

Reversals

Some of you may remember Dinah Washington's unforgettable jazz song, "What a Difference a Day Makes," which celebrates the changes she feels inside herself after 24 hours, singing "there's a rainbow before me [and] skies above can't be stormy." A popular book in 2003 by Robert Guiney carries the title: "What a Difference a Year Makes: How Life's Unexpected Setbacks Can Lead to Unexpected Joy." As for the year 2025, it truly seems as if it only started yesterday, and now it is a few days from being over. I was looking forward, at the beginning of the year, to compiling my Dad's poems with contextual pictures from East Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, and Oklahoma, and ended the year with having taken four (4) new "books" of poetry (many unpublished in the past) and pictures to Richard Ellwanger, Director at the Seminole Nation Museum in Wewoka, for posterity to enjoy. (Dad was Poet-Laureate of Oklahoma in the 1960s). Yes, indeed, what a difference a year makes!

Half a decade ago, many spoke about how we could never "return to normal again," that we must "find a new normal" and "build back better." The coronavirus pandemic "changed our lives forever," they said. And looking back over those years, I can reflect on how different it is now than when we began that year, anxiously waiting for vaccines in rural Kansas, to gradually being on the winning side of the fight against covid. Yes, what a difference five years make!

And what a difference a year makes for WOCC! Might it be the case that God is guiding us into Unexpected Joy? Guiding us into a new plan for the future and a new Senior minister? Does the light at the end of the tunnel give us hope? Isaiah 60:20 announces the good news from the ancient past: "The Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended." It occurs to me that this Christmas is a perfect time for anticipating hope and living into change, a time for reversals, a time when a year of uncertainty is suddenly overcome by the Spirit of Unexpected Joy that ends in the greatest reversal of all, the birth of the Christ Child in a lowly stable among the poor and the dispossessed. The light that was then so small and flickering was a preview for an everlasting light that will someday flood our lives with the fullness of hope and joy.

Yes, what a difference a year makes! There is more fullness to follow in days ahead. If we keep the love of Christ in front of us and behind us, above us and below us, our future will be full, and not even the likes of a pandemic can ever dim its coming!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Randy

December Church Events

- 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!



Salvation
Army
Kettle
Brigade

The Salvation Army Kettle Brigade WOCC crew served again on the December 13, 10-2 shift! Thanks to Fern Melton & Charlene Majetic, Jimmy Ille & Tony Richardson, Kari & Taylor Simmons and Judi McDown and Angela Soldan!

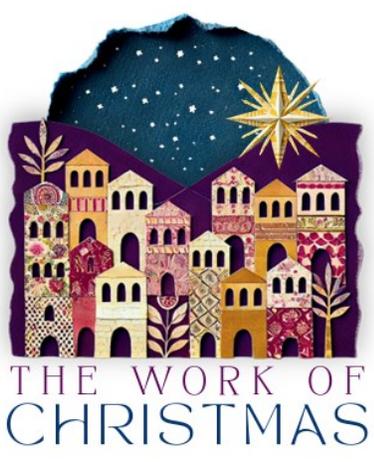
2025 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

supporting the work of your Region and it's ministries

Your gift to the Christmas Special Offering supports the work of Oklahoma regional ministries this Christmas. 100% of your giving goes to support the Christian Church in Oklahoma.

...the One who began a good work in you will continue to complete it...

Philippians 1:6



Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

We encourage you to give generously as we collect the Christmas Offering on December 21st & 28th.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all of your prayers and support this year during Mom's illness. She enjoyed all of the cards she received. Special thanks to Pastor Randy and Jim Ellis and all who prepared and served lunch at the memorial service.

Donna Nevel,
Lisa Lunsford,
Seth & Laura Nevel



Abby	Frank	12/2
Natalie	Griffin	12/3
Darla	Ures	12/4
Linda	Cobb	12/12
Michelle	McConnell	12/17
Charli	Meador	12/19
Faith	Lairson	12/21
Bob	Smith	12/22
Betty	Singleton	12/22
Montana	Pursley	12/22
Tom	Jewell	12/23
Alex	Wilkinson	12/28
Rocky	Fearing	12/30
Lynda	Gervais	12/31
Reeca	Young	12/31

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!!



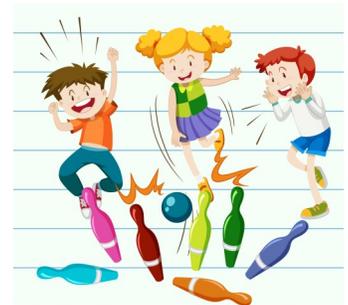
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Coming in January! MIDWINTER RETREAT
Chi Rho and CYF are invited! Registration due January 7th
 Saturday, January 17th to Monday, January 19th
 Oakridge Camp near Anadarko, OK

Let's go to Main Event!

Friday, January 2nd meet at the church at 1p.m.

Christmas is full of activities. We have decided to de-stress by having our children and youth go to Main Event after Christmas! Let Julia know if you are able to participate.



IT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE ADVENT

We continue our journey through advent with the lighting of our Advent candles.

May we feel the joy that comes with the season of Advent as we follow the shepherds to the stable with the anticipatory joy and good news of Christ's birth.

Shalom,

Julia



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

Thursday, Dec. 18 Disciples Women’s Fellowship 6:30pm
Sunday, Dec. 21 Christmas Special Offering
Children & Youth Christmas Play 11:00am
Children & Youth Christmas Party 12:15pm
Wednesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00pm
Sunday, Dec. 28 Christmas Special Offering
Sunday, Jan. 4 Congregational Meeting

Attendance	Facebook	YouTube	Online	9:00 am	11:00 am	In House Worship	TOTAL Worship
11/23/2025	5	3	8	35	50	85	93
11/30/2025	6	4	10	24	44	68	78

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Dec 21, 2025 – Love Sunday; Children’s Christmas Program)
Sermon Title: Quantum Love Scripture: 1 Cor. 12:31-13:13
Theme: Love beyond measure and understanding (Short Homily)
First Sunday after Christmas (Dec 28, 2025 – Still Advent; Fruitcake Sunday)
Sermon Title: Pioneers of Faith Scripture: Hebrews 2:10-18
Theme: A survey of some of the pioneers of our faith traditions.
Second Sunday after Christmas (Jan 4, 2026 – Epiphany Sunday)
Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23
Sermon Title: The Legend of the Fourth Wiseman
Theme: Similar to the 12th man at Texas A&M, how does a 4th astrologer (and those beyond four) help us see beyond the ordinary?

Current Giving Date	General Giving	Weekly Fund	Blessing
11/23/2025	-	\$30	
11/30/2025	\$2,835	\$30	

November
Weekly Budget Needs
\$3,986.55

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



8100 NW 23rd Street
Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»