

# WAKONDA NEWS

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

June is a month-long love letter to summer. Fresh from the school-year grind, even if you haven't been in school for multiple decades, the shift within our spirits is seismic. Longer days where the light lingers is God's invitation to get outside. What is calling to you? Do you have a deck perfect for early morning birdwatching? Is that small patch of garden, or the tiny containers on your porch ready for ripening tomatoes or flowers blooming you a "hello" when you come home? Enjoy a little recreation of neighborhood walks, bike rides to the ice cream shop, or even delightful porch sitting. This time outside, where nothing separates you from God's glorious sky-view is soul renewing. And soon you'll find it's re-creating you in ways you long forgot.

My prayer for you as you enter this summer season is each of us will discover or re-discover the joy of the growing season. Our world is a whirl with frenetic energy – get this done, accomplish that, achievement on overdrive. But summer is where God truly shows us what can be achieved. Dirt underneath our fingernails because we just can't keep our hands away from verdant growth. Tan lines upon our shoulders because we paused in wonder of the smell of fresh cut grass while we mowed the lawn. Our hearts are lighter because we hear the neighborhood kids in their backyards, and our drive to work is slower because they're all out on the bikes and scooters.

Summer isn't just for kids – it's for the kid in each of us. The one who wallows in boredom just long enough to remember what's already inside of them. We don't need a to-do list or a screen to distract us; we only need to remember the imagination inside of us is a true gift of the Holy Spirit. What is stirring up inside of you just waiting to be released?

Summer is the season where God shows us how important play is to our well-being. What outlandish concoctions can you throw upon the grill or a dinner you can create from your garden? Take the time to talk to your neighbors over the fence simply because neither one of you can go inside just yet.

Every summer my house creates our Summer BINGO – a list of all the things we hope to do this season. Work still needs doing, chores will still get done, camps are attended and vacations are planned. But this BINGO list captures all those tiny moments no one brags about, but we all treasure. How many times do you want a date with a book and your hammock? Put it on the list. Do you want to do an ice cream comparison of all the local shops throughout the metro? Set your standards and add it to the BINGO card. Are there trails you want to discover, get the bike out a few times, or visit every public library in town? This is the time to think beyond our usual to-do lists and into the depths of play, wonder, and discovery.

Summer blessings to each of you. I hope June is only the beginning of re-creating the spirit of rest and play you need. God is ready to grow, come join in the fun.

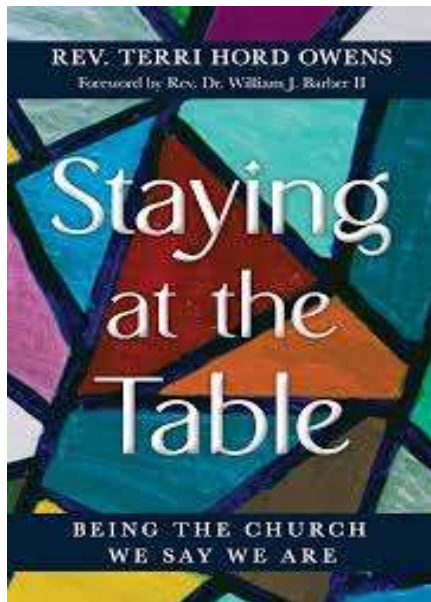
Playing with you,  
Pastor Robyn



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>  
June 2026  
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## Lessons on the Lawn

Every summer we enjoy a bible study beneath the stunning trees of Wakonda. Join us this year on Wednesday nights, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Bring a picnic dinner or stop at Jimmy Johns on your way. We'll be studying *Staying at the Table: Being the Church We Say We Are*, by Disciples of Christ, General Minister and President, Rev. Terri Hord Owens. We'll dive into Disciples history as we discuss the ways our church's theological beliefs are being lived out in today's world. Copies are available in the church office for \$13. Contact Pastor Robyn for further information and please let her know if you need childcare.

### General Assembly: July 10-11

We have the exciting opportunity to be a host site for the very first online General Assembly. Striving to connect more deeply with our local congregations, while keeping costs manageable, we have moved to an online format for General Assembly for two years, than the third year we'll gather in person (like years past).

This very first General Assembly is July 10-11. Friday evening we'll gather for dinner and worship. Saturday will include the business of the church, worship, education on the general ministries of the denomination, along with educational opportunities. Serving as a host site means we'll gather with fellow Disciples within the metro area.

Pastor Robyn is putting together a team, alongside Congregational Care, to work with four other congregations to provide hospitality for this event. Please see Sharon Newman or Pastor Robyn if you are interested in helping Wakonda host our fellow Disciples.

### Leadership Retreat: June 14<sup>th</sup>

All leaders of the church are encouraged to attend our Leadership Retreat, Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. Following worship we'll gather in the Thomason Room for lunch, an introduction to our respective ministry areas, along with dreaming for the upcoming ministry year. What hopes and plans do you have for Wakonda? What stirrings of the Spirit are bubbling up, just waiting to be shared. Join us for a great conversation and start to the new programmatic year.

### Music Notes...

Goodbye to another beautiful calendar year, and here comes summer!

As your choir prepares to sing their last Sunday of the school year on May 31st, I want to thank you all for the ways you support and nurture your Wakonda music department. We've been blessed by amazing musical guest artists from within and outside the church. Your choir has sung 1-2 times per month since September and grown in number. And on Easter Sunday we witnessed the return of your Bell Choir. Look for all this and more in the year to come. In the meantime, we'll continue to have guest soloists join us throughout the summer.

See you all in worship!  
Seth



Register now through our Realm Connect app or online [www.wakondacc.com/vbs](http://www.wakondacc.com/vbs)

# Vacation Bible School at Wakonda! July 6-9

## 5:30-7:30pm



We need volunteers too! If you are interested in volunteering, talk to Sara Patty or Brents Oliphant and we will look for the best place for your gifts!

### June Worship

**June 7:** Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26  
*"Interruptions, Intrusions, and Inspiration"*  
Rev. Richard Guentert Preaching  
**June 14:** Matthew 9:35-10:8  
"Lost & Found"  
**June 21:** (Father's Day) Genesis 21:8-21,  
"Abundant Grace"  
**June 28:** Rev. Jason Grow Preaching

### June Birthdays

**6** Howard Robbins  
**7** Gene Koll  
**12** Jo Burnett  
**13** Tiffany Thompson  
**16** Allison Lane, Carol McGarvey  
**18** Matt Stilwell  
**19** Sharry Worthington  
**22** Jeff Fox, Jillian Lane, Nancy Amend  
**23** Dale Steffen, Elizabeth Patty  
**26** Mazie Stilwell  
**28** Deene Ehlis

# What's Happening at Wakonda

| Sunday   | Monday | Tuesday                               | Wednesday                                | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday                        |
|--|--------|---------------------------------------|--|---|--------|---------------------------------|
| 31<br><b>8:45 a.m.</b><br>Sunday School<br>For All<br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Worship | June 1 | 2<br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Chit Chats  | 3  | 4<br><b>11:30 a.m.</b><br>W.O.W.  | 5      | 6<br><b>8:00 a.m.</b><br>B.O.B. |
| 7<br><b>8:45 a.m.</b><br>Sunday School<br>For All<br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Worship  | 8      | 9<br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Chit Chats  | 10<br><b>6:00 p.m.</b><br>Elders Meeting | 11  | 12     | 13                              |
| 14<br><b>8:45 a.m.</b><br>Sunday School<br>For All<br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Worship | 15     | 16<br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Chit Chats | 17                                       | 18<br><b>12:00 p.m.</b><br>Sack Lunch<br><b>1:00 p.m.</b><br>Coloring Group | 19     | 20                              |
| 21<br><b>8:45 a.m.</b><br>Adult Sunday<br>School<br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Worship   | 22     | 23<br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Chit Chats | 24                                       | 25  | 26     | 27                              |
| 28<br><b>8:45 a.m.</b><br>Adult Sunday<br>School<br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Worship   | 29     | 30<br><b>10:00 a.m.</b><br>Chit Chats | July 1                                   | 2<br><b>11:30 a.m.</b><br>W.O.W.  | 3      | 4<br><b>8:00 a.m.</b><br>B.O.B. |