



The Pastor's Pen

I would wake before dawn. That's how it worked on Christmas morning. Every other day of the year, I struggled to get out of bed, begging mom for just 5 more minutes. But not on Christmas because Christmas means presents. Christmas was the only day of the year when I woke up before dad.

There is something about a gift that requires a person to pay attention. Just the thought of a gift can focus the mind. For a solid month before the big day, my sister and I scoured the house from basement closets to attic rafters for signs of shopping. We knew even then that treasures could be found hidden among the ordinary.

Finally, in a form of surrender, my mom refused to hide Christmas presents any longer. Instead she placed them all in an oversized garbage bag, closed with a string tied in a series of intricate knots, placed in the middle of the living room. She swore that only she knew the combination of knots, secret to unlocking the mysteries inside, and she would know if it had been tampered with. Sort of took the fun out of sneaking a peak.

But it didn't take the fun out of Christmas! I still woke up early and ready to tear into carefully wrapped packages. The biggest gift was always saved for last. Mine came in a large box - so it had to be good! But, there must have been some mistake, because when I opened the box all I found was some pink and green material and a sewing pattern. Mom had purchased material for my high school pep club outfit. What was she thinking?!

All these years later, I have come to appreciate the gift beneath the gift. I didn't realize then that the best gifts require something from us as well. In this case it was hours bent over the sewing machine.

Your best Christmas gift can still be found among the ordinary. Tucked between tin foil halos and shepherds' bathrobes, you will find God's perfect gift for you. And it will require something from you as well... not in the form of payment - for it cannot be earned... but in the form of grateful service which makes the gift complete.

Please remember to open all your presents this Christmas.

Blessings,
Pastor Sue



29043 T Avenue
P.O. Box 278

Phone: 515-987-4937

www.waukeechristianchurch@msn.com
WaukeeChristianChurch.com

Cross + Words

December, 2015



CWF will meet Dec. 2nd for breakfast at Booneville Café. All ladies of the church are invited to join in the fun.

Please let Evelyn Dowell or Ruth Sindt know if you plan to attend so we can give the café an approximate number.



Poinsettias must be ordered by Sunday, December 6th.

Order forms will be inserted into the weekly bulletins and available in the narthex until the deadline. The cost is \$10.50. You may take your poinsettia plant home after the Christmas Eve service if you wish.



Between the Covers book club will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, December 7th to review *Eleven Broken Pencils* (fiction) by V. Schroeder. See you there!



Gather together on December 2nd at 6:30 for soup and carols as we decorate the church for the Season of Hope.



The Women of Waukee (WoW) met on November 11th at Cimberly Hansen's house.

Linda O'Hair, the new funeral coordinator, reported about the Dick Felt visitation reception held on November 8th. A large crowd attended and cookies and beverages were served. CWF assisted by providing cookies.

Juanita McBeth led a Thanksgiving devotion, reading several scriptures about thanking God for all he provides. She passed out felt Thanksgiving stickers asking each person to write intangible items we think about and value during this holiday season. Juanita gave the example of longing for the companionship and spirituality of Sunday morning worship while she was on vacation. Others talked about love, companionship, and friendship.

The next WoW meeting will be December 9th at Linda Wilcox's house (560 SE Brick Drive in Waukee). This will be the Cup of Cheer event. Please bring a Christmas mug filled with holiday cheer items.

Cross Words

December, 2015



Thank you!

Thanks to

- Kathy Dean and Pastor Julie for filling the pulpit in November
- Linda O'Hair for coordinating the Felt funeral
- Everyone who contributed to Operation Christmas Child
- Everyone who helped with our Thanksgiving Dinner
- Members who agreed to provide leadership in 2016



Keep the WOW garage sale in mind as you are cleaning closets! Put items aside until spring. Stay tuned for more information!



But just in case the snow is too deep or the ice too thick, the Chair of the Board and the Minister will decide what's in the best interest of Waukee Christian Church members and friends.

If Church activities are cancelled for any reason, notice will be sent through our One Call Now phone system. Please make sure the office has your preferred phone number. We will also make attempts to have the information on local television stations. Stay safe!



It's a sign...that we need a new sign!

Maybe you noticed that our sign—yes, the huge sign in the front yard—has some problems. In technical terms, it's falling apart. For now, handymen Ron Hardersen and Chuck Teas have taped, hammered, and prayed it back together.

While the sign was slated for replacement next summer as part of Revitalize, we can't wait. The sign will be replaced around the first of the year.

We're looking forward to the new electronic sign...as are our two faithful sign changers, Tammy & Ron Hardersen, who have been braving rain and wind and snow and other obstacles, including creative thinking because we have only so many E's and I's and T's. Ron & Tammy, THANK YOU for your YEARS of dedication to that sign. It's a tough job, and we appreciate your service more than you probably know.

P.S. We appreciate your continued Revitalize donations due to this need!

Cross Words

December, 2015



- 12/02 Lowell Andeberg
- 12/03 Ora Hansen
- 12/07 Caitlin Phillips
- 12/10 Phyllis Brown
- 12/12 Matthew Hansen
- 12/16 Mary Lou Harris
- 12/18 Jerry Woods
- 12/18 Ruby Murray
- 12/19 Jeremy Wasson
- 12/21 Nick Dean
- 12/25 Kayson Taylor



Christmas Eve Service December 24th 6:30 p.m. Youth Group Drama "Away From the Manger"

We're all familiar with the people and animals that visited the manger in Bethlehem. But have you thought about who didn't show up? Come and meet some of the shepherds, sheep, and 'wise' men who didn't go that night. Some were too busy... some said "It's not in our job description... some were too shy... and some just didn't believe they were good enough to be present with Christ. Come and examine some of the reasons we stay away from the manger.

Youth Group Rehearsal Times:

The Youth will be rehearsing Away From the Manger Christmas Eve Skit on Dec. 13th & Dec 20th after fellowship time.

We will also gather at 5:30 on Christmas Eve for a dress rehearsal.



Happy Anniversary

- 12/16 Duane & Ruth Sindt
- 12/27 Alan & Bethalene
Finestead



Let us know if we missed your special day!

Cross Words

December, 2015



U.S. mission trips

Several families have expressed an interest in a 2016 Mission Trip. Right now we are considering a trip sometime next summer - possibly mid-June.

There are several possibilities for a mission site: help after flooding in South Carolina or with building a church in Illinois, work in impoverished areas of Detroit or Minneapolis, and many more

We will begin fundraising soon. So, if you are interested in going on the 2016 Mission Trip, please contact Rosalie Pfeifer so that we can plan our activities.

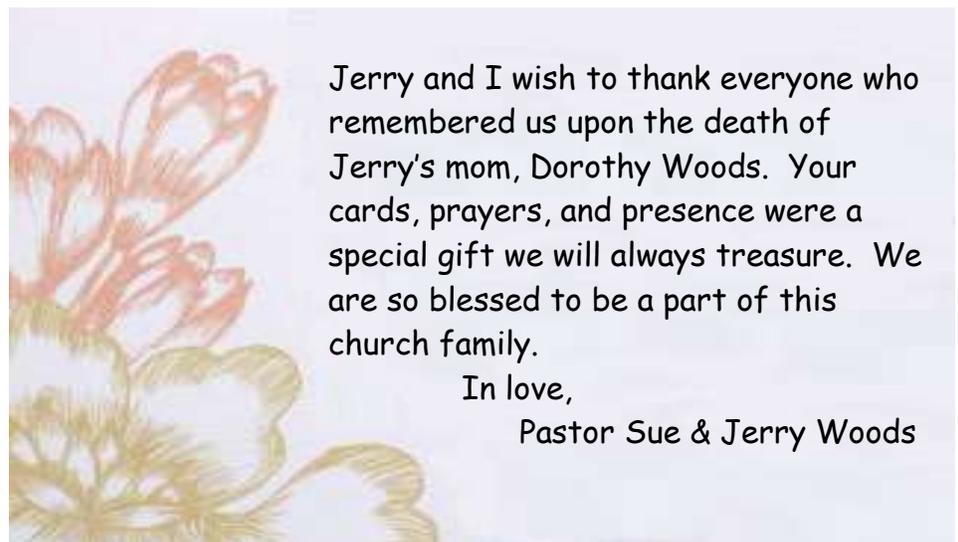


Operation Christmas Child Collection a Success!

Thanks to you we delivered 38 boxes filled with items that will provide fun for children at Christmas. Every gift-filled shoebox is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship—transforming the lives of children and their families around the world through the Good News of Jesus Christ! Thanks for your generous gifts.



Cookbooks will be coming soon!!! Watch for the big announcement.



Jerry and I wish to thank everyone who remembered us upon the death of Jerry's mom, Dorothy Woods. Your cards, prayers, and presence were a special gift we will always treasure. We are so blessed to be a part of this church family.

In love,

Pastor Sue & Jerry Woods

Cross Words

December, 2015



December Serving Schedule

December	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th
Communion Prep/Cleanup	Shari Burgus	Linda O'Hair	Beckie Myers	Dave Grandgenett
A/V	Matt Hansen	Dave Grandgenett	Jerry Woods	Jason Keller
Greeter	Audrey MacRae	Vickie Teas	Dave Grandgenett	Cathy Conklin
Youth Greeter	Sam Ruggles	Austin Younger	Ximen Markway	Zoey Koch
Candle Lighter	Jan De Jog	Sam Ruggles	Linda O'Hair	Alice Ruggles
Children's Moment	George Risinger	Kathy Dean	Sue Woods	Sue Woods
Reader	Kathy Dean	Lee Foltz	Linda Foltz	Vickie Teas
Communion Invitation	Linda Foltz	Linda Foltz	Sue Woods	Sue Woods
Call to Offering & Offering Prayer	Cathy Conklin	Juanita McBeth	Shari Burgus	Matt Hansen
Communion Prayer	Suzanne Koch	Jerry Woods	Cathy Conklin	Cimberly Hansen
Offering & Communion Servicers	Marlene & George Risinger	Jason Keller Cassie Hansen	Beckie Myers Linda Wilcox	Cathy Conklin Dave Grandgenett
Fellowship	Sue MacRae	Cathy Conklin	Beckie Myers	Shari Burgus
Nursery Attendant	Abby Ellerman	Cassie Hansen	Abby Ellerman	Cassie Hansen
Food Pantry Delivery	Beckie Myers			
Visiting Shepherds	Cimberly and Matt Hansen			

If you are going to be gone, please secure you're substitute and let the office know of the change. Thank You!



Your giving is important to the future ministry of God's church in this place. Please give generously and with a cheerful heart.

	August	September	October
Receipts	\$17,861.43	\$11,773.19	\$ 12,225.52
Expenses	\$10,847.20	\$11,199.18	\$11,536.83
Difference	\$ 7,014.23	\$ 574.01	\$ 688.69
Money available for expenses	\$24,172.88	\$24,746.89	\$25,435.58

DECEMBER 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Knit Wits 1:00 pm	2 CWF - breakfast at Booneville Cafe Hanging of the Greens 6:30 pm	3 	4	5
6 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Baptism	7	8 Knit Wits 1:00 pm	9 WoW 6:30 pm Cup 'O Cheer At Linda Wilcox's	10	11	12
13 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Youth Rehearsal after Fellowship Board Mtg. 6:30 pm	14 	15 Knit Wits 1:00 pm	16 <div style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Newsletter Articles Due</div>	17	18	19
20 4 th Sunday of Advent 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Youth Rehearsal after Fellowship	21	22 Knit Wits 1:00 pm 	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Dress Rehearsal 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service - 6:30 pm 	25 	26
27 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship	28 	29 Knit Wits 1:00 pm	30	31 		

Cross Words

December, 2015

Waukee Christian Church
29043 T Avenue
P.O. Box 278
Waukee, Iowa 50263



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 am Education Hour
(Adults, Busy Bee's, High School)
10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Coffee
11:15 a.m. Youth Group
(Elementary/Middle School)

...OUR STAFF...

Pastor: Reverend Sue Woods
Visiting Pastor: Julie Cornelius
Admin. Assistant: Lanita Cavanaugh

... CHURCH OFFICE ...

Office Hours
Monday-Wednesday-Thursday
8:30AM – 3:30PM

Phone
(515) 987-4937

Email
waukeechristianchurch@msn.com

Website
waukeechristianchurch.com



Waukee Christian
Church

NOTICE:

If you no longer wish to receive the WCC newsletter, please notify the office at 515-987-4937. If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, send your email address to waukeechristianchurch@msn.com. Thank you.

~ We are People of the Table ~
~Living Faith on the Edge of Waukee ~



Connecting people to each other and the world.

Growing spiritually through the renewing of our minds.

Honoring the Image of God in all people.



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Waukee Christian Church

The Waukee Christian Church Newsletter is published monthly.