



# Norwalk Christian News

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

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## September 5th

In observance of the holiday the office will be closed.

## **Pack the Church Sunday and Church Picnic September 18**



Haven't been here in awhile? Been away for a few weeks? Looking for an excuse to bring the whole family and invite a friend to church?

Join us for this Sunday of celebration! We want to fill the church in joyful worship, as everyone who is a part of our church all shows up on the same Sunday!

After worship we will head over to City Park by the Library for a church potluck picnic (provided).

Bring a dish or two to share. Bring a friend or neighbor and invite someone you haven't seen at church in a while. Bring a yard game to play. And get ready for a great day of worship and fellowship!



## Pastor Travis' Thoughts

Beautiful People,

**I am excited about our upcoming “Pack the Church Sunday”, September 18th, with a potluck picnic at the City Park afterwards.** In a recent Church Board meeting, we had the idea of having a special Sunday that was on a non-special occasion--a day for us to simply celebrate being together. September 18th is that Sunday, and we're asking everyone who considers themselves a member of our church to all show up on the same date. It's also an ideal time to extend the invitation to someone you've been meaning to invite to church, a co-worker, neighbor, family member, friend, or a church friend you haven't seen in awhile. After a joyful worship service, we will head to Norwalk's City Park just around the corner for our church, for an outdoor potluck picnic. (Bring a dish or two to share!) We will have a bounce house for the kids, and you are encouraged to bring any outdoor games you'd like to play, like horseshoes, ladder ball, corn hole, or a basketball.

So why are we doing this? The goal is not to just have a big Sunday so we can increase our weekly attendance average. We know that for a lot of reasons, not every church member is able to be here every Sunday at the same time, and that's okay. But when we are not all here, we can forget about one another. We forget that our church is bigger than any given Sunday. We forget that our church is always here for us, no matter if we are able to be here regularly or not. Also, we forget that we already have all the people we need in order to do something amazing for Christ in our community. The church exists, after all, not to hold well-attended worship services every Sunday, but to be a community of people active in God's mission in the world. Think of what we could do if we all came together in one common mission!

I encourage you to show up on September 18th and look around at everyone who is here. As you worship and fellowship, ask yourself these questions: Who haven't you seen in awhile? Who do you need to connect with more deeply? How is God calling you to go deeper in your spiritual life and the life of the church? How might God be calling you to join with your church family in service and mission to our community? Can you imagine all that we could do together for God? I hope to see all of you very soon!

*Love from Pastor Marti. . .*



Beautiful People,

School has started back. We met the teacher so our children would know where to go once we dropped them off in the morning. We packed their school boxes with all the listed items they will need to do the tasks asked of them. We prayed over their backpacks. We prayed a hundred times over them and everyone working at their schools. And in that moment when they step out of the car on that first day, we wonder, have we taught them everything they need to be a good student and a good friend? In that moment I don't worry about them failing a test. I worry about them failing life.

I want my children to be respectful, to teachers and to friends. I want them to have the courage to befriend people, to have others to laugh and play with. I want them to have the courage to stand up for themselves and others. To not be afraid to ask questions. Is 18 years long enough to teach them how to be good citizens? I know we can never prepare them for everything life holds, but I am so glad that I have this community to help me prepare and teach my children. The teachers and school workers are wonderful. Those in local businesses that take the time to interact with our kids is such a treat. The members of Norwalk Christian Church - I cannot even begin to tell you how blessed we are to have each of you be a part of our children's lives. So many of you have taken the time to help our children, teach our children, love and pray for our children. With community like this, I know that no matter what life brings them, they will have the love and support they need. Thank you for blessing them, and for blessing me.

Be good to yourself this month, and be good to others.

Love and Peace,  
Marti



September starts off our Dinky Disciple and JYF Tuesday afternoon fun days! The first and third Tuesdays of the month, we pick up 3rd through 5th graders at Lakewood Elementary. The second Tuesday of the month, we pick up Kindergarten through 2nd graders at Oviatt Elementary. We bring the groups to the church for a snack, time of music, a lesson, and a craft and/or game. Parents pick up at 5pm. If you have not turned in your 2016 Student Enrollment Form, please do so quickly so we can pick your child(ren) up from school to participate.

On Sunday, September 18th, the children will be playing the children's handbells at our worship service for us. They will practice during Sunday School and Tuesday afternoon fun days.

During the month of September our kids will learn all about *The 12 Disciples*. Each Sunday, as well as Tuesday afternoon fun days, they will learn about the disciples in a variety of ways. They'll learn through cooking, art, games, music, drama, and science.

A snack sign-up sheet will be at Sign-Up Central for anyone to provide snacks for these afternoons. If you are interested in being a sponsor for these activities, please see Pastor Marti.



We kicked off our school year with a Back to School cookout at the Pierce's for our first week back. Thank you, Kathy and Doug, for hosting us! It was great spending time with the youth and their families. Our second week back we volunteered for Meals From the Heartland at HyVee Hall. I am always so proud of the hard work our youth exhibit when they are provided service opportunities.

On Wednesday, September 14, we will meet at the Norwalk High School Football Stadium for the Annual Homecoming Powderpuff Football Game. The game is from 6-9pm. Youth are welcome to sit with us as they cheer on their friends.

We've got a great semester planned with a blending of hot topics, service opportunities, and fun gatherings. If you have not turned in your 2016 Student Enrollment Form, please do so quickly so those are on file for all our activities.



### ***Return of Wednesday Night Meals***

Wednesday night youth group has begun again. A sign-up sheet is located at Sign-Up Central for anyone who would like to provide a meal for our youth on Wed. evenings.



We Can Help.



## Pick Up A Ministry Packet Today!

Ministry packets are available at the table in the Fellowship Hall. There is something for every age level and every comfort zone, so be sure to read through each of the ministries to discover how you can get plugged in at Norwalk Christian Church.

## Would You Consider Giving to NCC Electronically?

If you're traveling this summer, consider signing up for direct deposit so you do not miss a Sunday in your giving.

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.

Thank you for supporting your church in so many ways!

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!

# WE WANT YOU

Please sign up for Diaconate and Communion Preparation during the fall and winter months. We do not have many for the upcoming month of September. So those of you who are procrastinators NOW is the time. It is OK if you can't do 4 weeks in a row, we have wonderful subs who can cover when you need to be gone. If you forget while at church feel free to contact Kim Ward @ [kimpianoward@gmail.com](mailto:kimpianoward@gmail.com) and she can put you on the online form shared by ministers and the office.

The prayer below will inspire our current Worship Leadership folks and I hope will encourage those who haven't jumped in yet.

*Lord, prepare me to lead Your people in worship. Be strong in my weakness and evident in my humility. Prepare the hearts of others who will lead and those who will be led. Strengthen the voices of those who sing and the hands of those who play. Help me minister to those I lead in ministry.*

*Teach me to wash their feet, bind their wounds and share their joy. Make me more sensitive to Your Spirit's leading so that I may move as You move...no more, no less. Astonish me with the truth that You created us for this very purpose.*

*You made our lips for song and our language for praise.*

*You redeemed us so that we might exalt You. ...Your Name. ...Your Kingdom. ...Your power. ...Your glory. So delight Yourself in us as we delight in You. Sing over us as we sing before you. May our congregation become the choir and You become our audience.*

*Let our joyful noise bring You joy.*

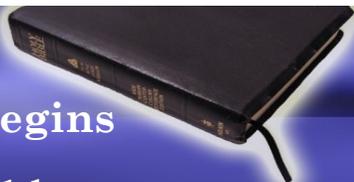


# Adult Bible Study Begins

Sunday, September 11th

7:00 pm

Study: Philippians



## Fall Adult Classes!

Now is a great time to connect with a Sunday School class. Sunday school classes provide a chance for you to grow in your spiritual life and build deeper relationships with your church family. Our classes are currently arranged by topic, not age, so pick the class that seems interesting to you.

We currently have two adult classes that meet Sundays at 9am.

### **"Letting it Go: The Liberating Lightness of Forgiveness"**

Teacher: Roger Miller

Time: Sundays 9am

Location: Church Parlor

Who: Anyone Middle School & Older

### **"Sabbath: Finding God's Rest in a Busy World"**

Teacher: Pastor Travis

Time: Sundays 9am

Location: Downstairs, "New Koinonia Room"

Who: Adults of any age

A Note from the



Choir Director

## CHOIRS STARTING-



The Chancel Choir had their 1st rehearsal and there are still open pews available. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays starting at 7pm in the sanctuary. First Sunday to sing is September 11th. Come and join us. Reading music and fantastic skills are not required. Just a willing and loving heart that enjoys music and will help us enhance the worship service.

Chalice Bells' first rehearsal is Wednesday, August 31st at 8pm in the Bell Room downstairs. Contact Kim Ward if you would like more information.

# THANKS!



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who provided worship leadership during the summer months as worship leaders, diaconate and providers of special music. Your willingness to enhance and assist with worship is greatly appreciated.

- Kim Ward



SUNDAY  
SEPT. 25TH

Rev. Tiff Austin Williams, our new Associate Regional Minister, will be with us. Come hear her share a word and stay after worship to introduce yourself.

## 30 & 1 GROUP

The 30 & 1 group will meet Sat. September 3th at the church for games at 6:00 pm.

Everyone is welcome.

# Play golf. Support God's work.

Join us for the 2016 Norwalk Ministerial Open Golf Tournament

Sunday, September 18 • Warrior Run Golf Course  
Golf 2 pm • Social hour 4:30 pm • Prizes 5 p.m.



4-person best shot, 9 holes  
Your \$45 donation includes:

- Green fees
- Golf cart
- Appetizer buffet
- Valuable prizes
- The chance to put your name on the traveling trophy!

Proceeds benefit the Norwalk Food Pantry and the Ministerial Association Emergency Fund.

Contact Ed Kuhl: [e\\_kuhl@msn.com](mailto:e_kuhl@msn.com) or 974-8336

Sign up online ([newlifenorwalk.org](http://newlifenorwalk.org)) or at any of the following churches.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church • Crossroads Church • New Life Lutheran Church • Norwalk UMC  
Norwalk Christian Church • St. John the Apostle Catholic Church • Fellowship Community Church

# I Was Here

by Carolyn Hukle  
July 2016

I was here when the first TV was shown.  
I was here when the first moonwalk was flown.  
I was here when our town was small.  
I watched it grow – I watched it all.  
Don't you wish you'd seen it all then too?

I was here when one building was our school.  
When our superintendent was our schools main rule.  
I was here when the masses walked silently to classes.  
It was there don't you wish you'd been here too?

I was here when the Norwalk streets got paved.  
No more potholes when we drove – our nerves were saved.  
I was here when we gave our daughters a drink of our first time waters from the tap.  
Don't you wish that you had been here too?

I am here when I'm thinking of my past.  
Getting older makes the time go very fast.  
Think of first time inside plumbing, who thought central air was coming?  
To keep us cool when it is running.  
Have you been here too?

I'm still here when our town has gotten big.  
It sure has changed since I was just a kid.  
Now I'm 94 and getting old but getting smarter I've been told.  
Don't you wish that you had seen all of this too?  
I did - Did you?

Carolyn's Corner



## An Update from Anne Gregory, Missionary from the Upper Mid-West Region to Thailand

A good chunk of my work as an Ecumenical Officer involves translating—translating of conversations, of documents, of sermons, and so on.

This is a crucial service, in a country that ranks 62<sup>nd</sup> among the 70 countries in the world where English proficiency exams are most often taken. Thailand is extremely fortunate in that it has never been colonized by a Western power, unlike all of its neighbors in ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations). But this may also account for the comparatively low use of English. Why is this important? Because English is the official language of ASEAN, as well as APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation).

The need to use English has become even more important in 2016, as ASEAN has begun to function as an economic community, a little bit like the Euro Zone.

Yes, I could speak Thai before I was invited to do Mission Work with the Church of Christ in Thailand. But my reading and writing skills were quite slim, since all of my childhood schooling, except for 3 months, was done in the English Language. For that reason, this past year has involved a good deal of Thai language study.

One thing linguists enjoy doing is translating something from one language to another and back again. I remember, years ago, reading a translation of **Matthew 26:41b** (“The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak”), from Russian into English. It read as follows: “The wine is good, but the meat is spoiled.” So I’m offering the **Lord’s Prayer**, as found in **Matthew 6:9-13**. I had never learned it in Thai as a child, even though I attended and even played the piano for, many a worship service in Thai. But my current Thai teachers have asked me to memorize it.

Here’s what it sounds like to me, translated literally into English (and I admit up front that I will likely get disagreement from every Thai speaker, native or foreign, who reads my version, so please, go easy on the letters of complaint):

<sup>9</sup>O Holy Father of all of our humble selves, who abides in heaven, [we] ask that your holy name be respected and worshiped.

<sup>10</sup>Let the kingdom of your holy self, come and settle and be. Let things be according to the will of your holy self. However things are in heaven, let things go that way in the kingdom of earth.

<sup>11</sup>Give daily food in your holy way to the people of our humble selves on this day.

<sup>12</sup>And [we] ask that you condescend to lift away the sins and misdeeds of the people of our humble selves, the same as the people of our humble selves forgive those people who do misdeeds to our humble selves.

<sup>13</sup>And do not condescend to bring the people of our humble selves into the test. But [we] ask that the people of our humble selves would escape from wickedness.

It may sound quite odd, or even funny. And I'll admit it's fun, for me, anyway. But the truth is, any time I can learn something of someone else's language, I believe it helps me to understand my own language, and my own thinking, with more depth.

This can hold true for you, too—because all of us do more translating than we might realize. Every conversation finds us talking to someone whose understanding and ways of seeing the world is probably a little different from ours. Anyone who has occasional misunderstandings with friends or family can see that. (After eight years of living in Iowa, I'm still not sure I can speak "Iowan" that well. I think my "Michigan" and "Kentucky" are both a little stronger than my "Iowan.")

Recently I was privileged to be the pianist in a wedding that was held in a mountaintop village in the far north of Thailand. The bride is a member of a mountain tribal group, the Lahu, and the groom is an Afrikaner, now living and working in the Netherlands. The wedding was held in three languages: Lahu, Thai, and English (since only one person there spoke Afrikaans, and only the bride and groom spoke Dutch). What a joy! The presiding minister spoke all three languages, not requiring another person to translate. Six choirs or duos sang, in Lahu or Thai, and the music I had been asked to play was from the hymnal—all tunes from the Western part of the world (you would have known them). You might call it a different kind of reminder of the Day of Pentecost.

The Spirit was clearly present.



Last May Kirstin, a Norwalk resident, took her own life. She had battled mental illness for numerous years. She left behind her husband and two young daughters. A group of Kirstin's friends has organized a FootGolf Tournament, "Kickin' It 4 Kirstin", on Saturday, September 24 at Warrior Run in Norwalk. All proceeds will be donated to NAMI Iowa. Wear your silly shirts and argyle socks, grab friends and family of all ages to join in a fun morning to "Kick" mental illness. Registration begins at 8:00 am with a 9:00 am staggered start. Cost is \$25/person. There will be a hot dog lunch, face painting, raffle drawing, silent auction and fun prizes! For registration forms and additional information go to: [www.kickinit4kristin.com](http://www.kickinit4kristin.com)

# SEPTEMBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

9/1	Lori & Rob Boyd	9/14	Mike Ward
9/3	Dotty Raun	9/15	Jordan Butler
9/4	Marge Liggitt	9/15	Loree LeFleur
9/7	Mary Johnson	9/19	Drew Lofsgard
9/9	Laura Juhl	9/20	Jake Johnston
9/9	Samantha Riordan	9/20	Tim & Lori Diebel
9/9	Sandy Cortum	9/20	Rick & Cathie Elkin
9/11	Tim Diebel	9/20	Pat Hesselberth
9/12	Chris Riter	9/20	Shawn & Korri ClarkWilt
9/13	Elsie Johnson	9/23	Randy & Teresa Williams
9/14	Gene Wheeler	9/26	Deb Dillman
		9/26	Marty Weaver

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

**Pub Theology: September 29, 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 Cal's. All people and perspectives are welcome. Bring your questions. Bring a friend. Support a local business (and tip generously).

## Out to Lunch Bunch

### September 14th

The Out to Lunch Bunch will be meeting September 14th, traveling to Knoxville to the Red Rock Grill and Still for lunch. After lunch we will then tour the town, V.A. Hospital and Brook Park Race Track where Ada's granddaughter raced. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 11:00 am and back around 3:00 pm.

# September Calendar

**Thursday, September 1**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

**Saturday, September 3**

30 & 1 Group 6:00 pm

**Sunday, September 4**

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

**Monday, September 5**

Labor Day - Office Closed

**Tuesday, September 6**

Coffee Time 10:00 am

JYF 3:30 pm

**Wednesday, September 7**

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

**Thursday, September 8**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

**Saturday, September 10**

CWF 10:00 am

**Sunday, September 11**

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Monday, September 12**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

**Tuesday, September 13**

Coffee Time 10:00 am

Dinky Disciples 3:15 pm

Stewardship & Fin. 4:00 pm

**Wednesday, September 14**

Out to Lunch Bunch 11:00 am

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

**Thursday, September 15**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Prayer Shawl 1:00 pm

**Saturday, September 17**

Men's Breakfast 8:00 am

**Sunday, September 18  
Pack the Church Sunday**

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

Potluck Picnic at park after worship

Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Monday, September 19**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Board Meeting 6:00 pm

**Tuesday, September 20**

Coffee Time 10:00 am

JYF 3:30 pm

**Wednesday, September 21**

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

**Thursday, September 22**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

**Sunday, September 25**

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Bible study 7:00 pm

**Monday, September 26**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

**Tuesday, September 27**

Coffee Time 10:00 am

**Wednesday, September 28**

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

**Thursday, September 29**

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Pub Theology 7:00 pm

# 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.

Please submit your articles 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](http://www.Norwalkcc.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Disciples of Christ -  
Sharing the Journey*

