

## *Worshipping Before We Know*

A popular phrase coming out of neuropsychology today is the term “mirrored neurons.” There is, of course, a warning that goes with this term; it comes out of an experimental discipline and should not be considered ‘hard science.’ It is important not to over-exaggerate any temporary conclusions; all we think we know about the brain is illusive and changes quickly. For example, recent studies have discovered 97 more parts to the brain than were previously identified. But, being careful and conservative, what appears to be true is that humans are ‘wired’ for empathy. Simply put, neurons in one brain react to neurons in another brain. In a way we do not understand completely, human neurons ‘mirror’ each other. There are always exceptions, but generally speaking, we co-share our feelings and our thinking in what some theologians call ‘inter-dependence.’ If marketing can benefit from these studies, then so can we.

What seems to be true is that we humans need to know how we feel before we can make up our minds. This leads me to think that it is best if we “worship before we know, or worship in order to know.” It is not so much that we leave our brains at the door when we enter God’s house to worship, but that we allow our worship to touch and influence our thinking. This is especially true during Holy Week. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, Easter Celebration all involve some form of worship or prayerful meditation for us at WOCC. (We do not have a Good Friday worship service here at WOCC this year, but we have scheduled prayer at 10:50 am that day). This year, let’s make it a point to consider how we feel during Holy Week and how that is mirrored in our congregation. When we share our grief or our joy with others, something important happens in our community. Philo once said: “fear is grief before grief, while courage is joy before joy.” Holy Week, by its very nature, leads us through an emotional journey of both grief and joy, fear and courage. Let us mirror “good grief” and “good joy” this Holy Week, as the case may be, that those who witness may see the love and grace of Christ Jesus in action!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Randy

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### ***The Coming Revolution in Church Economics: Why Tithes and Offerings are No Longer Enough and what you can do about it*** by Mark DyYmaz and Harry Li

This is our common reading for the next few weeks after Easter. Several Oklahoma City congregations are now reading this together and discussing it. There are some tips for partnering and raising income in other ways to help sustain the congregation going forward. It is challenging and comforting at the same time; hopeful in the best sense of the word. I look forward to chatting with you about our reading in the coming weeks. Look on Amazon to purchase new or used copies

Just a reminder for the Easter Special Offering to be collected on Easter Sunday (March 31). This special offering supports the General Ministries of the Disciples of Christ.



A list of these ministries may be found on the Disciples.org website: <https://disciples.org/general-ministries/>Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors, chaplains, and so much more.

Pastor Randy



A special thanks to Ben, Julia, and Cindy for the extra time and work during this time of transition.



Marge	Evans	4/5	Tyler	Bradley	4/21
Margaret	Blackerby	4/5	Max	Patzack	4/22
Dean	Lunsford	4/6	Jenna	Droke	4/22
Mike	Fadum	4/17	Donna	Nevel	4/25
Lissa	Foster	4/19	Sandra	Spillman	4/25

## Upcoming Sermons

April 7, 2024: Holy Humor Sunday Pastor Randy  
Sermon Title: The Beard of Aaron  
Scripture: Psalm 133  
Theme: Some humor surrounding Aaron's Beard, and other laughing matters.

April 14, 2024 Pastor Randy  
Sermon Title: Broiled Fish & Honeycomb  
Scripture: Luke 24:36b-48  
Theme: Memes of resurrection (Anastasis) that inspire us to do more

April 21, 2024 Pastor Randy  
Sermon Title: Soul Repair  
Scripture: 1 John 3:16-24  
Theme: God is greater than our moral injury and moral conscience

April 28, 2024 Rev. Julia Jordan Gillett  
Sermon Title: TBA

### Current Directory information

Need a current address? Do you have an old directory?

You can always look up the latest updated info on the ShelbyNext app, Cindy can help you set that up.

Or if you would like a printed copy, Cindy can email or print a copy for you.



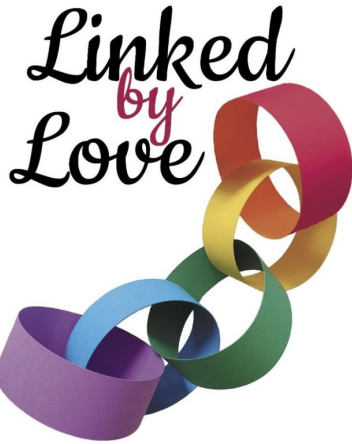
You are always welcome to call Cindy any time for new changes.

## PRAYER BREAKFAST

### Don't Forget!

Elders are meeting for prayer breakfast on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays.

**CHURCH CAMP** Registration is now open.  
 Deadline is April 24<sup>th</sup>. (this deadline makes it possible for us to get the discount.)



Tawakoni

**2024 Camp Dates**  
 Chi Rho Camp:  
 June 3-7  
 Oakridge Camp & Conf Center

CYF  
 Conference:  
 June 17-22  
 Disciples Center @ Camp

Discovery Camp: June 21-23  
 Camp Christian

Junior Camp: June 24-28  
 Camp Christian

Family Camp: August 31-September 2  
 Camp Christian

Western Oaks Christian Church



**Senior Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup>**



We will recognize our seniors during worship. If you have a senior in high school, college, or graduate school, please tell Julia or contact Cindy in the church office. We want to brag on our graduates!

**BINGO SUNDAY & TACOS**  
**April 7 12:30 pm**

Lunch and Bingo with prizes and a craft Taco's and toppings will be served. You may bring chips and / or desserts. **All are welcome** to celebrate with our children this special day!!



Image by storyset on Freepik



Thank you Jim Ellis for replacing the PVC pipe for the banners for all our big events! We appreciate your gift of time and also Mark Gillett as you placed our banners at WOCC for the Easter Egg Hunt!! A special thanks for everyone who filled eggs for us.



**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**  
[office@woccdoc.org](mailto: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**

**Thursday, Mar 28**    **Maundy Thursday** Worship 6:00 pm  
**Saturday, Mar 30**    Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am  
**Sunday, March 31**    **Easter Sunday**  
 Easter Sunrise 7:00 am  
 Easter Offering  
 Benevolence Sunday  
**Sunday, April 7**    Bingo Sunday and TACOS 12:30pm  
**Sunday, April 14**    “Souper” Sunday Fellowship Lunch noon  
**Sunday, May 19**    Senior Sunday

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL on campus Worship
<b>3/10/2024</b>	31	42	<b>73</b>
<b>3/17/2024</b>	33	44	<b>77</b>

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
<b>3/10/2024</b>	\$1,638.84	\$30
<b>3/17/2024</b>	\$5,590	\$0

*“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”*



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«Name»  
 «Address»  
 «City»