



NOVEMBER

MESSENGER

2024



Wakeman  
Congregational  
Church



# NEWS FROM THE DIACONATE BOARD

Again this year the Wakeman Congregational Church will host the annual ecumenical holiday service. This service, thanking Caring Community for their commitment to area needs, will be held on **Monday, November 25 at 7:00pm.**



The Advent season, which begins on Sunday, December 1, will be celebrated with scripture readings and lighting of the Advent candles. Please contact the church office should you be interested in signing up to read scripture.

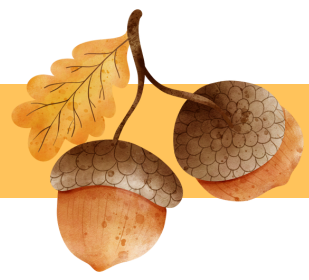
While spending time with family and friends during this season of gratitude, please prayerfully consider attending a worship service, or many worship services. All are welcome.



Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

# MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



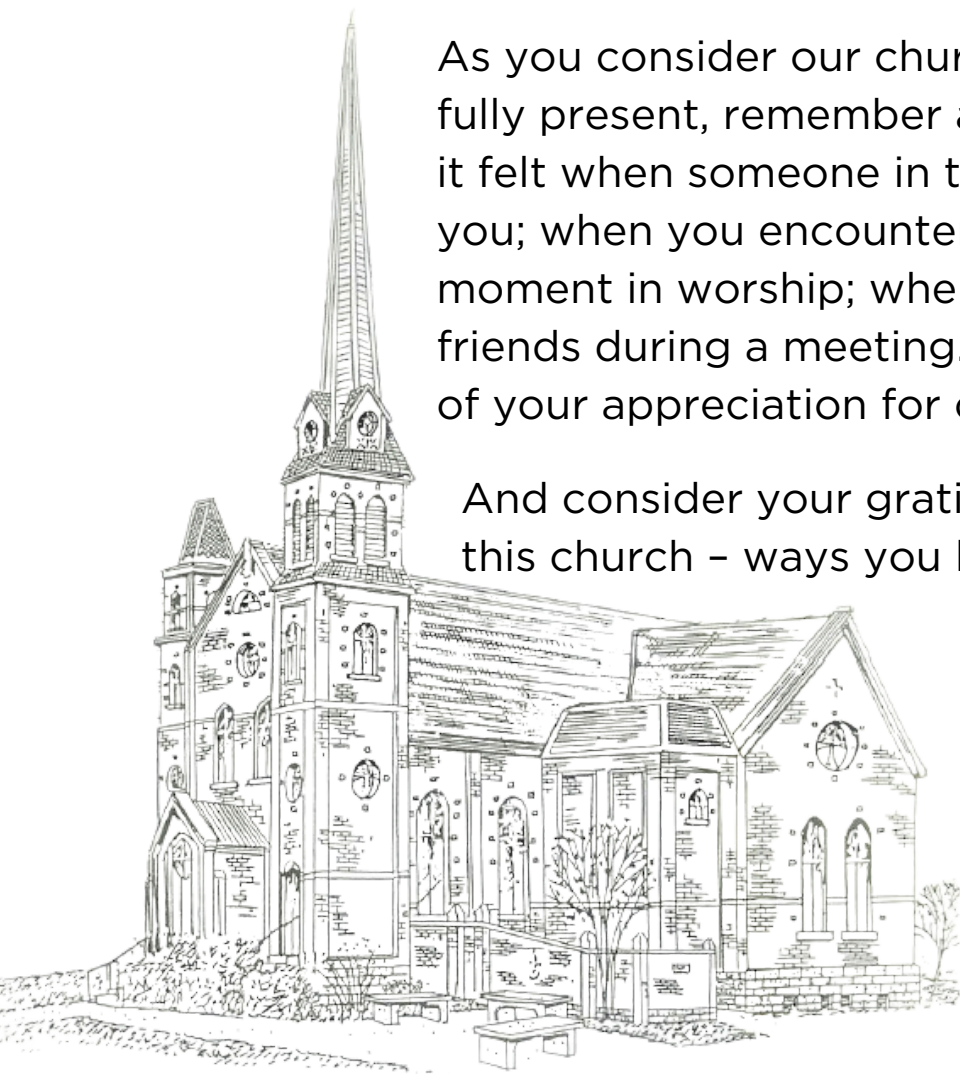
Dear Friends,

I recently read an article about the difference between “gratitude” and “appreciation.” Gratitude is a broad feeling that, perhaps unintentionally, compares one thing to another ... I’m grateful that I have this church (as opposed to those who don’t have a church – or that I have this church and not another). I’m grateful my dog doesn’t jump up on people (as opposed to those dogs who do). Gratitude has a quality of wide thankfulness and often is made with a slight undertone of comparison.

Appreciation, on the other hand, is smaller ... I’m super thirsty and I stop and appreciate the taste and feel of water in my mouth, going down my throat. Appreciation is about being fully present, in the moment, as you walk outside and see the beauty of the color of the trees. Appreciation tends to focus more on a specific moment.

As you consider our church, allow yourself to be fully present, remember a specific moment of how it felt when someone in the church reached out to you; when you encountered Christ during a moment in worship; when you laughed with friends during a meeting. Take note of the quality of your appreciation for our church.

And consider your gratitude for the ministry of this church – ways you have been the recipient and ways our church has reached out to others. The big stuff that makes you grateful to be a part of this church.



I hope with all this “considering” you will discover ways you appreciate our church with new levels of gratitude. Perhaps you will even discover a deeper connection with the Great Giver – the One who gives you Life, Joy, Peace, Mercy. To appreciate the One who has sustained you in hard times. To offer gratitude to the One who has given you a New Life and who loves you completely, unconditionally, warts and all.

And with all this pondering, thank you for your prayerful pledge to our church, reflecting your appreciation and your gratitude.

With much love,

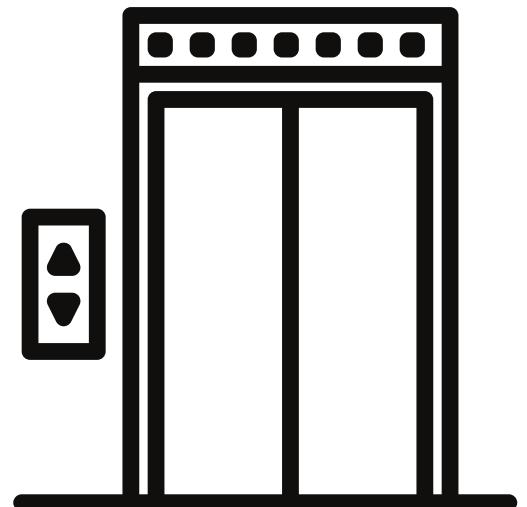
Pastor Janet



## TRUSTEE UPDATES

The trustees recently accepted Annette Smith’s resignation as our church janitor. They want to say thanks for all of her hard work and excellent cleaning skills. The church building has not shined so brightly in many years! They have now hired Jackie Miller as the new church custodian. Jackie lives on Railroad Street with her husband, Dan, and her two children, Eloise and Malcum. She home schools her two children, and enjoys gardening and taking care of her chickens. Along with her cleaning jobs, Jackie has been a hair stylist for eleven years. She currently works part-time at Shear Paradise in Wakeman.

The trustees also are currently reviewing a proposal for a new elevator that appears it could be a cost-effective way to make our church building truly handicap-accessible. Along with looking at elevator proposals, the trustees are also looking for someone to demolish the current church ramp and dispose of the debris.



# FALL FEST FUN



When our church family gets together we have fun and create lasting memories. We enjoyed dinner together, an exciting hayride through Wakeman, smores complete with sticky fingers, crafts, and hot chocolate to warm us up along side the fire.

# ICE CREAM SOCIAL



The Moving Forward committee recently hosted the WRHS marching band at the Wakeman downtown park. We served 160 brownie sundaes to the community during their performance. It was a beautiful evening of music, fellowship and ice cream!



# WAKEMAN'S CARING COMMUNITY

The Caring Community, a non-profit organization based in Wakeman, is pleased to announce a worship service to be on Monday, November 25, 2024 at the Wakeman Congregational Church located at 14 Abbott Street in Wakeman.

“The Wakeman Caring Community board of directors is extremely grateful for the generosity of our sponsoring agencies and many donors that have made possible the support we provide to families and individuals seeking food and emergency financial assistance,” said Susan Kershaw, Board President for Caring Community. “As we come into this holiday season, we want to join with the Wakeman area churches to invite all to come together in praise, thanksgiving and fellowship at this special worship service on Monday, November 25 at 7:00 pm .”

Proceeds from the evening's collected offering will go directly to support the work and outreach of Caring Community.

Caring Community, an equal opportunity provider, is a non-profit volunteer organization that operates a food pantry, distributes financial assistance, and creates connections to local philanthropic agencies, all working together to provide support and resources to Wakeman area neighbors in times of need.



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

**It's not too late to build or order a pre-built shoebox for Operation Christmas Child!**

Ways to Build a Shoebox for Operation Christmas Child:

- Take a box from the back of the sanctuary, and fill it yourself. The deadline to return these boxes to the church is Sunday, November 17th.
- Purchase a completed shoebox online for \$25.00.
  - To order yourself, go to <https://sampur.se/4eeMDFH> to find our church's goal page or use this QR Code:



- If you want the missions committee to order for you, donate \$25.00 (per ordered box). You can donate cash, or write a check made out to the Wakeman Congregational Church. Please be sure that you label your envelope or check so that it gets into the right account. The online ordering deadline is December 1st.



# CLOTHING CLOSET DATES

## November

November 2nd 9 to noon  
November 14th 5:30-7:30  
November 16th 9 to noon  
November 19th 5:30-7:30  
November 28th Closed

## December

December 7th 9 to noon  
December 12th 5:30-7:30  
December 17th 9 to noon  
December 21st 9 to noon  
December 26th CLOSED

## January

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



# CHRISTMAS MINI MALL

The Missions Committee will be hosting our annual Christmas mini mall for community children in the outreach center on Saturday, **December 7th from 11:00 to 3:00**. Thank you for all of the items that you have donated for this activity throughout the year. You can still donate items for the event by dropping them off during Clothing Closet hours, or if you let a Missions committee member know about your items, you can bring them to church.

We will also need volunteers to help the children with shopping and bagging up their gifts. It's a nice way to spend a couple of hours - every year, our volunteers share with us how much fun they had with the children! Please let Melinda Dalton know if you can help during one of the following shifts: 11:00 to 1:00 or 1:00 to 3:00.





# SUNDAY SCHOOL



## The Pumpkin Prayer (Poem)

Dear Jesus,  
As I carve my pumpkin, help me pray this prayer:  
Open my mind so that I can learn about You;  
(cut the top off the pumpkin)  
Take all my sin and forgive the wrong that I do.

(clean out the inside)

Open my eyes so Your love I will see;  
(cut eyes shaped like hearts)

I'm sorry for times I've turned up my nose at what You've given to me.

(cut a nose in the shape of a cross)

Open my ears so Your word I will hear;  
(cut ears shaped like a Bible)

Open my mouth to tell others You're near.

(cut the mouth in the shape of a fish)

Let Your light shine in all I say and do!

(place candle inside and light it)

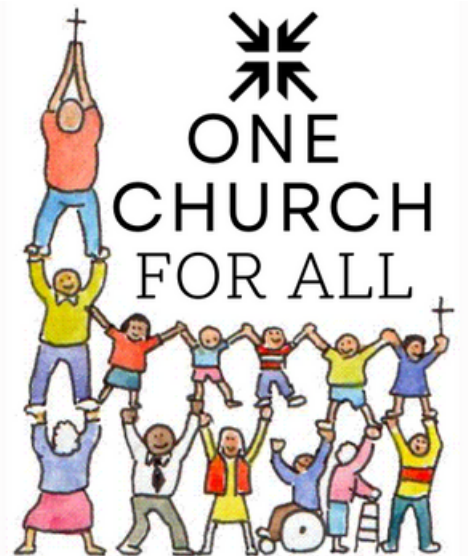


# ONE CHURCH FOR ALL



The Sunday School children recently talked about how they can contribute to our church family through the three T's of Stewardship - Time, Talent and Treasure. They then colored pictures of people to represent the members of our church. Look for these people on our stewardship pledge poster during the month of November. We will add one of their drawings every time a member makes a financial pledge to the church for 2025!

The stewardship committee will be sending out a weekly email during the month of November that will share the importance of stewardship to our church family. Thank you for returning your pledge cards to the church as soon as possible.



## Grieving a loss? Know someone who is?

GriefShare

For people who have lost a loved one and are grieving a death, the holiday season can be bleak. Many people face challenges during the holidays after a loss. These feelings of despair can occur immediately after the death of a loved one, or many years later. Facing the holidays while grieving can sometimes feel like taking one step forward and two steps back. There seems to be a great need in our community of so many to find hope and ways to navigate the season's changes.

To help our grieving community members find comfort for the season, our church is planning to host an event that offers coping tools and support for grieving people. Pastor Janet will be hosting a 2-hour supportive holiday event, Surviving the Holidays, for people in our community.

The program is planned for Saturday, December 14th at 10:00 in the church sanctuary. If you are grieving a death, please plan to join Pastor Janet as she facilitates this event. If you know of someone in our community who is facing a bleak holiday season, please share this event date and time with them. All are welcome to attend!

**Register Here:**



or

**call 440-839-2316**

# COOKIES BY THE POUND

The “Cookies By the Pound” fundraiser is coming up soon on Saturday, December 7th during the Christmas in the Village event. Time to put on your baking hat!

Several ways that you can help:

- Start baking and freezing cookies now to prepare for the event. You can drop off cookies at the Outreach Center on Friday, December 6th from 5-7 or on Saturday, December 7th from 8:30 -10.
- Join Kathy Pickett and Diane Garner for some fun group baking sessions. You don't need to be a master baker to attend, they will show you how to help!
  - **Tuesday, November 12th Frost sugar cookies.**
  - **Tuesday, November 19th Make Buckeyes.**
  - **Thursday, November 21st Make fudge.**



- Volunteer to help organize and sell cookies on December 7th.
- Purchase some delicious cookies to enjoy!



## SPOTLIGHT ON PATTIE ESCHEN

**Short Bio:** I grew up in Kipton and married in 1974. I was married to my husband Ted for 44 years, residing in Wakeman Twp. for 36 years, then moved to Kipton in my childhood home. Ted passed away in 2018 and his quick wit, humor and wisdom is missed by his family. I have a truly wonderful family: daughters Julie Baker, Amy Crosby, Jennifer Lawrence; sons-in-laws Chad Baker, Peter Crosby & Derek Lawrence; and my son, Mark Eschen, whom resides with me. I enjoy six grandchildren: Austin 20, Ethan 18, Lake 16, Landen 15, Garrett 14 & Bella 8. My family are all the joy of my life! When we get together there is always a lot of laughs and love. My son and I rescued a dog named Bruiser from the APL. He is a Plott Hound mix.

I worked for Northern Ohio Rural Water for 35 years, retiring in June 2024. I am serving my third term on the Kipton Village Council. I have served as a poll worker for 33 years.

My interests besides spending time with family are trivia at The Slow Train in Oberlin on Thursday evenings with my siblings. Our team name is "The Slow Team," but we win sometimes. Other interests include cooking, baking, television, and gardening. My position in our church is a member of the Social Committee.

**Hardest thing you've ever done:** Say goodbye to loved ones when they passed away.

**What you do for your spiritual well-being:** Volunteer my time and talents. It gives me a great feeling.



**Favorite bible verse:** Matthew 7:12 *So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.* The Golden Rule



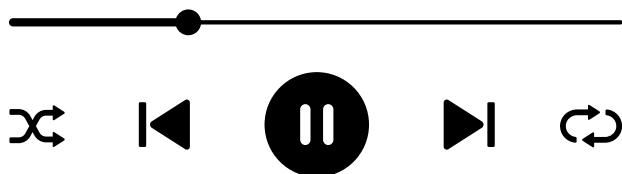
**Go-to place to pray:** Wherever I am at the time prayer is needed.

**Best advice you've gotten:** Forgive those that have wronged you. Otherwise, it eats away at you and changes that person that you are.

**Real-life hero:** That would have to be my parents. I couldn't have asked for better. They were definitely the wind beneath my wings.

**Favorite songs:** O Holy Night and How Great Thou Art

**Songs at the top of your playlist:**  
"Pass It On" and "Here I Am Lord".



**Favorite comfort food:**  
Cabbage Rolls



**A detail about you that people would find surprising:** I have a half-cousin that murdered four people in California in 1973, including two Los Angeles County sheriff deputies.

**Occupation you'd pursue if not your current one:** Court Stenographer, Police Dispatcher or People Locator.

