



WAKONDA NEWS

From the Pastor's Desk

I'm just going to say it. You probably already feel it – but sometimes when someone says it first, it brings the relief you needed. I'm tired. Things feel tough right now; and I don't know when it's going to get better.

There. It's out for all to hear. I'm curious if you're feeling the same?

A month or so ago I was praying about the last time I felt this depleted and worried. I realized the last time I was woken up in the middle of the night and felt this bone deep exhaustion was during 2020. We all can remember how difficult COVID was, and at times it feels like we're still finding our way out of those lockdown times.

But I also realize there was a stark difference between the season of COVID and the season we now find ourselves. I'm not rose-colored glasses, reminiscing, but while we all felt alone and fearful, we all felt that together. There was a sense of unity which permeated those years. The tenderness we felt toward one another because we were all in this together somehow made those endless months bearable. As we were doing our best and supporting one another, we were holding in our mind's eye the faces of those we loved, alongside the many we did not know, but we knew they were doing just the same.

The time right now feels equal to that fear and loneliness, only now we seem to be on all different sides. There's an endless exhaustion of reasons to be angry with any and everyone from your neighbor down the street, every single elected official, and the rising warring nations.

Catastrophizing has become our side hustle, and I think it's time we work ourselves out of a job.

I realize it seems like a tiny gesture in line with magnitude of problems our world faces, or the chasm of distance between yourself and those you disagree with – but I invite you to this practice. For the month of November, the season of thanksgiving, I invite you to pray for your enemies.

Pray for those political leaders you love to argue with when you hear them speaking on the news.

Pray for the neighbor who doesn't trim their yard or put away their trash bins in a timely manner.

Pray for the person at work who always says things to put you down or irritate you.

Pray for the any and every person who keeps you up at night.

You don't have to be thankful for them. You don't ask for anything specific for them or even help in learning how to love them. Simply hold them in your mind's eye. Trust God is seeing them and feeling all your tumult of emotions about this person; and then release them into God's good care.

I invite you to do this as a way of trusting God's unity will, in fact, be revealed. Even if that unity begins with you releasing the stress and worry these relationships bring to you and your life.

I also invite anyone, at the end of this month, to share with me what happened during this time? I can't see what that might be, but I do in fact trust that if you engage in this daily, or even weekly, practice, something will happen. You will become tender to the movements of God and the working of the Spirit in our world.

I look forward to hearing all about it. Happy Thanksgiving month. I am deeply grateful for all of you.

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>

November 2025
Volume 69 Issue 11
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Begin your holiday season remembering those whom you haven't forgotten. This service is a special, sacred time creating space to be with those who are no longer with us. Your loved one may have passed away this year, or even ten year ago. There is always a candle and a moment to treasure them as you hold the ache of their absence. You may submit a name to be shared during the service, even if you are not in attendance. We will honor them as we hold you throughout this upcoming holiday season.

Service of Remembrance

A service to...

*remember a loved one passed;
remember you are not alone;
remember that we remember, too*

Sunday, November 23

6:00 p.m.



WAKONDA CHRISTIAN CHURCH
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST



Music Note...

Hello, everyone!

Hope you all are enjoying the cooler temps and changing colors.

Soon we will be saying 'goodbye' to our dear members Paul and Patty Sebring. We in the music department are so grateful for their devoted participation in the choir. We wish them all the best as they move to Knoxville, and we will miss them very much.

Meanwhile choir rehearsals after worship have been a complete success. We went from a six people to nine in September, but there's always room for more. So, please take note that your choir now rehearses immediately after worship on Sundays. No warm-up needed; we've already been singing in worship! If you have any interest in joining us, even on occasion, please let me know, or just stick around on a Sunday after church.

Take care, all!
Seth

November Birthdays

1 David Newman
5 Becky Shepard, Taylor Moellenbeck
8 Geno Hegre
12 Katie Moellenbeck
13 John Requist
14 Fred Rivas
17 Elaine Conkel
18 Gary Thompson
19 Teresa Lindeman
24 Lori Baker
30 Mark Spillers

From God's doorstep, to the ends of the earth.

Advent 2025

Advent

Christ's story began in a humble manger inside of a stable. Wakonda's story began by knocking on doors in our neighborhood. This is how the beginning of Christ's story always begins. A tiny flicker inside our hearts, our homes, greets and meets the light in another. This Advent season join us in celebrating the beginnings of these stories and the ways God invites us to share the light, making more room for God in our world.

- **Hanging of the Greens, Nov. 30th** begins our Advent season. Bring a new toy to donate for the Bidwell Riverside toy drive.
- **Wakonda 70th Anniversary Celebration, Dec. 7th.** We'll welcome longtime member to join us in worship and celebration of Wakonda's 70 years of ministry. Join us for a reception following worship, where we'll also honor Howard McDonald's 104th birthday.
- **Children and Youth Program, Dec. 14th.** The children and youth will lead worship with their Christmas program. Following worship, we'll have cookie decorating and carol singing.
- **Christmas Sunday, Dec. 21.**

November Worship

2: Stewardship Sunday, *Restore*, John 21:1-19

9: All Saints Sunday, *Where does Belonging Begin?* Luke 20:27-38

16: Rev. Jason Grow, Guest Preacher

23: Rev. Adam Frieberg Preacher

30: Hanging of the Greens, *bring a new toy for Bidwell Riverside Toy Drive*

Save the date

Mid-Winter Youth Retreats

Chi Rho (grades 6-8) Jan 23-25

CYF (grades 9-12) Jan 23-25

Jr (grades 3-5) Feb 20-22

Registration opens
October 18th!

SUMMER 2026 CAMP DATES

FAMILY CAMP	JUNE 5-7
GRAND 1	JUNE 13-14
JR 1	JUNE 14-19
CHI NON-RUSTIC	JUNE 14-19
CHI RHO 1	JUNE 21-26
CYF 1	JUNE 21-26
BEGINNER	JUNE 29-JULY 1
JR 2	JULY 5- 10
GRAND 2	JULY 11-12
CHI RHO 2	JULY 12-17
CYF 2	JULY 12-17
ADAM	JULY 19-24
ADVENTURE	JULY 26-31
JR 3	AUGUST 2-7

2026 Camp Sessions will begin on
Sundays with 4pm drop-off and
conclude on Friday with a 2pm pick-up

Registration Opens
November 1, 2025

Watch for more
information and the
registration link!



What's Happening at Wakonda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2</p> <p>8:45 a.m. Sunday School For All 10:00 a.m. Worship Harvest Dinner following Worship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>NO Literacy Center</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Chit Chats</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:30 a.m. W.O.W.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00 a.m. B.O.B.</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:45 a.m. Sunday School For All 10:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Literacy Center</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Chit Chats</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>8:45 a.m. Sunday School For All 10:00 a.m. Worship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Literacy Center</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Chit Chats 6:00 p.m. Southwestern Hills Neighborhood Assoc. Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W 6:30 p.m. Elders Meeting 7:30p.m. Board Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Sack Lunch 1:00 p.m. Coloring Group</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>8:45 a.m. Sunday School For All 10:00 a.m. Worship 6:00 p.m. Service of Remembrance</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Literacy Center</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Chit Chats 4:00 p.m. Book Club - Zoom</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>8:45 a.m. Sunday School For All 10:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens</p>	<p>Dec 1</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Literacy Center</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Chit Chats</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 p.m. W@W</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:30 a.m. W.O.W.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 a.m. B.O.B.</p>