

Filling the Gaps

You may be familiar with one of the New York Times Best Seller Books called 29 Gifts in 29 Days: the Challenge to a month of Giving by Cami Walker. It is a challenge to each of us to learn about the South African philosophy known as "Ubuntu" which means something to the effect "I can only be me when I remember I am connected to others." The book challenges us to give a gift each day for a month, the gift may be flowers or laughter or smiles or the gift of your time or your listening. There are multiple forms of giving that qualify; the important thing is that you give mindfully and intentionally each day. The promise is that at the end of the month of giving we will be transformed by the process of giving, and as a result, also learn how to receive graciously. The grace of God comes to us both in giving and receiving, and it is important that we learn how to do both well.

"Out of (Christ's) fullness we have all received grace upon grace," (John 1:16) grace in place of grace already given. The sense of this passage in Greek is that we have received an infinite measurement of grace, grace upon grace, upon grace, upon grace, and so on to infinity. Grace accumulates, carrying forward past grace into a larger amount of grace tomorrow. At the Table of Presence in the First Testament Tabernacle, thanksgiving involves giving a gift to God that, in turn, becomes a gift from God. No, we cannot simply skip the giving in order to go directly to the receiving. We cannot simply give a gift to ourselves and skip God's Table of Presence. To fully appreciate grace, we have to make the entire round-trip, from thanksgiving to thanks-receiving and back again. Gratitude is a full-circle experience!

In what seems to have become his legacy, Will Rogers smilingly informed us that the stranger, native or otherwise, with customs different from our own, is a potential friend we have not yet met. We might say, that to pre-give someone is to forgive with an edge toward understanding, or to pre-receive, a prayer toward anticipation of what does not yet exist, but might exist if we plan our steps carefully. Creation out-of-nothing (ex nihilo), as tradition says, may simply be a way of arriving at the finish line before we begin the race, or leaving the starting line after we have already finished the race. And so it is with our seeking a new settled minister, we welcome someone who potentially will help us expand our love into a fuller version of ourselves. It will take some pre-giving and some pre-receiving as we make our way forward in faith. And, yes, it is true that by giving the right gifts to our neighbors we give the right gifts to ourselves.

Grace & Peace
Pastor Randy

Sixth Discussion Question on Common Reading: Chapter Six

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*

"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?

Coffee, Tea, or...

Visitors in the Coffee Fellowship area got their first look at a project that is 5 years in the making, but now in the home stretch toward completion. Under the sheets are the components of a new Coffee Bar that will soon be in operation. Designed to be consistent with other architectural woodworked features in the building, the coffee bar will feature storage space for supplies, separate high volume and individual coffee production appliances, and hot water dispensing for non-coffee beverages. The high-capacity coffee makers will dispense into Airpot Lever-action canisters that allow several liters of coffee to be transported to other locations in the building for meetings and gatherings. The Coffee brewer will be directly plumbed into the existing water supply and can produce 4 to 7 gallons of coffee per hour, using water that has been processed through a high efficiency reverse osmosis filtering system. There will also be a sink installed with a pull down spray faucet.

Funding for the coffee bar project comes from the Memorial Fund, a special designated fund collected from memorial gift contributions which is designated to be used for special projects to enhance the church. The Memorial Bells are an example of a special project funded by Memorial Funds. You may donate to this fund for any occasion to honor friends or family, living or passed, and provide a lasting enhancement to WOCC.

Water?

Several months ago, it became apparent that Bi-level ADA compliant water coolers near the office and Schwind Hall had problems. Persistent leaks and water flow issues necessitated their removal. Perhaps you have seen the signs on the wall asking you to Watch this Space! At one point, there was serious consideration to use the space for the coffee bar location but our resident architectural consultant, Dave Brown, noted the location is a high-traffic area and unsuitable for four-way human traffic flow of older and middle-aged adults and slow and fast moving youngsters. After an inspection and some great work by a local plumber, things are all set for installing replacement water coolers. This set has an upgrade feature in that there is a bottle filling station attached. No more tilting your water bottle to catch the water stream while trying to not have any overflow. This bottle filler is hands-free and delivers 8 gallons per hour of cool, filtered water!



Funding for the water fountain replacement come from the cash-back reward feature of our church credit card. Our rewards balance covered the entire purchase price of the water coolers, but only a portion of the installation. If you want to donate to the water cooler installation, please indicate "Water Cooler" in the memo line of your check or on-line donation. Special Thanks to Dave Brown for his leadership and donation of time and expertise for both of these projects!

Bob Melton

Thank you to the WOCC Congregation for Sunday's vote to approve the slate of candidates for the 2024-2025 leadership year.

WOCC Administrative Committee

**ALL CHURCH PROMOTION SUNDAY
COMING SOON!!**

Sunday, August 11th @ 10a.m.



Image by Freepik

All are invited to the promotion Sunday Breakfast. The Life Lessons Sunday School class has graciously offered to serve yummy pancakes to everyone!!



Western Oaks Christian Church

**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**



Let's go to the splash pad!!

Tuesday, July 16th meet @ 10a.m. at Western Oaks Christian Church

We will caravan to Mustang to the Splash pad. Please bring a lunch and drinks. The church will provide the coolers. All are invited! We will come back to the church in the early afternoon.



Church Camp Season is over. Everybody had great experiences at the 4 different camps. Your sponsorship of all nine children was tremendous for all who attended camp and no one got sick!! The music, small groups, games and worship have been talked about by all and will aid them all in their faith journeys.



The Chi Camp for those in 6th to 8th grade led the way with our youth! We are thankful for the ability to adapt as our Ryan Lewis, Adelyn Davis, Adele and Alorah Ross headed to camp with First Christian, El Reno and came home with Julia.

Discovery Camp was a hot weekend!! Aaliyah Boyd, Jackson Gabriel and Genova Wage enjoyed being at the Camp Christian near Chouteau, Oklahoma. Aanika Gillett enjoyed being a counselor and getting to interact with all our children!



Junior Camp was the final camp for the season, also at Camp Christian near Chouteau. Charlotte Gabriel and River Joseph-Rayburn enjoyed being in the same cabin with Julia Jordan Gillett and the other children and counselors. It looked to be a hot week, however the rain we had on Wednesday morning cooled the temperature to 92 degrees!! A great time was had by all!!

I wanted to let everyone know my family will not be present at worship on Sunday, July 7th. We are going to Wichita, Kansas for July 4th and have a family reunion/98 & ¾ birthday party for my mom, Katherine Jordan. We have 45 family members coming from Alabama, Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri and Texas. Some cannot come in October to celebrate Mom's actual birthday and this is the first time we have gathered with cousins in more than fifteen years. Have a blessed fourth and I will be back in town by Monday, July 11th

Julia

Vacation Time!

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

Saturday, July 27 Back to School Event 10:00am
 Western Oaks Middle School

Tuesday, July 16 Kids Splash Pad Event 10:00am

Sunday, Aug 11 All Church Promotion Breakfast 10:00am

Sunday, Sept 8 60th Anniversary Celebration

Upcoming Sermons

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

July 14, 2024
 Sermon Title: "When Things Don't Quite Measure Up" Scripture: Amos 7:7-15
 Theme: Adaptability is important in serving others.

July 21, 2024
 Sermon Title: Redeem Your Time Scripture: Mark 6:30-34; 53-56
 Theme: Where preparation meets opportunity, our time is redeemed in the
 search for what is yet unknown.

July 28, 2024 Rev. Dr. Tom Jewell

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	Worship campus on TOTAL
6/16/2024	25	44	69
6/23/2024	21	36	57

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
6/16/2024	\$1,390	\$30
6/23/2024	No Depos	It

"Loving God, Serving our Neighbors"



8100 NW 23rd Street
 Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»