



**MAY
&
JUNE
MESSENGER
2024**



**Wakeman
Congregational
Church**

Growing faith, family, & fellowship.

Message from the Pastor



Dear Friends,

The Moving Forward Team asked you to participate in an All-Church Survey to gather information for their task of discerning how God is leading the congregation to Move Forward. Your overwhelming participation – 35 respondents (out of a typical worship attendance of 45, including children) – is indicative of your commitment and love for the Wakeman Congregational Church.

Further surprising (shocking, if I am truthful) is your resilience, gratitude, courage and trust in your church family. You all may not agree on a particular issue, but across the board on ALL questions you had a positive response to the mission and work of the church. Your trust in your leadership and your commitment to carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ is unlike I have ever witnessed.

As you review the survey responses, I hope you will take a moment in prayer to give thanks, to discern God's message for us and for your part in this beloved body of Christ.

Then, stay after church on Sunday, May 5 (see the article highlighting our worship service for that day :-), to be in conversation with one another as we further discern God's work for us.

Much love,
Pastor Janet





Wakeman Congregational Church

Growing faith, family, & fellowship.



All Church Survey Results

35 respondents

1. How well do you understand the mission of the Wakeman Congregational Church?

I feel a deep connection with it.	28.57%	10
I relate to it well enough.	60.0%	21
I don't feel connected with it.	5.71%	2
I don't understand what the mission is.	5.71%	2
None of the above.		0

2. Do you leave worship services feeling spiritually fed?

Yes. The sermons fill me spiritually.	40.0%	14
Often. I know the pastor has my best interest at heart.	40.0%	14
Sometimes. I feel the sermons aren't as relevant to me as they could be.	8.57%	3
Rarely. I'm feeling disconnected with the sermons for personal reasons.	5.71%	2
I'm feeling disconnected because of the doctrine being taught.	5.71%	2
None of the above.	0	0

3. Do you feel the church is sensitive to the major needs of congregants?

Yes. I've seen the church help people with real needs.	82.86%	29
Yes. I've been the recipient of help from the church when I needed it.	5.71%	2
I've heard the pastor express a desire to help congregants.	5.71%	2
I'm unsure.	5.71%	2
No. I've experienced a major need, or seen others with needs, and felt that nobody noticed.	0	0
None of the above.	0	0

4. Does the worship music at the Wakeman Congregational Church resonate with you?

Yes. The music helps me feel a deeper connection to God.	42.86%	15
Yes. It helps me self-reflect.	17.14%	6
Sometimes.	25.71%	9
I don't feel a connection to the worship music.	11.43%	4
None of the above.	2.86%	1

5. Do you feel that the Wakeman Congregational Church spends money in a way that aligns with its mission?

Yes. I feel they're spending on things that really matter.	72.73%	24
I feel they could be more careful in their spending.	0%	0
I don't know where they're spending, and would like to understand it so I can feel engaged in the initiatives.	18.18%	6
I don't believe church spending is something I need to be concerned with.	3.03%	1
None of the above.	6.06%	2

6. Do you feel engaged in the Wakeman Congregational Church?

Yes. I feel very engaged in the church, its mission, and initiatives.	57.14%	20
I enjoy being in the church, but don't take an active role.	25.71%	9
I feel I'm sometimes watching from the sidelines.	11.43%	4
I don't feel engaged.	0%	0
None of the above.	5.71%	2

7. Do you feel welcomed at the Wakeman Congregational Church?

Yes. The pastor makes me feel welcomed.	31.43%	11
Yes. The other congregants make me feel welcomed.	8.57%	3
Yes. Both the pastor and other congregants make me feel welcomed.	60.0%	21
I don't feel welcomed.	0%	0
None of the above.	0%	0

8. Below are listed some of the outreach opportunities in which the Wakeman Congregational Church is currently involved. Which of the following are important to you? (Please identify as many as are important to you.)

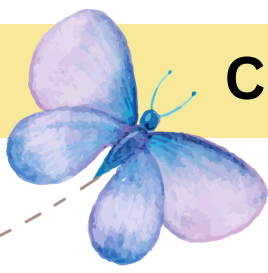
Caring Community/Food Pantry	77.14%	27
Vacation Bible School	77.14%	27
Clothing Closet	68.57%	24
Operation Christmas Child	60.0%	21
Women at Risk	54.29%	19
Salvation Army	48.57%	17
Western Reserve Cafeteria Fund	48.57%	17
David Lee Romanian orphanage ministry	45.71%	16
Christmas Mini Mall	45.71%	16
Abigail Pregnancy Center	45.71%	16
Blessing Box	37.14%	13
Compassion International	31.43%	11
None of the above.	2.86%	1

9. In which ways would you be most likely to contribute to one or more of the opportunities listed in Question #8? (Please identify as many as you like.)

Making a cash donation.	80.65%	25
Donating clothing.	74.19%	23
Donating food.	67.74%	21
Volunteering at a church dinner.	58.06%	18
Volunteering with VBS.	45.16%	14
Donating to the Blessing Box.	38.71%	12
Circumstances prevent me from contributing at this time.	0%	0

10. If you started attending the Wakeman Congregational Church in the last year, what was mainly responsible for bringing you through the doors for the first time?

A friend or family member.	25%	6
Posts or ads on social media.	0	0
A special event or program.	0	0
I saw the building and was curious.	0	0
An online search.	0	0
I've been attending longer than a year.	75%	18



Church Survey Results

The Moving Forward Team would like your help in understanding the results of our recent church survey. We want your input on how to use this information to plan future actions in our church. Please join us for a Discussion of Survey Results on Sunday, May 5th following the Worship Service.



May 5 Hymn Sing!

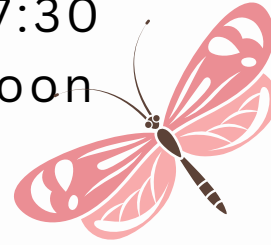
During our worship service, Sunday May 5, plan to share your favorite hymn(s) with the congregation WITH a short comment about why you selected that hymn(s). It will be a delightfully holy time to sing, share our faith and give witness to our love for God, the Holy Spirit and His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior!
(no solo-singing required ;-)



Clothing Closet Dates

May

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



June

June 1st 9 to noon
 June 13th 5:30-7:30
 June 15th 9 to noon
 June 25th 9 to noon
 June 27th 5:30-7:30



TREASURER'S MONTHLY SNAPSHOT 3/31/2024

March	General Operating Income	\$16,681.03
March	General Operating Expense	<u>\$ 7,342.12</u>
	Income Exceed Expense	\$9,338.91
	Year to Date GO Income	\$44,321.86
	Year to Date GO Expense	<u>\$23,610.02</u>
	Income Exceed Expense	\$20,711.84
	Budget Year to Date	\$30,370.00
	Budget Items Spent Year-to-Date	<u>\$24,063.67</u>
	Under Budget	\$6,306.33

Ken Green, Treasurer

Notes:
 Income to Date: Wow!! This Congregation Has Really Stepped Up! The Lord's Light is Shining Brightly on Wakeman Congregational Church.
 Expenses to Date: Two Items Typically Paid in March were Actually Paid in Early April. This Amounts to about an Additional \$1500.00. I,ve Spent Most of the Winter in Florida and am Still Catching Up. Thanks for Your Patience.

News from the Diaconate Board

Easter this year was celebrated with a beautiful sunrise service at the wooden cross located on the northwest corner of the church property. People were then welcomed into the church basement for breakfast, followed by church service at 10:00 am in the sanctuary led by Pastor Janet Ross.



On Sunday, May 12, we will recognize all the women who are present in the church with a small gift to celebrate Mother's Day.

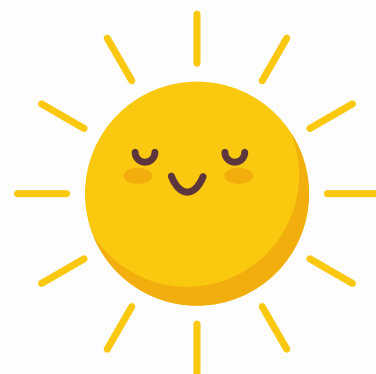


If you know of anyone who is graduating, please contact Nathan Murdock at 419-577-0822. We will recognize our graduates at an upcoming Sunday service.



On Sunday, June 16, we will recognize all the men who are present in the church with a small gift to celebrate Father's Day.

Weather permitting, all church services during the months of June, July and August will be held outdoors in the pavilion.



News from The Diaconate Board



The season is here. The time when farmers and gardeners alike share the interest in sowing seed. Seed for



vegetables, fruits, herbs, etc. All Christians have another seed to plant – the Word of Jesus Christ. Read the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-14 and Luke 8:5-15. Find ways to be a seed planter, a seed waterer, or a seed grower and share the Word of Jesus Christ with family, friends, and even complete strangers.



Mission News



We are always collecting items for the December mini mall. You can drop off your items during Clothing Closet hours, or give them to one of the missions committee members.



Keep saving your paper bags with handles for the Clothing Closet. They are perfect for volunteers to hand out to clients looking for clothes.

We collected a total of \$972.00 for Women at Risk during our special Easter donation.

*Women At Risk*TM
INTERNATIONAL

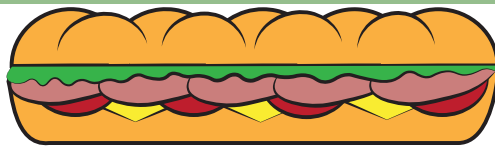
Trustees Update

The trustees recently purchased a riding lawnmower from C & C Sales & Service in Oberlin. They were able to use the business' special pricing for churches to get a 30% discount, for a total cost of \$9,658.

Quality Mason is scheduled to look at the current condition of the handicap ramp on the front of the church. They will also be investigating the feasibility of replacing the ramp with an elevator.

The trustees have scheduled a water test on the exterior brick of the church building. This test will determine the status of the water sealing of the brick, to see if it needs to be resealed.

Super Bowl Sunday Subs



Several of our church youth gathered before worship service on Super Bowl Sunday to make foot long subs for the game. The youth made over 100 sandwiches, which included meat, cheese and veggies. They decided to split of the profit of \$561.00 between the Heifer Project and the local Salvation Army.



Abigail Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle Campaign

This year the Norwalk Abigail Pregnancy Center has taken on an even bigger role in the lives of their clients. This includes a peer counselor for their men's ministry, along with counseling for women. They also administer ultrasounds and pregnancy tests on a weekly basis, where clients are empowered, encouraged and educated to choose life for their unborn babies. In addition, they offer an abortion recovery support group to help those women who didn't choose life for their baby to help them experience healing and forgiveness. They've also seen an increase number of students in their court-mandated parenting classes.



There are three ways that you can help with the Abigail ministry:

- **Participate in our church's baby bottle campaign** by taking a baby bottle home to fill with coins, cash or a check made out to the church. The bottles will be available in the church sanctuary on Mother's Day, May 12th, and can be returned anytime before Father's Day on June 16th. (Or you can mail a check directly to them at PO Box 68, Norwalk, OH 44857.)
- Volunteer opportunities at their center include building maintenance, laundry attendant, fundraising, community awareness and prayer team.
- Donate diapers, wipes and new baby bottles, gently used premie-3T clothes, maternity clothes, Enfamil formula, baby furniture, and baby equipment to their center in Norwalk.





Spotlight On Autumn Thomas

Short Bio: My name is Autumn May Thomas (Butler). I was born in Oberlin, Ohio and grew up in Wakeman. I am the daughter of Buggs and Linder Butler. I currently live in Wakeman with my

husband Seth Thomas and our children Adah (11), Jude (8), and dog, Jack. I come from a family with three sisters: Stephanie, Allison, and Ashley. I am very blessed that we all live within 15 minutes of each other. My family has always been a big priority.



I graduated from Western Reserve Local Schools in 2000. After graduation I attended BGSU Firelands and received my associate degree in administrative office systems.



Through high school I worked for Canfield Farms for Bob Murdock and Cal Canfield. After graduation I worked at the Corner Store in Wakeman and Winkler Buildings Inc. For the last 16 years I have worked for Western Reserve Local Schools in the elementary office.


I have been a member of the Wakeman Congregation Church my entire life. I was baptized, confirmed, and married in this church. I have served on a handful of committees throughout the last few years as well as helped out with children's church. It is important to me to be involved in our church community/family.

What you do for your spiritual well-being: I surround myself with my church, family and friends. I also attend a small group bible study with a few of my close girlfriends. Our conversations & laughter are good for my soul.



Favorite Bible Verse: Exodus 14:14 –
The LORD will fight for you; you
need only to be still.





The hardest thing I have ever done: To surrender my marriage to our Lord and Savior. Life never prepares you for the ups and downs in marriage but it sure can throw you a curve ball. I have been married to my husband Seth Thomas for 14 years. We married on April 23, 2010. We have been lucky enough to be together for the past 19 years and going strong. I made the decision before I was married that I would fight for my marriage no matter what came our way. When the curve ball hit that is exactly what I did. It wasn't until I stopped fighting, dropped to my knees and surrendered my marriage over to the Lord that I fully understood the power of GOD. A weight was lifted off of my shoulders at that moment. I immediately felt a calming wave go through my body. GOD is good!

Song at the top of my playlist: “She’s In Love With The Boy” by Trisha Yearwood

Favorite Comfort Food: I don't necessarily have a favorite comfort food. But I do love alfredo pasta, dips, chocolate covered peanuts, Ferrero Rocher chocolate and Whatchamacallit candy bars.

Details that you may find surprising about me: I love spending time at my parent's farm in Kipton, camping, swimming, and spending time with my family. I participated in the Huron County 4-H program as a youth showing sheep and taking multiple still projects. I'm a 4-H advisor, along with my three sisters, for the past 20 years. My dad passed on the love of snowmobiling to me. I love snowmobiles and have been a member of the Wakeman Sno-Ballers for the past 20 years. I also like to cross stitch.



Vacation Bible School



It's time for a summer camp adventure with God! Explore timeless Bible stories that demonstrate how people trusted God in the face of their own fears and went on to do great things in God's name.

Please be on the look out for a list of items needed listed in the back of the church.

We are in need of volunteers!

If you feel called to help please reach out to Olivia in person, by sending an email to wakemanchurch@gmail.com, or calling 440-839-2316

Volunteers needed

Areas to volunteer:

Prayer

Decorating

Building Sets

Station helper

Team helper

Nursery



 Wakeman
Congregational
Church

VBS Camp Firelight



A SUMMER CAMP

Psalm 56:3

ADVENTURE WITH GOD

JUNE 24-27

9AM-12PM

**14 ABBOTT ST
WAKEMAN 44889**



REGISTER NOW

Scan the
code for
student
registration

