

WAKONDA NEWS

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Wakonda Christian Church
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From the pastor's desk...

We have leapt, like a trapeze artist from the bar that had carried her just far enough. From what feels like so long ago now, we have jumped from the sturdy platform of how things used to be. We grabbed a hold of the bar sent our way – we embraced online worship, virtual gatherings, and digital dialogues.

Our Swinging Successes:

- On this swing bar of the pandemic, our Anti-racism book club flourished. Deepening our commitment to live out God's call for racial reconciliation, this group of women read, pray, discuss, listen, and grow in our witness to God's vision.
- Our weekly virtual Bible study has become a pillar in the week of our church life
- We keep welcoming many families, who like us, are looking for something solid and grounding in these shifting and ever changing times. Our gifts of hospitality and welcome are not limited to our building, but rather, living inside us this whole time.
- From these new heights, removed from what feels familiar, we are able to see areas of growth and opportunity to grow more deeply in our relationship with God.

And now, we have taken another new leap. Letting go of that bar, we're soaring through the air, hovering in this liminal space, trusting our partner's hands will reach us when needed. Reaching into this new space, we believe we will be caught. We believe this, because this is who we are. We are a people who trust in God, and believe in one another. We don't leap blindly – we leap with love and faith.

Our Leap of Faith:

- Returning to in person worship has brought us back to the people and places we love – all while reminding us, we are more than just this building. Our Wakonda Welcome and Witness, lives through us in so many ways. In mask-making for preschoolers. Manna bag sharing. School supply gifts and disaster relief offerings, and so many more.
- In this transitory space, we have an abundance of young children. Taking the time and space to prepare, we have now launched a brand new Children's Worship and Wonder ministry, showcasing how the Wakonda Welcome is here, even for the littlest ones.
- And in this space, we are taking the time and space to ask, "what does God require of us, here and now?" The world might still be changing, but our call to discipleship does not change. Beginning a 5 week exploration of discipleship, we are not just hovering and waiting for the world to sort itself out – ***we are actively living our calling to love and serve God's world.***

The good news is abundant. This leaping time is not forever *and* we are faithfully living within it. As we soar into the loving arms of God, trusting we will be caught, I also pray we believe God is doing something with us, and through us in this very time. Thank you for leaping, and leading, with love.

Leaping with you,
Pastor Robyn

Board Chair Bits...

“Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.” -Pauline R. Keezer

We continue to be a very active church as we take steps along our way to some different and exciting destinations.

- The Visioning Team was not able to meet since their meeting in August due to vacations and scheduling conflicts with work (we all must focus on our jobs, too!). They will be meeting again in early October to begin this long journey of reviewing our by laws to get them current, as we transition into our new leadership structure with our Ministry Teams and as we continue with our vision for the future with our Thriving Congregations and recent assessment tool results.
- **Property Update from Gene:** The two windows in the education wing are in!
- Our **Mission Ministry Team** has been very busy with efforts around community and neighborhood as well as global mission support. The Meals from the Heartland scheduled for 9/29; the Salvation Army casseroles are once again being supported and can use additional people to make these casseroles; the school drive for our two local schools and PreSchool was extremely successful – thanks to all of YOU; plans are being made for Trunk or Treat for October 31; Dave and Carol Thomason are taking over the Food Bank delivery and Greg Fay is taking over the Doc’s Closet donations to deliver to charities within our community.
- **Spiritual Formation Ministry** Team has the Worship and Wonder Class up and running and is seeing good attendance at Wednesday Youth groups. Laura Lane is sponsoring the 3rd through 5th grades and Randy Lane the middle and high school age group. A HUGE thanks to these folks for their time with our youth. Robyn has also begun a 5 week Sunday School program for all adults exploring discipleship and had a great attendance at her kick off session on Sept 19th.
- Margaret Page provided updates on the **Congregation Care Ministry** team including the success of our Kick Off Sunday Pot Luck luncheon; cards being sent to our congregation for birthdays, etc.; the first aid kits have been restocked and identified better with Red Cross posters showing where they are located. This team will also begin looking for greeters to welcome members and visitors to Sunday services in our building.
- Randy Lane and the **Administrative Ministry** team shared that the sound booth system and audio/video are now working much more smoothly. Our Sunday worship services continue to be “live streamed” via our YouTube channel. Our focus on Stewardship is working towards developing goals for our annual drive – look for more on this. Workdays each Saturday morning in September to get the grounds and building prepared for winter months ahead.
- **Kristin** is working closely with our Youth and is excited to report that we have a need to expand our current “Prayground” as we continue to have families in our services, and we need more room for the kiddos and their families. She’s working with Gene on how to best make this happen.
- The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17 at 7:30 PM in the church library.



A Future With Hope Stewardship Faith Promises



*11 I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the LORD; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope.
~Jeremiah 29:11*

Gather, and disperse. Gather, and disperse. It is, and has always been, the ways of God's people. From the long stretching exiles of scripture, to the ways of our weekly gatherings – we are a people who gather together, and disperse out to love, serve; and yes, sometimes struggle, in God's world.

In this coming and going, we are surrounded by God's blessing spoken so beautifully in Jeremiah. Our future is grounded in God's goodness and love. Wakonda's future is one of Hope, Hospitality, and Promise.

I hope you will join us in making this future not only your reality, but the real living presence of God here in our community.

Oct 24: "A Future with Hope" Stewardship *"A Future With Hope"* Jeremiah 29:10-14

Oct 31: "A Future with Hope" Stewardship *"A Future With Promise"* Jeremiah 31:31-34

Nov 7: Faith Promise Stewardship Sunday *"A Future With God"* Revelation 21:1-6a

Music Note...

Hi, everyone!

I hope you're looking forward to the cooler temperatures and changing colors of fall.

Reminder, choir is back in full swing at Wakonda, and anyone may join at any time. We rehearse masked and socially distant in the Sanctuary every Thursday at 7:00pm, and we sing at Sunday worship 2-3 times a month. Please reach out to me if you have an interest in joining us! No training or musical experience is required; you just have to like singing!

I look forward to seeing you in Sunday worship!

Take care of each other.

Seth



Finding Wakonda's "Why"

We have been on a journey of congregational renewal and recommitment. We've learned about our past, in the foundations of the 1950s and 60s. We've remembered our commitment to worship, and commitment to Christ's radical welcome – both within our church, as well as our neighborhood and world.

Striving to live out Christ's call which "All are Welcome at God's Table," we took the time and energy to widen our lens upon where we are now. Our Congregational Assessment Tool opened the window of our focus to see where God's ministry might be calling us.

And now, now is the time for the really fun part. October 15-16, leaders and active members will join together to share stories, dream dreams, and cast visions of "Why" Wakonda, and "What" is God doing with us right now.

For the leadership invited to participate, thank you for your prayerful and joyful contributions. And as a congregation, please pray for this gathering. Help us to know we are surrounded by your love and encouragement – for we are all in this together.

October Birthdays

1 Sharon Mitchell	4 Ann Bridgewater	5 Mark McMichael	6 Kate Badger
10 Dave Thomason	12 Betty Ridout	13 Carson Harvey, Pat Dawson	17 Kirk Mitchell
18 Dennis Page	19 Randy Lane	22 Kent Hinders	23 Kent Wiese
27 Susan Haberthur	30 Richard Guentert	31 Melinda Kabel	

September Outreach Giving

DMF \$1629 Reconciliation \$195

Food Pantry \$515 W.O.C. \$1170

Total \$3509





Yeah, October! What a BOOtiful time to come together as a congregation and just have some seasonal fun with the little people of our preschool and neighborhood!

COME ONE, COME ALL to the church on **Sunday, October 31st** for our annual **Trunk-or-Treat** event! The fun lasts from **5:00-7:00 pm** and will include games, an Instagram-worthy photo opportunity, the bounce house, and of course lots of treats! Everyone is encouraged to get creative and decorate their vehicle (and themselves!) in a fun way. If you are unable to come that evening, but would still like to contribute, you are invited to donate wrapped candy that will be incorporated into the goody bags that will be given out that night. Hope to see you there!

Family-Fun Opportunity in October:

We will be visiting the Center Grove Orchard in Cambridge on Saturday, October 23rd from 9 AM (leave the church)-3 PM (return to church). If your family or child(ren) would like to join in the fun, or if you would be willing to be a driver for our youth please RSVP to Kristen Alstott (kristen.alstott@wakondacc.com) by October 13th. We need to know how many are going so we can purchase tickets ahead of time. Parents and all ages of children and youth are welcome. We hope you can join us for a very fun-filled day at the orchard!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

2021-2022

WAKONDA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



9:00-9:50 AM



Children's Worship and Wonder

- 3 years- 2nd Grade
- meet at 1st classroom by the downstairs bathrooms
- please pick up your children at 9:50 AM



Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF)

- 3rd-5th Graders
- meet at 2nd classroom by the downstairs bathrooms
- Please pick up your children at 9:50 AM



Chi Rho and Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF)

- Middle and High Schoolers
- meet at Chi Rho room upstairs across from adult Sunday School rooms
- breakfast provided

Ages 3-2nd grade:

We began our new Worship and Wonder program in September. Worship and Wonder focuses on faith formation for our young children in the church. It is hard to imagine little ones being quiet, reflective, meditative, and prayerful, yet this program brings these qualities out in children beautifully. It is like magic to witness children learning and growing quietly during this program, and I am SO excited for all Worship and Wonder has to offer our young children. Thank you to our volunteers who help make this program possible. We couldn't do it without you! A special shout-out to Brents Oliphant for her deep dedication in making all things Worship and Wonder come to life at Wakonda. Thank you Brents for the many ways you have made this program blossom!

Ages 3rd-12th grade:

We are rocking and rolling with our fall programming. For Wednesdays @ Wakonda, we meet every Wednesday from 6-7 PM. For Sunday school, we meet every Sunday from 9-9:50 AM. These programs are designed to encourage faith formation, relationship building and bonding, and structured fun for our youth.



Whats Happening at Wakonda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 9:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Worship	4	5 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats 4:00 p.m. Book Club	6 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 5:30 p.m. Visioning MT Mtg. 6:00 p.m. W@W	7	8	9
10 9:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Worship	11	12 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats 4:00 p.m. Book Club	13 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 5:30 p.m. Elders Meeting 6:00 p.m. W@W	14	15	16
17 9:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. Worship	18	19 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats 4:00 p.m. Book Club	20 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W	21	22	23
24 9:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	25	26 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats 4:00 p.m. Book Club	27 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W Mission MT Mtg.	28	29	30
31 9:00 a.m. Zoom Coffee Hour Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship 5-7:00 p.m. Trunk or Treat	November 1	2 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats 4:00 p.m. Book Club	3 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W	4	5	6



RECONCILIATION MISSION OFFERING – RECEIVED SEP. 26 & OCT. 3
THE THEME: “REVEALING GOD’S JUSTICE



The purpose of this offering is to heal, restore and enhance the relationship between all of God’s children. This year’s theme of **“Revealing God’s Justice”** calls us to participate in making God’s love and justice all the more evident in all our racial relations. Your offerings make possible a variety of projects that contribute to this purpose.

Every dollar you give is split fifty-fifty between projects here in the Upper Midwest Region and those facilitated across North America by the RECONCILIATION TEAM leadership of the General Church in behalf of the *Christian Church (Disciple of Christ)*.

Our Theme This Year: Isaiah 56:1

**“Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance will be revealed.”**

Or, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. put it (so poetically): **“The time is always ripe to do what is right.”**



**SUNDAY,
October 3 & 10
D.M.A.R.C.
HEALTHY
FOODS
COLLECTIONS
DAYS**

Bring your donations of non-perishable food items, personal items and/or a monetary contribution for the DMARC FOOD Center. MOST NEEDED ITEMS: tomato, orange or vegetable juices (in cans or plastic bottles); fruit cocktail canned in water or 100% juice (not in heavy syrup); cans of tomatoes, green beans, mixed vegetables; sweet potatoes (no salt

added); dark red kidney beans dry, or canned in water (not pork and beans); peanut butter; tuna, chicken, salmon or sardines (canned in water); dry pasta: whole grain, veggie pasta or egg noodles; rice (white or brown); vegetable soup (low sodium and high protein); pasta sauce (no sugar added and low sodium); cereals: whole grain Cheerios, Wheat Chex, Wheaties, Granola, Shredded Wheat, instant or regular Oatmeal (no sugar added).

FRESH PRODUCE like fruits and vegetables (please donate far before expiration and prime ripeness).

PERSONAL ITEMS: Diapers (large sizes); baby wipes; formula and baby food (well-before their expiration dates); soaps, shampoos, lotions, dental products; cleaning products; etc.



**OUR MISSIONARY PRAYER
CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER**

[Please Pray For One Ea. Week By Name]

- Wk. of **Oct 03** – Jeff Mensendiek
Serving In **Japan**
- Wk. of **Oct 10** – Victor Makari
Serving In **Israel/Palestine**
- Wk. of **Oct 17** – Bryan Parrish
Serving In **Dem. Rep. of Congo**
- Wk. of **Oct 24** – Maria Makalian
Serving In **Lebanon**
- Wk. of **Oct 31** – Fritz Gerald Joseph
Serving in **Morocco**



WAKONDA VOLUNTEER NITE
**Thank You To All Who
Volunteered!**
MEALS FROM THE HEARTLAND

**MAKE
CASSEROLES**
For The Salvation Army a few times a year at your own convenience. You can volunteer by filling-out a “sign-up” sheet on the table in the Narthex, outside the sanctuary.



“  ”
**PREPARATION FOR THIS MONTH’S
RECONCILIATION MISSION OFFERING**
The *Disciples’ Web Page* has a wonderful tool for exploring issues of racism around SEVEN different categories. Access it at: [Your big questions about race, answered \(cnn.com\)](https://www.cnn.com)
[Ctrl + Click]
But first, read the following helpful considerations.
Race is a thorny topic, and for people seeking to understand others’ racism – or their own – it can be difficult to know where to turn. So please consider this a safe space where you can explore questions that you may hesitate to ask elsewhere. To help answer them, scholars and other experts on race provide beneficial information. And, the purpose is not to chide, preach or settle historical scores.
Consider these suggestion as you get underway.
1. Embark on visiting this site as an exercise in “spiritual enlargement” – simply seeking for broader inclusiveness in a divided world of hostility.
2. Utilize a prayer of your own making before each and every visit - as you think about these important questions that others before you have also asked. God Bless!!

