

December 5, 2023



# In Our *Prayers*

**Please remember these friends in prayer:**

Cathy Routon
Family of Cecilia Tolley
Verona Burke
Rae-Jean Burke
Griffin Family
Stephanie West Family

Israel
Palestine
Ukraine
Duane Wood
Lisa Sloan
Pursley Family



*For Our Home Centered*

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

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

## Why We Give

There was an elderly widow who wrote a letter to God. In the letter, she wrote about her frustration with people who are doing bad things in the world and more specifically about how someone had stolen her purse, and with it her last hundred dollars for the month. She described how she needed that money to have a Christmas dinner for her friends. She sealed the envelope and addressed it, "To God." A postal worker noticed the letter addressed to God and opened it and was so moved by the plight of this lady that she shared it with coworkers. They all decided to do a collection and they collected \$96, put it in an envelope, and mailed it to this lady with a note that just said, from God.

A couple days after Christmas the same worker found another letter addressed to God from the same lady. She opened the letter and discovered the heartfelt sentiments of gratitude this woman expressed to God. But then she added this part. "God, I was surprised that the amount returned was only \$96, four dollars were missing! I bet it was those lying, thieving workers at the post office!"

We don't give because we expect something in return, we give because it is who we are. We give because it is the right thing to do. We don't do it to feel good about ourselves, nor to seek fame or recognition. Instead, we give because God first loved us, and we want to demonstrate that same love to others.

In the book and movies based on Dr. Seuss's beloved character the Grinch, the Grinch discovers there is something more to this idea of joy and happiness around the season. It is not all about the gifts as he originally thought. He thought he could steal Christmas by taking all the gifts and decorations. However, he then discovered, maybe there is a little bit more.

The Calvin and Hobbes cartoonist, Bill Watterson, noted in one cartoon the irony of what has happened to gift giving and Christmas when he wrote, "How touching to have the meaning of Christmas brought to us by cola, fast food, and beer. Who'd have ever guessed that product consumption, popular entertainment, and spirituality would mix so harmoniously?"

Indeed, many companies have greatly influenced how we look at Christmas. But really all we need to do is get back to that original story, and remember the heart of the season is wrapped in the bundle of joy not found in ribbons, wrapping paper, with pretty bows under a tree. The true joy is found wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger, a barn, a savior born to bring good news to all people in the lowliest of places. Let us not forget why we give. We give because God loved us so much that God would send this child to lead us in the right ways of compassion and love. The Grinch did not have it entirely correct, it is not that there is a little bit more to Christmas than tinsel and ribbons, there is a whole lot more to it.

May your holidays be bright, meaningful, and filled with joy this season.

Shalom,

*Daniel*

We will have a farewell fellowship, for Daniel, Stephanie, Aidan, and Liam on Sunday, December 17th, after the congregation meeting. Let's all gather together one last time to wish them well in their new ministry.



**AND THE WINNER IS**

**Okie Merry**

Thank you to everyone that purchased tickets! We have \$325 to purchase fabric for quilts that we give to foster care kids!!!



**December 10**

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY 11 am**

**"What Do Shepherds Know?!"**

**Youth Christmas Party 12:15 pm**

**December 17th Activities**

**Combined Worship 10:00 am**

***A Ceremony of Lessons  
and Carols***

Performed by our Chancel Choir  
10:00 am

**CAROL-OKE"  
& TASTING PARTY**

**5:00 pm**



*Bring your favorite snack as we sing Christmas Carols and enjoy the Reason for the Season!*

**December 24**

*Sunday Worship 9:00 & 11:00am*

*Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm*



**December 10, 2022**

**12:00 PM**

**December 17, 2023**

**Following 10 am Worship**

**board  
meeting**

**Congregational  
Meeting**

# ABIDE WITH US



## CHRISTMAS OFFERING

*A Special Day Offering of Disciples Mission Fund  
supporting the ministries of our Regional church*



DECEMBER 17 & 24

## WOCC Church Staff Offering

This is the time of year we focus on our blessings, our family, our friends, and the gift of Jesus Christ to the world.

One gift we share each year is our special love offering to the wonderful WOCC church staff. We are so very grateful for their faithful support of our ministries!

There is no requirement or minimum monetary gift to show our appreciation to them for directing us on our spiritual journey. Just mark your check or offering envelopes for "staff gifts" or give online through the ShelbyNext app.

Please turn in by December 18 to be presented to the staff on December 24.

Blessings,

Jan Sills



Coming January 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>

Regional Youth Event

Camp Christian

Western Oaks Christian Church

**CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRIES**



**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY**  
**"What Do Shepherds Know?!"**

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**11am worship service**

This short drama tells the familiar story of Jesus' birth from the Gospel of Luke.

We will have play practice:

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. practice

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas play and Christmas party for children and youth



The Christmas party will be in Schwind Hall  
following the 11a.m. worship service  
with a special visit from Santa.



**IT IS  
BEGINNING  
TO LOOK  
LIKE ADVENT!!**



**Coming in January**

**Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>,**

**WOCC children and youth will be delivering winter cards to our shut-ins.**



Clip art by Kstudio



**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)

**December 3-24** Season of Advent  
**Saturday, Dec 9** Salvation Army Bell Ringing  
**Sunday, Dec 10** Children's Christmas Play 11:00am  
 Children' & Youth Christmas Party 12:15pm  
 Board Meeting 12:15pm  
**Sunday, Dec 17** **Combined Worship 10:00am**  
 Choir Cantata 10:00am  
 Congregational Meeting - after 10am worship  
 "Carol-oke" & Tasting Party 5:00pm  
**Sunday, Dec 17 & 24** Christmas Offering  
**Sunday, Dec 24** Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm  
**Sunday, Dec 31** Benevolent Sunday

Attendance	Vimeo Live	Facebook Live	Facebook Live	Daniel's Facebook Live	YouTube	TOTAL online Worship	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL on campus Worship
11/19/23	11	16	103	1	131	19	50	69	
11/26/2023	4	11	85	2	102	20	42	62	

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
11/19/23	\$1,943	\$30
11/26/2023	\$2,486	\$30

\*Online attendance taken from respective website reports of number

*"Loving God, Serving our Neighbors"*



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

«Name»

«Address»

«City»