



WAKONDA NEWS

From the Pastor's Desk

I love this time of year. Back to school rolls through our neighborhoods as school buses and bikes roll toward our schools. The summer brings an imbalance of time. Slower schedules mix with the hurried shuffle between camps, vacations, and just longing to stay up later with the lovely summer light. All of that is now replaced with a well-known routine. It's always sad to say goodbye to summer; and the familiarity of this season is like welcoming a long-time friend.

This fall season will also bring the celebration of our well-known traditions. We will welcome new students into our worship and wonder room. We have visiting families exploring our upper elementary class and youth group programs. Wednesdays at Wakonda will resume and all our adult Sunday classes will begin. It's a spiritual memory that is reawakening.

And this year we're celebrating 70 years of these routines and familiar traditions. As Wakonda turns 70 this year, we'll honor and celebrate the many ways we've lived our call of ministry. And we'll begin where we always do – with you! Our members, and the ministry we do together is what we're truly celebrating. We know we are called to love and serve our neighbors, but all of that begins with the ways we are seen, cherished, and served by one another.

During our Celebration Sunday, on September 7th, we'll celebrate the decades ministry and membership. Please take a moment and reflect upon your earliest memories of Wakonda. When did you first walk through these doors? What was that experience like? Who first greeted you? How did your family connect with this place? And most of all, what year or decade was this? *This last one is going to asked during worship, so if you don't remember, call the church office and we'll look it up for*

you.

We'll begin this celebrating by looking to the wisdom of God's creation in our **Deep Roots, Wide Branches** series. Based upon the book *The Hidden Life of Trees*, by Peter Wohlleben, we'll embark upon an exploration of another kind of community: the forest. I know it sound strange, but God created us to be social and communal creatures, all the way down to smallest organism, to the very tallest tree. For the month of September, we'll be learning about the ways these ecosystems which surround us truly reflect what we already know to be true. Just like the neurons of our brains, trees and plants are connected to one another, making our entire planet habitable.

Called to be stewards of this creation, we'll spend time exploring the social systems of these silent giants which shade us in the summer and create the arch across our streets as we head to school and work. Like us, and our return to church and cherished routines, trees too thrive in community. A single tree struggles against the elements, but grouped with similar kinds of trees, they form a family. Together, they feed and protect each other, protect the young, still growing saplings, as well as enrich the very soil, air, and water systems around them.

A healthy, connected, group of trees not only serves themselves, but also serves and benefits everything surrounding them. Much like Wakonda has done for 70 years. I hope you'll join me in marking this momentous anniversary and our meaningful ministry.

Serving with you,
Pastor Robyn

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

Small Group Link

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

September 2025
Volume 69 Issue 9
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Celebration Sunday

SEPTEMBER 7



Join us as we worship within God's sanctuary of our beautiful trees and green space. We'll bless children's backpacks, present bibles, and celebrate Wakonda's 70 years of ministry.

10:00 a.m Worship (bring a lawn chair & backpack)

11:00 a.m. Church wide picnic (bring a dish to share)

Celebration Sunday

Sunday, September 7th, we'll kick off another great year and celebrate 70 years of Wakonda! Join us as we bless our students and teachers (students, bring your backpacks), we'll celebrate our rising 1st and 6th graders, and we'll honor our many decades of members.

We'll gather outside on Wakonda's grounds for worship. Our travel communion packs will be offered, but you're also welcome to bring your own communion supplies. Please also bring a lawn chair or blanket and a side dish to share for the picnic lunch following. We'll have a bounce house and face paint for everyone to enjoy!

Women's Bible Study

We're looking to begin a Women's Bible Study. This would be a monthly activity, held either Sunday after church, or in the evenings. If you are interested, please contact Laura Lane – 515-250-5721, qtqtqt35@msn.com or Pastor Robyn – 515-285-8394, robynbles@wakondacc.com

Neighborhood Association Update

Our annual picnic was a success. We're always thrilled to host our Neighbors Night Out picnic in our parking lot. There were nearly 500 of our neighbors enjoying the beautiful weather, hearing about the Wakonda and our Preschool, as well as touring our EMS vehicles. Thank to everyone you attended to greet and get to know our neighbors.

As the NA Board already meets at Wakonda monthly, we're also excited to welcome the monthly NA community meetings. They'll be gathering here one evening a month in the Cord room, while Brody's Auditorium is under construction. We're happy to be a good neighbor.

Iowa Arbortium

SEPTEMBER 28, 2:00 - 4:00 P.M

Share the beauty Iowa has to offer. The accessible paths, mobile tours, and playground means all ages are welcome. Come tour, explore, and enjoy the majesty and wisdom of God's creation.



Adult Tours: Join in a tour of the Arbortium grounds from their 16-passenger cart. Learn about the different gardens, history of the grounds, and how we're part of it all.

Children & Families: Share in a family friendly lesson and activity. Explore the butterfly and children's gardens, wooded trails, and Treehouse Village.

Arboretum Visit

Celebrate the culmination of our **Deep Roots, Wide Branches** series, where we have learned what the trees and God's creation has to teach us, by gathering at the Iowa Arboretum in Madrid, IA. On Sunday, September 28, from 2:00-4:00 Wakonda will embark upon this fun field trip, together.

The Arboretum is accessible for all people. They have paved paths, accessible gardens, and an Oak Leaf express golf cart tour (which can hold up to 14 people). This tour the entire grounds with a guide offering the stories of each garden, along with the history of the grounds.

There will be an exploration lesson and activity for the children, along with access to all the gardens and Treehouse Village playground.

Please sign-up in the Narthex for what parts you'd like to participate:

Entrance Fees:

- \$10 Adults
- \$8 Youth (13-17)
- \$5 Children (3-12)
- Infants and toddlers free

Additional Options:

Guided Oak Leaf Express Tour (14 passenger Golf Cart)

- \$5

Children's Educational Program

- \$3

SUNDAY SCHOOL

STARTING SEPTEMBER 14TH



*nursery is available for infants-preschool age
from 8:45-11:15 AM, nursery is in the hallway past the office



9:00-9:45 AM



Children's Worship and Wonder

- 3 years- 2nd Grade
- Meet at 1st classroom by the downstairs bathrooms
- creative and interactive faith based learning
- Please do not bring any food into the classroom



Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF)

- 3rd-5th Graders
- meet at 2nd classroom by the downstairs bathrooms
- fun and engaging faith based learning
- Please pick up your children at 9:50 AM



Starbies & Jesus

- Middle and High Schoolers
- Get a drink at Starbucks together!
- Conversations about current events, the Sundays scripture, something on your mind...whatever you need it to be



Adult Sunday School Classes

- adults of all ages
- various locations throughout the church, ask a member and they can guide you where to go
- faith-based discussions and relationship building

Music Notes...

Hello, Wakonda!

Happy New Calendar Year! Hope you all had a great summer!

Thanks to everyone who was able to come to our Choir and Music Department meeting on August 24th. It was good to talk about how we can improve our music ministry. If you were not able to attend, no problem! Always feel free to bring me your questions, concerns and ideas for how to improve the music in your worship experience.

One significant change that came from that meeting: Your choir will begin rehearsing regularly on Sundays immediately after worship, beginning Sunday, September 14th. Anyone is welcome to stay after worship to join in with the choir. We hope being more visible in our rehearsal setting might spark a little more interest in our group.

Lastly, to all of our special guest musicians who sang or played solos during the offertory over the summer, thank you for sharing your time and skills with us! You are each an important part of Wakonda's music ministry, and we look forward to hearing more from each of you.

Take care, everyone!
Seth

September Birthdays

1 Tim Leaman **2** Barb Bare, Loretta Quinett
7 Caleb Patty Liz Walag **9** Lorraine Leaman
12 Helen Givler **13** Nate Worthington
17 Lillian Marcum **19** Morna Rutledge
22 Jill Requist, Doug Stephenson
23 Jack Bohlender **25** Kay Jones
26 Rosey Jo Bles, Adam Frieberg,
Lucy Davisson

WEDNESDAYS @ WAKONDA

6-12th Grade Youth

Bible Study, Games, Prayer, Service projects,
Conversations and more!

Starts September 17!

6-8pm
(meal 6-6:30pm)

Wednesdays @ Wakonda

We are so excited about youth group starting up again! We will enjoy a meal together to start with (about 6-6:30pm) and then have some activities 6:30-8pm. I am making plans to have some guests join us, sharing about the mission trip and finding ways to implement ways of being green, serving in a community garden, Bible studies, and of course some fun games! See you on Wednesday September 17 for our first gathering of the season!

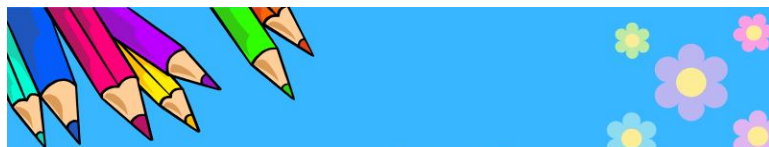
Worship & Wonder

We will be welcoming some NEW 3-year-olds to Worship & Wonder! We will have a 'soft start' on September 7 at 9:15am to give them a tour and see what it will be like. We will begin regular Worship & Wonder at 9am on September 14. One change that we are implementing this year is we do not want to have any food or beverages brought into the room on Sunday mornings. It didn't happen very often, but a few times kids finished their breakfast or a drink in the room. We want to keep all of our kids safe, so only a water bottle can be brought into the room. Graham crackers and water will be served for the feast.

Welcome Amela!



Hello, I would like to start by introducing myself as the new preschool director of Wakonda Preschool. My name is Amela Sabic, and I am so excited to be here and continue with the great things that Wakonda Preschool has been doing. My son will have the opportunity to be here in the 2's classroom. As far as my background, in addition to my Associate's degree, I currently am a certified Montessori Teacher. I have 10 plus years of experience working with children and families in all types of settings. I've been an infant/toddler teacher, and preschool teacher as well. My passion is children and families, and how I can make things better for them and for each child with who I have the privilege of working. I am definitely very excited about our new infant classroom that we are opening! We have wonderful staff here that are very kind & helpful. They have worked so hard with their classrooms and preparing for the start of the school year. If there are any questions regarding our preschool program, don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting current & new families at our Orientation!



WAKONDA PRESCHOOL

We've been serving the south side of Des Moines since 1967. As the longest running preschool in Des Moines, we provide year round preschool and day care for 6 weeks to 4 year olds.

Early Childhood Classes

- 2/3 year old half day: 9-12
- 3/4 year old full day: 9-3





Infant Care

6 weeks - 24months

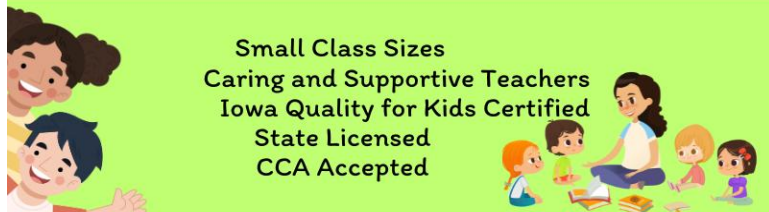
full day: 9-3



- Early drop off: 7:30-9:00 a.m.
- Late pick-up : 3:00-5:30 p.m.



Play based learning environment
Engaging and varied activities
Positive social-emotional development
Early Education Essentials



Small Class Sizes
Caring and Supportive Teachers
Iowa Quality for Kids Certified
State Licensed
CCA Accepted



Contact Us:
515-285-8401
amela.sabic@wakondapreschoolcom
More information @
www.wakondacc.com



What's Happening at Wakonda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship	1 <i>Labor Day</i> Offices Closed	2 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	3 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM	4 11:30 a.m. W.O.W.	5	6 8:00 a.m. B.O.B.
7 <i>Celebration Sunday</i> 8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Potluck following Worship	8 1 st Day of Preschool	9 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	10 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM	11	12	13
14 8:45 a.m. Sunday School For All 10:00 a.m. Worship	15	16 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	17 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W Kickoff	18 1:00 p.m. Coloring Group	19	20
21 8:45 a.m. Sunday School For All 10:00 a.m. Worship	22	23 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	24 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W	25	26	27
28 8:45 a.m. Sunday School For All 10:00 a.m. Worship Arboretum	29	30 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	October 1 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W	2 11:30 a.m. W.O.W.	3	4 8:00 a.m. B.O.B.
5 8:45 a.m. Sunday School For All 10:00 a.m. Worship	6	7 10:00 a.m. Chit Chats	8 10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W	9	10	11