

Freedom Rider

In 1940, Woody Guthrie wrote a tribute to something he called the “freedom highway.” He poetically described it as a ribbon of highway, somewhere under an endless skyway and somewhere above a golden valley, located between the redwood forests and the gulf-stream waters, between California and New York. You might think of that inflectional moment in the movie “Forrest Gump” (1994) when Forrest stops running down the two-lane highway and bends over to breathe, as if to say: “no one is chasing me now. I am home free.”

Isaiah has a unique perspective on the Exodus, calling it God’s highway to freedom. Just as the people freed from slavery in Egypt walked through the Red Sea on dry ground, so God will build a highway through the Euphrates River for a free people from Assyria to cross over with dry sandals (Is. 11:16). In like manner, says Isaiah, God will build a highway for the redeemed (Is. 35:8), for those liberated for love and peace. At the end of that straight desert highway, John the Baptist proclaims, is freedom (Mk 1:3). It is for that freedom, echoes Paul, that Christ has set us free (Gal. 5:1). Theologically speaking, the early church declared an early form of the atonement, that, when Christ ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive, “leading captives in his wake” too numerous to count (Eph. 4:8; Ps. 68:18), leading those captives to freedom.

Congress quietly created a new federal holiday in June 2021 —Juneteenth, June 19th. It celebrates the birth of freedom from slavery declared in the Emancipation Proclamation, the news of which was delivered to the slaves in Texas two years later, on the date called Juneteenth. Freedom seems to be one of the few things that Congress can agree upon in recent years. Yet, it may well be the most important one. In Christ, in the beloved community of the redeemed, freedom-delayed need not be freedom-deferred. Forrest Gump, in the movie mentioned above, was running from his memories, from a slavery forged in his youth. Freedom was only a breath away on the freedom highway. And, so too, for us. Our freedom, our Juneteenth, is only a breath away. So, breathe deeply and fully of the freedom that surrounds us! That freedom, which says ‘no’ to all forms of racism, should be celebrated, not only on the Fourth of July, not only on Juneteenth, but every day of the year. It is a freedom forged in Christ Jesus, and fully received when we stop to breathe freely at the crossroads of joy, peace, love and grace.

God bless you in your own Juneteenth journey, in your own Freedom Sunday, and every day of the year!

Grace & Peace

Interim Pastor Randy

Fourth Discussion Question on Common Reading: Chapter Four

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*

“A significant number of people are dissociated from the church and from the hope of the gospel based on socio-economics due to traditional approaches to church planting, development and funding. . . . seeking to plant in communities where the potential for numeric and financial growth exists is only natural, but God calls us to live in the supernatural (where those who live in poverty are disenfranchised from hope). P. 120-2, 127.

1) Does this apply to us?

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

Sixty Years at WOCC

Sixty years ago, in 1964, one of the top songs on the Billboard Chart was “Glad All Over” by the Dave Clark Five, a little-known group of five musicians in London who would knock the Beatles off the top of the UK singles chart.

Back in the States, there was another group – a group who was thinking “We’ve Only Just Begun” long before it would be a Carpenter’s smash hit. For this group of twelve Disciples in Oklahoma City had come together to form a new community of faith to be known as Western Oaks Christian Church.

Sunday, September 8, we will celebrate, ‘Glad All Over’, because it is the **Sixtieth Anniversary** of our founding. Lynda Gervais is chairing the committee of Jenna Droke, Jim Ellis, Tom & Kay Jewell, Charlene Majetic, Bob & Fern Melton, Okie Merry, and Andrew Orr in planning for our one day-long celebration. If you would like to share anything with the committee – i.e., thoughts on the celebration, memorabilia, who should receive special invitations – please reach out to any member.

‘We’ve Only Just Begun’ the day’s program, but we know already there will be a **Reception at 10:00 am**, followed by a **Diamond Jubilee Worship at 11:00 am**. In the afternoon, we will gather for a **Banquet at 1:00 pm** in Schwind Hall. Please mark your calendar now – **Sunday, September 8** – for our **Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration!**



Congratulations, WOCC, on raising \$924.00 for Church World Service Blankets this past January 2024!”

In 2023, Church World Service (CWS) delivered 32,785 blankets worldwide (including over 26 states in the United States). This ministry is all about sharing love and compassion through the warmth of blankets.

Thank you so much for your generosity!



Please pick up your 5th Sunday Blessing Bank.

These handcrafted Blessing Banks are in Schwind Hall by the wooden offering box, and the East Narthex by the offering box.

The purpose of the 5th Sunday Blessing Banks is for you and your household to prayerfully remember our church during this time of transition. The money collected from the boxes will be placed in WOCC’s benevolence fund. You may return your 5th Sunday Blessing Bank on June 30th, or before if it is full and overflowing. Thank you for being part of this mission of the church.



in Loving Memory

Ken Whitt

July 28, 1944 - October 9, 2023

His Memorial Service will be held in The Chapel at First Christian Church, 201 E 2nd St., Edmond, OK on Saturday, June 15 at 10:00am.

If you would like to attend and need a ride, please contact Cindy in the church office.

Cards may be sent to Linda Whitt at: 15015 20th St E., Parrish, Florida 34219.



Did you leave your dish in the big kitchen?



We have lots of dishes that have been left in the big kitchen from past events. Please pick them up ASAP.

We will put all the remaining items in the cabinets to be used at a later date.

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!

NEEDED: 40 empty 2 liter soda bottles for a science project during VBS.

Beige or Tan flat sheets for "tent flap doors" during VBS

CAMP BLESSING

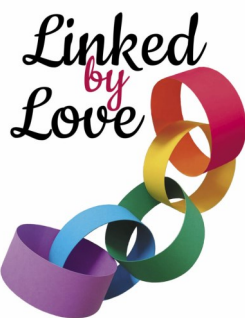
Last Sunday we had a camp blessing for all the children and youth going to Camp in the month of June. Please pray for all who are listed and others who will also be going to camp. The blessing ended with:

"May you come back reminding us that we are linked by love, too.

Go with our love and go with our hopes.

We pray that you are blessed at camp

So that you can be a blessing for many. Amen."
May it be so!!



Western Oaks Christian Church



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:

Chi Rho Camp June 3rd - 7th

Oakridge Camp and Conference Center
20007 State Highway 9, Anadarko, OK 73005

Campers: Adelyn & Ryan Davis, Adele & Alorah Ross

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



Our youth going with the El Reno youth to Chi Rho Camp!

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 9

Elder's Meeting 12:00pm
Admin Meeting 12:15pm

June 10-13

Vacation Bible School 5:45 - 8:15pm

June 16

Father's Day
VBS Presentation during Children's Message

Sunday, June 23

Board Meeting 12:15pm

Sunday, June 30

Congregational Meeting after worship 9 & 11

Sunday, Sept 8

60th Anniversary Celebration

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL on campus Worship
5/19/2024	25	61	86
5/26/2024	21	49	70

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
5/19/2024	\$4,325	\$60
5/26/2024	\$1,485	\$30

Upcoming Sermons

Sunday, June 9th

Sermon Title: A House Not Made With Human Hands

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Theme: How do we build our spiritual house here at WOCC?

Father's Day, June 16th

Sermon Title: A Noble Cedar Scripture: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Theme: Nobility of fatherhood, encouraging, comforting, & challenging as a parent

June 23, 2024

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

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

"Loving God, Serving our Neighbors"



8100 NW 23rd Street
Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»