



# WAKONDA NEWS

## From the Pastor's Desk

"Filled with the Holy Spirit, you will be my witnesses here,  
and to the ends of the earth."

*Acts 1:8*

These were Jesus's parting words to the first Apostles –  
the founders of the church.

These words are the guiding mission of the  
Christian Church (Disciple of Christ)

To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and  
serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth."

– *Acts 1:8*

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>

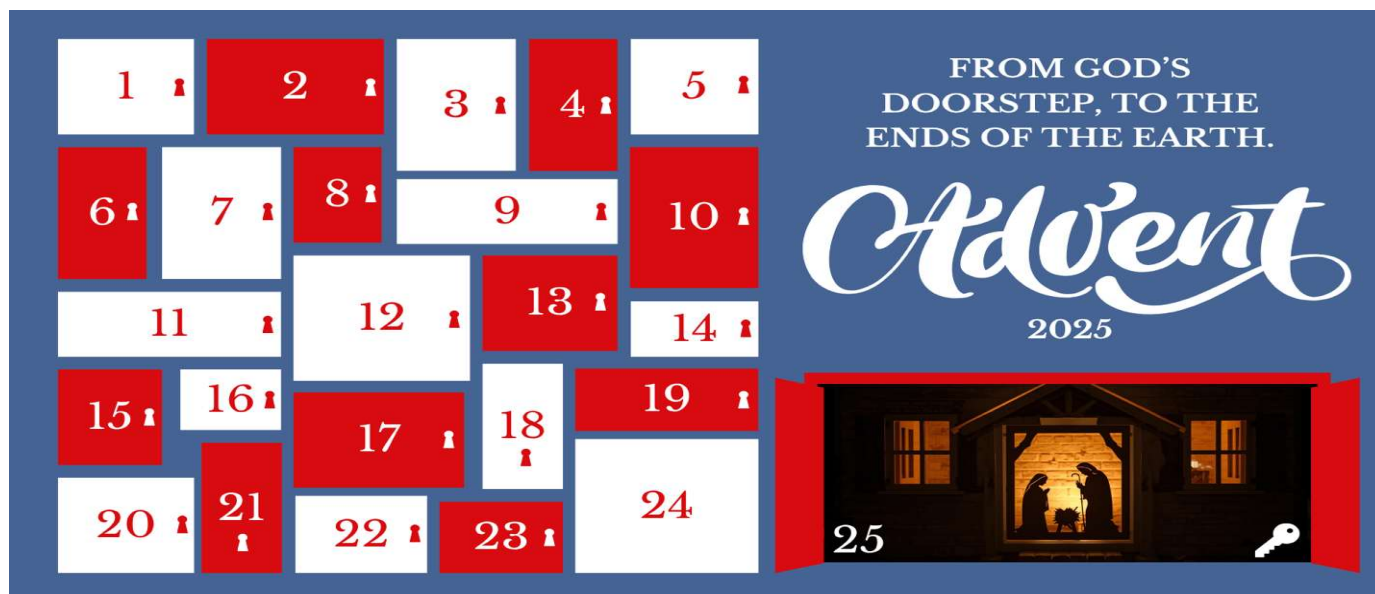
December 2025  
Volume 69 Issue 12  
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& 0<sup>th</sup> Celebration
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Every Advent we prepare for the journey to cross the first doorstep of Christ, the meager stable where forgotten shepherds first heard this good news, where wise and wealthy teachers traveled the ends of the earth just so they too could stand upon the doorstep of God.

These words are both the ending of Jesus' earthly ministry, and the beginning of the church. It is how Wakonda's beginning starts, too. From knocking on the doorsteps of our neighborhood, to inviting folks to the newly built doorstep of Wakonda Christian Church. On Sunday, December 11, 1955, 193 people gathered to declare this church as a house of God.

This Advent Season, we will journey toward Bethlehem, hearing the stories of that first Christmas, as we celebrate 70 years of Wakonda's ministry. Every week we will hear another part of our story, alongside the Christmas story. I hope you'll join us. We have much to celebrate.



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

# O Holy Night

5:30 p.m.

*Family Service*



8:30 p.m.

*Candlelight Service*

In-person & Live on Youtube

Wakonda Christian  
Media



**WAKONDA** CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

### Advent and Christmas Worship

**November 30:** Isaiah 2:1-5

Hanging of the Greens, *Hope of the Prophets*

**December 7:** Luke 2:1-5

*Peace of the Family of God*

**December 14:** Children and Youth Program,  
*Journey of Joy with the Shepherds*

**December 21:** Matthew 2:1-12

*The Love of Wondering*

**December 28:** Laity Sunday,  
Dave Lund Preaching

Join us in celebration of

## WAKONDA'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Seven Decades of Faith and Community



**WAKONDA** CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

### December Birthdays

**1** Joan Stanley

**5** Howard McDonald – 104!

**13** Steve Mohr

**18** Robyn Bles, Joe Harvey

**21** Rhonda Grieser

**22** Cindy McAninch

**25** Truman Saveraid

**26** Greg Fay

**27** Bruce Gowen, Jim Patch

**28** Janice Brooner, Emily Katich

December 7th, 2025

9am - Coffee and Fellowship

10am - Worship

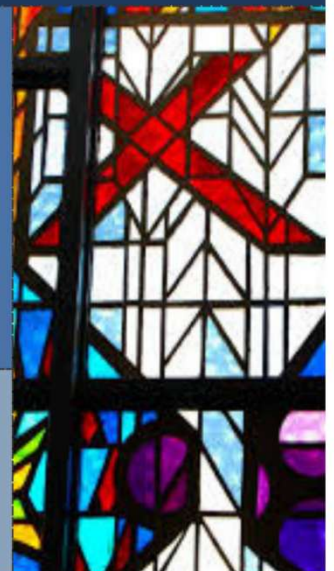
11am - Reception Following  
Worship

All are welcome!

Please RSVP by November 24th.

Call or text (515) 750-1950, or  
email at [Wakondacc@gmail.com](mailto:Wakondacc@gmail.com)

We look forward to celebrating  
with you!



### Music Note...

Hello, Wakonda!

I hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday week.

As always, I look forward to Advent and the many (underrated!) hymns we get to sing.

I also look forward to celebrating Wakonda's 70th birthday on December 14th, and hope you will be able to join us.

And lastly, I cannot wait to bring in Christmas by hearing all of our collective voices as we sing some of our favorite carols of the season.

May this holiday season bring you many blessings and lots of time with loved ones.

See you in church!

Seth

### Anti-Racist, Pro-Reconciling Book Club

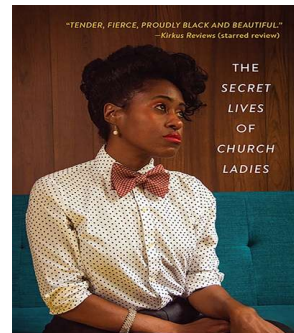
#### January Read:

The Secret lives of Church Ladies,  
by Deesha Philyaw

Take your time over the holidays to read this collection of short stories which explore living beyond "church lady" stereotypes and into the real lives of these faithful women of God.

Join us on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. We gather in the comfort of our own homes on zoom:

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



### Youth Happenings...

A Word about the Christmas Open House... The Spiritual Formation team has decided to try something a little different with the Christmas Open House. We have previously had an evening full of games, a craft, cookie decorating and carol singing. It has been a fun event, but the last couple of years attendance has dropped. It can be difficult to get out during the week for families with young kiddos, so we decided to do an abbreviated event right after the Children and Youth Program on December 14.

#### **Children and Youth Program - December 14 - 10am during worship**

The Children and Youth are going to lead worship! We will have a time of Christmas carols, cookie decorating and craft afterwards for the kids in the Cord Room!

#### **Mission Trip!** Dallas, Texas July 19-24 for 6-12th graders

We are going with Be The Neighbor (the same group we have used the last several years!) I have heard from some kids and a couple of parents that they are interested. I need to hear from a grown up and have a \$50 ASAP please. You could also pay on the church website, just let me know you have done that.

W@W Youth Dec. 3 & 10- Getting ready for the Christmas Program!

**December 14** - Children and Youth Christmas Program!

December 17 - Youth Christmas Party!

NO W@W Youth December 24 & 31

**No Children or Youth Sunday School December 28**

First W@W Youth group of 2026 is Jan 7!



**CAMP and RETREATS!** Registration is open for retreats at the Christian Conference Center, and you can also see the camp dates to help plan ahead.



## WINTER YOUTH RETREATS!

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

CHI RHO (GRADES 6-8) JAN 23-25  
CYF (GRADES 9-12) JAN 23-25  
JR (GRADES 3-5) FEB 20-22

SCAN ME



REGISTRATION FEE IS \$130  
AFTER JANUARY 16 CHI RHO/CYF IS \$150  
AFTER FEBRUARY 13 JR. IS \$150

<https://www.uppermidwestcc.org/mid-year-retreats>

## 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

Registration Opens  
November 1, 2025

Watch for more  
information and the  
registration link!



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

# What's Happening at Wakonda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30  <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School For All <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship	1  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Literacy Center	2  <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	3  <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM <b>6:00 p.m.</b> W@W	4  <b>11:30 a.m.</b> W.O.W.	5	6  <b>8:00 a.m.</b> B.O.B.
7  <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School For All <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship	8  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Literacy Center	9  <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	10  <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM <b>6:00 p.m.</b> W@W	11	12	13
14  <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School For All <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Youth Program Cong. Meeting	15  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Literacy Center	16  <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	17  <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Bible Study via ZOOM <b>6:00 p.m.</b> W@W	18  <b>12:00 p.m.</b> Sack Lunch <b>1:00 p.m.</b> Coloring Group	19	20
21  <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School For All <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship	22  <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Literacy Center	23  <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	24  <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Worship <b>8:30 p.m.</b> Worship	25  	26	27
28  <b>8:45 a.m.</b> Sunday School For All <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Worship	29	30  <b>10:00 a.m.</b> Chit Chats	31	1  	2	3  <b>8:00 a.m.</b> B.O.B.