

Reversing Roles

Easter 2018 was celebrated on April 1st, known as April Fool's Day. The beginnings of April Fool's Day go back to ancient Rome, during the reign of Constantine, when a group of court jesters told the emperor that they could do a better job of running the empire. So, as Constantine decided to allow a jester named Kugel to be king for one day, it became an annual day of absurdity. No doubt, Kugel did a wonderful job! We can only imagine his fate if he overdid the role or underplayed it. Who hasn't, at one time or another, played the role of someone important just to feel what it would be like to be in their place? Role-playing even has a critical place in therapeutic counseling, playing things through to find or see the outcome.

The Jewish leaders accused Jesus of blasphemy because they believed he was insulting God by his claim to be the Messiah (Matt. 26:64-65). In some sense, they were putting him on trial for playing the role of God. It was not that he claimed to be so for one day, or that he underplayed or overplayed the role. It was not in accordance with an annual day of absurdity. It was not a mock trial to see and feel the outcome of a "pretend" court of justice. Caiaphas, the high priest, had trapped him under oath before the Sanhedrin with high dramatics, tearing his clothes and pointing the finger of shame toward him for reversing right and wrong, of inverting the moral values of the nation.

When we pretend to be God, in our own life, or the lives of others, we are groping toward answers which elude our understanding. What if we judge ourselves more harshly than others would judge us? Do we get credit with God for overdoing it? Or, what if we raise the bar of expectations higher for others than for ourselves? Are we holier in God's eyes when we compare favorably to others using a lower standard for ourselves? Alcoholics Anonymous is correct to ask whether we can surrender the role of playing God to ourselves. Perhaps it is important to know the outcome of such absurdity. Kugel, after all, has his moments of enlightenment. What could have been does not have to be! At the heart of judging (that we be not judged) is a desire for "separation," exceptionalism gone astray. The Easter Story, in the last analysis, is, and will be, that we have learned finally to let God be God, to let the cross be the cross, the empty tomb be empty, and to accept a role in the Body of Christ as servants of mercy.

Grace & Peace

Pastor Randy

Twenty-fifth 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*

"It is no secret: throughout the United States church buildings, parking lots, and real estate sit idle from Sunday to Sunday. The increased costs to maintain these spaces, ... have left many church leaders tired of fighting the budget and therefore opting to close the doors or merge with other congregations." P. 139

1) WOCC's parking lot does not sit idle that much during the week, hosting several large groups and sometimes even buses visiting P.C. West High School for sporting events. If our parking lot is a measure of aliveness, in your opinion, how do we rate on that scale?

CWF Dates

Executive Meeting	Tuesday, April 8
Business Meeting	Tuesday April 15

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus", a display of traditional and contemporary art from the collection of Tom & Kay Jewell, can be viewed in the Coffee Fellowship Area now through the month of April.



Lynda Gervais brought us an Easter Egg Tree to decorate our fellowship table on Sunday, March 23, 2025.

Thank you, Lynda! It was just the right touch for our fellowship that day.

New Grants for WOCC Ministries

WOCC received grants from the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation, Inc. on Tuesday, March 18, 2025:


WOCC Camp Scholarship - \$1,500.00
 23rd Street Alliance - \$1,500.00

The first grant will help send our WOCC children and youth to summer camps.

The second grant will help fund our yearly WOCC "Back to School Bash" (2025) that helps children and youth in the Putnam City West High School and Middle/Elementary Schools with their back-to-school needs for 2025-2026 school year.

Congratulations to everyone who volunteered to apply for these grants and those who helped make them a reality for WOCC! We appreciate you very, very much!

Pastor Randy



Happy Easter Greetings
 to my WOCC family!




from
 Lyeal Amos

Spiritual Enrichment Event

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025
 12:15 p.m.

Special Speaker

Rev. Dr. Shannon Fleck of the Oklahoma Faith Network
 former WOCC Youth Intern

Topic

Christian Nationalism

If possible, please watch "Bad Faith" which is streaming on multiple platforms such as Tubi (free), Peacock (free), You Tube (cost), Amazon Prime Video (subscription), etc.

Lunch will be served

Sign up Sundays after each worship service or call the church during the week.

We look forward to this special day and encourage you sign up and invite your friends.

Pat Brown, on behalf of the WOCC Elders




PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BABY SHOWER
 IN HONOR OF
Rylee Griffin

April 6, 2025 10:00am

West Narthex after the 9:00 service

Mom & Dad, Natalie and Gavin let us know
 Huggies Wipes, and clothing size 9 months for the
 summer would be appreciated

Hosted by: Sandra Cook, Kelli Fearing, & Fern Melton

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

IS COMING!

Monday - Thursday June 9th -12th

We will be doing the
Market Place again!



Western Oaks Christian Church

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

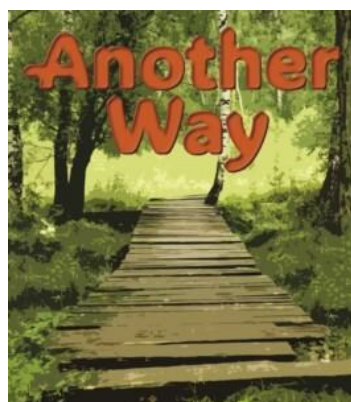


Easter Baptisms Easter Sunday, April 20th

We have seven participating in the baptism class each week during Sunday School leading up to Easter. The baptisms will be during the 11 a.m. worship service. They have thoughtfully worked with Julia and Jim and Tom in looking at the meaning of baptism and being a part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



Julia



Discount Rates Until April 23

Chi Rho Camp: \$440
Discovery Camp: \$180
CYF Conference: \$485
Junior Camp: \$325

Regular Rates April 24-May 15

Chi Rho Camp: \$480
Discovery Camp: \$210
CYF Conference: \$570
Junior Camp: \$375

Chi Rho Camp

[Canyon Camp](#) (Hinton, OK) June 2-6

Discovery Camp

[Camp Christian](#) (Chouteau, OK) June 13-15

CYF Conference

[Disciples Center at Camp Tawakoni](#) (Augusta, KS)

June 16-21

Junior Camp

[Camp Christian](#) (Chouteau, OK) June 23-27

A great week to sign up for camp!! We have four signed up so far! Question?? Call 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!!

Let Julia know if you are able to participate with our Easter Egg Hunts, from crafts to hiding eggs to face painting!

Please bring your Easter Eggs to the church by Sunday, April 13th so we can sort them into five groups for the Easter Egg Hunts. Thanks from the many children who will come to hunt eggs, have their face painted and make crafts!

Your help is needed to distribute eggs at the Easter Egg Hunts or use your creative talents to paint faces or help children as they play games!

If you are able to do any of these activities please contact Julia Jordan Gillett or Cindy at the office.



Easter Hunt Needs Bunny Trail Mix Ingredients: teddy grahams, mini marshmallows, M&M's, chocolate chips, white chocolate chips, peanut butter chips, small pretzels or sticks, goldfish crackers, raisins, salted peanuts, yogurt covered raisins, Cheerios, Chex, Golden Grahams, or other types of cereals, popped popcorn.

Please place in donation box by **Thursday, April 17th**. Thank you for helping make this a fun time for our children and our community.

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

Sun, Apr 13 Palm Sunday
Easter Offering
Fruit of the Spirit - Mini Celebration
Spiritual Enrichment Event & Luncheon 12:15

Apr. 13-19 Daily Prayer Session

Thur, Apr 17 Maundy Thursday 6:00pm

Sun, Apr 20 Easter Offering

Attendance	Facebook	YouTube	Online	9:00 am	11:00 am	In House Worship	TOTAL Worship
3/9/2025	4	2	6	23	42	65	71
3/16/2025	6	2	8	24	53	77	85

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
3/9/2025	\$3,070	\$60
3/16/2025	\$1,854.74	\$30

Upcoming Sermons

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Apr 6, 2025) – Rev. Dr. Tom Jewell preaching

Palm Sunday (Apr 13, 2025) Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Sermon Title: Born to Trouble: A Face Like Flint
Theme: Following Jesus as he sets his resolute face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:51)

Easter Sunday (Apr 20, 2025) Scripture: Luke 24:13-49
Sermon Title: Broken Minds and Burning Hearts
Theme: Cleopas and friends explore the meaning of resurrection in the moment

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



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«Name»
«Address»
«City»