



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>

January 2024
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WAKONDA NEWS

From the Pastor's desk...

Many of us are tucking away tinsel and trees, sweeping up needles, and taking final glances at Christmas cards. What a season! Thank you Wakonda for diving into the practice of delights. I hope you'll keep your lists close at hand as delight boost when winter lingers a little too long and we forget the promise of Spring. I encourage to you continue the practice.

What would it be to become delight collectors? Seeking out the treasures of the good news shining and shimmering in our midst?

What would be to become a delight for others? Not a hero, or savior – we already have one of those. Sprinkling delight upon those we meet, like a child decorating a Christmas cookie, or tossing birthday confetti. Be liberal with you delights, heaping them upon your daily life.

Christmas may be over, but the work of Christmas has just begun. As Howard Thurman reminds us, we carry that twinkling star within us. What a delight, indeed.

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost
to heal the broken
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*

Friends, we have just celebrated the great delight and mystery of God becoming a person. God loved us so much, God chose to be with us as one of us. Now, the work of Christmas is to see that Christ living, laughing, loving, and struggling within every person we meet.

May we become the best delight detectives this year, seeking out the light of Christ in everyone. Becoming the delightful light of Christ for everyone we meet.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, indeed.

Peace,
Pastor Robyn

January Worship:

January 7, Luke 2:22-40
Do you See What I See?

January 14, John 1:43-51,
MLK Sunday
What Good Can We Make of This?

January 21 – Mark 1:14-20
Guest Preacher, Rev. Adam Frieberg

January 28 – Mark 1:21-28
What's Jesus Got to Do With Us?

January Birthdays

5 Beth Ornduff

6 Randy Haberthur, Marlene Rivas

11 Josh Patty, Carol Thomason

13 Kristen Alstott

15 Cathi Hackbarth

21 Evelyn Sharpe

26 Don Shreffler

December Outreach Giving

Disciples Mission Fund \$1657

Christmas \$790

Food Pantry \$1093

Week of Compassion \$852

Angel Tree \$800

Alternative Gift Mart \$935

Helping Hand \$385

Total \$6512

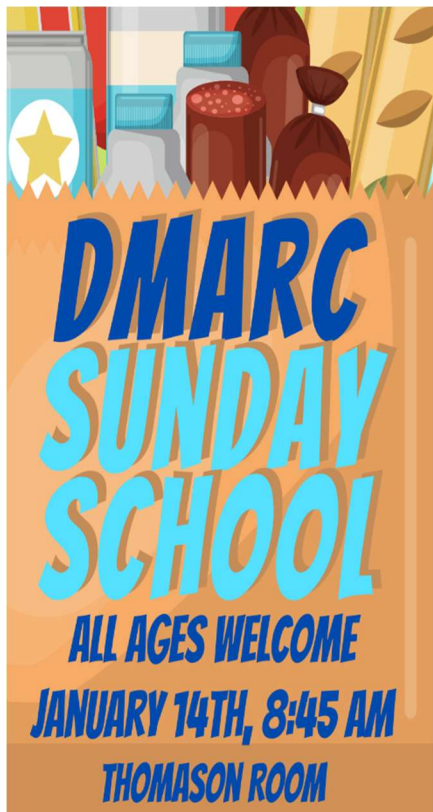
From Gene - Volunteers Needed:

I will be out of town enjoying a family holiday vacation January 14th to the 20th. I am needing some volunteers to help with a couple things while I am gone. Please let Kris and I know if you can help out (Kris needs to know in case there is an emergency, and she can contact you).

- Clean up after church services on Sunday. I usually do this on Monday mornings, and it includes the trash, bathroom clean ups and vacuuming the **sanctuary and narthex**. The Thomason room is cleaned up by the Nesting Congregation on Sundays after their service and they have been doing a good job of this.
- Stop by and do a walk through sometime during the week for any additional clean ups that are needed.
- Also, if it snows during the week, there are custom made snow shovels in the garage and in the boiler room. These are **one size fits all** and would need to be used to clear the sidewalks around the building as the preschool parents and children as well as teachers need to get in safely. Also, our staff and youth on Wednesday evenings who come into the office during the week. There is also a bucket of sand/salt to use on the sidewalks if icy.
- The snowblowers are located in the garage. There is one electric starter and one pull starter blower. They are all ready to go for winter. The parking lot gets cleaned after we get about 3 inches of snow. They know to come so no need to contact them.
- Please let Kris know if you can help so that she can contact you if it snows so badly that the preschool is canceled as the need for clearing sidewalks isn't as crucial.

I really appreciate the help - I'll be enjoying some umbrella drinks with my family (all of them except our oldest grandson).

Happy New Year everyone!



BRING:
...donation items for DMARC

LEARN:
...about DMARC's pantries and their growing needs in the DSM area

PARTICIPATE:
...in the Hunger Immersion Experience



WAKONDA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



Non-Perishable Food Items

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> dry and canned beans | <input type="checkbox"/> canned meat | <input type="checkbox"/> pasta |
| <input type="checkbox"/> canned vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> whole grain cereal | <input type="checkbox"/> rice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> canned fruit | <input type="checkbox"/> pasta sauce | <input type="checkbox"/> soup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peanut butter | <input type="checkbox"/> non-meat proteins (tofu, nuts) | |

TIP: Look for items with low sugar, fat and salt.

Fresh and Frozen Food Items

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fresh & frozen fruits | <input type="checkbox"/> fresh & frozen vegetables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> frozen meat | <input type="checkbox"/> whole grain bread items |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dairy products | <input type="checkbox"/> healthy frozen meals |

TIP: Donate far before expiration.

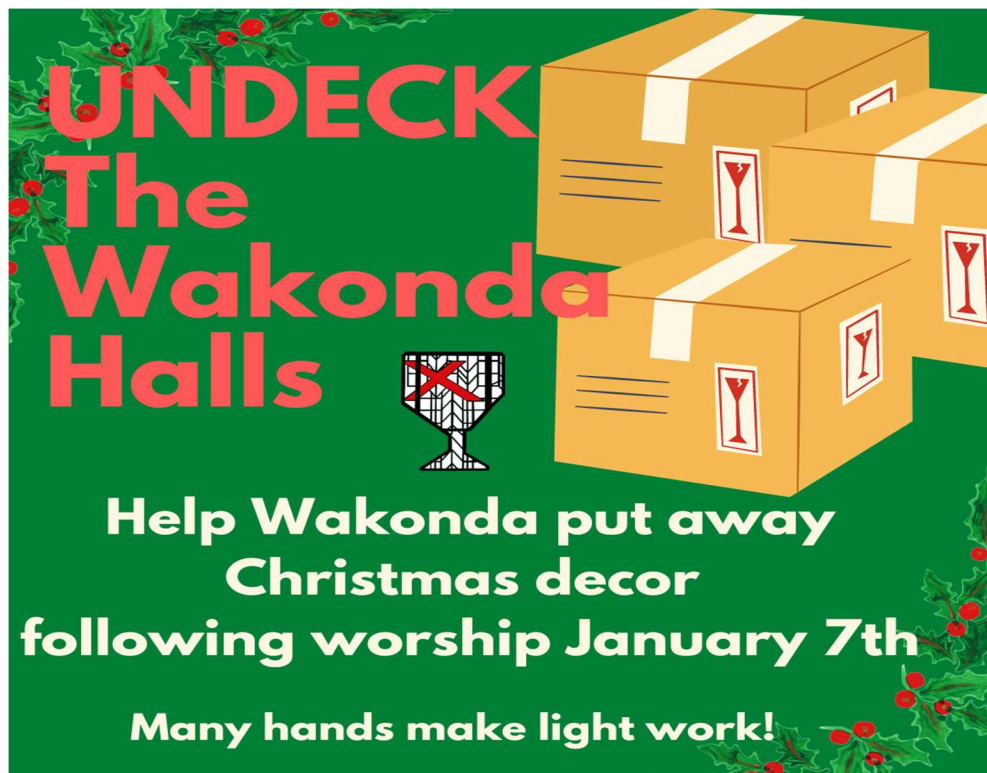
Non-Food Items

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> formula and baby food | <input type="checkbox"/> cleaning supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> diapers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> personal care products | <input type="checkbox"/> toilet paper | <input type="checkbox"/> baby wipes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> laundry detergent | <input type="checkbox"/> period products (tampons, pads) | |

TIP: Larger sizes of diapers are needed the most.

DMARC SUNDAY SCHOOL
January 14th:

Let's honor and celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. by serving our Des Moines community in the fight to end hunger. Join us for an intergenerational Sunday School for all ages in the Thomason Room on January 14th at 8:45 AM. We'll learn about DMARC's pantries, why there is such a great need for DMARC's pantries here in the Des Moines area, and then we will join together for a hunger immersion experience. During the hunger immersion experience, we'll create our own "families" amongst the participants, and we'll be challenged to shop the grocery store, food pantry, seek food and housing assistance, and find a place to live. Please bring donation items for DMARC, and encourage your neighbors, friends, and family to join us for Sunday School on January 14th for this exciting partnership between DMARC and Wakonda Christian Church.



UNDECK The Wakonda Halls

Help Wakonda put away
Christmas decor
following worship January 7th

Many hands make light work!



Winter Retreats

Experience the joy of camp in the
middle of winter!

JAN 26-28 - CHI RHO (GRADES 6-8)
FEB 9-11 - JUNIOR (GRADES 3-5)
FEB 23-25 CYF (GRADES 9-12)

[REGISTER](#)

**Winter Retreats at The
Christian Conference
Center Experience the joy
of camp in the middle
of winter!**

JAN 26-28 - CHI RHO

GRADES 6-8

FEB 9-11 - JUNIOR

GRADES 3-5

FEB 23-25 CYF

GRADES 9-12

REGISTERHERE:

<https://docgeneralassembly.egfox.com/umw-youth-retreats-2023-2024>

Winter retreats are a great way for our youth to get to know other youth in our denomination/region. It's full of fun activities, and gives youth a chance to explore their faith in a safe and welcoming space.

I will be attending the January 26-28 Chi Rho Retreat as an adult chaperone. I would be happy to transport any of our youth who are interested in attending. I would love to see a whole group of our middle schoolers go together! I have room for 4 in my car, it may be a tight squeeze, but so worth it to get to spend a weekend at the Christian Conference Center!

Wakonda Preschool

December was a busy fun filled month. Learning the advent story and birth of Jesus was definitely a highlight. We shared our learning at the Christmas program by singing Oh What a Special Night.

"His eye is on the sparrow, and I know he watches me" is part of our scripture for January. We learn about birds, winter and how the snow affects the birds' food supplies.

We would love to have some bird feeders to watch the birds outside of the classroom windows. If you have an extra and/or bird seed, we would love to have them.

January will bring the cold and we're hoping for snow. We try to get the kids outside when above 32 degrees. The gym is such a blessing on the cold days to use to play and exercise.

Thank you for the continued support of the preschool, our students, and our families.

Save The Date
Wakonda's Vacation Bible School
Evenings
Registration Opens March 1st
June 24-27, 2024

YOUTH MISSION TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 17TH, 6-7 PM,
CYF ROOM

Please bring your
downpayment to the informational
meeting on January 17.

*This downpayment will reserve
your spot to go on the Youth
Mission Trip in 2024.

MISSION TRIP 2024
KANSAS CITY, MO

RIISING 6-12TH GRADERS

JULY 21-27TH

Music Notes...

Happy New Year, Wakonda!! Wishing you many blessings and wonderful music in 2024!

Sincerely,

Your Wakonda Music Department

What's Happening at Wakonda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	January 1	2 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	3 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM	4 11:30 a.m. W.O.W @ Baretta's 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	5	6 8:00 a.m. B.O.B.
7 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Undecking the Halls following Worship	8 6:30 p.m. Literacy Center	9 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	10 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM	11 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	15 MLK Day Offices Closed	16 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	17 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W 7:30 p.m. Board Meeting	18 1:00 p.m. Coloring Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	22 6:30 p.m. Literacy Center	23 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	24 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM	25 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	26	27
28 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	29 6:30 p.m. Literacy Center	30 Offices Closed 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	February 1 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM	2	3	4