



May 2023

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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

*Small Group Link*

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

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# WAKONDA NEWS

## *From the Pastor's Desk...*

Two years ago we were beginning to crack open the quarantining measures. Like waking from a forced sleep, blinking and wondering, "what is this world going to be like?" Wakonda dared to answer that question.

Your Vision Team proposed a new model of ministry that was collaborative and steeped in partnership. We brought together our many committees into four Ministry Teams. Pairing shared ministries together allows us to build upon one another's ideas to support a shared vision.

Your vision team honored sabbath rest and renewal, which opened the doors for other folks to grow in their ability to serve the church. Our partnership model made leadership more accessible to folks. With a team supporting you, many people are stepping into brand new ways of serving the church. This also means many of our longstanding leaders could step down for a much-deserved rest. Some have already stepped into new ministry areas!

Your vision team listened to your stories crafting our Identity and Mission Statements.

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

Serving together with compassion and generosity, so everyone feels 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.

Your vision team has been diligently working on updating our bylaws. Over the past two years with the efforts of the Board and the congregation, we've tweaked, edited, and molded the scaffolding of our church to match the ministry that is just bursting from our congregation.

Now, we're entering the final phase of our vision plan. With one final year of our Vision Goal, we have new members stepping into leadership roles, a growing congregation, and the final supportive steps. These steps include:

1. Editing and drafting of our Policies and Procedures. Members of our Vision Team and Personnel will work with our ministry teams and staff to outline the behind-the-scenes and inner workings of our ministry. This final piece will help newer leaders better understand their ministry areas and make our ministry more transparent for the whole congregation.
2. A Leadership and Board Retreat Sunday, June 25. Following worship, all our ministry teams and board leadership will gather to learn more about their areas of ministry and collaborate in a shared vision of ministry for the upcoming year.

This has been a labor of love and commitment to Wakonda. It has taken the entire congregation, but most especially, your Vision Team. It's been an honor to work alongside Nancy Koll, Richard Guentert, Betty Ridout, and Dave Sharpe. Friends, Wakonda is doing great things through you, and because of you.

Serving with you,  
Pastor Robyn

## Board Chair Bits...

***Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be...1 Peter, 5:2***

This will be my final Board Chair Bits. I hope you have appreciated and welcomed the messages and information I've tried to share with you through these monthly articles. It has certainly been my honor and privilege to act as your board chair these past two years. Look for my annual report with some of our accomplishments in the upcoming annual congregational meeting.

Our nominating committee has done a tremendous job of getting leadership positions filled for the upcoming year. Thank you to that committee and to each of you who have agreed to step up to the plate and take on a leadership role. We will be voting on these nominations at our annual congregational meeting in May. This meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** and will follow the morning service. I look forward to seeing many of you there for this as we will be voting on the by law updates as well as the nominations for the various leadership positions as we continue to move forward in our service to our community, neighborhood and to one another.

You may have noticed the plexiglass on the railings of our steps up to the sanctuary from the first floor. At a recent inspection by our insurance company, we were asked to modify our railings for safety reasons. Thanks to Jamie Badger for working with the insurance carrier on having them accept the adjustments that were made. Thank you to Gene for getting this done and in place.

Our next Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30.

Happy Spring – FINALLY!!  
Nancy, Board Chair

## Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 21

Following Worship, we will:

- **Discuss and vote upon our by-laws**
- **Share our Annual Ministry Reports**
- **Celebrate our Upcoming Leaders**
- **Honor Jean Williams as Elder Emirates**

Your participation and voice are welcomed and needed in this vital work.

## April Outreach Giving

DMF \$1625 W.O.C. \$749

Food Pantry \$893 Easter \$750

**Total \$4017**

## Dear Church,

I want to extend a heartfelt and gracious thank you for leading our church on Laity Sunday. You each have unique gifts that bless Wakonda, and I'm so glad you had the chance to share those gifts during worship. The gratitude I feel towards the gift of rest for staff cannot be understated. I was able to spend time with dear friends and family making new memories. I was also able to rest my body and my mind, which has allowed me to be more creative, patient, and productive in my return. Thank you for taking on all that is Sunday worship, so your leaders could rest. What a gift that your Wakonda staff can relax knowing everything will be handled fabulously in our absence. We are truly the church together.  
Many Blessings,  
Kristen



## Property Committee...

Warmer weather will be coming and with that we have activity going on with our property. Here's just some of the things that have been on my mind that need work on, help with or just making the congregation aware of.

1. We have been replacing several of our glass windows that are cracked with plexiglass that is already cut to fit. These are located in the educational wing which houses our preschool area and offices. When the wind is blowing in the right direction, the cold air that comes in through these cracks is quite noticeable. I wanted to make the congregation aware of this in case they happen to notice.
2. We could really use someone (or a group of someone's) to maintain the flower beds outside with keeping the weeds pulled and looking good.
3. Our Preschool is looking for a storage shed for their outside play toys. A 4'by 8' or so would work.
4. Many of our downspouts need some repairs if anyone could help with that.
5. It's been mentioned to me that the memorial tree that's located in the Narthex has not been updated in the past years. Is there someone (or a ministry team) that would want to get this updated? The tree branches are getting very full and we might need to brainstorm for some ideas on how to expand this.
6. As I mentioned in the service Sunday when our little ones were looking outside the windows, fingerprints and just dirt that has accumulated from the winter months needs to be washed from our windows. We have the equipment to use, but need hands to help get this done! Last year we hired a window cleaning service thanks to a few congregational members who offered to foot the bill for this. If that is something folks are interested in again, make Kris aware.
7. Our mailbox post is getting pretty run down and it's broken. We need to get a new post for that.
8. I'll be having the very small stained glass ceiling panels in the hallway outside of the offices eliminated as they are leaking from the elements outside - rain, snow, cold.
9. I've noticed lately that our current upright vacuum cleaner could really be replaced. It's old and tired!!! Prefer an Advance VU500-15 inch Model 107404754 as we have many dust bags stocked up already for this type. The last one we purchased came from CAP SAN located at 2137 Sunset Rd.
10. FYI - I recently had a conversation with our new neighbor to the North along Fleur. They are interested in buying 20 - 30 feet of our North lot so that they can widen their lot. Is this something that our congregational members would want to consider? Let the office, your Board chair or me know of any strong feelings one way or the other.

Thanks to Taylor for his help with spreading the mulch in front of the building.

Gene

## Music Notes...

Hi, everyone!

Well, the school year is beginning to wind down, and we here in the music department tend to lighten our schedules a bit as well. Your Wakonda Choir has sung so much since last September, and we'll sing two or three more Sundays to round out the year. It's been a pleasure working with such an amazing and adaptable group. We fought through winter weather and illnesses to still keep a regular singing schedule on Sunday mornings. Even though the year is winding down, we're always open to more people joining us. Please contact me if you're interested in joining the choir.

Otherwise in May I also look forward to playing music on Graduation Sunday for our graduating youth. They pick the songs! It will be a Sunday to remember!

I look forward to seeing you in worship in May!

Take care, everyone! Seth

## Wakonda Preschool

April was full of Easter, spring learning and activities. We have enjoyed being able to spend more time outside with our friends. New sand in our sandtable made by Mr. Gene has brought a renewed interest and love of digging and learning. We were also able to get a few more "big wheels". Many of our students have grown enough over the winter months to now be able to pedal, a very proud achievement when you are 2 or 3 years old.

We welcome a new teacher to our 3's classroom. Miss Anna joins us with many years of experience in early childhood. She is a blessing to our program.

In the month of May we will be wrapping up our school year. Graduation will be May 26 at 4:00 PM, please join us if you would like. We have 14 students moving on to Kindergarten. Thank you to Miss Megan and Miss Katie for leading this amazing group this year.

Thank you for your continued support of the preschool.



# What's Happening at Wakonda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship	8	9 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	<b>10</b> <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM	11	12	13
14 <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship Graduate Reception Following	15	16 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	17 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM <b>7:00 p.m.</b> Board Meeting	18	19	20
21 <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School Last Youth SS <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship Congregational Mtg following Worship	22	23 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats <b>4:00 p.m.</b> Anti Racism Book Club via zoom	24 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM	25 <b>1:00 p.m.</b> Coloring Group	26	27
28 Sunday School <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship	29	30 <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	31 <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM	June 1	2	3

## May Birthdays

1 Laura Uthe      3 Marlene Fry, Urban Uthe      6 Wyatt Uthe      12 Wade Thompson  
13 Roena Dean, Dari Ehlis      15 Diane Fox      24 Dave Hawkins, Nick Worthington  
28 Jennifer Mooers      29 Jim Kabel      30 Sheri McMichael

Mark your Calendars for Summer Outdoor Worship. We'll enjoy God's great creation as we worship in our parking lot. Please bring a lawn chair and join us!

### Summer Outdoor worships:

**June 25    July 16    August 13    September 10 (Celebration Sunday)**





# Wakonda Graduate Sunday May 14th

**Sermon by:**  
Jilly Lane, John Mooers, and Wade Thompson  
our graduating high schoolers

**Graduate Slideshow:**  
Enjoy a special slideshow of our high school graduates during worship made by Mac Harvey

**Blessing of The Graduates:**  
join us in blessing all of our graduates during worship

**Graduate Reception:**  
Following worship, join us for cake and refreshments shower our youth with gifts and blessings on all of their great accomplishments

## Principal Golf Classic Youth Parking Fundraiser

**May 31-June 5, 8 AM-5:00 PM**

- Park at Wakonda Christian Church for \$20 per day during the Principal Golf Classic
- Support Wakonda Youth Mission Trip and Eagle Scout Project
- Parking Lot open to worshippers Sunday, June 4th

WAKONDA CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

COKEBURY'S

# HERO

## HOTLINE

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JUNE 26-29, 5:30-8:00 PM**

**SUPPER PROVIDED AGE 3 YEARS-5TH GRADE**

**REGISTER: [WAKONDA.CC/VBS](http://WAKONDA.CC/VBS)**

Carson Harvey  
25 FGS  
PCS 3 Box 6004  
APO AP 96266



## 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](http://www.newtonccc.org) for dates, prices and more information.

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