

# The Spire

Noroton Presbyterian Church ■ [www.norotonchurch.org](http://www.norotonchurch.org)  
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Dear Friends,

Over the years the Book of Psalms has become a trusted companion on the journey of faith and in my life of prayer. Rather than having one or two favorites, I have come to love the way that so many of them express the various emotions that we experience in life.

One Psalm that has spoken into my life over the years is Psalm 121. This Psalm (along with Psalms 120-134) is believed to have been recited or sung by the faithful on their journey to Jerusalem. It begins by asking a question about the source of our help in life. It then affirms who the Lord is, what the Lord does, and what the Lord will do. One verb that is repeated throughout the Psalm is "watch over." It can also be translated "guard" or "keep" and is expressed both in the present and the future tenses. The main idea is that God exercises great care over us.

Why is this important? Because the Lord is aware of what is going on and what will go on in our lives. In addition, we therefore can live in hope that the Lord is committed to care for us in the midst of our lives individually and in our life together as NPC -- even in the midst of transition.

In the past twelve months, we have said goodbye to a senior pastor, eliminated an associate pastor position, and most recently eliminated several positions on the church staff. We also face financial challenges. None of these are easy. They each give rise to a host of emotions. And yet God sees this and knows this. God knows our emotions – the joys, the challenges, and the struggles. And God is exercising great care over this congregation – whether we feel it or not, because that is who God is and that is what God does.

I want to express my deep gratitude for the commitment and faithfulness with which Val Muller, Julie Colbath, and Jen H. have served this congregation. If you have been impacted by their ministry over the years, please send them a card or a note to tell them how much their ministry has meant to you. Let's keep them in our prayers.

In these next two months, and beyond, I believe God will continue to watch over us and care for us. We will be winding down some of our programs for the summer and gearing up others (VBS, Mission Trips, etc.), enjoying worship on Weed Beach, thinking about vacation plans, and moving forward in our journey with the Lord -- individually and together. I encourage you along the journey to take some time to read and reflect on Psalm 121.

Peace,  
Pastor John H. Seiders  
*Interim Pastor*

### Worship Schedule

8:00 am - Chapel  
9:00 & 10:30 am Sanctuary  
5:00 pm Horton Hall (ends 5/21)

### Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

**Sermon Series:**  
*Living Like a Christian*

5/7 - TBD  
5/14 - Pastor John Seiders  
5/21 - 8 and 5 pm TBD  
**JAM Musical -**  
**"Space Quest"** at  
9 and 10:30 am  
Last 5pm service until Fall  
5/28 - Pastor John Seiders

### Sermon Series: *Living in the Spirit*

6/4 - Pastor John Seiders  
6/11 - Pastor Jimmy McPherson

### Summer Schedule begins 6/18

**6/18 (only)**  
8 am Sanctuary  
10 am Chapel  
Pastor Brandi Drake

**Beginning 6/25**  
8 am Weed Beach  
10 am Chapel

**Sermon Series: *Summer Playlist***  
6/25 - Pastor John Seiders

### Table of Contents

Adult Spiritual Formation.....	2-3
Caring & Women's Ministries .....	4-5
Children's Ministry.....	6-7
Youth Ministry.....	8-9
NPCC & NPNS .....	10-11
Music and Fine Arts .....	12
Mission Ministry .....	13
Congregational Life.....	14-15
NPC News .....	16
Calendars .....	insert

# Adult Spiritual Formation

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## National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 4, 2017

8am to 5pm in the Chapel

*"O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act!*

*For Your Sake, O My God..." Daniel 9:19*



Join with millions of others across the country on May 4<sup>th</sup> for the 66<sup>th</sup> annual National Day of Prayer. This year's theme is **For Your Great Name's Sake! Hear Us... Forgive Us...Heal Us!**

Many of us were re-awakened to God's call in our lives and to the needs of our community through the gift of service on the second NPC Service Day. Whether you served, received, or witnessed this event, God's loving power was on display.

We invite you once again to come together as a church and join in praying for our mighty God that his powerful hand would be at work among us:

- That each of us individually would be daily drawn closer to Him.
- That NPC would continue to be a beacon of Christ's love in our community.
- That the needs of our community and those we encounter on a daily basis would be met.
- That His hand would guide our country, its people, and its leaders.

All are warmly welcomed for quiet reflection in the Chapel at any time between 8am and 5pm on May 4<sup>th</sup>. You can either pray from an available list of community needs or simply bring to God what is on your heart. Come as you are and stay as long as you like.

Can't make it to the Church? We invite you to pray where you are. God has given us the incredible gift of direct access to Him through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*"Upward falling. Spirit soaring. I touch the sky when my knees hit the ground."* Hillsong United

For information about its mission, please visit [www.NationalDayOfPrayer.org](http://www.NationalDayOfPrayer.org).

National Day of Prayer brochures from the website are available at NPC.

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## Interested in Joining the Church?

Our next New Members class is Saturday, June 10 from 9:00-12:00.

Professional childcare provided for children over 3 months old.  
Church will welcome new members on Sunday, June 18.



# Adult Spiritual Formation



In Acts 8:26-40, we read about a man who traveled to Jerusalem to worship and while on the journey home is reading what we know to be the Old Testament book of Isaiah. When asked if he understood what he read, the man replied, “How can I unless someone explains it to me?” I don't think he's alone in this sentiment.

Like this traveler of long ago, when we sit down today to read our Bibles what we are reading is confusing and difficult to understand. We too look for someone to help explain it to us—and for such an audience of would-be Bible readers, the Adult Spiritual Formation team offers the “Reading...” series.

Our next installment of the series, **Reading Acts—A Three Week Journey**, will be held on three consecutive Sundays: May 7, 14, and 21 from 11:45 am-12:45 pm, with encore classes the following Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30 pm. Class participants are encouraged to bring a Bible to class, and friends are always welcome, as we come together to explore the New Testament book of Acts.

Looking ahead to summer, you are invited to be part of the **Sunset Reading Group** at Weed Beach. This five-week series will be a time of great conversation centered on an important book in an incredibly relaxed summer atmosphere. The reading group will meet at 7:30 pm each week for five consecutive weeks beginning on July 20<sup>th</sup>.

This summer we are reading and discussing professor and theologian Dr. Marty Folsom's book: "*Face to Face, Volume One: Missing Love*". From the back cover: "*Face to Face* is about personal relationships. Everyone talks as though they want one, but most of us are missing the strategies to live with this intimacy, especially with God."

Online registration (so that we can track and communicate with participants) for the reading group along with a reading schedule bookmark will be available beginning in June. Looking forward to being in conversation with you this summer!

Pastor Jimmy McPherson  
*Associate Pastor of Spiritual Formation*



## Midweek Studies for Men

**Wednesdays  
7:00 am**

**at the Sugar Bowl:**

Led by different men from the group gathering for breakfast, fellowship and reflection on a passage of Scripture.

## **THURSDAY MEN'S STUDY**

**7:00 am** in the  
Schreiner Mission Room  
(*Last Day, Thursday, May 25*)

# Women's and Caring Ministries

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*To everything there is a season...*  
Ecclesiastes 3

*I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener...  
every branch that bears fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful...  
No branch can bear fruit by itself: it must remain in the vine.*  
John 15

## Women's Studies

### **6:15 am Women's Bible**

**Study:** Tuesdays at  
6:15 am in the Parlor

Topic- *Old Testament Prayers*

### **9:15 am Women's Bible**

**Study:** Tuesdays,

9:15 am in Horton Hall

Topic- *Discover Your Gifts*

(Childcare available- registration  
required.)

### **MOPs is at NPC!**

**Meets: May 3, 17, 31.** Mothers

Of Preschoolers meet every

other Wednesday from 9:15-

11:30 am. What to expect:

Breakfast (snacks for the little

ones), Speakers, Small Groups,

Crafts and Childcare. Email

[darienmops@gmail.com](mailto:darienmops@gmail.com) to RSVP

or for more information.

### **Moms of Teens** book study

group. The group meets on

**Thursdays** from 12-1:30 pm

in the SHAC. We invite you

to join this group and come as

often as you are able. The group

is led by Laurie Bessey and Sallie

Schmidt.

This past year in the life of the congregation, I've been especially aware that we're in a specific season. It has felt like a season of pruning.

Pruning is not fun. Have you ever pruned a Peony plant? The first time I tried it, I was convinced my favorite plants would die. In my New Jersey yard one Fall, I felt like I'd killed them all. But sure enough, that next Summer, the plant grew back with strength and large, beautiful blooms. It made the pruning much easier the next year.

As Spring unfolds around us here, I feel relief. And yet—this season of the church still feels like a season of painful pruning. I am grateful for the thoughtful leaders of the congregation who are willing to enter difficult conversations. I am grateful for the ministries of Val, Julie and Jen.

In his book, *Spiritual Rhythm*, past Noroton Lecturer Mark Buchanan considered the spiritual seasons of our lives. I picked it up last month and was reminded in the book that trees don't bear fruit all year long: One must wait for most of the year and tend to the plant, trusting and waiting.

I wonder what that means for us. What does it mean for us to be faithful in a time with fewer resources? In a time of pruning?

My prayer for us in this season is that we will be bold and that we will be able to build one another up in Christ- with the sure and certain hope that the Holy Spirit is in our midst- doing more than we could ask or imagine in our own strength. And my prayer is that our eyes will be open, to notice all the miracles along the way.

Thanks be to God for this beautiful community.

Pastor Brandi Drake

*Associate Pastor of Caring, Mission, Outreach & Women's Ministries*

# Women's and Caring Ministry

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## Monthly Adult Fellowship

(for those in their 50's, 60's, 70's +)

*Adult Fellowship is committed not only to fellowship, but also to providing information, fun and friendship.*



Many thanks to Stella Clarke, Director of Mission for her presentation in March on preparing us for NPC Service Day which took place on April 30 and to Maplewood Senior Living in Darien for hosting our group in April.

Plan to join us for the following scheduled events:

**May 18, 2:00-3:30:** Pastor Jimmy and Gary Morello, Associate Minister of First Congregation Church Darien will talk about "Darien United."

**June 15, 12:30 Luncheon:** Susan Demark, a member of our church is an occupational therapist. Her goal is to promote safe engagement and independence in life as we age. She has worked with in-patient rehabilitation for people who are recovering from illness as well as in assisted living facilities.

For more information contact Marlene at [marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marlene.moffett@norotonchurch.org), phone 203-309-5620 or Marion at [marion.smith@norotonchurch.org](mailto:marion.smith@norotonchurch.org).

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## Faithful In Prayer



*He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a **firm** place to **stand**.* –Psalm 40:2

Did you know that every 10 days, a small group of folks from our church family meet together to pray specifically for the life of our congregation? We call the group Faithful in Prayer (taken from Romans 12:12).

It has been a sweet season of reading scripture, sitting in silence, and interceding for the various ministries of our community.

There can never be too much prayer: Please know that you have an open invitation to join us. The time commitment is one hour—drop in when you can and stay as you are able. Here are our meeting times in May and June: Tuesdays at 7:30 pm, and Saturdays at 7:30 am. We meet in the church parlor.

Tuesday, May 2  
Tuesday, May 23  
Tuesday, June 13

Saturday, May 13  
Saturday, June 3  
Saturday, June 24

I am convinced that in this season of our life together, it is essential for us to remain faithful in prayer.



# Children's Ministry

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## Minute with Mickie – Wondering about how to keep your family connected

May and June 2017 can be an amazingly busy time for families in Fairfield County. There are sports activities, Memorial Day weekend, Mother's Day, graduations to prepare for, end of school, and summer vacation plans to make. And then, from what I remember, there is that crazy job of "out with the old-in with the new" changing of the clothes in the closets. The more children you have the bigger that job is as you sort through what fits, what doesn't, who should get the hand-me-downs, and then shopping for new clothes that work for summer activities. I get it! It's a busy time. Traditionally, from my 40 years of Christian Education church experience, after Easter through until mid-June, Sunday school attendance gets smaller and smaller. Yet, for me and the Children's Ministry staff here at NPC, these last few weeks of Sunday School are what we would hope would be celebrations of the culmination of all that the kids have learned this year. My job, my passion, and my calling from God, is to try to find creative ways to keep our church families connected to the church, to each other, and to Christ all year long, in busy seasons and non-busy seasons. So I want to tell you how I try to do that.

Each week, families receive an E-blast that outlines all the different activities that happen at the church that would be fun to attend – keeping you connected.

- Any DAY, you and your children can go the [www.npckids.com](http://www.npckids.com) and watch Bible Stories being told with a variety of videos of either me telling a story or professional Bibleteller John Walsh at [www.Bibletelling.org](http://www.Bibletelling.org) - keeping us connected.
- Any DAY, you can visit [www.npckids.com](http://www.npckids.com) and download the Bible story for the week ALONG WITH easy to do Family Friendly WONDER Activities to do at home, or even in the car – keeping us connected.
- From May 6-June 18 your children will visit various Activity Tents during 9:00 and 10:30 to participate in creative activities that match the story being told that week which matches the Sermon in the Sanctu-

ary. AND you will receive a Parent page that explains how you can keep the concept of that Biblical story alive all week long -keeping us connected.

- On MAY 4 – The Children's Ministry Team is providing a **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** to teach you and your children how to incorporate PRAYER into your daily life. Pizza dinner, and then FIVE Activity Tents with various Prayer Style Practices will give you a fun way to learn together. This fits with The **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**. Now is a good time to make this a priority – keeping us connected.
- June 19-23 **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!!** Don't forget to sign up – registration closes on June 1st. [www.npckids.com](http://www.npckids.com) SEE Ms. Liz's article.
- All summer long – please take pictures of what your family is doing and post to our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Npckids-254933534603353/](http://www.facebook.com/Npckids-254933534603353/) or send them to me via email [mickie.odonnell@norotonchurch.org](mailto:mickie.odonnell@norotonchurch.org) - keeping us connected.
- NPNS Preschool families are invited to join us on the Beach on June 25 so that their children can join me to sing our Chapel Songs and teach these songs to the NPC worshipping family. What a fun connection!

Finally, between now and June 18 join us in Horton Hall on Sunday morning. Participate in what your children are learning and doing, it will keep you connected with them so that you can keep them connected with their faith journey all summer long! See you at VBS.

See you Sunday!  
Mickie O'Donnell,  
Children's Ministry Director

## Why Do We Do VBS?

Do you ever wonder why NPC does Vacation Bible School (VBS)? Seriously! Of course it's a safe fun place to have kids that week between school ending and camp beginning. Sure, it's a great way for us to enjoy your children – and the snacks...oh the snacks! But...is that why we do VBS?

With all of the other things going on in church life in the 21st Century, perhaps, VBS is still one of the most effective tools we have to reach not just young boys and girls, but older youth and yes adults, to teach them (or teach them more) about Jesus. What a wonderful amazing way to reach kids, families and our community for Jesus. Relationships are created, reinforced and renewed, Jack and Sarah (our Youth Coordinators) get the chance to connect with some faces that they may not get to see that often. Adults interact with other adults that are outside of their normal circle. So much more happens at VBS than teaching the kids about Jesus. SO much more.

For some - it is only at VBS during this special, amazing time of the year, that many children and families can experience all that God wants to accomplish because of NPC's full commitment to this unique summertime event. For some, it is only at VBS where they hear the story of salvation and come to know about the living Lord Jesus. Only at VBS can truths be introduced which will give them much more than a great week in the summer. It could change their lives – and their eternities.

For some – it is reinforcement for all of the above.

VBS is wonderful, but how can it be all that it can be? It can't if we don't have you.

We understand that time can be short in busy schedules, stress or simply the feeling of working with topics

that are completely unfamiliar. We understand that it takes commitment and responsibility. But if we accept it as the privilege it is and plan so that excellence can happen, imagine the possibilities!



We, your church staff, are committed to help make this happen but it is a church-wide support effort – the more the support the better the impact.

So please prayerfully consider your impact. There are all sorts of opportunities but where we need the most help is in the leader roles – whether as a station leader or a crew leader. While you are at it – pray for God to lead us in this eternity-altering effort. Pray for each part of this important experience – the preparation, the leaders and teachers, the church members, the families, the children who will attend, their parents and siblings, safety and good experiences during the week, a commitment to follow-up, and for God to be honored by the way we do His work.

Go to [www.npckids.com](http://www.npckids.com) – peruse through the different leadership roles. See what interests you. We train, we will guide you throughout and I promise you – it will be an AMAZING experience for not just for the kids – but for you.

Lastly, and most importantly, with your help, children, parents, whole families, and the entire NPC body will know and love the Lord more than before. That is what makes VBS the best week of the summer, that is why we do VBS.

Liz Morelli,  
*Children's Ministry Associate and Admin*



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## Vacation Bible School!

**MONDAY, JUNE 19 - FRIDAY, JUNE 23**  
from 9 am -12 pm

GO TO [WWW.NPCKIDS.COM](http://WWW.NPCKIDS.COM) TO LEARN MORE.

Both camper and volunteer registrations are open!  
**So sign up!**

## Meet our Summer Intern, Ann Duncan



### **Tell us a little bit about yourself:**

I'm from a suburb of Chicago and have lived in three different regions of the nation and love to travel! God is the biggest priority in my life and I love to see him in the diversity of humanity, in his creation and in the arts. My energy and love for life have been enormous gifts from God.

### **What are you most excited about when it comes to working with youth?**

When it comes to working with youth I am the most excited about getting to spend time getting to know them and having fun with them. I fully believe that God made us as relational human beings who need to have fun and deep laughter. We're going to laugh a lot, have good conversations about what it looks like to be a child of God today and enjoy summer together.

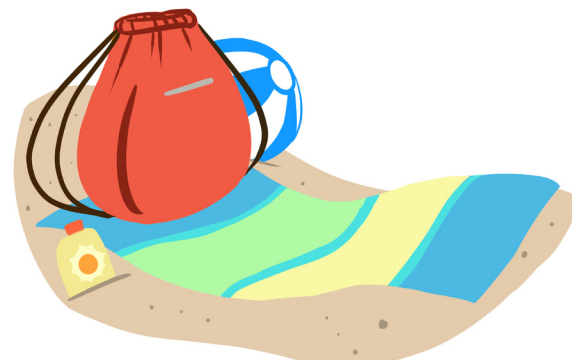
### **What are you reading these days?**

These days I am reading *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, for fiction and fun. Yes, I am a bit of a nerd. There is something deeply beautiful about the sacrifice, love and dedication of the characters in this story. I am also reading *Keep Your Love On* by Danny Silk, which talks about the need for good boundaries and communication in relationships. This book has been helpful in my own growth.

### **What do you like to do when you're not attending classes or work?**

When I am not attending class or work I love movies, reading, getting out hiking, having dinner with friends, watching sports, playing tennis (when winter finally leaves), going to museums. In short, I love to explore, try new things, especially with others.





### **COLLECTION FOR DUNLOW**

The youth ministry is collecting new beach towels and draw string packs to be donated to the Dunlow Community Center this summer. Items will be collected throughout the months of May and June, and will be delivered in July.

Donations can be dropped off outside the Children and Youth Ministry offices in the specially labeled collection boxes. Thanks!





## 06820 - Our Darien

Have you seen the posters or postcards with the Darien zip code overlaid on provoking images? This is not a mistake.

These materials were meant to capture your attention. In 2008, the Thriving Youth Task Force was formed and began the process

of surveying Darien middle school and high school students using the “The Search Institute’s Resources and Assets Survey”. The Youth Task Force is made up of town officials, community leaders, school administrators, church leaders, and human service professionals—and I have had the opportunity to participate in this task force over the course of this last year. Data from collected surveys revealed an increase in risk factors and risk behaviors related to substance use, something that this task force is working to remedy.

Because of the three rounds of surveys administered over the past eight years, and well developed and established Thriving Youth Task Force, the state of Connecticut awarded the Community Fund of Darien

a grant to address the increasing rate of binge drinking and risk factors contributing to this increasing rate (binge drinking is defined as 5 or more drinks in two hours for males, and 4 or more drinks in two hours for females). These risk factors include peer norms that encourage and accept underage drinking, and family norms that accept and encourage underage drinking.

The goal of this campaign is to educate parents and students about the health risks associated with teen alcohol use, making an informed decision. **06820, Our Darien**, is the campaign that has been launched in an effort to achieve our goal of creating awareness and education around teen alcohol usage. This campaign was endorsed by several community organizations, including the Session of Noroton Presbyterian Church. It is the goal of the task force to see decreasing rates of alcohol usage in the coming years.

Sarah Swible,  
*Middle School Ministry Coordinator*

## It’s Almost Here: Summer Plans 2017



We are so excited for all of the exciting plans we have in Noroton Youth Ministry. The biggest thing we wanted to make you all aware of is our Parent Meeting May 21 right after the 10:30 service.

To the right you will see a number of save the dates for Summer. If you want more details about these please to go [www.norotonyouth.com](http://www.norotonyouth.com) or talk to Jack or Sarah in the youth office. Thanks!

Jack Hein,  
*High School Ministry Coordinator*



### Save the Date

**May 21** - Parent Meeting

**June 21** - Summer Kick-Off

**June 25** - Lake Compounce

**June 27** - HSM: Summer Nights  
(Weekly Program)

**June 28** - MSM: Summer Nights  
(Weekly Program)

**July 2** - Family Grill Series pt 1

**July 8 -16** - West Virginia  
Mission Experience

**July 23** - Goin’ Outdoors



## Learning Through Dramatic Play

One of the most popular areas in our classrooms is the dramatic play area, where our children imagine themselves in different roles and situations in everyday life. What is like to be a Mom, a Doctor, or a Construction Worker? What conversations do they have? How do they help other people? What work do they do? As children explore these and other questions...

**...they learn about themselves and their world.** Often times their play helps them to learn about the likes and dislikes, as well as the interests and abilities, of themselves and others.

**...they work through confusing or unfamiliar issues.**

Through role play, children become more comfortable and prepared for life events, such as visiting the doctor, in a safe way.

**...they cultivate social and emotional intelligence.** There is no substitute for imaginative play when it comes to teaching and practicing the ability to recognize social cues, regulate emotions, negotiate, and take turns.

**...they synthesize knowledge and skills.** Dramatic play incorporates various learning areas. When you run a construction company, for example, it is an opportunity to practice your measuring and your knowledge of building.

Pretending isn't just a fun activity for children... it's critical learning activity. It is a way for children to better understand the people in their world... it helps them to imagine what it might be like to walk in someone else's shoes.

Peace and Joy,  
Beth Aparicio  
Director of NPCC



Doctor Emma with her patient, Gracyn.



Grace parenting her baby doll.



Construction workers Morgan, William, Kellan and Rebecca.





What an amazing year NPNS has had! The joy that each child brings into the school on a daily basis is felt throughout the hallways and classrooms. Laughter and giggles, sharing of ideas, learning from one another, comforting those when they are sad, celebrating birthdays and births of new siblings have filled our year.

The children have asked questions and, together with their teachers, have researched answers. They have explored bridges and birds, built birdhouses, created new safety signs for the school hallways, discovered Picasso and Matisse, learned about construction from John and Paul at the site across the street and designed and built their own buildings. In addition, they have learned about animals, created their own super hero's, acted out stories and written their own. It has been a year filled with growth and they are all ready to move on.

As we come to the close of this year and look forward to the celebration of our 60th year next year, I find myself reflecting on how many hundreds of little lives NPNS has touched over the years. From the very beginning, when we only had a small handful of children to what has now become a much larger and amazing community. Each child and family who has entered into the doors of NPNS has left a lasting impression on the teachers and their classmates, and if we have done our job well, we have touched yours.

We at NPNS wish you all a blessed summer filled with questions to answers and explore.

Blessings,  
Kalie Riordan and the  
NPNS teachers and staff





# Music and Fine Arts



## Coming Up...

**Sunday, May 21st** – Our J.A.M. Children's Choir is presenting their annual musical in the 9:00 and 10:30 am Sanctuary services. This year's musical is **"STAR QUEST,"** about a galaxy far away, in the not too distant future, the starship Star Quest J-316 is on a mission, spreading God's love in the greater Omega Galaxy. Paper has become outdated, and all written communication is now digital. Believers in the galaxy rely entirely on their Cyber Bibles, and have forgotten the outdated practice of Bible memorization. When a villain begins deleting the Bible database, our heroes attempt to recall as many verses as possible from their own memories.

Please plan on coming to support our NPC children and also to hear some great music!

**On Sunday, June 4th** we will have our annual **Choir Appreciation Sunday**. Our Chancel Choir is in fine form and loves to sing praises to God. Once a year the choir picks their three favorite anthems from the choir season and presents them in the 9:00 and 10:30 am Sanctuary services. If you've been thinking of singing with this wonderful group of people, early May would be a great time to start. Our choir is a very loving and welcoming group, so join us!

Blessings,  
Dwayne Condon,  
*Director of Music and Fine Art*





# Mission Ministry



Open Door Shelter, Norwalk



Pivot Ministries, Bridgeport



Young Life, Darien



Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Darien



Nambale Magnet School, Kenya

## Ministries We Support

NPC provides funding to help support the ministries listed below, please keep them in your prayers.



- Open Door Shelter, Norwalk
- Pivot Ministries, Bridgeport
- Young Life, Darien
- Hopeline PRC, Stamford
- Feed My Starving Children
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Darien
- REACH Youth New England
- Forman Christian College, Pakistan
- Nambale Magnet School, Kenya
- Teamwork Ministries, City of Hope, Tanzania
- World Vision, Palmera ADP, Dominican Republic

Please continue to provide encouragement, support and prayers for all our NPC partners and continue to serve where you feel called. If you would like to learn more about a particular ministry that NPC supports please get in touch. There are always more ways to connect if you find you have a passion to give more time to serve our local mission partners.

Detailed information can be found on the NPC website under the Serve heading on the home page.

Contact Stella Clarke, Mission Director for more information or to volunteer for opportunities mentioned above.

## Mission Ministry Events

Open Door Shelter meal ministry continues monthly and our NPC team always welcomes new volunteers age 16 and above. Contact Holly Hough [hough7@optonline.net](mailto:hough7@optonline.net) to sign up. Service dates are May 20 and June 17.

Stella Clarke,  
Mission Director



Teamwork Ministries, City of Hope, Tanzania



World Vision, Palmera ADP,  
Dominican Republic



# Congregational Life Ministry

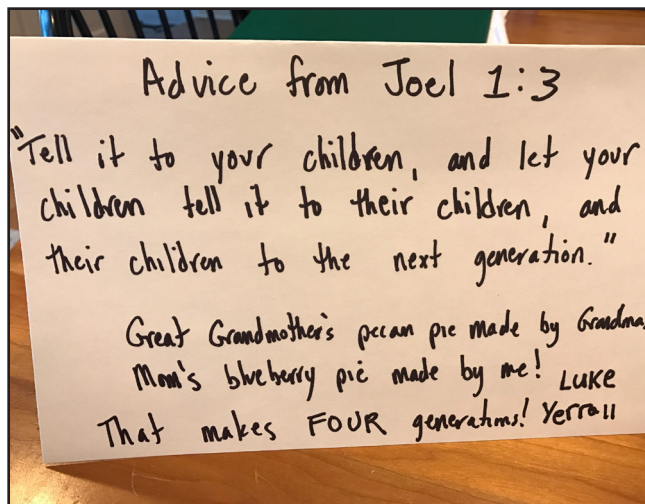
## First NPC Pi€ Bake-Off!



As host team, we wish to *THANK* the twenty-eight (28) chef-participants who competed for 'category favorite' prizes in our first-ever Pi€ Bake-Off!

We were delighted that the entries were split-down-the-middle in terms of 'savory' and 'sweet' ... thus providing a 'balanced meal' consisting of pie beginning-to-end!

- 14 'savory' pies –ranging from meat-based, egg-based, veggie-based (and only one pizza!)
- 14 'sweet' pies – 6 fruit-based, 5 creamy-based, and 2 pecan pies!





# Congregational Life Ministry

We were pleased to welcome-back many carry-over chefs (from our previous Chili Cook-Off events), AND a number of new participants! Can't beat that!

Tasting/judging events provide a great forum for folks to mingle and get a chance to talk to multiple people in attendance, so it was a great evening of fellowship.

We had individuals, families, and friends step up to be chefs ... including a multi-generational entry (using great-grandmother's recipe, and involving mom/grandma/grandson too), and also middle school entries (created during the day in parishioners' kitchens)!



Horton Hall was electric with excitement as attendees moved around the room with their category-specific ballots, tasting/judging/voting for their personal favorites. Prizes were awarded in each category, plus special ones for 'Students' Choice' and 'Most Unique'. Winners included individuals, families, and friend groups.



Guessing from the responses at the event, it is highly likely that we will REPEAT this event next year. So, if you did not participate this year, plan to join the fun then!

Enjoying fellowship with members and friends,  
Congregational Life Team  
Jerry Byrne, Gwynne Campbell, Cheryl Huffman,  
Valerie Muller, Sarah Papsun

# NPC News

## In Loving Memory of...

**March 21**  
Joyce B. Palmer

**March 22**  
Robert Fishell

**March 30**  
James Leet

**April 11**  
Philip T. Wright

**April 22**  
Maude Pettus

*...now home to be with the Lord.  
(Philippians 1:23)*

## Join us in celebrating the following Baptisms...

**April 23, 2017**

Penelope Ann Stisser, daughter of Timothy and Lauren Stisser  
Lila Drew Symons, daughter of Andrew and Charlotte Symons  
Jack Young, son of Kevin and Amy Young

### Upcoming Baptism Dates

5/14 at 10:30 am  
5/21 at 5 pm  
6/18 at 10 am (Chapel)  
6/25 at 8 am (Weed Beach).

*To schedule a Baptism please call Leslie Ezzo at 203-309-5618.*

*If you would like to submit an article for the July / August 2017 issue please submit it before June 2 to Rose Cunningham by email at [rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org](mailto:rose.cunningham@norotonchurch.org).*

## NPC Program Staff

Pastor John H. Seiders..... 203-309-5618 <i>Interim Pastor</i>	Dwayne Condon..... 203-309-5614 <i>Director of Music &amp; Fine Arts</i>	Kalie Riordan ..... 203-655-3223 <i>Director Noroton Presbyterian Nursery School</i>
Pastor Brandi Drake..... 203-309-5620 <i>Associate Pastor of Caring &amp; Women's Ministry</i>	Mickie O'Donnell..... 203-309-5622 <i>Director of Children's Ministry</i>	Dan Rosa..... 203-309-5608 <i>Business Administrator</i>
Pastor Jimmy McPherson ..... 203-309-5619 <i>Associate Pastor Spiritual Formation</i>	Stella Clarke..... 203-309-5645 <i>Director of Missions</i>	David Lee..... 203-309-5609 <i>Director of Properties</i>
	Beth Aparicio ..... 203-309-5605 <i>Director of Noroton Presbyterian Child Care</i>	



# May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Team Night Fellowship 7:45 pm Team Night 8:00 pm Faithful in Prayer	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M. Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Tres De Mayo - Harbor/ Experience Night (5-8th grades)	<b>National Day of Prayer</b> 7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.		6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -5th grade 11:30 am Reading Acts 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm #dareunited	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm J.A.M. Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade) 7:30 pm Reading Acts - Encore 7:30 pm Officers Training	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			7:30 am Faithful in Prayer
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<b>Mother's Day</b> 8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -8th grade 11:30 am Reading Acts 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm Session Meeting	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS 4:00 pm J.A.M. Choir 4:45 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade) 7:30 pm Reading Acts - Encore	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 2:00 pm Monthly Adult Fellowship 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<b>JAM MUSICAL</b> 8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am JAM MUSICAL Sunday school: 3's-K and 6-8th grade 11:30 am Reading Acts 11:45 am West Virginia Mission Trip Meeting 5:00 pm Service in Horton Hall 6:00 pm High School Ministry	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 9:15 am Women's Bible Study Bounce 8:00 pm Faithful in Prayer	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 4:00 pm J.A.M. & Cherub Choir Party 7:00 pm Harbor (6th-8th grade) 7:30 pm Reading Acts - Encore	7:00 am Men's Bible Study 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			
28	29	30	31			
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's -5th grade	<b>Memorial Day</b> NPC Offices and Building Closed	6:15 am Women's Bible Study	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 9:15 am MOPS			

# June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	3
				1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.			7:30 am Faithful in Prayer 8:30 am Officer's Retreat
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
<b>Choir Appreciation Sunday</b> 8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's 5th grade	6:15 am Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Team Night Fellowship 7:45 pm Team Night	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl	1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 8:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh.		9:00 am New Member Class		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
8:00 am Chapel Service 9 & 10:30 am Sanctuary Services 9 & 10:30 am Classes for 3's 5th grade	VBS Decorating	VBS Decorating 6:15 am Women's Bible Study Breakfast 8:00 pm Faithful in Prayer	VBS Decorating 7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl	VBS Decorating 12:00 pm Moms of Teens 1:00 pm Prayer Group Mtg. 12:30 pm Monthly Adult Fellowship Luncheon	VBS Decorating	VBS Decorating 7:30 am Faithful in Prayer	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
<b>Father's Day Summer Worship Schedule begins</b> 8:00 am Sanctuary Service 10:00 am Chapel Service							
			<b>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL</b> 9:00 am - 12:00 pm				
		8:00 pm Session	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl Summer Kickoff Youth				
25	26	27	28	29	30		
8:00 am Weed Beach 10:00 am Chapel 10:00 am Lake Compounce - Youth		6:00 pm Summer Nights - High School School	7:00 am Men's Study-Sugar Bowl 6:00 pm Summer Nights - Middle School				