

Two Pledges

On May 19th, we celebrated the birthday of Christ's church and on July 4th we will celebrate the birthday of our nation. The church is almost 2000 years old; our nation only 248 years old. As many other congregations across our land, we have both a Christian flag and a United States flag in the sanctuary. In these halls, members have recited pledges to both flags:

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior for whose kin[g]dom it stands, one family, uniting all Christians in service and love."

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

It is our endearing hope that we never have to choose one flag over the other, for both pledges are enduring in our hearts for different reasons. Both pledges represent the best inside of us, our best natures regarding grace and freedom. And, of course, it is often the best of our young men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for us, whether that be dying in action or returning with severe spiritual and physical wounds. A famous preacher once said, "We fear the good and the best inside us, and among us, because they are so demanding of us. In crucifying our Savior, Jesus Christ, we crucified the best that God has to offer, perfect and beautiful, yet the saddest part of this is that we could only do so because we had first crucified the best within ourselves." Would we not rather recover the best inside ourselves and restore our respect for the best among us? Resurrection is, in part, the name we give to recovering and restoring the best, recognizing the best within ourselves and within others, within those who have given their lives for God and country.

There is a parable from India that gives us an example: There was an ancient tree that grew on the edge of the swamp with long roots going deep into the ground and far into the swamp. An old man sat beside the tree with a young boy watching him. The old man notices a scorpion caught in the roots of the tree where the roots wrap around each other a few feet out into the swamp and slightly above the water line; he ventures out into the swamp to free the struggling scorpion. And as he works on separating the scorpion from the roots of the tree, he is stung badly on both of his hands so that he has to go back to the shore to wash off his swollen hands and treat his wounds. Seeing the old man's hands so swollen, the boy comes over and asks the man why he was so foolish as to try to rescue the scorpion so far out into the swamp, knowing that he would be stung severely. The old man replied: "the scorpion's nature is to sting, but my nature is to save. I had to be true to my own nature regardless of what the scorpion might do."

Grace & Peace

Interim Pastor Randy

Sixth Discussion Question on Common Reading: Chapter six

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

"Benevolent owners are those who help both individuals and entire communities get beyond barriers and overcome obstacles that might otherwise make it difficult for them to navigate....

Churches seeking to become benevolent owners must practice love for their neighbors and the neighborhood. In other words, whatever decisions are made by the church and deemed good for it should also be good for the community. Likewise, when the community wins the church wins." P. 168-70.

1) Does this apply to us?

2) How can we adapt this information for our own setting?



5th Sunday Offering Boxes may be returned by June 30th

Here's hoping you and your household are finding meaning when you add money into the handcrafted bank. I know I do not spend enough time being thankful for my many blessings. I'm using the time when I put coins into the bank to name a blessing for each clink I hear.

The money from the banks will be placed in the WOCC Benevolence Fund, enabling us to demonstrate Loving God and Serving Our Neighbors.

Fern Melton, Elders' Representative to Administration Committee

*Western Oaks Christian Church
gratefully acknowledges the following memorial gifts.*



In memory of George Goodner:

Gaylon & Sue Brown

Justin Gamble

Duane Wood & Jane Hughes

Kay Lehman



In memory of Ken Whitt:

Linda Whitt

In memory of Suzan Carney:

Kay Lehman

Dear WOCC Friends,

Thank all of you for the prayers, cards, and get-well wishes while I have been recovering from knee replacement surgery. I still have a way to go but am feeling good and will be getting back to my normal routine before too much longer.

God bless you all,

Gretchen Dolive



Western Oaks Music Minute – Do You See What I See?

If you were in the Traditional Worship Service on June 16, you may have noticed our Television Screens were not functioning properly. All the work had been done to prepare in advance, and there is no other explanation other than gremlins...You know, those little unexplained issues, which only arise at the most inopportune time...We hope to have this issue resolved by this coming Sunday, but just in case it isn't, please let me encourage to utilize our Worship Bulletin and Hymnals, which can be found in the pews in the Sanctuary. Even when the Screens are working, let me encourage you to pick up and open a Hymnal and sing! These great hymns we sing can be even more meaningful if you look at the music and follow along. We are thankful for technology, especially when it works correctly, but nothing can replace opening a physical book.

Each week as we gather for Worship, several hours of diligent work have gone on behind the scenes to ensure a meaningful experience for all in both our Contemporary and Traditional Services. If you didn't know, WOCC has **three** separate opportunities which you can worship online with us for the 11:00 Service, if you are unable to join us live in the room. We are also working on the processes to begin livestreaming our 9:00 AM Contemporary Service, which is exciting! We currently livestream weekly at the following locations:

Visit www.woccdoc.org to watch online via our Church Website on your Computer. You may stream directly to your Television (or phone) via our YouTube Channel/App (www.youtube.com/@woccdocokc), or find us on Facebook – *Western Oaks Christian Church*, where you can also stream directly to your mobile device.

We are thankful we are able to be together even when we are far apart. Please subscribe to these free services, and help us get the word out about what we are offering here at WOCC. If you need help, please reach to me directly, and I would be happy to assist you. We currently only have 18 subscribers on our YouTube Channel, and we would like to greatly improve these numbers.

Lastly, please join me in thanking Sarah Orr for her hard work leading our children in Music during Vacation Bible School. This is an important role, and we are thankful for Sarah, and all of our wonderful volunteers and leaders. We hope to share a special VBS Video with you during the 11:00 Service on June 23, so please join us. Also, Sarah and Bella Gabriel will be serving as our Guest Pianists this Sunday, as Rosa will be out of town. Please be in prayer for all of these special ladies as they serve through our Lord through the WOCC Music Ministry.

It is an honor to serve with each of you. Soli Deo Gloria!

Peace and Joy,

Andrew Orr , Director of Music

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL has come and gone and was a great success!!

THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED US VISIT Camp Firelight with Lu and Sami



We appreciate all those who served the meals, who shared our music, theme for the day and the mission project of the Blessing Box, took our children from place to place, to crafts, science, Bible stories, and those who helped with games.

We averaged around 35 to 50 people per night. The most we had were on Tuesday with 23 children. The meals were always tasty and gave us a great start to the evening.

It was obvious the children enjoyed and learned the Bible stories when they danced to the songs lead by Sarah Orr during Sunday worship and enjoyed the Bible story that Tom Jewell, Jim Ellis and Noah Mars did for us on Sunday and all week long!



Western Oaks Christian Church

**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**



We are excited to have 9 campers and 2 counselors going to Church camp this summer! We have 4 new campers and your letters are appreciated!!

Here are kids, dates, and addresses:

CYF Conference June 19th - 24th & is at a new site.

The Disciples Center at Camp Tawakomi
8492 SW Tawakomi Rd, Augusta, KS 67010-8111
Counselor: Julia Jordan Gillett

Discovery Camp June 23th - 25th (New site)

Camp Christian Conference Center
275 Camp Christian Lane, Chouteau, OK 74337
Campers: **Aaliyah Boyd, Jackson Gabriel, & Genova Wage**
Counselor: Aanika Gillett

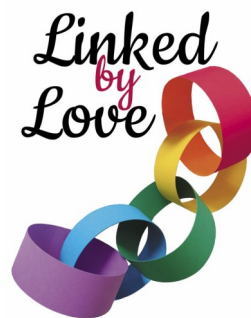
Junior Camp June 26th - 30th

Camp Christian Conference Center
(see address above)

Campers: **Charlotte Gabriel and
River Rayburn-Joseph**
Counselor: Julia Jordan Gillett

Linked by Love is the theme for Church Camp and Julia is at CYF conference this week. She will be going with two campers next week to Junior camp.

Please send mail to our campers that we have going to discovery camp on June 21 and at Junior camp the following week!



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, June 23

Sunday, June 30

Sunday, Sept 8

Board Meeting 12:15pm

Congregational Meeting after worship 9 & 11

60th Anniversary Celebration

Upcoming Sermons

June 23, 2024

Sermon Title: Widen Your Hearts Scripture: 2 Cor. 6:1-13

Theme: Extravagant Welcome, Reducing obstacles and restrictions in our gatherings

June 30, 2024

Sermon Title: Mighty Stories of Liberty and Faith Scripture: Proverbs 11:14

Theme: Stepping into the stories of patriotism and faith in responsible ways.

July 7, 2024

Sermon Title: Excelling in . . . Scripture: 2 Cor. 8:7-15

Theme: We are made in the image of The Divine One (Ha Gadol) - Excelling in Generosity, Love, Faith, Eagerness, Grace

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL on campus Worship
6/2/2024	26	55	81
6/9/2024	20	46	66

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
6/2/2024	\$14,500	\$0
6/9/2024	\$4,445	\$30

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



8100 NW 23rd Street
 Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»