



**We Exist: to grow in faith
and make Christ known.**

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Hello New Life Students/Mentors!

This Wednesday we are continuing our exploration of the book of Genesis, and continuing to ask the question. How did we get here?

I have been asking myself this same question: How did I get here? for the past few weeks and months! "Here" for me being - New Life!

My name is Haley Schepers and I am the newly installed Director of Faith Formation here at New Life! I am looking forward to meeting you in person this Wednesday if we haven't had the chance to officially meet!

Two years ago, in prayer, I felt this strange desire to begin to pray for Norwalk. I didn't know who/what/or why but I just went with it, so I just began praying...fast forward to today! I finally figured out why I was led to Norwalk, but my journey to Norwalk was not what I expected...

To fill you in, a little bit about myself - I graduated Seminary in May and married my high school crush (Ethan) in Iceland on June 1st. Because we eloped, we decided to travel! So, we backpacked Europe for 2.5 months and it was one of the best times of my life! When we returned home, I thought we were going to accept a call to move to Arizona where I would be the lead pastor for a congregation. However, we realized as a family we couldn't commit to an extended call when Ethan's research for his Ph.D. began progressing and we realized he would be graduating and moving to accept a job sooner than we had anticipated.

God closed some doors I thought were wide open and I would be lying if there wasn't a bit of grief as those doors closed. We were informed that there were no other temporary pastoral calls in central Iowa so I began applying for jobs to support my spouse while he finished school. I accepted a position at Workiva, a technology company I have worked for previously, as their Customer Success Manager for Governance, Risk, and Compliance! This job was a great opportunity, however, I still felt there was something else in store for me. When I saw an opportunity in Norwalk Iowa, I was thrilled - now I understood why God had placed Norwalk on my heart so long ago! Know you are an answered prayer and I can't wait to explore the big questions of life with you as we dive into the book of Genesis on Wednesday!

Haley