

Welcome To

Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk
11005 Foster Rd.
Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 863-7322

2018 Theme Verse: “And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
~**Colossians 3:17** ESV



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Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk

April 29, 2018

Services at Grace

Sunday School 9:30am

Nursery (newborn thru 2)

3-5 yrs old (Kinder)

Teacher: Caroll Ann Perkins

1st-6th Grade (Kidmo Rm)

Teacher: Robin Predmore

DRIVEN (Jr & Sr High)

Teacher: Timothy Lansing

Young Adults (Music Rm)

Teachers: Tim R & Matthew C

Adults (Conf Rm)

Teacher: Dave Goodwyn

Praise & Worship Service 10:45am

Guest Pastor: Mike McIntyre (Chaplain at Union Rescue Mission)

Serving Today

Nursery: SS – Jennifer & Clansy Worship – Robin & Katie

Nursery is available throughout the services for infants through 2 years old

Children's Church: 3 years-Kindergarten – Stephanie & Bennie; 1st-3rd Grade – Steven & Jessica

Children are excused immediately after our time of singing praises to our Lord.

Worship Leader: Joey Ramirez

Youth Leaders: Tim & Janine Lansing

Ushers: Richard Hurtado-Lead

Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

May 6 & 13 Rick Cartagena, Pastoral Candidate

May 20 & 27 Pastor Mike Jentes (from Los Altos GBC/Encompass Rep)

We welcome our guests today and if you are new to Grace and/or are looking for a way to connect and serve, text the word "CONNECT" to 562.444.1211 and we will text you occasional updates and happenings at GRACE. We are so glad you are here today!

Events this Week at Grace

FAMILY NIGHT: DRIVEN, ABS, & ROCK

Elders/Wives Prayer Meeting

1st Quarter Business Meeting

New River Good News Club

Johnston Good News Club

Every Wed, 6:30pm

Every Sun, 8:45am

Sun, April 29, 12:30pm

Tues, May 1, 2:30pm

Thurs, May 3, 2:30pm

Upcoming Events

Elders/Deacon/Wives Prayer Meeting

CE staff will be worshipping with us

(TK, Jesse DeBoest, Art Buchan)

Vacation Bible Club Workers Meeting

Vacation Bible Club

Sun, May 6, 8:45am

Sun. May 6

Sun, May 6, 12:15pm

July 9-13, 9:00am-12:00pm

Upcoming Combined Sunday School Hour:

May 20 Wayne Patton (our Missionary to Brazil)

Wayne and Ellen Patton will be with us from May 14-21. We are looking for someone to house them for the week. Also if anyone would like to have them over for lunch or dinner one day that week, please see Vet Gonzalez.

Pastoral Search Update!

After many months of praying and planning, the Pastoral Search Committee has begun to make some initial phone calls and emails. They will be reaching out to folks within the Charis Fellowship (GBC) during the month of April and ask that you continue praying that God will point them to the man that He is preparing for us in Norwalk.

Church Announcements

Happy Birthday to

Robin Predmore

May 3

Chris McDougall

May 4



Time Travelers Wanted July 9-13!

Vacation Bible Club is approaching and we are looking for lots of volunteers! Join us for this fun and exciting week of outreach to the community. If you are interested, please see Janine Lansing or Josie Ramirez! **There will be a VBC worker's meeting on May 6 right after the morning service for those who would like to be involved. Lunch will be provided!**

Women of Grace Upcoming Schedule

Women of Grace has some upcoming dates

May 8th at 6:00pm – Chapter 5, weeks 1-5

May 16th at 6:00pm – Video and potluck with Wayne and Ellen Patton and a regular WOG meeting. Men and women from the church are invited if they wish to meet again with Wayne and Ellen – just bring a potluck dish to share!

June 12th at 6:00pm – Chapter 6, weeks 1-5

June 19th at 6:00pm – Video, discussion and regular WOG meeting. This is our last meeting, then will resume on September 11th at 6:00pm.



For the Record:

Attendance Last Week:

Sunday School: 43

Worship Service: 69



What's
in
Your
Garden?

Mother's Day...what a perfect time to
examine your Garden.
But what garden are we speaking of?
Please join us...

Community Grace Brethren Church
5885 Downey Ave.
Long Beach

Saturday, May 12, 10am-noon
Cost: \$10 each
Lots of delicious food, Prizes and
a "Favorite Hat" contest!

Don't forget to wear your hat!

Please complete and give to Josie Ramirez for food planning:

Name # _____ # _____

From CE National, Women of Grace:



I CAN TRACE GOD'S FINGERPRINT

In any ministry, change can be challenging. We are thankful God has provided a new Women's Leadership Studies Coordinator to take the place of Amanda Paragon, who will be focusing more on facilitator and curriculum development responsibilities. We'll let her introduce herself:

Hello! My name is Josie Ramirez. I am a native of Southern California. I was born in a semi-Christian home. My mom was a believer; my dad came to know the Lord when I was five years old.

Looking back, I can trace God's fingerprint over my life in many ways since I was very young. The fact that I grew up without a mother was one of the most definitive moments. It took me some time to adjust to and appreciate God's goodness.

My parents told me that I came to know the Lord when I was five. However, I was always troubled by the fact that I could not remember how I came to the Lord. When I was 16, I had a serious talk with the Lord, just to be sure. I still remember that day so vividly!

My mother died after battling cancer for 6 years. I was eleven. Loss is never easy, but looking back, I can see that God had a plan, even if the plan was not to my liking. It was necessary to mold me into who he wanted me to be. I recently read in a Bible study by Melissa Spoelstra that God cares more about our character than our comfort. Boy, was that ever true in my early years! And it still rings true today.

One of the things my mom did to prepare for my future was to put me in a Christian school. It became my home. The staff was a tremendous catalyst in developing my walk with the Lord. I went to the same school from kindergarten through 12th grade. The women there were such wonderful examples of being Jesus to others!

When I was going into the 7th grade a new teacher was hired. Wouldn't you know it, she had already walked where I was walking! She too had lost her mom at a young age. Coincidence? Definitely not! It was God's beautiful plan.

She was such a great example of relational ministry. She spent a lot of time with me, letting me help set up her classroom, piano lessons, and she always made me peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. What sweet memories! The key in all of it, though, is that she invested of her time.

Time is one of the things we as humans crave. Extra time to do things, more time with a loved one, etc. Being intentional with my time with others is a model I try to follow in my ministry. I do regret never having had the chance to know my mother, and I do at times feel sad that I missed out on so much. But I find comfort in God's presence, and peace in knowing that His ways are not my ways. He is such a good Father! He never allows anything in our life that He cannot use for His glory.

Because of this life change, I started ministry at the very young age of 11. First I helped my dad with his bus ministry, then spent some time in music ministry and transitioned into teaching children. For the past few years I have been working with women. I have learned many things over the years, but the most important thing I have learned is that ministry equals relationships.

As I mentioned before, that was something that was modeled in my life when I was young. Even though I did not realize it then, that would become the key model for my ministry. I found when I began working with women that if I spent time doing what they enjoyed, it was the best way to bring out really good conversations.

I have some interesting stories about my relationship-building adventures. For example, I had a friend who began attending our church. I really wanted to get to know her better outside of Sundays and Wednesdays. So I said, "let's hang out sometime soon." Little did I know that instead of coffee and donuts, she would choose lap swimming at the local pool!

Now swimming is a great exercise and a perfect way to cool off. However, I had one small problem. I am terrified of water! My husband lovingly reminded me that in our weakness God is strong. I definitely grew closer to the Lord in 13 ft of water, but most importantly, I made a wonderful friend who now serves the Lord faithfully.

I really believe that relationships are the best way to reach others to Jesus, and the best way to disciple people. We can see throughout the Bible that the Lord modeled that for us in His ministry here on earth.

After doing ministry for a few years, with only on-the-job training, I had the privilege of meeting some of the ladies from the Women of Grace USA board. They were scheduled to come to our church to speak about updates to Woman of Grace. They shared about the Women's Leadership Studies classes. I was so intrigued by those classes!

I never thought it would be possible for someone like myself, who had no real ministry training, to participate in these classes. I thought, "I have to try to get in on this class."

My first class was Methods of Effective Bible Study and Teaching. I was nervous to take this class and had to overcome my self-doubt in order to go.

The class was absolutely wonderful! I learned so much! I was able to put in to practice much of what I learned almost immediately. I even did two classes back to back. I enrolled in the Women in Scripture that was being offered the following weekend in Spanish. I had expected that these classes would be over my head, but the teachers were down-to-earth and I was really able to grasp the lessons.

I was really motivated by the fact that they offer a certificate in Women's Leadership from Grace Seminary. Going back to school is more than likely out of reach for me, and I am able to use my training as a Spanish Interpreter for expanding my ministry reach, but knowing that I could attain an official certification in Women's Leadership was very encouraging to me.

After taking those two classes, I decided I would like to participate in the Facilitator Training Classes offered at Grace Seminary that summer. The week spent there was a little bit of heaven. The knowledge I gained was immensely valuable to my spiritual life and my ministry.

I am excited to see what the Lord has planned for this new journey. He has been immensely gracious to me in so many ways. Aside from carefully orchestrating my early years, He has blessed me with my very own little family, which includes my wonderful and supportive husband, three beautiful children, three dogs, and a cat. I treasure the time I get to spend with my family, which usually involves a lot of really loud talking and laughing and just being silly. In my quiet time, whatever that is, I enjoy reading, crocheting or crafts of any kind.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Woman of Grace, and I look forward to meeting many new ladies and hearing what God is doing in their lives.