



Norwalk Christian News

Norwalk Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Dec./Jan. Issue

Christmas Eve
Worship Schedule
Candlelight Services
December 24
7:00 & 11:00 pm



December 25th-Christmas Day Service:
10:00 am Service - No Sunday School

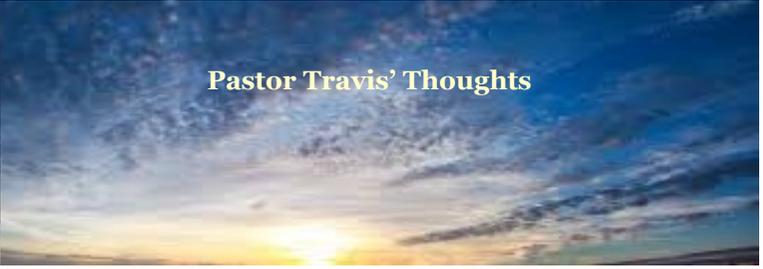
January 1st-Come As You Are Service:
10:00 am Service -No Sunday School.
Bring your leftover Christmas goodies to share after service.

**Poinsettia Orders are
Due December 4th**
Order forms are located in the Fellowship Hall

**The church office will be closed
Monday, December 26, 2016
Monday, January 2, 2017**



Pastor Travis' Thoughts



Beautiful People,

On the First Sunday of Advent, we sang my favorite hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. That song is our Advent prayer. Advent means “coming” or “arrival”, and during Advent we celebrate the arrival of Emmanuel. The name, “Emmanuel,” means “God with Us,” and in Advent we remember the time when God became flesh and made God’s dwelling among us. We also long for the day to come, when God will come again and God’s kingdom will come on earth in all it’s fullness.

But “Emmanuel” isn’t just something we wait for. “Emmanuel” is the mission of the Church--to be God with us, God in the flesh--in our day and time. Advent reminds us that the hope, peace, joy, and love for which we long for is made real through our actions. When we become Christ in the flesh, the world experiences Christ’s coming again, Emmanuel--God with us!

The first of next year, we have a chance to “put flesh” on our Advent prayers. Throughout Advent, you will hear various commercials and promotions during worship for “The Community Table.” On the First Sunday of Advent, Becky and Betsy (or was it Betsy and Becky??) did a great “news bulletin” inviting our church to experience a new kind of conversation on *Sunday, January 8th* called “The Community Table”. This is a project of our Outreach Committee, and is designed to be a time for our church to gather together in small groups during our regular worship service to talk about the things that matter most to us. *What hopes and dreams do you have for your family and community? What are the pressures keeping you up at night?* Our goal is to spend this Sunday experiencing “Emmanuel”, as we grow closer to one another in small groups, learning each other’s stories, hopes, and dreams. While this is a project of the Outreach Committee, and it cannot just stop there. We must take the conversations out of our church and into our community.

In the Gospel of John, instead of telling us a story of the birth of Jesus, the writer goes philosophical and says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us!” The Community Table is about making the World into flesh. In these small group conversations, we will share what’s going on in our lives, our hopes and dreams for our future.

Then, after listening across the congregation to each others stories, small group leaders will come together to identify the common threads and themes. We will also find ways to hear more stories from our community, as we prepare a “community table” where people not a part of our church can share their hopes and dreams for our community. As we identify these common themes, we will find issues we need to work on, connecting our outreach efforts to the very concerns of our church and community.

Maybe we will hear lots of stories of the high cost of housing in Norwalk, and children unable to return to Norwalk to raise their families or seniors unable to downsize into a more affordable unit. Or maybe we hear concerns with our children in schools, over bullying or the need for more support services. Maybe it’s a thread of stories about caring for our elderly parents, or the need for more opportunities for our youth and young adults. Whatever we hear, our plan is to identify the common threads, and find some very tangible ways we can act on these issues. Our partner in this project is AMOS, a network of congregations and nonprofits in Central Iowa that teaches us how to identify and address issues of importance in our community. AMOS will help us turn these stories “into flesh” as we find ways we can actually do something about the things that matter most to us.

As we journey through the season of Advent, let us not just remember God becoming flesh among us, as the baby Jesus, but let us look for all the many ways we are being called to bring God’s presence into our world today. And may we start the New Year off right at “The Community Table” as we connect with one another in community and common cause!



This year the Christmas Special Offering will be collected December 11th-18th. The Christmas Special Day Offering supports all the ministries of our Region. Your generous gifts make the difference in our covenantal, shared ministries in the Region, giving us a deeper hope that we can Believe Again that God is active in the world through the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Love from Pastor Marti. . .



Beautiful People,

There's a great renewal in a new year. It's a time to start fresh, restate goals, and clean the slate of past hindrances, giving us the excuse we need to become healthier people. Advent starts a new year in the Christian calendar. One that always starts with hope found in Christ our Savior. From that hope, from the birth of our Savior, the rest of the year falls into place. Yes, they are stories, many of us already know, but it is up to each of us as to how we respond to each scripture and prayer during the year. Each year starts over, fresh, with waiting and longing. Each year starts with anticipation and excitement for what is to come. May we be people moved to love as Christ and serve as Christ. May we be moved to allow others into our lives and moved to make more room for Christ to dwell in us. May we look at each day, each scripture, each prayer, with new eyes and ears. This is my prayer for both our Christian calendar as well as our Gregorian calendars. Be good to yourself, and be good to others. I love you.



I am so proud of our youth group. This week our CYF and Chi Rho groups are Angel Tree shopping for others their age in the Norwalk community. This is their third service project of the school year and regardless of the project, they love serving others. Some even find service opportunities outside of our church events, and our church is so gracious to support those service

opportunities. Thank you for loving and supporting our youth. Below are pictures of Jessica Phipps collecting and dropping off donations to Hawthorn Hill.



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

December is a busy month for our Children's Ministry, check out our December calendar:

Sunday, Dec. 4th - Program Rehearsal (at 9am Sunday School hour)

Tuesday, Dec. 6th -Combined Dinky Disciples/JYF Afternoon (dress rehearsal)

Sunday, Dec. 11th -Children's Christmas Program and Worship Cantata (children should arrive at 9am to get in costume)

Sunday, Dec. 18th -Children will warm up with choir at 9:45am to sing a song with the choir during worship

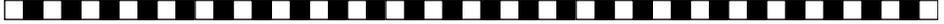
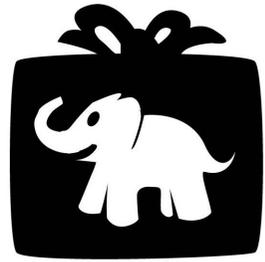


Chi Rho Retreat November 18-20

Coffee Time - December 13

White Elephant Gift

We will be doing a White Elephant gift giving Tuesday, Dec. 13th, during coffee time. Bring an item from home to exchange as a gift. See you there!



30 & 1 GROUP

The 30 & 1 group will meet at Maxie's, 1311 Grand Ave, WDM Saturday, December 3rd, at 5:30 pm for dinner. After dinner, we will go back to the church for games. Please sign-up for reservations on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall at Sign-Up Central.

All are welcome!

Angel Tree



The Holiday is fast approaching and for most of us it will be a blessed and jolly time. For others in our community it is not so easy. For many years NCC has had an Angel Tree to help others have a Merry Christmas and we will do it again this year. You will find Angels hanging on the tree in the Fellowship Hall. If you want to pick an Angel, please do so and follow the instructions on the back of the Angel. If you would like to help with the Angel Tree Project, but are too busy to shop or are not physically able to go shopping, you can make a donation in the Fellowship Hall to the Angel Tree Project and our youth will go shopping for the items. All Angel gifts will need to be returned by Sunday, December 18, at 10:00 am. This has been a very popular and heartwarming service to our community so don't miss your opportunity to help others.

Outreach Committee

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 an 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!

2017 NCC Directory



For directory changes or updates, please update the “master copy” directory on the table in the Fellowship Hall with a red pen, or you can send information to: office@norwalkcc.org. If you have not had your picture taken for the directory or would like to update your picture, please email a current picture or ask a Pastoral Partner to take your picture for the Directory. If you need instructions on how to access the online version, please see the instructions posted in the Fellowship Hall. If you do not have computer access and would like a current copy, please let us know.



We Can Help.



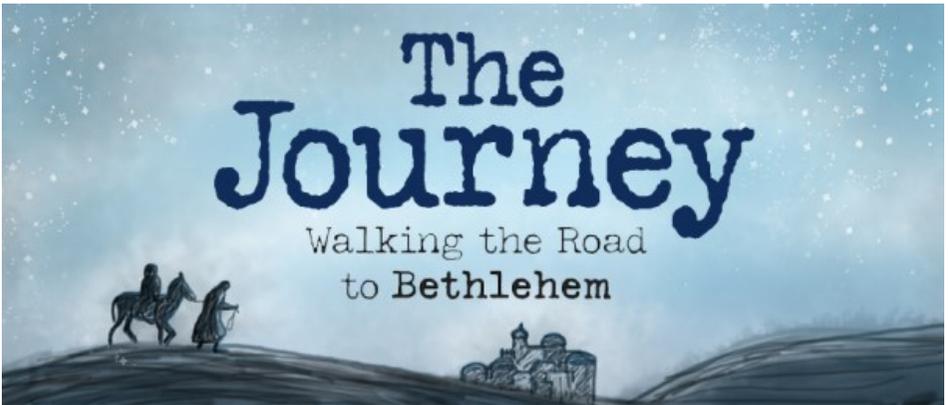
Pick Up A Ministry Packet Today!

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.



COME HOME
FOR *Christmas*

Wednesday, December 7th, at 6:00 pm, will be our Annual Come Home For Christmas event. Soup will be served, cookies will be decorated, crafts will be made, and carols will be sung. Plan on joining us, and invite a friend! If you would like to help by donating food, or volunteering, please see the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.



Advent Study: Sundays at 9am during Advent in the Parlor.
We will be engaging a DVD Study entitled *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem.*

Each week we will encounter different characters
in the Christmas story.
All are welcome!



Mark Your Calendars **EVENTS**



Prayer Shawl: The Prayer Shawl group meets the third Thursday of the month at 1:00pm in the church Parlor. Everyone is welcome.



The Christian Women's Fellowship will meet the first Saturday of the month, December 3rd and January 7th from 10-11 am. All women are welcome to attend.

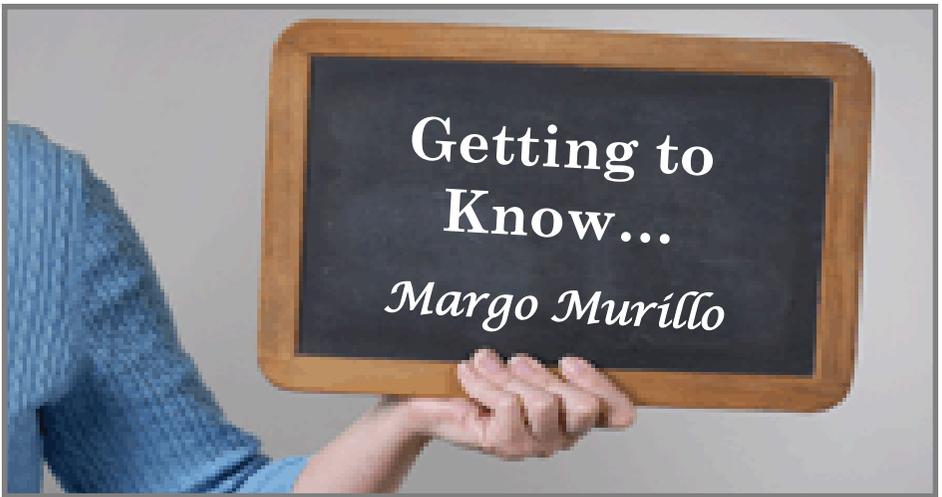
The Community Table, Sunday, January 8th : A time for our church to gather together in small groups during our regular worship service to talk about the things that matter most to us! What hopes and dreams do you have for your family and community? What are the pressures keeping you up at night? Let's kick off the New Year right, as we connect with one another in community and common cause!



amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Did you know you can support your church while shopping on Amazon.com? It's simple! All you have to do is go to smile.amazon.com and select "Norwalk Christian Church" as your charity of choice. Once you've done that, from now on instead of going to amazon.com to do you shopping, go to smile.amazon.com. Everything will look the same and the full store will be available, except now, .05% of every eligible purchase will go to our church! It's a simple way to support Norwalk Christian Church!



How big is your family (how many kids, grandkids, etc.) *I have 3 grown children and 3 granddaughters and one step grandson.*

What is your favorite color? *My favorite colors are orange & green*

What do you like to do outside? *I love to walk for exercise when the weather is nice.*

What do you like to do inside? *I enjoy reading and doing crossword puzzles.*

Have you met anyone famous, if so, who? *I met Roddy McDowell (ape on Planet of the Apes). He was in a hair salon my brother worked in.*

Are you musical? *I love to sing but don't sing that well. I also am going to start piano lessons because I've always wanted to play piano.*

Do you have a favorite movie or book? *I have a lot of favorite movies. Two are Pretty Woman & A Beautiful Mind.*

When did you start attending NCC? *I started coming to this church about 1995 after I had been a member of the Presbyterian Church in Indianola. I never felt at home there.*

What makes you laugh? *I don't like slapstick humor. I'm more into irony and satire.*

What makes you cry? *I am super sensitive and cry a lot. I've cried over commercials, sermons, mean comments, movies, weddings-- anything slightly emotional.*

What is your pet peeve? *I don't like it when people procrastinate.*

What is something that few people know about you? *I've started an autobiography about my life because so many weird and interesting things have happened to me.*

What food makes you happy? *All my friends know I'm addicted to and LOVE white bakery wedding or birthday cake with white frosting!! Yum!!*

How did you meet your significant other? *I met my husband when I was out with friends. He asked me to dance, and we hit it off. (Even though he was a poor dancer- but then again I'm not that much better.)*

What is your first memory? *I remember being at home and watching my mom's reaction to the TV announcement that JFK was shot. I was only 3 but it is a very clear memory.*

What is your dream job? *I wish back in the day they had event or wedding planners. I organized my kids' weddings and absolutely loved it and wish that would have been available as a career.*

Where have you lived? *I've spent my life in 3 states: Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois*

Where would you like to visit in the world, if money were no object? *I would like to visit Switzerland because my dad went there and raved about it.*



HOLIDAYS / SHOPPING / WRAPPING PRESENTS /
CLEANING / BAKING LETTER WRITING /
DECORATING YOUR HOME & YARD
WORKING 40+ HOURS A WEEK
TRIPS TO VISIT SANTA

STRESS, STRESS, STRESS & NOT ENOUGH TIME!!!

-Trying to remember the REAL Reason
for the Season-



Here are 7 Bible Verses that can help you through that BAD day!!

- “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will GIVE you the desires of your heart.” - Psalm 37:4
- “Give all your worries to him, because he CARES for you.” - 1 Peter 5:7
- “So we can feel sure and say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. People can do NOTHING to me.” - Hebrews 13:6
- “Don’t worry about anything, but PRAY and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have.” - Philippians 4:6
- “RESPECT the Lord and be humble. Then you will have wealth, honor and true life.” - Proverbs 22:4
- “The Lord is my Rock, my fortress, my place of safety. He is my God, the Rock I run to for PROTECTION.” - Psalms 18:2
- “And let us not grow weary of doing GOOD, for in due season we will reap, If we do not give up.” - Galatians 6:9



**Choir Director
Kim Ward**

Music Calendar-

- Sunday, Dec. 4th - No Chancel Choir. Chalice Ringers will cover the service.
- Tuesday, Dec. 6th- 7:00- 8:00ish Chancel Choir rehearsal.
- No choir Wednesday, Dec. 7th so you can enjoy the 'Come Home for Christmas' event.
- Sunday, Dec. 11th - Cantata Day! 8:00 Norwalk Methodist performance; 10:00 at home!!
- Wednesday, Dec. 14th- Final rehearsal for 2016. Please share some of your holiday treats with all following the rehearsal.
- Final choir performance on Sunday, Dec. 18th.
- Wednesday, Dec. 21st- practice with any singers who will be performing during Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day services.
- First rehearsal in 2017 will be Wednesday, January 4th.



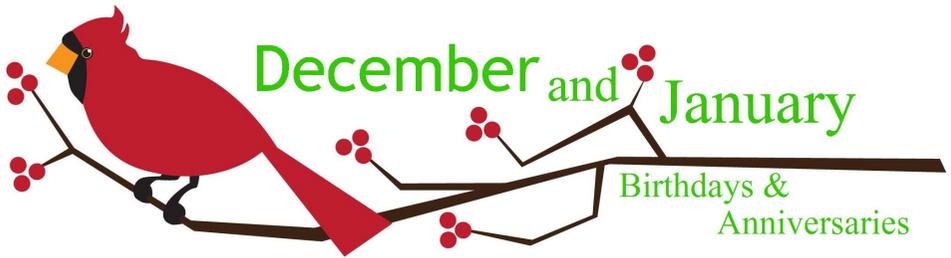
CHRIST HAS COME

An Advent Celebration by Phillip Keveren

Our Chancel Choir and the Norwalk Methodist Choir will be presenting this cantata together on Sunday, December 11th. We will travel north to perform for their 8:00 service and they will join us for our 10:00 service observing the 3rd Sunday of Advent. This Christmas celebration features arrangements of original and traditional songs with scripture based narration and prayers. We hope this performance will enrich your preparations for the coming of the Christ child.

Parent Fellowship at 9am on Sundays

Need a break from the kids and a time to fellowship with other adults? Join us each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall for an informal time of visiting while our kids attend the Sunday School class. See you Sunday! - The Christian Education Committee



12/2	Lance Randolph	1/2	Jim & Connie Wood
12/4	Hannah Jameson	1/3	Janet Riordan
12/6	Duncan Burnett	1/4	Jeff Walker
12/10	Tom Wood	1/4	Marilyn Boarts
12/13	Mark & Kathryn Leverman	1/4	Nicole Butler
12/14	Caroline Bishop	1/5	Doug Juhl
12/19	Amy Lester	1/5	Lori Diebel
12/19	Joe Hill	1/9	Dorothy Hildreth
12/19	Dewey McKee	1/11	Virgil Myer
12/20	Rob Boyd	1/21	Chris Murillo
12/20	Devin Webb	1/22	Brian Murillo
12/23	Kathy Rinard	1/23	Jan Walker
12/23	Ada Zinke	1/24	Levi Webb
12/23	Gale & Linda Vandell	1/24	Richard White
12/24	Tom Reavely	1/25	Arnie Becker
12/26	Daylin & Lori Van Dyk	1/25	Emma Burnett
12/26	Becky Darnell	1/25	Tom & Sally Reavely
12/26	Kim Ward	1/25	Anne Burnett
12/28	Mary Coon	1/26	Mary Lou Enos
12/29	Eric Johnson	1/27	Roger Ballard
12/29	Lauren Randolph	1/27	Greg Mitchell
12/29	Marti Stanley	1/28	Shirley Richardson
12/30	Donna Ballard	1/28	Anthony (AJ) ClarkWilt
12/31	Alexis Minson	1/29	Rosalea Johnson

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

December Calendar 2016

Thursday, December 1

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Saturday, December 3

CWF 10:00 am

30 & 1 Group 5:30 pm

Sunday, December 4

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Monday, December 5

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Tuesday, December 6

Coffee Time 10:00 am

Dinky & JYF 3:30 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Wednesday, December 7

Come Home For Christmas
6:00 pm

Thursday, December 8

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Sunday, December 11

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Monday, December 12

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Tuesday, December 13

Coffee Time 10:00 am

Dinky Disciples 3:15 pm

S&F - 4:00 pm

Wednesday, December 14

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, December 15

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 pm

Saturday, December 17

Men's Breakfast 8:00 am

Sunday, December 18

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Monday, December 19

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Board Meeting 6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 20

Coffee Time 10:00 am

JYF 3:30 pm

Wednesday, December 21

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, December 22

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Saturday, December 24

Candlelight Service - 7:00 pm

Candlelight Service - 11:00 pm

Sunday, December 25

Worship 10:00 am

Monday, December 26

Office is closed

Tuesday, December 27

Coffee Time 10:00 am

Wednesday, December 28

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, December 29

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

January Calendar 2017

Sunday, January 1

Worship 10:00 am

Monday, January 2

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3

Coffee Time 10:00 am

JYF 3:30 pm

Wednesday, January 4

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, January 5

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Saturday, January 7

CWF 10:00 am

30 & 1 Group 6:00 pm

Sunday, January 8

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Monday, January 9

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Tuesday, January 10

Coffee Time 10:00 am

Dinky Disciples 3:15 pm

S&F - 4:00 pm

Wednesday, January 11

Out to Lunch Bunch 11:00 am

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, January 12

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Sunday, January 15

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Monday, January 16

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Board Meeting 6:00 pm

Tuesday, January 17

Coffee Time 10:00 am

JYF 3:30 pm

Wednesday, January 18

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, January 19

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Prayer Shawl Group 1:00 pm

Saturday, January 21

Men's Breakfast 8:00 am

Sunday, January 22

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Bible study 7:00 pm

Monday, January 23

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Tuesday, January 24

Coffee Time 10:00 am

Wednesday, January 25

Youth Group 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

Chalice Bells 8:00 pm

Thursday, January 26

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Sunday, January 29

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:00 am

Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm

Monday, January 30

Senior Exercise 10:00 am

Tuesday, January 31

Coffee Time 10:00 am

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*

