



*"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"

MAY 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORRIS RELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

Looking ahead...

Our study of Psalms has gotten underway, and we will resume on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m. We've generated a list of Psalms to cover, and I'm looking forward to working through some of our most revered texts. In each week's e-news I'll sketch the upcoming topics. Feel free to drop in any evening.

On Sunday, May 16th we'll be having a potluck and congregational meeting following the morning service. Plan now to bring your favorite dishes, and we'll enjoy a good time of fellowship and then tend to some congregational business. As we indicated in the recent announcement, we'll be exploring the future of our church parsonage, reviewing our plans for an audit, and electing delegates for the upcoming ICCC meeting in July. I'll close our time together by offering a preliminary sketch of a process to plan for our future. Lots of good stuff!

I'm pleased to announce that I'm doing the final edits of a book I've written. It's entitled *Driven: A Field Guide to the Wilderness*. The book contains my reflection on my journey over the last several years. It will be published by Smyth & Helwys, and I'm pleased this project is nearing completion. Reviewing my experience has made me aware yet again just how grateful Ginny and I are for all of you and what an honor it is to be in your midst.

Grace and peace,
Bill

Study Group

Women's study group will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, May 17 at 7 pm. We will complete our study of Holy Envy by discussing chapters 11, 12, and the epilogue. Ideas are welcome for our next study.

Bible Study

There will be no bible study on May 5th. It will resume as normal the following week.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, May 27 at 7 pm. All knitters and crocheters are welcome to stitch, visit, and pray.

Drive Thru Community Soup Supper

Wednesday, May 12th at 5:30pm

On the menu is chicken pot pie, Caesar salad, and dessert. Suggested donation of \$8 per person.

Drain Issues Solved

The problem with the sewer drain that we were having has been fixed thanks to Jim McGann, with assistance from David Hughes. Thank you very much for your time and work in taking care of this issue. The blockage in the drain was a cumulative effect, but please be mindful when working in the kitchen to prevent solids or grease from going down the drains.

-Patti Treece

The Norris Religious Fellowship Annual Plant Sale

*May 1st
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.

Congregational Meeting & Potluck

The Executive Committee has scheduled a congregational meeting for Sunday, May 16th following the morning worship service. This gathering will feature a potluck lunch, so please bring your favorite dishes!

Here are the items to be discussed:

- Exploring the future of the church parsonage. This item has been the subject of conversation in several of the Executive Committee meetings, and the committee would very much like to have the congregation's input before we offer a recommendation.
- The Executive Committee is recommending an independent "soft audit" of our financial records. Our last audit was performed many years ago, and in that time the church has undergone several changes in lay and ministerial leadership.
- The selection of delegates to the annual ICCC meeting this July in Dublin, OH.
- Some observations from Dr. Bill.

FOOD PANTRY

February Food Pantry Stats

144 Families Served
144 Families received USDA food
Average Family size in 2021 3.05
Average Family size in 2020 3.09
Families: 144
People: 418
Children: 122
Seniors: 102

FOOD PANTRY

Next Food Pantry,
Thursday, 5/27
Drive-Thru Only
8am-2pm

May Donation Focus:
Toothpaste and Floss

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**

Bridge Refugees



This is a photo of the items collected by our congregation for a Syrian family arriving in Knoxville this week. The Norris churches have been working together to gather household items to welcome refugees coming to this area through the Bridge Refugee Services program. Thank you to all who contributed to this project. We will be involved in preparing for more refugees, so think about us if you have kitchen goods, bed and bath linens, gift cards to Kroger or

Walmart in \$25 denominations, or cleaning supplies to donate. Nathan Kibler from St. Francis church delivered our things along with others.

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes April 8, 2021
All EC members were present along with guest members Lee Borgers and Susan Gawarwecki.
Dr. Bill Ireland, minister, opened the meeting with prayer.
The March EC Minutes were approved.

- Financial Report:** Susan Gawarwecki Jocelyn Borgers, chair, announced the 2021 Budget was approved with a Quorum. Susan stated we received \$1730.00 in donations. Income was up. It cost \$2,526.00 for the Minister’s move to Norris plus 2 nights stay at a hotel during the move. We gave a love offering of \$600.00 to Buddy Rogers' family. \$1300.00 was given to Heifer International to buy a pair of cattle and alpacas to help families in another country. We are in the process of ending our Security contract with ADT. Michelle Queener is the church’s point of contact on the contract and the passcode she recalled was not accepted by ADT. Michelle will check her files for another passcode, which will be needed to make changes to the contract. Susan said Joan Hughes is sufficiently trained as treasurer and will hand the books over to her. Susan said she hasn’t had time to update and reconcile the books. Susan explained she is having problems with Quicken to make the transition and hasn’t been able to download information to hard drive. Susan made the suggestion that Joan use Quick Books for Nonprofits instead of paying for an Audit. Susan also suggested we put money into a training course for Joan instead of an Audit. All the EC members believe we should proceed with the soft audit, but also explore software options as Susan suggested. Bill said the next step is to get the money to pay for the Audit. A check was written and forwarded to the Benevolence Committee for their annual donation to Community Action for the Green Thumb Project. Jocelyn suggests we have a meeting with the Benevolence Committee, Susan Miller, chair. Bill asked the EC to approve moving salary money to Housing Allowance. All voted and it was approved. Bill asked Dave Hughes to host food for the family of Janie Miller after her Memorial Service. Bill was unaware that the Women’s Fellowship normally provided that service.
- Minister’s Report:** Dr. Bill Ireland Bill said he’s been in touch with the Music Committee members, Wendy Hall and Mary Shelton to search for an organist/pianist and a choir director. Susan suggested contacting Lloyd Farrar.
- Community Vacation Bible School:** Emily Ott said we haven’t had one for at least 5 years. We were unable to get enough people to volunteer.
- ICCC Annual Conference:** The question was brought up about supporting and continuing being members of the ICCC. Lee Borgers said we wrote a letter asking for assistance with our current minister at that time, Karen Neeley. Lee said the ICCC wouldn’t offer any help. Bill said they did provide mediating. Bill said we need to support ICCC for advocacy. Jocelyn announced the ICCC Annual Meeting will be in July at Dublin Ohio. We need to fill out a form for delegates to vote. Bill said he will be attending.
- Parsonage:** We will have a Congregational meeting May 16, and one agenda item will be options for the future of the parsonage and how the membership feels about various possibilities. We are working on getting information for the congregation so we can vote. Loy Johnson recommends we get an appraisal. Bill said his niece is a real estate agent and will give a ballpark figure of it’s worth. Ashley will send a letter and email to the congregation regarding this information. The meeting will be held after church service on May 16 along with a potluck dinner.

Bill concluded the meeting with prayer

The next monthly EC meeting will be May 6 at 7pm.

Let’s pray for each other.

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

May Birthdays

- 1 Kat Haverkamp
- 4 Erin Haverkamp
- 4 Len Helton
- 5 Susan Bowling
- 9 Evergreen Haverkamp
- 9 Maggie Nathan
- 14 Hannah Simmons
- 17 Steven Bohanan
- 25 Finn Haverkamp
- 25 Fletcher Haverkamp
- 25 Joe Hughes
- 28 Bobby Tapp
- 29 Tracy Crouch-Hubbs
- 29 Zoey Deaderick

Prayer Requests

Hazel Simmons
Sophie Goins
Tiffany Evans
Doug Bean
Charlie and Pat Duncan
(Susan Bowling’s in-laws)
Stacy Simpson-Duke
(friend and colleague of Parrish's)
Lib Morgan's grandson Jackson

Weekly Children’s Lesson

Check out the weekly children’s
lesson from Dr. Bill by going to our
website www.norrisrf.org under the
publications tab.

*Join
us in
Prayer*

April 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 11am- Worship Service (In person & Virtual) | 5 6pm- Cub Scouts 6pm- Boy Scouts | 6 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Socially Distanced Gathering | 7 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Prayer Shawl Ministry (FH) | 8 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- EC Meeting | 9 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Prayer Shawl Ministry (FH) | 10 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- EC Meeting |
| 11 11am- Worship Service (In person & Virtual) | 12 6pm- Cub Scouts 6pm- Boy Scouts | 13 5:30pm- Soup Supper (NRF Parking Lot) 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Bible Study | 14 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Bible Study | 15 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Prayer Shawl Ministry (FH) | 16 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Prayer Shawl Ministry (FH) | 17 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Prayer Shawl Ministry (FH) |
| 18 11am- Worship Service (In person & Virtual) | 19 6pm- Cub Scouts 6pm- Boy Scouts 7pm- Study Group (FH or ZOOM) | 20 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Bible Study | 21 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Bible Study | 22 8am- 1pm- Norris Food Pantry Distribution (NUMC) 6pm- Cub Scouts | 23 8am- 1pm- Norris Food Pantry Distribution (NUMC) 6pm- Cub Scouts | 24 9am- 1pm- Spring Plant Sale (NRF) |
| 25 11am- Worship Service (In person & Virtual) | 26 6pm- Cub Scouts 6pm- Boy Scouts | 27 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Bible Study | 28 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Bible Study | 29 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Bible Study | 30 6pm- Cub Scouts 7pm- Bible Study | |
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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