

THE BOND



February 2026

Newsletter of the Norris Religious Fellowship
Interdenominational Community Church

*"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

Lydia Barbour
Pianist

Ashley Goins
Administrative Assistant

Rachel Vann
Custodian

OFFICE E-MAIL
norrisrf
@comcast.net

WEBSITE
www.norrisrf.org

WATCH ONLINE
www.youtube.com/norri
srf

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday & Thursday

The season of Lent begins this month. Our observance begins on Wednesday, February 18th with the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. I hope you will mark this on your calendar and plan to attend.

For the season of Lent, I will be preaching on the "Seven Last Words of Christ" from a variety of Gospel texts. Here's the lineup:

February 8: "Father, Forgive Them" Luke 23:34

February 15: "Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise" Luke 23:43

February 22: "Woman, Behold Your Son" John 19:26-27

March 1: "My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?" Mark 15:34

March 8: "I Thirst!" John 19:28

March 15: "Father, Into Your Hands" Luke 23:46

March 22: "It Is Finished!" John 19:30

I encourage you to take some time each week to read these texts and reflect on them.

Grace and peace,

Bill

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet on the following Wednesdays via zoom at 7pm. Zoom info will be sent out in the Weekly Newsletter and via email the day of Bible Study.

February 4, 11, 25
March 4, 11, 18, 25
April 1, 8, 22, 29
May 6, 13 (?)

Norris Food Pantry

The donation focus for the Norris Food Pantry for the month of February is toilet paper. Donations can be placed in the box in the narthex

The next distribution will be held on Thursday, February 26th from 8-12 at NUMC.



Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap will meet on the following Fridays at Clinch River Brewery.

February 13, 27
March 13, 27
April 10, 24
May 1, 8 (?)

Clinch River Brewery
2045 Norris Freeway
Norris, TN 37828

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, February 24th at 2pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Ecumenical Youth Group

The Ecumenical youth group will meet on February 8th and 15th at 3pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Dollar Sunday

Sunday, February 8th

Offering will go to the Norris Area Food Pantry.

Supper Club

Meets on Monday, February 9th at 6pm at La Sierra. Join us for good food and a good cause. Please let Ann Lesar (574) 298-4949 know if you plan to attend so a table can be reserved.

Ash Wednesday Service

The season of Lent begins this month. Our observance begins on Wednesday, February 18th with the Ash Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m.

Study Group

Study group will meet Tuesday February 17th at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall for a study of Reading and Studying the Bible led by Sara Brubaker.

You are invited to a
BOOK FAIR
Author & Talk

**AUTHOR TALK
WITH
DON BELL**



12PM- 1PM

**LOCAL AUTHORS ATTENDING
WITH BOOKS FOR SALE**



Kim Zachman



Josh Anderson



Bill Ireland

Donations Appreciated

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE



7

MARCH

NORRIS RELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

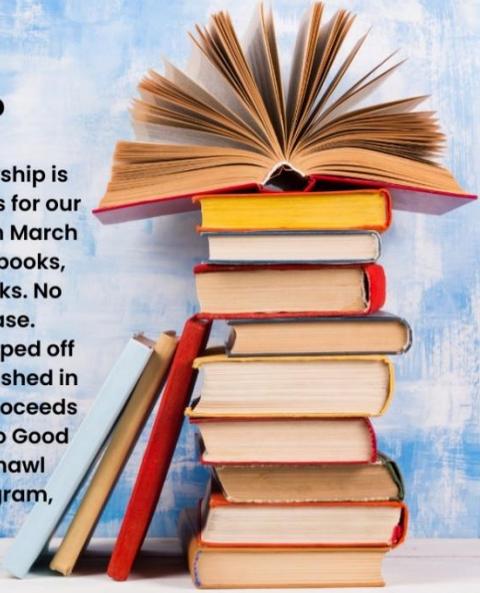
23 Dogwood Rd., Norris

9:00AM- 2:00PM

Questions: Contact NRF Office 865-494-7131

GOT BOOKS?

Norris Religious Fellowship is seeking book donations for our upcoming Book Sale on March 7th. We are accepting books, puzzles, and cookbooks. No encyclopedias please. Donations can be dropped off anytime in the storage shed in the back parking lot. Proceeds from this sale will go to Good Neighbors, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Garden Program, and VBS.



Women's Fellowship Meeting

There will be a Women's Fellowship meeting held on Sunday, February 15th following service. Discussion will include approving 2026 budget, Book Fair, appoint nominating committee, and upcoming programs.



CHAIR YOGA

Mondays & Wednesdays

FELLOWSHIP HALL | 10:00 AM

Church Directory

There will be a copy of the new Church directory in the narthex on Sunday, February 8th. Please take a moment to check your information and confirm everything is correct.

SCOUT SUNDAY





The Scouts started in 1934 under the Norris Recreation Program. They have had a relationship with our Church for 87 years. Sunday, February 8th the scouts will join us at Service and for fellowship after.

Seamstress Needed

Women's Fellowship is in search of a seamstress to complete a project for the women's bathroom. Contact Susan Bowling for more info.

Norris Religious Fellowship

Executive Committee Meeting **Minutes** from **January 8, 2026**

Members Present: Susan Bowling (Vice-Chairperson), Bill Ireland (Pastor), Louna Koeut, Al Lesar, Jake Mounger (Chairperson), Craig Shook (Secretary / Journalist)

Approval of Minutes from 12-4-2025 meeting: Al motioned for the minutes to be approved as slightly amended, Bill seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: A KARM trailer on Church property is fine with our insurance, and will be covered by their insurance as will anyone injured while entering or egressing from the trailer. The Auto Owners agent is searching for another company for us due to a \$3500/yr. projected increase. Good Neighbors discussion should wait until a future EC meeting.

Minister's Report: Bill is working on a list of names toward the formation of separate committees to review capital projects that will be needed for the facility at points into the future, and to examine ways forward for financial viability for those projects. The ecumenical youth group was discussed, and NRF will host them again in February or March. Ashley is working diligently on a new Church directory, which should be ready soon.

Women's Fellowship Update: Mary Shelton's health and any financial help that the Women's Fellowship can give has been discussed. Work on the Book Fair was discussed; Craig offered to take donated books left in the shed into the book room inside the Church each week when he takes the blue trash can to Dogwood Rd. and checks the recycling. Jesus, Elvis, and Cornbread made over \$800 for Good Neighbors and will likely become an annual event.

Old Business: The signing of a new lease agreement on the Parsonage was discussed. An exterminator was (or will be soon) here to address a mouse problem in the kitchen. Joan will check with our insurance company about a release form for other groups who use the building. The Boy Scout troop raked much of the leaves fallen in the Church's yard over 2 days, and Bill reported that he had a good experience communicating with HomeSmiles, who cleaned the gutters. Craig proposed an early discussion about a new ramp or steps for the shed, and for the handrail situation in the stairwell leading to and from the basement. The handrail project will need to go through the Building Committee or the new Capital Projects Committee first; we agree unanimously on the need. A center handrail was determined to not be feasible. The briefly lost record book of Ann Lesar's regular checks / maintenance for the defibrillator was found.

New Business: The KARM trailer location for the immediate lead-up to and aftermath of the Book Fair was discussed and, dependant upon its size and the location of a side door, will likely be left in the back parking area near the shed and not on the slope by the building. The authors for the Book Fair were discussed, and participants running for political office have been reminded that this is not a political event.

Event Dates:

Next NRFEC meeting- 2-5-2026

Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday Service: 7:00 p.m.

March 7 - 3rd Annual Book Fair: 9:00-2:00, with author speaker Don Bell 12:00-1:00

April 3 - Good Friday

April 5 - Easter

Submitted by Craig Shook



PRAYER REQUESTS

Kristina (Yvonne's Daughter)
Harriet Hensley
Mary Shelton
Sally Haverkamp
Carolyn Stribling
Howard Helton
Wendy Hall
Karoline Berg
Lois Wolfe

If you have a prayer request, you
may send them to the church email
at norrisrf@comcast.net.

Let's Pray for one another

A simple way to do this is through our
birthday calendar.

February Birthday's

- 2 Rick Rushing
- 7 Claire & Lily Goins
- 11 Mary Shelton
- 11 Marcia Evans-Slagle
- 13 Larry Beeman
- 15 Keith Haverkamp
- 15 Judy Ryland
- 16 Jennifer Moore
- 18 Caius Miller
- 18 Susan Gawarecki
- 19 Rachel Vann

Don't see your birthday listed?
please email the church office at
norrisrf@comcast.net

February Greeters

February 1st – Dave Hughes

February 8th – Tom Post &
Scouts

February 15th – Joy & Wren
Wilson

February 22nd – Paulette Booker

Coffee & Fellowship

February 1st - Lee Borgers

February 8th - Yvonne Webb

February 15th - Deborah Belford
and Kathy Decker

February 22nd - Wendy Hall, Tom
Post, & David Hughes