

2016 Theme Verse: "So let us Know; let us press on to Know the LORD..." Hosea 6:3

Welcome to the Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk

January 3, 2016

Services Today at Grace —

Deacons & Elders & Wives' Prayer: 8:45am

Sunday School: 9:30am

Class: 3 - 5 yrs. old (Kinder.)
Teacher: Caroll Ann Perkins

Class: 1st - 3rd grade (KIDMO)
Teacher: Lisa Patton

Class: 4th - 6th grade (5A)
Teacher: Robin Predmore

Class: DRIVEN (Jr. & Sr. High)
Teacher: Timothy Lansing

Class: Adults (6B)
Teacher: Dave Goodwyn

Class: Adults (Conf. Rm.)
Teacher: Ron Muir

Class: Young Adults
Teacher: Vet Gonzalez

Praise & Worship Service: 10:45am

Children's Church for 3-5 years old & K-3rd grade after opening

Those Serving Today at Grace —

Ushers for the month of January:

Rob Kimsey, Victor Pearce, Ron Muir, Steven Yrineo

Nursery – Today 1/3

9:15am Josie Ramirez
Stephanie Jones
10:30am Sandy Goodwyn
Tracy Lansing

Nursery – Next Week 1/10

9:15am Jessica Yrineo
Judy Torres
10:30am Janine Lansing
Susan Klements

Happy Birthday –

Pastor Jeff Patton January 9
Caroll Ann Perkins January 9

Events This Week —

FAMILY NIGHT: ABS, DRIVEN & ROCK Wed., 6:45pm
Ladies' Psalms Study (6B) Fri., 10:00am
DRIVEN - Take Down Christmas Lights Sat., 8am-1pm

Events This Month —

DRIVEN – Student Leadership Sun., 10th at 12:30pm
Women of Grace (6B) Tues., 12th at 6:00pm
Missions Commission Meeting Thurs., 14th at 6:30pm
Prayer Table Sat., 16th at 8:00am
Ushers' Meeting (Conf. room) Sun, 17th at 12:15pm
Ladies' Discipleship (Patton home) Mon., 18th at 7:00pm
Elders' Meeting Tues., 19th at 7:00pm
WOMEN'S RETREAT TO SOLVANG Fri.-Sun., 22nd -24th

For The Record —

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday School: 44, Worship Service: 89

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR GREAT GENEROSITY IN 2015!

CALENDAR FOR YEAR 2016: If you have any events to be added to the church/wall calendar for 2016, please see Lisa Patton or leave a note on her desk in the church office (examples: communions, youth events, commission meetings, meals, retreats, etc.). Thank you so much.

Church Announcements

IT'S FINISHED! Please pick up your copy (one copy per family, please) of our **2016 CHURCH DIRECTORY**. They are located on the back table in the foyer.

USHERS' MEETING – Sun., Jan. 17th at 12:15pm right after the worship service; we'll meet in the conference room (Ron Muir's Sunday School room). Rob Kimsey

Special Speakers: we are extremely privileged to have Dave Guiles, the president of our missions organization, Encompass, with us on Sunday, Jan. 24th, and Ed Lewis, president of CE National, on Sunday, Jan. 31st. They will be preaching God's Word and sharing information with us. Please plan to attend these special worship services.

Thank You!

Pastor Jeff and Lisa, Tim and Janine, and Joey and Josie would like to wholeheartedly thank the church family for your generous love gift to us at Christmas. It was a wonderful reminder of how much we are loved and cared for by all of you, and of your sacrificial giving to care for our needs. It is indeed a joy and privilege to serve you and the Lord here at Norwalk Grace.

*"We give thanks to God for everyone's prayers and the meals we received. We appreciate all of you and cannot truly express just how much you mean to us; we are truly blessed."
Dennis & Leticia Posada and family*

"Thank you so much for all of your prayers, concerns, love and the gift basket. I don't have the words to describe how wonderful it is and how much you all mean to me." Joanna Selmanson

Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk
ELECTION OF OFFICERS
2016

Moderator , Ron Muir

Vice Moderator, Pastor Jeff Patton

Recording Secretary, Pauline Issa

Asst. Recording Secretary, Stephanie Jones

Financial Secretary, Leticia Posada

Treasurer, David Ward

Stewards

George Miller, Bob Stiff

Ron Morrow, Eddie Morales

Cheryl Sincock, Heather Reynaga

Auditors

Nancy Schlatter, Pauline Issa

Steward Secretary, Sandy Goodwyn

Chief Usher/Statistician, Robert Kimsey

The election of officers was approved on Sunday, December 13, 2015 for the year 2016. A special thank you goes to all our officers who continue to serve the Lord in these important positions.

"Addicted to God"

New Ways of Seeing and Walking Free

"The unfolding of Your words gives life; it gives understanding to the simple."

(Psalm 119:130) Addictions research needs something new. Its vision has been controlled for decades by one particular lens. And although this lens highlights certain features of the addictive experience, it can blind as much as reveal when it is the only way of seeing. Reducing all discussion about addiction to one image is sacrificing other helpful perspectives that can bring meaning and understanding. For decades the one and only and controlling metaphor when talking about addictions has been "addiction as disease" and this model has vehemently guarded its turf, not allowing any other metaphors or models to offer a different perspective. Troubling to biblical Christianity is the metaphor of "addiction as disease" is no longer just a metaphor. Addiction is not "like" a disease today, addiction "is" a disease today. This is vital for biblical understanding of addiction: describing addiction as "like a disease" does highlight the way we can feel controlled by something other than our own will, but it does not highlight that the bondage we experience is a voluntary slavery. A disease is "a diagnosable condition with a physical cause." Addictions do not fit this medical definition. Even AA says, "alcoholism is largely a spiritual disease requiring a spiritual healing." The physical and biological differences that addicts show have been proven to be the result of or influence of the addiction, not the cause of the addiction. Circumstances can influence, incline, and pull us toward chemical dependency, but they can still be resisted. Our influences are not our unavoidable destiny, which many addicts in recovery testify. Given all this about "disease" as a metaphor for addiction, a theology of addictions needs to consider other metaphors which spring from Scripture to help us and heal us of life-dominating sins. In this series we will consider five different biblical metaphors for addictive behavior: idolatry, adultery, foolishness, attacks by a beast, and then finally disease. Though the word "sin" is often used as a club to clobber sufferers over the head, we must remember it is part of the Good News: the Kingdom of God in the Person of Jesus Christ, and He has liberated the captives. This is cause for celebration. It is beautiful. It is the path of life itself. It is the path on which God never fatigues in extending grace and mercy. "The LORD longs to be gracious to you; He rises to show you compassion." **(Isaiah 30:18)** Beautiful gifts must be presented in the most attractive way possible, and so those who help addicts must know how to give God's beautiful gift of grace in an attractive way. As we shall see in this series, God's beautiful gifts of freedom and grace call forth a very active response from the one who receives. This gift of walking free and peacefully means "going to war with oneself." We will learn that there is a "mean streak" to authentic self-control, for even Jesus said, "Men have been 'forcing' their way into the Kingdom. And if your hand or foot causes you to sin, then cut it off!" **(Matthew 11:12; 18:8)** To truly "recover" from addiction, sinful addiction must be replaced with holy addiction, for addiction is merely a perverted form of worship. Are you ready to be "addicted to God?"



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