

Cross + Words

February, 2017



Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy.

~ Thomas Merton ~

Save the Date

- June 3rd - Blitz Build at the Camp in Newton
- August 23rd - All Congregational Gathering at the CCC in Newton.

We have had the altar cross and candle holders re-plated and have some new candle lighters also. Please note that **no cleaners** should be used on these items (just wipe clean with a soft dry cloth). Also, when the candle lighters are extinguished, remember to push the wick back out to prevent wax buildup inside. Thank you.

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The Pastor's Pen

*Roses are red, violets are blue
My heart is filled with love for you*

Love is a verb. When all else fails, remember that. We get confused and think that love is a feeling, a state of being. We sit and wait for love to envelope us. And sometimes it does - which is amazing in the short term and unfortunate in the long term. That's because feelings of love cannot be sustained. But actions of love can.

It's hard. I get that. I want to BE loved way more than I want to be LOVING. Being a loving person requires some rewiring of the brain. We are wired to focus on ourselves. Are we hungry? Are we tired? Are we happy? Are we upset? The answers to those questions ultimately lead to receiving. But love is about giving away.

That's how Jesus loved so perfectly - he gave himself away. And not just on the cross; although that's a big part of it. Jesus gave himself away every day. He turned to notice people who were invisible to others. He repeated his message again and again and again. He calmed storms on seas and amongst the disciples. He gave. He loved.

Loving is a going-against-the-grain attitude. Love is hard work that requires attention and dedication. Real love requires us to confront and overcome our fears. It requires a new perspective on the world. It takes risks and doesn't ever mind the cost when those risks don't pay off. That's not natural. It's divine.

And here's where the angel pops in with that age-old message: "Fear not!" We can love, even though it seems impossible, because God first loved us.

So go ahead - buy your roses and your Hallmark cards. Plan the candlelight dinner and celebrate your feelings. Then get to work on changing the world with love.

"Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy."

— Thomas Merton

Blessings,
Pastor Sue



Thank you!

Thanks to

- Marlene Risinger, Vicki Teas, and Matt Hansen for helping to put away Christmas decorations for another year. Everything is so organized!
- Exploratory Task Group as you discern God's will with the recent offer to purchase the church building/land. Where is God calling us to be? Exciting times!
- Everyone who donated to the Guatemala Mission Trip Fund! As of the end of January, we have collected \$1,979.20 through various fundraising and \$109.55 through the children's Noisy Offering!!
- All who attended the annual Calendar Planning Meeting. Many wonderful ministry and fellowship opportunities are being offered in the coming year!
- The angels who have supported so many during their illnesses and recovery from surgeries. Your compassion is appreciated!
- The faithful disciples who are meeting each week to study Luke's gospel. And to those who attended the Disciple 101 class to learn about our denomination's history and beliefs.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Shrove Tuesday, or the day before Lent begins, is traditionally celebrated by the eating of rich foods like Pancakes! Faithful people all over the world eat pancakes on this day as a way of using up rich foods, such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the Lenten fast begins.

On February 28th, the Men's Group will prepare a Pancake Supper for the church as we prepare ourselves for the Lenten journey. It will be a time of fun but also a time to turn our hearts toward the long walk to the cross.



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

	October	November	December
Receipts	\$ 13,244.46	\$ 10,771.03	\$ 11,409.08
Expenses	\$ 10,681.71	\$ 10,038.25	\$ 11,773.44
Difference	\$ 2,562.75	\$ 732.78	(\$ 364.36)
Money available for expenses	\$ 26,721.06	\$ 27,453.84	\$ 27,089.48

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T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE!

There are several church T-shirts available for anyone wishing to purchase them. We have some various sizes available, but other sizes can be ordered (we have to order a minimum of 10).

Please let Lanita know if you wish to purchase any of the ones currently available!



The weekly book study group is studying the Book of Luke. Join us at the church on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. There will not be a study on February 7th.

Thank you FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Dear Church Family,

We want to reiterate our deepest thanks for all you've done to support the Guatemala mission trip. Your donations will continue to sustain us— from now, throughout the trip, and for future communities.

Whether you bought our Christmas goodies (we hope you enjoyed them!), Christmas wrapping, knitted hats, donated pens, helped to fill the buckets for Noisy Collection, donated cash, time and talent, Shari and I are forever grateful. We are thankful for being part of this wonderful community ...Waukee Christian Church.

And while we're there, all of you will be with us, as your collective goodwill is in our spirits. You will be in our hands as we build and plant; you will on our minds as we rest and engage; you will be in our hearts for making this happen.

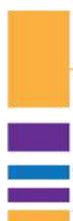
As the seeds grow (along with Jim's hair!), may it be a reminder that your generosity fostered bloom and harvest.

Sincerely,

Rosalie and Shari

Noisy Offering February 12th

Make sure to bring your change this Sunday to contribute to our Noisy Offering, taken every 2nd Sunday of the month!



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

02/03 Jamie Keller
02/04 Dennis Dowell
02/08 Lorrie Grandgenett
02/12 Alan Finestead
02/19 Vivian Smith
02/23 Sadie Infante
02/25 Gavin Reeck
02/25 Charlotte Swallow
02/29 Joe Younger



Waukeee Area Christian Services is excited to announce their **First Annual Gala**, "Creating Connections" coming up **April 28th**. The organization is seeking:

- Items for the silent auction
- Target or Walmart gift cards in any amount turned into the church office by Sunday, February 5th.
- Home Depot or Lowe's gift cards in any amount turned into the church office by Sunday, February 19th.

Thank you for your generosity.



"Pick a Word." That was what Cimberly Hansen asked of the seven ladies that attended the January WOW meeting at Marlene Risinger's home. Her suggestion was that each member pick a word and use that word every day in their actions, their attitudes, and their thoughts. She used the example of "Joy," and told how this word changed her thinking when she was feeling down or was having second thoughts about something. To help her, she looks up Bible passages that contain the word and sees how she can apply it to her life. So our assignment, and now yours, is to "pick a word" and use it every day. See if it will help you on this path we call life.

During the business portion of the meeting, several reports were given and discussed: The success of the Guatemala gift wrap/Christmas goodie plates fundraiser; Vivian Wilson's funeral lunch; stocking hats for Guatemala; and the purchase of new aprons and trash cans for the kitchen. It was decided not to do the Bundled Bottoms charity because of the cost of shipping.

Linda O'Hair reported that our date to serve at Ronald McDonald house will be April 6th and we will prepare the meal at the house and deliver to Mercy hospital from there. The menu will be discussed and finalized at a future meeting. Several members of WOW volunteer at Many Hands in Grimes and Linda explained volunteering there.

General fundraising was discussed and many options were presented. It was decided to hold a Talent Auction. Details and time will be decided later after the church calendar was presented. It was also decided to have Trick or Trunk around Halloween time; however, we do have a disadvantage in that we are not in town.

Marlene served delicious snacks and we enjoyed fellowship together. The next meeting will be held at the home of Karen Neese, 14962 Hawthorn Dr. in Clive on February 8th at 6:30 p.m. Linda Wilcox will have devotions. Hope to see you there.



SHOE DRIVE



Looking Forward to 2017 Summer 50th Anniversary Christian Conference Center

Our first camps were held on site at the CCC in June of 1967 so CCC will be celebrating its 50th anniversary of ministry during the 2017 season. Many exciting things are in the planning stages:

1. We will unveil a new vision for the camping ministry that will help us grow and thrive for another 50 years.
2. Celebration in conjunction with the All Congregational Gathering, Aug. 26th encouraging former campers and volunteers to attend.
3. Camp store items with our new logo available. Campers, counselors, and directors will receive an anniversary keepsake.

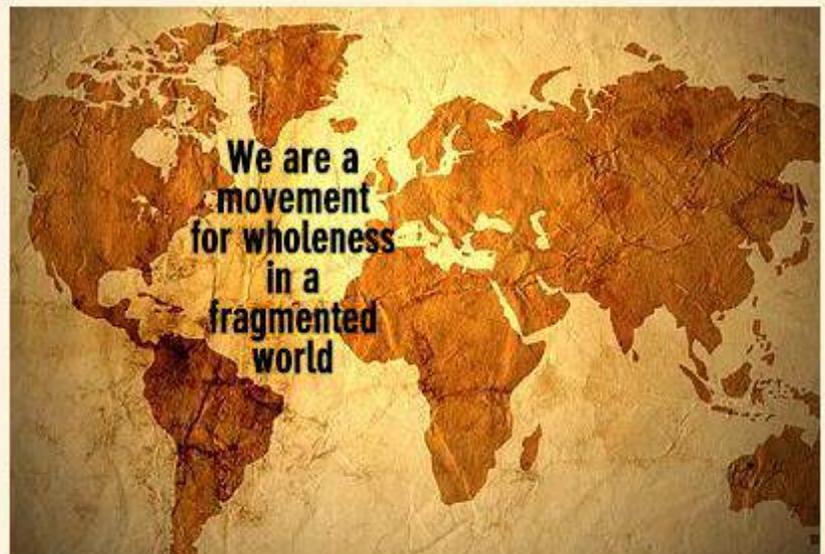
a few 2017 Camp highlights:

1. **Theme for 2017 "Branching Out"** studying the ways the Gospel compels us to reach out to each other and to the world.
2. **New mission statement:** "Growing together in Christ with open minds and loving hearts".
3. **New Water Sports Camp!** Along with camp activities like morning watch, worship, Bible, etc., Youth will learn to wake board and water ski.

Save Your Souls! At the Annual Calendar Planning Meeting, it was decided to again hold the Shoe Drive. We will kick it off in May, but in the meantime, save your souls! If you can, store them at home... if not, we can save a few bags of shoes here at church. Thanks for supporting this ministry!!

All Congregational Gathering

Save the Date
Saturday, August 26th



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Need a Valentine's gift for someone? Why not give a Waukee Christian Church cookbook? These make wonderful gifts.

Cookbooks are still available! Contact Ruth Sindt, Evelyn Dowell or the church office if you would like to purchase one for just \$15!



Waukee Christian Church to host WIC Clinic

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (known as WIC) provides supplemental food, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income women and their children up to five years of age during pregnancy and post-delivery. Studies have shown that this group of women and children are at nutritional risk and that receiving good nutrition during these years is critical to long-term health and development.

The Support Team approved Waukee Christian Church as a site for the Waukee WIC Clinic beginning in February. We hope this is a long-term relationship as it is a great and powerful ministry to feed the hungry.

WIC will be using our building from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on February 14th and 15th (Tuesday and Wednesday).

Knit Wits, will you please use the Adult Sunday School classroom (former choir room) for you knitting on the 14th? Thanks!!



Join us on Sunday, February 26th, for a fun evening of friendly games. What better way to spend a cold February evening?

Watch for details coming soon!

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Julie Cornelius is our Visiting Pastor. Please let her know if you are

hospitalized or would like her to make a visit. Her phone contact is 515 370-3144.



What do you KNOW?

**Bill Spangler-Dunning
Regional Minister**

When I was a child I never knew about classism until I overheard people talking about "how sad it was that nothing good would ever come from my family because my parents were too poor."

Now, I cannot un-know that!

When I was a child I never knew about sexism until I overheard a clergy say to my wife that she was not allowed to preach at the community thanksgiving service because "God does not call Women to be ministers."

Now, I cannot un-know that!

When I was a child I never knew about racism until I overheard one of my teachers say, "Black kids are just not as smart."

Now, I cannot un-know that!

Up until last week when I visited Standing Rock Reservation I never knew how much hatred people can have for others who have a different story. That is until I received a note on facebook telling me how deceitful and selfish those "Indian people" can be and I should not "Waste my time with them."

Now I cannot un-know that!

Dear Church we are a people who say we are A MOVEMENT FOR WHOLENESS IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD. We say we are a people who know the stories of Jesus who always stood with the poor, the outcasts, the women, the gentiles, the blind, the lepers, the sick and all others who were vulnerable and excluded by the bullies of life.

We cannot UNKNOW these stories

**O people of the Church,
let 'what we KNOW'
effect deeply our
actions in this world!**



Change of Address? New email?

Please let the office know if you have a new address, a new email address or if you would like to receive this publication in a different way (email, snail mail, etc.)



**BETWEEN
THE COVERS**

Between the Covers will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, February 27th, at the home of Cimberly Hansen, to review *Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah (autobiography). See you there!



February Serving Schedule

February	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th
Communion Prep & Clean-up	Jan De Jong	Lorrie Grandgenett	Linda O'Hair	Marlene Risinger
A/V	Jason Keller	Matt Hansen	Dave Grandgenett	Suzanne Koch
Greeter	Ellie Bullington	Judy Tyler	Marlene Risinger	Marc De Jong
Youth Greeter	Austin Younger	Zoey Koch	Sam Ruggles	Ximen Markway
Candle Lighter	Alayna Younger	Ellie Bullington	Cathy Conklin	Tammy Hardersen
Children's Moment	Ellie Bullington	Kathy Dean	Pastor Sue Woods	Rosalie Pfeifer
Reader	Suzanne Koch	Alayna Younger	Kathy Dean	Vicki Teas
Communion Invitation	Julie Cornelius	Juanita McBeth	George Risinger	Cathy Conklin
Call to Offering & Offering Prayer	Ron Hardersen	Ellie Bullington	Jerry Woods	Linda O'Hair
Communion Prayer	Matt Hansen	Linda O'Hair	Cathy Conklin	Matt Hansen
Offering & Communion Servers	Dave Grandgenett	Marlene Risinger	Marilyn Dowell	Jerry Woods
Fellowship (please remember to take out trash)	Sue MacRae	Marilyn Dowell	Karen Neese	Jan De Jong

Monthly Tasks

Food Pantry Delivery	Sue MacRae	Lock up after church	George Risinger
Visiting Shepherds	Ron and Tammy Hardersen	Water Indoor plants	Karen Neese

March Serving Schedule

If you are going to be gone, please secure your substitute and let the office know of the change. Thanks!

March	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th
Communion Prep & Clean-up	Lanita Cavanaugh	Ryan Taylor	Jan De Jong	Shari Burgus
A/V	Ryan Taylor	Lanita Cavanaugh	Jerry Woods	Jason Keller
Greeter	Matt Hansen	Sue MacRae	Marilyn Dowell	Suzanne Koch
Youth Greeter	Alice Ruggles	Austin Younger	Zoey Koch	Sam Ruggles
Candle Lighter	Kayson Taylor	Janelle Taylor	Ellie Bullington	Cathy Conklin
Children's Moment	Kathy Dean	Ellie Bullington	Pastor Sue Woods	Rosalie Pfeifer
Reader	Kimberly Hansen	Juanita McBeth	Tammy Hardersen	Sue MacRae
Communion Invitation	Tammy Hardersen	Linda Wilcox	George Risinger	Ryan Taylor
Call to Offering & Offering Prayer	Suzanne Koch	Ron Hardersen	Kimberly Hansen	Linda Wilcox
Communion Prayer	Shari Burgus	Kimberly Hansen	Janelle Taylor	Marc De Jong
Offering & Communion Servers	Ken Cavanaugh	Jerry Woods	Jim Pfeifer	David Grandgenett
Fellowship (please remember to take out trash)	Linda O'Hair	Tammy Hardersen	Marlene Risinger	Lanita Cavanaugh

Monthly Tasks

Food Pantry Delivery	Tammy Hardersen	Lock up after church	Ron Hardersen
Visiting Shepherds	Kimberly Hansen & Shari Burgus	Water Indoor plants	Ellie Bullington

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 
5 9 am Education Hr. 10 am Worship Support Team after worship	6	7 Knit Wits 9:30 a.m.	8 WOW 6:30 p.m. at Karen Neese's	9 	10	11
12 9 am Education Hr. 10 am Worship Noisy Offering today!	13	14 Knit Wits 9:30 a.m. <i>Valentine's Day</i> Book Study 6:30 pm	15	16 <div style="border: 1px dashed red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Newsletter Articles Due </div>	17	18
19 9 am Education Hr. 10 am Worship	20 Presidents Day	21 Knit Wits 9:30 a.m. Book Study 6:30 pm	22	23	24 	25
26 9 am Education Hr. 10 am Worship Game Night - details coming soon!	27  6:00 pm at	28 Knit Wits 9:30 a.m. Shrove Pancake Supper 6 pm  Book Study 6:30 pm				

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Education Hour
10:00 am Worship Service
11:00 a.m. Coffee

...OUR STAFF...

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

... CHURCH OFFICE ...

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
8:30AM – 3:30PM

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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.

The Waukee Christian Church Newsletter is published monthly.