

Collateral Beauty

Many philosophers have tried to prove the existence of God down the ages since the beginning of the church. Scholars like Anselm (1033-1109), Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), William Paley (1743-1805) and Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) offered, respectively, the Ontological Proof, the Cosmological Proof, the Teleological Proof, and the Moral Proof. They use such things as the “argument from purpose,” the argument from design,” and the “argument from morality,” to show that there is order in the universe, both organizational and moral, that cannot be explained other than through the existence of God.

These classic proofs for the existence of God assume the classical principles of “theism,” in which God not only creates the world, but also intervenes in it regularly. In more recent years, we have entered a new era of “ana-theism,” a coming back to theism, only this time, having fully understood the human mind’s inability to conceive of something as large as God, and the inability of human words to describe something as large as God. Ana-theism proposes ideas and realities mediated by an experience beyond our ability to reason or to understand. Ana-theism takes up again the rich language of classical theism and re-applies that language for personal transformation.

Psalm 139:17-18

“How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You.

In other words, God is beyond any human theology we can put together or any description we can give or any characteristic we can conceive or any proposition we can believe about God. God cannot be captured (or crucified) by human minds or words. Paul echoes the Deuteronomist, in 2 Corinthians 10:5, “we demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”

In Ana-theism, we are called to practice “collateral beauty” rather than “collateral damage.” William Watley uses these words in a sermon entitled: “One is worth Saving.”

“The Lord placed Philip on a lonely road to Gaza for just one person; Jesus heard the shouts of the blind Bartimaeus crying for mercy. One is worth saving. Jesus took the time to call Zacchaeus out of the tree. One is worth saving. Jesus felt the woman who touched his cloak in a crowd. One is worth saving. Jesus heard the words of the dying thief. One is worth saving. Jesus blinded Saul on his way to Damascus. One is worth saving.” Yes, for the sake of the One, let us take up the extravagance of praise for an Awesome God. Amen.

Grace & Peace

Pastor Randy

Fifteenth Discussion Question on Common Reading: Chapter Two

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*

“The scarcity mindset is the belief that there will never be enough – the abundance mindset is [the] belief that enough resources exist for [your success] and for others too. The former stems from a place of lack; the latter from our faith in God.

- 1) Which mindset do we embrace? Some of both possibly?
- 2) How can we promote the abundance mindset more often?

CFW Christmas Quilt Raffle

This year we have a gorgeous Christmas Quilt that is 53" x 33-1/2". You can buy tickets from any CFW member on sale now through Nov. 17.

The drawing will be on November 24.

One ticket \$1

Six tickets \$5



Pledge TODAY

Each year our congregation is asked to prayerfully consider how they will support the financial requirements of Western Oaks Christian Church.



The Annual Stewardship Campaign is how we get this information. Pledge cards will be provided for you to complete and return to the church allowing the building of the 2025 budget. In this way we will be able to continue to be a beacon of hope and love within our city and world.

Plant seeds for the continued growth and service of Western Oaks of Christian Church (DOC)

Faithful stewards do not appear with the morning dew as did manna for Israel in the Sinai Desert! Faithful stewards are grown in the soil of discipleship, and they bear the spiritual fruit of generosity that is developed through nurture and intentional practice. (DOC Website)

The Ever Evolving CHURCH

EMPOWER & Equip

Nov. 16th

Forest Park CC, Tulsa

On Site Workshops For Church Leaders, Elders, Deacons & Everyone

Blessing of the Animals

Come, bring your pets, and join us for a "Blessing of the Animals" service on Sunday, November 17, 2024 at 3:00pm on the East Side Garden at Western Oaks Christian Church.



To my church family:

Thank you so much for honoring George with the Deacon Emeritus award. I was touched that his love for the church and his contributions through the years were recognized. Thank you to Pastor Randy for his kind words.

The choice of "Hallelujah" for the prelude really touched me. That was one of George's favorite songs. He had a recording of it by Leonard Cohen, which he played many times. Thank you, Bella. It was a perfect way to start the service, and you did a beautiful job.

Thanks to all of you.



Look Who Joined WOCC

We would like to welcome Carol Akin back to WOCC. Carol was born and raised in OKC, and baptized at Village Christian Church. Carol lives at 12600 N. Rockwell, #37, Oklahoma City, OK 73142. Her phone number is 405-537-8593.

She is already helping Mobile Meals and is a member of CFW. Carol is excited to be part of WOCC and appreciates how welcoming everyone has been. We are glad to have you back!

Kari Simmons, Membership Committee

Job Opening: Church Nursery Attendant

Western Oaks Christian Church is accepting applications to fill the nursery attendant position. We are seeking a nurturing, caring, and patient caregiver to work with toddlers and infants Sundays, 8:30 - 12:30, during both worship services and the Sunday School hour.

Interviewing candidates will be subject to a background check. Send resumes to:

Western Oaks Christian Church
8100 NW 23rd St, OKC, OK 73127

Or email office@woccdoc.org

Veterans Day is coming and we would like to have a current list of veterans and active duty military personnel in our church.



Please contact Cindy in the church office by email office@woccdoc.org or phone 405-789-8812.

Sunday, November 17th we will begin Christmas play practice after the 11a.m. worship service.

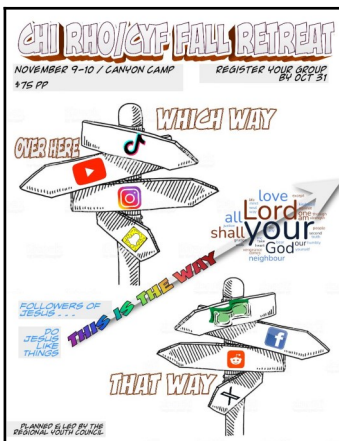


Western Oaks Christian Church

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Sunday, October 27th was Children's Sabbath and Light a Candle for Children. A time when we celebrated the children and youth in our church, as well as remembered children and youth in our own families, communities and in our world. What a blessing to have so many children and youth who want to participate in worship. The pandemic affected the response of our children and youth and gave some a more tentative nature. Your encouragement was felt as I asked the children and youth to participate. All of them said yes and with enthusiasm



Saturday November 9th to Sunday, November 10th

THIS IS THE WAY: CHI RHO & CYF Fall Retreat at Canyon Camp, near Hinton, Oklahoma

We have 5 youth going on the Fall Retreat: Adelyn Davis, Faith Mendoza, Alorah and Adele Ross, and Jacob Sills will be heading to the Fall Retreat on Saturday, November 9th at 9:30a.m. with Julia Jordan Gillett. Prayers for a fairly dry weekend!

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

Saturday, Nov 16 Empower & Equip - Forest Park, Tulsa
Sunday, Nov 17 Blessing of the Animals 3:00pm
 Thanksgiving Offering
Sunday, Nov 24 Thanksgiving Offering

Upcoming Sermons

Series Theme: "Blessed to be a Blessing" (Gen. 12:2)
 November 10, 2024 Scripture: 2 Cor. 2:1-10
 Sermon Title: Week #2, "Immortal Gifts in Earthen Jars"
 Theme: What do clay pots and valuable treasure have in common?

November 17, 2024 Scripture: 2 Cor. 5:1-21
 Sermon Title: Week #3, "Faithful Living"
 Theme: The love of Christ is resoundingly abundant and recursively redundant!

November 24, 2024 Scripture: 2 Cor. 8:1-15
 Sermon Title: Week #4, "Rich in Kindness"
 Theme: Alone we can do little; together we can do much!
 (Helen Keller)

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL Worship
10-13-2024	23	47	60
10-20-2024	28	46	51

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
10-13-2024	\$3,115	\$30
10-20-2024	\$1,715	\$30

"Loving God, Serving our Neighbors"



8100 NW 23rd Street
 Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»