



The Illuminator

a publication of
South Grand Lake Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)



Sizzlin' Summer Edition

July/August

Mail: Box 387 Langley, Oklahoma 74350 - GPS: 446205 E. 350 Rd., Vinita, OK (918) 782-4463

Issue 4-1

South Grand Lake is a place of beauty and movement—a space where many come to rest, reconnect, and renew. The water doesn't always sit still; it shimmers, stirs, and sometimes swells. And not far from its ever-changing edge, where water meets land in rhythms both gentle and wild, is a church with a message both bold and tender: *"Love — It's a Shore Thing."*

This is more than a lakeside slogan. It's a way of being. A living truth that shapes every part of this faith community which is anchored in the way of Jesus. Here, love is expansive and ever-reaching—like the lake itself. It flows to everyone, no matter where you are, geographically or spiritually.

The shoreline is more than a backdrop—it's a symbol. Just as the water is always in motion, this church is always reaching toward the margins. Just as the lake is deep and wide, so is the grace that defines this community.

South Grand Lake Christian Church honors tradition while leaning boldly into the present. It's a church where love doesn't ask for credentials or conditions. Where you don't have to prove your worth, hide your questions, or check your identity at the door. Whether you're filled with faith, full of doubt, or somewhere in between—you are welcome. You are essential. You belong.

This community understands that love isn't static. It moves. It shows up. It listens. It acts. Whether you live lakeside, in a city, out in the country, near or far —this is a place where your story matters. Where community feels like family. We're not perfect, we focus on presence.

Serving is at the heart of this congregation's life. Not out of obligation, but out of inspiration to help make God's love real. Whether in person or online, folks are encouraged to bring their gifts to the table—to be part of something bigger, to help mend what's broken and nurture what's growing.

This is also a place that honors rest. Because life isn't just about what we do—it's about who we are. Here, rest is holy. There's space to pause, to breathe, to be. You don't need to earn your place. You already have one.

Each week, both in person and online, people gather not to be judged, but to be reminded of who they are: beloved, needed, included. Worship here is simple and sacred—guitar-led music, honest prayer, reflection rooted in scripture and alive with relevance. Words that don't seek to scare, but to stir. Ideas that challenge and comfort, calling people into a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world as we practice the sacred work of being human together.

If you're searching for a space where you can rest and rise, question and grow, speak and listen—know this: there's a place for you here. A place where love is more than a word or a wish.

Here, love is lived.

Here, love is wide, deep, and always moving.

Here, love is a shore thing.



upcoming ...

July 1-10 – Pastors on Vacation
July 06 – Elders Lead Worship
July 12 thru 15
DOC General Assembly
in Memphis & Online

July 13 – Elders Prayer Circle
July 14 – Elders Education Session
July 19 – Executive Committee @ 10 am
July 20 – General Board after worship
July 27 – Linger Longer Lunch



In Memory of Leonard Kaufman

On April 17th, Pastors Gina & Chuck had the privilege of participating in a graveside service honoring long-time Langley entrepreneur, Leonard Kaufman. His wife, Sue Straw Kaufman has been a dear friend of our congregation for many years. She is a talented composer and vocalist who sang with some of our founding members in a jazz ensemble that performed at a variety of venues around Grand Lake. Sue founded the South Grand Lake

Flute Circle that initially met at SGLCC. Her original CD of Indigenous Children's Stories & Songs won a Native American Music Award and her song "Circle the World with Love" won 3rd place in an international peace song competition held in Tipperary, Ireland.

Sue is in the process of relocating to Bartlesville to be closer to her mother. We are very grateful for all she has done to bless our church over the years and are deeply touched to learn that she wants to present us with a gift on behalf her and Leonard prior to moving. We will receive full funding for new camera system to enhance the online broadcasts of our services. She has put us in touch with her friend, Dane Warner of Warner Audio/Video Design who will help us select the appropriate technology.



Fantastic Food & Fellowship

Thanks to our super chefs, Beverly, Susan, Diana, & Jim our Bountiful Breakfast & Linger Longer Luncheons have featured delicious cuisine. The salads, sides, and deserts provided by the congregation have been delightful additions, as well! We're grateful to all who have made these gatherings a great success.



On the Road Again!

After a month-long of study of 1st & 2nd Samuel, our Bible Study Group headed to Branson to see the production of "David" at the Sight & Sound Theater. Some of those who attended shared the following ...

Beverly, "This was a very uplifting experience. I learned a lot. The production set and music ... the actors, everything was wonderful. The closing scene was very inspirational."

Joyce, "I think this has been the most touching and heart-warming show I've seen, and I've seen a lot of them."
 Lynne, "This was another fantastic production with the lights, the sound, the music, and the live animals were awesome."
 Shari, "I'm not much of a handraiser, but I couldn't keep myself from raising my hands in joy."
 John, "I'm very glad that in Bible Study we talked about 1st & 2nd Samuel so we knew what was going on."

We pray for the gathering of Disciples at the General Assembly in Memphis, July 12-15. Our pastors will be attending online this year and will invite anyone interested to drop by the church and attend any sessions that are of interest.



²⁰"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and^[a] in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

PRAYER

CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Janie Andrew, Camari Baldwin, Ted Coombes, Calvin Cross, Roby French, Forrest Graham, Verl Griffith, Jill Latimer, Sherrie Matney, Jack & Buddie Massey, Myrl's friend Sylvia, Kathy Piery, Craig Smith, Alena Theibert, Diana Sellers, Hudson Thrapp, caregivers, first responders, Armed Forces, national and world leaders, those affected by acts of violence, addiction, mental illness and natural disasters.



LINGER LONGER LUNCH for JULY

On July 27th - Come & Enjoy cold sandwiches and summer salads, as we share a meal that is sure to beat the heat! You're invited to bring your favorite cold salad & desserts!

Thanks
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
YOUR GIVING HELPS THE CHURCH EFFECTIVELY DO THE MINISTRY



JULY

06 John B.
08 Andrea E.
09 Gina J.
11 Kay P.
11 July Y.
12 Ted C.
14 Larry J.
24 Imogene A.
26 Randy D.
27 Tony H.
28 Vickie M.

AUGUST

05 Landon W.
08 Lynda H.
14 Marcy M.
18 Lisa G.



JULY

06 Larry & Debbie J.

AUGUST

15 Jim & Diana S.

Date	General Fund	Quarters	Designated	Total
05/31/25	\$10,787.08	\$58.00	\$1,000.00	\$11,845.08
06/30/25*	\$8,826.00	\$71.71	\$1,401.53	\$10,229.24
Blessing Quarters				
Balance Forward				\$244.09
May and June				\$129.71
Year To Date (for 2025)			Grand Total	\$373.80

* June figures are for 4 Sundays (thru 6/22)

JUNE Attendance			
Date	Members	Visitors	Total
06-01	19	4	23
06-08	25	6	31
06-15	26	5	31
06-22	27	5	32