



Norwalk Christian News

Norwalk Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) May 1, 2016

Remember our Brave Soldiers!

Memorial Day

In observance of Memorial Day, Monday, May 30th, the church office will be closed.

**On thy grave the rain shall fall
from the eyes of a mighty nation!**

~Thomas William Parsons

WEAR RED FOR

Pentecost

May 15th

Mother's Day
May 8th





Pastor Travis' Thoughts

Beautiful People,

A few Sunday's ago, I shared the parable of the "Easter Chicken". I've talked to more than a few of you about this story and it's meaning since it's telling, so I thought I'd share it again and explain it in more detail.

It's a story told by the old southern civil rights pastor, Will D. Campbell, in his autobiography *Brother to a Dragonfly*. As the story goes, Campbell is talking with a friend of his, an agnostic newspaper reporter named P.D. East. Everytime P.D. East would talk to Campbell, he'd ask him how his church was doing. But he didn't call the church, "Church", he called it an Easter Chicken. The story is told in Campbell's first person voice, and I've edited it for length and language.

Each time I saw him [P.D. East] he would ask, "And what's the state of the Easter chicken, Preacher Will?" I knew he was trying to goad me into some kind of an argument and decided to wait him out. One day he explained.

"You know, Preacher Will, that Church of yours and Mr. Jesus is like an Easter chicken my little Karen got one time. Man, it was a pretty thing. Dyed a deep purple. Bought it at the grocery store."

I interrupted that white was the liturgical color for Easter but he ignored me. "And it served a real useful purpose. Karen loved it. It made her happy. And that made me and her Mamma happy.... But pretty soon that baby chicken started feathering out. ... And you know what? Them new feathers weren't purple. No sirree bob, that ... chicken wasn't really purple at all. [She] was a Rhode Island Red. And when all them little red feathers started growing out from under that purple it was one [heck] of a sight. All of a sudden Karen couldn't stand that chicken any more...."

"Well, we took that half-purple and half-red thing out to her Grandma's house and threw it in the chicken yard with all the other chickens. It was still different, you understand. That little chicken. And the other chickens knew it was different. And they resisted it.... Pecked it, chased it all over the yard. Wouldn't have anything to do with it. Wouldn't even let it get on the roost with them. And that little chicken knew it was different too. It didn't bother any of the others. Wouldn't fight back or anything. Just stayed by itself. Really suffered too.

But little by little, day by day, that chicken came around. Pretty soon, even before all the purple grew off it, while it was still just a little bit different, that ... thing was behaving just about like the rest of them chickens. Man, it would fight back, peck ... the ones littler than it was, knock them down to catch a bug if it got to it in time. Yes sirree bob, the chicken world turned that Easter chicken around. And now you can't tell one chicken from another. They're all just alike. The Easter chicken is just one more chicken. There ain't a [dang] thing different about it."

Continued to next page

I knew he wanted to argue and I didn't want to disappoint him. "Well, P. D., the Easter chicken is still useful. It lays eggs, doesn't it?"

It was what he wanted me to say. "Yea, Preacher Will. It lays eggs. But they all lay eggs. Who needs an Easter chicken for that? And the Rotary Club serves coffee. And the 4-H Club says prayers. The Red Cross takes up offerings for hurricane victims. Mental Health does counseling, and the Boy Scouts have youth programs."

The interpretation of the parable, as I see it, is that the agnostic P.D. East sees the church as being like that Easter Chicken he once gave his daughter. The church is a unique and special community, at first, but over time it has become just like the rest of the world, indistinguishable from the other "chickens". If all the church does is serve coffee, say prayers, take up offerings for those in need, offers counseling and have youth programs, then how is it really any different than other do-good community groups? What's so good about an Easter Chicken that can do nothing but lay eggs like the rest of the chickens?

As we read through the Gospel of Mark together, we continually find a Jesus that is very much different than the world around him. Jesus is not like P.D. East's Easter Chicken. Last week we heard the amazement of the people, that Jesus taught--and with authority! That is, he not only spoke the truth, but he lived it out, declaring the Kingdom of God has come near through his words and his actions. This is the mission of the church. This is what we should be about. We are here not just to serve coffee, say prayers and take up an offering. We are here to change lives for Christ!

How has your life been changed by Norwalk Christian Church? How are you changing others lives and changing our world for Christ? If you've got a story to share, send it to me. We want to hear your Good News! And may our church resist the temptation to become just like every other chicken in the yard. May we be bold in our uniqueness as we follow the One who turned the world upside down.

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 has welcomed us.



Love from Pastor Marti. . .



Beautiful People,

There's something therapeutic about weeding. I don't know if it's getting your hands in the dirt. I don't know if it's being able to immediately see progress and results. Perhaps it's the quiet stillness of the act or being outside in the sunlight, around nature. But there is something about getting down on your knees and cleaning out the flowerbeds in your yard that feels so good.

I've been doing this same weeding in other areas lately. Yes, it is a process and it takes time and intentionality. But clearing out the areas of your life with the unneeded that fills space is therapeutic. It feels good. Cleaning out closets that hold clothes that are never worn or supplies that are used, feels good. Cleaning up a busy schedule and calendar, taking away the things that are not beneficial, feels good. Cleaning out junk food from pantries and refrigerators to make room for real foods, feels good.

I haven't been one for body cleanses. I have just never done one. But I do enjoy annual and season cleansings of my home and life. Periodic quiet times to honestly reflect on what I need in my life. To reflect on what I need to change to be able to incorporate beneficial and healthy practices. To reflect on how to make the needed changes. I've found what I need changes as life changes for me. If I continue doing the same thing year after year, I become stagnant, lacking strength or encouragement. I am grateful for these times of weeding, both in my yard and in my life. For through weeding I find new ways of refilling and energizing my soul.

Be good to yourself and be good to others. Happy weeding everyone!

Graduation Sunday

Congratulations graduates! On Sunday, May 22nd, we will honor each of our high school graduates. During the worship service we will hear each of them tell us their plans for the future and say a special blessing over them. Following the worship service will be a special time honoring them in the Fellowship Hall. Those graduating this year are Isaac Anderson, Trevor Baack, Duncan Burnett, Rachel Feikema, Matthew Jameson, MaKenna Ludlow, Cassidy Moore, and Otis Stipe. If we have missed anyone, please contact the office.



Congratulations to Alan “Doc” Raun and Gordon Iverson for being presented a “Quilt of Valor” last Sunday in honor of your service to our country in World War II.





Our youth group will be hosting another opportunity for the church to join them in volunteering at Meals from the Heartland just like



we did in December. On Wednesday, May 18th, at 6pm. People will be able to ride the church bus, leaving at 5:30pm, or meet us at Meals from the Heartland at 357 Lincoln Street in West Des Moines at 6pm. This is a great service project in that all ages are able to participate and it helps provide food for families both in the United States as well as throughout the world.



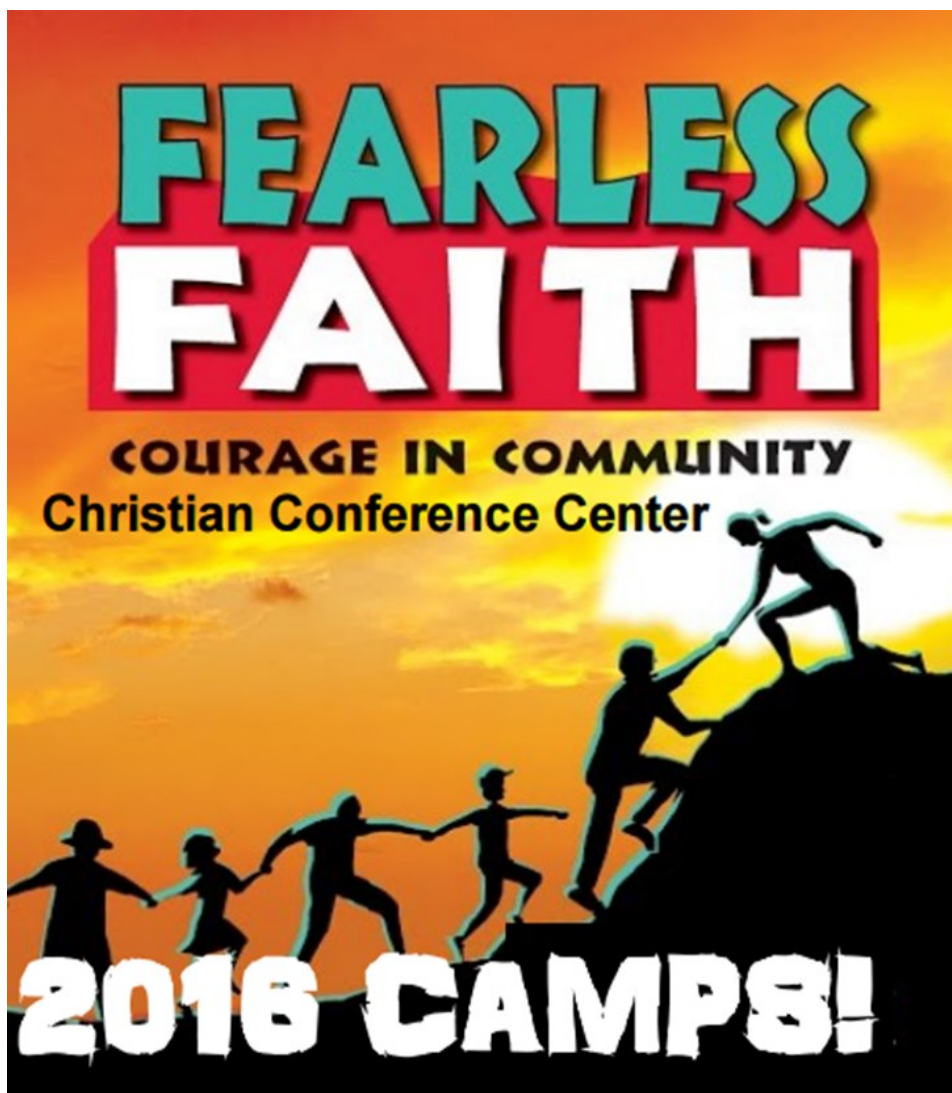
This month our children's ministry will be taking May Day gifts to the residents of Norwalk Nursing & Rehab. The children have planted and made Grass Heads (pictured below). The children will be walking over to present a gift to each of the residents and sing a couple songs to bring smiles to their neighbors.

The children will also be decorating shopping bags this month for June's Food Pantry collection at our church. During JYF and Dinky Disciples afternoons the children will decorate the bags and attach a list of food items to each bag. During the first Sunday in June they will pass out the bags during the children's sermon and ask the bags be returned during the month of June. All donated food will go to our local Norwalk Food Pantry.



Summer Camp Forms

Summer Camp forms are due May 1st. If your child is planning on attending any of the summer camps at the Christian Conference Center in Newton, Iowa, forms are located on the welcome table in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the camp programs, see Travis or Marti.



different brews



different views

PUB THEOLOGY

NORWALK

Pub Theology: May 26, 7pm - The format is simple: drinks, conversation and God. Open and honest monthly conversations about things that matter. We meet at 7pm on the third Thursday of every month at 804 Main. All people and perspectives are welcome. Bring your questions. Bring a friend. Support a local business (and tip generously).

30 & 1 GROUP

Meet at the church, May 7
at 6:00pm for games.
All are welcome!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The next meeting will be
Thurs., May 19 at 1 pm.
Everyone is welcome.

Hearing Assistance Now Available in Worship

Did you know our church is now equipped with top-of-the-line hearing assistance technology called a “hearing loop”. If you need hearing assistance during worship, there are two things you can do. If you have a hearing aid, you can receive the best results by switching your hearing aid to the “Telecoil (T-Coil) setting”. If you do not know what this is, or if your hearing aid has the setting, contact your audiologist today. With this setting, you will be able to hear the entire worship service directly in your hearing aid, eliminating background sound. If you do not have a hearing aid or do not yet have your T-Coil setup, we have hearing packs available at our sound booth in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you to memorials donated in memory of Helen Suckow for making this technology possible!



HEARING LOOP INSTALLED
Switch hearing aid to T-coil
www.hearingloop.org



Introducing the "Wall of Love." The principle is simple: Support our youth by taking an envelope down and returning it to the church (in Sunday's offering or mail/drop off to church office) with the amount of money on the front. 100% of money donated will go to send our youth to camp and on mission trips this summer.

Take one envelope per family, or one for each family member. Take one for yourself and one for a friend. Grab a few and see if your coworkers want to pitch in and help fill them all. Get creative, be generous, and support our youth. Thank you for sharing the love!



Prayer Shawl Ladies, thank you for your work in making beautiful prayer shawls that will bless our community. The Prayer Shawl group meets the third Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm in the Parlor. Any one that is interested in participating in this ministry is welcome to come.

As an educator for the past 35 years during the month of May I focused on my seniors' graduation. I was recently sent an article by former Stanford University Dean Julie Lythcott-Haims, which states the eight life skills she feels every 18-year-old needs to have to be successful.

After reading this article I know there are young people who have some of these skills, but many of them don't. I thought it would be good for us as parents to be reminded of these life skills that we take for granted every day and the importance of them.

#1. An 18-year-old must be able to talk to strangers.



Faculty, deans, advisors, landlords, human resource managers, health care providers, mechanics - people they will encounter in real life.

*The crutch- We teach kids not to talk to strangers instead of teaching them the skill of how to discern the few bad strangers from the many good ones. Thus kids end up not knowing how to approach strangers- respectfully and with eye contact- for guidance and direction they will need out in the real world.

#2. An 18-year-old must be able to find his or her way around.

A new campus, the town where his summer internship is located, a city where he or she is working or studying abroad.

*The crutch- We drive or accompany them everywhere, even when a bus, their bike or their feet could get them there. Thus kids don't know routes to get from point A to point B (especially if their smart phone is dead). How do they determine transportation options or cope with snafus when Dad and Mom are 6 hours away?

#3. An 18-year-old must be able to manage his or her own assignments, workload and deadlines.

*The crutch- Parents, teachers or technology remind kids when their homework is due and when to do it. Sometimes we help them with it or do it for them. Thus kids don't know how to prioritize tasks, manage workload, or meet deadlines without regular reminders.

Bosses and college professors rarely give extensions or redos.

#4. An 18-year-old must be able to contribute to the running of the household.

*The crutch- We don't ask them to help much around the house because of their overcrowded schedules. There is little time in the day outside of academic and extracurricular work. Kids don't know how to look after their own needs, respect the needs of others, or do their fair share for the good of the whole.

Continued on next page.

#5. An 18-year-old must be able to handle interpersonal problems.

*The crutch- We step in to solve misunderstandings and soothe hurt feelings for them. Thus kids don't know how to cope with and resolve conflicts without our intervention.

#6. An 18-year-old must be able to cope with ups and downs.

Courses and workloads, college-level work, competition, tough teachers, bosses and others.

*The crutch- We step in when things get hard, finish the task, extend the deadlines, and talk to the adults in charge to make it better. Thus kids don't know that in the normal course of life things won't always go their way, and that they'll be okay regardless.

#7. An 18-year-old must be able to earn and manage money.

*The crutch- Many don't hold part-time jobs. They receive money from us for whatever they want. Thus kids don't develop a sense of responsibility for completing tasks, accountability to a boss who doesn't inherently love them, an appreciation for the cost of things or how to manage what they do earn.

#8. An 18-year-old must be able to take risks.

*The crutch- We've laid out their entire path for them and have avoided all pitfalls or prevented all stumbles for them. Thus kids don't develop the wise understanding that success comes after trying and failing and trying again (grit) or the thick skin (resilience) that comes from coping when things have gone wrong.

FOOD PANTRY

It is time for our church to restock the Food Pantry!

The month of June has been designated as NCC's turn to collect food and money donations. Starting the first Sunday in June you will have the opportunity to receive a decorated paper grocery sack.

Take the sack home and fill it with foods. It would be especially helpful if you use the Food Pantry Wish List attached to the sack.

Return your sack to church any time during June and we will decorate the sanctuary with them.

During the Children's Sermon our youth will be glad to collect your donations!

If you choose to write a check, make it out to NCC and in the memo note write "Food Pantry".

Let's show our community what NCC can do for the Norwalk Food Pantry!

Thank you!
Outreach Committee

Would You Consider Giving to NCC Electronically?

First, we'd like to say thank you. Thank you for supporting your church in so many ways! As summer approaches and family vacations and other travels increase, we're asking all our church members to consider signing up for **e-giving**. The process is simple: just fill out the form in the Fellowship Hall, attach a voided check, and we will do the rest, setting up automatic withdrawal from your checking account for the amount and frequency you choose. If you rarely have cash or a check on Sunday mornings, or want to continue to support your church even when you are away, e-giving might be right for you. Most of us pay our bills through automatic draft. Why not support your church family this same way? And coming soon, we will have cards in the pews that say "I Gave Electronically", so you can still put something in the offering plate on Sunday as an act of worship.

If you have any questions, contact a member of the Stewardship and Finance Team. (David Lester, Chair, Mark Durham, Gary Fox, Kate Raun, Doug Pierce, and Don Darnell.)

Thank you for your commitment to your church family!



Thank you to everyone who got their hands dirty for our "Earth Sunday" Service Day! We pulled weeds, picked up sticks, picked up trash and enjoyed the blessing of God's creation and fellowship with one another.

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.



Coffee Fellowship
Have you signed
up to serve?

Earth Sunday Clean Up Day





Birthdays & Anniversaries

6/1	Skylinn Smith	6/16	David & Amy Lester
6/1	Allison Coon	6/21	Jordan Rhiner
6/1	Elyse Coon	6/21	June Higdon
6/2	David Lester	6/21	Sherry Baker
6/3	Alan (Doc) Raun	6/23	Jeremy Schuller
6/3	Ric Graves	6/23	Marilyn Guy
6/3	Chad & Amber Martin	6/23	Mark & Betsy Durham
6/4	Steve & Joyce Cortum	6/24	Gary & Mary Jo Fox
6/7	Joseph Mundil	6/25	Adam & Angie Beckel
6/8	Eliza Weaver	6/26	Don Zinke
6/10	Andy & Sarah Pratt	6/27	Dennis & Mary Beth Morrow
6/10	Jenny Schaff	6/28	Gary Fox
6/12	Jeannie Sullivan	6/29	Betsy Durham
6/13	Paul & Myrna Barkley	6/29	Mike & Kelley Davis
6/14	Alex Murillo	6/29	Nicole Feikema
6/14	Mike & Kim Ward	6/30	Dean Johnson

*If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact the church office so we can improve our records.

Out to Lunch Bunch May 11th



The Out to Lunch Bunch will be traveling to the Tulip Tea Room in Pella on Wednesday, May 11th for lunch. The sign up sheet is posted in the Fellowship Hall, and reservations must be made by May 3rd. We will need 12-15 people to take the bus. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 10:00 am.

Volunteer to serve in 2016.
Sign up sheets are now at Sign Up Central.

May Calendar



Sunday, May 1

Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
Green Chalice 4:30 pm

Monday, May 2

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 3

Coffee Time w/Chief Staples 10:00 am
JYF 3:30 pm
Stewardship & Fin 4:00 pm

Wednesday, May 4

Youth Committee 5:30 pm
Youth Group 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, May 5

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Saturday, May 7

Womens' Fellowship 10:00 am
30 & 1 Group 6:00 pm

Sunday, May 8

Mother's Day
Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am

Monday, May 9

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Board Meeting 6:00 pm
Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 10

Coffee Time 10:00 am
Dinky Disciples 3:15pm

Wednesday, May 11

Out to Lunch Bunch 10:00 am
Youth Group 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, May 12

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Sunday, May 15

Pentecost Sunday (wear red)
Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am

Monday, May 16

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 17

Coffee Time 10:00 am
JYF 3:30 pm
Arts & Crafts 6:00 pm

Wednesday, May 18

Meals From the Heartland
5:30 pm (bus) \ 6:00 pm (arrival)

Thursday, May 19

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

Saturday, May 21

Men's Breakfast 8:00 am

Sunday, May 22

Graduation Sunday
Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am

Monday, May 23

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 24

Coffee Time 10:00 am

Wednesday, May 25

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Thursday, May 26

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Pub Theology 7:00 pm

Sunday, May 29

Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day- Office Closed
Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 31

Coffee Time 10:00 am

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: **office@norwalkcc.org**

Ministers: Rev. Travis & Rev. Marti Stanley
Administrative Assistants: Chris Riter (M-Th)
Cathie Graves (Fridays)

OFFICE HOURS

Administrative Assistants: Mon - Fri 9 AM - Noon

Pastors: Mon-Thursday 9:00 AM - Noon

And always by appointment

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship follows Worship Service.

www.Norwalkcc.org

MISSION STATEMENT

*Disciples of Christ -
Sharing the Journey*

