



Norwalk Christian News

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



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 Pastors Travis and Marti 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!

World Communion Sunday October 2

Join us after worship October 2nd for a special time of fellowship as we enjoy various homemade breads and jams and jellies.

Reconciliation Offering

Sunday, October 2nd we will collect the annual Reconciliation Offering. This offering makes possible many anti-racism and reconciling ministries in churches and regions around the country. Personally, our church has received \$1,000 from this offering. \$500 was received to send Pastor Travis to the Stone-Campbell Dialogue in Baltimore last November, where he participated in a program on racial reconciliation. Additionally, our church received a \$500 dues-matching grant from this offering for us to become a member congregation of AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy". This fund makes possible important ministries that help us heal division and call all to the table of Christ. Please give generously.



Pastor Travis' Thoughts

Beautiful People,

I had little understanding of the great racial division in Christ's Church until I met Dr. Jerry Taylor. Dr. Taylor was the first African-American professor of Bible at my seminary, and I was his graduate assistant. For some reason, decided that he would take it upon himself to challenge me, and so he invited Marti and I to join him at the African-American church he was pastoring, North 10th and Treadaway Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, and later to become an associate minister at that church. Until Dr. Taylor reached out to me, I never knew there was another world out there. But I should have known.

I should have known, because I heard the church secretary on the phone, at the first church I worked for, telling the black man who called inquiring about service times that, "He'd feel more welcomed at the black church in town." I should have known, because when our area youth groups gathered for camp and fellowship, youth from the African-American churches in our area were never invited. I should have known, because I heard church people complaining when they renamed a road "Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard." I should have known, because I could still see on the basement bathroom in the auditorium of my Christian University, the outline of the old sign that read "Colored". I should have known...but I didn't.

I should have known that black churches existed because white churches refused to allow non-whites to worship with them, not simply because everyone preferred to worship in different, culturally-appropriate ways. I should have known that historic black neighborhoods were intentionally "red-lined" in order to prevent development and people of wealth from investing in those neighborhoods, causing the deterioration of these neighborhoods. I should have known that African-American WWII veterans were not given the same access as whites to the programs by the G.I. Bill (such as low-cost mortgages, loans, and college tuition assistance), ensuring that mostly white families would receive the economic boost that solidified the middle class in America. I should have known that many christian private schools, including the one I attended growing up, were begun to keep white kids from attending desegregated schools. I should have known...but I didn't.

I know it now, but I should have learned this in my schools and universities. I should have learned this in my church--but I didn't. Dr. Taylor had to teach me about our country's history of oppression, often sanctioned by the action or inaction of the church. And I am deeply thankful.

There is so much we all should know--so much of our past that has been kept from us or ignored, so much of our neighbor's experience that we are unaware of. I have learned a lot, but there are somethings I will never know.

I have been told by the black parents from the church we attended in New Orleans what it's like to see the young, dead black men and women on the nightly news, and fear that their child will be the next one. I don't know what that is like. I don't know what it's like to be followed around a store by an employee, like my friend Ryan has been countless times, because of the color of my skin. I don't know what it's like to be looked down upon by your own fellow church members because I'm in a mixed-race marriage, like so many couples I met while working and attending African-American churches.

There is so much I should know, and a lot I cannot know. But one thing I do know--our God is a God of all people, and racism and bigotry of any kind is an affront to the heart of God. I know that God calls us to have hearts of compassion, and when our black brothers and sisters are mourning and protesting yet another life taken in a confrontation with law enforcement--we should not judge or offer excuses or look down on them because of their rage. Instead, we should realize there is so much about their lives that we do not know--and maybe never will know--and we should listen and learn from what our sisters and brothers have to teach us.

What I learned first from Dr. Taylor and from North Tenth and Treadaway Church of Christ was that I don't have to know everything--but what I do need to learn is how to have humility and empathy. Humility is admitting that I don't know everything, can't know everything, and my experience may be normal to me, but it is not the norm of the rest of the world. Empathy is doing my best to see myself in the other's situation; to imagine what I would do, where I in their place. If we could all learn more humility and empathy, then we might begin to be the answer to Jesus's prayer, "That they may all be one," and experience the beauty of this diverse world that God has created.

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. . .



A Prayer for a Busy Day **By Holley Gerth**

Lord,
I feel so busy lately.
I pray you'll help me
remember what matters most
in the midst of all I have to do...
Give me eyes that see
the needs of those around me.
Give me ears that hear
the meaning behind the words.
Give me hands that reach out
to make a difference.
Give me a heart that beats
in tune with Yours
rather than with
the clock on the wall.
Remind me often
that time is intended
to be given not spent.
And even in the midst
of all my *busyness*,
may I truly be about
Your *business*.
Amen.

Beautiful People, be good to yourself and be good to one another.
I love you.



This month's children's ministry unit is on Jesus & John the Baptist. This month you'll learn to shout like John the Baptist did (with a megaphone you make yourself). You'll get to make bug cookies (eating from the earth like John). You'll get to re-enact John baptizing Jesus (with super hero action figures). And you'll work together to learn new songs and games that go along with our unit. It will be a fun unit to learn more about.



Our children making bread for World Communion Sunday!

A snack sign-up sheet is at Sign-Up Central for anyone to provide snacks for JYF or Dinky Disciple afternoons.

YOUTH NEWS



Our youth serving at Meals From the Heartland.

Lots of things are happening this month in youth group. We are packing hygiene kits for Church World Service refugees on the 5th. We are doing our annual flashlight corn maze in Mitchellville on the 19th. And we have our Halloween Costume Party on the 26th.

Chi Rho students, be on the lookout for retreat forms coming out this month. Our Chi Rho Retreat will be November 18-20.



Wednesday Night Youth Meals

This ministry brings excitement and fellowship to our 6th-12th graders each Wednesday night by providing a meal before their lesson. A sign-up sheet is located at Sign-Up Central for anyone who would like to provide a meal. Contact Pastor Marti Stanley or the church office with any questions.

Volunteer to serve in 2016.

Sign up sheets are now at Sign-Up Central.



**Chi Rho Retreat 2016
(Grades 6-8)
\$30 Per Person
November 18-20, 2016**

Join us for our fall Chi Rho Retreat! Don't wait an entire year to come back to camp. Retreats are a great way to meet youth from other summer camps and kids from all over the region. If you've never been to camp before, retreats are a great introduction. We will worship, play, pray, eat s'mores, sing around a campfire, explore our camp, and have fun together on Holy Ground. Our theme will be "Finding Jonah" and we'll learn what it would have been like to be with Jonah on his trip. Registration is now open online! Visit www.uppermidwestcc.org for more details.



Save the Dates for the Jr & CYF Retreats:

**Junior Retreat (Grades 3-5)
Theme: Finding Jonah
February 10-12, 2017**

**CYF Midwinter (Grades 9-12)
Theme to be determined by UMwYC
February 24-26, 2017**



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



Thank you, to everyone who participated in this year's Norwalk Area Ministerial Association Golf Fundraiser. NCC was well represented enjoying a fun afternoon in order to help those in need in our community. Thank you!



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.

Give Electronically to NCC

Please 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!

This is a new segment for our newsletter, in the hopes that we can get to know our fellow church friends better. Even if you think you know someone... well, you might find a surprise or two! I will randomly choose a person to highlight each month, and hope you enjoy this first submission. -- Anne Burnett



I started coming to the Norwalk Christian Church after Paul and I were married in June, 1954 in the Norwalk Methodist Church by his Uncle Robert, a minister in the Christian Church.

We have two children, David who lives near Tampa FL with his wife, Donna. They have three married children and three grandchildren.

Our daughter, Marlene lives where Paul grew up on a farm near Cumming with her husband Mike Cox. They have three daughters, one is being married in October 2016.

I have lived in the Norwalk area since I was two years old, graduated from Norwalk School and have seen many changes. When Paul was in the Army we lived in New Jersey. We like to travel but enjoy coming home to Iowa.

I have worked for an insurance company, a telephone company, Singer Sewing Machine Company, the Norwalk Bank and Norwalk News. I enjoy working with flowers in my yard, reading and doing hand work--some for our Prayer Shawl group. It's rewarding to help others. I find our church very friendly and supportive and I'm happy to be a member of this church.

NEED HELP

Filling Your Cupboards with Food? Please Read!

Norwalk Area Food Pantry
A ministry of the Norwalk Area Ministerial Association,
hosted by New Life Lutheran Church.

Open Wednesdays 5-7 p.m.
All residents of Warren County are invited to use the
Norwalk Area Food Pantry.

Please bring a picture ID with your current address.
Families are provided 2-3 pre-filled bags of food.

If you cannot come on Wednesdays from 5-7 p.m.,
please call New Life Lutheran Church office at 285-5965
to arrange an alternate time.

Arts & Crafts Ministry

Tues., Oct. 18th
6:00 - 8:00 pm

The October 18 installment of Arts & Crafts will continue the Christmas theme. This month we will concentrate on ideas for gift boxes, give tags, and ornaments. Christmas treats will be on hand to instill a merry mood. Please sign up by Friday, October 14 to assure we have enough supplies on hand for all.

We hope to see you Tuesday, October 18 at 6 in the Fellowship Hall.



The Christian Women's Fellowship will meet this first Saturday of the month, October 1, from 10-11am to plan a special Fall Supper. All women are welcome to attend.

Welcome Newest Member!



Kathy Simpson
Joined September 25, 2016

different brews



different views

PUB THEOLOGY

NORWALK

Pub Theology: October 20, 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).

TO JOEY, WITH LOVE movie

Thursday, October 6th-



Husband and wife singing duo Joey + Rory wanted more in life So they chose less. In preparation for the birth of their child, the couple simplified their lives by putting their music career aside and staying at home, planting roots deep in the soil of their small farm, and the community they loved. They believed God would give them a great story -- and He did.

A special one-night event in select theaters Thursday, October 6- experience the incredible true story of Joey and Rory Feek in the poignant new film TO JOEY, WITH LOVE. Intimately filmed by the couple over two and a half years, the movie documents the stirring journey of the 2010 Academy of Country Music Top New Vocal Duo.

TO JOEY, WITH LOVE takes moviegoers from the birth of their daughter Indiana, born with Down Syndrome, through Joey's struggle with and ultimate surrender to cancer-- all amidst their never- ending hope in something far greater. God gave Joey + Rory a love story for the ages, one that is sure to inspire hope and faith in all who experience it.

Here is the movie trailer for you to preview-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLlfb34RCVo>

*To Joey
With
Love*

Enjoy some songs performed by Joey and Rory-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=192W0bhJNEg&list=RD192W0bhJNEg#t=0>

We are offering a bus trip to the Jordan Creek Movie Theater to enjoy this inspiring story. The bus will leave the church at 6:00. Tickets will be purchased in advance as this is a one night showing and the theater will be packed.

Cost for a ticket and bus usage will be \$15.00. There is a sign-up sheet at "Sign Up Central". Money can be given to the church office or Kim Ward. Deadline for sign is Tuesday, October 4th.



BREAD TRIVIA



One of the blessings that we seldom are thankful for is bread. Here are a few fun statistics and facts relating to bread and wheat, the main staple used for making bread. Some of them sound farfetched, but they are true! Read up, have fun, and laugh a little at the thought of bread!

1. It takes 9 seconds for a combine to harvest enough wheat to make about 70 loaves of bread. Each American consumes, on average, 53 pounds of bread per year
2. An average slice of packaged bread contains only 1 gram of fat and 75-80 calories.
3. Assuming a sandwich was eaten for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, it would take 168 days to eat the amount of bread produced from one bushel of wheat.
4. A family of four could live 10 years off the bread produced by one acre of wheat. One bushel of wheat will produce 73 one- pound loaves of bread.
5. Early Egyptian writings urged mothers to send their children to school with plenty of bread and beer for their lunch.
6. Breaking bread is a universal sign of peace.
7. Bread is closely tied to religious expression and communion.
8. Hot cross buns commemorate Lent and Good Friday, Greek Easter breads are set with eggs dyed red to denote the blood of Christ, and Jewish families celebrate the coming of the Sabbath on Friday evening with challah (a light, airy yeast bread made of six long strands of dough which are braided to form one large loaf).
9. In 1997, Kansas wheat farmers produced enough wheat to make 36.5 billion loaves of bread, or enough to provide each person on earth with 6 loaves of bread.
10. Farmers receive approximately 5 cents (or less) from each loaf of bread sold.
11. Bread is probably the one food eaten by people of every race, culture and religion.
12. In Britain, the ceremony of First Footing is traditionally observed in the early hours of New Year's Day. A piece of bread is left outside a door, with a piece of coal and a silver coin, and is supposed to bring you food, warmth and riches in the year ahead.
13. The "pocket" in pita bread is made by steam. The steam puffs up the dough and, as the bread cools and flattens, a pocket is left in the middle.
14. One bread superstition is that if you put a piece of bread in a baby's cradle, it will keep away disease.
15. The fastest "bun" in the West goes to a team of bakers from Wheat Montana Farms and Bakery who reclaimed the Guinness World Record in 1995. They harvested and milled wheat from the field and then mixed, scaled, shaped and baked a loaf in exactly eight minutes, 13 seconds.
16. Murphy's Law dictates that buttered bread will always land buttered -side down. True or not true?
17. Bread is inexpensive. At an average cost of about \$2 a loaf, bread is a strong nutrition value for the dollar.
18. Scandinavian traditions hold that if a boy and girl eat from the same loaf, they are bound to fall in love.
19. Superstition says it is bad luck to turn a loaf of bread upside down or cut an unbaked loaf.
20. Legend has it that whoever eats the last piece of bread has to kiss the cook.



October Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/1	Kay Gesaman	10/21	Don Darnell
10/1	Alan & Julie Wood	10/22	Korri ClarkWilt
10/1	Marty Davison	10/22	Mark Durham
10/4	Terry & Melissa Webb	10/22	Sandra Jennings
10/5	Dave Smith	10/22	Ron Johnston
10/6	Joe & Jeannie Sullivan	10/24	Gale Vandell
10/7	Paul & Sue Bunce	10/25	Joe Sullivan
10/8	Nicole Bowden	10/26	Mike & Nicole Butler
10/9	John & Janet Riordan	10/27	Zach Wood
10/9	Michael Riordan	10/28	Brandon Burnett
10/13	Alan Wood	10/28	Grace Pratt
10/15	Darin Feikema	10/28	Hannah Pratt
10/16	Ali Lester	10/29	Melissa Webb
10/19	Sally Reavely	10/31	Tom & Denise Wood
10/21	Ken Zanker & Mary Lou Enos	10/31	Shawn ClarkWilt

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

30 & 1 GROUP

The 30 & 1 group will meet Sat. October 1st at the church for games at 6:00 pm.

PRAYER SHAWL

The Prayer Shawl group will meet October 20th in the church Parlor at 1:00 pm.

Out to Lunch Bunch October 12th



The Out to Lunch Bunch will be meeting October 12, for lunch at "Sweat Shirt" in Ankeny. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 11:00 am.

October Calendar

Saturday, October 1

CWF 10:00 am
30 & 1 Group 6:00 pm

Sunday, October 2***World Communion Sunday***

Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am

Monday, October 3

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Tuesday, October 4

Coffee Time 10:00 am
JYF 3:30 pm

Wednesday, October 5

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

Thursday, October 6

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Sunday, October 9

Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Monday, October 10

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Tuesday, October 11

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

Wednesday, October 12

Out to Lunch Bunch 11:00 am
Youth Group 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, October 13

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Saturday, October 15

Men's Breakfast 8:00 am

Sunday, October 16

Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Monday, October 17

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Board Meeting 6:00 pm

Tuesday, October 18

Coffee Time 10:00 am
JYF 3:30 pm

Wednesday, October 19

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

Thursday, October 20

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Prayer Shawl 1:00 pm
Pub Theology 7:00 pm

Sunday, October 23

Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
Adult Bible study 7:00 pm

Monday, October 24

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Tuesday, October 25

Coffee Time 10:00 am

Wednesday, October 26

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

Thursday, October 27

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Sunday, October 30

Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
Adult Bible study 7:00 pm

Monday, October 31

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

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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

MISSION STATEMENT

*Disciples of Christ -
Sharing the Journey*

