



March 2023
Volume 67, Issue 3

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WAKONDA NEWS

From the Pastor's Desk...

Waiting is hard.

I don't care how old you get – how “mature” you think you are.

Waiting. Is. Hard.

And that's exactly what Lent is: Waiting.

We know the scary parts. We know the sad parts. We know the ending.

Some of us just want to go straight to the ending. The beautifully decorated Easter Baskets, brunches, and shouts of Alleluias!

Some of us cozy up, like this is our favorite movie and just wait it out (some early Easter candy to keep us company).

But the thing about God is, even waiting is active. Lent is not a passive, watch as it goes by sort of experience.

God has plans – plans for *you*.

¹¹ For I know what I have planned for you,' says the LORD 'I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with

hope.' Jeremiah 29:11

Our God does great things, even in the waiting. Just as we begin this journey with Ash Wednesday, because we remember God does great things with the dust. In the dirt and grime of the dirt, the shimmer and shine of the stars, God echoes in the in-between of this space *Is it well with your soul?*

God does great things with us – won't you join in?

This Lent, you are invited to come wait by the waters of God. There is a wellspring bubbling up within your heart and within our world. Come soak up the wisdom of God. We will learn how to heal ourselves as we hold one another.

We will journey throughout scriptures, on our way to that Palm Parade, Cross, and yes, the empty tomb. All along the way, God's well of wisdom is ever present.

Waiting with you,
Pastor Robyn

Board Chair Bits...

Without change there can be no breakthroughs. Without breakthroughs there can be no future.

The Lenten season began with our Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd and we kicked it off with some fun on Sunday, Feb 19th with a pancake brunch after our morning church service. Our Spiritual Formation Ministry Team and Congregational Care Ministry Team partnered up to provide this to all and a BIG Thank YOU to our gentlemen who helped make the delicious pancakes. The Youth did a great job of decorating the Cord room using a Mardi Gras theme with beads a plenty!

I don't know if you are aware of this, but the ongoing "theme" for our church program for this year has been to have some fun. I think we are really starting to see some of that fun happening with our women's and men's monthly meals together, our weekly "chit-chats", our newly formed Coloring group and there is a new group forming for those who are in the middle of their careers and families. It's so good to see these new groups forming for fellowship and spiritual growth within our congregational community.

It is that time of the year when our Nominating Committee begins to ask members to fill open leadership positions for the upcoming year. I would encourage each and every one of you to consider saying YES when the Nominating Committee 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 is scheduling Sunday, March 5th to hold their last review session with the congregational members to review the proposed updates to Section 5 and 6 of the by-laws. This will be held in the Thomason room during the Sunday School hour. Our goal is to have the completed recommendations to the congregation for approval at our Annual Meeting to be held in May.

Our next Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8th at 7:30.

Don't forget to "Spring forward" with your clocks on March 12th – or you'll be late for church that Sunday morning!

Blessings to you,

Nancy, Board Chair



Lent 2023: Is it Well With Your Soul?



Feb. 26: *Seeking A Wellspring*, Genesis 16:7-14

Hagar's story

Mar. 5: *We All Come to the Same Well*, Genesis 21:22-34,

Abraham's story

Mar. 12: *These Waters Run Deep*, Genesis 29:1-13

Jacob's story

Mar. 19: *Come Rest a While* Exodus 2:11-23, Moses' story

Mar 26: *Offer Someone a Drink*, John 4:1-42,

Samaritan Woman's story

April 2: Palm Sunday: *A Way Through the Desert*

Matthew 21:1-11 & Genesis 21:14-21, Jesus, Hagar & Ishmael



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Music Notes...

Hi, everyone.

I look forward to journeying through Lent with you. As we gradually move closer toward Spring, Holy Week, and eventually Easter Sunday, I hope you find rest, rejuvenation, and meaning in the joys and challenges that this season can bring. As always, please let me know if we in the music department can make your worship experience more meaningful. We love to hear from you.

Take care,
Seth

March Birthdays

- 2 Dave Lund, Stu Shepard
- 3 Jane Bishop, Jean Williams
- 4 Kris Fitzgerald, Isaiah Patty
- 7 Laura Lane
- 8 Sheila Sullivan
- 9 Kathie Scott
- 12 Denny Jones
- 14 Craig Davisson
- 15 Birdie Stocker, Noah Worthington
- 16 Mike Walag
- 18 Margaret Myers
- 20 Rob Worthington
- 21 Shirley Gardner
- 22 Anita Schlenker
- 24 Mackenzie Harvey

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.

January Outreach Giving

DMF \$1625 W.O.C. \$ 2481

Food Pantry \$ 485 **Total \$4591**



What's Happening at Wakonda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 5:00 p.m. PRC Mtg 6:00 p.m. W@W 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Formation	2 11:30 a.m. W.O. W @ Baratta's	3	4 8:00 a.m. B.O.B @ Holiday Inn 10:00 a.m. Middle-ish Brunch @ Panera
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 5:30 p.m. Visioning Team 6:00 p.m. W@W 7:30 p.m. Board Meeting	9	10	11
12 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	13 <i>Spring Break Week</i>	14 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	15	16 1:00 p.m. Coloring Group	17	18
19 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	20	21 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	22 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 5:00 p.m. Nominating Cmt. 6:00 p.m. W@W Mission Ministry Team Mtg	23	24	25
26 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	27	28 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats 4:00 p.m. Book Club via zoom	29 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W	30	31	April 1 8:00 a.m. B.O.B @ Holiday Inn





CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER



SUMMER CAMP 2023

Serious FUN. Powerful PURPOSE.

Art, High Adventure, Rustic Camping, Mission Trip (NEW), Intergenerational Weekends, a Young Adult Travel Trip (NEW), and more are offered in the Christian Conference Center's summer program. We have SERIOUS FUN, while growing together in faith and learning to live and love with POWERFUL PURPOSE. Visit www.newtonccc.org for dates, prices and more information.

Christian Conference Center ~ www.newtonccc.org ~ 641-792-1266 ~ office@newtonccc.org

Easter Candy Donations

Help the Easter Bunny by donating candy for our Wakonda Easter Egg Hunt!

Please drop-off individually wrapped Easter Candy to the Easter Candy Basket on the Kiosk by March 26th.

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Save The Date: Wakonda Easter Egg Hunt

10 AM, April 1st, 2023
Meet in Church Parking Lot

Save The Date

Wakonda's Vacation Bible School Evenings

June 26-29, 2023





Household Supplies Drive for Our Refugee and Immigrant Neighbors

Bath Towels

Hand Towels

Washcloths

Tea/Coffee Cups

Cereal Bowls

Laundry Soap

Dish Soap

Donate These Items in March

Wakonda Preschool 2023

February was learning all about God's love and love for others. We spread Valentine joy everywhere we could including fresh flowers donated by a family and children making arrangements to deliver to church staff. Hopefully you were the recipient of a valentine the children made to share with the church people. We also learned about Dental Health and keeping our teeth healthy. We tried to break up the winter blues by going "camping" in the fellowship hall/gym. Complete with smores!

As we continue to add children in the before and after school program we are needing to create specific environments for them. We will be transforming the 2 rooms on the west side of the preschool. Working families have expressed gratitude for this service.

We would like to develop a Science supply area for interactive experiments. We have developed a wish list if you would like to donate we would love it,.

Preschool will be closed for spring break March 13-17.

Thank you for your continued support of the preschool.

Science supply Wish List:

Vinegar
Small plastic bottles of Diet Coke
Paper plates & bowls
Corn Starch
Foil
Rock collections

Baking soda
Food coloring
Liquid watercolors
Vegetable/corn oil
Magnetic building toys
Hair gel

Mentos candy
Play goggles
Flour & Salt
Children "lab coats"
Gallon size baggies
Hair conditioner

