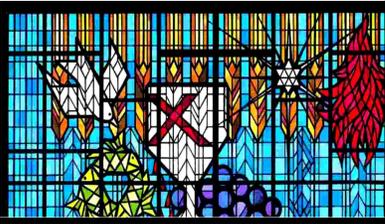


# WAKONDA NEWS



November 6, 2020  
Volume 64, Issue 11

Wakonda Christian Church  
3938 Fleur Drive DSM IA 50321  
515-285-8394  
Office Hours  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
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402-301-9170

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### From the pastor's desk

"Hi Pastor Robyn. Look at my shirt!"  
"I have a new puppy at home!"  
"Look at my hat, it's rainbow!"

*I Tuesday morning chapel with our preschoolers because I get caught up on all the new and exciting things in their life. This week's visit was the serendipity that one student wore a rainbow shirt, another had a rainbow hat, and a third LOOOOOVVEESS rainbows!*

*"Me too!" I said. I've always loved rainbows. Turning to the children's bible in hand, I trusted God has something in store since I'd already marked the Noah's Ark story. It begins:*

*"The world was a mess..."  
Sound familiar?*

*The story continues, telling of Noah's faithfulness, his hard work to build an ark, a safe harbor in times of trouble. Even of his last ditch effort to invite his neighbors on board; but with only the bounty of God's creation on board, they sailed through the storm.*

*"What do you think that boat sounded like?" The children "moo, baa, and bark with gusto."*

*"What do you think that boat smelled like?" Pinching noses and sounds of "yuck" are my only responses.*

*From a mess, God inspired a boat. From a stinky, messy boat, God delivered the people and animals to the muddy land.*

*And then God stretched a bow of color across the sky, so all would know, this was God's promise, to never harm the world. This was God's promise*

*to always be present with the people. This was God, again, and again, renewing the covenant with all of creation.*

*Thanks to God, the rainbow is awe-inspiring and yet, in its brilliance, we can lose sight of what is on either side of those promising colors. Storm clouds and sunshine are necessary. The trauma of living on that ship and enduring the hardship of those times unfolds amongst the people.. The hard work of beginning again are on the other side.*

*God's rainbow is the beautiful, splendid pause in the middle – reminding us of God's brilliance presence. May we remember God's promise – to never harm or leave us, no matter the storm or mess we're in.*

*Pastor Robyn*



## Wakonda's COVID in the Cold Plans:

Dear ones, we have journeyed together through many changes, and this winter brings more opportunities to grow and change. I thank you for the ways you continue to be the church to love and care for others. Thanks to the work of our COVID Task Force and the church Board, our efforts remain centered on grounding us in God, as we connect with one another. For the months of November and December:

### Worship:

**Virtual Services:** Our 10:00 a.m. worship and technology teams will continue to lead us in worship online through Zoom and Youtube.

You may access the service through:

- Sunday Morning Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83545259505>
- Sunday Morning Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoJAOjE88ipHe5gvzUnf-BA>
- Monday Morning Email: Simply click on the worship link in your inbox to view the service.

### Christmas Eve

**5:00** Outdoor Candlelight Service (*very brief*)

**8:00** Virtual Service from the Sanctuary

**Small Groups:** In person small groups are moving indoors, in either the Cord Room or Fellowship Hall. Masks, social distance, and sign-in (for contact tracing), and hand sanitizer are necessary. There is also cleaning supplies available. Please wipe down your chair after your group; this greatly helps our building staff.

We are also living out our mission to support our community by opening up our building in support of our Al-Anon and AA groups. These groups are held in the Thomason room, in an effort to limit exposure. We will continue to offer a variety of in-person and virtual small groups.

#### Weekly Small Group Schedule:

Monday: 4:00 Aerobics (Cord Room)

7:00 Elders (*Once a month in Cord Room*)

Tuesday: 10:00 Chit Chats (Cord Room)

3:30 Book Club (Fellowship Hall)

4:00 Aerobics (Cord Room)

Wednesday: 9:30 Virtual Coffee Hour

10:30 Virtual Bible Study

6:00 Book Club (Fellowship Hall)

6:00 Wednesday at Wakonda (Cord Room)

10:30 AA (Thomason)

Thursday: 4:00 Aerobics (Cord Room)

5:00 Choir (Sanctuary)

Saturday: 10:30 Preschool Playdate (Cord Room) *once a month*

Sunday: 9:00 Virtual Coffee Hour, Children and Youth Sunday schools

**Meetings:** The work of the church is so very important, as well as the need to connect with one another. In order to privilege the need for fellowship and personal connection, while limiting our in person contact, we're keep all committee and business meetings of the church on zoom.



**Virtual Connections:**

Technology is a blessing, until it isn't. Remember log-in links, passwords and which groups are online is a challenge for all of us. And then Zoom makes changes on us, forcing us to relearn the whole system.

Thank you for hanging in there. Thank you for trying new things and stretching in ways you never dreamed. Robyn, Kristen, Bruce, and Kris are all here to help navigate these challenges. Please don't ever hesitate to call us in the church office (COVID office hours continue to be M-Th 9-12). We're all learning new things, too. Here are some helpful reminders:

**Passcode:** Wakonda

Zoom has implemented some security features. If you are ever asked for a passcode, it is always "Wakonda."

**Links:** The links below can be copied and pasted directly into your web browser. If a link is ever emailed to you, it will be a hyperlink. Simply clicking on this link will take you directly to the meeting.

**Wakonda's Weekly Links:**

- **9 & 10 am Worship:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83545259505>
- **Wednesday, 9:30 am Coffee hour & 10:30 Bible Study:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/348363611?pwd=V2NheFRjNk0xaXZCa0gzTk5EU01Edz09>

**November Worship Schedule:**

**November 8:** Youth Sunday  
Thanks Be to God" Psalms 9: 1-2, 9-10

**November 15:** "Can't Go Over It, Can't Go Under It, Gotta go Through It!" Exodus: 13-18, 30-31

**November 22:** "I Thank My God, for You."  
Ephesians 1:15-23

**November 29:** Hanging of the Greens **Advent**

**Service of Remembrance, Grief, and Lament**

**Sunday, November 22**

**Virtual Service: 6:00 p.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84427930729?pwd=bGNyNDNoZXlySTFsaGRmQnBublN1Zz09>

**Passcode: Wakonda**

*This year, we have said goodbye to too many of our beloveds. Family members, church family, close friends, and too many. Wakonda invites you to join us in this virtual service, as we remember those who have gone before us.*

*This year, like so many things, will be a little different. The names of Wakonda members who passed away this year will be named; however, we know so many of you have suffered loss beyond our beloved church.*

***Please send us the names of those whom you'd like to be included in our remembrance. A candle will be lit, as their name is spoken aloud.***

*This service also makes space for the many ways we're lamenting change and experiencing grief. From graduations, weddings, to the ways birthdays and family traditions are adapting and changing this year.*

**October Outreach Giving**

DMF \$1692

Food Pantry \$970

W.O.C. \$125

Manna Bags \$305

**TOTAL \$ 3092**



## Youth Newsletter...

As we move into the cold winter months, the COVID Task Force has been in deep discussion and research formulating a plan for our youth programming. We know how important in-person social interaction is for our youth, and we are trying our best to find creative ways to continue providing in-person youth programming. Please know that safety is always our top priority for our youth and these plans are subject to change based on COVID-19 numbers and COVID Task Force advice.

Starting in November, JYF (kindergarten-5th), Chi Rho (middle school), and CYF (high school) will move to alternating Wednesdays, but we will extend our time together from our current hour back to our hour and a half meeting time. We will meet from 6-7:30 PM in the Cord room (the room connected to our Chi Rho and CYF youth room). Dinner will be provided. Masks, social distancing, sign ins (for contact tracing), and hand sanitizer upon entrance will be enforced.

**Schedule** (subject to change based on COVID-19 numbers and COVID Task Force advice):

**Nov 4:** Chi Rho & CYF

**Nov 11:** JYF

**Nov 18:** Chi Rho & CYF

**Nov 22:** Chi Rho & CYF service project

**Nov 25:** NO W@W, enjoy your Thanksgiving break

Blessings, Kristen

## Preschool Update...

Wakonda Preschool has had a great start. All of our hard work with planning, precautions, and safety has paid off so far. We still have enrollments trickling in, which is very exciting. In addition, we have been awarded a couple of grants from the State of Iowa to help out with some of our cleaning supplies.

As we head into the colder months, we pray for the health of our families and students, as well as all of you. We will continue to do our part to maintain a healthy, safe learning environment. Finally, we want to offer an extra big THANK YOU to Gene Koll for keeping our spaces clean and disinfected. We couldn't do it without Mr. Gene.

## 2020 - The Year of All Things Different including Angel Tree

The Angel Tree Ministry (and the Jefferson/Wright Elementary Schools Christmas gifts) will look different this year. We still plan to participate but how we do that will change.... just like everything else in 2020.

Given that we are not meeting in person right now for church services (and won't be before the end of the year) and that you may not feel comfortable going out to shop for gifts, we are asking for monetary donations only this year.

The funds collected will be used to purchase gift cards for the families involved so that the caregivers can do the shopping for their families' gifts instead.

The Wakonda congregation has been so generous & supportive in the past. We hope that you will be able to participate in this wonderful ministry again this year. Please send your contributions to the church office by **Sunday, Dec 6th**. That deadline is earlier than in previous years but will allow us to get the gift cards to the caregivers in plenty of time for them to do the shopping for the kids. Please indicate on your contribution that it is for "Angel Tree/Elementary schools".

Thank you for caring and sharing,  
Elaine Conkel and Steve Mohr

## Manna Bags

The youth of Wakonda are continuing to ask for donation items or monetary donations for Manna Bags. Manna Bags will be handed out to people facing homelessness in the Des Moines area. **Please donate by November 20th.** Youth will put together bags on November 22nd.

### Donation Items

- masks
- bottled water
- apple sauce slurp pouches
- peanut butter crackers
- soft granola bars
- individually packaged goldfish
- tuna pouches
- small portable hand sanitizer
- individually packaged tissues
- \$5 McDonald's gift certificates
- 1 gallon Ziplock baggies



# Whats Happening at Wakonda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Zoom Coffee Hour <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Online Worship	9	10 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats <b>3:30 p.m.</b> Book Club	11 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Book Club <b>6-7:30 p.m.</b> Youth Group <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Worship Cmt Mtg-Zoom	12	13	14
15 <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Zoom Coffee Hour <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Online Worship	16	17 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats <b>3:30 p.m.</b> Book Club	18 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Book Club <b>6-7:30 p.m.</b> Youth Group <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Board Meeting	19	20	21
22 <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Zoom Coffee Hour <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Online Worship	23	24 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats <b>3:30 p.m.</b> Book Club	25 <i>Offices Closed</i>	26 	27 <i>Offices Closed</i>	28
29 <i>Hanging of the Greens</i> <b>9:00 a.m.</b> Zoom Coffee Hour <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Online Worship	30	December 1 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats <b>3:30 p.m.</b> Book Club	2 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Book Club <b>6-7:30 p.m.</b> Youth Group	3	4	5

<b>November Birthdays</b>			
1 David Newman	4 Norman Givler	5 Becky Shepard	8 Geno Hegre
13 Barb Munsell, John Requist	14 Fred Rivas	17 Elaine Conkel	18 Gary Thompson
24 Lori Baker	27 Tom Dawson		



### Faithful Conversations: Wakonda Book Club

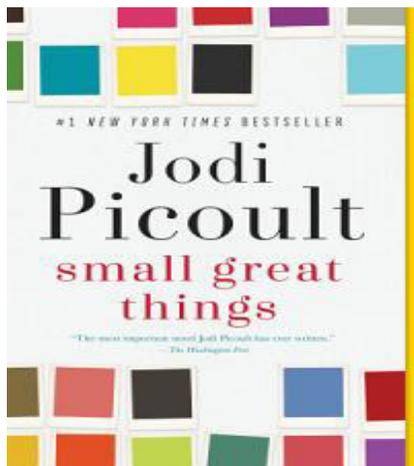
Cozying up to a good book is great this time of year. Joining the great discussions and fellowship of a book group makes it even better. Join the Faithful Conversation series as we add a Book Club to our repertoire. You don't have to have been part of one of our Faithful Conversation groups to join our Book Club.

Beginning the week of Nov. 9. Please let Pastor Robyn know if you are participating in one of the following group times, located in the Fellowship Hall:

**Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. or Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.**

**Email or call the office: 515-284-8394 [robynbles@wakondacc.com](mailto:robynbles@wakondacc.com)**

We'll be reading the New York Times Bestselling: ***Small Great Things*** by Jody Picoult



### *In Light & Darkness Advent 2020*

Advent is the time we prepare for the coming of the Christ child. With the shortening days, we welcome the darkness with the warm glow of twinkling lights, cozy fires, and inviting candlelight. Our scriptures focus upon God's light entering our world through the very brilliant glow our own Christmas trees cast upon our everyday hustle and bustle.

It is the very darkness that surrounds us, which allows us to find a place within the warming light of God. This year has been cast in so much darkness and change; and so this year we are reimagining our relationship with the darkness. As the cooing of a small child brings anyone closer, the coming Christ child gathers us, asking us, "what can we make out of these darkening days? What is God doing in the midst of us, our world?"

For this year, like every year, the Christ Child is coming. May we prepare every part of ourselves, our world, for this coming brilliance. Every Wakonda household will receive an Advent Envelope, filled with a Coloring devotional, fit for all ages. There are also weekly activities to do with you household, knowing you are joining your church family in preparing our hearts, minds, homes, and world for the coming of God's light.

*Please join us for the first Sunday of Advent, November 29.*

### Music Note...

Hi, everyone!

There will be a lot going on in November at Wakonda! Stewardship, All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, and the beginning of Advent, just to name a few things. These are all important events in the life of the church, and I hope you will be able to find meaning and reflection in them. November will be different this year, given how the ongoing pandemic still challenges us to meet and worship in new and different ways. But I know that we at Wakonda will continue to meet those challenges with creative energy. After all, not even a pandemic can keep us spiritually apart.

Be well, everyone. See you soon!

Seth

