

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

May 29, 2016

Services Today at Grace —

Sunday School: 9:30am

Class: 3 - 5 yrs. old (Kinder.)
Teacher: Carol 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: Depression: Looking Up from the
Stubborn Darkness - Pastor Jeff's office

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 May:

Rob Kimsey – Lead; Vet Gonzalez, Andrew Cabrera, Ben Ramirez

Nursery – Today 5/29

9:15am Jessica Yrineo
Judy Torres
10:30am Janine Lansing
Sandy Goodwyn

Nursery – Next Week 6/5

9:15am Patty Morales
Jennifer Gonzalez
10:30am Dee Muir
Susan Klements

Happy Birthday —

Aaron Gonzalez May 30
Jay Patton June 1
Kenneth Oram June 4

Events This Week —

Have a blessed Memorial Day!

FAMILY NIGHT: ABS, DRIVEN & ROCK Wed., 6:45pm
Last Ladies' Psalms Study until August Fri., 10:00am
Heights of Grace Ministry Sat., 10:00am

Events Next Month —

Missions Commission Meeting Sun., 6/5, 12:15pm
Women's Bible Study (Beth Moore series) Mondays, 6:30pm
Church Work Day & Prayer Table Sat., 6/11, 8:00am
Graduation Meal Sun., 6/12, 12:15pm
Women of Grace Tues., 6/14, 6:00pm
No Family Night (DRIVEN will meet.) Wed, 6/15, 6/22, 6/29
Heights of Grace Sat., 6/18, 10:00am
Elders' Meeting Tues., 6/21, 7:00pm
Church Work Day Sat., 6/25, 8:00am
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – SUNDAY, JUNE 26th at 9:30am (5 Sun.'s)

For The Record —

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday School: 66, Worship Service: 110

Church Announcements —

MISSIONS COMMISSION MEETING is next Sunday, June 5th, at 12:15pm in room: 6B. We will be planning the Heights of Grace outreach activities for the summer. Please plan to come and bring a small snack to share. Thank you.

HEIGHTS OF GRACE outreach is planned for two Saturdays in June: 4th & 18th. Please meet at the church at 10:00am sharp. If you have any questions, see Vet or Jen Gonzalez. Everyone is invited to come and participate, even if this is your first time.

BREAKING FREE: A WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY WITH BETH MOORE: Ladies, join us this summer as we learn to break free from spiritual strongholds with author/teacher Beth Moore. God intends for us to know and believe Him, glorify Him, experience His peace, find satisfaction in Him alone, and enjoy His presence. Come be renewed and find freedom in Christ this summer. Invite your friends to join us! **WE'LL MEET AT CHURCH EACH MONDAY NIGHT FROM 6:30-8:30PM.** Dinner will be offered at 6pm each night for \$3/person. Participation in dinner is optional. Childcare is also available. **COST IS \$20 PER PERSON TO COVER STUDY GUIDE AND SUPPLIES.** Please turn in your \$20 and registration form TODAY to Josie or Janine. Thanks.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2016: The Ocean Commotion Vacation Bible School starts Sunday, June 26th and every Sunday through July 24th at 9:30am. Please see Laura Kimsey for volunteer opportunities. **URGENT NEED:** Children's Ministry is in need of a teacher for Jr. Church and 2-3 helpers for The Rock. Please see Laura if you are interested in serving in this extremely important ministry to children here at Grace.

CHURCH WEBSITE SUGGESTIONS

Dear Church family, here is your opportunity to give your thoughts on our new website that we are presently creating; all suggestions and feedback are greatly appreciated. Please check out Grace's "work in progress" website by seeing the link below:

s582943.sf81.sharefaithwebsites.net/

To make suggestions, you can write them below and tear off this side of the bulletin and place into the offering bag or on Lisa's desk in the church office, or you may send comments to Dave Ward's email address at:

DRWard0804@aol.com

Thank you so much.

Pastor

"Addiction"

*New Ways of Seeing and Walking Free -
Final Edition*

"The unfolding of Your words gives life; it gives understanding to the simple." (Psalm 119:130) We have been looking at how the Bible approaches addiction. The Bible's approach is far superior to the world's medical-biological approach which is not as wide and deep as the Bible's explanation. The world completely discounts the role of the heart, the soul, the center of worship, desire, and longing: all of which define addiction. What about those who seem to be stuck or regressing? Both the way to escape from bondage and to get up after a slip are the same. Repentance must be the first step, followed by remembering who God is and what He has done for us in Christ. Then we must learn again about our vulnerabilities, and get help to revise our strategy for battle. If a person is unwilling to participate in a wise plan, then we shouldn't hesitate to introduce whatever consequences are necessary – with the goal being to rescue rather than condemn. If someone has turned to Christ, really seems to have engaged in the battle, yet change seems slow, sit down and review the strategies for growth and change. Are they clear? Does he feel like he needs more help than he has been given? Does he still believe lies about God? Does guilt control him? If the person is truly willing to change, and if this desire is rooted in a growing biblical "fear of the LORD," God's power is certainly able to transform. If transformation is not obvious, the problem is either in the heart of the struggling person or in the lack of suitable help in the body of Christ – the Church.

Telling addicts to fight is like telling very anxious people to calm down: it might be good advice but it goes against everything in them. Addicts have been running from things that were hard – and towards things that felt good. Now we say, "Fight." It is not that simple, of course. Such a lifestyle change will take time to develop. Jesus commands us to sometimes take radical action to overcome sins which enslave us (Matthew 18:8-9). In comparison with His counsel, are our methods of waging war too tame? If so, it is because we think we are fighting a friend. We don't have the heart for the fight. Are we afraid to fight the way Jesus teaches us for fear that we will no longer have addictions as an insurance policy, as something that is there "just in case?" The addiction is in fact our deadly enemy. God is our friend who gives us pleasures that last and light that only gets brighter. **"How priceless is Your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of Your wings. They feast on the abundance of Your house; You give them drink from Your river of delights. For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light"** (Psalm 36:7-9). Addictions promise pleasures, but end in agonies. We must learn to fight, and yes we will experience the pains of battle, but we will end up with delights!



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