



THE BOND



"One in the Bond of Love"

OCTOBER 2020

NEWSLETTER OF THE NORRIS RELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP

*"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.

Buddy Rogers
Pianist

Ashley Goins
Administrative Assistant

Dave Hughes
Custodian

OFFICE E-MAIL
norrirf
@comcast.net

WEBSITE
www.norrirf.org

WATCH ONLINE
www.youtube.com/norrirf

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday & Thursday
9-3

MEMBER of the
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
COMMUNITY CHURCHES

I want to thank you all for the gracious welcome you extended to Ginny and me as we began our ministry with you this past Sunday. Although socially distanced, we felt the warmth of your embrace! The future is very much on my mind as we begin our journey together. In this vein, I'd like to offer an outline of some of the things I'm planning for the near term.

First, it's imperative that we get to know each other. Personal and collective stories are the connective tissue tying our lives to each other and to God. Hearing your stories will enable me to understand how God has worked in your midst. For this reason, I'll work with our leadership to plan some occasions when we can get together for some informal conversation. Let me assure that our first priority will be your health and safety; we'll either meet here at church or via Zoom. For those who can't take part in either, I'll be more than happy to schedule some "front porch" conversations in a safe and convenient manner.

Secondly, one of the challenges for a new pastor is the absence of context for preaching. We don't know each other, and I have only the vaguest sense of what you might need and what needs to be said. Experience has taught me that it takes time for a preacher and a congregation to connect. I have to learn to speak to you, and you have to learn how to hear me. That takes time. Still, we have to start somewhere so for the remainder of this fall, my preaching will offer both an introduction to some of the things I think are essential for healthy congregational life as well as some of the ideas that have informed my faith. As well, since we're on the cusp of the "Hallow-thanks-mas" season, the holiday calendar will figure prominently in our worship. Here's the line-up of sermon topics and texts for October:

- October 4: "A House Not Made with Hands" Mark 15:53-62 (World Communion Sunday)
- October 11: "A Faith Story" Mark 7:24-30
- October 18: "Working the Core" Matthew 4:1-11
- October 25: "An Open Door, Many Adversaries" 1 Corinthians 16:5-9

I hope you'll take the opportunity to read each Sunday's text beforehand. I'd welcome conversation about these passages of scripture before and after our time of worship.

Finally, I hope that early in 2021 (God and COVID permitting!) we can embark on a process of discernment. Life never sits still, and we can either drift or do what we can to live purposefully. We are at our best when we have clarity about our identity and mission. Conversation and prayer around those ideas will enable us to live fully into God's dream for us, our community, and our world. In that light, I hope that one of the questions we will keep asking ourselves and God is, "What's next?"

Again, I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity we have together. You have honored me by calling me to serve as your pastor. You have my pledge that I will do my very best to serve you well.

Grace and peace,
Bill

Study Group

The women's study group will meet Monday, October 19 at 1 pm in the fellowship hall. Note new time we are trying for the winter months! We will discuss chapters 2&3 of our new book, Holy Envy, by Barbara Brown Taylor.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry will meet Thursday, October 8 at 2 pm at the home of Susan Miller, outside if the weather is good, in the sunroom if it is not.

Congregational Meeting

Normally the proposed budget for the next year gets presented to the Executive Committee in September so it can be presented to the congregation in October but as we are all aware this year has been anything but normal. The 2021 Budget presentation to the congregation has been delayed a month. The congregational meeting to present the proposed budget will be on November 22nd after church. If you have any concerns please let any member of the Executive Committee know, or feel free to come to the next Executive Committee meeting November 5th at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

DRIVE-THRU COMMUNITY SOUP SUPPER

WEDNESDAY,
OCT 14TH
5:30-6:30 PM

\$5 per adult and kids under 12 free.

Stay tuned to our weekly newsletter for the menu.

November 2020 NEWSLETTER— The BOND
Deadline to submit info to the office is
October 25th

Present: Michelle Queener, Chair; Susan Gawarecki, Treasurer; Jocelyn Borgers, Vice Chair; Louna Koout, Assistant Treasurer and Executive Secretary; Patti Treece,

Absent: Mary Shelton

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

presents

Harvest Bazaar Crafts

Hand crafted items,
Fall Plants & llama Poo,
Bird houses & Bat houses
Baked Goods
& Dog Sweaters !

Norris Farmers Market Site

Monday 3-6



Notes:

- August minutes were approved, and Treasurer Susan Gawarecki gave a complete financial report.
- The Executive Committee voted to continue to operate on the current 2020 budget. Our previously planned fundraising ideas, such as the Online Furniture Sale and Farmers Market Participation will now move forward.
- The parsonage has been rented and the income will greatly improve the budget.
- The Exec Committee voted unanimously to add Terry Queener and Jerry Crossno to Finance Committee. They will join Susan G, Louna Koout, and Jana Helton.
- Plans were made for the Yearly September Congregational Meeting to be held Sept 27th. Parishioners will receive a 2-week notice mailed on Sept 11.
- Chair, Michelle Leach reminded everyone that the Year End Committee Reports for Octobers Annual Congregational Meeting is coming up. If you are chair of a Standing Committee, please submit your reports to the Church Administrator as soon as possible.
- We spent time discussing how best to honor our Interim Co-Pastors and their successful healing ministry. Dustin will also be honored and appropriately thanked for his part in elevating our worship experience. Plans are in the works for an appropriate parting gift for all three and a nice outdoor farewell reception. The gifts and prayer shawls will be presented prior to Worship Service on September the 20th. Women's Fellowship members organizing the outdoor reception on the grounds are Kathy Decker, Janie Miller, Susan Miller and Penny Duerksen.
- Bob Gregory, the NRF Good Neighbors Coordinator, gave us a report on this year's plans for the Good Neighbors Ecumenical Christmas Food Baskets & Angel Tree Gifts. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to approve the church resources and spaces to support this very important ministry. Every precaution will be made to proceed safely and minimize and control any exposure risks. Masks and regular handwashing will be required, as well as regular enhanced cleaning. The first coordination meeting will be Sept 22 at 7pm. Drive through registration for food and children's gifts will be Saturday Oct 24th tentatively from 9am to 11 am.
- The next Executive Committee Meeting is tentatively set for October 1st. at 7pm. Executive meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted monthly on the Fellowship Hall Bulletin Board. If there are questions/concerns, please see any Executive Committee member.

“Be at peace among yourselves. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All members of the congregation are welcome to attend any Executive Committee Meeting. EC meets monthly from 7 to 8:30pm, tentatively on the first Thursday of each month. To address the committee, please submit your agenda to the chair. **Your presentation will be welcomed in the 8 pm time slot.** Please be considerate with regards to the length of your presentation. If necessary, ZOOM meeting id's will be emailed prior to meeting.

Only the development
of compassion
and understanding
can bring us the tranquility

-His Holiness
the 14th Dali Lama

picture:
September Morning Altar
"gratitude".



FOOD PANTRY

CLOTHING CLOSET NEEDS BEDDING

The Norris Area Clothing Closet is in need of bedding. This includes sheets, blankets, comforters, and quilts (all sizes). We are still having some work done in our storage area and space is an issue, so bedding is the only item we can accept at this time.

We hope to soon be able to open up and take other donations. Please save your winter clothing as we will need that soon. Please do not drop off toys or other household goods at this time. We have these and there is no storage space and no way to distribute them at this time. We will let you know when other types of donations are needed and when storage is available. Thank you for your cooperation.

FOOD PANTRY

Next Food Pantry,
Thursday, 10/22
Drive-Thru Only
8am-2pm

September 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 865-274-7304 to schedule

Lectors Needed

We are in need of lectors for Sunday services. If interested please email the church office at norrisrf@comcast.net or call 865-494-7131 so you can be added to our list of lectors.

We still need your support

Since making your contribution as you worship on Sundays is not available to you, please consider putting a check in the mail or consider using the online opportunity at www.paypal.me/norrisrf (It is safe and secure and only you have access to your personal information). If you choose to make regular contributions, an online draft from your bank may be set up by contacting the church or Susan Gawarecki, Treasurer.

Norris Religious Fellowship
PO Box 267
Norris, TN 37828

Good Neighbors

IF YOU, OR A FAMILY YOU KNOW, NEED HELP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

SIGNUP for the Norris Area Good Neighbors Christmas Food Baskets and Children's Gifts is **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 9AM -11-AM at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 3425 Andersonville Hwy, between Norris and Andersonville. Due to Covid-19 concerns, THIS WILL BE A DRIVE-UP REGISTRATION so please come prepared.**

- A. To qualify for food and children's gifts please bring:
- Proof, such as a utility bill, showing you are within the Norris Middle School service area.
 - Proof of household income or evidence you receive some form of public assistance.
 - A written sheet with:
 - Your full name;
 - Your full address
 - Ways to contact you: Phone number, (do you receive texts?), email address, neighbor's phone, etc. (This is important!)
 - For each person residing in your household: provide just their first name, gender, and age group: Child (0-17 years), Adult (18-54), Senior (55 or older).
- B. To request gifts for children 18 years of age and younger, residing in your household, and in school if old enough, (also on the written sheet) provide for each child:
- Name
 - Gender
 - Date of Birth
 - School (if school aged)
 - Clothing and Shoe Sizes
 - Gift Requests
- Please note that you may only sign up with one organization for Christmas gifts.
Be mindful that gift requests are fulfilled by individuals not corporate sponsors.

If you are unable to make the signup on October 24th, please call the Norris Religious Fellowship [494-7131] by November 1st and leave your name and number and someone will contact you.

ITEM 2:

WANTED: WORKERS FOR THE GOOD NEIGHBORS CHRISTMAS FOOD AND CHILDRENS GIFTS PROJECT
Members of the Fellowship established Good Neighbors in the mid-1930s. Since 1979, preparation and distribution of the food baskets has taken place at the Fellowship. Please mark your calendars with these dates and plan to help as you can (masks and distancing required).

Friday, December 11—obtain food. Saturday, December 12---sort food, Monday, December 14---fill boxes, and Tuesday, December---distribute the food (this will be a drive through with clients remaining in their cars).

ADDITIONALLY: Good Neighbors needs a Secretary (minimum work), and most importantly, someone to back up the Coordinator with the idea of one day taking over this important project (not hard but lots to learn). Contact Bob Gregory, 548-1705 or 494-7103 or robertgregory@hotmail.com with questions or to volunteer.

Standing Committees revised 7/2020

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

**Minutes should be taken at all Committee meetings and filed with the office. Year listed is the year term ends.*

Benevolence Committee (missions) leads in developing & administering a church benevolence program.
(20) Susan Miller (21) Ellalyn Crossno (22) Tom Post

Building/Grounds Committee supervises, maintains, repairs, and upkeepes the church buildings and grounds.

Patti Treece (grounds/garden) Tom Post (b/g) Debbie Simmons (g) Terry Queener(b/g) Kathy Decker (g) Jim Ryland (b/g) Jim Miller (b/g) Louna Koeut (b/g) Dave Hughes (b/g) Lee Borgers (g)

Executive Committee 7 members *elected in September for 2-year terms, Minister ex-officio member.
(20) Dr. Michelle Leach (Chair) (20) Louna Koeut (Asst. Treasurer) + (Corp. Secretary -Voting Member)
(T) Dr. Susan Gawarecki (Treasurer) (21) Mary Shelton (21) Jocelyn Borgers (21) Patti Treece

Education Committee Responsible for the education ministry of the church.

(20) Mary Shelton (21) Wendy Hall

Finance Committee 5 members * appointed by Executive Comte for 2-year year terms. Responsible for raising funds to support the overall mission and programs of the church.

(21) Joan Hughes, Treasurer (Chair) (21) Louna Koeut (Assistant Treasurer)
(21) Jana Helton (22) Terry Queener (23) Jerry Crossno

Intercessory Prayer Team Diverse group aware and praying for all small groups of the congregation.

Minister, ex-officio member. Ashley Goins, Michelle Leach, Penny Duerksen, Susan Miller, Linda Crouch, Mary Shelton,

Memorial Fund Committee distributes memorial funds, records & writes thank-you letters to donors and acknowledgments to families for contributions made to the church. Adds deceased names to memory book.

(22) Lee Borgers (21) Patti Treece (21) David Hughes (20) Michelle Leach

Music & Worship Committee Minister & Music Director are ex-officio members.

(21) Wendy Hall (21) Mary Shelton

Nominating Committee minimum 3 members (appointed by EC in June) nominates lay members of the Executive Committee and the Church Treasurer. Submits names to the EC in August, published in Sept. newsletter, and nominees voted on at the Sept Congregational Meeting.

(21) Tom Post (22) Alison Greenhouse (20) Lee Borgers

Technology Team has working knowledge of all electronic things needed for Worship, Funerals, Weddings etc. (microphones, sound equipment, projector/screen, downloading, recording, streaming)

(22) Louna Koeut (22) Rhian Koeut (21) Michelle Leach (21) Terry Queener

Ushers Assists with handing out programs, lighting and extinguishing candles, & general worshiper assistance.

(22) Len Helton (21) Dave Hughes (back-up/alternate) (21) Terry Queener (back-up/alternate)

Vision Committee steers growth and works on publications, brochures, and advertising.

Minister, ex-officio member (21) Michelle Leach (20) Susan Gawarecki

Visitation Committee (Joy Hayes Memorial Welcoming Team) A Minister guided committee of lay leaders to visit absentees, the suffering, & new prospects; delivering welcome baskets, food, prayer cards.

Minister, ex-officio member. (22) Dave Hughes, meals (21) _____

Youth Council for 4th grade and above; provides youth leadership and maintains communication with Ecumenical Youth Minister.

(21) _____ (22) _____ (23) _____

Reverend Bob Puckett, former Pastor of Norris Religious Fellowship, passed away on September 28th. Funeral Services will be held on October 22nd at 10:30am at Tellico Village Community Church. Please keep his family in your prayers.

Let's pray for each other.

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

October

- 10-4 Sam Simmons
- 10-4 Baylan Haverkamp
- 10-7 Rachel Bakaletz
- 10-10 Jenny Beeman
- 10-10 Fern Haverkamp
- 10-14 Jane Stribling
- 10-14 Bud Blackwell
- 10-15 Diana Stevens
- 10-21 Sarah Queener
- 10-23 Joe Deatherage
- 10-25 Opal Haverkamp
- 10-26 Alicia Rushing
- 10-30 Lucas Hietala

Prayer requests

The Family of Bob Puckett
Sarah Queener
Charlie and Pat Duncan
(Susan Bowling's in-laws)
Stacy Simpson-Duke
(friend and colleague of Parish's)
Lib Morgan's grandson
Jackson
Tiffany Evans
(She is receiving radiation treatments for breast cancer)
Janet Rains
(Susan Bowlings sister)
Christopher Wolfe
(Susan Bowlings Nephew)
Michael Kuehlan
Scott Hanley
Wanda Miller
(Janie Miller's sister)
Linda Crouch's grandson's
Perry
Doug Bean



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

Check out our web site at www.norrisrf.org

Log on & share the good news

of Norris Religious Fellowship in its faith journey.

Worship Services LIVE-STREAMING on the internet every Sunday at www.youtube.com/norrisrf.