

## Legend of the Paintbrush

Tomie DePaola, a well-known Irish-Italian children's book author from Connecticut, once wrote a book entitled, *The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush*. It records the story of a Native-American boy named 'Little Gopher' who had a dream-vision that he would one day paint a canvas with colors as pure as the evening sunset. As he was smaller and less athletic than the other boys in the tribe, the Shaman encouraged him to fulfill his dream as a painter for the tribe, recording their great events in color to give honor to their generation. As he grew older, he first acquired a beautifully white canvas made of buckskin and then began to search for the brightest flowers of the prairie, the reddest berries, the yellowest stones, the deepest purple inside the rocks, and the greenest leaves with which to paint. But, try as he might, none of his trial paintings could even come close to the colors of the sunset. Still, Little Gopher persisted in painting the great events of his People and was faithful to his calling despite the limitations of his colors. One day, while he was walking in the hills alongside the camp, he came across some painting brushes made of animal hairs and horse tails unlike any he had ever seen before sticking out of the ground and ready to use. Each brush had a color that matched a color in the sunset. Eagerly, he gathered them and began painting with bold and beautiful colors his dreamed masterpiece of the sky. He left the brushes on the hillside and brought his masterpiece down to the camp for everyone to see. Those who saw his painting began to say that he had captured the sunset and brought it to the earth, so brilliant were the colors. The storytellers began to speak of the miracle of the brushes on the hillside, how the brushes turned into beautiful wildflowers of fire across the landscape of the natural hills, and how God had blessed the People with an eternal beauty and a blessed vision.

As we look forward to Mother's Day, Graduation Sunday and Memorial Day, let's think of our own Dream-visions for a color-full future in our fellowship and worship. God has blessed us with an eternal beauty and everlasting joy in the risen Christ. We too can capture some of the sunset and bring it down to earth in our ceremonies, as well as in our Earth Day and Eastertide celebrations of Spring. We too can seek and find the colors of the rainbow in our family reunions and memorial honors. We can build a human peace with the divine glory embedded in the colors of the Native-American Paintbrush for a more satisfying and flourishing world in honor to Christ Jesus, our Lord. Alleluia!

Amen.

Pastor Randy

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**First Discussion 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*

**Chapter One:** "Churches will become more reliant on multiple streams of income in the future, leveraging assets to generate return on investment. A blended fundraising approach is likely to be most effective with newer generations." P. 34-5

Does this apply to us?

How can we adapt this information for WOCC?

## Transition Update

We are now entering the next phase in our transition to a new Senior Minister. Although the transition may appear to some to be playing out in slow motion, we are in keeping with the suggested timeline as described by Pam Holt, the recently retired Regional Minister who visited with the Administrative Committee in January before her departure. For their part, members of the Administrative Committee are meeting on a weekly basis to manage this special time of transition while maintaining regular affairs of the congregation.

The next, all-important phase is the appointment of a Senior Minister Search Committee.

According to the provisions in the WOCC Bylaws:

- a. In the event of a vacancy in the Senior Minister position a Senior Minister Search Committee shall be formed. The Committee shall be composed of seven members, including the Personnel Committee Chairperson. The other members shall be nominated by the Administrative Committee and confirmed by the Board. The Search Committee shall be responsible for recommending a prospective minister to the Board and shall remain intact until completion of its task.*

Members of the search committee are persons called and set aside by the congregation for the task of seeking new pastoral leadership. **Serving on a search committee is a spiritual calling – to represent the people of God in a particular congregation, at a particular time in their life, in the search for a servant of God to lead them into the future as faithful people of God.**

In this calling, members of the search committee represent the whole church. Therefore, they need to be persons who are knowledgeable of and committed to the heritage and practices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); who will command the respect and trust of the congregation to be objective in assessing both the church’s future and potential candidates, make sound judgments, represent the congregation fairly to prospective candidates, and **keep confidentiality**; and who are committed to providing continuing leadership after the new minister arrives.

The task of the Search Committee is significant to the life and future of the congregation. The work and decisions of the search committee will have a lasting effect. In faithful performance of their callings, the Administrative and Search Committees need to constantly seek the council and guidance of God through prayer and devotion and seek the support and intercession of the congregation in their public and private prayers.

Bob Melton

WOCC Vice-Chair

### Upcoming Sermons

April 28, 2024 Rev. Julia Jordan Gillett  
 Sermon Title: Branching Out  
 Scripture: John 15: 1-8

May 5, 2024 Youth Sunday  
 The WOCC children and youth will lead our worship.



in  
Loving  
Memory

Rev. Jim Gladney

October 8, 1954 - April 11, 2024

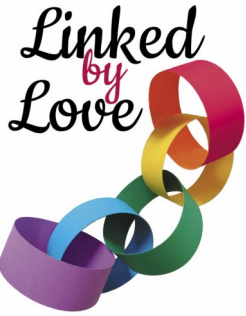


Congratulations to all those installed as officers for the Regional Church in Oklahoma on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at First Christian Church, Stroud,



Charlene	Majetic	5/3
Kay	Jewell	5/3
Susan	Hill	5/8
Sean	Hassell	5/25
Monica	Orr	5/27
Jennifer	Wilkinson	5/29

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



2024 Camp Dates

- **Discovery/Primary Camp**  
(K-Grade 3) — May 28-30
- **Junior Camp**  
(Grades 4-5) — June 3-7
- **Chi-Rho Camp**  
(Grades 6-7) July 29-Aug 3
- **CYF Camp** (Grades 9-12) — July 8-13
- **Grand Camp** (All Ages) — May 31-June 2
- **Family Camp** (All Ages) — July 19-21

**YOUTH SUNDAY May 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**during both worship services**

Come support our young people. This will be the first youth Sunday any of them have participated.

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!

We would also like a picture of your graduate, if possible.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Coming June 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>**

All are welcome and bring your children, grandchildren and neighbors!

We will begin with a meal at 5:45p.m.

We will meet Lu the firefly as we have a summer camp adventure with God!

**VBS Worker Meeting**

**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> in the parlor**

**12:30p.m. Following Coffee Fellowship**

We will hand out curriculum if you haven't already received it as well as give out the schedule. The meeting will be brief.



**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, May 5** Youth Sunday  
**Sunday, May 12 & 19** Pentecost Offering  
**Sunday, May 19** Pentecost Sunday  
 Baptismal Sunday  
 Senior Sunday  
**Tuesday, May 21** CWF Business Meeting at Whipped  
 Interim Pastor Randy Hill will speak

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL on campus Worship
<b>3/7/2024</b>	22	38	<b>70</b>
<b>1/14/2024</b>	32	44	<b>76</b>

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
<b>3/7/2024</b>	\$2,050	\$35
<b>1/14/2024</b>	\$2,975	\$30

*“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”*



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«Name»

«Address»

«City»