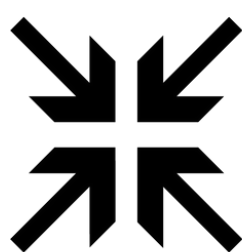


# APRIL

## Messenger

### 2025



Wakeman  
Congregational  
Church

# MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Friends,

Perhaps you remember the story of George Mueller (1805-1898), the British evangelist who desperately wanted ALL people to know the power of God! He would only start projects as directed by God through prayer. By the time his ministry was complete, he and his wife had served over 10,000 orphans and established 117 schools which taught over 120,000 students. Every step was steeped in prayer. Every step God provided direction and resources to accomplish God's will.

I am often reminded of Mueller's prayer: "I get my heart in such a place that it has no will of its own with regard to a given matter." He completely and totally trusted that God would guide and provide. And if a particular project was a part of God's plan, he need not worry. Mueller only and always wanted **God's** will.

As we consider expanding our church building accessibility, let us trust completely in God's guidance. From the foundation of our church, God has been about making us a people who welcomed others, especially those who might be left out. We were founded because we believed God was calling us to welcome those who opposed the enslavement of others. On January 1, 1879, over 1400 people gathered in our church sanctuary to dedicate this building to welcome all to give praise and prayers to God. Today, God is continuing His work of welcoming all people into His sanctuary for prayer and praise.

One hundred forty-six years ago, our ancestors could never have imagined all the ways God would use His people to proclaim Jesus Christ to this community. And we can't imagine all the ways God will continue to use this congregation to proclaim Jesus Christ to others. So let us be faithful in our prayers for God to guide and provide His will for us.

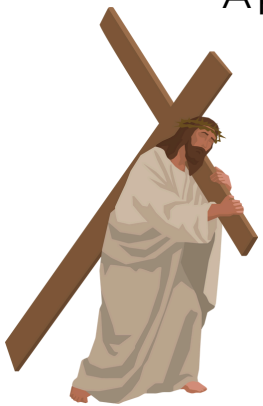
With deep love,  
Pastor Janet



# NEWS FROM THE DIACONATE BOARD

This year, Lent, a special period of reflection, fasting and prayer, began on Ash Wednesday, March 5 and will end on Maundy Thursday, April 17. During this Lenten season, Pastor Janet Ross will be leading a meditation and prayer service on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm in the church sanctuary. On Maundy Thursday at 6:30 pm, Pastor Janet will lead a reflective worship service.

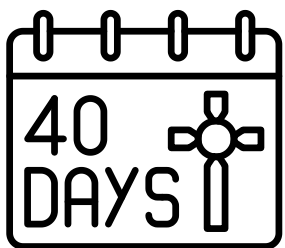
Communion will be served on Palm Sunday, April 13 during worship service.



Our congregation will join St. Mary's Church for the Stations of the Cross Walk on Good Friday, April 18. The walk will begin at 12:00 noon at St. Mary's Church.

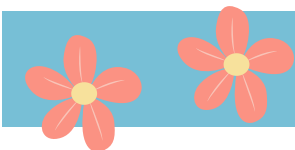


On Sunday morning, April 20 at 7:30 am, the congregation will gather at the cross on the northeast corner of the church property for Sunrise Service. Communion will be shared. After the Sunrise Service, a potluck breakfast will be served in the basement of the church followed by Easter service at 10:00 am in the church sanctuary. You are welcome to bring flowers of your choice to the Sunrise Service or to the 10:00 am service in the church sanctuary.

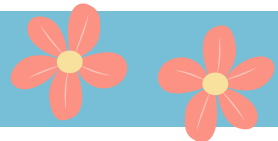


We welcome each of you to join us on Thursday evenings during the Lenten season, Easter Sunday and every Sunday throughout the year, to worship and praise our Lord and Savior.

*He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. ~ Luke 24:6-7*



# ACCESSIBILITY LIFT



At the January 2025 annual meeting, the Trustees reported that they had received a quote from Access Solutions for a lift that would transport individuals from ground level to the basement and to the sanctuary level. The Trustees had met twice with Janotta and Herner regarding this accessibility project.

On March 17th the Trustees and Joni Ledinsky and Pete Hazel met with Janotta and Herner. Proposed architectural/engineering plans for the project were provided with a construction timeline of May through July this summer. The project was bid using time and materials with an original estimated range including the lift, of \$300,000 to \$350,000 for the total capital improvement project.

Currently, both Janotta and Herner and the Trustees are reviewing and revising the design details. Anyone who has questions about the lift project or who would like to be involved with design details should contact the Trustees. The Trustees want to complete the revisions and be satisfied with the project scope, design and costs, prior to a special congregational meeting scheduled for April 27th. Design drawings and details will be made available to the congregation. authorize the signing of the project contract. The congregation will meet following worship on the 27th of April to vote on authorization of the project contract.

## BACKGROUND ON THE LIFT PROJECT:

Church members and friends have long noted that easier access to the sanctuary and the basement was needed. Investment and memorial funds have been designated for improved accessibility.

A masonry handicap ramp from ground level to the sanctuary was constructed in 1990 which complimented the facility structure. The exposed ramp presented challenges with snow and ice. In 2023, the Trustees became aware of damage to the interior steps to the basement. Consultation with Quality Masonry determined that it appears that the deteriorating exterior ramp was creating major drainage issues for the church building.

Church Council and the Trustees explored installing an elevator to provide access to the sanctuary, basement and ground level. This potential \$500,000 to one-million-dollar option was determined to be cost prohibitive.

The Trustees investigated a lift system installed at the Birmingham Church. The lift accommodates a wheelchair and two people. Janotta and Herner, from Monroeville, was contacted to develop plans for our church facility. It was determined that an addition to the church would be needed to house the lift and provide a vestibule for the interior stairs. To save costs, John Krumwiede volunteered to remove the existing ramp. The lift would be purchased directly by the church from Access Solutions. The scope of the project would include construction and finishing of an addition to house the lift and create a vestibule (doors, windows, lighting/electrical); installation of the lift; access through the church wall to the basement and sanctuary; drainage; replacement of the interior steps to the basement; finishes for impacted interior church walls/windows. Access to the church ramp, adjacent side door, and interior steps will not be available during construction. Weather permitting, worship services will be held in the pavilion during June through August as planned.

A vote of the congregation will be needed for authorization to proceed. A special congregational meeting on April 27, 2025, has been called for by the moderator and Trustees.  
*WCC Trustees: Brenda Friend, John Krumwiede, Dale Layport, Bruce Leimbach and Jerry Pickett*



CONTRIBUTING TO THE LIFT PROJECT:  
Improving accessibility to the church sanctuary and to basement level has been a goal for many years. We now have an opportunity to achieve this improvement. While the design and costs are still being finalized, the Trustees hope to complete this project this summer.  
Members and friends who have questions or suggestions for the lift project are encouraged to contact the Trustees as soon as possible. Your ideas and input are valued.

Special donations designated for the lift project are needed to help make this capital improvement happen. It is estimated that we currently have funds designated for accessibility that would cover about one third of the project's costs. Please consider making a designated contribution to the lift project above and beyond your pledge. If you have questions about making a special donation for this building project, please contact Ken Green, Diane Gardner or Susan Hazel.

Please also contribute by "Lifting" up this project in prayer to God. We need His guidance in all things.

We are working to make our church building welcoming to all.



WCC Moderator: Susan Hazel

## SUPER BOWL SUNDAY



Julia and Leona Krumwiede recently helped the church youth make subs for Super Bowl Sunday. The profit from the sub sale was donated to help victims of hurricane Helene in North Carolina.

VBS 2025



**Date Change!**  
**SAVE THE DATE**

**June 23rd-26th**  
for our 2025  
Vacation Bible School!

Embark on an exciting journey with Road Trip VBS is based on Joshua 1:9: “The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Discover God’s presence everywhere as we explore new places, make new friends, and experience God’s goodness together.

Join us in a fun-filled adventure on the open road, taking all the kids (Travelers) on thrilling journeys to exciting destinations. Led by the Navigator and an adventurous dog named Scout (the VBS puppet), kids will learn that God is always with them. Through engaging stories from the Navigator’s Guide (the Bible), Travelers will delve into timeless tales of faith from the Old and New Testaments. Get ready for twists, turns, and excitement as they face new challenges and find strength in God’s presence on this unforgettable trip!

Road trips are a great way to build strong relationships and create indelible memories. This makes Road Trip VBS not only a fun experience for kids but also an opportunity for them to strengthen their faith and bond with others in their community. With engaging activities, interactive games, and meaningful lessons, children will have a blast while they grow in their understanding of God’s love and promises for everyone.

Green Light (Theme Verse): “The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

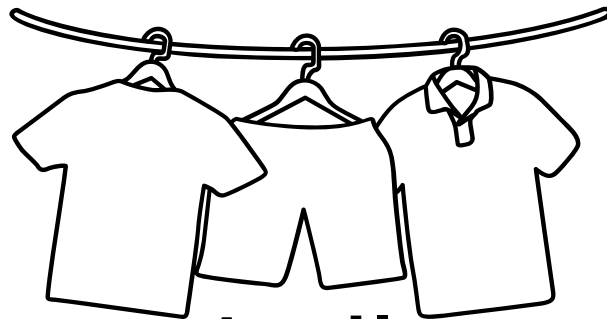
# EASTER SUNDAY EGG HUNT



The Christian Education committee will be hosting an egg hunt on the church lawn after the 10:00 Easter Sunday service. All children are welcome to meet at the church pavilion after the service to join in the fun!

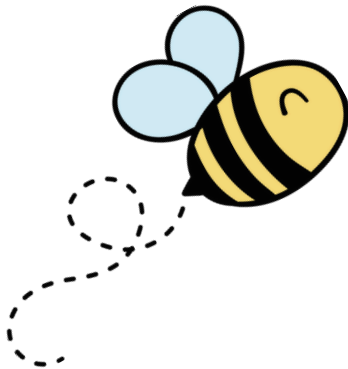


## CLOTHING CLOSET DATES



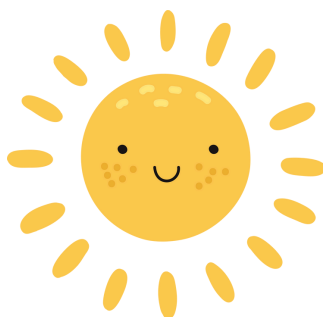
### April

April 5th 9 to noon  
April 10th 5:30-7:30  
April 19th 9 to noon  
April 22nd 9 to noon  
April 24th 5:30-7:30



### May

May 3rd 9 to noon  
May 8th 5:30-7:30  
May 17th 9 to noon  
May 22nd 5:30-7:30  
May 27th 9 to noon



### June

June 7th 9 to noon  
June 12th 5:30-7:30  
June 21st 9 to noon  
June 24th 9 to noon  
June 26th 5:30-7:30

# SPECIAL EASTER DONATION



Women At Risk (WAR) has been the recipient of our special Easter donation for the past several years, and the Missions Committee has decided to continue supporting this charity.

## **The righteous are as bold as a lion. Proverbs 28:1**

The president of WAR recently said that their staff and volunteers work in the “jaw of the lion.” Biblically, lions are portrayed as fierce, strong and brave. The lioness knows her job of providing and protecting. Like the lioness, WAR staff and volunteers don’t run, hide or fear. They, like the mother lion, are committed to providing safe places.

In this analogy, the Lioness is a representation of strength, a fierce protector of young and silenced voices, committed to living in the light, hunting in the dark, and raising a roar that changes everything. Similarly, WAR leans into the love of God and also uses their strength and voice to rescue victims of human trafficking and abuse.

The weakest link for mankind is our young and vulnerable, and that is often where Evil attacks. Like the lioness protecting her cubs, when evil effects the human family, WAR staff and volunteers make it their purpose to be a Circle of Protection around victims.

Through our special Easter donation, we can help Women At Risk provide aid to victims that have come through unspeakable horror and have risen up to be survivors. Thank you for donating generously.

# GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

The original followers of Jesus told the story of his passion, death and resurrection. As they heard the story, pilgrims wanted to visit Jerusalem to see the sites where Jesus had lived and died. These sites became important holy connections with Jesus. Eventually, following in the footsteps of the Lord along the way of the cross, became a part of the pilgrimage visit.

The Stations of the Cross, as we know them today, came about when it was no longer possible for most Christians to make the visit to the holy sites. Although we can't travel to Jerusalem, we can still remember Jesus and his sacrifice.

On Friday, April 18th, members of our church and St. Mary's Catholic Church will meet at noon in St. Mary's parking lot. We will walk around the Wakeman village with a wooden cross and make a "spiritual" pilgrimage to the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. Along the way, we will hear prayers and readings as we stop at various places to remember Jesus' way to the cross.

The service will be about an hour long, and will include approximately a mile-long walk through the village of Wakeman. Please join us, as we find meaningful connections to Jesus through this holy ecumenical service.





# EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST



It has long been a custom at the Wakeman Congregational Church to invite the community to fellowship and enjoy a warm meal after the Easter Sunrise Service. (Including hot coffee, especially if it's a cold morning!)

The Social Committee plans to continue this tradition by offering an Easter breakfast in the church basement immediately following the Sunday, April 20th Sunrise service. At the conclusion of this outdoor service, everyone is invited to walk across the church lawn to the church to enjoy a delicious breakfast.

This special time on Easter morning will be a chance for our church community to spend quality time together in fellowship. Plan to join us for this holiday breakfast!



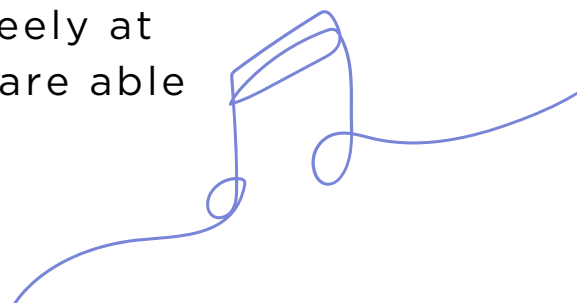
## MUSIC



Are you interested in sharing your musical gifts with us on Palm Sunday or Easter? We can always use more singers and bell ringers! Only a few short rehearsals are planned.



Please see or call Keely at 440-653-3017 if you are able to join us.



# COMPASSION SUNDAY

This year, Compassion Sunday is going to be celebrated in May. This special month is an opportunity to share your heart for the world's hurting children by becoming a sponsor for a child in need.

What does it mean to sponsor a child through Compassion? By committing to support a child with a monthly gift of \$43.00, you can:

- Help that child know the love and hope of Jesus through a program that shares the gospel.
- Help the child with the dangers of poverty, such as hunger and abuse. You will help Compassion's partner churches create a protective shield around kids, providing safety and care.
- Help the child thrive, even though they live in poverty.

Sponsorship provides medical care with essential treatments and support so the child grows up healthy and hopeful.

Many members of our church family are already Compassion sponsors. A few of our sponsors shared these thoughts with us:



- Pete & Susan Hazel: My mom, Ruth Stackhouse, was the first in our family to sponsor a child through Compassion. In June of 2017, we chose to sponsor Maycol. He lives with his family in Bolivia. Maycol will be 12 on May 14th. Compassion.com is an easy electronic link to sponsoring a child through Compassion. Automated monthly payments can be set up and monitored. Sponsors can also write and send messages to their child through this secure website.

- Joel Ross: I sponsor two boys ... Andrew is 11 and lives in Haiti ... Charles is six and lives in Kenya. I love receiving their letters. I send birthday money and they are great about replying with pictures of the new clothes their mothers bought them. I have visited both countries and it helps that I can imagine what their lives might look like.
- Carol Todd: Natalia Alves Ribeiro is my sponsored child through Compassion. She is from Brazil. I began this program when Natalia was 8 years old and this coming October, she will be 18. That is 10 exciting years of watching her grow spiritually and physically, exchanging letters and my sending her gifts for birthdays and Christmas. I'm not sure what will happen with the program once she turns 18. I will need to find that out. With one of my gifts of money, she went to the grocery store and bought chicken, eggs, cookies, waffles, chocolate and yogurt! She was so proud of this picture with the items that she bought that she wanted to share it with me. Her school recently took her to the movies and she had such fun! She has a difficult family life. She tells me she is doing well in school and learning so much about God and how to worship and love him. She prays for me and my family and I pray for her and her family. She is such a precious child!

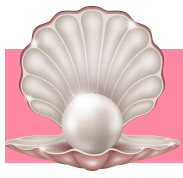


- Melinda Dalton: My grandchildren sponsor Milan and Maria, who both live in Mexico. By supporting these two children, they get the chance to exchange letters, and to learn about the lives of children in other parts of the world. What a wonderful way to learn to share God's love for others!
- Janet Ross: I have loved getting to know my two Compassion Girls (as I call them):  
11-year-old Dina from Haiti who sent me a picture of the sheep she bought with the birthday money we sent to her. She loves to participate in all the activities of the Compassion Club.  
17-year-old Sadia from Burkina Faso who dreams of becoming a teacher one day. Her mother and father are farmers and she helps out in her home where she lives with her parents and four siblings.

Ken Green: My Child's name is Angela and she is from the mountain region of Peru. Angela turned 16 on March 4th. She enjoys knitting for her new pet Yinsu (that just happens to be a turkey). She has a new baby brother and she will be helping her mother sell juice at the fair. I believe she can only be in the program 2 more years so we have been writing more frequently. It was always my goal to some day visit her but realize now that this is probably not practical. So, my new goal is to see, once she turns 18, if she would be willing to come to Wakeman.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming a sponsor of a Compassion child, you can go to [www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com), or talk to any member of the Missions Committee. We'd love to help you step out in faith, and become the hands and feet of Jesus for children who truly need it most.

**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Proverbs 31:18**



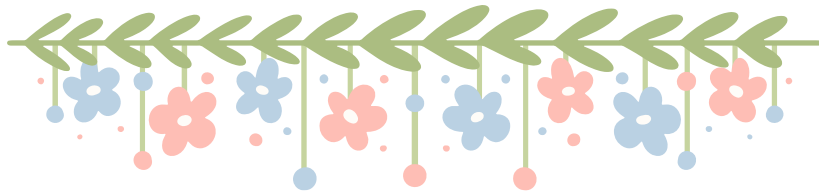
## SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

Thanks for your suggestions for naming our new monthly senior fellowship time. The winning entry was **Pearls of Wisdom**, submitted by Rita Daniels.

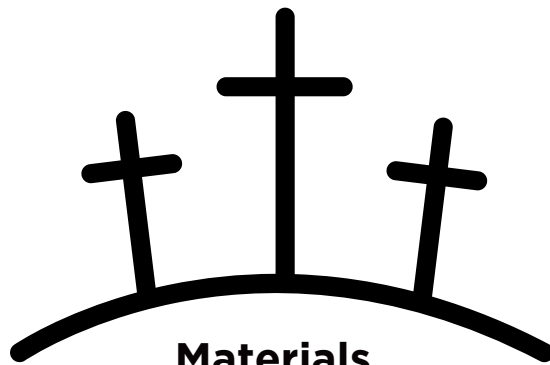
The first meeting of the Pearls of Wisdom group will be held in the outreach building at 11:00 to 12:30, on **Wednesday, April 9th**.

This monthly program will meet the second Wednesday of each month, and will include Faith (prayer), Fun (a group activity), Food (a meal) and Fellowship. Please plan to attend, invite your neighbors and join us for this special time of sharing and social interaction.

Need a ride to the program? Transportation can be arranged for anyone needing a ride by contacting Pastor Janet.



## RESURRECTION ROLL RECIPE



### Materials

- 8 Large Marshmallows
- 1 pkg of Crescent Rolls
- 2 TBS Melted Butter
- 1 TBS Cinnamon
- ¼ Cup Sugar
- Muffin/Cupcake Tin

Preheat oven to 375. Mix cinnamon and sugar together in a small bowl and set aside. In another small bowl, melt the butter and set aside. Spray muffin tin with non-stick spray and begin the story.

# Empty Tomb Rolls

## THE RESURRECTION STORY



### **Hand Out A Marshmallow**

The marshmallow represents Jesus. It is pure, white, sinless and perfect. Unfortunately, even though Jesus never did anything wrong, there were some people who didn't like him because he said he was God. So they crucified him and he died on the cross.

### **Dip the Marshmallow in Melted Butter, then Roll in Cinnamon and Sugar**

Jesus' friends and family were very sad when he died. They loved him. So they rubbed special oils on Jesus' body to get him ready for burial.

### **Wrap the Marshmallow in a Crescent Roll and Firmly Seal All Seams**

Then, Jesus' friends wrapped his body in special clothes to bury him in.

### **Place Rolls in Muffin Tin**

Next, they laid Jesus' body in a tomb. Then strong soldiers sealed it with a heavy rock so no one could get in or out of the tomb. The soldiers stood in front of the tomb to guard it day and night.

### **Bake Rolls**

Jesus was in the tomb for 3 days, and then he rose from the dead!

### **Cut Open Roll**

Jesus' friends visited the tomb where they had put Jesus' body.... and it was EMPTY! Jesus had risen! Today he lives in heaven with God and watches over us all. He loves you very much.

Read Luke Chapter 22-24 for the resurrection story of Jesus Christ.

# TEEN SPOTLIGHT ON ETHAN BAKER



**Short Bio:** I live with my mom (Julie), dad (Chad), and brother, Garrett. I am 18 years old and a senior at Western Reserve High School, where I play baseball and basketball. I like to cook, and I also like to watch all sports – I am particularly interested in sports statistics.

**Hardest thing you've ever done:** I am scared of going into haunted houses because of the people in costumes coming out of nowhere. I have gone through them, but only under pressure! I also have social anxiety when asked to read or speak in front of people. I have been working on that in my careers class at school, and I am getting better at speaking to groups than I used to be.

**Favorite Bible verse:** John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**Best advice you've been given:** My mom and dad always tell me to never give up on anything.

**Real life hero:** My mom and dad because they are always pushing me to try new things, and I always feel loved.



**Song at the top of your playlist:**

God's Country by Blake Shelton



**Go-to place to pray:** In my room because I'm most comfortable there.

**Favorite comfort food:** I like lasagna because it tastes really good and my "short" grandma (my nickname for her - Grandma Eschen is my "tall" grandma) has a really good recipe. I help her make lasagna whenever I stay over at her house during the summer.



**Favorite vacation:** My entire family (parents, brother, aunts/uncles, grandparents and cousins) spent some time on the beach in Florida. The water was warm, and it was fun to swim in the gulf. However, that trip was also memorable because as I headed out to the pool, I ran headfirst into a glass door that I didn't see because of the bright sun shine. Luckily, both the door and I were fine.

**Occupation you'd like to pursue after high school:**  
Engineering or something in the medical field.