

Joy Comes in the Morning

In the hallway near the church office at FCC Smith Center, Kansas, posted on the wallboard, is a poem entitled "A Prayer of Celebration." The author is not listed, but many did stop to read it over time.

"To you I come; eager to know your will; God, to you I come; giving thanks for countless blessings; grateful for family and friends; conscious of your greatness; aware of my weakness; but acknowledging I also have strengths; God, to you I come; at the beginning of the day; at the close of another week; during hours of joy and grief; God, to you I come; asking that your love encompass; each and everyone."

The Christmas Season (Dec 25th to Jan 6th) is a time of celebration. We celebrate the leadership of our youth and children. We celebrate the New Year and the Epiphany it brings. We celebrate music in our caroling and singing. We celebrate all the elements of the season, hope, peace, joy and love. We celebrate the receiving and giving of gifts, and the humility and love which are such a part of this. Most of all, we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This divine birth within the human sphere (Incarnation & Emmanuel) is the reason for the season, the reason for celebration!

I was taught many years ago in the 1960s, that celebration is not just an expression of joy; it is also an expression of sharing the grief inside of joy, one with the other, remembering that, for many, Thanksgiving and Christmas, are anniversaries of grief and loss. So, we tread lightly through the holidays to give them the space they need to heal. Jesus is the embodiment of celebration in all its fullness, bearing life and light out of death and darkness. "The miracle of light overcoming darkness." That is the miracle of Hannukah in the Jewish Tradition symbolized by the menorah candle lighting the way through the darkness. A rule of thumb is that it only takes the smallest of flames to light up the darkness, and perhaps the smallest of smiles to create a fullness of joy in our hearts.

This Christmas Season, let's truly celebrate in prayer the fullness which is the heart and meaning of Christmas!

Grace & Peace

Pastor Randy

Nineteenth Question on Common Reading:

Mark Deymaz (w/Harry Li) The Coming Revolution in Church Economics:
Why Tithes and Offerings Are No Longer Enough, and What You Can Do About it

"There are times when the collective body experiences "financial fatigue" and when it does, tithes and offerings may stagnate or decline." P. 82

- 1) Andrew has sometimes mentioned the phenomenon of "singer fatigue." Do we as a community sometimes have "giving fatigue?"
- 2) How can we appropriately adjust for "giving fatigue?" Is there a trick of the trade solution for this fatigue?

Disciple Women's Fellowship

Hey DWF! We are going to start up again at WOCC on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Join us at 6:30 for a January organizational meeting on the 16th.

Thank you! Fern Melton



Mobile Meals Ministry



Meet our Mobile Meals Kitchen Cooks and Delivery Team! Pictured left to right are our cooks, Carol Davis, Charlene Majetic, Sandra Spillman, Pat Brown, and our speedy deliverers, Max, Henry, and Gretchen Dolive.

We all happened to converge in the kitchen recently and decided that serendipitous event warranted a photo. Not pictured are our pastry chefs who turn out tasty treats each week, Cindy Cannon and Linda Patzack.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting for all members to approve the 2025 Budget this Sunday, January 12 after each worship time. You are welcome to review a copy of the 2025 Budget, posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Thank you so very much for the bonus I received over the Christmas holiday! The gift was very generous and kind, and lifted my Christmas spirit at the right time!

Pastor Randy



CALLING ALL CHILI LOVERS!

IT'S TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL WOCC CHILI COOK OFF

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

4:15 – ALL COMPETITION CHILI MUST ARRIVE IN SCHWIND HALL

4:30 – JUDGES BEGIN TASTING AND JUDGING (OUR MOBILE MEALS COOKS AND DELIVERERS)

5:00 - CHILI IS SERVED!

5:45 – WINNERS ANNOUNCED AND PRIZES GIVEN

6:00 – 7:00 **B-I-N-G-O** FUN WTH PRIZES

SIGNUP NOW in the west entry by Schwind Hall and in the Narthax by the Sanctuary.

You may sign up to bring a side dish (Dessert or Salad or Bread) and/or enter the Chili Cook Off competition January 12 - 25.

Signup sheets will be sponsored by the membership committee with assistance from the Chili Champ Consortium.



Youth Christmas Party on December 22nd was great fun! Thanks to Tobi Frank, Aanika Gillett and Jimmy Illi who sponsored the party. We had six youth attend and played games everyone went home with a fun Christmas ornament from the gift exchange.



Chi Rho & CYF Midwinter Retreat

February 15-17 at Camp Christian \$100 per person
Keynotes by Madi Showalter (Crown Heights Christian Church)

Registration Opens Dec 15 Sponsored by the Regional Youth Council

Youth Meeting

Sunday, January 12th 12:20p.m. To 2p.m.

We will discuss the All Church Valentines Dinner play games and decide some topics to look at for the semester.

I want to invite parents and grandparents to stay for 15 minutes and look at dates for upcoming youth meetings.



Children's Valentines Party

Coming February 9th 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.



Young Children through grade school are invited.

We will eat, do some crafts, and play games.

**WOCC
Youth and Children's
Valentine's Dinner
and
Dessert Auction
Sunday 2/02/2025
5:00 pm**



**Please see Julie or Tobi if you would like to donate a dessert or decorate a table
All funds raised go to send our kids to camp and mission trip**

Church Staff
office@woccdoc.org



Interim Minister: Pastor 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: Skylar Frank
 Admin Assistant: Cindy Cannon
 Sound Technician: Tobi Bessinger

Sunday, Jan 16 Congregational Meeting after each worship
Sunday, Jan 26 Chili Cookout
Sunday, Feb 2 Dessert Auction (Youth and Children) 5:30pm

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL Worship
12-8-2024	22	60	82
12-15-2024	19	50	69
12-22-2024	22	50	72

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
12-8-2024	\$6,306	\$30
12-15-2024	\$2,715	\$30
12-22-2024	\$5,270	\$60

Upcoming Sermons

First Sunday After Epiphany – Lord’s Baptism (Jan 12, 2025)
 Sermon Title: Passing Through the Waters Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7
 Theme: Engaging the Six Traditions of Spiritual formation
 (Contemplative, Holiness, Charismatic, Social Justice, Evangelical)

Second Sunday After Epiphany (Jan 19, 2025)
9:00am Sermon Title: The Best is Yet to Come Scripture: John 2:1-11
 Theme: Our best days may be ahead of us. We should be patient in understanding what is in process of being revealed (manifestation).
11:00am Guest Speaker: Bobby Hawley, VP of Christian Church Foundation, South Central Zone
 Sermon Title: Planting Seeds -- Growing an Endowment Fund for the Future Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Matthew 6:19-21

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



8100 NW 23rd Street
 Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»
 «Address»
 «City»