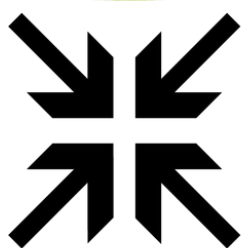


# APRIL

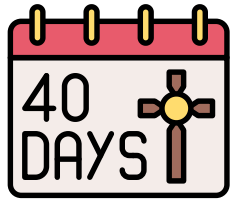
## Messenger

### 2026



Wakeman  
Congregational  
Church

# NEWS FROM THE DIACONATE BOARD



This year, Lent, a special period of reflection, fasting and prayer, began on Ash Wednesday, February 18 and will end on Maudy Thursday, April 2.

Communion will be served on Palm Sunday, March 29 during worship service.

Our congregation will join St. Mary's Church for the Stations of the Cross Walk on Good Friday, April 3. The walk will begin at 12:00 noon at St. Mary's Church.



On Sunday morning, April 5 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 during the Easter season as we celebrate the rising of our Lord and Savior.

*He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spoke 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.*

# A WORD FROM PASTOR JANET

I have found myself deeply grateful for this season we've been sharing together—walking slowly and thoughtfully through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. There is something about lingering with these teachings that begins to work on us from the inside out.

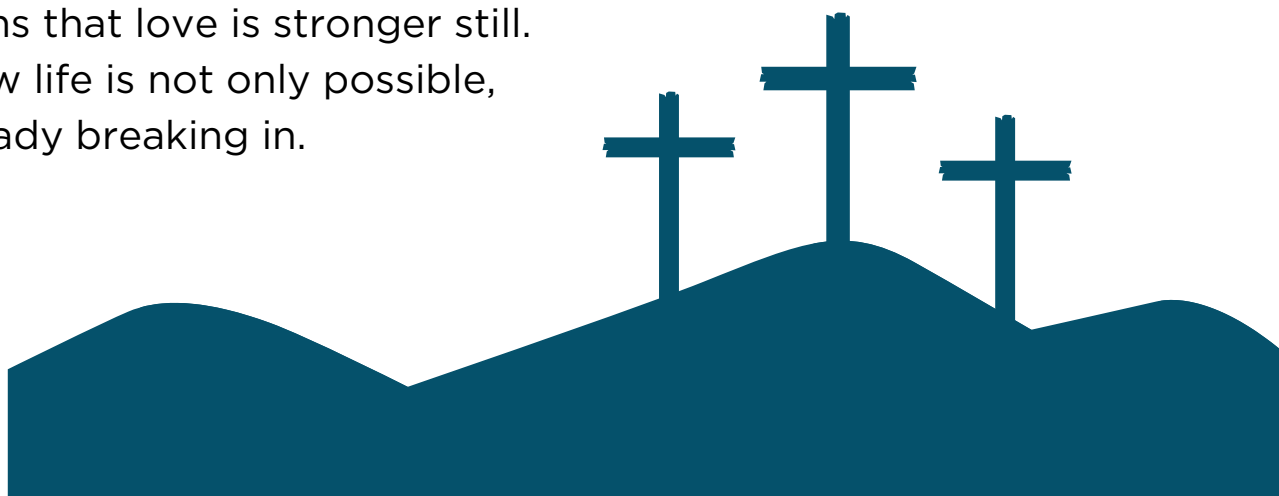
We began on the hillside, hearing Jesus name who is truly “blessed”—not the powerful or the polished, but the humble, the merciful, the peacemakers, those who hunger for what is right. In those words, Jesus is not simply describing a future promise, but revealing a present reality: this is what life in God's kingdom looks like.

From there, we heard that you—together—are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Not someday. Not individually. But now, and as a community. A people whose very life adds flavor, preserves goodness, and brings light into dark places.

And then Jesus began to go deeper. He spoke about anger, reconciliation, relationships, integrity—not to burden us with rules, but to invite us into a transformed way of being. Again and again, he moves us beyond surface behavior into the deeper work of the heart. It is not simply about what we do, but who we are becoming.

Taken together, these teachings are not abstract ideals. They are an invitation—to live as if God's kingdom is already unfolding among us. To live as resurrection people even before Easter morning arrives.

And now, as we turn toward Easter, we see where this path leads. The cross reveals the depth of human brokenness—but the resurrection proclaims that love is stronger still. That new life is not only possible, but already breaking in.



This year, we will share in that resurrection hope in a tangible way through our Easter offering, which will support Women At Risk (WAR)—an organization that helps women escape human trafficking and rebuild their lives. In their stories, we glimpse resurrection in real time: lives restored, dignity reclaimed, light returning where there was once deep darkness.

As we continue our journey through the Sermon on the Mount, may we not only hear these words—but live them. For this is the way of the kingdom. This is the way of resurrection.

Thank you for your blessed Kingdom living!!

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Janet



## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

In the weeks preceding Easter, millions of Christians pray the Stations of the Cross. The stations lead worshipers through a time of prayer and meditation as they remember and reflect upon the suffering of Christ. The traditional 14 stations of the cross each mark a spot where Jesus paused, stumbled, or spoke to someone on his way to the cross.



On Friday, April 3rd, members of our church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, and community members will gather at 12 pm at St. Mary's Church. Worshipers will walk around the Wakeman village with a wooden cross and make a "spiritual pilgrimage" to the chief scenes of Christ's suffering and death. The walk will be completed in silence, and each station will include a biblical passage followed by a prayer.

The service will be about an hour long and will include approximately a mile-long walk. Please join us as we remember and reflect on the events that led up to Easter.



# EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST



The Social Committee is hosting an Easter morning breakfast in Pilgrim Hall, immediately following the April 5th Sunrise Service.

There will be plenty of hot coffee available, along with other breakfast treats, to warm you up and nourish you after the outdoor service! If you would be willing to help prepare food for the meal, there is a sign-up at the back of the Sanctuary.

Please plan to join us for this special opportunity for our church community to spend time together with food and fellowship!



## 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!





MUSIC

We are excited to begin using our new Sing! Hymnals this month. However, as we collected the old Celebration Hymnals, we realized that people may be interested in taking home ones that were donated in honor or memory of loved ones. If you wish to have a blank one, there are also plenty of those. We will have them available at the back of the church throughout the month of April, and then we will be finding a new home for the remaining ones.



# Western Reserve Drama Presents



APRIL 10, 11, 12  
Tickets on sale March 16

<https://our.show/wrmermaid>

Thank you to our 'Pearl of the Sea' Sponsors



You're invited to *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, presented by Western Reserve Drama! Come out and support the members of our church who are part of this wonderful production.

# TRUSTEES NEWS

The trustees are currently investigating new flooring options for the church basement. The new flooring will be installed in the entire basement, including Pilgrim Hall and the kitchen area. New tiles, or a similar product, will be installed on top of the current flooring.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING



Church Council will meet on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

## SPECIAL EASTER DONATION

*Women At Risk*<sup>TM</sup>  
INTERNATIONAL

Our special Easter donation has gone to Women at Risk (WAR) for the past several years. The missions committee feels strongly that this is a valuable and worthwhile charity for us to continue to support, so this year's Easter Donation will again go to WAR.

Women At Risk, International (WAR Int'l) is a Michigan based nonprofit charitable organization, established to create circles of protection and hope around those at risk. Through intervention projects and partnerships, they provide safe places to heal from abuse, trafficking, exploitation, and more. Their passion is to empower survivors to live and work with dignity and hope.

WAR's programs and partnerships span the globe, reaching over 40 countries, including the United States. Each month, additional projects and partnerships are formed, increasing the ability to offer the rescued and at-risk a "hand-up" instead of a handout.

Donations allow WAR and its partners to aid those in imminent danger. WAR staff rely on this fund when they get an emergency call from a frantic woman trying to escape her trafficker, when a desperate partner calls about a crisis situation, and when life-saving intervention is urgently needed. They have rescued children as young as 3 weeks, 6 months, and 6 years—all tender ages. They've also rescued men and women hiding in barns and under bridges, who often need immediate medical care and don't have papers to go through normal channels.

Through our special Easter donation, we can help Women At Risk provide aid to men, women and children that have become victims. Thank you for donating generously to this fund.



Scan the QR code.  
It leads you to the WAR  
website to learn more.



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

**Colossians 3:12**



## COMPASSION SUNDAY

Releasing children from poverty  
**Compassion**  
in Jesus' name



On Sunday, April 26th our church is celebrating Compassion Sunday. In this issue of the Messenger, the missions committee want to share more about this child-sponsorship program with you.

**80% Goes Directly To the Field:** In fiscal year 2025, 80% of every dollar went straight to program work through local church partners – including education, medical care, nutrition, child protection and sharing God's love with children living in poverty and their families.

**20% is spent for Fundraising & Administration:** The remaining 20% supported the essential operations that make this ministry possible – staffing, systems and outreach that connects sponsors with children. These investments keep Compassion's work sustainable and growing to reach more children.

**Your Contributions Are Stewarded Wisely:** Every gift you give through Compassion is handled with integrity and care. We follow strict financial rules to ensure accountability, transparency and flexibility to invest wisely for long-term impact.

**Life-Saving Impact, Financial Transparency:** In fiscal year 2025, Compassion supporters enabled Compassion to deliver spiritual, economic, social and physical care to over 2.4 million babies, children and young adults in poverty across more than 9,000 Frontline Church Partners and 29 program countries. In 2024, Compassion was ranked No. 12 in the [Forbes America's Top Charities List](#).

# COMPASSION SUNDAY

**Compassion's Commitment to Financial Integrity:** When you give through Compassion, you can be confident that funds will be used to transform the lives of children in Jesus' name.

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3:18

Many of our local church members currently sponsor a child through Compassion International by donating \$43 each month to the organization. Child-sponsors can share with you how impactful this relationship with a child has been for them.

Not interested in committing to a monthly donation?  
Compassion will gladly accept your one-time gift.

The need remains urgent. Every day, countless children around the world face the devastating challenges of poverty. Please consider sponsoring a child through the Compassion program. You can speak to a Missions member to learn more about this mission, call a Compassion representative at 800-336-7676, or go online at [www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com).



Julia Viveiros (Dalton) is holding a picture of Maria, a Compassion Child that she and her sister, Madeline, have sponsored for three years. It is important to both girls that they can support Maria so that she can have healthy meals and go to school. They like writing to Maria and have received letters back from her. Both girls enjoyed Maria's recent letter that included a picture of her with her family's chickens.



# SUNDAY SCHOOL



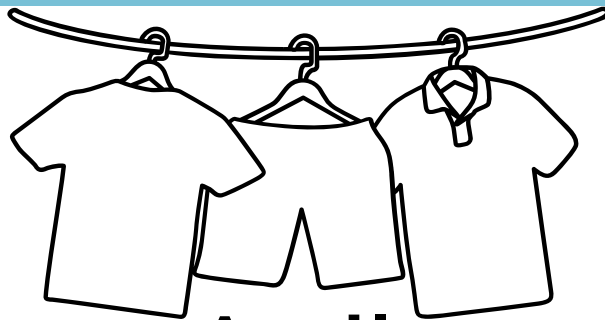
We are looking for volunteers to help teach Sunday School during our worship service! This is a wonderful opportunity to share your faith and make a meaningful impact in the lives of our children.

Lessons are easy to prepare, with ready-to-use options available to fit your schedule and comfort level. Whether you can help occasionally or on a regular basis, your time and willingness are greatly appreciated.

If you feel called to serve in this way, please sign up on the sheet located at the back of the church. Thank you for supporting the growth of our young disciples!

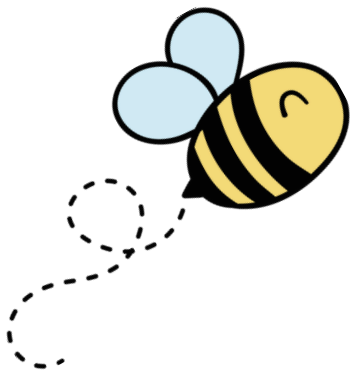


## CLOTHING CLOSET DATES



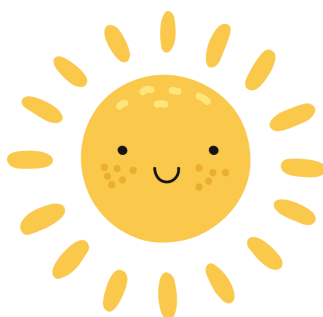
### April

April 4th 9 to noon  
April 9th 5:30-7:30  
April 18th 9 to noon  
April 23rd 5:30-7:30  
April 28th 9 to noon



### May

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



### June

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

VBS 2026

VBS

SAVE THE DATE

Get ready for an unforgettable adventure! Our Vacation Bible School is coming June 22-25, and this year's exciting rainforest theme will take kids on a journey through lush jungles, roaring waterfalls, and amazing wildlife.



 Wakeman  
Congregational  
Church

**June 22-25**  
**9am - 12pm**

## SPOT LIGHT ON PETER HAZEL

**Short Bio:** I was born in Seattle, WA at King County Army Hospital in 1956. Dad was enlisted in the Coast Guard stationed in Seattle. I was the second son. My older brother, Tom, was born a couple of years before me. Then Mary in 1957 and Holly in 1960. Dad nicknamed Holly, Beano, as in "there'll be no more." The three older kids were all born in Seattle, Holly in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Dad was now in a recruiting position for the Coast Guard, so he was home regularly.

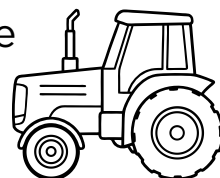
He was transferred to the Great Lakes, and we moved to Toledo, OH then to Huron, OH. After his retirement, we moved back to Toledo when Dad worked for Art Iron as a draftsman/designer. Mom worked for Welcome Wagon during these years. We moved to Milan after another job change and Mom found work at Christie Lane teaching. Our rented house was sold and one of Mom's co-workers, Patty Peabody, told her they owned a house on Fitchville-River Rd., Wakeman. We moved there in my freshman year in high school. Later, we moved into a house owned by Canfield Farms, and I started to work after school on the farm.

I started college at The Ohio State University in fall of 1974, and I was graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in spring of 1978. I met the love of my life, Susan Stackhouse, in high school when we worked on the yearbook together. We started dating following her high school graduation in 1973 and were married after my graduation from college in 1978. Three wonderful children; Jessica, Erin, and Jason and now five grandchildren later, God has truly blessed my life.

**Hardest thing you've ever done:** Buried my father when he was only sixty-one. I was twenty-nine and then the following year Susan's father, John Stackhouse, passed away.

**What you do for your spiritual well-being:** I am finding Bible study guides are becoming more important to me..

**Go-to place to pray:** Anyplace quiet. Tractor, combine cab. Just driving down the road sometimes.



**Favorite comfort food:** Tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwich. Especially on a cold, winter day.



**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,” has been a favorite.

*Psalm 65 9-13 (Also known as the Farmer's Psalm):*

You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it. You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops. You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance. The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness. The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

**Real life heroes:** My Dad joined the Navy one month before Pearl Harbor, stayed in through atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in 1946. After a few years out, he joined the Coast Guard for 15 years. When I received a copy of his Navy service, the ships he was on engaged in every major battle in the Pacific. He never talked to us about those years. And, my Mom, who could pick up and pack our household in two weeks or less when we moved from one base to another.

**One question you wish an interviewer would ask:** “Your Dad encouraged you to apply to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy or the Naval Academy, but you chose agriculture/farming. Do you regret your choice?” Absolutely not. Both parents were very supportive of my decision to pursue a career in agriculture.

**Songs at the top of your playlist:** Several, but one of my all-time favorites is Doobie Brothers “Black Water.” Favorite classical album is Rimsky-Korsakov’s “Scheherazade.”

**Best advice you’ve gotten:** If you enjoy your job, you will never work a day in your life. How true!

**A detail about you that people would find surprising:** I was born in an Army hospital in Seattle, WA. When I was around 3 years-old we moved to Spokane, WA then Couer d’Alene (pronounced: Core de Lane), ID. Later, we moved to Toledo, OH; Huron, OH; Milan then Wakeman. When we first moved to Wakeman it was only to finish out our school year at Edison. We were preparing to move to Bella Coola, British Columbia, and homestead there with dual citizenship. However, Dad found a new job here, director of the adult workshop at Christie Lane, and loved it. We held a family meeting and voted to stay. (I am certainly glad the Lord heard my prayer during that meeting!)

**Occupation you’d pursue if not your current one:**

I did, to some degree. In January of 2008, I received my first U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Marine Officer Captain’s license and held that for many years. I used it at our sailing club for their Adult Learn to Sail Program and Disadvantaged Children’s Introduction to Sailing. The Club wanted licensed Captains or Certified Sailing Instructors to operate those programs.