

8100 NW 23rd Street Oklahoma City, OK 73127 office@woccdoc.org 405.789.8812

The Gift of Thanksgiving

I was watching one of the recent Hallmark Christmas movies this past week, and one of the characters said: 'Let the gift come to you.' The context was Christmas, but it could have been any-time: 'When searching for a gift, don't overlook or over-search, just wait for the gift's coming.' When it comes to Christmas shopping, I wish it were that easy, just having the gift idea launch off the shelf into your mind or heart, that this is the one. Susan and I have a common way of shopping for birthday cards. We both look at the card, and say something to the effect, 'that is an Amber,' or that is a "Jenna," or "that is a Jade.' We match the words inside the card, or the images on the card, to someone we know well. We know the right gift only when we see it, only when it jumps out at us, but we have problems planning ahead for it, visualizing the gift before we see it. Is this the way it is for you as well?

Diana Bass, in her book *Grateful: the Transformative Power of Giving Thanks*, suggests that instead of saying: 'I took Communion today,' we should instead say: 'I received Communion today.' (The Greek word *labete* can mean either 'take' or 'receive.')

In our English language, the verb 'take' has a lot of baggage associated with it, such ideas as 'stealing,' or 'grabbing' or 'possessing,' or 'taking something before someone else can get it.' The verb 'take' is wrapped up in privilege, status, entitlement, or power. However, the verb 'receive' shows gratefulness and abundance, a free gift of grace, for all and to all. To receive gifts and to give thanks is at the heart of the story of faith. The gift comes to us; we do not chase down the gift and tackle it. Bread is a gift, the One Loaf given for all; the One Cup is also a gift. Life and joy are gifts. No one can ever pay these back; all we can do is gratefully receive them and 'en-joy' them.

So, please enjoy your November, all of it. May it overflow with goodness and kindness for you! From giving gratitude for our Veterans and their service, or giving thanks on All Saints Day for all those of the past who have shaped our lives, or showing gratitude for our Thanksgiving bounty, or being grateful for the lowly and humble message of the Christ Child in the manger, let us receive and en-joy all of these moments!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Randy

**THANKSGIVING
SPECIAL OFFERING**



December Church Events

- Nov. 30 **Sunday of Hope** - Hanging of the Greens
- Dec. 6 Holiday Art Festivities 10 am - 2:00 pm
Make your own Christmas gifts to give.
- Dec. 7 **Sunday of Peace**
- Dec. 14 **Sunday of Joy**
 "Choral Cantata" 11:00 am
 by Joseph M. Martin
 Christmas Play "Not to Worry" 6:00 pm
 by Thomas R. Jewell
 Holiday Tasting Party - Schwind Hall 7:00 pm
Bring your favorite "sweets" to share.
- Dec. 21 **Sunday of Love**
 Children & Youth Christmas Play 11:00 am
 "A Dress Rehearsal for Christmas"
 Children & Youth Families - Christmas Party
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 pm
 Celebrate the coming birth of God's grace.
- Dec. 25 Season of Christmas begins
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

WOCC Church Staff Offering

This time of year we focus on the gift of Jesus to the world. One gift we share each year is our special love offering to our wonderful WOCC church staff. We are so very grateful for their faithful support of our ministries!

There is no requirement or minimum monetary gift and you can mark your check or offering envelopes for "staff gifts" or give online through the Shelby app.

We request these gifts be turned in by December 14 to be presented to the staff on December 24.

Blessings,
Mike Merry



Thank you Western Oaks Christian Church for your kind expression of sympathy. It is a great comfort to know you are thinking of us during this time.

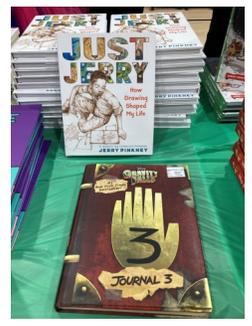
Thank you to Kari Simmons and all the ladies that fixed a wonderful and delicious lunch for our family. Thank you to Cindy Cannon for preparing the memorial service folder. Thank you to each one for the phone calls and cards. You are loved.

Love,
David & Rae-Jean Burke
and Family



Thanks you so much for your generous food donation for our title night. We truly appreciate your partnership and commitment to our school community! Thank you so much!

-Dana Oleson & Western Oaks Middle School



Dean Lunsford

April 6, 1937 – November 16, 2025

The viewing will be Friday, November 21 at Mercer-Adams, 12:00 - 8:00pm, with family there from 6:00-8:00 pm. Dean's memorial service will be at WOCC on Monday, November 24 at 10:00 am.

Cards may be sent to the family c/o Donna Nevel at 8005 S. Kentucky, Oklahoma City, OK 73159.



Many thanks to my WOCC church family for all the good wishes and gifts on pastor appreciation Sunday. I am grateful to part of God's work with all of you.

Nance Cunningham



**CHILDREN AND YOUTH
CHRISTMAS PLAY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST**



The play is “Dress Rehearsal for Christmas” and we will practice in November and December after the 11a.m. worship service.

Sunday, December 21st following the Christmas play, our children, youth, and their families are invited to eat together, have a craft, play a game, and visit from an important visitor!!



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Coming in January! MIDWINTER RETREAT

Chi Rho and CYF are invited!

Saturday, January 17th to Monday, January 19th



HOMEMADEHEATHER.COM

**We are looking for a few Elves to help at our Gift making Event
Saturday, December 6
from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**



You can help as long or short as you want.

We need someone to lead the Gift Wrapping Station, and others to be an extra set of hands to help the different stations.

**If you are unable to help that day, we are needing donations of:
Christmas ribbon, wrapping paper, holiday sacks-different sizes, and scotch tape.**

We will have a box in the foyer for donations.

If you have any questions, please contact Kelli Fearing by e-mail at fearings3@sbcglobal.net or text, 405-473-6938.

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

- Sunday, Nov. 23** Thanksgiving Special Offering (DoC)
All Church Thanksgiving Lunch
- Saturday, Dec. 6 Holiday Crafts 10:00 am
- Sunday, Dec. 14** Christmas Special Offering
Christmas Cantata 11:00am
Christmas Play 6:00pm
Holiday Dessert Party 7:00pm
- Sunday, Dec. 21** Christmas Special Offering
Children & Youth Christmas Play 11:00am
Children & Youth Christmas Party 12:15pm

Attendance	Facebook	YouTube	Online	9:00 am	11:00 am	In House Worship	TOTAL Worship
10/26/2025	4	4	8	31	57	88	96
11/2/2025	4	3	7	25	47	72	79

Current Giving Date	General Giving	Weekly Fund	Blessing
10/26/2025	\$1,860	\$30	
11/2/2025	\$3,395	\$60	

November
Weekly Budget Needs
\$3,986.55

Thanksgiving Sunday [Reign of Christ] (Nov 23, 2025)
Sermon Title: Interpreted by Love Scripture: Colossians 1:11-20
Theme: How to interpret thanksgiving in ourselves

First Sunday of Advent (Nov 30, 2025) Scripture: Romans 4:18
Sermon Title: Hope Beyond Hope
Theme: With Abraham’s faith, It is not so much hope against hope, but hope piled up on hope.

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



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«Name»
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