

The Daring of Swallows

William Shakespeare once penned (Winter's Tale, Act 4, Scene 4): "Daffodils that come before the swallow dares, and take[s] the winds of March with beauty." We who live in central Oklahoma know something about the winds of March and the rains of April; they lead to the flowers of May. But, to the daring of swallows or to daffodils, perhaps we can only imagine the place where he wrote these lines. The winds of March have lingered into April and now seem appropriate to the approaching Easter season as we engage our inner spirits with our outer reality. There are times when we are blown off course and must seek shelter; there are times when our hair and our clothes are tempest-tossed, not to speak of our confidence and hope as well. The promise of Easter is that God is always with us no matter our circumstances (Phil. 4:11). Winds re-distribute the landscape in ways that we cannot imagine, but our religious reality is none the less for wear. As one author has said it, "the language of the cross ... is a desert language" appropriate to waiting; the language of the empty tomb is an oasis language appropriate to arrival. We know not how long to wait, but we know when we have arrived at a place of grace. The Psalmist writes: "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope (Psalm 130:5)." Sometimes, our waiting is noisy; sometimes quiet, but always inwardly intense. During Lent, we embrace God's presence in unknowing. Nothing is in control; nothing is precise. Change seems to run wild. Our identity seems threatened in a maze of options and discoveries. During Easter, we embrace God's presence in knowing. The Psalmists writes of arrival: "But, when I awake, O God, you are still there - Ps. 139:18."

As we head into Maundy Thursday this week, we engage the art and science of letting go of whatever we cling to so desperately and embracing the unknown Easter that awaits us just down the road. We can let go of the old wounds and expectation and dream ahead about a new reality just beyond our reach. We can begin to embrace the known Easter that is already here. If we can weather the winds of March and April, I am confident that God will provide, and has already provided, an Easter more beautiful than we could ever imagine. Together, we can bridge the 'dark night of the soul' with a cross of love and a resurrection of hope.

Happy Easter!

Pastor Randy

Twenty-sixth 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

"The significantly increased standard deduction will reduce the number of persons who are able to itemize deductions on Schedule A (Form 1040) from 30 percent to as few as 5 percent." P. 61

1) How will this change in the standard deduction affect the number of people giving to our church when they can no longer deduct charitable giving (Schedule A) from their taxes?

In Honor and In Memory

Traditionally on Easter Sunday, WOCC has provided an opportunity for individuals to purchase Easter lilies in honor of individuals or in memory friends or family members who have passed. However, since costs have increased (in excess of \$50 per lily for delivery from a local nursery), WOCC has purchased a few Easter lilies to decorate both first & second worship times.

We still intend to print names in honor or memoriam in the Sunday Easter bulletin.

If you have names you would like placed in the Easter bulletin, you can send them to Cindy at office@woccdoc.org or call the church at 405-789-8812 or 405-789-8848. The deadline for submitting names is Thursday, April 17 at noon.

The church office is not open on Fridays.

Spiritual Enrichment Event

Thank you to Rev. Dr. Shannon Fleck for speaking to us on Palm Sunday about this timely, troubling subject and for giving us ideas on how to reclaim and proclaim Jesus's messages of resistance to empire, empathetic compassion, and restorative justice. The Elders are planning another luncheon and talk for some time in May.



Please stay tuned.

Memorial Day Sunday May 25



We would like to honor those who have given their lives in the service of our country. Please contact Cindy in the church office by email office@woccdoc.org or phone 405-789-8812 or 405-789-8848.

Wonder:

The Inside Story

Luke 24:1-12

Supporting general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) received in most congregations

Sunday, April 13 & 20, 2025



2025 Easter Offering

Wonder: The Inside Story

At the break of dawn, the women came to the tomb, expecting to find the lifeless body of Jesus. Inside the tomb, the story takes an unexpected turn and invites us inside the story. In the solemn silence where death was presumed to dwell, the disciples instead encounter awe — a wonder that stirs their hearts and shifts their understanding. The resurrection ignites in us that same wonder, the wonder that gripped the first witnesses of the empty tomb — the wonder of love that conquers death, of hope that defies despair, and of a risen Christ whose presence transforms the world forever.

The Easter Offering, received on April 13 and 20, 2025, provides vital support for the general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your generous gift helps equip college students for leadership, strengthens global mission partnerships, sustains health and social service ministries, supports the formation of new congregations, cares for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.

Your gift has the power to transform lives and extend the love of Christ around the world. Give online today or through your congregation.

Thank you for making a difference.

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**

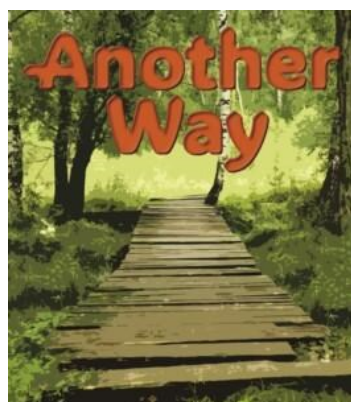


Easter Baptisms Easter Sunday, April 20th

We have six 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 Takoni](#) (Augusta, KS)
June 16-21

Junior Camp

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

A great week to sign up for camp!! We have nine 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!

Your help is still 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

- Apr. 13-19** Daily Prayer Session
- Thur, Apr 17** Maundy Thursday **6:30pm**
- Sun, Apr 20** Easter Sunrise Service - East Garden 7:00am
with Continental Breakfast following
Easter Sunday Baptisms
Easter Offering
- Sun, Apr 27** Youth & Children Lunch - games, activities, lessons

Attendance	Facebook	YouTube	Online	9:00 am	11:00 am	In House Worship	TOTAL Worship
3/23/2025	0	0	0	26	44	70	70
3/30/2025	5	3	8	24	53	77	85

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
3/23/2025	\$1,015	\$0
3/30/2025	\$1,300	\$30

Upcoming Sermons

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

Holy Humor Sunday, April 27, 2025 Scripture: Psalm 118:24-29
 Sermon Title: Backwards and Forwards Joy
 Theme: You are invited to share your joy! Bring a 'clean' joke to share during the sermon time period.

Third Sunday of Easter, May 4, 2025 (CWS Kit Sunday)
 Sermon Title: A Heavenly Breakfast Scripture: John 21:1-19
 Theme: Jesus invites us to be and share the Good News!

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



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«Name»

«Address»

«City»