



# The *Southwesterner*

VOLUME XLIX | NUMBER 16

## EMPATHY

It is rare that I read a book just based on the title, but the book I am reading now is one I started for that exact reason. The book is *Learning to Disagree: The Surprising Path to Navigating Differences with Empathy and Respect* by John Inazu. Maybe that title appeals to you as well. When I think of how disagreements tend to play out in America in 2024, empathy and respect are not usually words I would use to describe the sides I see in disagreement. In fact, they are often as far away as I could imagine. I am only in chapter two, so this is not a recommendation yet. However, the author asks a question in chapter one that is important to people in general, but especially important to people who are supposed to be known for our love.

### “How do we learn empathy?”

I think most of us are good at empathy with people who are like us or people who are dealing with similar challenges in life. We might struggle more with people who come from different backgrounds, think differently and have values or hold opinions we disagree with. Yet we are still called to love people like that. That love calls us toward empathy. The kind of empathy described in this book sounds quite a bit like the empathy we find in scripture. Inazu says this about empathy:

“Empathy is not rocket science. It’s hearing an unfamiliar or off-putting argument, pausing to think about what has been said and responding with an appropriately engaged question. It’s giving people the benefit of the doubt because you may not know what battles they are fighting. It’s treating others the way you would like to be treated. Empathy is the simple stuff that’s hard to put into practice.”

In short, hear, pause, respond appropriately and give the benefit of the doubt. As followers of Jesus, we should lead the way on empathy. It is the example He gave us when He encountered people who others dismissed. He is the one who taught us that people who are come from different backgrounds, think differently and have values or hold opinions we disagree with are still our neighbors. Let’s strive to love and understand them better.

- Brian

*“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” - Colossians 3:12-13*

April 21, 2024



### Elders

Jeff Butler

Greg Hatton

David Hendricks

Richard Howard

Brent Lowe

Butch Platt

### Ministers

Brian Lewis

David Dirrim

Thorin Turner

Kyle Wilson

### Secretary

Dana Chilcoat

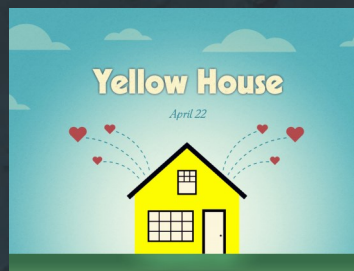
# Family Matters

**Sam Austin** is in the Oklahoma Heart Hospital after having an episode with his heart on April 12th. Please keep Sam and Sarah in your prayers. If you would like to help Sarah in some way, please see Darla Hendricks.

**Mary Barrett** had another fall and has been moved back to Ada Care Center for some rehab. Prayers for her and Bill are appreciated.

**Our sympathy** goes out to Trixy and Cody Reynolds and their family on the passing of Trixy's grandmother, Geneva Butler. Please keep Trixy's grandfather and this family in your prayers.

**Congratulations** to Mason Dansby, who decided to be baptized into Christ last Sunday! We rejoice in his decision.



**The Yellow House** will hand out food this month on Monday, **April 22nd**, from 8am - 10am. Helpers this month are: Tommy Myers, Chuck Love, Janna Byrd, Bill Young, Donna Duncan, Carolyn Pults, Kim Simpson, and Mark and Cindy Coleman.

**1 Thessalonians 5:17**

*"Pray without ceasing."*

Please continue to pray for...

Ken & Wanda Roper, George Patterson, Charles & Barbara Cannon, Leon Hughey, Myrtle Clarke, Mary Barrett, Nash Gilliam, Paula Hatton, Lea Crain, Betty Gerth, Barbara Hataway, Sherry Price, Dona Phippen, Barbara Lewis, Randy Hall, Ronald Trent, Sue Silkey, Shirley Love, Gerald Joliff, Katie Meaders, Johnnie Sing, Cherry Bennett, Shirley Perry, Pattie Mitchell, Debbie Harber, Warner Fleck, Randy Wilson, Thayne Consequellos, and Steve, Jana & Stacey Stewart.

# Happenings

## *Church Events & Announcements*

**The Ladies Prayer Group** meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 4pm. They will meet next on **April 28th**.

**The Wednesday Night for the Master meal** will be **May 1st** in the fellowship building at 5:45pm.

**The Golden Doers lunch** will be Sunday, **May 5th**, in the fellowship building following our morning services. If you are 60 years or older, please come join us!

**There will be a meeting** for the elders, deacons, and ministers on Sunday, **May 5th**, at 3pm in room 100.

**Meals on Wheels** week will be **May 6th - 10th**. Helpers this month are: Tommy Myers, Bill Young, Don Kite, Dub Borders, and Chuck Love.

**There will be** a breakfast for the widowers and single men on Tuesday, **May 7th**, in the fellowship building. Coffee will be ready at 7:30am and breakfast will be served at 8:00am.



**All ladies are invited** to a baby shower for **Paige and David Lewis** at 3 pm on Sunday, **April 21st**, in the fellowship building.

**All ladies are invited** to a wedding shower for **Amy White and Quaid Clark** at 3 pm on Sunday, **May 5th**, in the fellowship building.

# 18 UPCOMING EVENTS

## April at a Glance

- 02 Widower's Breakfast
- 03 WNFM Meal
- 05-07 College Spring Retreat
- 07 Golden Doers Lunch,  
Youth Meal/Fellowship
- 11 College Meal/Devo (Nickell)
- 14 AWTG/Volleyball (Tecumseh),  
Ladies Prayer Group
- 17 Food Pick Up/Sack for Y. Hse.
- 18 College Meal/Devo at SBC  
(Hamilton & Manuel)
- 21 Lewis Baby Shower,  
Youth Meal/Fellowship
- 22 Yellow House
- 25 College Meal/Devo (T. Frye)
- 28 Ladies Prayer Group,  
Youth Meal/Fellowship



## TEENS AND YOUTH

**April 21st**

Youth Meal & Fellowship

**April 25th**

Youth Bible Study



**April 25th**

College Meal & Devo  
(Cody & Tiffany Frye)

# Birthdays of the Month

- 04/21 Zane Stonecipher
- 04/22 Camille Howard
- 04/23 Landry Hatton
- 04/24 Gary Kelley
- 04/25 Larry Maxwell
- 04/26 David Adams



# who's your ONE?

**PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN**

Heaven Tamayo Hunter Wilson  
Michale Perry  
Josh Higginbottom  
Clay Wilson Jr.  
Frank Holsapple Jr.



## Adults

David Hendricks  
Auditorium

Jeff Butler  
Galatians  
Room 100

David Dirrim  
Dealing With Dragons  
Fellowship Building

Drew Adams & Brad Trezell  
"God Didn't Say That"  
Room 111

**College Group**  
Kyle Wilson  
Room 107

**Youth Group**  
Thorin Turner  
Room 101

## Elementary

5th - 6th grades: Room 104  
2nd - 4th Grades: Room 102  
K - 1st Grade: Room 105

## Preschool

3's & 4's: Room 112  
Toddlers: Room 114  
Babies: Room 113

*For the Record: 04/14/2024*

Bible Study	184
AM Assembly	278
PM Assembly	—
Wednesday PM	169
Contributions	\$13,372
Budget	\$13,777

# SERVING THIS WEEK

## Sunday Morning:

Song Leader: Jack Cadenhead  
Opening Prayer: Beau Griffin  
Closing Prayer: Kyle Wilson  
Scripture Reading: Nathan Lewis  
Lord's Supper Thoughts: Scott Estes  
Communion: Steve Black, James Bryant, Toker Dennis,  
John Eck, Jet Frye, Trever Manuel, Keith Nail,  
Ronnie Osborn  
Alternate Communion: Matt Bryant & Tommy Vass  
Balcony Communion: Tim Hensley & Trenton Hensley  
Nursing Home Communion: Mark Clark  
Attendance Counter: Garrett Hatton  
Safety Team Walk **AM/PM**: Caleb Estes  
Safety Team Camera **AM/PM**: David Lewis  
Coordinator **AM/PM/Wed**: Jared Griffin & Trevin Vass  
Sound Booth **AM/PM/Wed**: Jag Frye & Jared Hudson  
Welcome Desk Attendant (April): Clarie Dennis & Dalee Weston  
Greeters (April): Kelley Hughey & Chuck Love

## Sunday Evening:

Song Leader: Kerry White  
Opening Prayer: David Dirrim  
Closing Prayer: Mark Coleman  
Attendance Counter: Hunter Nickell  
Communion: Joe Dirrim & Casey Farrar

## Wednesday PM:

Song Leader: Jack Cadenhead  
Announcements/Opening Prayer: Greg Hatton  
Closing Prayer: Quaid Clark  
8 Minute Devotional: Ried Duncan  
Attendance Counting: Drew Graham  
Safety Team Walk: Kevin Graham  
Safety Team Camera: Mark Clark

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:38-39

Prayer

I Love You, Lord

Glorify Thy Name

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Thoughts From the Cross: Scott Estes

Why Did My Savior Come to Earth (v. 1 & 2)

Lord's Supper

Why Did My Savior Come to Earth (v. 3)

Contribution

Love Lifted Me

A.M. Lesson: Do You Love Me?

Bring Christ Your Broken Life

Announcements

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Prayer

P.M. Lesson: Faith in Crisis

An elder and his wife are available in the classroom of the middle hallway of the building during each invitation.

**Shepherd for April:** Butch Platt

**Supporting Shepherd & Wife:** David & Darla Hendricks

**April Contribution Counters:**

Tommy Vass, Caleb Estes, Brad Butler

# SOUTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ONLINE GIVING



## Sunday

Bible Classes - 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Evening Worship - 5:00 p.m.

## Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class - 10:00 a.m.

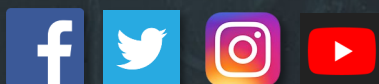
## Wednesday

Bible Classes - 6:30 p.m.

## Worship & Classes Online

facebook.com/swcocada

youtube.com/swcocada



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