:  
Shawn & Phuong Storm  
463 Morse Ave  
Sunnyvale, CA 94085

in Loving Memory




**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:  
 Admin Assistant: Cindy Cannon  
 Sound Technician: Aidan U'Ren  
[office@woccdoc.org](mailto:office@woccdoc.org)

Saturday, Oct 28  
 Sunday, Oct 29  
 Sunday, Nov 5  
 Sunday, Nov 12  
 Sunday, Nov 12 & 19  
 Thursday, Nov 16  
 Sunday, Nov 19

Trunk or Treat 3-5pm  
 Benevolent Offering Sunday  
 Christmas in November 12:15pm  
 Cabinet Meeting 12:15pm  
 Thanksgiving Offering  
 Disciples Women Fellowship 6:15pm  
 Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner 5:00pm



**Rhea Todd**  
**108 N. Peebly Rd.**  
**Choctaw, Ok 73020-7407**

Attendance	Vimeo Live	Facebook Live	Facebook Live Daniel's	YouTube	TOTAL online Worship	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL on campus Worship
<b>10/8/23</b>	1	13	54	2	<b>70</b>	13	42	<b>55</b>
<b>10/15/2023</b>	5	14	71	2	<b>92</b>	19	44	<b>63</b>

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
<b>10/8/23</b>	\$2,395	\$30
<b>10/15/2023</b>	\$1,916	\$0

\*Online attendance taken from respective website reports of number      \*\*\* Financial info counted in following week

\*\* Technical difficulty prevented online worship.

*“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”*



8100 NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
 Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»