



The Illuminator

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



January/February 2024 Mail: Box 387 Langley, Oklahoma 74350 - GPS: 446205 E. 350 Rd., Vinita, OK (918) 782-4463 Issue 1-1



Now that December 25 is past and the new year has arrived, local and online vendors have moved right on with the work of what comes next. Physical stores and online businesses contain gads of gifts for Valentines and supplies for spring. The only remnants of Christmas, if any, are the last few 90% off items left tossed about on a shelf or found on a deeply discounted digital site.

Howard Thurman helps us think about what happens in the realm of faith this time of year. His "Work of Christmas" litany proclaims the message of Christmas and what follows...

"When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart"

The SGLCC (DOC) family of faith continues doing the work of Christmas. The Elders, Deacons, Trustees, Officers, and Committee Chairs are making plans for building faith and giving hope in 2024. Some are continuing in leadership positions they have held before. Some are moving into roles that are brand new to them.

Calendars are filling up with training, meetings, and events. During worship, on January 21st we will give thanks for those who answered a call to lead in a specific way this year. We'll also give thanks for everyone who engages with this congregation through opportunities and ministries that create beloved community. It's time to pack away Luke's shepherds and angels along with Matthew's magi and star. And to remember, in the words of my dear friend, Rosa Lee, "Everyday is Christmas."

The New Year begins ...



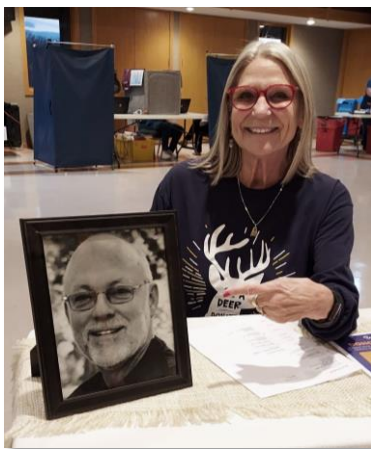
- January 8th - Senior Food Distribution @ Grand Nation
Elders Monthly Meeting @ 2 pm
- January 19th - Pastoral Relations Committee @ 1 pm
- January 20th - Executive Committee @ 10 am
- January 21st - Commissioning of Leaders in worship
General Board after service
- January 23rd - Membership & Evangelism @ 2 pm
- January 28th - Linger Longer Luncheon
- February 14th - Ash Wednesday, Lent begins

Sharing JOY with a Weary World!



Our Advent series, "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" culminated on Christmas Eve with two meaningful worship experiences. Sunday morning, the congregation came forward to proclaim their joy on the chancel at the conclusion of the service. In the evening, we gathered in the warm glow of candlelight to renew our commitment to share Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love with our community and the world.

In honor of Bob Shell ...



Quick
Blood Facts
to Get You **STARTED:**

Only **10%**
of eligible individuals
actually donate.

One donation can save up to **3** Lives

Every **2** seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

More than 1.2K
donations are needed **EVERY DAY**
for local hospitals.

Save a life. Give blood. Spread the word.

Among his many causes and passions in life, Bob Shell devoted himself to many hours of volunteer work with Our Blood Institute. He was known to assist with blood drives in various locations throughout northeast Oklahoma. To honor his commitment, OBI dedicated the recent drive at SGLCC to his memory. We were delighted to collect 15 units on this special occasion.

2024 Assembly at Sea

OK Regional Assembly
Western Caribbean Cruise
to Cozumel, Mexico
Sailing From Galveston, TX
July 11-15, 2024

Epiphany Star Words

How can a simple wooden star, emblazoned with but a single word, enrich your spiritual journey? Ask someone who's participated in the Epiphany Star Word experience. In worship on January 7, we're invited to randomly select a word that might guide our thoughts and focus our prayer in 2024. If you have not yet received one for the new year, please contact the church office and we'll be happy to secure one for you.

Ash
Wednesday
2024



* Next Linger Longer Luncheon January 28th

PRAYER list...

Shane Ailey, Michael Ailey, Fran Barton, Maddie Cauthon, Louise Compston, Ted Coombes, Calvin Cross, Andrea Enloe, Dale Ford, Debbie Jones, Caleb Harrison, Brigette Ratzlaff, Alena Thibert, Chris Tribble, Frank Wilson, Patty Wolfe, Jenny Wood, Jeanne Woods, caregivers, first responders, Armed Forces, national and world leaders, those affected by acts of violence, addiction, mental illness and natural disasters.



January

- 01 Wes A.
- 02 Bill W.
- 09 Beverly W.
- 10 Jack M
- 18 Ella W.
- 19 Lynne K.
- 21 Clint C.
- 21 Rex W.
- 24 Debbie W.
- 31 Curt G.

February

- 02 Susan M.
- 05 Ronnie H.
- 08 James H.
- 13 Jenny W.
- 15 Trenton B.
- 17 Bob W.
- 19 Jennifer H.
- 19 Matt H.
- 23 Vickey R.



February

- 07 JB & Susan M.
- 28 Bob & Lois W.



Thank you, Church, for your generous response to the angel tree project!



General Fund Offerings: November \$13,343.43 Designated Gifts: \$2,107.00
 December \$18,206.22 \$2,230.00

Blessing Quarters: November & December \$257.72
 Total for 2023: \$1,276.46

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE				
Date	Members	Visitors	in Person	Online Views
12-03	33	10	43	55
12-10	31	10	41	60
12-17	30	8	38	45
12-24	29 am, 31 at 6pm	10	39	68 & 98
12-31	34	7	41	49