

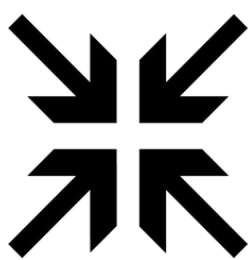
AUGUST

&

SEPTEMBER

MESSENGER

2025



Wakeman
Congregational
Church

Growing faith, family, & fellowship.

Message from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

I recently read the story of Laura Haviland (1808–1898). She was a mother, teacher, and a devout woman of faith who lived in rural Michigan. The Gospel she read didn't let her look away from suffering. In the 1830s, she and her husband joined the Methodists and opened their home as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

This was not safe work. Laura faced threats, lawsuits, and scorn. Slave catchers came to her door. At one point, a bounty was placed on her head in the South. Still, she kept going. "Duty is mine," she wrote. "Results are God's."

She didn't just shelter freedom seekers—she went into the South to find and rescue kidnapped children. She taught Black students when it was illegal. And she helped found the first integrated school in Michigan. All of this was driven by her unwavering belief that Christ calls us to lift up the lowly, to love as He loved—without compromise.

Laura Haviland's faith didn't stay in the pews. It moved with her hands and feet, her letters and prayers. She reminds us that Christian love is not passive—it's participatory. It costs us something. And it changes the world.

As we begin construction on our church's new lift—a sign of welcome and hope—we're reminded that faith always has a movement to it. It moves us to those in need. It lifts up in quiet, courageous ways.

May her story lift up us all toward the kind of love that risks something real—because it trusts Something greater.

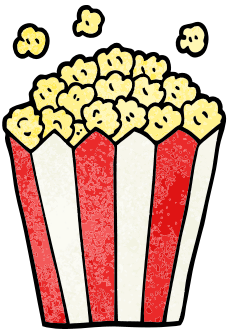
With deep love and gratitude,

Pastor Janet



News from The Diaconate Board

During the months of June and July, we gathered in the pavilion to hear Pastor Janet Ross share the word of God, to pray for one another during times of struggles and to celebrate with one another during times of joy. Weather permitting, we will continue to gather in the pavilion for worship service during the months of August and September. When it is no longer warm enough to worship in the pavilion, and while the church is under renovation, we will move the worship service to the outreach building.



On Sunday, June 15, Father's Day was celebrated by gifting all the men present with a bag of popcorn. Luckily, there were a few bags left over and those who would grow up to be fathers someday were able to enjoy a bag as well.

Adult Bible Study will reconvene on Sunday, September 7 when we will continue our study of the book of Genesis. Until construction at the church is completed, we will meet in the Outreach Building at 9:00 am. All adults, young and old, new folks and visitors are welcome.



We welcome you to join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 am and experience God's good works in each of us. And we look forward to all adults joining us on Sunday mornings for Bible Study at 9:00 am.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that he shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

“Lifting Up to the Lord” Lift Construction Begins

Tom and John Krumwiede began the church lift project in June by removing the old handicapped ramp. Tom, John and Charlie Murray tore down the ramp, and hauled away the debris.

After completing the permitting process, Janotta & Herner began working on the church remodeling project in July. We are excited that church member, Doug Greenwald, will be Project Manager during the construction process!







Surprise discovery!
An old underground
cistern was
uncovered during
construction. Just
one of the hidden
stores beneath our
church grounds.

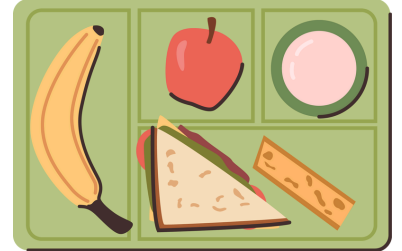


Mission Briefs

“On behalf of the Western Reserve Board of Education, I would like to extend our appreciation for your donation of \$500 to food service. This donation was presented to the Board at their regular meeting held May 21, 2025.



”Thank you for your continued support of the Western Reserve School District and the Food Service program.”



Shawna Baker, WR Treasurer

Women At RiskTM INTERNATIONAL

Our Special Easter donation to Women At Risk (WAR), an organization that uses donations to help victims of abuse and trafficking, totaled \$871.00.

Becky McDonald, WAR founder and president sent us this note: "Thank you! We rescued a 17-year-old in Michigan this month, thanks to gifts like yours."



Abigail Pregnancy Services

Educate, Encourage, Empower

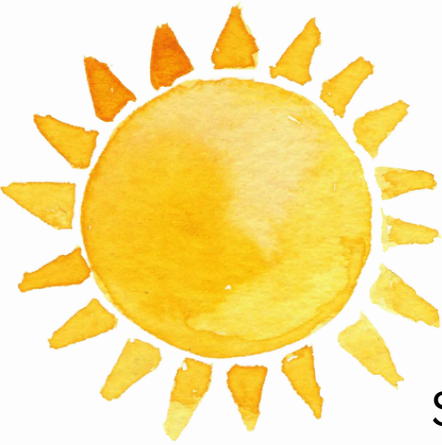
During this year’s annual Abigail Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle campaign, we collected \$742.69 for their annual fund-raiser.



Clothing Closet Dates

August

August 2nd 9 to noon
 August 14th 5:30-7:30
 August 16th 9 to noon
 August 26th 9 to noon
 August 28th 5:30-7:30



September

September 6th 9 to noon
 September 11th 5:30-7:30
 September 20th 9 to noon
 September 23rd 9 to noon
 September 25th 5:30-7:30



TREASURER'S MONTHLY SNAPSHOT 6/30/2025

June	General Operating Income	\$8,500.46
June	General Operating Expense	\$ 8,299.61
	Income Exceed Expense	\$200.85
	Year to Date GO Income	\$72,081.83
	Year to Date GO Expense	\$60,540.43
	Income Exceed Expense	\$11,541.40
	Budget Year to Date	\$63,925.00
	Budget Items Spent Year-to-Date	\$62,525.98
	Under Budget	\$1,399.02

Ken Green, Treasurer

Notes:

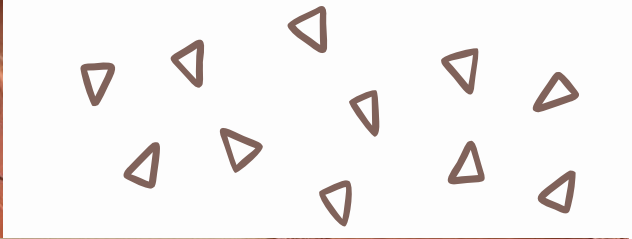
The Parsonage Sale is Completed. Net to Our Church - \$175,012.76
 It was Necessary to Spend \$6,357.26 to Prepair the House for Sale
 The Balance (\$168,655.50) Will be Inversed and Saved for Future Housing Needs

History Walk of Wakeman



The Western Reserve Elementary third grade class visited the Wakeman Congregational Church as part of their annual field trip to learn about Wakeman history. Dan Green met them there to share some of the rich history of the church. Highlights from the group's 30-minute tour included:

- Dan gave a brief discussion about the first Wakeman settlers. He also discussed how the church was established, and a history of the current church building.
- The students saw the beam in the church office that, now serving as a decorative shelf, was once part of one of the original church buildings.
- Dan pointed out the piece of original wallpaper that was saved during the church renovation, and is now framed in the back of the sanctuary.
- Students watched as Dan pulled out the bracket of the metal sconce in the west stairway. He explained that this light was part of the church's original acetylene gas lighting system, and is one of two sconces still in the building.
- As the students looked up, Dan told the students the history of the two electric-powered chandeliers hanging from the church ceiling. He explained that they were put there during construction of the church, and were also part of the original acetylene gas lighting system.
- As a special treat, the students heard Keely play a patriotic song on the organ, and Dan rang the church bell for them.

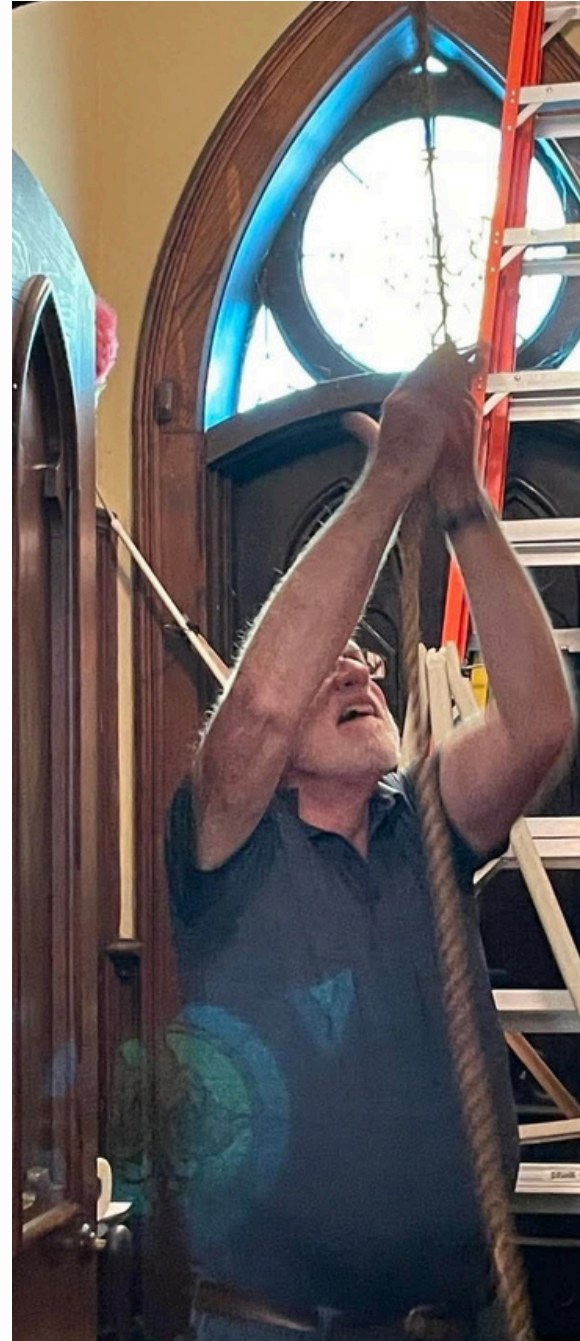


Sounds from the Past Continue Today

Our church historian, Dan Green, shared some facts about the church bell that he rang for the WR students during their recent visit. This information came from an article written by Fritz Kuenzel about the bell when it was refurbished a few years ago:

The bell was installed in the belfry in 1883, at the same time that the Hook and Hastings tracker pipe organ was installed.

The bell was made by Meneely & Co., West Troy, NY. Inscribed in the bell is "Gloria in Excelsis Deo Congregational Society Wakeman OH 1883". The bell is 46" in diameter, and the tone produced by the clapper hitting the bell produces a concert "F". It was said: "May the sound of our bell continue to remind us of our common bond together as friends, neighbors, and Christians."



Prayer Blankets

We recently received the following note from Carrie, Kathy Pickett's sister:

"I truly appreciate all of you for gifting me the soft, comfortable and beautiful warm cover. It provides me with warmth, peace and joy. I love it! Love, Carrie"

"P.S. Isn't my sister, Kathy, a darling woman?"



Carrie is talking about a blanket that she received as part of Diaconate's Prayer Blanket ministry. One of Diaconate's missions is to provide prayer blankets for those friends in need of prayer, comfort and support. Prayer blankets are passed around during a Sunday morning service, and are prayed over by each worshipper.

If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving a blanket that has received prayers from members of our congregation, please talk to Pastor Janet or to a member of the Diaconate.

Home Repair Help

The Huron County Community Housing Impact & Preservation Program offers no-cost home repairs and rehabilitations to income-eligible Huron County home owners.

They provide home repairs for plumbing, electrical systems, ADA modifications, HVAC systems, roofs and other needs. Repairs are entirely grant-funded from the Ohio Department of Development.



To get more information on eligibility guidelines, you can pick up a brochure at the church, call 800-775-9767, or go online at glcap.org/homerepair.

VBS - Road Trip

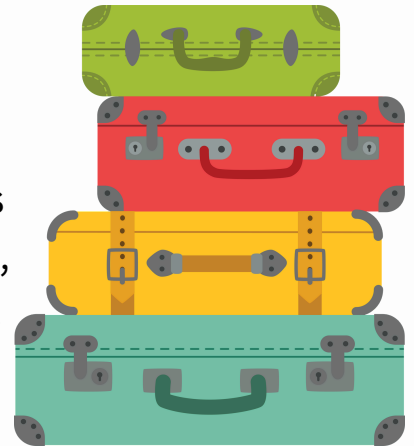
What a journey it was! This year's Vacation Bible School took us on an unforgettable "Road Trip" filled with faith, friendship, and fun. From June 23–26, kids buckled up for a week of exciting Bible stories, energetic music, creative crafts, and engaging games—all centered around the ultimate destination: growing closer to God.



Thanks to our incredible volunteers, generous donors, and supportive families, VBS was a true community effort—and a resounding success. 55 kids came through our doors during the week. The laughter, joy, and heartfelt prayers shared during the week were a powerful reminder that no matter where life leads, the road with Jesus is always the right path.

The children attending this year's vacation bible school raised over \$394.48 for Heifer International. With this money we were able to purchase farm animals for families in need. These animals will help struggling families raise their own farm products for their family to use, along with providing income from the sales of farm items.

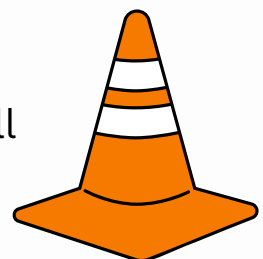
As part of our local VBS mission project, the children were challenged to fill two suitcases—one with road trip snacks for Caring Community, and another with new packages of socks and underwear for our church's Clothing Closet. Not only did they rise to the challenge, they *exceeded* it—filling *four* suitcases with donations! Their generosity and enthusiasm truly blew us away and made a real impact on our local community.



Christian Education

Join us for our **Sunday School Kickoff** in **God's Construction Zone** - where we're building Faith, Friendship, and Fun!

Mark your calendar for **September 21st at 10:15am**. Kids of all ages are welcome as we dig into God's Word. Don't miss it!



Confirmands Study Historical Church Bibles

The members of the confirmation class recently spent some class time looking through the historical Bibles that they discovered in our church. They loved looking at the older versions of the Bible, and they were thrilled with some paper artifacts that they found hidden inside the pages.



Some of the interesting papers that they found tucked away included:

- April 30, 1944 Sunday Bulletin Announcements

- Both divisions of the Ladie's Society will meet on Wednesday afternoon of this week. Div. One with Mrs. Glen Beecher. Div. Two with Mrs. Coultrip.
- The Annual Meeting of the Ohio Conference of the Congregational Churches will be held in Sandusky May 9-11. Please see the pastor for program.
- School Announcements:
 - May 1st P.T.A. Speaker Roger Shaw of Oberlin, subject "Our Reeducation of the Nazi's" 8:00 P.M.
 - May 4th "The Magic Piper" Operetta by the grades. 8:00 P.M.
 - May 23rd Commencement
- Special services during May are as follows:
 - May 14 Mother's Day program conducted by seniors. 10:45 A.M.
 - May 21 Baccalaureate 8:00 P.M.
 - May 28 Memorial service 10:45 A.M.
- All the older members of the church are asked to make lists of names and addresses of members and those who were interested in our church who have moved away who should be invited to our Centennial Celebration. Please hand these lists to some member of the Publicity Committee or to the pastor during the next two weeks.

- An unsigned, undated note to Mr. Eastman. “You forgot to announce that the women who haven’t daughters to take to the banquet should call Mrs. L.D. Gerber and she will find daughters for them.”

GriefShare® Support Group

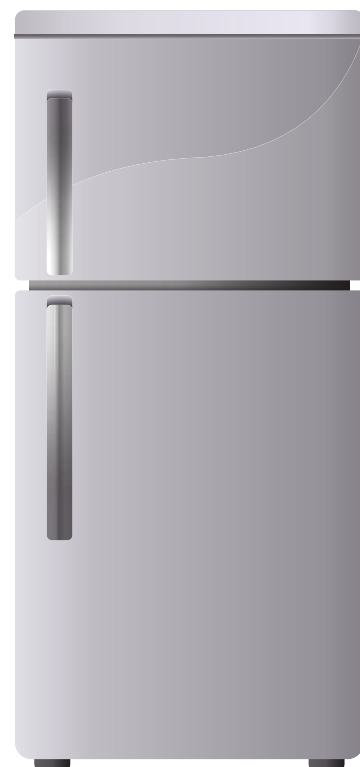
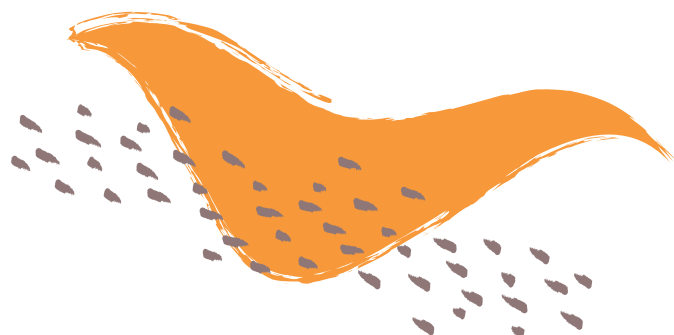
**Six Wednesdays, 6-8pm
September 24 to October 9**

GriefShare offers a safe, welcoming place where people understand the emotions of grief. During these six sessions, valuable guidance and tips lead to relief, comfort and peace of mind. Led by Pastor Janet and Sandy Rottari (from St. Mary’s), GriefShare is offered to the whole community.

Please share with friends!

Want Ad: Donated Refrigerator

Do you have a refrigerator that you’re not using that’s taking up space in your house or garage? We are seeking a donation for a reliable, gently used refrigerator for the outreach building. If you have a refrigerator to donate, or have questions, please contact Pastor Janet (330-605-7417) or Brenda Friend (419-681-4348).





Spotlight On Bobby Murdock

Short Bio: I live with my mom and dad, Theresa and Nathan, and with my brother, Sean. I am a 2025 graduate of Western Reserve High School/EHOVE. I studied welding while in school. I ran cross country, where I enjoyed the supportive environment of the sport and meeting other kids.



Hardest thing you've ever done:

Go through school – reading tests were always hard for me. But I did have a good kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Dalton!

Favorite bible verse: Corinthian 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.



Best advice you've been given: My Dad told me to “always take the extra time.” That means that you should think about what you say before you say it, and think about stuff before you do it so you don't get hurt.

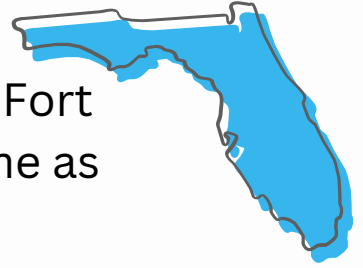


Real-life hero: My Dad is a good guy, and everyone likes him. He always gives good advice to people.

Song at the top of your playlist:

The old -time county western song, The Gambler, sung by Kenny Rogers.

Go-to place to pray: Anywhere that I am.



Favorite Vacation: I liked our family vacations to Fort Myers Beach. We always shared a lot of family time as we hung out at the pool or went out to eat.

Favorite comfort food:

I really like smoked ribs. When I cook them myself, I marinate them and wrap them around pineapple. They are really good!

Occupation:

I work at Fabritech Solutions in Oberlin as a welder and parts bender. I also work part-time for Willow Brook Farms in Wakeman.



2025 Graduates



Chad, Victoria and Bobby each received a special gift from the Diaconate.



Graduation Sunday

The Diaconate honored three graduates on Sunday, June 8th.
Those graduates include:

Ethan Baker

graduated from Western Reserve High School. He plans to attend Lorain County Community College in the fall.

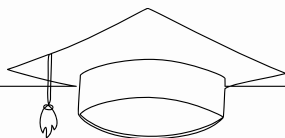
Bobby Murdock graduated from Western Reserve High School/EHOVE and now works at Fabritech Solutions in Oberlin as a welder and parts bender. He also works part-time for Willow Brook Farms in Wakeman.

Victoria Turzyk

graduated from Firelands High School. She is currently undecided.



Victoria with her mom Jen, Bobby with parents Nathan and Theresa, and Ethan with parents Julie and Chad



We are very proud of these three students, and congratulate them on a job well done!

Dear God, we thank you that that you have carried these students all these years through their schooling, and that you were with them always and gave them strength during difficult times. Please continue to guide them as they begin this next chapter in their journey through life. Amen.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

Mother's Day Flowers

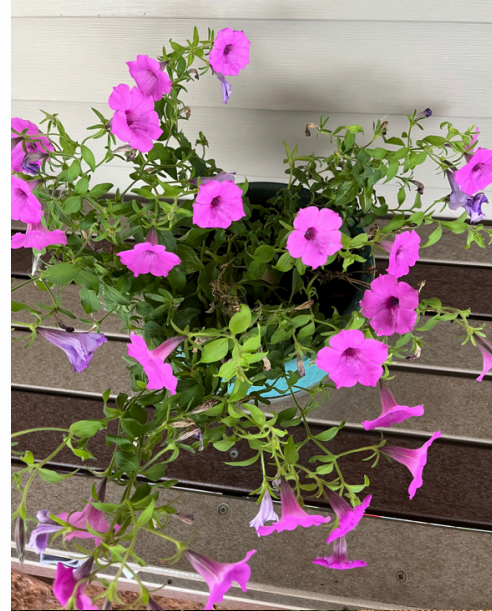
Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come.

Song of Solomon 2:12

On Mother's Day, Pat Canfield followed the Christian tradition of sharing flowers as an act of love and generosity to the women of our church family. She also offered helpful hints and advice on how to keep these pretty petunias healthy through the summer.

Susan Hazel shared that she repotted her plant with her mom's plant. She added that both Mother's Day flowers welcome her mom's visitors, and Ruth can see them from her kitchen window.

We thought that it would be fun to share some pictures of how these beautiful blooms have brightened up our community!



Lee Family Visit

Missionaries, David and Felicia Lee, and their children, who serve in Romania helping orphans and adoptive families, stayed in our apartment in the Outreach Center in June and July.

On Sunday, July 6th, they shared about their ministry in Romania during our worship service. They thanked us for helping to sustain them as they walk with children and families, preparing families for adoption, helping children heal from trauma, and supporting adults adopted from Romania as they search for birth family.

During the past several years, the Lee family has been involved in 50-65 children being adopted each year, providing all of the adoption training for Brasov County, Romania. They work with families along with their small team of certified Christian psychologists and social workers.

Many Romanian families who are preparing to adopt or are currently raising a child with a traumatic past, don't know who to trust, and need a safe place. This ministry helps them navigate questions about identity, belonging, and how to build love and trust after abandonment or loss. They offer compassionate, confidential and professional care, grounded in Christian faith.

The Lee family asked that our congregation continue to help them stay in Romania to help children get adopted in their own culture by praying for their ministry, and by continuing to financially support their work. If you missed the Lee's visit, but still want to donate to their ministry, you can contribute through our church by marking your donation for the Lee's.

“God sets the lonely in families.” Psalms 68:6

Thank you for your prayers and help! David and Felicia Lee



“Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
Thank you so much for blessing our family with a place to stay
while in U.S.!!!

We are very grateful for all the effort you put into getting the apartment ready for us! We have enjoyed our time here (the nice walks to the library, the playground, the ice cream treats :)). It is a nice community that God put you into to be a light to the lost. May the Lord be glorified as you continue to seek His face and be a real help to your neighbors.

In Christ,
the Lees”

Member Achievement



Tom Friend was recently recognized for 45 years as a member of the Masons. Tom’s father-in-law introduced him to the organization after his marriage to Brenda. Tom is proud that his grandson, Colton, is also a member of the Masonic organization.