



Norwalk Christian News

Norwalk Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) October 1, 2014

Arts and Crafts Fair

Saturday, Oct. 4th

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- ◆ Featuring local handmade goods from Des Moines artisans, and crafty church ladies.
- ◆ Delicious smoked pulled pork lunch served while supplies last, 11:00-2:00 . Face painting and children's activities. Unique and inspiring items for holiday giving.



We Are Disciples!

A 5-week Sermon and Sunday School series on our identity as Disciples.

Table: *October 5 (World Communion Sunday)*

Welcome: *October 12*

Wholeness: *October 19*

Movement: *October 26*

Adult Sunday School class meets in Sanctuary, Sundays at 9:30am. Teacher is Pastor Travis.

We are the **Disciples of Christ**, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

Pastor Travis' Thoughts:

Beautiful People,

A year or two ago *Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Community* in Daytona Beach, Florida, went “viral”. “Viral” is a term used today to refer to the quick spread of something like a song, video, or written piece over the internet and social media. As the story goes, a man visited *Our Lady of Lourdes* one summer and was surprised to read a unique statement of welcome printed in their church bulletin. He sent a picture of the bulletin to his friend, who then published it on his blog. Within hours, the welcome statement from this church’s bulletin spread around the country, posted on blogs, Facebook and Twitter. It even made it to TV a few times, and even still today, people are sharing the image from the bulletin.

The statement read:

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, yo no habla Ingles. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or like our pastor who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like 'organized religion,' we've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts ... and you!

(Continued from Pastor Travis' Thoughts:)

What a statement! Usually, when I've seen someone shares this statement on Facebook, they will often say, "This is the way church should be!" I've even seen people who never set foot in a church, comment that if this was the way church was, they'd go every week. People are shocked to see such radical hospitality extended by--of all places--a church.

Throughout October, we are exploring what it means for us to be Disciples of Christ in our world today. As we look at the themes of *table, wholeness, welcome and movement*, I believe we will see that our church is, indeed, a church for our time. We are the kind of church from the bulletin announcement above. Though the statement of welcome from the Florida church seems radical, it is far from that. It is the way of Jesus, and the way all disciples of Jesus should follow. Jesus showed us that God loved ALL the world, and that includes...well, **all**. "All means All."

I pray that this radical welcome of Christ's love would continue to become viral throughout our church, spreading through our community. I pray that people will be pleasantly shocked that Norwalk Christian Church is a church where everyone is welcome, no matter who they are. *For we are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God as welcomed us.*

Sunday School Classes For All Ages!

Nursery: Meets in Downstairs Nursery

3 & 4 Year Olds: Meets Downstairs.
Teachers: Jenni & Peg Johnston

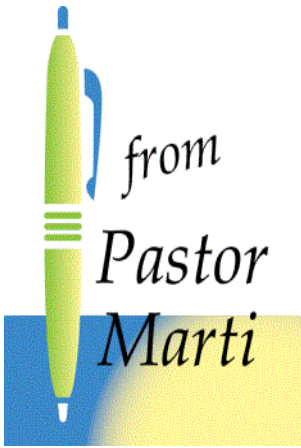
Dinky Disciples (K-2nd): Meets Downstairs.
Teachers: Melissa Webb and Dawn Mundil.

JYF (3rd-5th): Meets downstairs.
Teachers: Sarah Pratt and Anne Burnett.

Chi Rho (6th-8th): Meets in Chi Rho Room.
Teacher: Mark Durham.

CYF: (9th-12th): Meets in CYF Room.
Teacher: Pastor Marti.

Adults (All ages!): One class; meets in the Sanctuary.
Teacher: Pastor Travis.



Beautiful People,

Life is so miraculous. Saturday I got to witness, first hand, the genuine smiles and laughter of pure happiness as many of our children and youth enjoyed sliding down an oversized soapy slip 'n slide. Watching each as they started out not going very far and not fully trusting the experience. Gradually as they continued taking turns, each of them began to gain more and more experience, thus going farther and farther with each slide. The children loved it. And soon a bubbly pool of suds began to form at the foot of the slide. Let's just say the kids got very clean. Very clean until they continued scooping up more and more of the bubbly suds. It wasn't long until the sud supply became low and the watery goodness created just the right environment for a mud pit. Not only did this mud pit draw a crowd of youth, but it also drew a rather large crowd of earthworms to our Family Fun Picnic as well. To my surprise, these unexpected visitors only increased the children's happiness they were already experiencing. The worms they often refer to as "yucky" were greeted with warm smiles and did not hinder anyone from enjoying the slip 'n slide.

What started off as a group of timid children sliding for their first time, grew gradually into bubbly, experienced kids fearlessly sliding down the hill with earthworms in hand. It wasn't what I had expected or what any of us had anticipated, but it was beautiful. It was much better than the boring vision I had of the kids simply having fun getting wet on one of our last 80-degree days. It was life. Real life. Life doesn't typically go as planned. Often our vision for life, which we think is good, is rather boring compared to what actually happens. Life comes with good parts like soapy bubble pits, and bad parts like yucky worms, but when it's all blended together, it's pretty miraculous.

Enjoy your miraculous week as you weave through the unexpected joys and unplanned yuckiness of real life. You are miraculous, and you are loved.



Operation Warm Clothing

Winter is coming and there are many children in the Norwalk area who need our help to have warm coats and other winter items. The NCC along with other churches, businesses and individuals in the area are working together to provide these items. You will find a donation box at our church along with a poster explaining what items are needed. A second way to help is through “Operation Warm Clothing” a national organization (www.operationwarm.org). Somewhere between 150-200 Norwalk children will receive a coat that is just their size and the color they want. The children will actually be measured!! Each coat costs \$17. Families will pay only \$2 for each coat they receive. Fellowship Community Church has committed to pay \$5 for each coat purchased, and have asked the rest of the community to donate \$10 per coat. The Outreach Committee challenges our church members to help. For every \$10 donated by you, the Outreach department will match it. The coats will be distributed October 25th so we need your donation soon. Please make your check payable to Norwalk Christian Church with “operation warm clothing” in the memo. Thank you for helping our children.

~ The Outreach Committee

Jennie McAfee Circle

The next Jennie McAfee Circle meeting will be Oct. 2nd. at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program will feature Gary and Mary Jo Fox sharing about their recent trip to Europe. They traveled to many of the Scandinavian countries and portions of Russia around St. Petersburg. They sailed on a Baltic Cruise Ship and will show several pictures of the sights as they give highlights of their trip. For more information please contact Sandra Jennings at 515-619-9174.



CYF and **CHI RHO**, thank you for helping fill water balloons at our Family Fun Picnic this past weekend. You did a great job! And don't forget this upcoming weekend your help is needed again at our Craft Fair. Come out and help us with face painting and various festival games. While you are there, don't forget to buy your raffle tickets to shave Matt's head! Each ticket purchased gives you more of a chance to win. Tickets are \$1 each and the raffle will be held at 1pm Saturday. All raffle ticket sales will go toward updating the youth room.

This month we will continue to meet weekly on Wednesday nights from 6-7:30pm. We also have a new Sunday Morning Class for both CYF and CHI RHO that meet at 9:30am in each of the youth rooms downstairs. Snacks are always served during that time, so come on out and bring a friend!

***Don't forget to read about our upcoming Candy & Costume Party!**



Youth Game Night (pictured above)



DINKY DISCIPLES and **JYF** have both kick-started the fall semester with their after school days. **DINKY DISCIPLES** meet every 2nd Tuesday afternoon of the month from 3-5pm. And **JYF** meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoon of the month from 3:15-5pm. During each of these events snacks, a Bible lesson, a craft, and music is enjoyed.

Also, our new Sunday Morning Classes have just started. Each class has new exciting curriculum. There's a new 3 & 4 year old class, Dinky Disciples class for those Kindergarten through 2nd Grade, and JYF class for those 3rd Grade through 5th Grade. Join us and bring a friend!

*Don't forget to read about our upcoming Candy & Costume Party below!



Jenny Shaff with the 3 & 4 year olds, **DINKY DISCIPLES**, and **JYF** learning a new hand bell song to present to the congregation. (pictured above)

CANDY AND COSTUME PARTY

Wednesday, October 29th, at 6pm, we will have an all-church Candy & Costume Party. Everyone is invited to come dressed in costume, ready to play indoor games for candy treats. Pizza and lemonade will be provided. There will be a costume contest. You won't want to miss this!

OCTOBER CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, October 1

Youth Group 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

THURSDAY, October 2

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Jennie McAfee Circle 2:00 pm

SATURDAY, October 4

Craft Fair 9 am - 2 pm
30&1 Group 6:00 pm

SUNDAY, October 5

Casual Worship 8:30 am
Sunday School 9:30 am
Traditional Service 10:30 am

MONDAY, October 6

Senior Exercise 10 am

TUESDAY, October 7

Coffee Time 10:00 am
JYF 3:45 pm

WEDNESDAY, October 8

Youth Group 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

THURSDAY, October 9

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Education Meeting 5:30 pm

SUNDAY, October 12

Casual Worship 8:30 am
Sunday School 9:30 am
Traditional Service 10:30 am

MONDAY, October 13

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

TUESDAY, October 14

Coffee Time 10:00 am
Dinky Disciples 3:15 pm
Stewardship & Finance 4:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, October 15

Youth Group 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

THURSDAY, October 16

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 pm

SATURDAY, October 18

Men's Breakfast 8:00 am

SUNDAY, October 19

Casual Worship 8:30 am
Sunday School 9:30 am
Traditional Service 10:30 am

MONDAY, October 20

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Board Meeting 5:30 pm

TUESDAY, October 21

Coffee Time 10:00 am
JYF 3:45 pm

WEDNESDAY, October 22

Youth Group 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

THURSDAY, October 23

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

SUNDAY, October 26

Casual Worship 8:30 am
Sunday School 9:30 am
Traditional Service 10:30 am

MONDAY, October 27

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

TUESDAY, October 28

Coffee Time 10:00 am

WEDNESDAY, October 29

Youth Group 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

THURSDAY, October 30

Senior Exercise 10:00 am



10/1	Kay Gesaman	10/20	Eric & Kristin Johnson
10/1	Alan & Julie Wood	10/21	Ken Zanker & Mary Lou Enos
10/1	Marty Davison	10/21	Don Darnell
10/1	Abby Hendrickson	10/21	Elijah Sullivan
10/4	Terry & Melissa Webb	10/22	Korri ClarkWilt
10/5	Dave Smith	10/22	Mark Durham
10/6	Joe & Jeannie Sullivan	10/22	Sandra Jennings
10/7	Paul & Sue Bunce	10/22	Ron Johnston
10/8	Nicole Bowden	10/24	Gale Vandell
10/9	John & Janet Riordan	10/25	Joe Sullivan
10/9	Michael Riordan	10/26	Mike & Nicole Butler
10/11	Matt & Abby Hendrickson	10/28	Brandon Burnett
10/13	Alan Wood	10/28	Grace Pratt
10/14	Helen Suckow	10/28	Hannah Pratt
10/15	Darin Feikema	10/29	Melissa Webb
10/15	Miranda Sullivan	10/31	Tom & Denise Wood
10/16	Alison Lester	10/31	Shawn ClarkWilt
10/19	Sally Reavely		

30 & 1 GROUP

The 30 & 1 Group will meet Saturday, October 4th, 6:00 p.m. at the church. There will be snacks and games. All are welcome.

Ministry Fair



Plug into the Kingdom

2014's Ministry Fair was a lot of fun. It was so nice to see all the various ministries our church has. We are a church on the move. And it was great seeing new and old members sign up for new ministry tasks. We will continually keep Ministry Fair pamphlets in the Fellowship Hall highlighting the various ministries of our church. If at any time you would like to learn more about a ministry, please take a pamphlet. Contact info is located for each ministry. And thank you, all, for supporting the mission and ministry of this church, you are appreciated!



Meals on Wheels is a community program delivering hot meals, warm smiles and a safety check to housebound seniors in Norwalk. Volunteer drivers are the backbone to this program. The program is looking for drivers, specifically for Wednesday's beginning in October through June, and occasional drivers for various days of the month. If you are interested in learning more please contact Norwalk Christian Church at 981-0176 or norwalkmow@gmail.com



Out To Lunch Bunch

The next Out to Lunch Bunch will meet October 8th, leaving from the church parking lot at 10:00a.m. to go to Winterset. Lunch will be at the North Side Diner with visits to the Ben Franklin Store, Mercantile Store, and covered Bridges in the afternoon. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall by October 6th, to attend. If you have questions please contact Shirley Richardson.



Oct. 4th - Arts and Crafts Fair

The Norwalk Christian Church will be having an Arts and Crafts Fair Saturday, October 4. There will be various items available for sale made by church members, plus booths with local artisans and their wares. Other activities include a bake sale, children's fun tables, and a delicious BBQ pork lunch. The proceeds from the fair will go to support current and future ministries of our local NCC.

Oct. 5th - World Communion Sunday

Worship and Sunday School will center on the Table.

Oct. 11th - Deep Cleaning Day at NCC

On Saturday, October 11, at 9:00 am we will come together and help Randy beat his deep cleaning blues! No matter your age or cleaning ability, we have a job for YOU! Lunch will be provided. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to join the cleaning crew or help provide the lunch.

Oct. 18th - Men's Breakfast

All men, young and old, are invited to join us for breakfast, Saturday, October 18, at 8:00 am. Food is provided.

Nov. 2nd - Annual Congregational Meeting

Combined worship service at 9:30 am with a Congregational Meeting and Potluck Meal to follow. At this meeting, we will approve the 2015 budget as well as elect our 2015 congregational leaders.



WORDS HAVE POWER

Kim Ward

When MANY years ago I was deciding what career I wanted to pursue, I was torn between teaching instrumental or vocal music.

Even though I enjoy many types of instrumental music and I certainly respect my teaching colleagues in that field, I chose working with singers because of the power of the written text.

When selecting repertoire for both my NHS curriculum and our church anthems the text is usually what I consider first. It is generally the most powerful.

We, as singers, and we, as Christians, have an opportunity to touch people's hearts and affect those around us by what we say. I have listed below some phrases that maybe we should use more often:

#1. "I don't know." We don't have all of the answers but God does. All we need to do is ask.

#2. "I struggle with that too." We all struggle with feelings of fear, anger, lack of faith and anxiousness. It's OK to share these with God as well as with family and friends who can relate and understand when we're struggling.

#3. "No." We can't help everyone, do everything, and be everywhere. Set healthy boundaries.

#4. "Can I Pray for You?" Going to God in prayer on behalf of someone else is a selfless act. It shows you care.

#5. "I Love You." Tell them that you love them as we are all family in Christ. You might not always be on the same page but the bond of love is always present.

#6. Nothing. In times of crisis and difficulty when you don't have the "right" words it is OK to just listen. Sometimes that is the best thing to do, especially when the person is pouring out their hurt, despair and fear. And we have not experienced what they are sharing. Truly listening to someone is the best way of saying something to them.

And of course we all know and have experienced the power of prayer.



For Prayer Shawls:

NCC Congregation,

Thank you all so much for your positive thoughts, healing prayers, generous donations and beautiful prayer shawl. It has meant so much to Jacob and our family.

~ Sincerely, Tracy, Pat, Jacob & Maddie Murillo

Dear Prayer Shawl Group,

I have been so comforted by the prayer shawl. It makes me feel the warmth of Christ and the people who made it surrounding me. The card and verse were lovely and so meaningful. Thank you for your prayers and kindness! ~ Love, Joy Mason

Prayer Shawl Group,

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl that Marge brought to me. It is so very pretty and thoughtful of you. Sorry that this is so late but have 2 sons in the hospital. Thanks again. God bless each of you! -

~Mary Borst

For School Supplies:

Dear Members and Pastors,

We would like to thank you so much for your generous donations of school supplies. Many students benefited from your kindness.

~Norwalk Community Schools Teachers & Staff

NCC Congregation,

A big thank you to all who participated in the Norwalk School Supply Drive. We collected 8 trappers, 1 back pack, 6 string bags, 10 ear buds, and 8 memory sticks. I am sure there are a few students that will have a better day because of your generosity. ~Outreach Department

Installation Sunday, Sept. 14, 2014



Thank You

Thank you to Betty Becker, Mary Johnson, Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, and all those who helped make our Installation Sunday a special Sunday. We felt the love and are so blessed to be your pastors.

- Pastors Travis and Marti



Norwalk Ministerial Association Annual Golf Tournament Fund Raiser



For the last several years, members from each congregation in the Norwalk Ministerial Association have joined together to help host a fund raising golf tournament. The tournament was at Echo Valley Country Club on September, 22nd. Several members of the Norwalk Christian Church took the opportunity to support this event and enjoy a round of golf and fellowship on the beautiful course. The final numbers haven't been tabulated yet, but we had about 15 foursomes, 23 hole sponsors and raised around \$3,000. We hope to have the books closed on this event and tabulate the total raised later in October. There is one thing that is final, tabulated and the books are closed on... A four-some from Norwalk Christian Church took first place in the tournament. Congrats to Andy Pratt and his stacked team!!! And thanks to everyone that helped make this event another success!

Norwalk Christian News

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Norwalk Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

701 Main St., Norwalk, IA 50211
(515) 981-0176

The deadline to submit articles for the next issue of
Norwalk Christian News is the 20th of the month.

All articles must be submitted in writing.

E-mail: norwalkccI@gmail.com

Ministers: Rev Travis & Rev Marti Stanley
Administrative Assistant: Chris Riter

OFFICE HOURS

Administrative Assistant: Mon - Fri 9 AM - Noon
Pastors: Mon-Thurs 8:30 AM - Noon
And by appointment

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Casual Worship	8:30 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship	10:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship follows each service.

MISSION STATEMENT

*Disciples of Christ -
Sharing the Journey*

