



Norwalk Christian News

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

October Pastor Appreciation Month

October is set aside to express appreciation for the time, service and prayers our pastors give to the church. It is a time to really show appreciation to our pastors and their leadership and find ways to affirm them in the coming weeks and all year long. God has entrusted them to care for God's flock, now let us set-aside time to show them special honor for all they do!

Pastor Appreciation Prayer

by Rev. Frank Schaefer

Almighty and ever-gracious God,
We give you thanks for Pastors Travis and Marti.
You have appointed them to be our Shepherd;
to minister to our spiritual needs
to reach the lost souls in our community
to prayerfully guide and tend to our church.
We realize that the tasks of a pastor are demanding
Their job is never done.
They listen, care, and pray for us, encourage and teach us
and reach out to those in need of help and salvation.
We give you thanks, O Lord, for our pastors.



**Save the date for the
November 1st
Congregational Meeting.
See page 5 for more
details.**



Pastor Travis' Thoughts

Moving Out of Scare City

Beautiful People,

I'm excited to introduce you to a four-week sermon series that will start Sunday, October 11: *Moving Out of Scare City*. *It's a cheesy play on words, I know, and a play on Halloween, too. But I believe it will be a powerful time of worship and reflection, and a message we need to hear. There is so much fear all around us. As people from Syria fearfully flee the war that is ripping apart their homeland, they are met by their Northern neighbors who are afraid of what the presence of so many refugees might do to their country. Families are turned away after a harrowing journey because of fear of the other. Here in the United States, we've been taught to fear our sisters and brothers from the South, who come to our country seeking safety, food and health. But those fearing a loss of their position tell us that they are here to harm us, bring disease and crime and to destroy our way of life.*

Our entire politics, these days, seem driven by fear. There is no hope, only survival. Our country is falling apart, and if the other team wins, well, it's going to fall apart even worse! Our economy is motivated by fear. Companies and corporations fight to take control of more and more of the market. Those with access to resources, seek more and more resources, storing what they have in bigger and bigger barns while so many go without. The sense that there is not enough drives greed, fear and exclusionary behavior. We begin to live in "Scare City" where it seems that death, starvation, feelings of being overwhelmed and swallowed up can lurk around every corner.

As a church, we, too, often find ourselves living in Scare City. Perhaps you've heard one or more of the following phrases spoken around our church (or maybe you, like me, have even caught yourself saying them):

"Giving is down."

Continued on next page

“Attendance isn’t what it used to be.”

“We need more volunteers.”

“People just don’t care like they used to.”

We see empty pews, and we feel defeated. We see the contribution report, and we feel overcome. Pretty soon, we’re tempted to go into survival mode, holding onto what we have as we resist any new change that may move into the neighborhood for fear that the whole church will fall apart.

But there is Good News. Scare City...it’s an illusion. It doesn’t exist, at least not for the people of God. God has called us to move out of Scare City and build our lives in the center of God’s Abundance. Jesus told his disciples, “I have come that you may have life, and that you may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). The life and teachings of Jesus show us how to live into that abundance. When confronted with someone who was stealing the disciples’ thunder, Jesus said, “Whoever is not against us is for us.” When the disciples were scared of upsetting a huge crowd of tired and hungry people, Jesus told them, “You give them something to eat.” But all we have is a small boy’s small lunch!

And Jesus said, “That is enough.”

Why is it, church, that we are so scared of trusting in God? Jesus has offered us abundance, but we run, in fear. Jesus has offered us abundance, and we hoard what we have, acting as if it’s not enough. I don’t know about you, but I’m ready to move out of Scare City!

I hope you will join me these next few weeks leading up to our annual congregational meeting, as together we “Move out of Scare City” and journey into the vast, open habitats of God’s abundant grace.

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds.”

Phil 4:6-7



Out to Lunch Bunch October 14th

Come see the beautiful colors of Autumn on October 14th as the Out to Lunch Bunch travels through the country side and has lunch in Winterset. Bus leaves the church lot at 10:00 a.m. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall by October 12th.

Love from Pastor Marti. . .



It's officially fall. Time for pumpkins and the smell of spice. Time for leaves to turn rich colors, full and vibrant. Time for family walks around the pumpkin patch and hayrides. Times for s'mores by the fire and blankets at the football game. It's that time of year we love, when the heat of summer has cooled off and we're able to enjoy outside activities again. It's also that one time of the year when we, as a country, meet our neighbors. You know it best as Halloween. As neighbors we take our children out and knock on doors showing grace and love to people. As neighbors we answer our doors, we greet others, and we show them hospitality. We give without expecting anything in return. It's actually a great practice. It's a great practice for little ones to learn how to greet others. How to knock on doors and properly use doorbells. It's great practice for older ones to invest in people, many of which they don't even know. It's great practice to get to know your neighbors, who lives where near you. It's the only time of year that some people interact with their neighbors. So, in the words of Mr. Rogers, "Let's make the most of this beautiful day. Since we're together, we might as well say. Would you be mine? Could you be mine? Won't you be my neighbor?" This fall Halloween season, may we be good neighbors, greeting each other with the peace of



Pastors with Delores VanDike
at her new home in Ankeny.



Congregational Meeting--November 1st

This year's Congregational Meeting is Sunday, November 1st. It will be a combined service at 9:30am. The Congregational Meeting and Congregational Vote will immediately follow the service. Following the vote will be a Community Meal. Everyone is encouraged to bring a brunch or lunch dish to share. Come Sunday, November 1st, to learn more about your church. Come to share with your pastors, the dedication of their newest addition, Oliver, to this church family. Come to share time at the table. Come.

Veteran's Day--November 11th

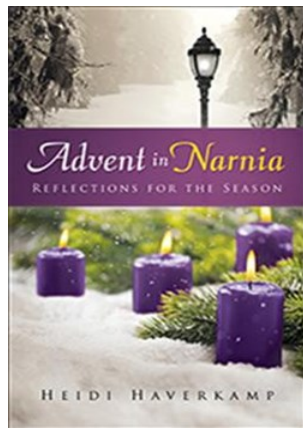
We will be honoring Veteran's Day on Sunday, November 8th, with a special wall of memory and honor.

Community Thanksgiving Service--November 22nd

Our Norwalk Eccumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held at Crossroads Church at 6pm, on Sunday, November 22nd.

Advent in Narnia--November 25th

The Vicar of Bolingbrook, Heidi Haverkamp, will lead us through an imaginative trip through Narnia as we prepare for the coming Advent. Heidi, as most of you know, is Kate Raun's daughter-in-law and while she is in town for Thanksgiving, she's going to present to us themes around her new book, *Advent in Narnia*. The book has 28 Advent devotions that compare and relate scripture to Advent and to Narnia. The presentation is suited for all ages, so bring the whole family, Wednesday, November 25th. 6pm will be coffee and treats, 6:30pm we'll start the presentation. Books will be available if you'd like to purchase them at that time.



Thanksgiving Day--November 26th

First Sunday of Advent--November 29th

OPERATION® **warm** | more than a coat®

Operation Warm Clothing--NOW!

A box wrapped in pretty wrapping paper just appeared outside the offices of our church. The box is a donation drop box for Operation Warm Clothing. You did such an amazing job of raising funds for the children of Norwalk to have warm coats last year. I was humbled by your generosity and I know this year will be no different. We will collect monetary donations to go toward purchasing coats during our Sunday services. Just like last year, coats are \$10 each. And just like last year, our Outreach Committee will match every \$10 donation you make, up to \$400 total. So for \$10 you can provide 2 coats! For \$20 you can provide 4 coats! And if anyone would like to drop off any NEW youth-sized snow boots, snow pants, waterproof gloves or hats, please use the drop box outside our church offices. Items and money will be collected now through October 17th. The warm clothes will be distributed to families in need on October 24th.

Gluten-Free Wafers--Now Available!

It has come to our attention that if we mean all are welcome at the Lord's table, which we do mean, then we need to provide for all to be able to partake. If you have a gluten intolerance, you'll notice gluten-free wafers are now provided in the communion trays. The wafers are gluten, wheat, yeast, dairy, egg, soy, nut and corn FREE and were not processed in a facility with any of those ingredients. When we say all are welcome, we mean it. And if there is ever anything keeping you or a friend from partaking, please let us know. We love you all and want you to know you are always welcome at God's table.



Halloween Party--October 28th

Last year we had so much fun at the Halloween Party! People came to our church who don't always come, we played, we dressed up, we had fun. This year, we will have even more fun and games planned. Come out Wednesday, October 28th, at 6pm, in your favorite costume and join in the fun. And bring some yummy finger foods to share.



A throwback Thursday to last year's Halloween Party.

New Bible Study Begins

The Acts of the Apostles: a Monday evening group Bible study, led by Kate Raun, will begin on Monday, October 5th, from 7-8 pm.



Our youth have formed a Youth Planning Committee, comprised of youth as well as sponsors, that will plan activities throughout the school year. Some of the activities are favorites from last year, others are new, and some are variations of past events tweaked to amp them up. If any of you have any great ideas for special outings or service projects, let someone from the Youth Planning Committee or one of the pastors know.

Our youth have been discussing what faith is and why it matters. How it affects their lives and changes them. Last night they enjoyed one last snowcone of the summer. And next week, they will gather with their families at the Pierce's for hotdogs and s'mores by the campfire and a picture scavenger hunt. Thank you, Kathy & Doug, for providing space for our teen families to gather and get to know one another. You bless us!



CYF & Chi Rho volunteering at Meals for the Heartland.



This past month our children have been learning about shepherds. How they take care of sheep, leading them where there's food and water and keeping them from harm. They've learned that God is their shepherd and even when we can hear God, it's sometimes hard to follow perfectly. Sometimes we get turned around or confused. Sometimes we are where we need to be, but think we're somewhere else. And just because we see others going one way doesn't mean we should follow.

Thanks to our amazing teachers, creative storytelling, and practical team-building games, our children can relate to our Shepherd, God, in new ways. Thank you, to all our Sunday morning and Tuesday afternoon volunteers! And thank you, parents, for sharing your amazing children with us. They are wonderful and spunky and so much fun. Parents, you are doing a great job!



JYF afternoon craft time!

A Note from the

**Choir Director
Kim Ward**

As most of you know I retired from Norwalk Schools last June after 35 years of teaching. Many have asked "How does it feel to be retired?" and my comment back is that it was just a normal summer. I will really feel it when school officially starts.

Well God certainly works in mysterious ways. On what would have been my first day of teacher meetings for the 15-16 school year my father had a heart attack. After 2 ambulances and 1 airplane ride to the Heart Center in Sioux Fall, South Dakota, a triple bypass was in his future. Luckily there was no heart damage and Dad never lost consciousness.

So now my "job" has become much more personal. A home health care nurse for my parents. God's timing was perfect for this to happen. I know few people would say it is a blessing to have a heart attack happen but we feel it was. People in the right places at the right times. Life just happens!!

I certainly appreciate your kind thoughts and prayers for the Wards and Deutschers. Thanks to the organists for covering more services and for the bell ringers and singers willing to postpone the start of our year.

After listening to all of Dad's doctors, therapists and dietitians for his continuing care I am reminded of the importance of drinking water. So before you read the rest of my article get out of your chair and go get a BIG glass!

IMPORTANCE OF WATER

Important Facts-

1. You can go weeks without food but only 5-7 days without water.
2. When your body's water is reduced by 1%, you become thirsty.
3. At 5%, muscle strength and endurance declines
4. 10% of water loss causes delirium and blurred vision
5. A 20% reduction results in death.
6. A man's body is 60% water while a women's is about 50%.
7. The human brain is 75% water while your heart is 80%.

continued

8. Every day, we lose 2-3 quarts of water.
9. If you suffer from allergies or sinus infections drinking more fluids. This will dilute the mucus to flush out of the body and soothe the throat lining. Will lessen coughing.
10. To stay healthy- men should consume 13 cups (3 liters) and women need 9 cups (2.2 liters) of total beverages a day. Most should be water.

Why is water important?

1. Needed by the brain to manufacture hormones and neurotransmitters
2. Regulates body temperature (sweating and respiration)
3. Forms saliva (digestion)
4. Keeps mucousal membranes moist
5. Allows body's cells to grow, reproduce and survive
6. Flushes body waste
7. Acts as a shock absorber for brain and spinal cord
8. Converts food to components needed for survival-digestion
9. Lubricates joints
10. Helps deliver oxygen all over the body
11. Is the major component of most body parts

Now since your glass is empty go get another one. Be the healthiest and happiest you can be!!

Chancel Choir and Bell Practice

FINALLY- the Chancel Choir will start meeting on Wednesday, October 7th in the sanctuary at 7pm. The Chalice Bells will rehearse at 8:00 following the choir downstairs. **We are still recruiting new singers--especially women. No experience needed!**

30 & 1 GROUP

The 30 & 1 group will meet Saturday, October 3, 6:00pm at the church for games. Everyone is welcome.

New ways to ask your child “How was your day at school”?

By Kim Ward

I don't know if girls are more forthcoming about descriptions of their school days but my son Jeremy usually used mono syllables. Maybe if we as parents, teachers and friends of our church's youth use more creative questions we will get better answers instead of just "FINE!". Below are listed some suggestions (some funny, some geared for younger students):

1. What did you eat for lunch?
2. Did you catch anyone picking their nose?
3. What games did you play at recess?
4. What was the funniest thing that happened today?
5. Did anyone do anything super nice for you?
6. What was the nicest thing you did for someone else?
7. Who made you smile today?
8. Which one of your teachers would survive a zombie apocalypse? Why?
9. What new fact did you learn today?
10. Who brought the best food in their lunch today? What was it?
11. What challenged you today?
12. If school were a ride at the state fair, which ride would it be? Why?
13. What would you rate your day on a scale of 1 to 10? Why?
14. If one of your classmates could be the teacher for tomorrow who would you want it to be? Why?
15. If you had the chance to be the teacher tomorrow, what subject would you choose? Why?
16. Did anyone push your buttons today?
17. Who do you want to make friends with but haven't done so yet? Why not?
18. What is your teacher's most important rule?
19. What is the most popular thing to do at recess?
20. Do any of our teachers remind you of a famous actor or musician?
21. Tell me something you learned about a friend today.
22. If aliens came to your school and beamed up 3 kids, who do you wish they would take? Why? Would you like to be beamed up?
23. What is one thing you did today that was helpful?
24. When did you feel most proud of yourself today?
25. What rule was the hardest to follow today?
26. What is one thing you hope to learn before the school year is over?
27. Which person in your class is your exact opposite?
28. Which subject of your day was the most fun? Why?
29. Which was your favorite food for lunch?
30. Does anyone in your class have a hard time following the rules?

Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Ministerial Open Golf Tournament. 83 golfers, 23 hole sponsors, and 8 prize donors raised over \$4,000 to fund our Norwalk Food Pantry and Norwalk Ministerial Association Community Benevolence Fund. Our own Andy Pratt won the Men's Longest Drive. Congratulations to everyone who participated and made this event so successful!



Baby Blessing of Ava Grace Curry.



Children laying hands on Ava Grace and her parents, Abbey and Curtis.



OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/1	Kay Gesaman		Ken Zanker
10/1	Alan & Julie Wood	10/21	& 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
	Matt & Abby	10/27	Zach Wood
10/11	Hendrickson	10/28	Brandon Burnett
10/13	Alan Wood	10/28	Grace Pratt
10/15	Darin Feikema	10/28	Hannah Pratt
10/15	Miranda Sullivan	10/29	Melissa Webb
10/16	Ali Lester	10/31	Tom & Denise Wood
10/19	Sally Reavely	10/31	Shawn ClarkWilt

World Food Day--October 18th

We will be celebrating World Food Day on Sunday, October 18th, this year. Our efforts in helping feed the world are to help feed those nearest to us, those in Warren County. We are encouraging everyone to bring at least one food item on Sunday, October 18th, to go toward our local Norwalk Food Pantry. Suggested items are: Cereal, PB & J, Spaghetti Sauce and Noodles, Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper Meals, Canned Soups, Canned Veggies & Fruits, Canned Meat, Baking Goods (Flour/Sugar/Salt), and Paper Products (bathroom tissue/paper towels). Plastic jars are preferred over glass jars. Thank you for feeding those closest to us!

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Thursday, October 1

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Saturday, October 3

30 & 1 Group 6:00 pm

Sunday, October 4

Casual Worship 8:30 am

Sunday School 9:30 am

Traditional Worship 10:30 am

Vision Committee 6:30 pm

Monday, October 5

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 6

Coffee Time 10:00 am

JYF 3:30 pm

Wednesday, October 7

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, October 8

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Sunday, October 11

Casual Worship 8:30 am

Sunday School 9:30 am

Traditional Worship 10:30 am

Monday, October 12

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Board Meeting 5:30 pm

Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 13

Coffee Time 10:00 am

Dinky Disciples 3:15 pm

Stewardship & Fin 4:00 pm

Wednesday, October 14

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, October 15

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Prayer Shawl 1:00 pm

Saturday, October 17

Men's Breakfast 8:00 am

Sunday, October 18

Casual Worship 8:30 am

Sunday School 9:30 am

Traditional Worship 10:30 am

Monday, October 19

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 20

Coffee Time 10:00 am

JYF 3:30 pm

Wednesday, October 21

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, October 22

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Sunday, October 25

Casual Worship 8:30 am

Sunday School 9:30 am

Traditional Worship 10:30 am

Monday, October 26

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 27

Coffee Time 10:00 am

Wednesday, October 28

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, October 29

Senior Exercise 10:00 am



Ministry

**Arts & Crafts moves to
the 3rd Tuesday of the
month.**

Join us for the next Arts & Crafts
night Tuesday, October 20th,
from 6:00-8:00 pm.

Bring Your Own Project to work on and enjoy a time of
crafting and fellowship. All are welcome!



Pictured above: Arts & Craft night on Sept. 1st making Christmas gifts.

Sharing Shelf

Have something that you no longer need? We have a designated area for that at the church! Our Sharing Shelf is in the coat hallway and is there for dropping off items to pass along to someone else. Need something? Take it. It is good to share, and it saves resources. The top shelf is a little library. You are welcome to borrow the books and return them for someone else to read. The Sharing Shelf is cleaned out at the end of the month, and items are donated to charity. Thanks for sharing your usable items for someone else to enjoy!



Coffee Fellowship
Have you signed
up to serve?

Please check out the sign up sheet at Sign
Up Central for many available dates to
provide treats and help with coffee
fellowship following church service.

Welcome!



New Staff Member

Sherri Classon will begin her position as our new custodian September 27th. Please be sure to give her a warm NCC welcome when you see her!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 15th, at 1 pm.
Everyone is welcome.

Thank You

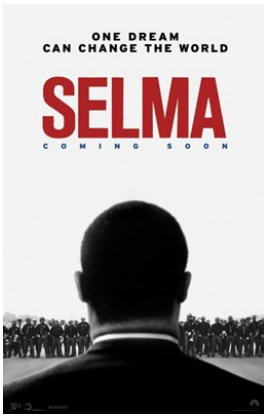


Dear Pastor Travis, Pastor Marti and members of NCC,

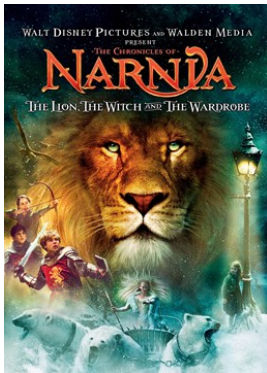
We want to thank you so much for your contribution to the Ministerial Association. Your generosity helped many of our students receive a school supply kit.

Sincerely, Lakewood Elementary School & Staff

Faith and Film: Selma



Join us for our first movie of the Fall on Sunday, October 11. We will be watching the Academy Award winning film Selma, which tells the story of the Civil Rights March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. This movie is powerful movie which tells an important, though sometimes violent, story. Because of that, the movie is rated PG-13 for scenes of violence, profanity and mild sexuality.



Mark your calendars for next month's movie, **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, Witch and Wardrobe**, as we prepare for a special night with Rev. Heidi Haverkamp sharing from her new book, *Advent in Narnia!*



Norwalktoberfest–October 10th

Norwalk Christian Church will have a table at this year's Norwalktoberfest, Saturday, October 10th, from 11am to 2pm at the CSB Trust & Investment parking lot on Hwy 28. Norwalkians will gather to enjoy football games, a live polka band, and craft beers. If you would like to participate in being part of the NCC presence at this family-friendly event, please see Clinton Halverson or one of your pastors.

THANK YOU

Christian Church Stitchers,

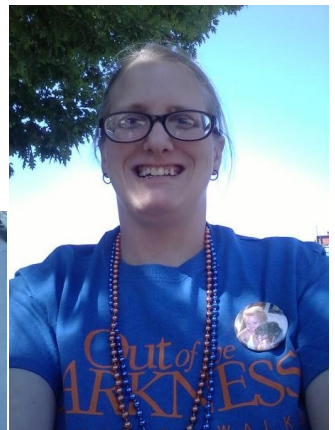
I would like to thank all of you for the time and effort you put into the beautiful prayer shawl. I truly appreciate all of your love, support and prayers. Thank you so much.

- Nonnie Smith

Dear Church Members,

I wanted to offer my heartfelt thanks for the generosity of the members of NCC who helped me raise almost \$400 dollars for the Central Iowa Out of the Darkness Walk on September 20th in Ankeny that was organized by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The money is going to help provide support for those affected by suicidal thoughts as well as to offer support for those who have been affected by it. Natalie's family and I both thank you very much! My hope is to have a team for next year's walk.

- Kelley Davis



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(Disciples of Christ)

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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-Thursday 9:00 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*

