



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

**NORRIS RELIGIOUS  
FELLOWSHIP**

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OFFICE HOURS  
Tuesday & Thursday

# THE BOND



**October 2025**

Newsletter of the Norris Religious Fellowship  
Interdenominational Community Church

As we reviewed the Lord's Prayer this past Sunday, we ran headfirst into Jesus' assertion that we should address God as "Our Father." I recognize full well that for many, "father" is not an appropriate image for God. Sadly, many of us have lived in homes with abusive, domineering, and distant fathers. As a result, when we open our prayers with the word "father" we experience a flood tide of negative emotions. We may not say it in so many words, but we believe that "if God is anything like my dad, I want nothing to do with him!" If that is indeed the case, we need to use other words, words that bear warmth, intimacy, and genuine care. Jesus himself suggested in the Gospel of John that we address him as "friend." The point is our language, and our images can only take us so far when we describe God. As we speak of God among ourselves, we resort to human pronouns mostly out of habit and convenience. Sometimes we revert to the common shorthand to avoid clunky expressions and convoluted conversation. At the very least, let us at least be aware that the pronouns we use or the labels we use do not begin to exhaust divine reality. So, I urge you in your prayers to invoke God's presence in whatever terms that capture Jesus' insistence that God is indeed loving and caring.

Our giving has held up fairly well at times over the summer. Now, however, as we move into fall, we are indeed behind in our support for the work of our church. I realize full well that these are indeed uncertain times; the lack of stability in our economy has begun to make itself felt. Naturally, we do a bit of belt-tightening to ensure ends meet. Let me remind you, however, that ours is a bare bones budget. There are few places where expenses can be cut. Therefore, if we are going to meet our obligations, we all must do the best we can to ensure both our stability now and our thriving in the future. If you're behind in your giving, please catch up now. If you have some extra to spare, please consider an extra contribution to our congregation. And speaking of budgets, the proposed budget for 2026 will be emailed and mailed to you prior to our congregational meeting and potluck scheduled for Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.

We are on the homestretch as we anticipate our annual church bazaar on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Already we have collected nearly a room full of goods for sale, and we anticipate more to be given. Please make sure this important event is on your calendar. If you've not already done so, please check in with a member of the Women's Fellowship to see how you can lend a hand to this worthy effort.

Our ecumenical youth group has gotten off to a hopeful start. St. Francis Episcopal Church will host the gatherings for October on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Our turn to host will take place in November (more about that later). Please undergird this work with your prayers.

Grace and peace,

Bill

### **Bible Study**

Bible Study will meet on the following Wednesdays in the fellowship hall at 7pm. We will be studying the parables of Jesus.

October 1, 8, 22, 29  
November 5, 12, 19  
December 3

### **Norris Food Pantry**

The donation focus for the Norris Food Pantry for the month of October is bar soap & lotion. Donations can be placed in the box in the narthex

The next distribution will be held on Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8-12 at NUMC.



### **Theology on Tap**

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

October 10, 24  
November 7, 21  
December 5

Clinch River Brewery  
2045 Norris Freeway  
Norris, TN 37828

### **Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck**

The Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck dinner is scheduled for Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> after service. All are welcome. Bring your favorite dish to share.

### **Fellowship Breakfast**

Meets on Sunday, October 5, at 9 am at Shoney's. All are invited to join us for good food and fellowship.

### **Dollar Sunday**

Sunday, October 12

Offering will go to Quilts of Valor for material to make quilts for veterans. This is in preparation for Veterans Day in November.

### **Supper Club**

Monday, October 13, 6 pm at Litton's in Fountain City. Come join this group for good fellowship and food. Please let Susan Miller know if you would like to join us so we can make a reservation. Open to all!

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Tuesday, October 28, 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us to knit, pray, and visit.

### **Study Group**

Study group will meet Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:30pm for a study of The Beatitudes led by Ginny Ireland. If you would like to participate call or email the church office so we will know how many to plan for.

# Women's Fellowship

## Trick or Treat

The Fellowship will be participating in the Norris Halloween Trail this year. Joy Wilson and her daughter will be in charge of our treat station on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Please donate bags of individually wrapped pieces of candy. Place the bags in the container in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for helping provide a safe place to trick or treat.



## Jesus, Elvis, & Cornbread

There will be a planning committee meeting held on Sunday, October 5 immediately following service in the Church library.

## Wanted

When the tree next to the Sanctuary fell, the meditation bench was severely. It needs to be replaced. A donation of a new or gently used one would be greatly appreciated.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

10-5 – Norris Historical Society Presentation

10-12 – Women's Fellowship Meeting

10-19 – Annual Congregational meeting and potluck

10-25 – Norris Halloween Trail

11-8 – 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Bazaar

11-30-Hanging of the Greens

12-6- Jesus, Elvis, & Cornbread Dinner

12-14 – Annual Christmas Party Potluck & Sing-a-long

2-21 – Book Fair

4-19 – Plant Sale

5-5 – Tea & Bonnets

## Women's Fellowship Meeting

The Women's Fellowship will meet after Church on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> to finalize plans for the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Bazaar. We are still accepting donations except for books and clothing.

## Norris Historical Society

The Norris Historical Society will meet in the Fellowship Hall on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Speaker will be Avigail Sachs the Author of The Garden in The Machine. She will discuss the early work of TVA and the developing of Norris.



# ICE CREAM SOCIAL

THE ICE CREAM SOCIAL WAS A SUCCESS!! MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO PROVIDED ICE CREAM, COOKIES, AND BROWNIES. THANK YOU TO MICHELLE AND TERRY FOR MAKING HOMEMADE ICE CREAM! CONGRATULATIONS TO EMILY OTT, RHIAN KOEUT, ETHAN FERGUSON, AND ELI FERGUSON FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. WE APPRECIATE THE HELP OF THOSE WHO PREPARED FOR THIS DELICIOUS SOCIAL.





88TH ANNUAL

# Fall Bazaar

WHITE ELEPHANTS | LINENS |  
HOME GOODS | HOLIDAY DECOR |  
BAKED GOODS | SNACK BAR

**November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

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**9am-1pm**     **Norris Religious Fellowship**  
23 Dogwood Rd, Norris, TN 37828

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Proceeds support Good Neighbors, VBS,  
Norris Food Pantry, Prayer Shawl Ministry,  
and Green Thumb Garden Program



# Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

**Members Present:** Bill Ireland, Jake Mounger, Joan Hughes, Louna Koeut. Susan Bowling, and Lee Borgers.

**Approval of Minutes:** Joan motioned to approve, Bill seconded, motion passed.

**Financial Report:** Finance Committee came up with a budget for 2026 and with at least the cost-of-living raises. Joan has been talking to the Bookkeeper. She feels that she can do the work that we need done.

Proposed Budget: The 2025 budget was approved at a \$35,000 deficit. From July to December Joan expects we'll be about \$25,000 short. The 2026 budget is looking at a deficit of between \$30,000 & \$35,000. The Executive Committee voted to raise the rent on the parsonage starting in January. It is expected that insurance will go up in 2026.

**Ministers Report:** There will be Chair Yoga at the church soon. It shouldn't be a problem with the insurance as long as they're not paying for instruction.

The After School Program will not be meeting this fall.

Youth Group is set to start Sunday, September 7 at the Methodist Church. Bonita O'Dell will be in charge. The meeting will start at 3:00.

**Old Business:** Contract for Parsonage – Louna says its ready to go. It will run currently with the Calendar year.

The Nominating Committee has nominated Susan Bowling, Jake Mounger, and Al Lesar. Jocelyn Borgers was nominated for Assistant Treasurer. The election will be Sunday September 14.

Evaluation of Janitorial Service – Louna has done an overview of the items that need to be accomplished. Trash needs to go out every week, Bathrooms completely cleaned and refill paper products.

**New Business:** Insurance – Joan has been talking to a new insurance broker. He was going to send info about exposure and use. Both insurance companies were worried about the Boy Scouts. We decided to stay with who we have right now.

**Dates:** Sept 14 – Election of Executive Committee

Oct 19 - Congregational Dinner

Nov 8 – Bazaar

Nov 30 – Hanging of the Greens

Dec 6 – Jesus, Elvis, & Cornbread

Dec 14 – Potluck with Santa

**Next Meeting:** Thursday 2 October 2025





## PRAYER REQUESTS

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Sally Haverkamp  
The family of Dr. Douglas Lain Jr.  
Carolyn Stribling  
Howard Helton  
Wendy Hall  
Tom Post  
Paulette Booker  
Karoline Berg  
Lois Wolfe  
Mary Shelton

If you have a prayer request, you  
may send them to the church email  
at [norrisrf@comcast.net](mailto:norrisrf@comcast.net)

## Let's Pray for one another

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

### October Birthday's

4 Baylan Haverkamp  
7 Rachel Bakaletz  
10 Jenny Beeman  
10 Fern Haverkamp  
14 Jane Stribling  
21 Sarah Petty  
17 Joe Deatherage  
24 Nicole Mounger  
25 Opal Haverkamp  
28 Yvonne Webb

Don't see your birthday listed?  
please email the church office at  
[norrisrf@comcast.net](mailto:norrisrf@comcast.net)

### October Greeters

October 5<sup>th</sup> – Susan Bowling  
October 12<sup>th</sup> – Craig Shook  
October 19<sup>th</sup> – David Hughes  
October 26<sup>th</sup> – Lee Borgers

### Coffee & Fellowship

October 5<sup>th</sup> – Lee Borgers  
October 12<sup>th</sup> – Yvonne Webb  
October 19<sup>th</sup> – Kathy Decker &  
Deborah Belford  
October 26<sup>th</sup> – Wendy Hall, Tom  
Post, and Dave Hughes