



February 27, 2024

In Our *Prayers*

Please remember these friends in prayer:

George Goodner	Israel
Griffin Family	Palestine
Melanie Ellis	Ukraine
Conner's grandson, Brooks	Duane Wood
Elizabeth Gray	Lisa Sloan
Margo Thein	



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

Greetings and Well Wishes!

I am excited about receiving and accepting your call as interim minister for WOCC! As Pascal once said, “all things are at their best in the beginning.” And, this is the way most would want it to be, I think, rather than saving the best for a last that never arrives. I actually used to have a wall poster that included this quotation with the picture of a young tree-ling putting down tiny roots in some soil that lay inside a larger cavity created within a severed tree-branch of an older tree. The picture gives the viewer the idea that the tiny tree-ling has a limited future, but a great beginning, just the same. Who knows but that someone might come along and transplant the tiny tree, or it might fall to the ground and find good soil, benefits of a good and gracious windstorm. Limitations are not always as dire as they may seem; indeed, they may open up opportunities that we can hardly now imagine. As interim minister, my role is to pioneer you through the transition period until you are able to call your next settled minister. My role does not allow me to become a candidate for this position. Nor can I recommend someone for this position or influence the selection process in any way. Also, in some sense, a part of my activity will be to gently remind you that I have my virtual suitcase packed and sitting in front of the pulpit ready to go. I really do not think I will need to do very much reminding since the search committee is well on its way in the process, and eager to be so. I am truly blessed and grateful for your vote of confidence!

So, I will be doing my best to get to know you, and join you in the transition process. Please do not hesitate to help me in this process. I may need some gentle reminders on occasion. I am eager to help, as appropriate, of course. Let me know if I am doing too much and need to scale back. I tend to get excited about ministry, but don't always stop to think beforehand (somewhat like the Apostle Peter is known for doing). But, know now, that my wife, Susan, and I love you as Christ loves you, and as the Holy One loves all of us, each and every one. I am glad to be here at WOCC! Let's go church!

Grace and Peace,

Interim-Pastor Randy

“You are not alone! Keep the faith!”

Pastor Randy's Upcoming Sermons

Sunday, Mar 3rd

Scripture: John 2:13-22 (NRSV)

Sermon Title: Under Construction

Sunday, Mar 10th

Sermon Title: Made Alive Together

Scripture: Ephesians 2:1-10

Sunday, Mar 17th

Sermon Title: A Whole Heart and A Willing Spirit

Scripture: Psalm 51:1-12; 119:9-16

Sunday, Mar 24^h (Palm Sunday)

Sermon Title: A Seismic Arrival

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Sunday, Mar 31st (Easter)

Sermon Title: Seized by Surprise

Scripture: Mark 16:1-8

Sunday Lenten Community Breakfast



Join us for the Community Lenten Breakfast each Sunday in March from 8 am to 9 am. 3 neighbors have joined us for breakfast & worship so far. We hope that more of our WOCC church family & our WOCC neighbors will join us as we continue this Outreach Fellowship opportunity. Please sign up to volunteer on the clip board outside Schwind Hall. Volunteers are still needed for March 3, March 17, & March 24. Thank you!

Here are some pics of the first breakfast.



We had one new friend join us. We had about 20 of our folks come early for breakfast. We are looking forward to more times of fellowship.



Rosa	McCroskey	3/2
Shirlee	Ruedy	3/2
Joe	Mars	3/5
Joey	Mars	3/5
Jodie	Conner	3/5

Jamie	Mattox	3/7
Donna	Bradley	3/13
Stuart	Thorn	3/15
James	Frank	3/17
Mandie	Howry	3/17
Dianne	Beck	3/18
David	Schroeder	3/21
Phillip	Young	3/25
Edward	Hill	3/25
Duane	Wood	3/29

Thank you, Church, for celebrating on February 11th, the golden anniversary of my ordination. The gift of a sharing cross and the kind and generous words of Pastor Julia were most appreciated. It was a privilege to celebrate with you the Lord's Supper that morning as well as giving the homily on Ash Wednesday following. May God continue to bless us all in life's journeys.

Tom
Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Jewell

Thank You!



December 9 WOCC continued its service which was initiated over 20 years ago by Roland Fishel. The Salvation Army issued Certificates of Appreciation to our bell ringers which we presented to all participants: Fern Melton, Charlene Majetic, Jimmy Ille and daughter Mikayla, Kari and Taylor Simmons, Judi McDown and Toby Frank, Reeca Young, Gay and Steve Teter

Your love in action

CWS | CWSBLANKETS.ORG
Blanket Sunday Offering March 17

Midwinter Regional Youth Retreat

A great experience was had by all. The weekend was very cold, but everyone made the most of it! Bailey Morris, Aorah, and Adele Ross as well as Shiloh from Southern Hills found Greenwood Rising Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma interesting and sad at the same time. We all enjoyed getting to get reacquainted with camp friends.



Western Oaks Christian Church

**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**



VALENTINE'S DINNER & DESSERT AUCTION was a SUCCESS!!

As you can see by the pictures in the following insert page, everyone enjoyed the meal, the fellowship and dessert auction. We raised **\$2,271** for our children and youth to attend camp and plan a Mission trip with our youth.



Image by brgfx on Freepik

We are thankful for Tobi Frank the Education chair who organized the event with the help of Fern Melton and Sandra Spillman. We could not have done the auction without Jimmy Ille who is a tremendous auctioneer! The laughter, smiles and grace for our youth whom were learning how to serve food and drinks. Many people graciously made desserts for the auction, including two of our youth!! We are also grateful to all who made such beautiful and creative table decorations! The pictures illustrate the blessings we have as a community to be church in this faith community! Thanks again for all who participated!!!

Julia



Julia is thankful for the time in Athens, TX for Disciples Youth Ministry Network. I was able to spend four days with these amazing people from Oklahoma and nation that love working with Youth. It was time for education, renewal, reflection and networking.

We need lots of filled Easter Eggs

Bring filled eggs back by Sunday, March 24th.

Pick up empty Easter Eggs In the Narthex or by the church office or purchase eggs to be filled.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt is early this year!

Saturday, March 30 11a.m. to 12:30p.m.

We will have Egg Hunts by grade levels, crafts, cotton candy, hot dogs, games and more!!

Your help is needed to distribute eggs at the Easter Egg Hunts and the various activities!

We appreciate your help!! All the children enjoy the various activities!!

We will meet @ 10:15 am to set up for the Easter Egg Hunts.

If you are able to help with any of the activities, especially distributing eggs, please contact Julia Jordan Gillett.



Church Staff



Interim Minister: Rev. Randy Hill
 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: Jaedyn Reynolds
 & Skylar Frank
 Admin Assistant: Cindy Cannon
 Sound Technician: Tobi Bessinger

Sunday, Mar 3 Community Lenten Breakfast 8:00am
Sunday, Mar 10 Daylight Savings Time
Sunday, Mar 17 Blanket Sunday Offering
Sunday, Mar TBA Bingo Sunday 12:30pm
 Lunch and Bingo with prizes and a craft

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL on campus Worship
2/11/2024	28	44	72
2/18/2024	28	45	73

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
2/11/2024	\$4,962.75	\$30
2/18/2024	\$2,155	\$0

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



8100 NW 23rd Street
 Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»
 «Address»
 «City»

The Worship Committee invites all WOCC members and friends to participate in Holy Week Prayer Time. If each person will pause wherever you are at 12:50 PM daily, we will be an entire church at prayer. The options below show the date and time, plus suggestions for individual options to include in an intercessory prayer or a thanksgiving prayer. Online viewers/listeners are invited to join these prayers.

Holy Week	Time	Prayers	Thanksgivings
Sunday, March 24	12:50 PM	For a close friend with a difficult time ahead	For all creation
Monday, March 25	12:50 PM	For the people at Western Oaks	For those we love
Tuesday, March 26	12:50 PM	For good on youth & children	For those who are hungry and alone
Wednesday, March 27	12:50 PM	The WOCC's service brings grace	For the hope which each day gives
Thursday, March 28	12:50 PM	For WOCC's home-centered members	For those who work for peace
Friday, March 29	12:50 PM	For those who view worship online	For the quiet time of our own prayers
Saturday, March 30	12:50 PM	That WOCC will reflect the love of God	For the eternal grace of God

How do we love God and serve our neighboring schools? Let us count the ways.

In addition to hosting a Back to School Event, serving meals to football, soccer, band, and drama students, serving back to school breakfasts, and parent-student conference meals, we can attend student performances. The following school year-end music and *drama* events are happening soon.

PC WEST

March 7 and 8 at 7:00 p.m. and March 9 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. - The Musical, *Chicago*

April 12 at 7:00 p.m. - Music Theatre Spring Recital

April 15 at 7:00 p.m. - Percussion Ensemble Concert

April 30 at 7:00 p.m. - Band Spring Concert

WESTERN OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL (down the road to the east)

May 2 at 7:00 Orchestra Spring Concert

May 7 at 6:30 p.m. - Band Spring Concert



Please note some of these dates on your calendars and support our talented young neighbors.

Pat Brown

VALENTINE'S DINNER & DESSERT AUCTION



I am embarrassed. Let me tell you why.

Since Christmas Day, 2023, Western Oaks worship has been prepared by several of us working as a team to assure well-focused, Biblical services for those in-person at church and those online.

My embarrassment is this: You all have spoken such kind and gracious feedback by way of saying thank you for making sure that worship happened. Those were encouraging words. I think that the worship committee has done its job all right. We still have other things to add.

At the same time, my part is only part. Here I thank the rest.

By Name: Andrew Orr, not only organized and selected the 11 AM music, shepherded the streaming equipment and the AV presentations each week, but dealt with the foul-ups from the cable company lines. It was not smooth sailing. He had the patience to get us through it.

By Name: Ben Frantz oversaw the 9 AM music selection and performance. The Praise Band was not just performing; they were leading, and we were singing with them. Ben picked songs which went with the sermon themes and entered the words into the power point presentation, as Andrew does for second service. Oh, yes! He leads the Praise Band.

By Name: Julie Jordan Gillett added more tasks and planning to her duties. We talked often about who would do what part, who was on the prayer list and what was coming up soon for the church to know.

By Name: Cindy Cannon who turned the bulletin mock-ups into bulletins each week. Clarifications on the calendar and proofing came from her. It was all done even after she got the Catch-All Nose Glop. It all goes through her desk.

We finally got a rhythm going. Randy will add more to the preparation mix for which we are grateful. As ever, we hope that worship will open your path to connect your spirit to God's.

Thank you to everyone who carried us.

Jim Ellis

Worship Committee Chairman

**THANK
YOU**