



October

MESSENGER
2025



Wakeman
Congregational
Church

News from The Diaconate Board

Preparations for the construction of the new lift began in June with the removal of the existing handicapped accessible ramp. The job site was prepped and Janotta and Herner arrived late summer to begin the work of installing the lift.

It is always our plan to worship in the pavilion during the summer months. This year, however, the June weather was uncooperative, and we found ourselves worshipping in the Outreach Building for a Sunday or two. We were blessed with beautiful weather after June and spent the months of July and August worshipping in the pavilion.

After worshipping in the outreach building a couple of Sundays, we realized that the rooms were not designed to hold the congregation all in one space. And we knew the construction project would not be completed before cold weather arrived. So, the Trustees got to work removing one of the walls, combining two rooms into one – with plenty of space for all of us. We anticipate that the lift project will be completed late fall and until that time, we will continue to worship in the Outreach Building.

We would like to thank all that have been involved in the construction project in any capacity. And we would like to thank all those who join us each Sunday morning for your flexibility during this time of chaos. Because of each of you, even in the midst of all the dust, we have been blessed to gather and worship our Lord and Savior.

We encourage you to join us in the Outreach Building on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am for Adult Bible Study and at 10:00 am for worship service to experience the good works the Lord is doing for and through us.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. ~Isaiah 43:2.

Message from the Pastor



Dear Friends,

I recently came across a historical account of religious life in Wakeman, written in March 1879. At that time, our own church building was still fresh and new—the cornerstone had been laid in September 1877, and the dedication took place just three months before that writing, in January 1879. The author described it this way:

“The church is a handsome and imposing brick edifice, evincing in its design and appearance good practical judgment and excellent taste on the part of those to whose energy and liberality its erection is due.”

Nearly 146 years later, the same words could well be said of the addition now rising beside that original structure—an addition we hope to dedicate in November 2025.

The masons have worked with great care, blending brick colors to echo the beauty of the original. Their craftsmanship ensures that the new structure feels like a seamless extension of the old.

But what we are adding is more than brick and mortar.

- We are adding a **lift**—a tangible sign of our desire that all may have full and equal access to the life of our church.
- We are adding a renewed **commitment to our community**: to share the love of Jesus with every person.



Message from the Pastor

- We are adding our witness for those who may once have felt left out, reminding them that there is a place for them here.
- We are teaching our children that to “lift up Jesus” requires “good judgment, energy and liberality.
- And we are joining our voices with the thousands of faithful souls who have proclaimed Christ from this corner of Wakeman across the generations.

Thank you, Blessed Church, for your generosity, your vision, and your steadfast faith. Together, we are building not only an addition, but a future filled with welcome, hope, and love.

In Christ,
Pastor Janet



Clothing Closet Dates

October

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



November

November 1st 9 to noon
November 13th 5:30-7:30
November 15th 9 to noon
November 18th 9 to noon
November 27th Closed
(Thanksgiving)

Treasurer's Snapshot

TREASURER'S MONTHLY SNAPSHOT 8/31/2025

August	General Operating Income		\$7,904.00
August	General Operating Expense		\$ 9,921.23
	Income Exceed Expense		-\$2,017.23
	Year to Date GO Income	\$85,262.83	
	Year to Date GO Expense	\$84,385.51	
	Income Exceed Expense	\$877.32	
	Budget Year to Date		\$85,233.33
	Budget Items Spent Year-to-Date		\$85,560.30
	Under	Budget	-\$326.97

Ken Green, Treasurer

Notes:

Currently Our GO Income Exceeds Expenses by \$877.32. This a Great Opportunity to Catch Up on Our Pledges!

Our addition project is coming along wonderfully and funding for this is nothing shy of a Blessing from our Lord.



<u>Collections as of 9/22/25</u>	
\$320,610	Cash
106,000	Stock
97,372	Commitments Prior to the Campaign
58,000	Outstanding Pledges 2025-2027



Treats in a Tent

On Sunday, October 26th, we will be sharing our love of the Lord by giving out treat bags to our local community children. Our treat bags will include both a snack and a child's scripture card or bible-verse toy. We will be set up in a tent in the front church lawn from 3:30-5:00 that afternoon.

Last year, we shared God's word with about 400 community children, and we're hoping to reach that many again this year. We are



looking for volunteers who are willing to donate at least three dozen store-purchased wrapped snacks to fill the treat bags. If



you are able to help with this activity, please let Melinda Dalton know at church, or call 419-541-7528. We'd appreciate getting the snacks the week before the event, so we can prepare the bags.

Thank you for helping with this fall activity!

Unite and Give Thanks

Mark your calendars and save the date



Caring Community
Thanksgiving Worship
Monday, November 24
at 7:00pm



Cookies By the Pound

Diane Garner and Kathy Pickett have start planning for the December 6th Cookies By the Pound sale, and have some great new cookie decorating ideas to share with us.

They have planned for three group sessions of baking and decorating cookies. Come and join us for fun, fellowship and decorating!

The cookie decorating sessions will include:

Wednesday, November 12th: The Pearls of Wisdom group will decorate sugar cookies at their monthly meeting. If you have some, please bring metal or plastic frosting decorating tips. Meet us at 11:00 that day in the Outreach building, and join in the fun!

Monday, November 17th: We will be decorating gingerbread men at 10:00 that day in the church basement. Bring along decorating ideas, and any metal or plastic frosting decorating tips that you have. Time to be creative!

Wednesday, November 19th: Volunteers will be dipping premade peanut butter and Nutella balls into melted chocolate. A messy, but exciting job! Meet in the church basement at 10:00.

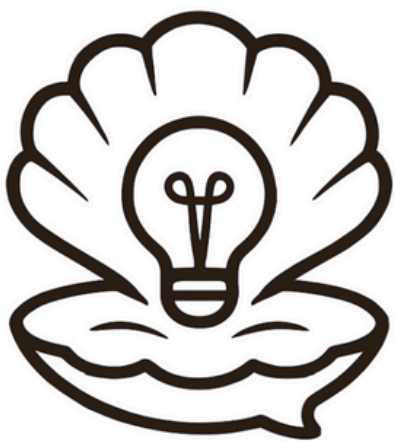
We heard a rumor that, if you come to help, there will be free samples!



Pearls Of Wisdom

The September gathering of our adult membership included a delicious lunch with conversation that encouraged everyone to share humorous antidotes from their past. The delightful memories shared by the group members, often accompanied with bursts of laughter, helped them get to know each other a little better.

Plan to join us on Wednesday, October 8th for our next Pearls of Wisdom gathering. We welcome members of all ages to join in on the fun. We'll have faith, food, conversation, games and lots of laughter. We can guarantee that you'll be glad that you came!



**PEARLS OF
WISDOM**



Operation Christmas Child



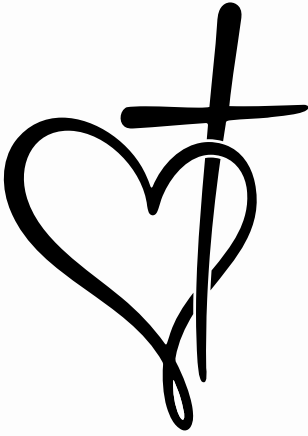
Another season of Operation Christmas Child is just around the corner! Last year, members of our congregation packed or purchased 66 boxes filled with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for this annual event.



Since 1993, over 232 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have experienced God's love through the power of a shoebox gift from Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan's Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ.

How can I contribute to Operation Christmas Child?

1. Boxes and labels will be available at the church starting on Sunday, October 19th. 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 16th.**
2. Order a shoebox online at <https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanaspurse.org/view/c3c12367-ead1-4db1-98ad-272e0217484a> to find our church's goal page or use this
3. QR code:



1. Donate \$30.00 (per donated box) 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 into the correct account. **The online ordering deadline is December 15th.**



**For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to do good
works, which God prepared in
advance for us to do.**

Ephesians 2:10

Church Correspondence

We want to thank you for participating in our baby bottle campaign. With your donations, you raised \$742.69 for babies and their families in our community. Thank you so much for making a difference for life! The Staff of Abigail Pregnancy Services



We are deeply grateful for your generous donation to our food service department. Your kindness is not only a gift of resources, but also a powerful reminder of the compassion and community that the church represents. Thank you very much!



Western Reserve Schools Food Service

Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

Isaiah 58:10

Sunday School

We are excited to share that our Sunday School year is off to a wonderful start! This year, we are blessed to have *two classes* for our young people, giving everyone the chance to grow in faith at their own level.

Our **older youth** class is diving into the LIVE Curriculum, which encourages students to strengthen their walk with Jesus and build a deeper, more personal relationship with Him. Meanwhile, our **younger class** is focusing on foundational Bible lessons—helping them learn about God’s love and develop a strong base of faith to carry with them as they grow.



Mini Mall Preparations



The missions committee is gearing up for our annual Mini Mall event for community children. We will be setting up gifts that children can choose for their mom and dad for Christmas.

Ways you can help:

- Donate new or gently-used items for the children to choose from. We accept these donations all year long, and store them in the Clothing Closet backroom. If you have anything that you'd like to donate, visit us during regular Clothing Closet hours, or talk to a member of missions and we'll set up a time for you to give us your items.
- Donate bags or tissue paper for the children to use. (We mostly need tissue paper this year.)
- Join us on Saturday, December 6th to help the children shop and bag up their presents. It's lots of fun, and a great way to start off the holiday season!

GriefShare®

SUPPORT GROUP

Our GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. During our time together, you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind. The group is open to the whole community and is FREE. You will be given a workbook to assist your healing journey.

Join us Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm

facilitated by Pastor Janet and Sandy Rottari (from St. Mary's Catholic Church)

“Lifting Up to the Lord” Lift Construction Continues



If you have driven by the church during the past month, you will have noticed the progress being made on the church lift project.

The exterior of the new addition is stunning, and matches the brick and stone used by the builders of the original church. We hope to have some interior photos to share with you in the November Messenger issue.



Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. 1 Chronicles 29:16

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. Proverbs 16:3

Fall Church Potluck

WCC *Fall* GATHERING

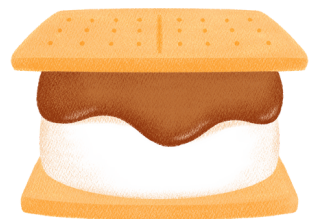
SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 25
5:00PM



POTLUCK
HAY RIDE
CAMPFIRE
ACTIVITIES



Join us Saturday, October 25th for a
Potluck Dinner at 5:00 PM, followed
by a hayride and a bonfire with
s'mores!



Bring your favorite dish to share, and
don't forget to bundle up—jackets,
coats, and even a blanket will help you
stay warm on the hayride. Bring a chair
to sit around the bonfire.



Caring Community

WAKEMAN CARING COMMUNITY

Meatloaf Dinner

St. Mary's Hall

SAVE THE DATE

**SUNDAY
OCT 26
11:30am**

RIBBON CUTTING

**Food
Pantry Addition
Grand Opening**

Spotlight On Joel Ross



Short Bio: I am 71 years old and grew up in Wakeman township on the family farm until I was 18. I studied art and marketing in college and my career was working in corporate communications and business management. I have three children and three stepchildren ... and four grandchildren. I was baptized, confirmed and married in Wakeman Congregational Church; my great-great grandparents were founding members of the previous

Second Congregational Church of Wakeman. My current position here is clergy spouse, which is challenging when I have to be quiet and neutral, and exciting when I get to use my gifts. Janet and I moved back to Wakeman three years ago and adopted our dog, Fritz.

Hardest thing you've ever done: To live with the decision not to speak at my brother Steve's funeral when I was 25. His death in a car accident was sudden and shocking, and I couldn't find the strength and spiritual maturity to honor him properly. There are not many things in my life that I regret, but this is a big one. Ever since, I have spoken at my parents' and aunt's and uncle's and brother-in-law's funerals ... if you need a eulogizer, I'm your guy.

Favorite bible verse:

"Praise the Lord!

Praise God in His sanctuary;

Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Praise Him for His mighty acts;

Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet;

Praise Him with the lute and harp!

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance;

Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!

Praise Him with loud cymbals;

Praise Him with clashing cymbals!

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord!" **(Psalm 150:1-6)**



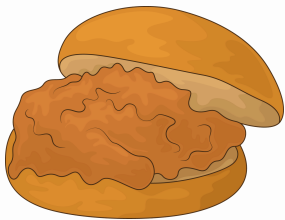
Best advice you've gotten: Don't believe everything you think. I often find myself thinking and believing I know a lot about a lot of things, and that can lead me to wrongly judging people and situations and possibilities. Discerning what God wants me to think and believe is what should reign true and first. I've learned the hard way it is OK to be wrong ... and to forgive myself.

Song at the top of your playlist: "Heart Like A Wheel" written by Anna McGarrigle in 1974 and sung by Linda Ronstadt. This is a song about the vulnerability of our walks in the valley and struggles to understand why bad things happen. "Please God hold my hand" is the painful plea in this song ... a total 180 compared to my favorite Bible verse!

Real-life hero: My life-long friend Tim Petrey. Throughout grade school there were several kids that were routinely bullied and made fun of. In fifth grade on the playground, one day he stepped in the middle of one of those belittling episodes and he firmly intervened and said no more! It stopped me in my tracks and I will never forget it. I wish I was more like Tim.

One question you wish an interviewer would ask: “Why did you move back to Wakeman?” To live an important season of my life where my soul is nourished, to experience a simpler life, to have the adventure of building something, and most importantly to be near and around people who may not think like me. And of course, to bring you all your new pastor ... Janet ... at a time and place when we all needed her healing gifts and guidance.

Go-to place to pray: My walks through Wakeman that often take me to the township cemetery on Route 303 ... there is great solace in imaging what my ancestors and friends would want for me, and the subtle and loud ways God speaks to me.



Favorite comfort food:

Sloppy Joes ... specifically my mother's Sloppy Joes.

A detail about you that people would find surprising:
That I have sung at Carnegie Hall in New York City.



Occupation you'd pursue if not your current one: God does have plans for us! I never thought I would own and run my own business, but I did ... Janet and I owned Beyond Borders for seven years. We imported handmade metal art from Haiti and wholesaled these creations to over 1500 stores in North America. All those years working in corporate America finally paid off and I realized that God had been preparing me all that time to be a steward for 100 Haitian artists and their families. You never know what God is preparing you for next!

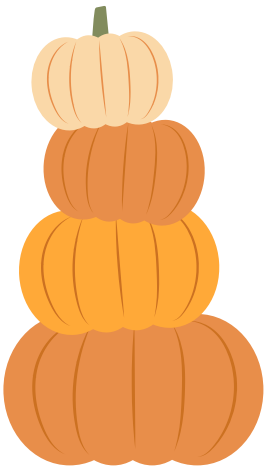
Church Photo Directory

We've had a good response to our requests for information for our new church directory, but if we haven't heard from you yet, now is the time to help us include your family in this year's Wakeman Congregational Church Directory!

What you need to do:

1. Complete the personal information form:

- Use the one published in the August/September Messenger or ask for a copy from the church office or Joel Ross, complete and return it.
- Scan the QR code below to fill out the form.



1. Photos:

- Wakeman area residents: Joel Ross will contact you to schedule taking your photo.
- If you live away from Wakeman: submit a good quality photo to Joel Ross.

For any questions, or for additional information, contact Joel Ross:
6 Deer Run Dr, Wakeman, 44889; joel.ross54@gmail.com;
440-463-7673.

**The only way to be in the directory is to
respond...don't miss out!**

