



# WAKONDA NEWS

April, 2022  
Volume 66, Issue 4

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

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### *From the pastor's desk...*

*"The present is murky, and the future is unknowable. This condition can invite an unhealthy relationship with the past. We glamorize the past. We create thin narratives about how wonderful things were back then."* Susan Beaumont

Our leaders and elders have intentionally listening to the stories of Wakonda Christian Church. From a powerful *Find Your "Why"* Weekend retreat, to our monthly Elder studies, we have invited your stories. We all know the ease with which we can gloss over challenges and hardships of the past.

When we're in a time of great transition – the church Vision process, leadership & bylaw restructure, congregational and communal COVID changes, global war and refugee crisis – the retreat to so-called "happier" times really tugs upon our imaginations.

But I also want you to hear this textured tales of Wakonda. Stories full of challenge and struggle, met with grace, courage and compassion which is only born from true community. Those are the stories that have begun to bubble to the surface.

Stories like our Hanging of the Greens gifts for the children of Bidwell Riverside. Many people cherish this tradition and look forward to it every year. They experience so much joy picking out gifts with their families. They're delighted by the congregation procession – and the ever increasing length of time this takes as more and more people join in the generous

celebration. They toys make our tree look picture perfect. Until we began sharing, we thought the joy stopped there. But then, this conversation kept going – just like God's grace, there is no ending.

Every Tuesday the preschool children enter our sanctuary for chapel. It is a safe and sacred space for them. Seeing those toys, as all children do, their eyes light up and they want to play. But when they hear they are for other children who need help, they want to help too. Every year, our Wakonda preschoolers help load up the cart for the Bidwell Riverside staff. Each preschooler happily picks up a toy, carries it with all their might, and then pick out the perfect spot for it on the cart. They are proud. They are delighted. They are a part of this story, too.

You helped to make all of that happen. It is from stories such as this, that our "Why" Weekend Team, and our Elders have drafted up this Identity and Mission Statement. Our Identity statement says **who** we are. Our Mission statement says **how** we do it.

#### **Wakonda Christian Church Identity:**

Serving together with compassion and generosity, so everyone feel's embraced in God's inclusive love.

#### **Wakonda Christian Church Mission:**

We are empowered to live this love through our connections found in worship, genuine care of our congregation members, and community partnerships.

## ***Board Chair Bits...***

WOW!! What an incredible experience we are having during our Lenten Jazz and Parables series. We have such talented musicians in Mike and Seth and we can't thank them enough for all they do to bring us such beautiful music to worship with. They both have so many musical contacts within our community and how blessed have we been to have some of these extremely talented musicians show us how improvising and changing some of our standard and beloved songs into a Jazz style of music and doing so with such grace and perfection. A BIG thank you to Seth, Mike and all the guest musicians we have heard. And, to Robyn and our Spiritual Formation Ministry Team for developing this series and taking a "leap" outside the traditional box.

As Richard mentioned the "shade" of the church, I wanted to share the many times our church building provides that shade to others in the community. Did you know that we have a long-time aerobics class (the instructor has been here for 40 years) that is open to anyone in our church and/or community? She has class every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 3:30 – 4:30 and again on Saturday morning at 9:15. This is held in the Cord room.

Did you also know that the neighborhood association uses our building to not only hold their annual picnic in the parking lot, but they have their regular meetings in the Thomason room. We also provide a polling place for elections in the county, state and nation and have hosted the Lions Club many times for events they hold.

The Al-Anon ladies meet regularly in our building and most recently, Al-Anon had a large all day Saturday meeting here with a multitude of people attending. And of course, our largest place of not only shade, but also seeds and success is our Preschool of which we are all very, very proud of.

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> at which time the nominating committee will present to the board for approval the names of those who have said YES when asked to be those various seeds for our church. The Vision team will also be presenting to the board the first of some recommended by-laws revisions that they have been working on so that once the board approves, these various items can be presented to the congregation for approval at our annual meeting in May.

Enjoy Spring and the remainder of our Lenten season as we get closer to that beautiful Easter morning.

Nancy Koll, Board Chair

## **Wakonda Vision Team Update:**

You Vision team has been hard at work, meeting monthly to go over our bylaws. This has been a highly detailed process. Each section has been looked over multiple times, ensuring the integrity and validity of this document.

As we provided the most recent updates to the congregation last month, we will be doing the same this month. Our board has seen the most recent suggestions, and we now encourage every member of the congregation to pick up a copy. These copies are available outside the office. Please reach out to Kris for an emailed copy.

This is a communal effort and your thoughts matter. We are striving to make this document not only reflect our current practices and culture, but most of all to live out our calling as deeply connected community, living out God's call together.

**Vision Team Members:** Pastor Robyn Bles, Nancy Koll, Richard Guentert, Betty Ridout, Dave Sharpe

## **April Services**

**April 3:** *A Loving Wage*  
Matthew 20:1-16

**April 10:** *Palm Sunday*  
*Bread for the Journey*  
Matthew 13:33

**Friday, April 15:**  
*Good Friday - It is Finished*

**Sunday, April 17: Easter**  
*Living this New Rhythm* Luke 24:1-12

**April 24:** *A Daring Belief*  
John 20:19-31



## Music Note...

Hi, everyone!

This Lenten Jazz sermon series has been so much fun for me. I've loved the opportunity to play with people who are not only some of the finest jazz musicians in Central Iowa, but people I call my friends. Special thanks to Pastor Robyn, who planted this idea as far back as last Spring. We've been able to have people like Julius Brooks, Scott Davis, and Mike Giles all "preach" in their own unique ways, using many of the hymn melodies we hold dear to create new musical affirmations of love and devotion.

Thank you for your participation, your careful listening, and for all your encouraging words throughout this series. May we continue to be open to the improviser in all of us as we approach Holy Week, Easter, and beyond.

Take care, all!

Seth

## March Outreach Giving

DMF \$ 1625

Food Pantry \$890    W.O.C. \$ 2138

**Total \$ 4653**

**Refugee Donation Needs:** Thank you for continuing to welcome our new neighbors. These supplies are greatly needed and appreciated. You can leave all donations on the tables in the Thomason room.

### Cleaning Supplies:

- Brooms and dustpans
- Laundry detergent
- Sponges
- All-purpose cleaner

### Cookware:

- Large stock pots
- Skillets
- Sauce pans
- Can openers
- Cooking utensils (wooden spoons, spatulas, tongs)
- Tea kettles (stove top or electric)

### Personal Hygiene (Full-size items):

- Body wash (bar or liquid)
- Lotion
- Combs and brushes
- Men's razors and shaving cream
- Small first aid kits
- Hand sanitizer and disposable/reusable masks

### Furniture:

- Couches
- Dining sets (seating 2-8 people)
- Coffee and end tables
- Floor lamps
- New or cleaned area rugs (5x7 or larger please!)

## April Birthdays

1 Sarah Hall

4 Ann Mitchell

5 Diana Babberl

7 Jacob Badger

13 Bev Moe

15 Doris Long

16 Tom Scott

19 Lynda Hauptert

22 Sue Slater

25 David Brown



## Holy Week Services: *Hearing Another Rhythm*

Join Wakonda Christian Church in the Holiest of Weeks. We will have joy and celebrations, a place to hold our grief and broken heartedness of the world and hear the holy promise of God's loving resurrection.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Saturday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m.

- Join the children of Wakonda for a delightful race for eggs and photos with family.

**Palm Sunday:** Sunday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m.

- This year we are parading through Holy Week. Beginning with Palm Sunday and moving through our communion Maundy Thursday; we'll prepare our hearts and spirits for Good Friday with *Bread for the Journey*.

**Good Friday:** Friday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m.

- Hear the final messages of Christ from the cross, and the sound of Blues and Jazz, as we bear witness to the crosses in our lives and our worlds.

**Easter Sunday:** Sunday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m.

- God's love always wins and resurrection is always the end of our story. You are needed for this celebration of God's promise of eternal life. Become the living song in this world which needs to hear another rhythm and tune.



JOIN WAKONDA CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOR THE

# WAKONDA EASTER EGG HUNT

SEPARATE EGG HUNTS : PRESCHOOL | K-2ND | 3RD-5TH



**APRIL  
9TH**

**EGG HUNT BEGINS AT 10 AM**  
Meet in the church parking  
lot for directions

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY | CANDY | FREE FAMILY FUN**

3938 Fleur Dr.  
Des Moines, IA 50321

 **WAKONDA CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



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DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



# What's Happening at Wakonda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship <b>1:00 p.m.</b> Dr. Damani Phillips	28	29 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	30 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM <b>6:00 p.m.</b> W@W 7:30 p.m. <b>Board Meeting</b>	31 <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Choir Rehearsal	April 1	2 <b>8:00 a.m.</b> B.O.B.
3 <i>Food Pantry Collection</i> <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship	4	5 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	6 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM <b>6:00 p.m.</b> W@W	7 <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Choir Rehearsal	8	9 <b>10:00 A.M.</b> Easter Egg Hunt
10 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>Food Pantry Collection</i> <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship	11	12 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	13 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM	14 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	15 <i>Good Friday</i> <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Worship Service	16
17 <i>Easter</i> <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship	18	19 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	20 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM <b>6:00 p.m.</b> W@W	21 <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship	25	26 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	27 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM <b>6:00 p.m.</b> W@W	28 <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Choir Rehearsal	29	30



**EASTER MISSION OFFERING – RECEIVED APR. 10 & 17**

Supporting The General Church Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



God's Love  
Endures  
Forever  
Psalm 118

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever. . . . This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. Psalm 118:1, 23.

**Your ENDURING LOVE** through Disciple Mission Fund (D.M.F.) supports:  
Bible studies that challenge and inspire; Opportunities for clergy to gather in prayer; Spiritual care for those in prison; Resources for mental health and trauma care; and Visionary leadership that calls the church to imagine new ways to witness to God's love.

**Your ENDURING IMPACT** through Disciple Mission Fund (D.M.F.) assures:  
Global ministry partners who work for justice, reconciliation and peace; Colleges, universities and theological institutions that nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society and the world; Collaborative responses in the wake of disaster; New congregations that worship in a variety of languages and worship styles.

**Your ENDURING PRESENCE** through Disciple Mission Fund (D.M.F.) makes possible:  
Global Missionaries making God's mercy manifest; Faithful stewardship in the allotment and disbursements of your financial gifts; The office of Disciple communication that keeps congregations knowledgeable and equipped for their local ministries; The National Benevolent Association which partners we Disciples with a variety of health and social ministries for all ages: birth through the senior years.



**SUNDAY,  
April  
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 APRIL**

**[Please Pray For One Ea. Week By Name]**

**Wk. of Apr. 03 – Maria Abigail Hernandez**  
 Serving In **Japan**

**Wk. of Apr. 10 – Elana Huegel**  
 Serving In **Mexico**

**Wk. of Apr. 17 – Kahala Cannon**  
 Serving In **Eswatini, Africa**

**Wk. of Apr. 24 – Nishan Bakalian**  
 Serving In **Lebanon**



**REFUGEE GIFT ITEMS**  
**PLACE YOUR ITEMS IN THE THOMASON ROOM**  
**Let's show our warm Iowa Welcome!!**

**JAN. OUTREACH GIVING TOTAL: \$2,473**  
 D.M.A.R.C. Food Pantry \$0,543  
 Disciples Mission Fund (D.M.F.) \$1,625  
 Week of Compassion (W.O.C.) \$0,305

**FEB. OUTREACH GIVING TOTAL: \$ 3,338**  
 D.M.A.R.C. Food Pantry \$ 0,798  
 Disciples Mission Fund (D.M.F.) \$1,625  
 Week of Compassion (W.O.C.) \$ 0,915

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

At 10:30 a.m. on ZOOM. Here's the Link!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/348363611?>

Password: Wakonda

The Scripture is always the text printed in the bulletin for the coming Sunday.

**ON-GOING  
 REFUGEE NEEDS**

- Shampoo (no conditioner, we seem to have a lot of that but very little shampoo)
- Men's razors
- Deodorant
- Bar soap
- Sanitary pads (no tampons please)
- Large stock pots and frying pans (the bigger the better)
- Large mixing bowls
- Spatulas, ladles, serving spoons, and can openers
- New pillows (we cannot take used pillows)
- Mops, buckets, and brooms
- Shirt hangers and laundry baskets
- Dish drying racks
- Detergent, spray cleaners, and dish soap
- Twin and full comforters and sheets (new is best but can take used)
- Coats for children and adults, boots any size, gloves for children and adults

