



*"In things agreed upon unity,
In other things liberty,
In all things the will to be one."*

NORRIS RELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

23 Dogwood Road, P. O. Box 267
Norris, TN 37828
Tel. # 494-7131

Dr. Bill Ireland
Pastor

Bireland.nrf@gmail.com

MORNING WORSHIP
11:00 a.m.

Ashley Goins
Administrative Assistant

Dave Hughes
Custodian

OFFICE E-MAIL
norrisrf
@comcast.net

WEBSITE
www.norrisrf.org

WATCH ONLINE
www.youtube.com/norrisrf

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday & Thursday
9-3

MEMBER of the
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
COMMUNITY CHURCHES

THE BOND



"One in the
Bond of Love"

APRIL 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORRIS RELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! I am so looking forward to our worship on Easter Sunday. This will be our first opportunity to gather for in-person worship in many, many months. While we will certainly be glad to see each other, let me remind you that masking and social distancing are still necessary. We want to do our best to create a safe environment. If you do not feel comfortable returning, please catch the live stream of our service or join the "drive in" crowd in the parking lot and listening in on FM channel 90.5.

On Wednesday, April 7th, we're planning to gather at 7:00 p.m. for a social of sorts. This time will give us a chance to "see" one another and catch up a bit. Once again, we will observe masking and social distancing. During this time, I'd like to explore some possible topics for our next Bible study as well as laying some groundwork for discerning our future. I hope you can be present.

Our music committee has met and has begun the work of searching for our next church musician. We have done some initial spadework and hope to have some prospects to interview soon. Obviously, this is tremendously important, and your prayers are most welcome.

A personal note. On April 6th, Ginny and I will celebrate our 30th anniversary! We have enjoyed a wonderful life together and can't believe it's been 30 years since we said, "I do!" We hope to be able to take a little time away later this month to celebrate.

Grace and peace,

Bill

Study Group

Study group will meet Monday, April 19 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall for those who have been vaccinated and are comfortable meeting in person. For those still not ready for in person meetings we will have zoom.

Bible Study

Join us in person for a socially distancing gathering on April 7 at 7pm. We'll have a chance to chat and also discuss some possible topics for future bible study. Light refreshment provided.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawl ministry will meet Thursday, April 15 at 7 pm in the fellowship hall. if you haven't been vaccinated please wear a mask and keep your distance. We need to dedicate several shawls that have been made over the winter.

Easter Sunday

Easter service will begin at 11am on Sunday morning. You can join us in person, virtually, or from the parking lot on the radio. On Easter Sunday afternoon, each of the churches will have a flowering cross available, and your encouraged to visit each church and add flowers to the cross as a symbol of the resurrection. We'll all have Easter candy on hand for the children.

Drive Thru Community Soup Supper

Wednesday, April 14th at 5:30pm

Stay tuned to the weekly newsletter for the menu. If interested in volunteering contact Dave Hughes.

*The Norris Religious Fellowship
Annual Plant Sale*

*April 24
9AM to 1PM*



For sale will be a variety of plants that have been donated from the beautiful gardens of Norris.

Also, for sale will be Blue Bird boxes, Yard Art, and of course, the always popular Llama Poo, that will make your garden pop! As all of you Norris gardeners start working in your gardens, digging and dividing plants, we hope you will remember us and donate some of your spare plants to the plant sale. Plants can be dropped off at the church on Friday or early Saturday morning before the start of the sale. If you need help digging or transporting plants to the church, call the church at (865) 494-7131. We will also take donations of bird houses, pots and planters and other garden related items.

FOOD PANTRY

February Food Pantry Stats

154 Families Served
154 Families received USDA food
Average Family size in 2021 3.03
Average Family size in 2020 3.09

Families: 154
People: 430
Children: 109
Seniors: 115

FOOD PANTRY

Next Food Pantry,
Thursday, 4/22
Drive-Thru Only
8am-2pm

December Donation Focus:
Liquid Dish Soap

CLOTHING CLOSET

Now open on Tuesday's
By appointment only
10am-12pm
1 person per
family can shop
Face mask is required
**Call 865-494-9407 to schedule
an appointment**

BOOK CORNER STILL CLOSED

The Book Corner is still overwhelmed by bags and boxes of unsolicited donations. We simply do not have the space right now to accept any more books. If you are able to hold your donations, please do so. If you really need to get items out, please consider taking your books directly to McKay's Used Book Store and donate the store credit to the Book Corner. This would be greatly appreciated for when the Book Corner is able to open back up. Just drop off or mail the credit ticket to Norris Area Food Pantry Book Corner, c/o Norris United Methodist Church, PO Box 327, Norris, TN 37828. Another option to take them to KARM and mention "Norris United Methodist Church." Your donations earn gift cards which can be used for items we do not carry in the Clothing Closet or Book Corner. Thank you for your patience and cooperation. Happy reading!

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

All EC members were present along with guest members Susan Miller and Lee Borgers via zoom. Dr. Bill Ireland, minister, opened with prayer.

Last month's Minutes were approved.

- Financial Report: The congregational Budget vote had not enough votes to make a quorum. Some voters and members raised questions regarding not having enough information to vote. There were questions about individual accounts not showing in the report. Joan Hughes, treasurer said those questions will be answered after a financial assessment is completed. Joan has been talking to the Auditor. Bill said Hard Drive transfer needs to be done with the treasury files. Joan needs the transferred files. Joan wants to get this done with the Finance Committee and Susan Gawarecki. It should be a fairly quick transition once we have the information. Susan and Joan will establish a date to complete transferring records. Susan has agreed to be available to answer questions after the transition. After the FC meeting, then we will discuss the Audit. This motion was approved.
- Susan Miller, Benevolence Committee chair, needs to know how much money they have. The last 6 months in 2020 through year to date 2021 no money has been given to the Benevolence Committee. They used to receive 10%. They need money now for the Green Thumb Program. Community Action assists Anderson County with food and clothing. They give vouchers for seed and fertilizer so people can grow their own food. The last 2 years BC has given \$500.00 to Green Thumb. Joan said we need to go back to 10% for the BC. Joan said she will investigate to see what money we have for BC and will notify Susan M. soon.
- Alarm System: Joan needs the passcode to cancel the service. No one seems to be able to locate it. The alarm company will not act without the passcode even with the account number offered. Joan will continue working to find it.
- New Parsonage Contract: Emily Ott changed the dates and set the length for 3 months. Rent is \$1000.00 a month. Renters are responsible for keeping the property to area standards and repairs. Emily will send the revised contract to Ashley to print and the Petty's can sign it. Patti said the Petty's are comfortable with the new contract arrangement. They know they will have first refusal. Next month we will set a date for a Congregational meeting about the parsonage. It is imperative that we check with the congregation before making any decisions regarding the parsonage.
- Playground: Emily said the playground is great! Her husband will put a board up in a questionably unsafe area in the climbing area at no cost to the church. Minister's Report:
- Bill and Ginny will be out of town the week after Easter. Bill has arranged for a substitute for the first Sunday in May.
- Bill wants and needs to meet with the Music Committee to discuss hiring an organist/pianist.
- Lawn Service: After inquiring several services, Patti found Ed's Lawn Service to be the lowest bidder for the job. It was motioned that we use Ed's and approved.

The next EC meeting will be held in person April 8 instead of April 1 because of Maundy

Let's pray for each other.

A simple way to do this is
through our
Birthday Calendar.

April Birthdays

4 Evan Young
7 Nancy Mawhinney
8 Amy Bell
14 Ann Deatherage
14 Meryl Pierce
20 Ashley Goins
21 Jago Miller
21 Sarah Hendry
22 John Post
24 Lib Morgan
24 Michael Birdsell

Prayer Requests

For the family Buddy Rogers

Sophie Goins

Tiffany Evans

Doug Bean

The family of Rev. Gene Perry

Charlie and Pat Duncan

(Susan Bowling's in-laws)

Stacy Simpson-Duke

(friend and colleague of Parrish's)

Lib Morgan's grandson Jackson

Bridge Refugees

In order to be prepared for future refugees coming to this area we are stocking our refugee closet. If anyone has gently used or new kitchen items, bedding- sheets, blankets, comforters, new pillows, etc., cleaning tools, Kroger or Walmart gift cards (\$25) let Susan Miller know or put them in the refugee box in the narthex. We found a good sale on towels and have several sets ready to go.

***Join
us in
Prayer***



The BOND
Norris Religious Fellowship
PO Box 267
Norris, TN 37828

Check out our NEW web site at www.norrisrf.org

Log on & share the good news

of Norris Religious Fellowship in its faith journey.

Worship Services LIVE-STREAMING every Sunday at 11am at
www.youtube.com/norrisrf.