# October

## MESSENGER
## 2026

Wakeman Congregational Church

Growing faith, family, & fellowship.

# Church Staff

**Pastor** — **Janet Ross**

Email: pastor.wakemanchurch@gmail.com
Phone: 440-839-2316
Hours: Tues 11-2, Wed 11-2, or by appointment

**Moderator** — **Susan Hazel**

Phone: 419-706-3600
Email: shazel55@gmail.com

**Secretary** — **Olivia Krumwiede**

Email: wakemanchurch@gmail.com
Church Phone: 440-839-2316

Church Website: www.wakemanchurch.net
Worship: 10:00 am
Sunday School: 10:15-11:00am September-May
Adult Bible Study: Sunday mornings at 9am

## Greeters

Sign up sheet is in the back of the church.
*Please arrive by 9:45 that Sunday morning.

## Our Vision

The vision of Wakeman Congregational Church is to be a center for the reverent worship of God and for the biblical instruction of believers and their children. (Acts 2:42), and a source of light and salt in the community (Matthew 5:13-16).



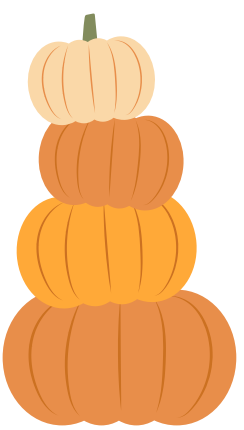
# News from The Diaconate Board

In August 2024, the Wakeman Congregational Church made the decision to offer Janet Ross the position of settled pastor, and she enthusiastically accepted our call. After two years of her leadership, we are offering each of you the opportunity to share your thoughts,
comments, criticisms and affirmations about how Pastor Janet Ross has led you through your personal spiritual journey as well as rebuilt the spiritual journey of this church.

Below is a survey which you can complete and return to us by mail to PO Box 92, Wakeman, OH 44889, by email to wakemanchurch@gmail.com, or by placing it in the box located on the table at the back of the sanctuary. A printed copy of the survey is also available in the sanctuary.

**Yearly Reflection of Ministry**

How Do You See God Working.....



1. In our worship service

2. In our spiritual growth

3. In our community outreach

All responses will remain confidential. Please return no later than October 23.

We look forward to receiving your completed survey and learning more from you about how together we can continue our faith journey and share the word of God with others.

# Building on the Rock




Dear Church Family,

For many months, we have been journeying together through Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as told in Matthew's Gospel. We have listened as Jesus called us to be salt and light, to become peacemakers, to pray honestly, to trust God, to forgive, to show mercy, and to treat others as we would want to be treated.

During our Family Worship service, boxes bearing these teachings were scattered throughout the sanctuary. Children, youth, and adults each chose a box and brought it forward. Together, we built a house upon the foundation: **"Jesus Christ Is Our Foundation."**

The house became a Our journey through the Sermon on the Mount has concluded, but the building continues. May these teachings become more than words we remember. May they shape the wonderful picture of Jesus' closing words: the wise person not only hears His teaching but puts it into practice. When life's storms come—and they will—the strength of our lives depends upon the foundation beneath us.

Other scattered boxes represented the house that had fallen. The same good teachings were there, but they had never been joined together and lived. Jesus reminds us that faith is more than admiring His words. We build on the rock each time we choose mercy over judgment, reconciliation over resentment, trust over worry, and love—even when love is difficult.

Our journey through the Sermon on the Mount has concluded, but the building continues. May these teachings become more than words we remember. May they shape the people we are becoming and the life we share as Christ's church.

Grace and peace,
**Pastor Janet**




Children, youth, and adults gathered around the house we built together from the teachings of Jesus—a joyful reminder that Jesus Christ is our foundation.

# Come Join the Youth Group Fun!

Eight young people gathered for our first Youth Group on Sunday, September 13! We played games, shared a meal, and spent time exploring faith together.

Youth ages 12–18 are invited to join us—and bring a friend! Come enjoy good food, plenty of fun, and a welcoming place to connect and grow.

**Mark your calendars!** Youth Group meets from **4:00–6:00 p.m.** on the first Sunday of each month:

**October 4 • November 1 • December 6**

There is a place for you here. We hope you'll join us!

*Would you like to support our youth by helping to provide a meal for one of our gatherings? Please contact Pastor Janet to help.*

# Pearls of Wisdom - October Gathering

Join us Wednesday, October 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for a delicious fall meal featuring stuffing chicken casserole, beans and potatoes, pull-apart rolls with apple butter, and pumpkin brownies.

After lunch, we'll help prepare for the children's Blessed Treat event by bagging candy together. Come enjoy good food, warm fellowship, and a chance to lend a hand!



# Pearls of Wisdom

Who says that you can be too old to have a little fun? These seniors at the last Pearls of Wisdom gathering showed that “Pin the Tail on the Donkey” can be a very serious competition!



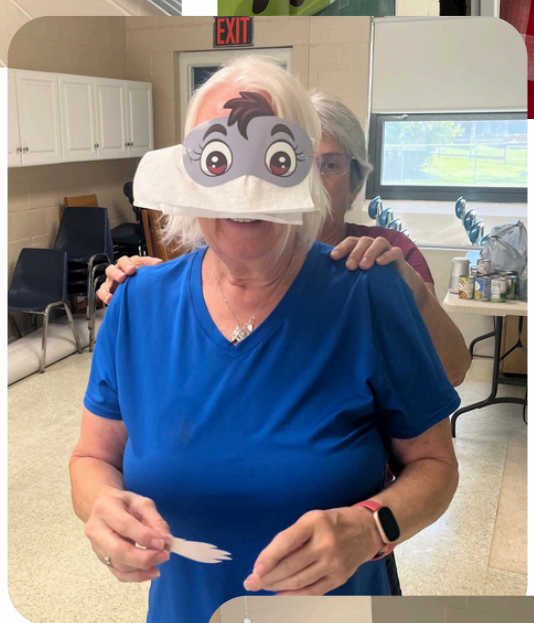




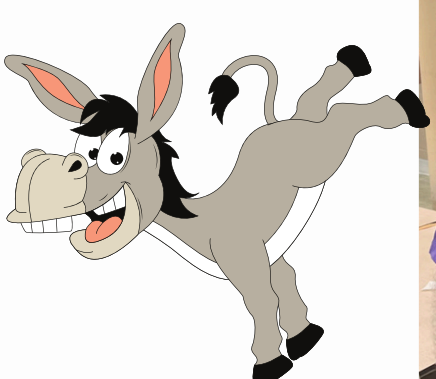










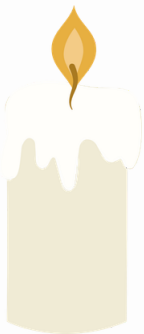





# All Saints Sunday, November 1: Surrounded by a Great Cloud of Witnesses



"Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."
—Hebrews 12:1



All Saints Day belongs to the whole Christian tradition and is celebrated by Christians across many denominations, including Protestants and Catholics alike. In the New Testament, "saints" are not only extraordinary people formally recognized by the Church. They are ordinary, faithful people whose lives bear witness to God's grace.

On All Saints Sunday, November 1, we will remember those who have passed on to heaven and whose love, prayers, example, or encouragement helped to shape and strengthen our faith. Who has been a saint to you?

Please email a JPEG photograph by Monday, October 26, to wakemanchurch@gmail.com, along with the person's name and relationship to you, for inclusion in our remembrance.



# Fall Fellowship Gathering




On Saturday, October 10th, we'll begin the gathering at 4:00. You can enjoy a **hay ride** through the woods, and then we will share a **potluck dinner** at 5:00**.** We'll provide sloppy joe sandwiches; you can bring a favorite side or dessert to share.



As the leaves begin to change and the crisp autumn air arrives, Kenny Green has invited us to gather at his farm (5245 Fitchville River Road) for a special evening of fellowship, food, and fun!

Then, as the evening settles in, we'll gather around a **bonfire** for laughter, conversation, and delicious **s'mores**.

You'll want to bring layers to bundle up – a sweatshirt, coat, and maybe even a blanket. Also, please bring a chair to sit on at the bonfire.

This fall gathering is a wonderful opportunity to relax, connect with friends, and enjoy the blessings of community. Bring your family, invite a friend, and join us for an evening filled with fellowship and fall fun!

WAKEMAN CARING COMMUNITY

*Assisting our area neighbors in times of need*

- Food Distribution
- Emergency Assistance
- Student Meal Support

# ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT



## Meatloaf Dinner

- DINE IN
- TAKE OUT
- STERK'S HOMESTYLE COOKING

**$17 PER MEAL**



## Bake Sale



## 50/50 Raffle




**Sunday, October 25**

**11:30 am – 1:30 pm**

**St. Mary Catholic Church Hall**

46 E. Main St., Wakeman

# Grounded in Faith.
# Growing to Serve.




The Stewardship Committee is planning their annual pledge campaign around the theme, “Grounded in Faith. Growing to Serve.” The campaign begins with a mailing to members and friends in the middle of October, and will run through November.

The Sunday School children will be making colorful leaves to represent pledges. As pledge cards are returned to the church, the children will add leaves to a “Stewardship Tree” in the Sanctuary.

We will celebrate the conclusion of the pledge campaign with “leaf” cookies on Sunday, November 22nd. Plan to join us for this celebration!

All pledges are kept confidential, and are used to help Church Council plan a budget for next year.

Thank you for returning your completed 2027 pledge card to the church this fall.

## Inspiration Station is looking for volunteer tutors

Inspiration Station is looking for caring volunteers to help children with homework and strengthen their reading and math skills. Volunteers can encourage students, build confidence, and make a positive difference in their lives. Volunteers are needed **Monday–Thursday, 4:00–6:00 PM, with flexible scheduling.** Even an hour of your time can make an impact!

Interested in volunteering? Contact Suzie Sidell at 440-574-4031 or uarunner23@gmail.com.

# Clothing Closet



## October

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



## November

November 7th 9 to noon
November 12th 5:30-7:30
November 17th 9 to noon
November 21st 9 to noon
November 26th Closed

## December

December 5th 9 to noon
December 10th 5:30-7:30
December 15th 9 to noon
December 19th 9 to noon
December 24th Closed

# Caring Community Thanksgiving Service

This year, Wakeman Congregational Church is honored to host the annual Caring Community Thanksgiving Service. We invite everyone in our community to join us for an evening of worship, gratitude, and fellowship as we give thanks for God's many blessings.




Monday, November 23rd
7:00 PM
Wakeman Congregational Church

We look forward to gathering with our neighbors and friends as we celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving together. All are welcome!

# Blessed Treats

Children love to dress up, and of course, collect plenty of treats! This year, our church will be joining in the fun on Sunday, October 25th, by handing out treats, along with a special Scripture card to the children in our community.

It's a simple way for us to open our doors, share a smile, and let our neighbors know that our church family cares about them. Along with enjoying the treat, we hope that the Scripture cards will offer a little encouragement and remind families that God's love is with them every day.

Last year during this activity, we shared treats with about 600 children, so we're going to need lots of snacks! We are looking for volunteers who are willing to donate at least three dozen store-purchased wrapped snacks to fill the treat bags. We'd appreciate getting the snacks at least one week in advance so that we can prepare the treat bags.

We're looking forward to seeing princesses, superheroes, pumpkins, and all sorts of creative costumes as we share God's love from our church family!



# Making Christmas Special for Children

Christmas is a wonderful time for children to experience the joy of giving. As in the past several years, we're planning a **Mini Mall**, a special Christmas activity where children will have the opportunity to choose free gifts for the adults who are special to them.

We're asking for donations of new or gently-used items that children would be excited to give. Gifts can be simple and inexpensive. A mug, candle, cozy socks, kitchen item, ornament, men's items or other small gifts can become something special when it is chosen and given by a child.

You can make donations by visiting us during regular Clothing Closet hours, or talk to a member of the missions committee, and we'll set up a time to get your donations.

Also, join us on Saturday, December 5th at the Mini Mall to help the children shop and bag up their presents. It's always lots of fun, and a great way to start off the holiday season!

Thank you for helping us make this Christmas activity a meaningful and memorable one for the children in our church and community. Together, we can fill our gift tables with Christmas joy!



# Help Make Christmas a Little Sweeter

Our church members will be busy and things will be smelling pretty sweet around the church soon! A wonderful group of volunteers will be mixing, scooping, baking, and packaging cookies, buckeyes and fudge for our December 5th **Cookies by the Pound** sale.

Join us for one of these group baking/decorating sessions:

- Wednesday, November 11th we will be decorating sugar cookies at the November Pearls of Wisdom monthly meeting. Even if you're not a regular with this group, join us at 11:00 on this day in the Outreach building, and join in the fun! (As always, a delicious lunch will be provided!)

- Wednesday, December 2nd volunteers will be dipping premade peanut butter and Nutella balls into melted chocolate. Meet in the church basement at 10:00 to help with this project.

***There will be plenty of cookies, lots of laughter, and even a little taste-testing along the way!***






# Operation Christmas Child

*"Every box is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."*
*—Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan's Purse*

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with local churches worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Shoebox gifts are collected around the world—in the U.S. and Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and South Korea. The boxes go to children in some of the hardest-to-reach places—deep jungles, city slums, steep mountainsides, or remote islands.

Last year, our congregation packed or ordered online a total of **82 boxes!**






You can contribute to Operation Christmas Child this year in one of the following ways:

1. Boxes and labels will be available at the church starting on Sunday, October 18th. Fill the box with approved items and include a $10.00 donation to cover shipping costs. **The deadline to return these boxes to the church is Sunday, November 15th.**

2. Order a shoebox online at https://sampur.se/4x5fVzJ to find our church's goal page, or use this QR code:




3. Donate $30.00 (per shoebox) with cash or a check written out to Wakeman Congregational Church, and the missions committee will order a shoebox for you. Be sure to label your cash or check so that it gets in the correct account. **The online ordering deadline is December 15th.**

*"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Mark 10:14*

# Spotlight on Dorthy Divers McGuinness



**Short Bio:** Born in Oberlin (closest hospital) in 1954. Was baptized at WCC, attended Sunday School, Summer Bible School, Pilgrim Youth Fellowship, sang in youth choirs (Mrs. Owens as director) … Lived on our family farm on Rt. 60N until heading to college after graduating from WRHS in 1972. First met my future husband, Thomas P. McGuinness, Jr. at a Chemistry 3 review class at Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne, FL. Due to course scheduling and needing to graduate in four years to continue financial aid, I transferred to Allegheny College, Meadville, PA. I received my BS in Mathematics, minor in Economics in 1976. Tom & I had parted ways that transfer summer due to distances. (His home – Phila.). He later transferred to Penn State, State College campus to pursue a degree in Economics and N.R.O.T.C., requiring an additional year of course work to meet all of the Navy requirements-eventually earning a scholarship and Navy service commitment.

We reconnected at Allegheny the Spring of my senior year. I headed to work in Branch Management at National City Bank, Cleveland while Tom finished his Senior year at PSU.

Tom & I were married between orders in Nov. 1977 in CT. We have two sons, Colin (born in Japan) and Seth (born in CT). We moved 15 times* during Tom's 20 yr. Naval Submarine career before settling in Mansfield, TX in 1997., (the boys often spending many a summer once school was out with my folks at the Farm, in Willard with their cousins attending Bible School, and in Phila., PA with Tom's folks while Tom was deployed and I sought housing at our new duty station so we could be settled before school started). Our favorite survival phrase became "Not better or worse, just different."

We have 4 grandkids: Colin's - Avery age 15 & Aiden age 12; Seth's - Madden age 14 & Caroline age 12. Colin's family – Mansfield, TX; Seth's family – Prosper, TX about 60 miles mostly North of Mansfield.

Tom retired again in January of 2020 after a 22- year career at Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control Dallas in Grand Prairie, TX. I retired from the City of Mansfield in November 2020 after 20 years, first as a volunteer, then, parttime, then full time at the Mansfield Public Library. Over the years, I had volunteered as a tutor, computer aide, school library volunteer & coordinator, school clinic volunteer & coordinator, Sunday School teacher, Bible School teacher, and….

**MY/Our Church Journey:** Wakeman Congregational Church, Military Chapels, then various Congregational Churches if near or nearly nearby, or Presbyterian Churches. (As our minister at the Ledyard Congregational Church, Ledyard, Ct. advised when we had received orders to Charleston, SC, "probably Presbyterian would be your best bet 'South of the Mason Dixon Line') Criteria for church: Open Communion, familiar hymns, and welcoming congregation and youth.

**Songs at the top of your playlist:** "In Remembrance of Me" written by Ragan Courtney and Buryl Red in 1972; "God of the Sparrow" by Jaroslav Vajda in 1983; the Christmas hymn "God's Surprise" by John Bell and Graham Maule 1987. "The Lord's Prayer" the version as sung by Robert "Bob" Murdock on so many special occasions. Sweet, sweet memories.

**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".

**Go to place to pray:** Anywhere and everywhere. God is always listening and brings great comfort. Favorite utterance quietly to self – "Thank you, God."

**Favorite comfort food:** Finger Jello – I share this with young and old (if diet allows). Discovered this when sons were little. Source: Feed Me I 'm Yours by Vicki Lansky. Made it when visiting the Farm with the boys and Dad (General) just loved it! I often bring it to church potlucks, drop off a batch with an ailing grandkid or neighbor, memorial service or… definitely comfort food.

**Best advice you've gotten:** From the book Be the Miracle by Regina Brett "How many people does it take to change the world? One. …If you woke up today, God isn't through with you yet. …You aren't finished until God says you are. If you're still here, there's a reason. Maybe more than one."

**A detail about you that people would find surprising:** Prior to leaving for college, I had never left the state of OHIO! But then, I lived in the following: Melbourne, FL; Meadville, PA; Cleveland, OH; Virginia Beach, VA; Groton, CT; Sasebo, JAPAN; Seaside, CA; Groton, CT; Gales Ferry, CT; Goose Creek, SC; Winter Park, FL; Saratoga Springs, NY; Gales Ferry, CT; Charleston, SC; Springfield, VA; and in 1997 to the present Mansfield, TX. I am a Charter Member of the Mansfield Women's Club 1997-present. Quite the journey!

## Church Correspondence

Thank you so much for participating in our baby bottle campaign. With your generous donation, you raised $499.49. That total will allow our center to provide two free ultrasounds to clients facing an unplanned pregnancy. We could not do what we do without your support. Thank you, and may God bless you!



For Life, The Staff at Abigail Pregnancy

Abigail Pregnancy Services
Educate, Encourage, Empower

## Next Messenger Deadline

If you would like to submit an article for the November Issue email wakemanchurch@gmail.com.
All articles are due by October 23th.

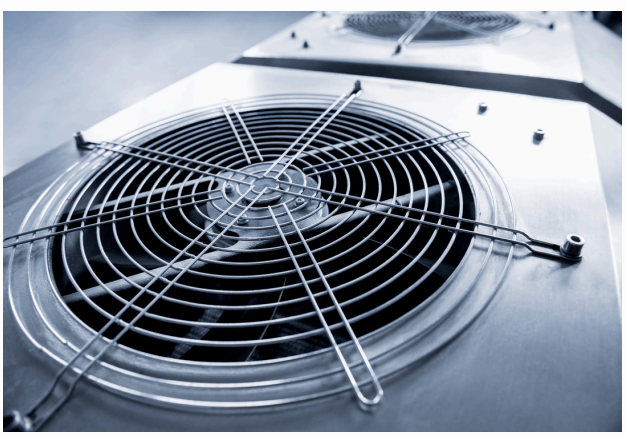
# The Board of Trustees Stay Busy!

Our church trustees continue to stay busy with several ongoing projects throughout the church and church grounds.

- The church boiler and lift have recently passed state inspections.
- The six pavilion cameras are being replaced with new high-tech cameras.
- Trustees are allowing the dirt to settle around the new handicap entrance, so the concrete project has been put on hold until next year.
- Citizen's Ambulance is planning to schedule a class for church members. They will be explaining how to operate the AEDs in the church and pavilion.
- Because of the generosity of our congregation, we have extra funds in our building account after completing the lift project. Trustees are going to use that overage to install air-conditioning in the Sanctuary. They are currently accepting bids from several local companies for this project, and hope to have it completed by next summer.





# Blessing of the Backpacks




It takes a whole church! Children, families, teachers, and members of every generation gathered together for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks.




With hands and hearts extended in prayer, we blessed our children, youth, teachers, and school personnel for the year ahead — reminding them that wherever they go, they carry the love and prayers of their church family with them.

# CONSTITUTION REVIEW

Our current church constitution was adopted in January of 2023. This document instructs that “At least every four years, the Church Council will appoint a committee to study this Constitution and to recommend any necessary changes to the congregation.” In preparation for our January 2027 annual meeting, a committee will be reviewing the church constitution.

Please take the time to read our church constitution and contact me with any suggestions that you would like to be considered. The church constitution is viewable online at our website www.wakemanchurch.net. If you need a printed copy of the document, please contact me or Olivia or Pastor Janet. I ask that your written suggested changes be submitted to me in person or by email (shazel55@gmail.com) by November 1 st .
Thank you for your participation and assistance with this review.

Susan Hazel, moderator 419-706-3600 shazel55@gmail.com

# Caring Community October Needs




Cake mix and frosting, muffin mix, juice, sloppy joe mix, stuffing package or box, potato package or box,












Wakeman Congregational Church

Growing faith, family, & fellowship.

Wakeman Congregational Church

14 Abbott St. PO Box 92

Wakeman, OH 44889

440-839-2316

www.wakemanchurch.net

Address Service Requested