



# Norwalk Christian News

Norwalk Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Aug 1, 2015

## Combined Service August 2<sup>nd</sup> - 9:30 am

Youth led worship and report from  
General Assembly

Followed by Youth Potato Bar Fundraiser

No Sunday School

pancake  
breakfast



Back to School  
Pancake Breakfast  
Kick-Off is Sunday,  
August 30th,  
at 9:30am.



### Key Code Lock Door

The key code lock door has been repaired!  
Thank you Arnie for fixing it! If you have  
any trouble with the door, please contact  
the office.



# Pastor Travis' Thoughts

Beautiful People,

A couple Sundays ago, I preached a sermon entitled “Scripture-Reading Disciples”, discussing the difficulty we encounter when we read scripture together. Sometimes when reading scripture we agree; a lot of times we disagree. Yet, in spite of it all, we strive to agree to disagree, agreeably, as we let nothing keep us from living together as the Body of Christ.

Ultimately, the goal of scripture-reading is not to get it right or discern some secret will of God hidden in the pages. The goal of scripture is to make us more like Christ. Below is an excerpt from the sermon, wherein I laid out “Pastor Travis’ Guide to Reading Scripture.” These four principles, for me, help me keep my focus on the true goal of scripture:

*First, Jesus said the greatest commandments were “To love God” and to “love your neighbor.” All interpretations of scripture should lead you to do both of these better. The goal of reading scripture is not to figure out the rules, but to become more like Jesus. And if your reading of scripture is leading to hate, and not inspiring love, then you’re getting scripture wrong. Period.*

*Second, never say, “The Bible Clearly Says.” Just don’t, because, on most things outside of the call to love our neighbors, it doesn’t.*

*Because, third, when reading, you must realize that this text is as encumbered by culture and history as you are. When you approach a text, ask, Who wrote this, why did they write this, who did they write to, and what are their assumptions? But also ask, From what place am I reading this text, and what assumptions might I have as I read this?*

*Finally, always remember, Jesus is the final Word of God, and all readings of scripture should be read through the lens of Jesus. Would Jesus say and advocate this? Is this how Jesus taught us to live? Does this reading of scripture lead to Jesus’ abundant life?*

**Continued on next page**

To be honest, I don't think God even cares much at all about what we believe. That may be our game, but it's not God's game. What God does care about is the kind of people we are becoming. Are we loving and kind? Do we seek justice for the oppressed? Are we becoming more like Christ? Are we loving God more by loving our neighbor more?

As the Jewish prophet Micah said long ago, "What does God require of humanity? To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God." That's what matters, and scripture is a tool to inspire us and guide in this journey.

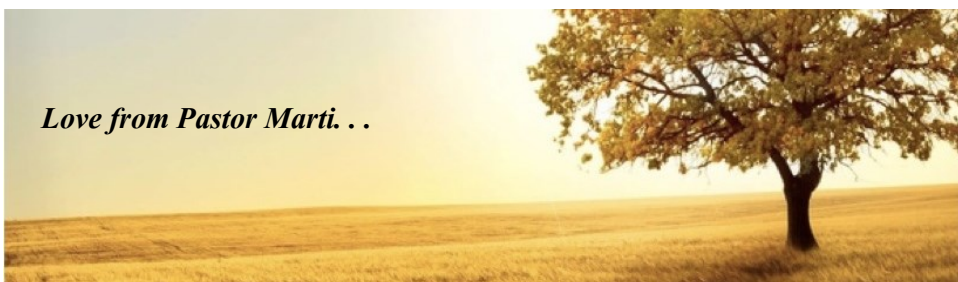
But so is this community we call Church. Living together as Disciples teaches us that we are not all the same. That our experiences are different. That we read scripture differently. That we believe differently. That we love differently. And that our life together is as complicated as this book we hold so dear. And yet, here we are, friends, sisters, brothers--a family. Our life together is God's gift to us, that reminds us that all of life is complicated and diverse and beautiful, and our best response to it all is always love.

Love is the subject of the Bible.

Love is goal of our life together.

Love is all we really need.

Amen.



I absolutely loved Pastor's Travis' words this past Sunday. Be Kind. Our world has so much hate and so much debate and argument in it. If the same energy was put into showing kindness to people, what would our world be like? If we, Norwalk Christian Church, made sure to show kindness, if nothing else, what would our community of Norwalk look like? I envision people checking in with their neighbors more often. I envision people would know they are loved. And I envision the kindness spreading and becoming contagious. Once a couple people have showed that kind of love to you, that you would want to also show it to others, so they can experience kindness. Kindness is love. It gives people hope. It builds faith. And it brings joy. I can't think of anything better. So NCC, let us be kind, showing kindness to all we meet. And let's restore the love, hope, faith and joy of Christ in our community. Be good to yourself and be good to others. I love you.



# Summer Sundays

## **August Worship and Sunday School Schedule Updated**

It's been a great summer, as we've celebrated what it means to be Disciples Together, and have enjoyed visits from our city leaders. We still have an exciting August ahead! Check the schedule below to see what's coming up for August Sundays.

### **August 9th:**

Worship Theme: Citizen Disciples  
Sunday School Adults: Chief Staples  
Sunday School Kids: Communion

### **August 16th:**

Theme: Celebrating Disciples  
Sunday School Adults: State Fair Sing Along  
Sunday School Kids: Foot-washing

### **August 23rd:**

Theme: Justice-Seeking Disciples - Travis  
Sunday School Adults: To be announced soon!  
Sunday School Kids: Rock Band 2

### **August 30:**

Theme: Testifying Disciples  
Sunday School Adults and Kids: Pancake Breakfast - Fall Sunday  
School Kick Off for All

# JOB OPENING

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Norwalk Christian Church is seeking a part-time custodian to fulfill the duties of general cleaning and maintenance of our facility which does involve some physical strength and lifting. The position is approximately 10 hours weekly, but working hours are somewhat flexible. Additional hours will be required for weddings/funerals. If interested please contact the church at 515-981-0176.

## State-Fair Sunday on a Stick

On August 16th, we are celebrating the State-Fair! Our theme will be Celebrating Disciples, our worship will come from the State-Fair song-books, and our Sunday school time will include an extended hymn-sing-a-long time led by Kay Gessaman on the piano.

It's going to be a fun Sunday, but we need your help! We need 6 people to sign up to bring treats to share during the 9:30 Coffee Fellowship hour that Sunday. But there's a catch! We want all the treats **ON A STICK**. Muffins on a stick? Cookies on a stick? Deep fried banana bread on a stick? If you can make it and put a stick in it, bring it! There's a special sign-up sheet in Sign-up Central!





Tuesday, August 4th, we are going to load the church bus and head over to the Fair Grounds for a sneak peek tour of this year's Butter Cow by no other than our own, Sarah Pratt. A picnic lunch and exciting pool time will follow. We will gather at 9am and return by 3pm. Don't forget to bring with you a sack lunch, your swim suit, sunscreen, and a towel.



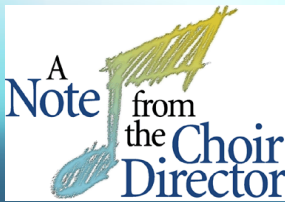
Sara Pratt with Butter Cow



We had so much fun with you at General Assembly and we can't wait to hear all about what you got out of the week this coming Sunday, August 2nd, at our Combined Youth Sunday Service. Teens, don't forget that we have a full potato bar fundraiser after service, so you will be needed to help serve in the kitchen at that time. All funds will go toward paying for our trip last week.



Youth in Chicago



# HOW ARE YOU HANDLING YOUR STRESS?

By Kim Ward

This is normally the time of year the kids are missing their friends from school. Parents are looking forward to the start of school. And teachers are not looking forward to their summer ending. That sounds like stress to me. Found this story on Facebook which might put your stress into better perspective. A psychologist walked around the room while he was teaching stress management to an audience. As she raised a glass of water, everyone expected they'd be asked the "half empty or half full" question. Instead, with a smile on her face, she inquired: "How heavy is this glass of water?" Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz. She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, it's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my arm. If I hold it for a day, my arm will feel numb and paralyzed. In each case, the weight of the glass doesn't change, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes. She continued, "The stresses and worries in life are like that glass of water. Think about them for a while and nothing happens. Think about them longer and they begin to hurt. And if you think about them all day long, you will feel paralyzed -- incapable of doing anything about them." Remember to put the glass down. Feel free to ask your NCC family to help. Or lay them in the arms of our Lord through prayer and worship.

Which brings me to another reason for this article. In a few weeks the music programs will be starting at NCC. Studies have shown that being involved in music is a proven way to relieve stress, enhance lives and strengthen your spiritual life.



**THANKS! THANKS!! THANKS!!!**

I would like to thank the Board and Chancel Choir members for financing my opportunity to attend the 'ADM' (Association of Disciple Musicians) Conference in Liberty Missouri in June. It was wonderful networking with Choir

Directors, Organists, Composers and Pastors from around the country. I was so inspired and excited to come home and start our music programs back up immediately.

I pray that the information and resources I gained will enhance our worship services in the future. Thanks again!! - Kim Ward



## **Chancel Choir**

This choir rehearses every Wednesday evening in the sanctuary from 7 to 7:50pm. They provide anthems for the 10:30 service 3 weeks each month. I as their director program many different styles of music to enhance the lectionary and sermon each week. Singers of any music reading ability are welcome to participate. We welcome all voice parts (especially sopranos and altos). This request is very unusual for most church choirs have a storage of men.

Our first rehearsal for this season will be Wednesday, August 26th. Anyone from Middle School age to 100 are welcome to join our choral family.

## **Chancel Bells**

This choir is starting its 3rd year of existence. The ringers' ringing skills range from a little to a lot of experience. Having a basic understanding of musical rhythm is important for this musical group. We rehearse every Wednesday night from 8 to 9pm downstairs in the previous nursery which is now the Handbell Room. If you are interested in joining please contact me, Kim Ward, by Sunday August 30th and I will gladly share with you a little bit about ringing. We can start you with 1 bell and ease you into this new musical experience.

Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, September 2nd. Come and see if this group is for you!!

Since I retired from full-time teaching in June- I have a little more control of my schedule and a new email address. You are welcome to contact me via a new email address- [kimpianoward@gmail.com](mailto:kimpianoward@gmail.com) or 515-314-9828.

# Stewardship & Finance

## Mid-Year Financial Report

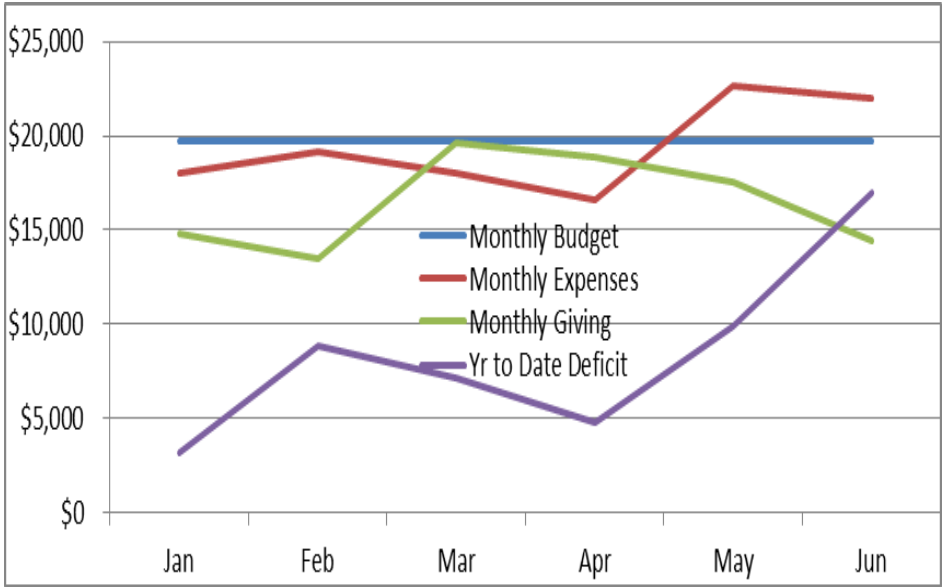
Submitted by Gary Fox

At our Annual meeting last November we approved a budget that included general fund giving at \$236,600 - the same as for the 2013 and 2014 budgets. Our general fund giving this year through June is \$98,403 which is **\$19,897 below budget** for 6 months, but \$5,657 above last year. Our expenses have been \$116,442 for the first 6 months. With a small amount of other receipts, our total income is \$99,459 resulting in an overall deficit of \$16,983. Our unrestricted funds balance has declined to \$16,997 since the beginning of this year. Since we want to keep this balance at a minimum of 10% of the annual budget (\$23,660), the current level is a big concern.

As shown in the chart below, January and February giving was well below the budget level, picked up in March and April, but fell down again for May and June. Expenses were below average the first four months, but above average in May and June. Considering the timing of some expenses (insurance, camp, etc.) and other factors, overall expenses are pretty much in line with the budget. But the level of giving, the year to date deficit, and the unrestricted funds balance are well below the adopted budget levels.

The pie auction and the roof fundraising were great successes, and we greatly appreciate your generosity in meeting those goals, but now we need a similar outpouring to meet our monthly budget needs. There may still be some bake sales or youth fundraising activities this year, but our main need is to continue to support the great programs that are funded in our approved budget. So please consider whether you can increase your giving, either by increasing your regular amount or by making a one-time gift, or even plan some other way to help meet our financial needs. I know that these are difficult financial times for many people, and that reaching our giving goal will be a big challenge. However, I am optimistic and confident that, filled with God's spirit, we will rise to this challenge. This is just a general overview of our finances, and a more detailed financial statement is available. So if you have questions, please let me know.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Mo. Budget	\$19,717	\$19,717	\$19,717	\$19,717	\$19,717	\$19,717
Mo. Expense	\$18,017	\$19,144	\$17,988	\$16,600	\$22,691	\$22,002
Mo. Giving	\$14,853	\$13,490	\$19,633	\$18,857	\$17,553	\$14,408
YTD Deficit	\$3,165	\$8,819	\$7,174	\$4,832	\$9,865	\$16,983



**Arts & Crafts Ministry**

**Tues., Aug 4th  
6-8 pm**

Join us for Spa Time during the next Arts & Crafts night Tues., August 4 from 6:00-8:00 pm. Learn how to make bath salts and a sugar or salt scrub. Please sign up at Sign-Up Central or with Chris in the office so we can be sure we have enough supplies.

The September Arts & Crafts will help you prepare ideas for Christmas gifts. We'll have several make & take projects planned for you to learn and take home to create additional gifts for the holidays. More on the individual September crafts later.

# August

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

8/1	Conner Williams	8/12	Roger & Evie Miller
8/1	Paul Barkley	8/14	Travis Stanley
8/2	Don & Elise Bishop	8/15	Ann McCarter
8/3	Erin Bunce	8/15	John & Susan Ward
8/3	Sue Bunce	8/16	Tim Ballard
8/3	Travis & Marti Stanley	8/17	Mary Beth Morrow
8/4	Jordan Conley	8/18	Cathie Graves
8/7	Richard LeFleur	8/21	Dewey & Carolyn McKee
8/9	Evonne Babbitt	8/24	Matthew Jameson
8/9	Gary & Kay Gesaman	8/24	Richard & Loree LeFleur
8/9	Melanie Riordan	8/27	Mike Butler
8/11	Connie Gardner	8/28	Andy Pratt
8/11	Dean & Rosalea Johnson	8/28	Teresa Williams
8/11	Mavis Suckow	8/31	Lance & Katie Randolph

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## REMEMBERING

By Delores Van Dike

In October of 1957, Bob and I and three children, Charles-7, Elaine-4 and Duane-1, moved to Norwalk. Our first home was at 104 Center. Carolyn Hukle stopped by right away and invited us to the Christian Church. We met many friendly people and became quite active taking jobs and attending 30 & 1, SS class and socials, Bible Study, CWF, Circle and teaching Sunday School. Bob served on the church board for several years. After a few years we built a house south of Norwalk and enjoyed country living for 30 years. By this time the children were married and we enjoyed six grandchildren and now we have 10 great grandchildren. We moved to Norwalk in 1993 as Bob's health was failing. He died in 1999. I am happy to have all my children and extended families living in Iowa. I will be moving to Ankeny August 22 to Mill pond Independent Living, 1201 SE Mill Pond Court, Apt. 4363, Ankeny, IA 50021. Thank you for all the love and support I have received through the years. I will enjoy keeping in touch with phone calls and visits. God bless all of you.

# AUGUST CALENDAR

## **Saturday, August 1**

30 & 1 Group 6:00 pm

## **Sunday, August 2**

Combined Service 9:30 am  
Youth Potato Bar Fundraiser  
10:30 am

## **Monday, August 3**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

## **Tuesday, August 4**

Coffee Time 10:00 am  
Arts & Crafts 6:00 pm

## **Thursday, August 6**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

## **Sunday, August 9**

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

## **Monday, August 10**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

## **Tuesday, August 11**

Coffee Time 10:00 am  
Stewardship & Fin 4:00 pm

## **Thursday, August 13**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

## **Saturday, August 15**

Men's Breakfast 8:00 am

## **Sunday, August 16**

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

## **Monday, August 17**

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

## **Tuesday, August 18**

Coffee Time 10:00 am

## **Thursday, August 20**

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

## **Sunday, August 23**

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

## **Monday, August 24**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

## **Tuesday, August 25**

Coffee Time 10:00 am

## **Wednesday, August 26**

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

## **Thursday, August 27**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

## **Sunday, August 30**

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

## **Monday, August 31**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

## 30 & 1 GROUP

The 30 & 1 group will meet Saturday, August 1, 6:00 pm at the church for games. Everyone is welcome.

# **Disciple Leadership Conference**

## **Saturday, August 15**

### **Christian Conference Center**

#### **Registration at 8:30, Sessions at 10:00**

*"The Challenge of Addressing Change:  
Thinking Missionally about Ministry in the 21st Century"*

**Scholarships are  
available.**

Please see Pastors Travis  
or Marti for details.

Look closely at the communion  
table. You can't see an end which  
reminds us the table always has  
room for everyone.

There is room at the table for all!  
Join us for the 2015 Disciple  
Leadership Conference. This  
year's event gives laity and clergy  
the opportunity to explore what it  
means to be a mission focused  
congregation and how to make  
the adjustments and changes  
necessary to remain mission  
focused.

The Keynote speaker taught for many years in at Luther  
Seminary, in St. Paul. He will be able to offer a unique  
understanding of our culture and our congregations.

#### **Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose your \$25.00 registration fee or call the Regional Office with a  
Credit Card number, at 515-255-3168

Please mail form to:

Christian Conference Center, 5064 Lincoln St., Newton, IA 50208

**Saturday, August 15, 2015**  
**Disciple Leadership Conference**

*“The Challenge of Addressing Change:  
Thinking Missionally about Ministry in the 21st Century”*

8:30—10:00 Registration & Fellowship Time

(Including a Continental Breakfast

Plentiful supply of coffee & tea all day)

10:00 Sessions begin

Lunch somewhere in between

3:45 Closing—Safe journey home.

**Child Care Available!**

Child Care is provided at DLC at no charge but please register you children for Child Care no later than August 10th by contacting the Regional Office at 515-255-3168 or emailing us at [cddumw@gmail.com](mailto:cddumw@gmail.com). We want to be sure we have plenty of sitters to cover the children coming.

**Lodging Available for Friday or Saturday night.**

There is free lodging available in the cabins on Friday night or Saturday night for those coming from a distance. Contact the Conference Center at 641-792-1266 to make a reservation.

Registration for Disciple Leadership Conference is available online and your local congregations have registration forms. The cost will be \$25.00.

Registration will begin at 8:30 with sessions starting at 10:00 and concluding at 3:45. There will be food a few times during the day as well.

# Norwalk Christian News

Published monthly by the  
**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](mailto: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*

