



Norwalk Christian News

Norwalk Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) November 1, 2016



November 6th

10:00 am Worship

*Potluck Fellowship
to follow the
annual meeting.*

Please join us for the NCC Congregational Celebration. Our annual meeting will be after worship followed by a Potluck Fellowship. At the meeting the congregation will vote on the proposed budget for 2017 and vote on officers. Copies of the budget are available at the Info Table in the Fellowship Hall or online at [Norwalkcc.org\Board](http://Norwalkcc.org/Board).

Here is the list of church leaders to be voted on during our meeting:

Chair	Sarah Schuller
Vice-chair	Nick Wood
Treasurer	David Lester
Board Sec.	Lori Van Dyk
Recording Sec.	Doug Reed
At-Large Board Reps	Arnie Becker, Margo Murillo, Brandon Burnett
Trustee	Dan Mundil
Youth Rep	Hannah Jameson



**Sunday, Nov. 6th Daylight
Savings Time ends.**

**Don't forget to turn your clocks
back one hour!**

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**
CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Office Closed
Thursday, Nov. 24th
Friday, Nov. 25th



Pastor Travis' Thoughts

Beautiful People,

I was talking with a group of people a couple weeks ago about the presidential election, and we reflected on how difficult it has been for everyone. No matter your preferred party or candidate, we've all been harmed this election. Our sense of community and democracy has been harmed, and after November 8th, we will have work to do to put things back together. As I've heard people reflect on the election, I've heard them talk about friendships that have been strained, family members that have been "unfriended on Facebook", and a growing stress and uneasiness within people's souls. I've heard a new level of cynicism and distrust in the American political system that, I fear, will only make matters worse. No matter who wins, it seems this year, we all have lost something.

What is the role of the church in a time like this? I firmly believe that the church should not step into the mess of candidate endorsement or partisan politics, but I do wholeheartedly believe that the church has a message and a role to play for difficult times like these. Disciples, especially, have a unique message to share in this moment.

There are few places left in our world where "red and blue", "left and right" gather together to share things in common and do something positive for the world. Church may be the last true bastion of democracy left in America, where we are forced to live with one another in all our complexities and disagreements, choosing to find compromise and community instead of partisanship and division. Our country needs to know that there is a place where partisan politics are laid aside for the sake of beloved community. Our country needs to know that the issues that divide us so deeply do not matter at the foot of Christ's cross. Our country needs to know that there is still a table where family can gather together and, instead of arguing over political issues, they can share a common meal and common mission. Our country needs a church like Norwalk Christian Church, where we can overcome our differences and all are truly welcome at the table.

On November 6, after worship, we will gather for our annual congregational meeting. This is how our church governs itself, and it's a thing of beauty, really. We will celebrate what we have accomplished in ministry together over the past year, present the budget for next year, and vote on

new board members who will lead our congregation. At Norwalk Christian Church, we govern ourselves. No one tells us what to do, but we choose together how we want to live, who we want to lead, and how we want to spend our money, as we discern together Jesus' mission for us in this place and time.

This year, we are also doing something we haven't done in a while. We are asking each church member to consider making a financial pledge to the congregation. We are calling this a "Stewardship Campaign", as we pledge to be good stewards (caretakers) of the resources of time, creativity, money, and ministry that God has given us.

As it is, every week you are very generous as you donate to the mission of our church. But this next year, we are asking everyone to be more intentional about their giving. Over the last four years, we have seen a decline in our giving and this has impacted the ministry we have been able to do. Your leaders have intentionally chosen, however, not to ask you over and over again to increase giving, but have, instead, chosen to reduce expenses and use our reserves to cover any deficits.

But your leaders on the Stewardship and Finance team are taking a different approach this year, due in large part to things they have learned as they read together the book *Not Your Parents' Offering Plate*. Instead of cutting more programs and using up more of our reserves, they believe that, if we simply ask one another to be more intentional about our giving, then we will see more than enough resources to do all the things we want to accomplish as a church.

They have chosen the theme for this Stewardship Campaign to be *Branching Out*, because they believe that we can not only pay for the necessities of our ministry together, but through our collective generosity we can branch out, doing more ministry in our community and making a greater impact for Christ's mission of love.

The identity statement of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is: "*We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.*" This is the kind of movement our world longs for. Norwalk and Warren County needs Norwalk Christian Church, a place where we can lay aside all that divides us in the world, come together around the Table of Christ, and go out into the world as the Body of Christ, putting the broken pieces back together again.

If you believe in who we are, and know how important our church's message is to our community and to the world, I hope you will join with the Stewardship Committee and with me to pledge your financial support to your church in 2017, so together we can branch out in our important ministry to our community!

Love from Pastor Marti. . .



Beautiful People,

This year we are trying something new with our Sunday morning kid's class Sunday School teachers. We have the lessons planned out and are asking someone different to lead each Sunday. We are hoping this would allow all of our adults to have the opportunity to attend an adult class as well as open our kids up to meeting new people in the church.

I was talking with a parent of one of our young children after our Halloween Party Wednesday night. She told me that on Sunday, when being seated, her little one was looking around and saw his Sunday School teacher that morning, and then he saw his bread baking teacher, and then one of his other teachers. He was recognizing the people in our church, and he was excited about it!

In his four year old mind, he knew all these people. He had spent time with them and knew they cared enough about him to teach him while having fun in the process, not being intimidating. I love that our kids can look around our worship service and see friendly faces they know who have invested in them. I love that we have adults that agree to spend one Sunday morning with our children. I love that our church family is feeling more and more just like that, a family.



This month we will discuss topics such as positive body image, texting while driving, and bullying. We will also have one fun night of Minute to Win It games. And our next service project will be shopping for older kid angel tree gifts. For some reason buying for 17 and 18 year olds isn't as fun for a lot of people as it is to buy for a younger child. So we have our youth group pick up the older teen angels and then we take them shopping.. They get a set amount to spend and they are instructed not to buy anything they wouldn't want themselves. Each year, this is a powerful lesson for our youth. Some of the items wanted are not glamorous. It shows them how blessed each of them truly is in this world.



A snack sign-up sheet is at Sign-Up Central for anyone to provide snacks for JYF or Dinky Disciple afternoons.

Our children will soon be learning more about the events leading up to Jesus' birth. They'll learn about Advent and what it means. They'll learn about the story of Jesus' birth and the events that followed. This month our kids will play a game of Jeopardy in which each answer is a Christmas song title. They'll make gifts and re-enact presenting them to Jesus. They'll even learn about reflecting beams of light to show how they can bring the light of Christ into this world. This month they'll also begin practicing for our Children's Christmas Program, so watch out parents, more Christmas songs might get stuck in your head soon. Thank you for sharing your children with us!





**Chi Rho Retreat 2016
(Grades 6-8)
\$30 Per Person
November 18-20, 2016**

Join us for our fall Chi Rho Retreat! Our theme will be "Finding Jonah" and we'll learn what it would have been like to be with Jonah on his trip. Registration is now open online! Visit www.uppermidwestcc.org for more details.

Save the Dates for the Jr & CYF Retreats:

Junior Retreat (Grades 3-5)

Theme: Finding Jonah

February 10-12, 2017

CYF Midwinter (Grades 9-12)

Theme to be determined by UMwYC

February 24-26, 2017



Arts & Crafts Ministry

The November 15th gathering of Arts and Crafts will meet in the Fellowship Hall from 6-8 pm. Plan to bring your own crafts to work on and enjoy fellowship time with other crafters!

Please sign up at Sign-Up Central so that we know how many to expect.



Hawthorne Hills Collection

Jessica Phipps is collecting items for Hawthorne Hills' women's and children's shelter.

The items needed are:

Diapers (sizes 4-6), pull-ups, and wipes

Lysol disinfectant spray and wipes

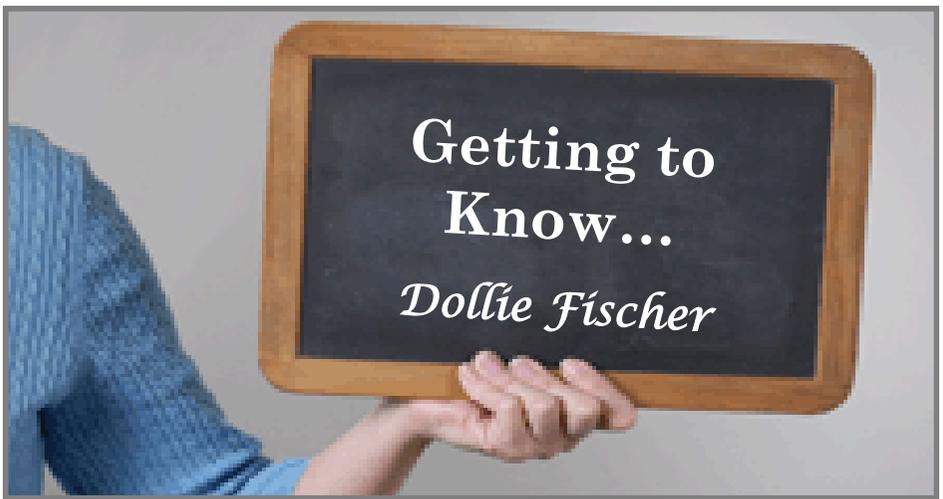
Garbage bags (39 gallon)

Dish soap

Pine-Sol

Bleach

There is a pink drop-off container located by the glass double-doors outside the office.



I became a member of the Norwalk Christian Church in 2011 after attending regularly for some time.

I was born in Brownville, Nebraska, the sixth of seven children in my family. I weighed less than three pounds, was born at home and never hospitalized. We moved to Sidney, Iowa, when I was in first grade and I graduated in 1955 second in my class. I remained in Sidney for 6 years working as a secretary in the Fremont County Extension Office. My next job brought me to Des Moines where I worked in Governor Erbe's office serving as secretary to 10 appointed commissions. My last 40 years prior to my retirement was a legal secretary. I was married in 1970 and moved to rural Cumming on a farm. In 1985 we were able to purchase another farm and my husband began farming. My husband Ernie died in 2009 of Mantle Cell Lymphoma. We had no children but lots of nieces and nephews.

I played baritone horn (school instrument) starting in 5th grade through high school and became quite accomplished, winning division one ratings at state contests. I also participated in choir during high school. I learned to appreciate and enjoy music, and especially like band music.

I enjoy being outside and used to raise a big garden and canned many jars of fruit and vegetables. I like working in my yard and pulling weeds. Digging in the dirt is therapy for me.

I like to read and enjoy good listening music. My favorite thing to do is walk with my Golden Retriever (Angel) almost every day. She also makes me laugh.

Volunteer to serve in 2016.

Sign up sheets are now at Sign-Up Central.

Potluck with a Purpose!

A Message from Lance Randolph, Board Chair

On November 6, we will once again gather as an NCC family around tables in fellowship hall and some of us (by that, I mean me) may eat a bit more than is typically wise given the terrific assortment of goodies this group will have no doubt put together. In order to get to that potluck though, we will need to take care of some business first! After services, please join us for our annual meeting prior to the potluck. We will be going over our budget for 2017 and seeking your approval, presenting you with a slate of your co-members who have graciously agreed to give of their own time next year as a board and asking for your blessing of them, and discussing just a few of the things we have accomplished over the last year along with some of the plans for the coming months and year.

As always, there is much to do as we look ahead. However, as we near the season of Thanksgiving, what a great time to celebrate what we have accomplished as a group and look forward to our continued impact in our community and with one another. You continue to provide a family-like atmosphere and allow those around us to see what "All are Welcome" really means. We hope to see you on November 6, and thank you for all you do for NCC!

CHOIR & BELLS CALENDAR CHANGES FOR NOVEMBER

Singers and Ringers- Due to holidays and church events a few rehearsals need to be adjusted during November:

November:

- 2nd - Wednesday Normal
- 9th - Wednesday Normal
- 15th - Tuesday Ringers (7 - 8:00)
- 16th - Wednesday Singers (7 - 7:45) Community Service practice @ New Life Lutheran 8:00 - 8:45
- 20th- Sunday @ NCC- "Thanksgiving Suite" & "Autumn Carol" w/ bells
- 20th- Sunday @ New Life- Community Service @ 4pm
"Anthem of Gratitude" & "Autumn Carol" w/ bells
- 21st- Monday due to Thanksgiving prep and travel
Singers (7:00-7:45). Ringers (8:00-9:00)
- 30th- Wednesday Normal



A Note From Pastoral Partners



Even though we have been kind of quiet for the past few months please know that we have been active behind the scenes reaching out to NCC members who may need a hand to hold or words of encouragement.

In case you have forgotten, we modified the role of Pastoral Partners a year or so ago. Instead of a PP having a list of members by name, any one of these loving servants is eager and willing to help any of you.

Sometimes a health event or life event is generally known. Other times they are more privately held and we cannot know that any level of Pastoral care would be appreciated unless you tell us or a Pastor. We hope that you would not hesitate to do this.

We are working to update the list of current members serving as PP's and will have the new list published and displayed in easy to find places at church within a few days. Please watch for it and become familiar with those serving.

If you would like to join this group of caregivers we would love to have you in the group. We do have some training ideas that will help you feel more confident when making a call, but mostly it is just being willing to make a call or visit somebody who needs a little love and support from a church friend.

God bless our loving and caring members of NCC - on and all!

Faithfully yours,
Marti, Travis and the Pastoral Partners Team



We Can Help.



Pick Up A Ministry Packet Today!

Ministry packets are available at the table in the Fellowship Hall. There is something for every age level and every comfort zone, so be sure to read through each of the ministries to discover how you can get plugged in at Norwalk Christian Church.

Branching Out

A Message from Stewardship & Finance

Norwalk Christian Church Friends and Family,

Thank you for being a partner in the ministry of Norwalk Christian Church! Your financial contributions are making a difference in the lives of many people.

Norwalk Christian Church is a pretty amazing place! Norwalk Christian Church is a place that is making a difference! Every Sunday morning, I hear singing and laughter coming from the sanctuary, talking coming from tables in fellowship hall, kids' voices in the classrooms downstairs and so much more. I hear these things throughout the week too!! I often hear how this church engages young people in mission and service. Their faith is changing them, and changing the world.

You and I both know it is not just limited to the youth groups! There are marvelous opportunities to grow in spirit and service in this congregation. And growth is a key word when it comes to understanding our relationship with God. Jesus taught those who followed him, so they might expand their vision of who *God is* and who *they were* in relationship to God. Jesus affirmed that God loved them. Then Jesus challenged them to live in response to that love by loving others. Living in response to that Good News of God's love is not always easy. It can demand that we make changes in our lives and the way we think about and deal with other people. Offering grace and forgiveness to someone who has hurt us can be hard! Thinking about others and their needs ahead of our own wants can be downright counter cultural – especially when all of the messages we hear tell us to look out for ourselves first!

As a church, we are about to enter into a time of thinking about how we help make and create positive change. We will be talking about stewardship – a concept that has to do with many things beyond money. How we care for the earth, how we care for ourselves, how we care for the good news of God's love for us, and how we care for the resources that are in our sphere of influence, are all a part of the spiritual discipline of stewardship.

Over the next few weeks, you will be hearing more about the vital mission of your congregation and you will be given the opportunity to think about how you can enable that ministry to grow, changing more lives. You will be asked to consider making a financial commitment to empower this church – your church - to keep doing amazing Ministry!

Continued on next page

This is not so much about the church, as it is about you. It is an opportunity to grow by making a choice to make a gift that can make a difference. It is an invitation to discover the joy of giving in response to all that you have received. It will require a choice. You may, in fact have to give something up in order to make this commitment. But I want to challenge you to consider this discipline for the next year and see if you don't see a change - in yourself, your walk with Christ, and in the world around you.

The practice of generosity is a faith discipline. It is the mark of a growing faith and deeper walk with Christ. I ask you to join me in prayerful preparation for ourselves and for the whole church as commitment Sunday approaches. I believe in God's abundance and our ability through that trust, to provide the resources that will empower our church to do even greater things. I thank you for your part in that life changing work.

Prayers and Blessings,
David Lester
2016 Stewardship & Finance Chair



Give Electronically to NCC

Please consider signing up for **e-giving**. The process is simple: just fill out the form in the Fellowship Hall, attach a voided check, and we will do the rest, setting up automatic withdrawal from your checking account for the amount and frequency you choose. If you rarely have cash or a check on Sunday mornings, or want to continue to support your church even when you are away, e-giving might be right for you. Most of us pay our bills through automatic draft. Why not support your church family this same way? And coming soon, we will have cards in the pews that say "I Gave Electronically", so you can still put something in the offering plate on Sunday as an act of worship.

Thank you for supporting your church in so many ways!

If you have any questions, contact a member of the Stewardship and Finance Team. (David Lester, Chair, Mark Durham, Gary Fox, Kate Raun, Doug Reed, and Don Darnell.)

Thank you for your commitment to your church family!



Choir Director
Kim Ward



Foods to be thankful for?

As we approach the month focusing on being thankful, food is sometimes taken for granted.

Many of our “more seasoned” congregational members may remember the Great Depression. 25% of the workforce was unemployed. No food stamps were available. The American diet did dramatically change and the prioritization of thrift was critical.

Listed below are some menu items that helped to keep bellies full during that time in history:

- Peanut butter stuffed onions
- Ritz Mock Apple Pie which substituted crackers for apples as fresh fruit was not available.
- Spaghetti with boiled carrots in a white sauce.
- Fruit laced Vinegar used in Cobblers to create a fake fruit taste.
- Mulligan’s Stew (onions, corn, potatoes, greens, navy beans, a little meat) seasoned with tobacco (a hobo favorite).
- “Milkorno” - Milk and corn mixed together. Powdered milk, cornmeal and salt featured in the “Meals For a Family of 5 For \$5 a Week).
- Kraft’s Macaroni and Cheese dinner was invented in 1937.
- Morrell E-Z serve Liver Loaf was very popular. Variations included: lima bean loaf and peanut loaf. ‘Real’ meat loaf was a luxury created with bread, crackers, oats, tapioca, breakfast cereals, and powdered sauce mixes.
- Dandelion Salad from your yard.
- Gelatin was a cutting-edge food and a protein source in the 30’s. A corned beef luncheon salad was popular and made of canned corn beef, gelatin, canned peas, vinegar, and lemon salad.
- Cow’s milk- the government advised kids to drink a quart per day. This “wonder food” was included in school lunches along with creamed cabbage, creamed carrots and cornstarch pudding.





Pub Theology: Nov. 3, 7pm - The format is simple: drinks, conversation and God. Open and honest monthly conversations about things that matter. We will meet at Cal's and the topic is *"The Afterlife"*. All people and perspectives are welcome. Bring your questions. Bring a friend. Support a local business (and tip generously).

Veteran's Day: November 6th

We will be honoring Veteran's Day on Sunday, Nov. 8th, with a special wall of memory and honor. There is a special area in the Fellowship Hall to list additional names you wish to remember or honor for this Veteran's Day.

Community Thanksgiving Service: November 20th

Our Norwalk Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held at New Life Lutheran Church at 4pm, on Sunday, Nov. 20th. Pastor Travis is preaching and Kim Ward and Jenny Schaff are organizing the community choir. A pie fellowship will follow the service. Bring a pie to share!

First Sunday of Advent: November 27th

Hanging of the Greens: Sunday morning, Nov. 27

Come Home for Christmas: Dec. 6 @ 6:00 pm

Choir Christmas Cantata: Dec. 11th

Christmas Eve Services: Dec. 24th 7 and 11 pm

Christmas Day Service: Dec. 25th, 10:00 am. No Sunday School.

January 1st Service: 10:00 am, no Sunday School. Come as you are service and bring your leftover Christmas goodies to share after service.



Holiday Poinsettias

Poinsettias will be available for purchase again this year to honor or be placed in memory of family or loved ones. Pricing and order forms will be available November 20 in the Sunday bulletin and on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/1	Linda Vandell	11/17	Heather Conley
11/2	Jessica Phipps	11/20	Mark Leverman
11/3	Katie Randolph	11/20	Susan Leverman
11/5	Doug Reed	11/21	Kelley Davis
11/5	Doug Suckow	11/21	Rachel Feikema
11/7	Kate Raun	11/23	Linda Bourne
11/8	Helen Baker	11/24	Roger Miller
11/8	Larry & Daylene Ellis	11/25	Andrew ClarkWilt
11/10	Logan Boyd	11/26	Dan Baker
11/11	Cathie Elkin	11/26	Ron & Peg Johnston
11/12	Jeff & Jan Walker	11/27	Mary Jo Fox
11/13	Grace Wood	11/27	Darcey Landuyt
11/13	Tami Conley	11/29	John Riordan
11/16	Mitchell Phipps	11/30	Oliver Stanley

***If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact the church office so we can improve our records.**

30 & 1 GROUP

The 30 & 1 group will meet Sat. November 5th at the church for snacks and games at 6:00 pm. All are welcome!

PRAYER SHAWL

The Prayer Shawl group will meet November 17th in the church Parlor at 1:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.



The Christian Women's Fellowship will meet this first Saturday of the month, November 5 from 10-11 am. All women are welcome to attend.

Out to Lunch Bunch November 9th



The Out to Lunch Bunch will be meeting November 9th, for lunch at Checkerboard in Pleasantville. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 11:00 am.

November Calendar

Tuesday, November 1

Coffee Time 10:00 am
JYF 3:30 pm

Wednesday, November 2

Youth Group 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, November 3

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Pub Theology 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 5

CWF 10:00 am
30 & 1 Group 6:00 pm

Sunday, November 6 Congregational Celebration

Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
Congregational Meeting &
Potluck 11:00 am
Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Monday, November 7

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Tuesday, November 8

Coffee Time 10:00 am
Dinky Disciples 3:15 pm
S&F 4:00 pm

Wednesday, November 9

Out to Lunch Bunch 11:00 am
Youth Group 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, November 10

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Sunday, November 13

Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Monday, November 14

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Tuesday, November 15

Coffee Time 10:00 am
JYF 3:30 pm
Arts & Crafts - 6:00 pm

Wednesday, November 16

Youth Group 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, November 17

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 pm
Pub Theology 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 19

Men's Breakfast 8:00 am

Sunday, November 20

Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship 10:00 am
Community Thanksgiving at New
Life Lutheran Church 4:00 pm
Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Monday, November 21

Senior Exercise 10:00 am
Board Meeting 6:00 pm

Tuesday, November 22

Coffee Time 10:00 am
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Wednesday, November 23

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Thursday, November 24

Thanksgiving - Office Closed

Friday, November 25

Office Closed

Sunday, November 27

Sunday School 9:00 am
Hanging of the Greens
Worship 10:00 am
Adult Bible study 7:00 pm

Monday, November 28

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Tuesday, November 29

Coffee Time 10:00 am

Wednesday, November 30

Youth Group 6:00 pm
Chancel Choir 7:00 pm
Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Norwalk Christian News

Published monthly by the
Norwalk Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

701 Main St., Norwalk, IA 50211
(515) 981-0176

The deadline to submit articles for the next issue of
Norwalk Christian News is the 20th of the month.

Please submit your articles in writing.

E-mail: **office@norwalkcc.org**

Ministers: Rev. Travis & Rev. Marti Stanley
Administrative Assistants: Chris Riter (M-Th)
Cathie Graves (Fridays)

OFFICE HOURS

Administrative Assistants: Mon - Fri 9 AM - Noon

Pastors: Mon-Thursday 9:00 AM - Noon

And always by appointment

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship follows Worship Service.

www.Norwalkcc.org

MISSION STATEMENT

*Disciples of Christ -
Sharing the Journey*

