

Big Jake Syndrome

Have you heard the story about “Big Jake,” the world’s tallest horse, who passed away in July 2021 at the Smokey Hollow Farm in Poynette, Wisconsin. He lived to be 20-years old, weighed 2,500 pounds, and was measured at the height of 6 foot 10 inches. He won the Guinness World Record in 2010. To honor Big Jake, his owner, Jerry Gilbert, has kept his stall empty and put up a brick outside with his name and picture. Jerry told us that “Big Jake was affectionate and gentle ... absolutely loved people ... he would lower his head to allow tiny children to pet him and let the kids put a halter on him. He was almost like a giant dog, following us and laying his head on our shoulder if he did not want us to leave his stall.”

According to the First Testament, The Israelites felt like “grasshoppers” alongside the giants who lived in the promised-land (Num. 13:33). As a case in point, Og, the king of Bashan, had a bedstead of iron which measured some 9 cubits long and 4 cubits wide (Deut. 3:11), which was longer than Goliath’s height by 3 cubits. Yet, Joshua and his men were not deterred from entering the promised-land; neither was David afraid in facing Goliath in the famous showdown between large and small. According to Matthew’s Gospel, Zacchaeus was small in stature, yet he did not let his height deter him from seeing Jesus. He “punched above his weight,” so to speak, to overcome his limitations, and Jesus invited him to supper (at Zacchaeus’ home) rather than the other way around, for instance, at a home designed for taller people.

Sometimes, we consider our problems too large or too many to solve. It may seem at times that the universe is not on our side—that fate has decided against our success. However, entertain for a moment what it might be like if we reversed that perspective? What if we choose to believe that the universe is our friend, rather than our enemy? What if the universe is actually on our side? What if God has kissed our efforts to achieve success, rather than the opposite? For example, what if the powers that be are supporting us in our plans to seek a new ministry or a new settled pastor? What if God plans for us to not only survive, but to thrive? Big does not necessarily mean formidable; large does not need to imply unmanageable. What if there is a “Big Jake” on the other side of our fear?

As we begin our search for a new settled pastor, pray with me, if you will, that we can embrace hope, rather than despair, in our plans for the future, and that we can begin this whole process with “Big Jake” on our side! Alleluia! Amen.

Interim Pastor Randy

Second Discussion Question on Common Reading: Chapter Two:

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

“We are not encouraging pastors or churches to pursue money at the expense of faith, ... Far from it! Rather we are encouraging a more thoughtful, honest, and smarter approach ... a better and wiser stewardship of assets, ... to advance the common good, strengthen the local church, and bring the hope of the gospel to people and communities who need it the most.” P. 46

Does this apply to us?

How can we adapt this information for our own setting?



Men's Discipleship Council for Division of Homeland Ministries (DHM) of the Christian Church (DoC) in the U.S. and Canada meeting Apr 26-28, 2024 in Indianapolis, IN.

Pastor Randy is a member of the Council and has been elected to serve for another two-year term.

YOU DID IT!
Congratulations



Kaden Alan Frank
Yukon High School

Kaden has enlisted in the U.S. Navy and will ship out this summer.

Hanna Northcutt
Rocky Mountain College of Art & Design, Denver CO

Masters of Fine Arts in Interior Design with Sustainability Emphasis

Barry & Jennifer Northcutt, parents Bill & Jenna Droke, grandparents

Hanna plans to design local & mountain residential homes in the Denver area.



YOUTH SUNDAY

Thank you to our youth and children who participated YOUTH SUNDAY on May 5th : Aaliyah Boyd, Adelyn Davis, Bella, Charlotte and Jackson Gabriel, Leighton Henderson, Bailey Morris-Jacobs, Drew Orr, Alorah and Adele Ross, Jacob Sills, Gavin and Genova Wage.

I also want to thank Roslyn Boyd, Jerry Cobb, Jim Ellis, Tobi Frank, Sarah Orr and Jan Sills for their participating in the Fruits of the Spirit video, lighting candles and being at our rehearsals. A big thank you to our A/V Techs Tobi Bessinger and Aspen Bessinger who made sure the important words our youth had to say could be heard! Another thank you goes to Matthew Gillett who edited the Fruits of the Spirit video creating an order to the questions and answers and put it to music!!

Everyone did such a wonderful job! What a testament that our church right now is alive and well with young people who are becoming leaders in their own right. May we continue to pray for and support all our children and youth as they continue to participate in worship in the year to come!!

Shalom.

Julia



Senior Sunday May 19th

We will recognize all our seniors during worship. If you have a senior graduating from 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.

Senior Recognition Sunday



ZOO DAY TUESDAY, MAY 21ST

All are welcome to come!! Meet at the Oklahoma City Zoo @ 9:45a.m.

Cost: 0-2 years is free; 3 -11 years is \$6; 12-64 years is \$9.

The church will pay ½ of the cost.

Please let Julia know by phone or texting by Monday, May 13th.

We are collaborating with First Christian Church in El Reno, who will also be going to the Zoo! The discount is great and we will divide into small groups according to churches.

Pentecost Sunday, May 19th is full of special activity!

We have four young women who will be baptized during the 11a.m. worship service: Adelyn Davis, Bailey Morris-Jacobs, Alorah and Adele Wage. They have thoughtfully worked with Julia and Jim in looking at the meaning of baptism and being a part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Julia

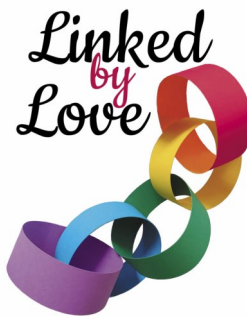
Western Oaks Christian Church

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



CHURCH CAMP

Registration deadline is May 15th.



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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Coming June 10th -13th

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

VBS begins with a meal at 5:45p.m. We will meet Lu the firefly as we have a summer camp adventure with God!



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 12 Mother’s Day
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
Sunday, Sept 8 60th Anniversary Celebration

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	Worship campus on TOTAL
4/21/2024	27	52	79
4/28/2024	24	52	76

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
4/21/2024	\$2,376	\$30
4/28/2024	\$590	\$30

Upcoming Sermons

Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 12th Pastor Randy
 Sermon Title: Under the Deborah Tree Scripture: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
 Theme: Spiritual decision-making informed by the heart (Deborah-Tree- Jg 4:5)

Pentecost Sunday, May 19th Pastor Randy
 Sermon Title: Filled with New Wine Scripture: Acts 2:1-21
 Theme: Baptismal Sunday, Senior Sunday – Gifts & Advice for the journey ahead!

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



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«Name»

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«City»