

NORTONVILLE NEWS

SPECIAL PRAYER EDITION

LET'S PRAY...

BY PASTOR JOE

The Nortonville News is coming a few days early this week, because this is a special week of prayer. The first week in May has been designated a week of prayer by IFCA International, the fellowship our church belongs to. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we won't be able to physically meet together to pray as we normally would. But, in addition to your private personal prayer, I hope you'll take advantage of two opportunities for praying with others.

On Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. we have a prayer meeting on the telephone. Just call 616-258-2980, and then: to pray with the men, enter 543-233-614; to pray with the women, enter 201-429-18. This is our weekly prayer meeting. We will be praying following the prayer page flyer in this newsletter.

Thursday, May 7 is the National Day of Prayer. The theme this year is "Pray for God's glory across the earth." I encourage each saint to

call one other person and pray with them over the phone. You can follow the prayer page insert or just take personal requests from each other. Either way, prayer is so important.

Prayer is crying out to the LORD and asking for His mercy. And prayer is seeking the presence (the face) of God. Here is a wonderful promise about prayer that we can count on from **Psalm 27:7-8: "Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice! Have mercy also upon me, and answer me. When You said, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, LORD, I will seek.'"**

Thank you, saints of God, who continually call out to Him. It was through people of prayer that the Nortonville Chapel was formed so many years ago, and it is through people of prayer that God's work is carried out today. Let us respond to God by saying with the Psalmist, **"Your face, LORD, I will seek!"**

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

in Nortonville's History

Many interesting things happened in 1893: Thomas Edison completed the world's first movie studio in New Jersey; the first "zipper" for clothing was patented in Chicago; and New Zealand became the first country to allow all women the right to vote. But for some people on the southeast side of Spring Lake, the best thing that happened in 1893 was the construction of a church for the growing township of Nortonville.

Nortonville was a community which centered around the Norton Sawmill. The sawmill was a prosperous business, as thousands upon thousands of logs were floated down the Grand River every year and needed to be milled and packed for shipping around the growing population of the United States.

Although people found steady work at the Norton Sawmill, many were not attending a church, because there was no local church for the Nortonville area (east of Lloyd's Bayou and south towards the Grand River).

(continued on pg 2)

Bible Study of Romans
Tuesdays 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Through "Zoom".
Call 616-842-4285 to find
out more.



If you would like to watch our Sunday Services, search for Nortonville Gospel Chapel on Facebook or YouTube. You can see the video and discover more resources on our website:
nortonvillechapel.org.



NORTONVILLE NEWS

Even if you don't have internet, you can still be involved on Sunday by calling in and listening to our Sunday Morning Service while it's happening. Simply call **616-846-7309** at 10:45am on Sunday and you can listen to the whole service. We won't be able to hear you, so feel free to sing, pray, and read along with us.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS (CONTINUED)

A woman named Louise Deremo became burdened for the area because she recognized that many boys and girls were growing up unchurched.

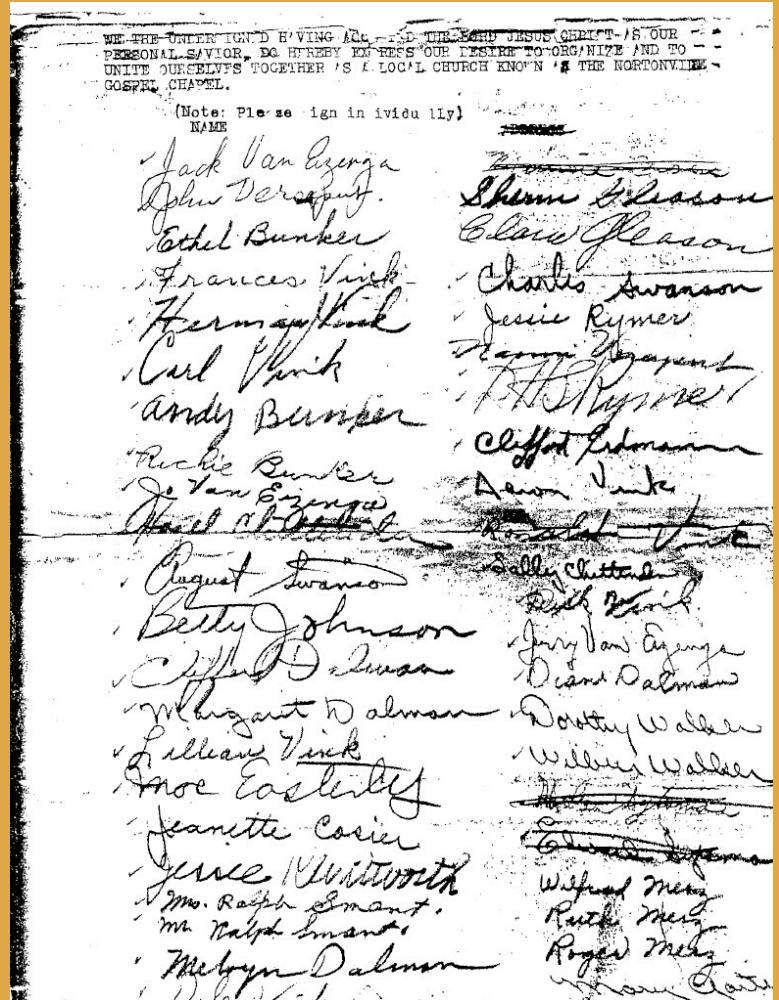
So Louise went to work, first contacting the people of her community and then organizing a Ladies Aid Society, with the main purpose of raising enough money and finding the right land so that a church might be constructed. Through prayer, work, ice cream socials, dinner socials, and quilting bees, God blessed the efforts of these faithful women. Mr. George Young donated a small plot of land near the corner of Leonard Road (then a 2-track road, called River Road) and 144th Avenue. In 1893, local volunteers constructed a small brick church with a bell tower which still exists today. The church was called Nortonville Baptist Church, and lovingly called "The Chapel".

The church began offering Sunday School on March 19, 1893, with 20 students and 6 teachers. The entire offering was 50 cents! The Sunday School ministry has met consistently over the years and has helped many in the Nortonville area learn the Bible and the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ. Worship services were held when preachers were available. These preachers were first supplied by the Spring Lake Baptist Church, and later by the local Presbyterian and First Reformed churches.

During the Depression and World War II, The Chapel suffered due to lack of money and disuse, but experienced a rebirth when Jack and Joanne VanEizenga, Andy and Ethel Bunker, Clifford and Margaret Dalman, Dewey and Hazel Chittenden, Sam and Jessie Rymer, Ira and Minnie Cross, Lewis Easterly, and Marie Borchers ("The Chapel Group") sought to establish a Christ-centered Gospel preaching home, and received permission to hold services in the vacant Chapel.

In 1945, building contractor Ed Borchers donated his services supervising restoring and rebuilding the Chapel. In 1955, Rev. John Versepunt helped organize the church meetings as a part-time pastor, and Sunday services and Sunday School became regularized. On May 1, 1956 the name of the church was officially changed to Nortonville Gospel Chapel to reflect the non-denominational view of the congregants.

Several part-time pastors served the Chapel until the first full-time pastor, Pastor Fred Brugger, was called in 1967. A new sanctuary was added in 1987, and an education wing in 2013. The emphasis of the church has always been to lead people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and to help them grow in their love for God and their fellow man. The church presently supports 16 local and international missionaries.



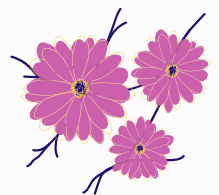
Recognize some of the above signatures? This document was signed when the church was renamed "Nortonville Gospel Chapel".

SERMON NOTES FOR MOTHERS DAY, MAY 10

"God Works Through Godly Moms"
2 Timothy 1:3-7

- I. It is a blessing to have a _____.
- II. It is a blessing to _____ God's Word _____ in life.

**Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold fast the
confession of our hope without wavering,
for He who promised is faithful"**



PRAYER SPOTLIGHTS

Please pray for our prayer spotlight people this week.



Ministry of the Week: Mario

Mario Audai Shaba is 9 years old and living in North Iraq. He and his family fled the Islamic State several years ago. Please pray that Mario and his family find their faith in Christ.



Board Member of the Week: Greg and Dianne Lunt

Greg and Dianne have filled many roles for Nortonville, including years working with the kids and teens of NGC. Greg currently serves as an Elder.



Shut in of the Week: Joan Thompson

Joan is an artist, and her talent is displayed in her home and in photobooks. She sells her work. She would like prayer to be able to return to church in spite of her physical issues.



Volunteer of the Week: Dave Mackenzie

Dave Mackenzie has blessed our church with plants and flowers, and also serves as a greeter. Please pray for Dave as he navigates making Godly decisions for his business during the pandemic.



Student of the Week: Lydia Reynolds

Lydia is 5, and loves school at home and playing with her older siblings. She loves to be outside. She is doing well medically, but continued prayers are always welcome.

John 13:35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

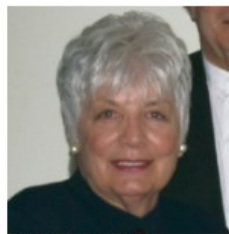
MAY BIRTHDAYS



Vickie Buckner
DOB: 5/2



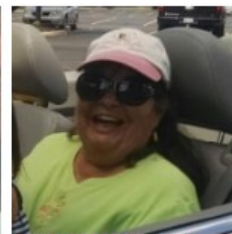
Dave Suchecki
DOB: 05/02



Lynne Hammond
DOB: 5/3



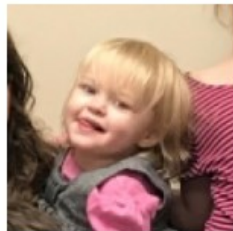
Jean Larr
DOB: 5/3



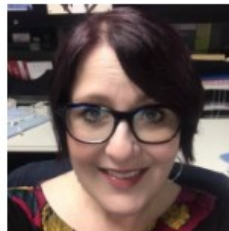
Mary Ann Willoughby
DOB: 5/5



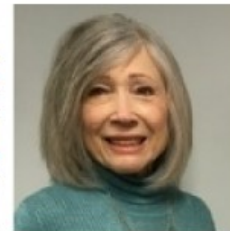
Ken Brondyke
DOB: 05/07



Sarah Ambrose
DOB: 05/17



Bridget Gazlay
DOB: 05/21



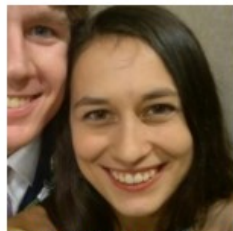
Linda Stellema
DOB: 5/23



Barb Bar
DOB: 5/24



Bailey Joy Pellegrom
DOB: 5/24



Abigail Hendrick
DOB: 5/28



Sue Vandenberg
DOB: 5/29



Donna Decan-Pranger
DOB: 05/31



David Ambrose
DOB: 06/02

SONGS FOR SUNDAY, MAY 10

God of Wonders

Lord of all creation,
Of the water, earth and sky,
The Heavens are Your tabernacle,
Glory to the Lord on high.

(Chorus)

God of wonders, beyond our galaxy,
You are holy, holy.
The universe declares Your majesty,
You are holy, holy.
Lord of Heaven and Earth
Lord of Heaven and Earth

Early in the morning,
I will celebrate the light.
And when I stumble in the darkness,
I will call Your name by night.

(Chorus)

Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth,
Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth,
Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth...
(Chorus)

Hallelujah to the Lord of
Heaven and earth,
Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth,
Hallelujah to the Lord of Heaven and earth...

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word.
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er.
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust Him,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend.
And I know that He is with me,
Will be with me to the end.

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er.
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

I Know Whom I Have Believed

I know not why God's wondrous grace,
To me He hath made known.
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love,
Redeemed me for His own.

(Refrain)

But "I know Whom I have believed,
And am persuaded that He is able,
To keep that which I've committed,
Unto Him against that day."

I know not how this saving faith,
To me He did impart.
Nor how believing in His Word,
Wrought peace within my heart.

(Refrain)

I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin.
Revealing Jesus through the Word,
Creating faith in Him.
(Refrain)

This Is Amazing Grace

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness,
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger,
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder,
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder,
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

(Chorus)

This is amazing grace,
This is unfailing love,
That You would take my place,
That You would bear my cross.

You lay down Your life,

That I would be set free,

Oh, Jesus, I sing for,

All that You've done for me.

Who brings our chaos back into order,
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter,
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.
Who rules the nations with truth and justice,
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance,
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.