



February 2023
Volume 67, Issue 2

Wakonda Christian Church
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WAKONDA NEWS

From the Pastor's Desk...

If you had to take a poll, which one of these most closely describes you?

- A. Winter is here!!! You stand shining a flashlight on Punxsutawny Phil every Feb. 2 hoping this prophetic rodent predicts 6 more weeks of glorious winter. All while clutching your sled, snowshoes, skis, snowball maker and every other winter activity you can squeeze in.
- B. You prepped your snowblower in October. You're halfway through your ice melt supply. The squirrel and bird feeders are fully stocked, and your fireplace is always roaring. Winter has been conquered.
- C. Winter's fantastic ... down here in Florida. #snowbirdbliss
- D. When is this dreaded season over? Why do I live in a place where it's so cold my teeth hurt?
- E. What are you complaining about? In my day, we had snow up to eaves and we still had to go to school, walking up hill both ways!

Regardless if you're a winter lover, endure the season, or never want to say that curse word of a season aloud, there's no doubt about it – we're smack dab in midwinter.

The wonder of Advent and Christmas are over and it's months until the hope of open toed shoes and flowers is upon us. So how do approach this season? How do we hold the wonder and joy of falling snowflakes, alongside the lessening light and varying shades of gray and brown?

Katherine May writes in her book *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times*

"Plants and animals don't fight the winter; they don't pretend it's not happening and attempt to carry on living the same lives that they lived in the summer. They prepare. They adapt. They perform extraordinary acts of metamorphosis to get them through. Winter is a time of withdrawing from the world, maximizing scant resources, carrying out acts of brutal efficiency and vanishing from sight; *but that's where the transformation occurs. Winter is not the death of the life cycle, but it's crucible.*"

While on a snowmobile tour in Yellowstone National Park our guide told us humans are the only animal who does not observe the natural cycles of the season.

Despite our best efforts to deny our animal pull toward wintering – electric lighting late into the night, sunlamps, or spring break trips to warmer climes – I think we all have a softer animal side to ourselves, longing for a wintering.

Katherine May continues: "I recognized winter. I saw it coming (a mile off, since you ask), and I looked it in the eye. I greeted it and let it in... When I started feeling the drag of winter, I began to treat myself like a favored child: with kindness and love."

Whether it's wrapping yourself in your coziest sweater, slowing down your schedule or silencing your notifications, how can you offer yourself some wintering gentleness? When we do so, we not only have a kindness to share with others; but come spring, our now tender spirits are ready to shed our older calloused skins. Something God planted, perhaps so very long ago, is now ready to rise, perhaps even bloom.

Winter blessings to you all.
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

Our church family has lost several members and family members since I've last written. It has been a long and tough January but together we are getting through it. Your love for each other helps make these times easier for those who are feeling alone and sad. Thank you for all you do as a church family together. Thank you to Pastor Robyn, other staff members and the Congregational Care Ministry Team for their extra time and care for these families.

The Board met on January 25th and approved two key building projects. As Betty Ridout said in the church service this past Sunday, the Board approved the following building projects as we had the designated funding to support these. We will be contacting the contractors to let them know we want to move forward and hope to get a timing of when these projects can be completed this year.

- Patching our roof so give us another 5-10 years of sustainability at a cost of approximately \$3,000.
 - Replacing the non-working air conditioning in the Thomason room that also cools the Narthex area.
- Thanks again to the Jesse Hawkins Fund for giving the church \$20,000 from that fund towards this replacement. That, in addition to the funds in our Capital Campaign fund can support the estimated costs for this.

The Lenten season will begin on February 22 – look for more communications from our Spiritual Formation Ministry team for some fun activities and meaningful spiritual events.

It is that time of the year when our Nominating Committee begins to look for and ask for members to fill open leadership positions for the upcoming year. I would encourage each and every one of you to consider saying YES when members approach you for leadership positions within the church programs. The committee members will be providing you with details of what they are asking you to do in that position, such as a Deacon, Elder, Board member, Ministry Team leader, etc. Members of the Nominating Committee include Richard Guentert, Mackenzie Harvey, Brents Oliphant, Diana Babberl, Sharon Newman, and Betty Ridout. Also, I would ask that if you have an interest in any of the areas of our leadership and/or know of someone who would be a good fit in those positions to let the Nominating Committee members know.

The Vision Team presented the last two sections of the proposed by-law updates to the Board in January and the Board approved these proposed updates. The Vision Team held a congregational session to review Section 4 of the by-laws on January 29, 2023. The Vision Team will schedule another congregational session to review the last sections, 5 and 6 now that the Board approved them in the next several months.

Blessings to you, Nancy, Board Chair

Lent 2023 *Is it Well with Your Soul?*

The wellness industry is filling our shelves, flooding our airways, and telling us to buy this essential oil, apply that cream or ointment, follow this diet, or exercise plan, and hire this life coach. Working for a healthier, more whole sense of yourself is a worthy pursuit; yet *is it well with your soul?*

This Lent you're invited to journey through scripture; stopping to rest, to learn, and to fill up from the Well of God. Sunday, February 19: *Mardi Gras* Pancake Brunch following worship.

Wednesday, February 22 **Ash Wednesday Service** 6:00 p.m.

February Worship

Feb 5: *A Fast that Lasts* Isaiah 58:1-12

Feb 12: (doesn't matter who is the gardener – God is the soil) 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Feb 19: Week of Compassion *Rise UP Anew* Lamentations 3:12-23, Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch following worship.

Feb 22: Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 p.m.

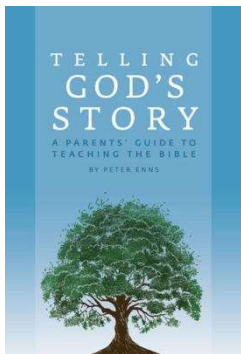
Feb 26: Lent: *Is it Well with your soul?* Genesis 16:7-14

Baptism Preparation

All fifth-grade students and adults feeling a call toward Baptism, please contact Pastor Robyn.

Baptism is a time-honored tradition for all Christians. We recognize and celebrate baptisms performed at birth or before you joined the community of Wakonda. But if you have not yet been baptized and are interested in exploring how to deepen your faith and spiritual practices, you are welcome.

Baptism preparation will begin in March, with Baptisms held on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th.



Podcasts with the Pastor Sunday

School Class

We are straying from podcasts and diving into a book. Even if you don't have children, Peter Enns *Telling God's Story: A Parent's Guide to Teaching the Bible* is a wonderful tool for exploring your own faith understanding while helping you connect with any children in your lives. We hope you'll join us for this discussion. Books are available in the office.

Small Group Link

We have many small groups who thrive online. To simplify and help invite more folks to join in these wonderful discussions and fellowship opportunities from the comfort of your own home, we're now using just one link for all groups.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4598748094>

Please save this link and join in for our weekly bible study, monthly book club, or any evening meetings that need to move to zoom. We hope this helps more folks participate, for you are always needed and welcome.



What's Happening at Wakonda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	30	31 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	February 1 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W	2 11:30 a.m. W.O. W @ Baratta's	3	4 8:00 a.m. B.O.B @ Holiday Inn
5 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	6	7 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	8 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 5:00 p.m. Elder's Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Nominating Cmt 6:30 p.m. Bingo	9	10	11
12 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	13	14 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	15 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W	16 1:00 p.m. Coloring Group	17 6:00 p.m. Youth Lock In	18
19 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Pancake Breakfast/Brunch following Worship	20	21 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats 4:00 p.m. Book Club via zoom	22 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday	23	24	25 10:00 a.m. Middle-ish Brunch @ Panera
26 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	27	28 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	March 1 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W	2 11:30 a.m. W.O. W @ Baratta's	3	4 8:00 a.m. B.O.B @ Holiday Inn



Music Note...

Hello, Wakonda!

A former teacher of mine down at Southwestern Community College always warned us about the month of February. It can be a tough one. We're getting through winter, but not through winter. We walk through more cold weather, and sometimes it's just hard to get motivated.

Good news is, worship has a way of lightening that winter load. We're not alone. We're going to keep singing together and soon, find ourselves looking at spring in bloom.

It's been great to have the choir back in full swing. They sang twice in January and have a busy schedule ahead.

If there is anything else, we can do in the music program to make your worship experience more meaningful please let me know.

Thanks, everyone!

Seth Hedquist

February Birthdays

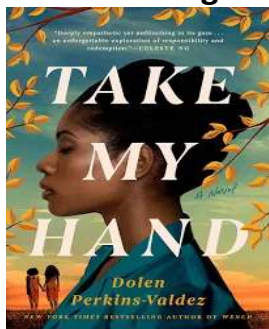
1 Larry Conn **7** Linda Harrold **9** Megan Lane, Dee Chaney
10 Jane Hein, Jeff Ornduff **12** Beverly Glade
13 Dave Sharpe **18** Sharon Newman
21 Garry Babberl, Amy Wiese **25** Danielle Mooers

January Outreach Giving

DMF \$1625 W.O.C. \$620

Food Pantry \$569 **Total \$2814**

Anti-Racist/Pro-Reconciling Book Club Read:



***Take My Hand* by Dolen Perkins-Valdez**

Inspired by true events in Montgomery Alabama 1973, this historical fiction novel recounts the story of African American girls receiving support through the family planning, government funded nursing clinic. Perkins-Valdez retells a story from our nation's past, but is still relevant today.

Join us online Tuesday, February 21st at 4:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4598748094>

Middle-ish Small Group

For all folks who might feel like you're in the middle-ish part of life, you're invited to join a new small group. That's the middle-ish part of your career, your family, your path of figuring out what it means to be "grown." Whether you're smack dab in the middle of this or just on the cusp of this middle phase of life, we hope you'll join us for this first gathering.

When: Saturday, February 25, 10-11:30 a.m.

Where: Panera on Fleur Dr.

Who: Folks in the Middle-ish part of life (childcare provided at the church)

What: Brunch chatting





**FELLOWSHIP
FRIENDS
FUN**

**WIN
PRIZES**

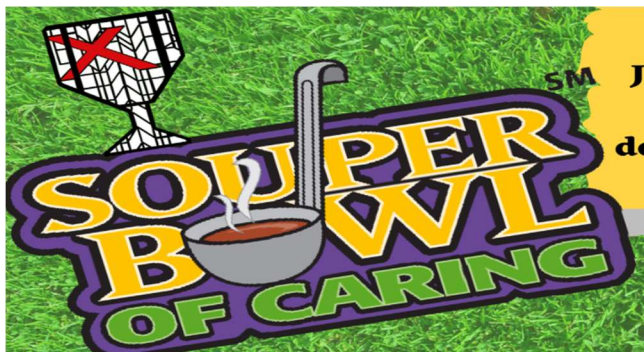


**WAKONDA
BINGO NIGHT**

**FEBRUARY 8TH
6:30-7:30 PM
THOMASON ROOM**


FREE WILL DONATIONS

**POPCORN
AND
WATER**




SUNDAY, February 12th

Join Wakonda's youth in tackling hunger in the Des Moines area by placing your food donation for DMARC in the team's basket you want to win the Super Bowl.





MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- peanut butter- crunchy or creamy
- whole grain cereals (similar to cheerios, shredded wheats, special k, bran flakes)
- canned pineapple



Chiefs VS Eagles







Save The Date

February 17, 6 PM- 9 AM

**Wakonda Christian Church
Middle and High School Lock-In**

**supper and breakfast provided,
bring a snack to share**


WAKONDA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST





**THE WEEK OF
 COMPASSION MISSION
 OFFERING**

RECEIVED FEB. 19 & 26

Providing For:

- **Disaster Relief**
- **Refugee Resettlement**
- **And Redevelopment Monies**

In Lamentations 3:21 the Bible speaks of God's Compassion. *"This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies never come to an end They are new every morning. . . . Therefore, I will hope in him."* [The N.R.S.V.]

This is what God's compassion looks like. And as children of God, created in God's image, we are called to be instruments of God's compassion wherever humanity is suffering. And that is the 24/7 mission of this *Disciples of Christ* agency, whenever and wherever suffering strikes. Please give generously this month to such work at home and abroad.



**SUNDAY
 FEB. 12
 D.M.A.R.C.
 HEALTHY
 FOODS
 COLLECTIONS
 DAY**

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 FEBRUARY

**[Please Pray For Our
Workers In Each Location]**

Wk. of Feb. 05 – In Costa Rica

Wk. of Feb. 12 – In Ghana

Wk. of Feb. 19 – In Thailand

Wk. of Feb. 26 – In Marshall Islands



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH THE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CNTR. PROJECT

1. Go to www.menards.com.
2. In the upper right corner click on "gifting" and choose "gift registry." On your phone, this will be on the left.
3. In the "Find" section type "**Maxwell Crees**" in the name boxes and my registry will show up as **Maxwell Other**.
4. Click on the item you wish to purchase, enter the quantity, and add it to your cart. Please do not purchase more than the requested amount. Gift cards are also good.
5. Choose "**pick up at store- customer picks**".
6. Once your purchase is complete you will receive an email from Menards with the "pickup ticket". It's important to forward that pick-up ticket to me, Maxwell Crees, at: turtwig528@gmail.com and I will pick up the items.

**PLEASE RESPOND WITH
YOUR HELP PRIOR TO
FEBRUARY 25TH.**

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER TO BENEFIT FROM AN EAGLE SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT

Max Crees, the grandson to Rev. Sue Woods, one of our Disciples clergy in the Region, has volunteered to provide the manual labor needed to restore some of the much used, well-worn and deteriorating items at our beloved Christian Church campground at Newton, Iowa. He will provide the muscle and time, but we individuals and churches in the Upper Midwest Region need to provide the dollars for the purchase of wood and supplies.

An Eagle Scout candidate, Max will replace:
~ Old Benches
~ The Fire Pit Ring
~ and The Cross

A GIFT REGISTRY AT THE ANKENY MENARDS has been established to aid with the purchase of all the supplies needed.

