

*"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.

Tracy Crouch Hubbs
Pianist

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

JULY 2021



NEWSLETTER OF THE NORRIS RELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

By the time you get this newsletter, we'll be in the thick of Norris Day activities and other July 4th celebrations. I certainly hope the weekend affords you many opportunities to enjoy the festivities. Nevertheless, leading worship during this time of the year has not always been easy. I have served churches that went all in on the 4th—so much so that the worship blurred the lines between worship of God and worship of country. The flag, rather than the cross, took center stage. I get uneasy when I see the lines blurred between the worship of God and the celebration of country. Don't get me wrong! I have visited enough foreign countries to know that I would rather live here than anywhere else. I'm also profoundly grateful for those who have sacrificed much to make this country what it is. Previously, when July 4th falls on a Sunday, I have attempted to strike a balance between gratitude for our nation and the fact that, as Paul says, "our citizenship is in heaven." I will strive once again to strike a healthy balance between those aims as best I can. I may not get it right, but I'll certainly try to offer my best.

Vacation Bible School is coming! It will take place July 26th-28th and will be a joint effort between our church, St. Francis Episcopal, Norris United Methodist Church, and St. Joseph Catholic church. Our theme is "Step into the Story" and will combine teaching with some fun activities. Here's the line-up and the costs:

Monday June 26th: our lesson will be on Noah's Ark followed by a trip to the Knoxville Zoo. Lunch served at 11:00.

Tuesday June 27th: our lesson will be on the parting of the Red Sea followed by a trip to Soaky Mountain waterpark in Sevierville. Lunch served at 11:00.

Wednesday, June 28: our lesson will be on the feeding of the 5000 followed by a cookout here at the Fellowship. Each participant will be encouraged to bring a donation for the Norris Food Pantry. Lunch served at 11:00.

We'll begin each day at 10:00 a.m. We'll finish Monday by 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Wednesday's session will end with lunch.

Vacation Bible School Continued

The cost per person will be \$65. *The deadline for Registration is July 20th!!*

Here's what we need from you:

- Chaperones for excursions
- Lunch service
- Grills and people to cook
- Zoo passes
- Donations to cover the cost of transportation, meals, and other expenses.

This promises to be an exciting opportunity for learning and fun. I'll be updating the details each week. In the meantime, should you have any questions, feel free to give me a call.

We're planning to do a parent/child dedication service on July 18. Please contact the church office no later than Thursday, July 15 to be included.

Supper Club

Supper Club will meet on Tuesday, July 13 at La Sierra at 6:30 pm. Everyone is invited to join in the fellowship. We will be passing an envelope for offerings for ADFAC as we have been doing. Suggested donation is 10% of your meal. Last month at Harrison's we collected \$113! It was much appreciated by the folks at ADFAC.



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FOOD PANTRY

Soup Supper

Following established tradition, there will be no Soup Supper during the summer months of July and August, but this popular event will resume on September 8th. Anyone who would like to become involved next season preparing a dish, serving, or cleaning up should contact the church office."

Bible Study

Bible Study will meet on Wednesdays at 7pm in the fellowship hall and via zoom.

***There will be no bible study on July 21st or July 28th**

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Ministry will not meet this month.

June Food Pantry Stats

170 Families Served
170 Families received USDA food

Families: 170
People: 466
Children: 122
Seniors: 132

FOOD PANTRY

Next Food Pantry,
Thursday, 7/22
Drive-Thru Only
8am-2pm

July Donation Focus:
Shampoo & Conditioner

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*

Study Group

The study group will meet on Monday, July 12 at 7 pm in the library. We will again attempt to watch the video about Rebekkah and discuss how she is important to our story.

Parent Child Dedication Service

We are planning to do a parent child dedication service on July 18th. This service is for all who haven't yet had the opportunity to participate in such a service and will focus on children of all ages. If you wish to be included in this service, please contact Ashley in the church office no later than, July 15th

AFDAC School Supplies

School is just out, but ADFAC is already planning for the next school year. We will have a box in the narthex to collect school supplies to donate to their backpack program. A complete list can be found in your weekly newsletter but it will include the normal things- notebook paper, comp books, folders, pencils, pens, erasers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue sticks, etc.

Bridge Refugees

Thanks to all who donated to Bridge to help the newest family from Congo to begin life in Knoxville. We expect that there will be more families coming throughout the summer, so if you are out shopping and find a deal on some kind of household needs, buy them and donate them. We have a small closet to store items. We need kitchen, bed, and bath items.

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes June 3 2021 Dr. Bill Ireland, Minister, Mary Shelton, Emily Ott, Patti Treece, Vice Chair, Jocelyn Borgers, Chair, Tracy Crouch-Hubbs, Secretary, Lee Borgers, member, and baby Wenavere were present.

Bill opened the meeting with prayer.

The May EC Meeting Minutes were approved.

- Financial Report: Susan Gawarecki and Louna Koeut are taking care of church deposits and paying church employees while we are searching for an accountant and a treasurer to get church finances in order. Bill said he had been in contact with Alliance for Better Nonprofits in Knoxville. They had been very helpful with information about accountants who work with churches. He has contacted several individuals and is awaiting their reply. These accountants would handle payroll, paying bills, bookkeeping along with tax information. We are looking to use such services for a few months and eventually give these duties back to the church treasurer. The EC plans on asking Louna Koeut to continue as our treasurer until we find a permanent treasurer.
- Alarm System: Emily was able to get in touch with ADT. The EC has been attempting to cancel this security service to save money. Patti made the motion to keep the church fire alarm but not the security alarm. Tracy second the motion and all approved. Emily said she will get more information about the system.
- Parsonage: After the last Congregational Meeting, the church consensus is open to selling the parsonage but unwilling to leave the renters without a home. The EC decided to extend the rental contract to the Pettys for a year until June 2022. The rent will remain the same amount of \$1000.00 a month plus repairs and improvements to the house. The renters will itemize repairs/purchases for rent. Emily will write the new contract and Email to Ashley, our church secretary for the Pettys to sign. The church will give the Pettys the first option to buy.
- Ministers Report: Bill suggested we have a parent/child dedication service. Dates are tentatively set for July 11 or July 18. Bill and Mother Mandy, of the Episcopal church, have been in discussion about having a community VBS for 3 days at the end of July. They want to use a story/play format. 1. Tell the story of Noah and go to the zoo. 2. Tell the story of crossing the Red Sea and go to a waterpark. 3. Tell the story of feeding the multitude and having a cookout. Bill would like to have a monthly observance of the Lord's Supper during the Sunday church service. Bill and Ginny will be going out of town to visit their daughter at the end of July.
- Church Usage Contract and Guidelines: Jocelyn will look for these in the by laws and provide the information.
- Nominating Committee: Patti contacted many members of the church and found the committee. They are Lee Borgers, Jim Ryland, and Susan Bowling.
- Taping off pews and Trinity hymnals: The EC decided it was time to remove the blue tape from the pews which was used for social distancing during the pandemic. The Trinity hymnals will be distributed throughout the pews in the Sanctuary.

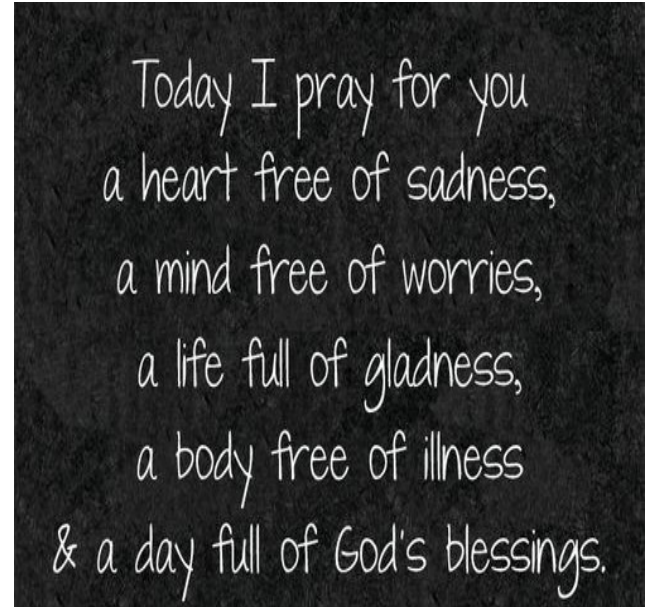
The next EC Meeting will be July 1 at 7pm.

Let's pray for each other.

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

July Birthdays

- 10 Patti Treece
- 14 Carolyn Stribling
- 20 Linda Fowler Smith
- 19 Noam Haverkamp
- 23 Howard Helton
- 28 Zachary Denmark



Prayer Requests

For the family of Hazel Simmons

Garret Futch

Becky Blackwell

Lloyd Farrar

Becky Blackwell

Doug Bean

Charlie and Pat

Duncan

*(Susan Bowling's
in-laws)*

*Lib Morgan's
grandson Jackson*

***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.