

Conjunctive or Subjunctive?

I have spent some time recently trying to understand the difference between “conjunctive faith” and “subjunctive faith.” Since these are not popular terms, I am still not quite sure how to define them properly, even after looking into some of the details of their usage. To define these terms, I need to speculate a bit because of my inexperience, but here is what I have come up with in my own understanding: that 1) conjunctive faith fully embraces the polarities of life and tries to pull together the opposites in a way that we can live within them, while 2) subjunctive faith chooses to act on faith that is hypothetical, acting “as if” something is true in order to bring it into reality. Regarding the subjunctive, such faith might be demonstrated in Paul’s words describing God as “calling those things which are not as though they were (Romans 4:17).” Or we might find it in the phrase “on earth as it is in heaven” from the Lord’s Prayer or the theological “not-yet” of the coming reign of Christ, where we act out the good news that we would like to see in the world. Conjunctive faith, on the other hand, is that stage of faith where one embraces a deeper understanding of one’s own faith and other faith traditions, and ‘can live and let live’ with these other traditions, even appropriating some of their practices with one’s own practices. I have yet to see how these two types of faith are all that far apart at the end of the day. So, I am still asking questions about them.

As we begin a new year, I think (my opinion) it is more important to embrace diversity than to enforce similarity. Even though Paul asks those in the Roman church to “be of the same mind,” (Rms. 12:16), he also reminds us that “the body is not one member, but many” (1 Cor. 12:14) each doing its part by design. Philosophy teaches us to think independently; theology asks of us to think inter-dependently. The church has often reminded us that we can accomplish more by joining forces than by going it alone. Our emotional IQ is reflective of how much we know ourselves; our cultural IQ is reflective of how much we have embraced our cultural differences and worked beyond them. In my humble opinion, these are not Either/Or categories, but Both/And categories. Both conjunctive and subjunctive faith are needed as we navigate the course of our future together.

Susan and I wish you a very happy new year. May your resolutions be successful in the new year. May you and your family be safe and healthy and whole, and may you find a spiritual faith that speaks to your own needs in the midst of the overwhelming crises of our time.

Pastor Randy

Our Deepest Sympathy

Longtime Western Oaks member **Lonnie Maytubby** passed away on November 23, and is now at peace after many years of health-related complications following a stroke in 2022. Lonnie’s memorial service was held on December 29 at the Veterans Center in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. The Maytubbys recently relocated to Connecticut to be closer to family, and we have missed them greatly. Let us join together in prayer to lift up Jane and her family during this difficult time. If you would like to send a card or give her a call, the contact information can be found below:

Jane Maytubby
 20 Academy Lane, Room 436
 Mystic, Connecticut 06355
 (860) 597-6161



“LED lights are being installed in our WOCC parking lot. A big thank you to everyone overseeing this change.”



| | | |
|----------|------------|------|
| Aanika | Gillett | 1/3 |
| Karen | Russell | 1/4 |
| Richard | Montgomery | 1/6 |
| Jeff | Newell | 1/10 |
| Mike | Merry | 1/10 |
| Angela | Wilkinson | 1/11 |
| Patricia | Orr | 1/12 |
| Phil | Halpain | 1/14 |
| Lois | Northcutt | 1/21 |
| Cindy | Cannon | 1/23 |

A Word of Thanks

Thank you, Church Family, Chancel Choir, and Bells of Praise, for the special gifts you blessed our family with this past Christmas Season! Your generosity and kindness were felt in a big way, and truly warmed our hearts. We are deeply grateful not only for the gifts themselves, but for the love, encouragement, and sense of belonging you continuously show us.

Thank you for loving and accepting our family so warmly—your support means more than we can fully express. We are thankful for each one of you and feel blessed to walk alongside you in faith and friendship.

With love and appreciation,
Andrew, Sarah, Drew, and Adam Orr



IT’S TIME FOR OUR ANNUAL WOCC CHILI COOK OFF

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 ~ 12:15

SIGNUP NOW in the west entry by Schwind Hall and in the Narthax by the Sanctuary.

You may sign up to bring a side dish (Dessert or Salad or Bread) and/or enter the Chili Cook Off competition .



To Western Oaks Christian Church,

Our family would like to thank everyone that gave money to the Memorial Fund in memory of Verona. This offering was taken at the Christmas Play.

We appreciate your kindness! Thank you so very much for your thoughtfulness.

We love and miss her so much but we are glad she is not hurting any more.

Love, Peace, and Blessings in 2026 to each of you!



MIDWINTER RETREAT

Chi Rho and CYF

Registration due January 7th

Saturday, January 17th to Monday, January 19th

Oakridge Camp near Anadarko, OK

CHILDRENS & YOUTH MINISTRY

Western Oaks Christian Church



O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.
Psalm 8:1

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, Jan. 15 DWF Meeting 6:30pm
Sunday, Jan. 25 Chili Dinner 12:15pm
Monday, Jan. 26 Admin Meeting 7:00pm

| Attendance | Facebook | YouTube | Online | 9:00 am | 11:00 am | In House Worship | TOTAL Worship |
|------------|----------|---------|--------|---------|----------|------------------|---------------|
| 12/7/2025 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 29 | 43 | 72 | 76 |
| 12/14/2025 | 6 | 12 | 18 | 32 | 68 | 100 | 118 |

First Sunday after Epiphany (Jan 11, 2026 – Baptism of the Lord)
 Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17
 Sermon Title: All the Best in the Beginning
 Theme: What is the best we (WOCC) have to offer in 2026?

Second Sunday after Epiphany (Jan 18, 2026)
 Sermon Title: Come and See! Scripture: John 1:29-42
 Theme: Renewing a sense of invitation to discipleship

Third Sunday after Epiphany (Jan 25, 2026)
 Sermon Title: Chloe’s Report Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
 Theme: 1st person sermon “I am Chloe” – a narrative of her calling

| Current Giving Date | General Giving | Weekly Fund | Blessing |
|---------------------|----------------|-------------|----------|
| 12/7/2025 | \$3,135 | \$30 | |
| 12/14/2025 | \$4,020 | \$30 | |

| |
|---------------------|
| December |
| Weekly Budget Needs |
| \$4,983.19 |

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



8100 NW 23rd Street
Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»