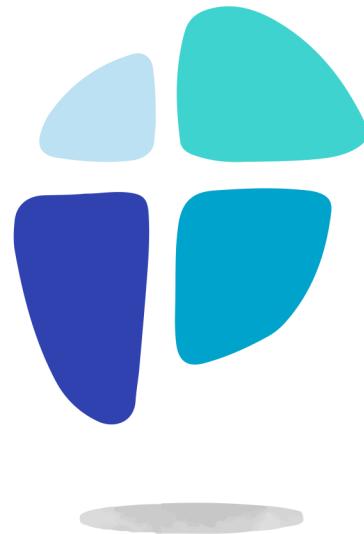


waukee

United Methodist



OUR GOALS FOR 2022

Our This past fall leaders met with our District Superintendent to work on our missional priorities and goals for 2022. They were shared with and approved by our annual Church Conference. Therefore, these are the goals we'd like to accomplish this year as a congregation.

1. Re-engage the Outreach Team to create and implement multiple outreach ministries (fall festival, etc.) and a marketing campaign.
2. Reach out and engage families with children and youth, providing fruitful ministries to form them in the way of Jesus (remembering also to engage the grandparent demographic).
3. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and intentionally disciple them in the life of the church (discipleship pathway), especially through small group ministry.
4. Build the new ministry center on LA Grant Parkway and generously support the current capital campaign.
5. Do all the good we can to make a Jesus difference in the community around us, collaborating with partners in the community wherever possible.

We have accomplished so much already. We began a fruitful capital campaign, developed our music ministry, increased our communication strategies, worked on branding, sold the 650 Ashworth building, moved into interim locations for our ministries, and finalized plans for our building project. We will break ground this spring and hope to be in our new ministry center before the end of the year.

We've already begun, but it is vital for us to be passionate about and fruitful in reaching new people this year. It is vital for us to be effective in forming children, youth, and adults in the way of Jesus. It is vital for us to be the body of Jesus in the community, sharing the love of God and doing good.

Doing these things will require not just a few of us but all of us together, praying for God to show us the way, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, taking risks, and placing ourselves where God is already at work.

This is what we want to accomplish. It won't be easy but it will be an adventure!

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- The habit of gathering with the church is important for spiritual health
- We will be serving 5 Trinity meals in 2022
- It's a great time to learn what your spiritual gifts are



THE REST OF THE STORY

An important habit in 2022



Do you want to hear the rest of the story? For our worship series in December, Nine Months, we read through the entirety of Luke chapter 1 and almost all of the second chapter. After hearing about Jesus' birth, this is the rest of the story of Jesus' early years in Luke chapter 2.

Once, when Jesus was twelve years old, Mary and Joseph took him to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. They did this each year. When the celebration was over and they started for home, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't know. They thought he was with their group of travelers, but when they couldn't find him after the first day of their journey, they frantically raced back to Jerusalem.

They searched for three days until they finally found Jesus in the temple, sitting with the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. These adults were all amazed by this twelve year old.

His parents were shocked and upset. They asked Jesus why he had done this to them. They explained how they were worried sick and had been looking all over for him.

Jesus said, "Why were you looking all over for me? Didn't you know I'd be in my Father's house?"

As we consider our commitments in 2022, like Jesus, we too are called to be in God's house. Even more than a physical building, we're called together in the sense of the Greek New Testament word, *ekklesia*, the gathering or assembly of the people of God. That's especially true for us now. We only have interim locations in which to meet as we wait for our new ministry center to be built this year. Nevertheless, we can meet at South Middle School or our new facility or in our homes or a coffee house. Wherever we gather as the church in the world, we come together as the assembly of God's people, and Jesus is there.

Still, what's true for the Church in America is true for our congregation in Waukee, that is, the church is back to meeting in-person and some people are gathering again, but we're not back to pre-pandemic attendance. Some aren't coming back. Some have left for other churches. Others, new people, are engaging with us. Still others, who have been part of the church, could yet return.

Our goal isn't merely to return to pre-pandemic attendance but to grow, especially in this interim period. Now is the time to resolve to gather in-person this year. We assemble every week to worship God, to connect in small groups and grow, to serve and make a difference in the world, and to share with others all that God has done. Constantly gathering with the *ekklesia* is an important resolution for 2022.

Technology allows us to gather when we're not physically together. If you are sick or out of town, you can participate on Facebook, YouTube, or waukeechurch.life. The video premieres at 9:30 AM, and it remains accessible on our platforms afterwards on demand.

As you think about how you want to live in 2022, I invite you to remember the end of the story and intentionally practice being part of the assembly of God's people, wherever we gather. If it's important for Jesus, it's certainly important for those of us who follow Jesus.

Grace and peace to you,

John Louk

JANUARY CALENDAR

2	Sun	9:30 AM	Sunday Worship	OUR CALENDARS <p>Did you know that we keep a public Google calendar? It will always be the most up-to-date source for church events. You can find links to it in the body of this email and weekly in the Wire. It can also be found at waukeechurch.life under the "What's Happening" tab.</p>		
		10:30 AM	Sunday School			
			Communion Sunday			
4	Tue	5:00 PM	Trinity Meal			
5	Wed	6:00 PM	Confirmation			
		6:00 PM	KoG			
		6:45 PM	Youth and Children's Meal			
		7:15 PM	Youth Group			
		7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal			
6	Thu	7:00 PM	Thursday Night Women's Group			
		7:30 PM	Band Rehearsal			
9	Sun	9:30 AM	Sunday Worship			
		10:30 AM	Sunday School			
		6:00 PM	ChurchBall			
10	Mon	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl			
12	Wed	9:00 AM	UMW Meeting			
		11:15 AM	Staff Meeting	20	Thu	11:30 AM
		6:00 PM	Confirmation			6:30 PM
		6:00 PM	KoG			7:30 PM
		6:45 PM	Youth and Children's Meal	23	Sun	9:30 AM
		7:15 PM	Youth Group			10:30 AM
		7:15 PM	Choir			6:00 PM
13	Thu	7:30 PM	Band Rehearsal	24	Mon	10:00 AM
16	Sun	9:30 AM	Sunday Worship	26	Wed	6:00 PM
		10:30 AM	Sunday School			6:00 PM
		6:00 PM	ChurchBall			6:45 PM
17	Mon	5:30 PM	Finance			7:15 PM
		7:00 PM	Trustees			7:15 PM
18	Tue	6:30 PM	SPRT	27	Thu	7:30 PM
19	Wed	6:00 PM	Confirmation	30	Sun	9:30 AM
		6:00 PM	KoG			10:30 AM
		6:45 PM	Youth and Children's Meal			6:00 PM
		7:15 PM	Youth Group			ChurchBall
		7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal			

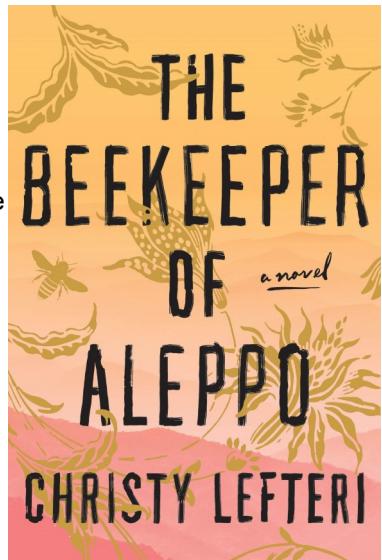
JANUARY DAYS

Kathy Eckert	1
Bob & Patty Myers	2
Braden Senne	3
Torin Timmerman	4
James Vaught	4
Morris Mason	5
Ilyeen Wiesley	5
Latimer Timmerman	5
Madilyn Blakeman	7
Sherry Grund	8
Rick Arnold	8
Paige Krohn	9
Lillie Coffey	9
Carrie Foell	15
Kristy Jensen	16
Derek Flack	17
Roger & Claudia Kerndt	19
Arlene Brockney	19
Chris Tyrrell	20
Ron & Darlene Plagmann	22
Will Gearhart	23
Gordon Kratz	24
Brayden Hemphill	26
Greg Ruble	27
Kaye Breckenridge	27
Jackson Allen	29
Kelly Soughan	30
Mark Hayden	30
Pam Papenberg	31
Drew Soughan	31

BOOK TALK

The next Book Talk selection is *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christi Leteri. An Amazon reviewer calls it an unforgettable novel that puts human faces on the Syrian war with the immigration story of a beekeeper, his wife, and the triumph of the spirit when the world becomes unrecognizable.

It sounds like a good winter's read, so get the book and join the discussion at 2:00 PM on Monday, February 21, at Ann and Greg Ruble's home.



WAUKEE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

All women who are members or regular attenders of Waukee United Methodist Church are invited to our UMW's first meeting of 2022. They will gather at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, January 13th at the parsonage.

Ann Ruble will serve as hostess and Colleen Monahan will give the devotion. In addition to discussing UMW's mission giving, a program (still to be determined) will be provided.

2022 TRINITY MEALS

In 2022, we are once again partnering with our friends downtown to help serve Trinity Suppers at the Children and Family Urban Movement. Please set aside time to shop for the food items the week prior to our dinners or help pack or serve the meals the day of the dinners.

Our 2022 dates are:

- March 21
- May 23
- July 18
- September 26
- November 21



SMALL GROUPS

We have several small groups at Waukee United Methodist Church and can always help create more. If you would like to join or start a group, contact the office. We can help you find a group that fits you. If you're interested in leading a group, we can help with that too. Groups can follow a curriculum and study the Bible (like our Thursday Evening Women's Group), gather for fellowship and support (like our Harried Moms Coffee Club), or be themed around an activity (like choir or ChurchBall).

Small groups are an important part of spiritual health and growth. As we start the new year, joining a small group might be a good resolution for 2022.



SPIRITUAL GIFTS



Our January worship series, *God Is Really Among You*, focuses on spiritual gifts. It will be helpful to know your spiritual gifts as we explore the proper practice of them. If you haven't ever learned your spiritual gifts or want to see if yours have changed, you can take a quick assessment online at www.umc.org/en/content/exploring-your-spiritual-gifts or at the link in the body of this email.

The 20 listed gifts of the spirit come from Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Corinthians 12-13. These gifts are listed within Scripture as Gifts of the Spirit and are given for building the body of Christ.

*Administration. Apostleship. Compassion.
Discernment. Exhortation. Faith. Giving.
Healing. Helping. Interpretation of Tongues.
Knowledge. Leadership. Miracles. Prophecy.
Servanthood. Shepherding. Teaching.
Tongues. Wisdom.*

WE ARE BUILDING!

Until our new Worship Center is complete on LA Grant Parkway in Waukee, we invite you to worship with us in person on **Sundays at 9:30 AM** at our temporary location at **South Middle School**.

You can also find our worship service at **waukeechurch.life**, **Facebook**, or **YouTube**.

CHURCHBALL IS STILL GOING STRONG

Every Sunday evening in January, Brian Krohn and a group of others will be meeting at Waukee Middle School (not the middle school we meet at on Sunday mornings) from 6:00-8:00 PM. Everyone 12 and up is invited to join for fellowship and sports. It's a fun time, and a great way to connect with people.



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