

A Well-Taught Tongue

“The Lord has given me a well-taught tongue that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning, God wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.” (Is. 50:4)

It is best, says Isaiah, to have a well-taught tongue. Consider your words, your language, your tone, before you speak, as to how they will be received by the hearer. The poet, Robert Frost, once said that ‘the ear is the best reader.’ How will it sound to the one being spoken to?

A well-taught tongue is one that has had many failures over the years in order to finally get it right. Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer writes that we should hold our tongue rather than loosen it, not saying much of what occurs to one to say. Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita lists as one of the characteristics of good leadership that we count to 10 before speaking and give our brains time to catch up with our emotions. Having a ‘well-taught tongue is like having a ‘bridled tongue,’ (James 1:26; Psalm 39:1); such a tongue has calculated the cost of its message and is efficiently used. On the other hand, when your tongue is sharpened (not well-taught), it produces all manner of cruel words that are like deadly arrows (Ps. 64:3).

You know when someone is in touch with your world, and when not. The words ring true. They carry weight. They are of the right language for the culture and the moment. They are spoken when you are ready to hear them, not before, not after. They satisfy your desperate need to know.

They relieve your panic and answer your most persistent questions. They ease your exhaustion, massage your fatigued muscles. They come at the right time and in the right manner. Proverbs 15:23 says: ‘How good and delightful is a word spoken at the right moment! There is joy in giving an appropriate answer. We are sometimes told there is a difference between what sounds logical and what is sound logic. But it is also true that they often are the same. An answer must sound right to us, if we are to hear it, as much as being right, in and of itself.

When I think back to all the teachers in my life, I am humble and thankful that they were part of my growing years. They sacrificed so that I might gain. They taught me persistence so that I might keep trying until I get it right, that I might stay in the race even if I finish dead last, so that I know that I made it through, even though I so much wanted to quit and walk away. They lifted me on their shoulders so I could see the road ahead. As Paul once wrote, ‘I gave you a part of myself, so precious had you become to me.’ (1 Thess. 2:8). Please join me this month in giving thanks for the many teachers in our lives!

Grace & Peace

Pastor Randy

Twenty-third 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*

Between 1990 and 2009, church attendance only increased by 446,540 while the general population grew by 56 million. P. 119

1) On special occasions, like Christmas Eve, WOCC might find that it has the same or more visitors than members attending. When this occurs, what does this tell us?



The Art Gallery at 50 Penn Place highlighted the paintings of Virginia Johnson on Sunday, March 2, 2025 at a reception in the gallery.

Congratulations, Virginia!

Pastor Randy

CWF - March Meetings

Executive Meeting - Tuesday, March 4 at 10:00 am.

Business Meeting - Tuesday, March 11 at 10:00 am

Arrive a little early to get your "snacks" and we can begin the meeting at 10:00.

Lynne Roller director of Citizens Caring for Children will be our guest speaker.

Betty Singleton

Current Directory Information

You can look up the latest updated info on the ShelbyNext app or if you would like a printed copy, Cindy can email or print a copy for you.



PC West Performances

March 6 & 7 7:00 p.m.

March 8 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at [PC West](#)

Adult tickets \$10 Student/Children tickets \$5

WOCC is feeding the cast and crew at one of their day-long rehearsals this week.

They appreciated our support through the years, and everyone is invited to come see the musical.



in Loving Memory

Rev. Lura Cayton

February 27, 2025

Please remember Rev. Dick Cayton and family in your prayers.

Cards may be sent to Dick at: 305 SW 19th Terrace, Blue Springs, MO 64015

5TH SUNDAY BENEVOLENCE OFFERING

Remember to get your Offerings and Prayer Pocket

Found on the Tables in Schwind Hall and the East Narthex

Be part of our prayer and change during the month of March.



To my WOCC Family,

I can't thank everyone enough for the cards, messages, thoughts, and prayers. Rocky's service would not have been successful without the help from our church family.

Thank you for the wonderful lunch, and the special time we were able to share with family & friends.

With Love,

Kelli, Josh, & Rocky



Dear Western Oaks Family,

I hope this article finds you well and blessed! We understand many of our members appreciate having flexible worship options, which is why I'm excited to remind you about our three convenient ways to participate in online worship on Sunday mornings. A great deal of work and effort go into offering these options, so I hope you will consider taking advantage of them when you are unable to join us in person on campus!

Digital Worship Options

Facebook Live

- Join us on our Facebook page: "Western Oaks Christian Church"
- Services stream live every Sunday at 11:00 AM (on all Digital Worship Options)
- Interact with other members through comments and reactions
- Videos remain available for replay after the service
- Follow our page to receive notifications when we go live

YouTube Channel

- Subscribe to "Western Oaks Christian Church"
- High-quality video and audio streaming
- Access to archived sermons and special services
- Easily cast to your smart TV
- Perfect for family viewing on larger screens

Church Website

- Visit www.woccdoc.org
- Most secure and stable viewing platform
- Access additional resources like bulletins and study guides
- Simple, distraction-free worship experience
- Mobile-friendly design for viewing on any device

Technical Support

If you need assistance accessing any of our online platforms, please contact Andrew Orr: Email: andrew@woccdoc.org or Phone: (405) 313-3190

Staying Connected

Remember, whether you're worshipping in person or online, you're an important part of our church family. We encourage you to reach out, participate in chat discussions, and share prayer requests through any of these platforms.

Peace and Joy,

Andrew Orr, Director of Music



“For where two or three gather in my name, I am there among them.” - Matthew 18:20 NRSV

Connect@ EMPOWER & Equip

Empower & Equip was a wonderful event at Crown Heights Christian Church!

I am proud of our youth Alorah Ross and Jacob Sills who prayed for the lunch we had provided by Phillips Theological Seminary. Our children had fun with others from Oklahoma City and Tulsa area working together as they learned about Lent and were able to do a prayer labyrinth provided by Paul Ragel.

Western Oaks Christian Church

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Midwinter Regional Youth Retreat

We had snow at Midwinter Retreat this year on February 15th-17th !! The snow added to the beauty of our camping experience and to our theme of **Finding Joy in Hard Times**. Julia took Alorah and Adele Ross and Jacob Sills to Camp Christian near Chouteau, Oklahoma. We were excited to see camp friends and meet others from around the region as we met in small and large groups together. The group went on Sunday afternoon to Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art and then to Sky Zone a trampoline part in Tulsa!



VALENTINES DINNER AND DESSERT AUCTION WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!! We raised \$3,114.50 for our youth and children to go to church camp and the OKC Mission trip!!

What a wonderful evening thanks to all who Tobi Frank and crew who made our delicious dinner to those who decorated the beautiful tables, to those who made the scrumptious deserts and finally to Jimmy Ille our auctioneer extraordinaire!! You are a blessing Western Oaks Christian Church and our children and youth appreciate working with everyone as we prepare for further events this year!!

Blessing,
Julia




Annual Easter Egg Hunt is early this year!

Saturday, April 19 11a.m. to 12:30p.m.

We will have Egg Hunts by grade levels, crafts, cotton candy, hot dogs, games and more!!

Your help is needed to distribute eggs at the Easter Egg Hunts and the various activities!

Eggs will be placed by the church office and in the narthex in front of the sanctuary.

Thanks for all the support in filling eggs for our community beyond the church!!

Julia Jordan Gillett.

CHILDREN'S VALENTINES PARTY

We had a great time!! We ate a delicious lunch of pizza and decorate your own valentine cookie! We also enjoyed making some crafts thanks to Kelli Fearing creativity and playing musical chairs.

We appreciate the support of parents and grandparents who always add to **It takes a Village to raise a child and to make a scrumptious meal.**



As part of our Valentine's party, the children and youth helped Kelli Fearing to paint rocks for the rock garden at the Veterans Center that was started by some former staff of Windsor Hills Elementary School, including Kelli Fearing. The veterans ask different groups and people to help keep it stocked with uplifting rocks.

The children and youth at Western Oaks Christian Church were excited to help out!!





March 4, 2025

Please remember these friends in prayer:

Karen Russell
Katherine Jordan
Bill Cress
Kay Lehman
Annie Orr
Rylie Griffin
Max & Linda Patzack
Debbie Clary
Twila Ballard
Rhea Todd
Jennifer and James DelPierre

John Smith Walker
Montana Pursley & Family
Jeanie Gardner
Jean Slavik
Margaret Blackerby
Kay Norris
Dave and Nevonna Schroeder's daughter, Taryn
Lisa Sloan
Marion Bozarth
Jasper Shelton

Lebanon-Israel-Palestine sustained ceasefire
Ukraine - peace
Families of aircraft disasters:
AA Eagle Flight 5342 victims (64)
Army UH-60 Blackhawk victims (3)
Learjet 55 crash PA (6)
Family of Rev. Lura Cayton
Family of Paula Douglas Brady
Family of Duane Wood
Family of Rocky Fearing
Nancy Hyroop



For Our Home Centered

Verona Burke
Dean Lunsford
Deana Smith
Katherine Jordan
Dwaine Bradley
Eunice Lassiter

LaRue Ingram
Lonnie Maytubby
Lyeal Amos
Margaret Blackerby
Rhea Todd
Shirlee Ruedy
Lisa Sloan

Upcoming Sermons

Three-sermon series on the Life and Theology of Paul

First Sunday in Lent (Mar 9, 2025) Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16 Sermon Title: Paul: Crusader or Rabbi? Theme: Will the real Paul please stand up? Follower of Gamaliel or zealous Pharisee?

Second Sunday in Lent (Mar 16, 2025) Scripture: Romans 13:1-7 Sermon Title: Paul: Roman Citizen or Jewish Prophet? Theme: Will the real Paul please stand up? Citizen of Tarsus or Tribal prophet of Benjamin from Giscalis in Judea?

Third Sunday in Lent (Mar 23, 2025) Scripture: Philippians 2:6-11 Sermon Title: Paul: Greek Philosopher or Cilician Poet? Theme: Will the real Paul please stand up? Rational Debater of Athens or Rhyming Wordsmith of Corinth?

Church Staff
office@woccdoc.org

Upcoming

EVENTS

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

Attendance	Facebook	YouTube	Online	9:00 am	11:00 am	In House Worship	TOTAL Worship
2/9/25	5	0	5	25	46	71	76
2/16/2025	4	1	5	16	47	63	68

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
2/9/25	\$2,455	\$60
2/16/2025	\$1,823	\$0

- Wed, Mar 5** Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm
- Mar, 7** World Day of Prayer
- Sun, Mar 9** Cabinet Meeting 12:15 pm
Fruit of the Spirit - Mini Celebration 12:15 pm
- Sun, Mar 16** Blanket Offering Sunday
- Thur, Mar 20** Disciples' Men's Meeting 6:30 pm
at First Christian Church, Yukon, Oklahoma
Disciples Women's Fellowship Meeting 6:30pm
- Sun, Mar 23** Spiritual Enrichment Event – Fellowship 12:30 pm
- Sun, Mar 30** Benevolence Offering

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



8100 NW 23rd Street
 Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»