



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>

September 2023
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WAKONDA NEWS

From the Pastor's desk

Back to...

School – Church - Fall weather - Fall schedules.

Whether that means Friday night football games, pumpkin scented candles and coffees; or its schedules filled with school activities and back to Sunday school, we can feel the transition of time and season. The natural rhythm of life ebbs and flows. A new season holds so much possibility – is this like a the New Year's, New You sort of energy? Or is it a slower unfolding of growth?

No matter the spirit with which you approach the ensuing Autumn, we know Fall is a call to slow down, while holding onto what matters. The frenetic energy and growth of summer begins to lessen, allowing for the natural, true colors of the leaves to begin to show. What true colors are going to reveal themselves to you this upcoming season? Will you join us in partnering with Jefferson Elementary school's food pantry with a Birthday Party in a bag? Will you sign up to be a greeter on Sunday morning? Is this the year you finally join the church choir?

Yes, the shift and revelation is new; and yet it is all housed within the life that has already gone before us. Wakonda is enduring a season of farewell to many of our members. We have celebrated the lives of 14 of our members already this year – a number which is more than double the average funeral services of years past. The lives and ministries of these great members is forever cherished and celebrated.

We also have new members joining us. Two of those members just celebrated their wedding. In their wedding worship service, I included this prayer by Mary Oliver. It is one I think we also need to hold onto as a blessing

for our coming Kick Off Season.

Don't Hesitate
If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy,
Don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are
plenty.
Of lives and whole towns destroyed or
about
To be. We are not wise, and not very often
Kind. And much can never be redeemed.
Still, life has some possibilities left.
Perhaps this
Is its way of fighting back, that sometimes

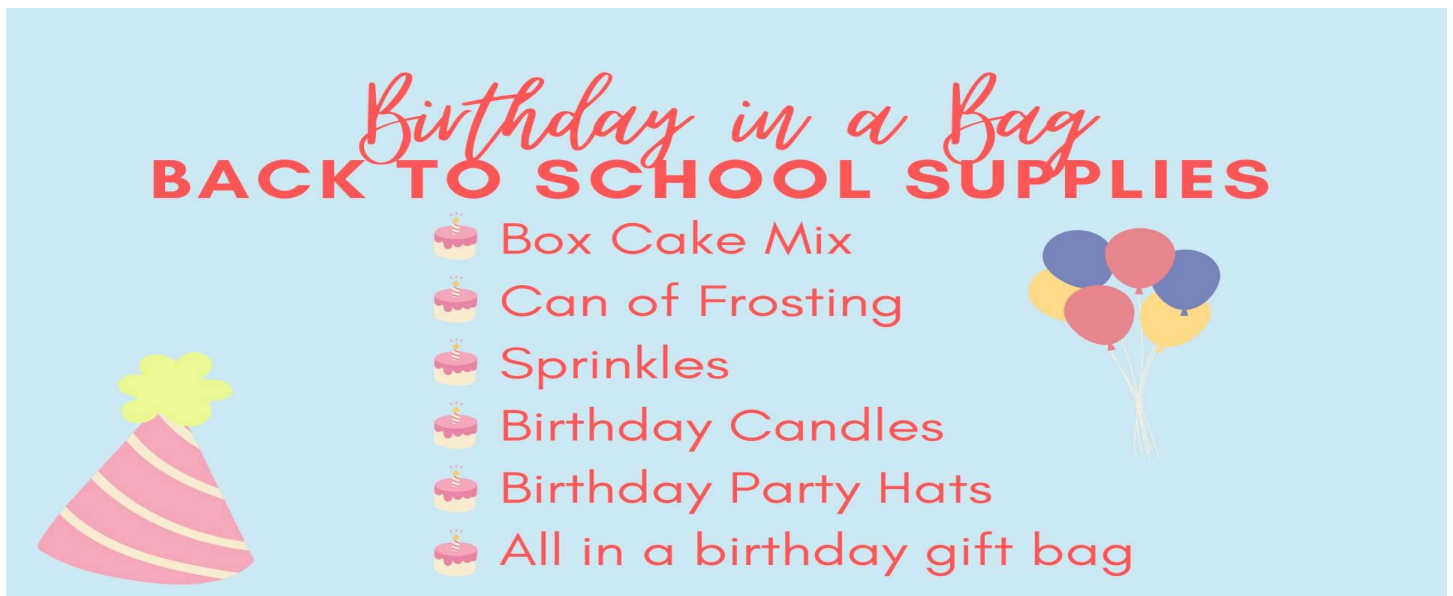
Something happens better than all the
riches
Or power in the world. It could be
anything,
But very likely notice it in the instant.
When love begins. Anyway, that's often the
Case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be
afraid.
Of its plenty. ***Joy is not made to be a
crumb.***

Celebration Sunday

Please join us Sunday, September 10th for our Celebration Sunday. We'll celebrate being back together after a full and rich summer. Please bring a chair for outdoor worship, a side dish to share for lunch, and birthday party in a bag.

This year we're celebrating the lives of our church, and the students of Jefferson Elementary school. Jefferson Elementary asked us to make a "Birthday Party in a Bag." All the supplies needed for a simple celebration are to be placed inside a birthday bag. This allows our neighbors utilizing the Food Pantry to provide their child with the joy of being loved and celebrated on their special day. Please place a cake mix, frosting, sprinkles, candles, and party hats inside the bag. This is your birthday gift to share.

On that day, we'll also celebrate everyone's birthday during lunch. Each table will host a month, complete with a cake. The main dish and dessert are provided, so please bring a side dish to share.



Fall Children and Youth Programming:

Sept 13th: Wednesdays @ Wakonda starts 6-8 PM

Sept. 17th: Sunday School for ages 3 years old-12th grade starts

Nursery: offered 8:45-11:00

Worship and Wonder 3 year old-2nd Grade: 9-9:45 AM

3rd-5th Grade Sunday School: 9:00-9:45 AM

6-12th Grade Sunday School: 8:45-9:45 AM

Wakonda Preschool

Wet and Wild Camp was great! We had a total of 11 kids throughout the week. Lots of fun, active learning happened. Seeing friends was definitely a highlight! A big thank you to Diana, Margaret and Brents for volunteering and making it possible.

We welcomed staff on August 28. We are very blessed to have wonderful staff. Kids will attend September 5. We still have a few spots open for preschool this year. If you or someone you know is interested please have them reach out:

jane.bishop@wakondapreschool.com

Thank you for your continued support of our preschool.

Jane

SUNDAY SCHOOL



WAKONDA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

JUNIOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP JYF

- 9:00-9:45 AM
- 3rd-5th graders
- meet at 2nd classroom by the downstairs bathrooms

NURSERY

- anytime between 8:45-11 AM
- available for infants-2nd graders
- located in the preschool wing

CHRISTIAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP CYF

- 8:45-9:45 AM
- 6-12th graders
- meet in the CYF room downstairs

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP AND WONDER

- 9:00-9:45 AM
- 3 years- 2nd Grade
- Meet at 1st classroom by the downstairs bathrooms
- Please pick up your children at 9:45 AM

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

- 8:45-9:45 AM
- adults of all ages
- various locations throughout the church

A delicious meal served around the table

Wakonda Christian Church's Wednesdays @ Wakonda

6:00-8:00 PM
3rd-12th grade

Relationship building, bonding, and socialization

Service activities, games, crafts, and/or creative activities

Faith-based conversations with real-world applications

A judgment-free safe place where all are welcome

Learning the various methods of prayer



Music Notes...

Hi, Wakonda!
Happy New (School) Year!

I'm looking forward to a busy calendar at Wakonda this Fall. Big news in the music department is that your choir is back!!! We rehearse every Thursday night at 7:00pm, and we sing in worship 2-3 times a month. This is a great fellowship opportunity, and a weekly time for us to lift our voices together. If you are interested in joining, please give me a heads up with an email or text, so I know you're coming.

Also, be on the lookout for guest soloists in the coming months. We are always grateful for our extended family of musicians who bring their skills to us in worship.

As always, I look forward to seeing you all in worship. And I especially look forward to Celebration Sunday on September 10th. Please come help us kick off the year with a special outdoor service.

Take care, all!
Seth

Upcoming Sermons

September 3: *"Get Behind Me!"* Matthew 16:21-28

Signs and Wonders: Making Miracles in our Midst – What do Jesus' miracles say about our faith, and how do we make miracles today?

10: Celebration Sunday: *Take Up Your Pallet & Walk*, Mark 2:1-12

17: *Stilling the Storm*, Mark 4:35-41

24: *A Bleeding Woman and A Dead Girl*, Matthew 9:18-26

October

1: *Seeing Again*, Mark 8:22-26

8: *The Raising of Lazarus*, John 11:1-44

Realm Connect

Church Directory & Communications Tool

We have a new software system to help our church manage our finances and membership needs. This comes with an app you can download to your phone. The app will allow you to access the entire church directory from your phone.

You can:

- Upload your own family photo (eliminating the need to set up new family photos at the church)
- Update any changes in your address or contact information.
- Access an always current and up-to-date directory every time you check it.

The only requirement? You need to download the app and provide the church with the information.

What you need to do:

- Download the **Realm Connect** app in your phone's app store
- Contact Kris Fitzgerald in the church office. She will send you an email with an invite link to setup your account.
- Log into and fill in the information.

If you are having trouble, or would like assistance:

- We are providing a supportive team to help you follow this process the first 3 Sundays of October (Oct. 1, 8, 15). Please join us during the Sunday school hour and we'll get you all set up.

July Outreach Giving

DMF \$1657

W.O.C. \$938

Food Pantry \$559

Total \$3154

DMARC Goods donated.

Baby food 21, paper products 5, Personal Products 9, Canned & Boxed Food 14

Wednesdays @ Wakonda Youth Group Meals:

Volunteer to make a meal or donate NON-Perishable food/drink for our youth on a Wednesday night. Spend the evening getting to know our youth, so they can get to know you, too! If you are interested in making a meal, please reach out to Kristen Alstott, the Youth Director. Phone: 712-371-2392 Email: kristen.alstott@wakondacc.com

NON- Perishable Donation Items For Wednesdays @ Wakonda:

Spaghetti: spaghetti sauce, Italian seasoning, spaghetti noodles, parmesan

Tacos: taco seasoning, hard taco shells, sliced canned olives, sliced jarred jalapenos, salsa, nacho cheese tortilla chips

Stir-Fry: minute-maid rice/instant rice, teriyaki sauce, orange sauce, sweet and sour sauce, garlic powder, onion powder


Chili: chili beans, V8 tomato juice, petite diced tomatoes, chili seasoning, Fritos

Sloppy Joes: ketchup, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, vinegar, granulated sugar

Pancakes: complete pancake mix (just add water), syrup, vanilla, brown sugar, cinnamon

Drinks: canned or bottled NON-caffeinated sodas or sparkling waters

Disposable Serving Utensils spoons, forks, knives, sturdy plates, napkins, Solo cups.


Donate
NON-Perishable Goods
for
Wednesday @ Wakonda
Youth Group Meals


Place donations in
the Meal Tub
in the Narthex



HELP WCC MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

Date: Saturday, October 14

Time: 9:30-11:30

Location: 357 Lincoln Street, WDM



Empowering people to
save starving children

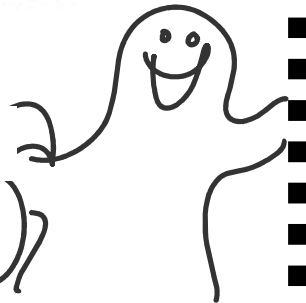
*We need at least 30 people for this
outreach event. Sign-up is available outside the sanctuary.*

Trunk or Treat



Sunday, 10/29

Stay Tuned for More
SPOOKY FUN details.



What's Happening at Wakonda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	4	5 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	6 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM	7 11:30 a.m. WOW @ Barettas 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 <i>Celebration Sunday</i> 8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	11	12 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	13 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 5:30 p.m. Vision Team 6:00 p.m. W@W 6:30p.m. Congregational Care Team	14 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship - Outside	18	19 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	20 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 5:30 p.m. Elders Meeting 6:00 p.m. W@W 7:30 p.m. Board Meeting	21 1:00 p.m. Coloring Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	25	26 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	27 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W 6:30p.m. Mission Ministry Team	28 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	29	30

September Birthdays

1 Lorraine Leaman
5 Kaitlyn Thompson
11 Robert McKinley
17 Caleb Patty
23 Jack Bohlender

2 Barb Bare, Loretta Quinnett
7 Liz Walag
12 Helen Givler
19 Morna Rutledge
25 Kay Jones

3 Jim Mitchell
9 Tim Leaman
13 Nate Worthington
22 Jill Requist, Doug Stephenson
26 Lucy Davisson