

Wakeman Congregational Church

Growing in faith, family, and fellowship



“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

-Matthew 1:21

MESSENGER

December 2018

Church Staff

Moderator:.....Julie Murdock

Phone: 440-839-9926

Email: juliemrdck69@gmail.com

Secretary.....Christy Brammer

Email: wakemanchurch@gmail.com

Church Phone: 440-839-2316

Hours: Mon—10-3

Wed—10-3

Tues—10-3

Thurs—10-3

Church Website: www.wakemanchurch.com

Children’s Ministry Director.....Theresa Murdock

Phone: 419-577-0799

Email: trenemurdock@gmail.com

Worship: 10:00 am

Sunday School (all ages and adults): 9 am

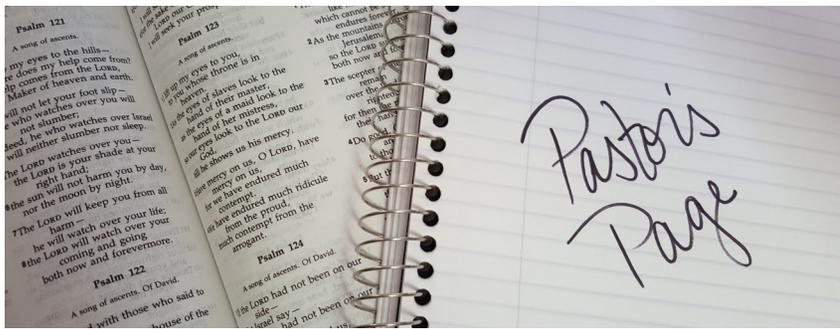
Boards MeetDec. 12h 6:00/6:30/8:00

Church Council..... Dec. 17 @ 7:00

Messenger articles due..... Dec. 19

December Deacon/Deaconess..... Kris Green 419-541-0993

Diane Garner—419-577-0425



New Members

On November 25th we welcomed 3 new members into our congregation. Todd and Amy Gardner and Sally Stratton made a confession of faith in Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior and completed a membership class as part of their commitment to the church. We are happy to have them join our church family!



Pictured above: Pastor Lee Button, Todd Gardner, Alex Gardner, Amy Gardner, and Sally Stratton

Christmas Eve Service

Join us on December 24th for our annual Christmas Eve service. This family friendly service will include Christmas carols and bible stories, special seasonal music, and a children's sermon. The service begins at 7:00 pm, and will conclude with "Silent Night" sung by candlelight.

We have cards in the back of the church to use to invite friends and neighbors to Christmas Eve Service.



Cheer Bags

Diaconate will be packing cheer bags on Sunday, December 17th in the back pews of the sanctuary. Please pick up some bags after the worship service, and help deliver them to church members.



CREATION AND THE ARK

If you've been educated in public schools or secular universities like me, you've had it drilled into your head that evolution is a known fact and not an unproven theory! We've been taught that material from the "Big Bang" somehow came together by chance and formed organic slime that gradually mutated over millions or billions of years culminating in modern man. We were never told about the multitude of holes in this theory glossed over by Darwin and many others. I wasn't taught much about the miracle of God's 6,000 year old creation in Sunday school either!

I know most people think I'm odd to deny that a massive man-made disaster will happen from global warming. If you think that hoax is a tough one to break out of, try telling almost anyone about the reality of Genesis! It takes strong character and belief these days to be a Christian, let alone a "New Earth Creationist".

I've been skeptical about finding any real science in the Creationist movement but Pastor Lee invited me to go with him south of Cincinnati last month to the Creation Museum and Ark replica. It was the start of an extreme shift in my thinking! We attended a large 2 day conference where some really smart Christian people (articulate professionals with lots of hard earned degrees and more credibility than I ever expected) explained the basics of Genesis. We toured the museum after hours and ate great food at lots of stations along the directed path. I was pleased to find out later that this all was just "Creation 101" since it barely scratched the surface of current Creation Science!

When we left loaded down with lots of books and other media, my attitude toward "wacko" creationists had melted. I've been reading those materials since then and after 65 years of "hard headed" life am ready to admit I've allowed myself to be misled. I'm now convinced in the truth of the fact that our God given earth, sea, and skies are only about 6,000 years old and were created in a literal 6 day period. Our Bible gives a true history of the world including Noah and the flood. Darwin and his ilk are full of malarkey! Some of you probably think I've gone off the deep end, but sorry, there's a lot more evidence for God's literal story than man's recent theories.

When I was younger I struggled with folding Creation into evolution. I was never able to really come to grips with it. I suspect most of us Christians subjected to public education also gave up on trying to figure it out. Most non-Christians I've met don't really care about it and just accept evolution as a fact.

Without a firm foundational understanding of what God did how can we really believe and defend our faith? I feel twice as confident now discussing God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit with anyone! It's given me more motivation to learn about our Lord since I know in my heart every part of the Bible is true.

Our local Church voted to adopt the statement that the Bible is inerrant, however, there's a big difference between a passive vote on the issue and a confident internal belief. It's a real relief for me to know about the real truth and not have to wonder about a bogus evolution theory!

The group behind the Creation Museum and Ark is "A.I.G." - Answers in Genesis. They do a great job explaining and answering objections to New Earth Creationism. Unlike evolutionary pseudoscience, there are no major gaps in New Earth science. Besides numerous print and multimedia materials, they constructed a full size (and really cool!) replica of Noah's Ark. It's fully accessible inside and really demonstrates the way a wooden ship that size could be built and fully function the way it's recorded in the Bible.

You may want to check out the chronological history of the world chart that they publish. It's in the east room off our sanctuary. I have other books and materials if you're interested. The chart was actually done by a man born in our own Huron County back in the 1800's!

We're talking about organizing a group trip to northern Kentucky in 2019 so anybody that wants to can get there. I guarantee it'll strengthen your faith and give you confidence that we're not nuts! They have a really good buffet at the Ark too!

-John Douds

Social/Reception Committee Updates

A big thank you to all the people who helped at the Swiss Steak Dinner. Thank you to Matt and Steve for frying the steak, all the people that donated food, those that came to serve and help clean up and everyone who sold tickets. Thanks to everyone who came to eat and to enjoy the fellowship of friends and community members. We made \$1335.64 which will go into the elevator fund.

Thank you again,
Social/Reception Committee

Cookies by the Pound will be held December 8 this year. Please help us have lots of cookies for people to buy. Someone will be at the church on Friday, December 7 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. for people to bring cookies. We will also be at the church on Saturday, December 8 at 8:30 a.m. to bring cookies. We will have fudge for sale along with the cookies. The sale will be from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

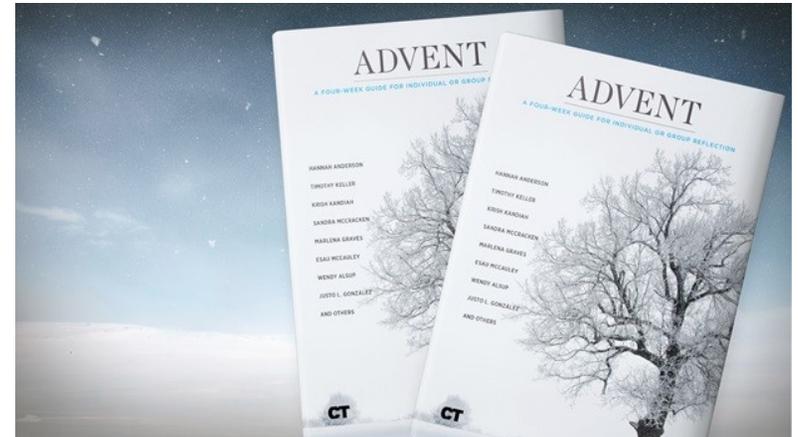
Christian Education will also have their Mini Mall set up during Cookies by the Pound so children in the community can have an opportunity to shop for their parents/guardians.

Music Committee

Christmas is fast approaching and Keely Krumwiede is on the lookout for musical talent. There are many opportunities to use your musical talents for the Lord this season. We are always looking for members to add to our bell choir as well as our adult choir. If you play an instrument, we have a brass ensemble or you could accompany a vocal piece. There are also solo and duet options. Please see Keely if you would like to participate in any way.

Advent Devotionals

Advent devotionals are in the back of the church. Please pick one up if you haven't done so already. Daily readings begin on December 1st. Large print copies can be made. If you need a large print devotional or would like a devotional sent to your home, please contact Christy at the church.



Part-Time Work Needed

A member of our church family is seeking part-time work. He is mechanically oriented and can do many different jobs inside the house and outside. If you know of anyone looking to hire a part-time worker, please call Christy at the church and she will forward the information on. Thank you.

Website

The current website is www.wakemanchurch.com. Please help us spread the word to others. Many people still try .org and are worried about our site.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 1st—Begin Advent devotional readings

Dec. 7th—Children’s Christmas Program practice. 4-6 pm

Dec. 8th—Cookies by the Pound 9 am—noon

Christmas Mini Mall 9 am—noon

Dec. 15th—Children’s Christmas Program practice 10 am—11:30

Dec. 16th—**Children’s Christmas Program (during worship)**

Dec. 16th—Cookies and Carols 6:30 pm

Dec. 24th—Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm

Board Meetings/Council Meetings

December 5th:

Trustees—7:00 pm

December 12th:

Christian Education—6:00 pm

Diaconate—6:30 pm

December 17th:

Council—7:00 pm

Cookies and Carols

We will be having another cookies and carols night at the church this Christmas season. We really enjoyed this event last year! Keely has volunteered to come play the piano and Pastor Lee will be providing interesting stories and facts between songs. Come join in the fun as we request carols and share stories together! If you are able, please bring a dozen cookies to share afterwards.

Date: Dec. 16

Time: 6:30 pm



LifeShare Blood Drive to Benefit Caring Community

Wakeman Congregational Church will be hosting a blood drive on January 12th from 9 am—1 pm. The blood drive will be held downstairs in Pilgrim Hall. If we get 20 units of blood donated, LifeShare will donate \$300 to Caring Community. The more units of blood that are donated, the more money we can donate to Caring Community. Please help spread the word! LifeShare will be providing all of the volunteers needed to run the drive, all we need to do is supply the blood!!



Advent Readers

- Dec. 2 Dan Green & Ezra Green
Dec. 9 Jim & Rachael Rico and family
Dec. 16 Autumn Thomas & family
Dec. 23 Mike & Christen Cress & family
Dec. 24 Bill & Pam Sharp



December Greeters

- Dec. 2 Jason & Olivia Liss and family
Dec. 9 Darnel Patrick & Tiffany Caponi
Dec. 16 Kathy Pickett & Phyllis Brucker
Dec. 23 Kris & Lacie Green and family
Dec. 24 & 30 TBA

Second Sunday Sharing

At the back of the church there is an antique wood box for donations to support Caring Community. Each month specific items are suggested, but truly everything is needed from paper products to non-perishable foods. Donations are greatly appreciated by the people we serve. Upcoming requested items are:

December canned fruit, mac & cheese, crackers

January pancake mix, syrup, pudding, jello

February dry or canned soup, crackers, canned fruit



New Baby!!

Congratulations to Ben and Brittani Winkler on the birth of their son Ryan James. Ryan was born on September 28th.

Operation Christmas Child Update!

Thank you to all who packed Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our church sent 25 boxes to children in need. Thank you for helping to bless others in Jesus' name.



Treasurer's Report

September 2018

September General Operating Income	\$5,040.31
September General Operating Expense	<u>\$8,596.71</u>
Difference	-\$3,557.40

Year to Date GO Income	\$78,904.52
Year to Date GO Expense	<u>\$93,189.99</u>
Difference	-\$14,285.47

Budget Year to Date	\$102,202.50
Budget Items Spent YTD	<u>\$92,381.72</u>
Under Budget	\$9,820.78

October 2018

October General Operating Income	\$7,000.00
October General Operating Expense	<u>\$11,542.15</u>
Difference	-\$4,542.15

Year to Date GO Income	\$85,904.52
Year to Date GO Expense	<u>\$104,732.14</u>
Difference	-\$18,827.62

Budget Year to Date	\$113,558.33
Budget Items Spent YTD	<u>\$105,850.18</u>
Under Budget	\$7,708.15

Wow! Combined Sept/Oct expenses exceeded income by nearly \$8,100.00. May we all review our commitments and catch up if we can, and cheerfully give.

Ken Green, Treasurer



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www.wakemanchurch.com