



*December*

MESSENGER

2023



Wakeman  
Congregational  
Church



# MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him. Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overcome the light.

John 1:1-5, NIV

Dear Friends,

I remember when I first learned that GOD was in all things. Really?!? Like, All Things?!? Like, You? Like, Me? I looked at this amazing creation and I could believe it. I looked at my family and friends and I could believe it. But then I looked at my own life – with all it's mistakes and mishaps, sin and fragility – and I couldn't believe it. No, God couldn't even be in *me*.

Advent is a time to prepare for the birth of Christ. It is a time for each of us to prepare for the birth of Christ anew in our own lives. It is a time to reflect and learn again, this time a little more deeply, that we are made through Christ. We are made in Christ. We are made for Christ.

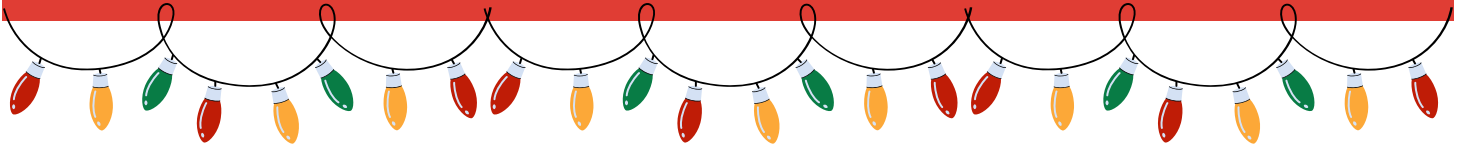
As we light the Advent candles each week – Hope, Peace, Love and Joy – may the light of Christ grow brighter in our lives. May it glow so brightly that others can see Christ in us. May it grow so strong that we experience Christ in our own lives with all the hope, peace, love and joy that Christ offers us.

*The light shines in the darkness. And the darkness has not overcome the light.*

With much love,  
Pastor Janet



# CHRISTMAS EVE DONATION



This year's special Christmas Eve donation will be split between two local charities, The Mary Lee Tucker Fund Clothe-A-Child Program and the Reach Our Youth (ROY) program in Huron County.

The Mary Lee Tucker Clothe-A-Child Program - The Mary Lee Tucker Fund, Inc. Clothe-A-Child program is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to serving local school-aged children in need to shop for new, warm clothes at a local department store from October to December of each year.

The program enables families and local volunteers to go on a shopping trip to pick clothes that reflect their identity and styles. They serve financially disadvantaged children living in Erie, Geauga, Huron, Lake, and Lorain Counties between the ages of 5 to 12 years old.

Reach Our Youth - Reach Our Youth (ROY) is a community based one-to-one mentoring program that matches volunteer mentors with youth in need of a good role model. These mentors serve as an extra friend and they guide the kids into being well-adjusted adults.

Mentors are asked to spend about two hours a week with their mentees. They are encouraged to plan fun, active, and educational opportunities that allow their mentee to build self-esteem and learn new things.

The program also provides group activities to help with volunteer hours and to involve kids who are on the waitlist. These include get-togethers like roller-skating, a summer picnic, bike rides, BINGO Night and a Christmas Party.

Interested in becoming a ROY volunteer? You can contact the program's director, Sarah Nutter, by calling 419-663-2525 or emailing her at [www.reachouryouth.org](http://www.reachouryouth.org).



# NEWS FROM THE DIACONATE BOARD



The Advent season began on Sunday, December 3. Each Sunday during the month of December a family will read scripture and light an Advent candle during worship service. Advent devotionals are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like one mailed to your home, please contact the church office.

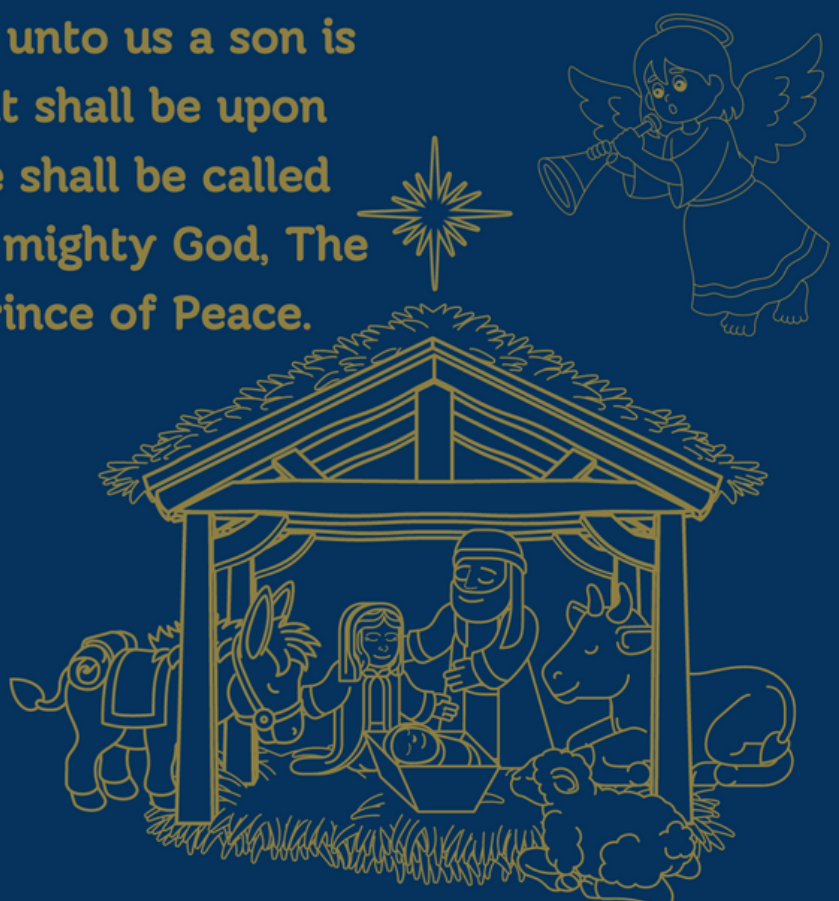
Cheer bags will be distributed in mid-December to those who are unable to attend a church service or who may not have family nearby during the holidays. If you know someone who would welcome a cheer bag during this time of year, please call the church office.

Two worship services will be held on Sunday, December 24. A regular worship service will be held at 10:00 am. The evening service, beginning at 7:00 pm, will be the traditional Christmas Eve service. Both the bell choir and vocal choir will perform as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior. We will close this evening service with the singing of Silent Night by candlelight. All are welcome.

During this holiday season, and throughout the New Year, share the peace and love of Jesus Christ, that friends, family, and complete strangers may come to know our Savior.

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

Isaiah 9:6



# WAKEMAN CONGREGATIONAL ONE CALL



*“Jesus said: Peace be with you. I pray that you have known Peace, who has always been present with you this week.*

*Prayers today as you delight in the new creation Christ is creating in and through you. You are a blessing - be a blessing!*

*Prayers surround you today that you may walk with the One who created you for glory, claiming the fullness of forgiveness - even for yourself.”*

Over the past several weeks, those of us on the One-Call system have answered our phones or opened our email or text, and have heard one of these lovely prayers from Pastor Janet. The messages always seem to come at just the right time, when we are overwhelmed by daily activities, or just need to take a moment to reflect on what’s important in our lives.

One-Call can reach you by a phone call, email, or text. Along with Janet’s weekly prayers, this system can also allow you to receive general information about church activities.

If you haven’t signed up for One-Call, and would like to be a part of our system, or if you know of someone who might benefit from a weekly prayer, please let us know. You can be connected to the system by emailing Olivia at [Wakemanchurch@gmail.com](mailto:Wakemanchurch@gmail.com) or by calling the church at 440-839-2316. You will need to provide your name, phone number and/or email, and preferred form of contact (phone call, email, or text).



# CLOTHING CLOSET DATES

## DECEMBER



Dec. 2nd 9 to noon

Dec. 14th 5:30-7:30

Dec. 16th 9 to noon



Dec. 19th 9-11



Dec. 28th 5:30-7:30

## JANUARY



Jan. 6th 9 to noon

Jan. 11th 5:30-7:30

Jan. 20th 9 to noon



Jan. 23rd 9-11



Jan. 25th 5:30-7:30



## TREASURE SNAPSHOT



### TREASURER'S MONTHLY SNAPSHOT 10/31/2023

Oct	General Operating Income	\$7,153.40
Oct	General Operating Expense	<u>\$ 8,298.65</u>
	Income Exceed Expense	-\$1,145.25
	Year to Date GO Income	\$59,246.00
	Year to Date GO Expense	<u>\$66,373.48</u>
	Income Exceed Expense	<b>-\$7,127.48</b>
	Budget Year to Date	\$78,291.67
	Budget Items Spent Year-to-Date	<u>\$66,660.64</u>
	Under Budget	\$11,631.03

Ken Green, Treasurer

**Notes:**  
GO Income has Gained on GO Expenses Significantly Two Consecutive Months!! Great News!!



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES



The Missions Committee wants to thank everyone who participated in this outreach that delivers shoebox gifts and the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ to children all over the world.



Through your generosity, we were able to deliver twelve boxes to the local shoebox distribution center. We also provided funds to purchase thirty-four shoeboxes online, so our membership provided a total of forty-six boxes to this outreach this year! Thank you for your overwhelming support of this annual activity.

## WAKEMAN CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

The Wakeman Congregational Annual meeting is scheduled for after the Worship Service on Sunday, January 28, 2024. The meeting will include a review of 2023 church activities, and a chance to discuss any new business brought before the membership. All committees and boards are asked to submit their annual reports to Melinda at [daltonfarms@hotmail.com](mailto:daltonfarms@hotmail.com) by January 2, 2024.

# ALL-CHURCH MISSIONS PROJECTS FOR 2024

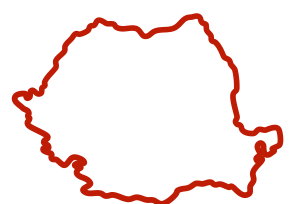


The missions committee recently received Council's approval to sponsor two all-church mission projects for the 2024 giving season. These two charities will each receive quarterly payments from our general operating fund totaling \$2,000. The charities selected for this year include the Western Reserve Cafeteria Fund and the David Lee Romanian Adoption Fund.

The Western Reserve Cafeteria Community Fund is used to ensure that no student is refused a meal because they have reached their meal charge limit. This fund enables school cafeteria staff to make sure that school children don't go without lunch, or feel ashamed or embarrassed because they do not have money to buy lunch. Many Western Reserve families have benefited from these community funds when their family has faced hardship and they were unable to add money to their lunch account.

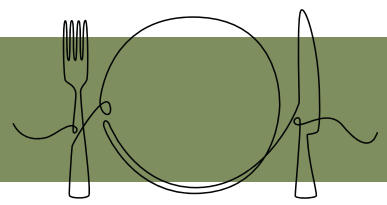


The David Lee Romanian Adoption Fund is a ministry that supports the adoption of orphan children in Brasov County, Romania. This ministry saw 66 children adopted in 2023, and they are hoping to help 100 more children get adopted by next Christmas. The children and their adoptive families are supported by a team that includes the Lee family, two Christian psychologists and a social worker. Together, they provide long-term professional family therapy to these adopted children and their new families. Our financial support for this outreach will help ensure that more children receive a new family in the next year.





# SWISS STEAK DINNER



We served 95 dinners at the church's Swiss steak fund-raiser on November 18th and raised \$1,485.00, which will be used to replace the current basement lighting. Along with a lot of carry-outs, we also had many community members who dined-in, and then had a great chance to socialize with neighbors. Steve Dillon and Annette Smith want to give a big thanks to all of volunteers who helped at the dinner and to those who peeled potatoes, baked desserts and donated other food items for the meal.

The dinner was a great success, and we are looking forward to the next Swiss steak dinner in November of 2024!



## WINTER SAVE THE DATES

We have two fun events coming up in January and February. Get these dates on your calendar now so that you don't miss out!

### JANUARY

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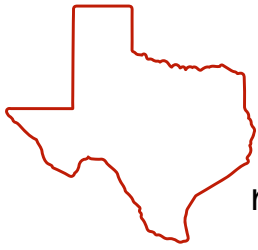
**Potluck Dinner** - We are planning to share a potluck dinner with the members of St. Mary's Catholic Church on Saturday, January 27th at 1:00 p.m. Bring a covered dish to share, and plan to spend the afternoon socializing and playing games with your neighbors. (Bring along some of your favorite card and board games to share!) The dinner, in St. Mary's Hall, is planned at an early time so that we can all make the winter drive home before dark.

**Super Bowl Sub Sunday** - The church youth will be again be making and selling delicious subs for you to enjoy on Sunday, February 11th for Super Bowl Sunday. Order forms, along with more information, will be available at the church when the date gets closer.

### FEBRUARY

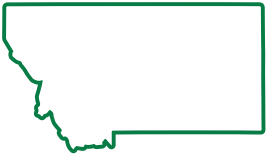
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# SO NICE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



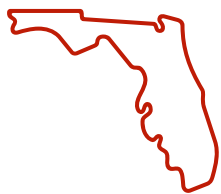
We recently received a note from Dorothy (Divers) McGuinness, a member in Texas who wanted us to know that she appreciates getting the Messenger because “it’s a visit home without the air miles.” She said that she likes reading that our church still does so much for the Wakeman community and the Western Reserve area, and congratulated us on hiring our full-time minister, Janet Ross.

Dorothy, who is now retired, hopes to visit Wakeman sometime in the future, now that she and her husband, Tom, don’t have to travel on Sunday to get back to work. It’s nice to hear from you, Dorothy, and we hope to see you and Tom at our Sunday Worship service sometime soon!



Trisha Palmer, who lives in Montana, is an active contributor to our Clothing Closet ministry. She often sends us coats, hats/mittens, and other children’s clothing that she has purchased just for our young clients needing clothes.

It’s been a special joy for Clothing Closet volunteers this fall to watch children’s eyes light up when they got a brand-new coat! It’s great to see Trisha throughout the year as she attends our worship services when she is home visiting her Wakeman family.



We also received a note from Theresa (Lang) Gearing in Florida letting us know that she wanted to support our outreach to local children during the community trick-or-treat time. Theresa has many fond memories of our church, including the times that her mom helped with church activities. We’re glad that, even though Theresa lives in Florida, she stays involved with her home church.

We want to thank these members, along with all of you who live a distance from Wakeman, for staying “all in” with Wakeman Congregational Church!



Are you a member who still stays in contact with our church, even though you live too far away to attend worship services with us? We’d love to hear from you, and hear about how you’re doing!



## STILL TIME TO PLEDGE!

The church's November pledge month, which included weekly stewardship moments during worship services and Wednesday emails, will be wrapping up soon. But, if you've forgotten to turn in your 2024 pledge card, it's still not too late! The stewardship committee will gladly continue to accept pledges in any amount.



## HOLIDAY MUSIC

Our church has traditionally been filled with music for the holidays, and we invite you to be a part of it! If you are interested in singing in the choir or playing the handbells, or even participating with any other musical instrument, please see, call, or text Keely Krumwiede (440)653-3017. We will be starting practices soon, and we have a spot for anyone interested!

# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year, the children and youth of our church will be performing "A Mouse's Tale" on Sunday morning during worship on December 24th, Christmas Eve day. We will be rehearsing during Sunday School time (10:15 to 11:00) on December 3rd, 10th and 17th. All children are invited to participate! We will be telling the story of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of a mouse and other stable animals.

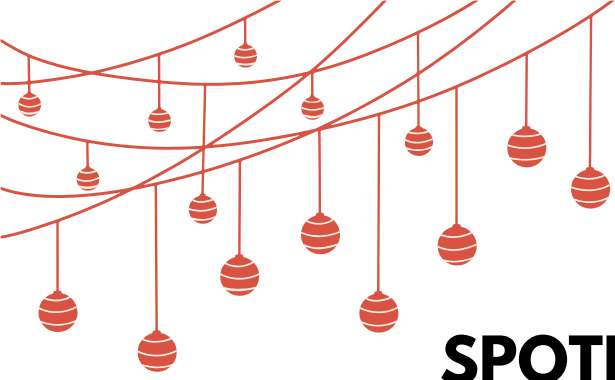
Wakeman Congregational Church presents:

## **A MOUSE'S TALE**

*December*

**24th**





## SPOTLIGHT ON DAN GREEN

Short Bio: I was born in the old Norwalk Hospital (just a few years ago) and raised on our 200+ year old family farm. I, along with my three siblings, was taught the value of hard work and the word “bored” was never in our vocabulary. I attended school for the first six years at the old Wakeman School and went the last six years at Fireland High School (no Kindergarten in my day). I went to Lorain County Community College and got my first real job at the former Lorain Products Corp. Where I worked in Production Planning and Inventory Control and then Operations Accounting. I then moved on to be an agent and owner of Dalton-Green Insurance Agency for several years and was employed as a school bus driver for the Western Reserve Local School District. I have been a member of the Masonic Fraternity for over 51 years and a director and secretary of the Agricultural Heritage of Huron County.



I have been a member of the church for 57 years, serving as moderator for two terms in the 1970's and have been on the Missions and Diaconate, and I am presently Historian. Rev. Elwin Owen was one of my mentors in my youth and working with him, I received my God and Country Award in Boy Scouts.



The hardest thing I have ever done: When I was an EMT-A with Citizens Ambulance, having to tell someone their loved one had passed and when I was on the Wakeman Fire Department having to tell someone their house was destroyed by fire.



Spiritual well-being: Being by myself, I talk and pray to God. I never make an important decision unless I talk to God first and then sleep on it at least one night.

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.” It gives me great comfort to know that through the salvation of Jesus we will spiritually have everlasting life!



Favorite song: The contemporary song “Pass It On” by Kurt Kaiser, The Lord has blessed us with his love, grace and mercy and it is up to each and every one of us to pass it on to the old person in need, or the young person who needs to be taken under our wing and shown God’s love and taught to pass it on.



# A MOMENT IN TIME: FAITHFULLY SERVING ALL GOD'S CREATION

Dan Green, Historian



Over the years, our church has had a multitude of individuals and groups who have supported our church financially. Fund-raising, along with annual stewardship campaigns, are a necessary part of keeping a small, rural church financially secure. These funds are used for current expenses, facility up-keep and missions projects.

Ever since its inception, our church has always held these fund-raising events with two main goals in mind. First, and most importantly, everything that happens in the church is to honor and glorify God. Secondly, events are used as an outlet for church members to provide the community with social opportunities in a Christian environment.

Early in our church history, we had several auxiliary groups such as the Ladies Aide Society, Talent Guild, Men's Fellowship, and Pilgrim Youth Fellowship (PYF). These groups usually had biweekly or monthly meetings which included devotions, programs, and fellowship. They also had their own treasury and were independent from the general operating fund of the church. The Ladies Aide Society was composed of the elder church women and the Talent Guild was composed of the younger women. The Men's Fellowship was a men's group and the PYF was a young people's group composed of Junior High and Senior High School students.





These groups would sponsor their own projects or missions, or in most cases contribute to a major church mission or project. The Ladies Aide Society had an annual Church Bazaar whereby they would sell baked goods, and handmade items. The Talent Guild, and Ladies Aide Society eventually combined into the Woman's Fellowship, and sponsored the Community Birthday Calendar. This project was started in the mid 1950's and continued up to COVID.

The Men's Fellowship had an annual Fish Fry from the 1950's until the early 1960's. The PYF would have annual paper drives, labor auctions, and car washes.

In 1952 it was discussed about remodeling the church basement. They wanted to update the east end of the basement and build a nursery classroom, high school classroom, office, furnace room and update the restrooms, and install a new fuel oil furnace. At the church council meeting on February 9, 1953, Mr. Stiles moved, and Miss May Bacon seconded the motion, that a "God's Acre" (aka "God's Little Acre") plan be adopted. Mr. Robert Brucker, Chairman, appointed George Dalton, Platt Beecher and one other person to serve on the committee. On February 9, 1953, at the council meeting, Rev. Houldsworth reported 20 acres of land east of St. Mary's Cemetery was donated for this purpose. At the July 13, 1953, council meeting it was reported that 9 acres of corn and 17 acres of soybeans were planted. So doing the math it must have been 26 acres of land rather than 20 acres. Being most of the congregants were farmers, one farmer plowed the ground, another fitted the ground and another planted and another harvested the crops. The following year, Mr. C.C. Canfield III donated acreage on West River Road for this project. The first year's profit from selling the grain went to the remodeling project.

When the project was completed the basement area was dedicated as "Pilgrim Hall" as the sign says as you descend the stairs today.



Other references to “God’s Acre” project were in the July 14, 1958, council minutes. Theo. Timbs reported that the planting was coming along fine and in September 8, 1958, minutes, Theo. Timbs recommended that some of the profit from selling the soybeans be used to paint the sanctuary. The last recommendation I saw was in the May 6, 1961 minutes. It stated that the trustees reported that the “God’s Acre” (money) may be put into the retirement plan (for the minister) and to paint the parsonage and provide more classrooms. Being no further references found in the minutes, I assume the “God’s Acre” was discontinued in the early 1960’s.

In the more recent years projects have included church auctions, raffles of John Deere Gators and scooters, chicken barbecues, cookies by the pound, Super Bowl subs and Swiss Steak dinners.





## A CHURCH PRAYER



On January 1, 1879, 1400 people from Wakeman and the surrounding area gathered to dedicate the new church building on Abbott Street to “the worship of Almighty God” and to serve the community as a “spiritual home.” Our church building has faithfully done so for the past 144 years. Below is the closing prayer from that service prayed by our early church fathers and mothers and their friends:

### Responsive Prayer

Pastor: How Amiable are thy tabernacles,

People: O Lord of hosts!

Pastor: My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord,

People: My heart and my flesh crieth out to the living God.

Pastor: Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and a swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

People: Even thine Alters, O Lord of Hosts, my King and my God.

Pastor: Blessed are they that dwell in thy house,

People: They will be still praising thee.

Pastor: Blessed are they that dwell in thy house,

People: They will be still praising thee.

Pastor: I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.

People: Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Pastor: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

People: They shall prosper that love thee.

Pastor: For my brethren and companions' sake, I will now say,

People: Peace be within thee.

Pastor: Because of the house of the Lord our God.

People: I will seek thy good.

Pastor and people:

We, the members of the Congregational church of Wakeman, and of the Congregation here worshipping, do now, of our own act, solemnly dedicate this church to the worship of Almighty God; to the extension and preaching of the Gospel of Christ; to the work of giving to the people the bread of life; to be a spiritual home for all men, so that the poor may have the Gospel preached to them; and to the extension and perpetuation of the faith, order, and discipline, of the church to which we belong. To this end we invoke the blessing, and favor, of Almighty God. Amen.

## January 1, 1879 Bulletin from DEDICATION of New Church Building

