



Wakonda Christian Church
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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...

"...repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy...
Repeat ... Repeat the sounding joy."

We're not yet there, but Joy to the World is ringing through my head these days – the earworm who relentlessly (and not ironically) repeats throughout my brain. With every repeat ... another layer of joy seeps into my spirit.

This has been a tough year - I think it's going to take an entire season of this refrain to saturate my system.

I'm currently preparing the sixteenth funeral for the year. And this one is a beloved founding member of our congregation. The news out of Gaza only worsens; and sadly, overshadows the equally devastating news from Ukraine. We don't need to keep going with this list. We each have our own heartbreaks to add to this repeating refrain.

Not to sound maudlin, but sometimes it feels like the world is ending. Sometimes some things happen which truly do end the world as we know it.

No matter how big, or how small these heartbreaks are, they crack us open. These are the moments to pause asking God to enter in – better yet, these are the spaces to step back to see how God has been there the whole time.

In a world which is most often filled with bad news, it is our calling, and our act of Christly resistance to repeat the sounding joy. As the most sung and printed Christmas Carol tells us, "Joy to the World, the Lord is Come."

As we prepare for the arrival of the tender child, again, we are going to repeat this joy, over and over again. We often think joy is a wave crashing over us, consuming all around us; and thankfully there are moments this saturated with joy. But most days, a tiny taste of joy is usually found in a delight. Something which takes our breath away. The sound of a baby's laugh. The look of surprise coupled with determination when your child rides her bike for the first time. The first hug from a grandchild upon his arrival. The phone call from a friend which comes at just the right time.

Repeat these joys. Hold them up like tiny flames of delight, dancing for all to see.
This year we're making our own Advent devotional – keep track of your delights.

You can make list. You can capture them in a poem, or simple description of what delighted you. You can take a picture of these and share them on your social media, so all might share in the delight.

Delight, like joy, doesn't push out what hurts – instead, it stands next to what is real. The delight of joy is that it always makes space for more. So this season, put joy and delight on repeat. Display them alongside the cards and lights. Allow this refrain to echo throughout your very soul, so it might sing out throughout the whole world.

Delighting with you,
Pastor Robyn

WELCOME TO OUR NEW GUESTS AT W.C.C.

At the Board meeting on Wednesday Nov. 15, we voted unanimously to move ahead with some wonderful guests worshipping in our facility. They are a new church start comprised of wonderful Hispanic folk who are part of the Pentecostal faith. The name of their congregation is “*The Upper Room*” church – or “*El Aposento Alto*.” For the most part they will be a “nesting congregation” using the *Thomason Room* on Sunday afternoons and on Tuesday evenings. We have found them to be beautiful people with whom to worship and fellowship.

As your Board Chair I will be sharing a bit more about the significance of their appeal to find a place for a new church home among our fellowship. If you encounter them at any time at Wakonda Christian, I know you'll want to make them feel loved and welcome – just as you always do with our guests.

Richard Guentert

December Advent Worship: Repeat the Sounding Joy

Dec. 3: Mark 1:1-8 *Being John the Baptist*

Dec. 10: Children & Youth Christmas Program
Joy Story

Dec. 17: Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
There's Something About Mary

Dec. 24:

10:00 a.m. – Family Christmas Eve Worship
8:30 p.m. – Contemplative Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

Dec. 31: Bruce Preaching

Music Notes...

Happy Advent, everyone!

We just had an amazing Hanging of the Greens service, followed by an outstanding performance by the fantastic and devoted students from The School for Music Vocations. I love how we kickoff Advent and Christmas each year at Wakonda!

As was the case with last year, we in the music department hope to sing just about every Advent and Christmas song in our Chalice Hymnal. We only get to sing some of these once a year, so I hope you'll lift your voices right along with us!

As we enter further into the holiday season, I wish you all a fun, safe and meaningful time with your family and friends.

Merry Christmas!!! from your Wakonda Music Department!

Seth

CHRISTMAS EVE AT WAKONDA

REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY | DECEMBER 24TH | WAKONDA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**BRUNCH POTLUCK
AND FELLOWSHIP**
Thomason Room

8:45 AM

bring brunch food
to share potluck-
style, all ages
welcome

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE DURING WORSHIP**
Sanctuary

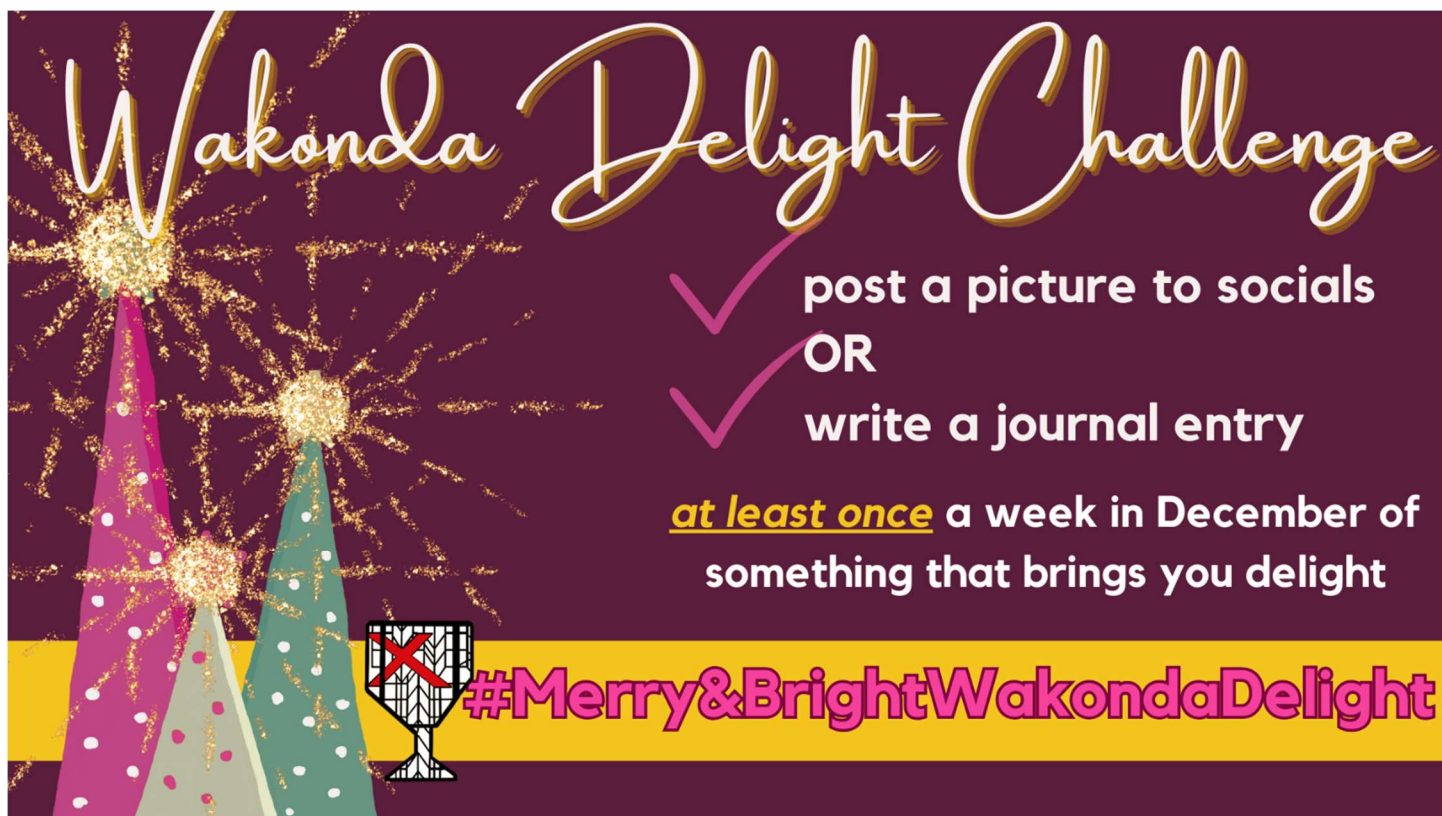
10:00 AM

A joy-filled,
interactive Christmas
Eve Service designed
for families

**CONTEMPLATIVE
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**
Sanctuary

8:30 PM


A reflective Christmas
Eve Service designed for
those in quiet wonder of
Christ coming

A graphic for the 'Wakonda Delight Challenge' with a dark purple background. On the left, there are stylized Christmas trees in pink, green, and grey, decorated with white dots and topped with golden starburst ornaments. The title 'Wakonda Delight Challenge' is written in a large, white, cursive font. To the right of the title, two pink checkmarks precede the text 'post a picture to socials' and 'OR write a journal entry'. Below this, the text 'at least once a week in December of something that brings you delight' is written in white. At the bottom, a yellow banner contains the hashtag '#Merry&BrightWakondaDelight' in pink, preceded by a small icon of a chalice with a red 'X' over it.

Wakonda Delight Challenge

✓ post a picture to socials
OR
✓ write a journal entry

at least once a week in December of
something that brings you delight

 **#Merry&BrightWakondaDelight**

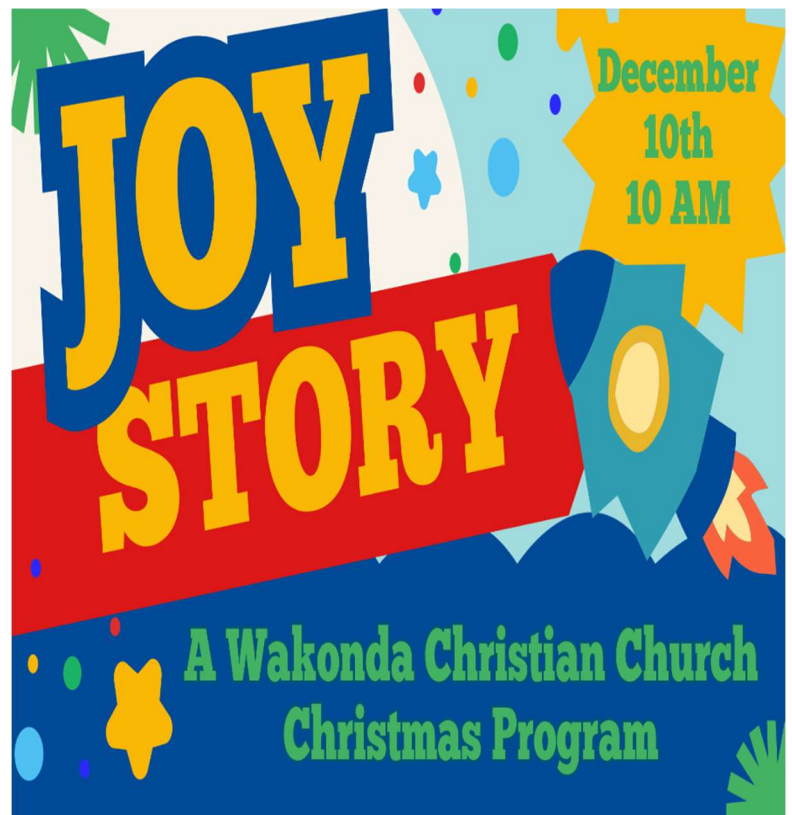


Alternative Gift Market

Shopping for the Greater Good!

Available the following Sundays:

- December 3
- December 10
- December 17



JOY STORY

December 10th 10 AM

A Wakonda Christian Church Christmas Program



Angel TREE

THANK YOU FOR BRIGHTENING CHRISTMAS MORNING FOR A CHILD!

Participants are encouraged to donate two items for each child. (For example: a book and toy, clothing and a toy, etc.)

Gifts need to be returned to church by December 17th. They will be distributed on December 20th.

Cash donations also welcomed!



Upcoming Christmas Offerings:

CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING:
DECEMBER 17TH
TOTAL AMOUNT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE UPPER MIDWEST REGIONAL MINISTRIES.

HELPING HANDS OFFERING:
DECEMBER 24TH
TOTAL AMOUNT WILL BE USED FOR EMERGENCY NEEDS.

December Birthdays

1 Joan Stanley	5 Howard McDonald
13 Steve Mohr	18 Robyn Bles, Joe Harvey
21 Rhonda Grieser	22 Cindy McAninch
26 Greg Fay	27 Bruse Gowen, Jim Patch
28 Janice Brooner, Emily Katich	

November Outreach Giving

Disciples Mission Fund \$1657

Thanksgiving \$275

Food Pantry \$624

Week of Compassion \$792

Total \$3348

Angel & Jefferson Families Tree

Support the children and families in our community by picking up an angel from our tree in the Narthex. Each angel tag has the name, age, gender, and wish list of a child. Please return all wrapped gifts, with Angel Tag attached, to the church by Dec. 17th. Share the gift of generosity and joy this season.

Wakonda Preschool

November was a busy month of learning about being thankful for all God's blessings. We enjoyed the warm days when we could get outside and play. The gym is such a blessing on the cold days to use to play and exercise.

We also had dental students from DMACC teach the 3- and 4-year classes about caring for our teeth and how to avoid getting zombi teeth!

We are preparing for a wonderful month of December learning about advent and the birth of Jesus. Pastor Robyn will begin advent the Tuesday after Thanksgiving during chapel. The children absolutely love going to chapel!

We are busy learning songs for our Christmas program. It will be December 14 at 6PM. Please join us if you'd like. We would love to share our Christmas message with you.

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



Note from Kristen...

Thank you for the many ways you continue to share your Wakonda welcome with our children, youth, and families at Wakonda Christian Church.

I will be taking vacation from December 26th-January 6th. I will not be checking emails during my vacation. If you have an urgent need, please reach out to the church office. Thank you for the gift of rest renewal from a busy, wonderful season, and to spend quality time with my family and friends during the holiday season.

May you feel the *hope, peace, joy, and love* of this holy season of anticipation. Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2024!!

What's Happening at Wakonda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Congregational Mtg. following Worship	4 6:30 p.m. Literacy Center	5 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	6 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM	7 11:30 a.m. WOW @ Baretta's 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	8	9
10 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Christmas Program	11 6:30 p.m. Literacy Center	12 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	13 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W	14 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 8:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	18 6:30 p.m. Literacy Center	19 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	20 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM	21 1:00 p.m. Coloring Group 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 8:45 a.m. Brunch Potluck 10:00 a.m. Family Christmas Eve Service 8:30 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Service		Offices Closed 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	27 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM	28	29	30
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.