

Microscopic Gospels

There is an interesting picture from the 1960s that captures a special moment of understanding in preaching history. It is a moment in artistic presentation where the textual Word of God intersects with the incarnate Word of God. You may have seen a photograph of this artistic presentation on Facebook a few years ago. In the captured image, we see tiny, microscopic words forming, in their artistic arrangement, a portrait of Jesus. At a distance, we can only make out the portrait; we cannot see that the lines forming the portrait are not actually lines at all, but columns of tiny words. We cannot detect from a distance that these words are taken from the New Testament. We cannot tell, in fact, that these words form a complete copy of Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians. These words from the New Testament blend together at the macroscopic level to form lines which portray an artist's rendering of Jesus. Biblical Word meets Incarnate Word (Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, in the words of the Gospel of John).

Some scholars suggest that this combined image of words and picture might inform our preaching. Those who hear the preached Word may recognize the individual parts of it as scriptural, and they may also recognize Jesus within the totality of it. The spoken Word may echo the blended reflections of Lectio Divina (meditating on scripture) and Imago Divina (meditating on religious artwork). Paul hints at such an understanding in his Letter to the Philippians, that "the peace of God which transcends all understanding, might guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:7). It is at the level of persuasion, the winning of hearts and minds, that the gospel has its impact on our lives.

Biologically speaking, our brains and the heart contain similar neurons that work together to form our emotions. Our joy, our sorrow, our anger, our inner peace are formed out of interconnected portions of our minds and hearts. It is what allows us to speak without speaking, to proclaim the gospel without words, or with our actions to speak louder than our words. It is what allows our photographs, pictures and videos to speak with more passion than a thousand spoken or written words. It is what allows preachers to compose sermons for the ear rather than the eye, for the hearing rather than the seeing. And through hearing, to be able to see with the eyes of our heart.

So, this month of Valentines and Lent, let us re-frame our broken lives in the healing Word of God to touch our minds and hearts with the love of Christ!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Randy

Nomination Committee In preparation of the next church year which starts on July 1, 2026, it is time we start to identify members to serve in various positions for that church year. But to begin this process, we must now form what is called a Nomination Committee, composed of congregation members who will canvas our congregation to search out members willing help out during the 26/27 church year. Ideally, a group of 5+ members is needed for this Committee.

So please, if you have the time and are available for this effort, please reply to this email. We will then inform you of our first meeting which should occur sometime at the beginning of February.

We appreciate everyone's effort. Thx Mike Merry 405 226-2659

WOCC Minister Search Committee has completed its effort. It is now time for them to inform the Church Board and the Congregation (in that order) of their effort and results, and to obtain approval at both of these levels. These meetings will be held in on:

Board Meeting	Feb 8, 2026	12:15 pm	Rm 117
Congregation Meetings	Feb 15, 2026	Early Service (9:00)	Traditional Service (11:00)

Let me know of any questions. Mike Merry 405 226-2659

Back-To-School We currently are in need of a volunteer to lead/direct the WOCC portion of the Back-To-School event held at Western Oaks Middle School this year. Previous leaders are willing to assist and advise in this effort but are unable to provide the overall direction/oversight previously provided. Thus, we now need someone new who will fill those shoes and begin working with the school in preparation of that effort. In addition, work will be needed to submit paperwork for grant money which is usually available from Region to help us put this program on with the school. If interested and available, please either respond to this email or give Mike Merry a call at 405 226-2659.

ANNUAL WOCC CHILI COOK OFF

A big thank you to everyone who came and participated in the Chili Cook Off and Corn Hole event. We were excited to have Chef Kathy judge the chili from eleven contestants. First Place was Bill Griffin, Second Place was Andrea Teter, and Third Place was Kelly Fearing. We enjoyed eating all of the chili that was made!

We also had Corn Hole for everyone to play. The National Corn Hole Champions, Tony and Charlene Majetic, were here to help us play and show us all of their metals. We are so proud of them and their accomplishments.



VALENTINE'S DINNER & DESSERT AUCTION

for Youth Camps and Mission Trip



CHILDRENS & YOUTH MINISTRY

Western Oaks Christian Church

Sunday, February 15th

Come and join us at 5 pm as the youth serve a yummy meal!!

We will have some wonderful desserts for you to choose to buy at our auction!! **Jimmy Ille will be our wonderful auctioneer!!**



Church Camp 2026 The Commission for Children, Youth, & Young Adults is excited to announce the church camp dates for next summer. Plan to attend camp next June!

Chi Rho Camp @ Canyon Camp: June 1-5

Discovery Camp @ Camp Christian: June 12-14

CYF Conference @ Disciples Center at Tawakoni: June 15-20

Junior Camp @ Camp Christian: June 22-26

Let's Register for the Regional Assembly Friday, March 6th and Saturday, March 7th!!

WHEN YOU HOST A BANQUET.....THE VERB MATTERS!

At First Christian Church, Edmond, Oklahoma

Youth may go to the concert on Friday and participate in the worship and help with Stamp Out Starvation!! We will then go to Main Event.



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



- Sunday, Feb. 8** Board Meeting 12:15 pm
- Sunday, Feb 15** Week of Compassion Offering
Congregation Meetings 9:00 am & 11:00 am
- Sunday, Feb 22** Week of Compassion Offering

Attendance	Facebook	YouTube	Online	9:00 am	11:00 am	In House Worship	TOTAL Worship
1/4/26	10	2	12	19	32	51	63
1/11/2026	11	2	13	30	46	76	89
1/18/2026	14	1	15	20	42	62	77

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (Feb 8, 2026 – Diversity Sunday)
 Sermon Title: Elliptical Blessings Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12
 Theme: Find your blessing among the diverse gifts of the Spirit

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany (Feb 15, 2026)
 Scripture: Matthew 5:13-20
 Sermon Title: Barley & Salt – a meal for the ages
 Theme: What is the symbolism of barley and salt for our ministry?

First Sunday of Lent (Feb 22, 2026)
 Sermon Title: Not By Bread Alone Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11
 Theme: Let’s resist the temptation to divide ourselves! Lent is a time for overcoming the temptation to live to/for ourselves alone.

Current Giving Date	General Giving	Weekly Fund	Blessing
1/4/26	\$3,385	\$30	
1/11/2026	\$1,395	\$30	
1/18/2026	\$11,625	\$0	

January
 Weekly Budget Needs
\$4,874.74

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



8100 NW 23rd Street
 Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»
 «Address»
 «City»