



**Weekly UPDATE**  
**First Adventist Church**  
**of Tulsa**

*Hello  
Spring*

**March 23, 2024**

**Our mission is helping people experience the love of Jesus**

# Opportunities

## Come Grow with Us!

If you are looking for a change, or for a new church, we invite you to join our growing family. Here at First Tulsa we believe that everyone has something special and unique to add to our diverse congregation. We would love to welcome you into our church family! If this is your desire, please turn in a Connection Card (located on the tables at the back of the church sanctuary). Place it in the offering box on the wall by the doors at the rear of the church sanctuary.

## United Prayer Opportunities

### Monday — Friday

● **6:00-6:15 am** ● Prayer Conference Call  
Dial 605-468-8026, Access Code: 1013047#

### Tuesday

● **7:00-8:00 pm** ● Oklahoma Prayer Line  
● Dial 1-470-480-9256

### Wednesday

● **6:30 pm** ● Midweek Prayer Meeting  
● In the Chapel

## Prayer Meeting



Prayer Meeting is held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Chapel. Please join us for this time of prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with our church family. You will be blessed!

## VBS Registration Now Open

Registration for our Vacation Bible School which will be held **June 10-14, 2024, 6:00-8:30 pm** at our church is now open at [tulsasda.org](https://tulsasda.org). Please register your children as soon as possible as our VBS staff prepares a top-quality, Christ-centered program for them to enjoy.



## Program About *Christ the Anointed*

On Sabbath, **March 30, 10:45 am** we will have a special family worship service titled *Christ, The Anointed*. This will be a family presentation including kids in costumes, narration from the Bible, hymns about the cross, and multimedia — all telling the story of the last week before Christ's crucifixion. See you next week for this beautiful program.

## Three Ways to Give



### Online

[tulsasda.org](https://tulsasda.org)  
Click on "Online Giving"



### Church

Place your offering in a tithe envelope and put it in the offering box at the back of the Sanctuary



### Mail

First SDA Church of Tulsa  
920 S. New Haven Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74112

# *Worship Service*

*March 23, 2024*

*10:45 a.m.*

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## **Musical Meditation**

Bruce Carrico

## **Welcome and Announcements**

Pastor Samson Sembeka

## **Worship Through Giving**

*Onward Oklahoma 2%*

## **Children's Story**

Pam Fraser

## **Invocation**

Pastor Samson Sembeka

## **Songs of Praise**

*My Jesus, I Love Thee*, Hymn 321

*The Power of the Cross*

*Mighty to Save*

Lem Bach, Austin and Jessica Paddock,  
Fernando Vasquez

## **Altar Prayer**

James Davison

## **Song of Consecration**

*Father, I Adore You*

## **Sermon**

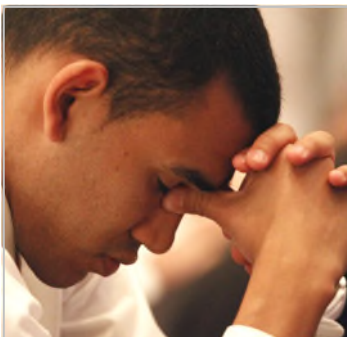
Pastor Samson Sembeka

## **Song of Response**

*Give Me Jesus*, Hymn 305

## **Benediction**

Pastor Samson Sembeka



# Announcements

## Welcome!

A heartfelt welcome is extended to everyone who has joined us for church services today, whether in person or online. May you receive abundant blessings as we worship our loving Lord together on this Sabbath day.

## VBS Needs You!

It's time to get ready for that very important and effective ministry called VBS which will be held at our church **June 10-14, 2024!** Abby Duffy,



our Vacation Bible School Leader, has invited all those who would like to be involved with VBS to contact her (918-998-3418) right away. There are a number of positions

available, both behind-the-scenes and working directly with the children. Last year's VBS had an excellent attendance with many children coming from the community. Please volunteer soon. You will be blessed!

## Oklahoma Conference Events

The Oklahoma Conference requests that you add the following events to your calendar. For more information visit [okadventist.org](http://okadventist.org).

<b>April 12-14</b>	Tulsa Children's Ministry Training
<b>April 13-14</b>	Men's Ministry Retreat
<b>May 3-5</b>	Hispanic Men's Retreat
<b>July 4-7</b>	Spanish Camp Meeting
<b>July 12-20</b>	English Camp Meeting

## April Seniors Meeting

Our Tulsa First Adventist Church Seniors group has a fun new name — "The Ageless Wonders".

They are inviting all Seniors to attend a meeting on Sunday,

**April 7, 12 noon**  
at **Braden Park**

(5036 E. 7th St. —

2 blocks east of Yale on 9th). Please plan to

**bring picnic food and your own chair** and come enjoy a wonderful time outdoors together!

In case of bad weather the group will meet in our church Fellowship Hall.



## Leadership Development Workshop

Be sure to plan on attending Pastor Samson Sembeba's Leadership Development Workshop Tuesday, **March 26, 5-7 pm** in the Board Room. Enjoy this evening of learning and growth!

## TAA School Calendar

Please take note of Tulsa Adventist Academy's events and activities.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!



<b>April 5</b>	Visitation Day
<b>May 4</b>	TAA Sabbath, Acro Show
<b>May 5</b>	Talent Show
<b>May 16</b>	Kindergarten & 8th Grade Graduations
<b>May 18</b>	Senior Commencement



## Fellowship Lunch Next Sabbath



There will be a Fellowship Lunch next Sabbath, **March 30. The theme is FAVORITES** and church members are asked to bring their favorite potluck dishes. Thanks to the Fox and Scott team for hosting the lunch.

## Background Check for All Volunteers

For safety purposes, the Oklahoma Conference is requiring an online Background Check and online Safety Training for ALL church volunteers (including church officers, children's ministries/ Sabbath School workers, praise team, ministries leaders, greeters, etc.).

### Instructions for Completing Your Background Check:

- Go online to [www.NCRISK.ORG/ADVENTIST](http://www.NCRISK.ORG/ADVENTIST)
- Click on: "First Time - Registrant"  
Union - "Southwestern"  
Conference - "Oklahoma Conference"  
Work Location - Name of Our Church
- Allow 2 hours to complete the training, or save your work as you go.
- When training is completed, you will be routed to a consent form that you must submit in order to complete your background check for yourself through the NCS Risk website.
- You will receive an email from Sterling Volunteers telling you what to do next to FINISH.

## Prayer Requests

James Gist

Rose Swayze

Griesbaum family

Church Building Committee

Native New Day

Discover Bible School

Church Finances

Missing Members

Tulsa Adventist Academy

America

### Special Prayer

For special prayer contact Prayer Ministries Associate James Davison at 603-801-7172.

## March Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 23 Peggy Dohlman; Donald Pifer
- 23 Mark & Darla McGehee
- 24 Madeline Duffy; Jeremiah & Brandi Williams
- 27 Dan Jensen; Emily Soto
- 28 Jim McBride; Timothy Williams
- 28 Esperanza Hernandez; Elijah Williams
- 29 Paula Davison; Noriah Duffy

## Local Church Budget Summary (for July, 2023 - February, 2024)

Amount needed for budget	\$83,960
Amount received	\$82,319
Amount short of budget goal	\$ 1,641

• THANK YOU for your donations to our Local Church Budget! Please continue your support so that vital church expenses and ministries can be funded and maintained.

• A portion of the contributions received for Local Church Budget each month will be allocated to a local Reserve Fund account which will be used to pay for much-needed or unexpected building maintenance and equipment repairs, etc.

# Calendar

## Today, March 23

Sabbath School	9:30 am	Offering	Onward Oklahoma 2%
Worship Service	10:45 am	Elder	Bruce Carrico
Sunset	7:38 pm	Deacon	Richard Adams



## Two Weeks at a Glance | March 24–April 6, 2024

<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> •Community Services Center 8:00a - 11:00a  •Leadership Workshop 5:00p - 7:00p	<b>27</b> •Prayer Meeting 6:30p	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>   Sunset 7:43p	<b>30</b> •Fellowship Lunch   Sunset 7:44p
<b>31</b> •Easter	<b>April 1</b>	<b>2</b> •Community Services Center 8:00a - 11:00a	<b>3</b> •Prayer Meeting 6:30p	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> •TAA Visitation Day   Sunset 7:49p	<b>6</b>   Sunset 7:49p

## Next Sabbath, March 30

Sabbath School	9:30 am
Worship Service	10:45 am
Fellowship Lunch	12:30 pm
Sunset	7:44 pm

Offering	Local Church Budget
Elder	Lauren Fraser
Deacon	Richard Adams

## Events

- March 26**  
Leadership Development Workshop, 5-7 pm
- March 30**  
Fellowship Lunch
- April 7**  
Seniors Meeting, 12:00 noon
- April 9**  
Church Board Meeting
- April 27**  
Fellowship Lunch

# Church Music Notes

## Prelude

Our Prelude today as we begin the Christian festival of Holy Week is **Were You There**, arranged for digital keyboard by Don Wyrzten (words for meditation are with Hymn No. 158). This song is perhaps the most universally used American



spiritual in all the hymnals of Christendom. It first appeared in print

around the turn of the century. The primary poetic thought is that all of us were there at Calvary, by virtue of the fact that *“all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). The unknown voices who sang this song through the years were able in this song to identify with the suffering of Jesus, since they also were unfairly treated and felt that they knew something of what He suffered. It was a cry of the heart that found an echo and response in their own woes.

## Song of Praise

The first song of praise is **My Jesus I Love Thee**, Hymn No. 321. This hymn is a sweet expression of love for the Savior that flows directly from the author’s experience of the Savior’s love for him. A remarkable thing about *My Jesus I Love Thee* is that it was originally written by William Ralph Featherston, a teenager who had recently come to faith, as a devotional poem. Not much is known about Featherston, except that he attended a Methodist church in Montreal, that he was young when he wrote the poem (when aged 12 or 16 years old), and that

he died at just 27 years of age. One story about how the poem became public is that Featherston mailed it to his aunt in Los Angeles who, upon reading it, quickly sought its publication. It wasn’t until several years after Featherston’s death that Adoniram Judson Gordon (founder of Gordon College and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, added a melody and published it in his book of hymns, thus forever transforming this poem into a song.

Another Song of Worship is **Mighty to Save**, written by Hillsong United musicians, Reuben Morgan and Ben Fielding. The song quotes Zephaniah 3:27, which tells us about God, who is *“mighty to save.”* Is this Old Testament prophet speaking about the power of the gospel to bring hopeless, lifeless souls into a transforming encounter with Christ? Or maybe Zephaniah was speaking of God’s heart for redeeming those from every tongue and tribe and nation? It’s hard to fathom why a God who is able to move mountains would choose to save those who have so deeply offended Him. But this is the gospel. Though we have done nothing to merit His favor, God sent His only son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin and rebellion. He is truly mighty to save.

## Postlude

The Postlude is an organ arrangement of the old hymn **I Love to Tell the Story**, arranged by Dale Wood (words for meditation are with Hymn No. 457). The author of the words for this hymn was Arabella Hankey, who had been ordered by her doctor to stay in bed for 12 months or face death from her illness. While confined to bed in the year 1866 she wrote a 55-stanza poem. The poem is in two parts and tells the entire story of redemption from the Garden of Eden to Christ’s life on earth as a human being, His death and resurrection, and ending with His Second Advent.

## Contact Us

### Pastor

Samson Sembeba  
(269) 277-6252  
Email: ssembeba@gmail.com

### Head Elder

Tom Huff  
(918) 230-9379  
Email: tomchuff@gmail.com

### Head Deacon

Richard Adams  
(580) 449-1135

### Spanish Ministries Leader

José Camacho  
(918) 398-3572  
Email: juan5.39@hotmail.com

### Church Office

Office Phone: (918) 834-6671

**Church Website:** [tulsasda.org](http://tulsasda.org)

**Church Email:** [tulsafirstadventist@gmail.com](mailto:tulsafirstadventist@gmail.com)

### Community Service Center

Carma Fox: (918) 200-2613

### Tulsa Adventist Academy

(Pre-K — Grade 12)  
Larry Seery, Principal  
900 S. New Haven, Tulsa OK 74112  
School Office: (918) 834-1107  
Website: [tulsaacademy.org](http://tulsaacademy.org)

### TAA Health Food Store

*Offering canned & frozen vegetarian foods*  
To purchase foods, come to the TAA office during school hours or contact Rowland Knight at (918) 381-9708 and make an appointment.

## Sabbath School Classes

- Spanish Sabbath School Class is in the Chapel.
- Classes for children, youth, and young adults are held in the church's south hall classrooms.

### Adult Sabbath School Program

March 23 • 9:30 a.m.

#### Songs, Scripture, Prayer

*As the Deer*  
*Amazing Grace*, No. 108  
Psalm 15 NIV  
Vasquez Family

#### Mission Video

*More Grades Please!* Andaman and  
Nicobar Islands

#### Sabbath School Lesson Discussion

*Worship That Never Ends*

**Small Group Class** | Joe Barranco

**Online Class** | Bruce Carrico, Abby Duffy,  
Jason Vargas

## Church Bulletin Information

The deadline for receiving announcements to be printed in the bulletin is **11 am on Wednesday**. Please text your announcements to the bulletin secretary at 918-640-6540 or email announcements to the following email address:

**[bruce.carrico@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.carrico@gmail.com)**.



*First Seventh-day Adventist  
Church of Tulsa*

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