



**Norwood**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

315 Chester Pike

Norwood, PA 19074-1401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

JULY

*Our Mission:*

“Introducing people to Jesus Christ and strengthening lives through Him”

**Worship Info**

10:00 am in-person Worship Service  
and live streamed on [YouTube](#)

**Sunday School Classes**

September-May  
Cornerstone Adult Bible class - 9:00a-9:45a  
Children’s Bible classes - 10:00a-11:00a  
*ages 0-12 years*

**Contact Info**

610-532-0982

[norwoodumc@gmail.com](mailto:norwoodumc@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Mon – Fri 10am – 2pm

*Click on icon links for more information*



[norwoodumc.org](http://norwoodumc.org)



[Eastern PA Conference of the  
United Methodist Church](#)



## *The Pastor's Pen*

### **"Lord, When Did You Leave?"**

Have you ever hosted a birthday party or family gathering where guests quietly slipped out without you even realizing it? Perhaps you've experienced it at a wedding reception. You were enjoying conversations with family and friends, only to discover later that several people had already gone home. You turn to someone and ask, "When did they leave?"

Or maybe you've been talking to someone, only to turn around and realize they've already walked away. You kept right on talking, assuming they were still there. We've all had those awkward moments of carrying on a one-sided conversation.

That simple question "When did they leave?" reminds me of one of the saddest verses in Scripture. In Judges 16, after Delilah betrayed Samson, the Philistines rushed in to capture him. Samson confidently declared, "I'll shake myself free as I have before." But Scripture says, "He did not know that the Lord had left him" (Judges 16:20). What a heartbreaking statement.

Samson had spent so much of his life taking God's strength for granted that he no longer recognized when the Lord's empowering presence had been withdrawn because of his repeated disobedience. The man who had once been used mightily by God suddenly discovered that he could accomplish nothing apart from Him. Painfully humbled, Samson learned that his strength had never been his own.

The truth is all of us can drift into the same kind of spiritual complacency. We may begin to assume that because we've always known God's blessing, we'll always experience His power, regardless of how closely we walk with Him.

Sooner or later, however, life reminds us otherwise. The journey becomes too difficult, the burden too heavy, or the trial too overwhelming. It is often in

those moments that we discover how desperately we need the Lord, not just His blessings, but His daily presence.

The good news is that our God is gracious. When we confess that we have taken Him for granted, He is faithful to meet us with mercy. He desires more than an occasional conversation that only happens when life falls apart. He longs for a daily relationship, a walk with Him that shapes every part of our lives. Unless we intentionally spend time in God's presence each day, even the most mature believer can slowly begin to drift.

Samson's story offers us several important lessons. First, we can lose our awareness of God's presence when we listen more closely to the voices around us than to the voice of God.

Every day we are surrounded by opinions. Social media, television, podcasts, and endless conversations all compete for our attention. Before long, we can know more about what everyone else thinks than what God has already spoken in His Word. Samson eventually gave in to Delilah's persistent persuasion. After repeated pleading, he revealed the secret of his Nazirite vow, and while he slept, his hair was cut (Judges 16:16-19). He listened to the wrong voice.

We can do the same. Sometimes we seek a friend's advice before we seek God's direction. While others may sincerely want what's best for us, God's wisdom is always greater. His Word must remain the loudest voice in our lives.

Second, we can lose our awareness of God's presence when we begin to think that we are the source of our own strength.

Somewhere along the way, Samson began acting as though the power belonged to him rather than to God. When he awoke, he assumed it would be just another victory. Instead, the Philistines captured him, gouged out his eyes, bound him with bronze shackles, and imprisoned him (Judges 16:20-21).

The Apostle Paul gives us a fitting warning: "If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" (1 Corinthians 10:12). How easy it is to take

credit for what only God could accomplish. Whether it's a successful ministry, a growing church, a healthy family, or personal achievements, we must never forget the One who supplied the strength in the first place. Jesus reminds us, "Apart from Me you can do nothing." Every blessing and every victory is ultimately a testimony to God's grace.

Finally, when we drift from God, we may not even realize how far we've wandered.

Perhaps the saddest words in Samson's story are these: "He did not know that the Lord had left him." He had become so spiritually numb that he didn't recognize what had been lost until it was too late. Sometimes we don't fully appreciate someone's presence until we experience their absence. The same can happen spiritually. If our hearts begin to feel empty, we should resist the temptation to fill that emptiness with lesser things. Instead, let it drive us back to the Lord.

If you have known the joy of walking closely with Christ, then you know there is nothing that compares to His presence. And if you sense that you've drifted, remember this: God delights in welcoming His children home. He is ready to restore, forgive, and renew those who seek Him with sincere hearts.

My prayer for each of us is that we would never become so distracted or self-reliant that we have to ask, "Lord, when did You leave?" Instead, may we seek Him daily, depend upon Him completely, and rejoice continually in His faithful presence.

As you enjoy the rest of your summer, may you walk closely with the Lord each day, finding your strength, peace, and joy in Him. Happy 250th Birthday America!

In Christ,

Pastor Scott

In Christ, Pastor Scott

[norwoodumcpastorscott@gmail.com](mailto:norwoodumcpastorscott@gmail.com)

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**[Blue underlined text](#) is a link to  
SAFE websites / forms. Click & explore!**

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## Church Meetings

**No July Meetings**

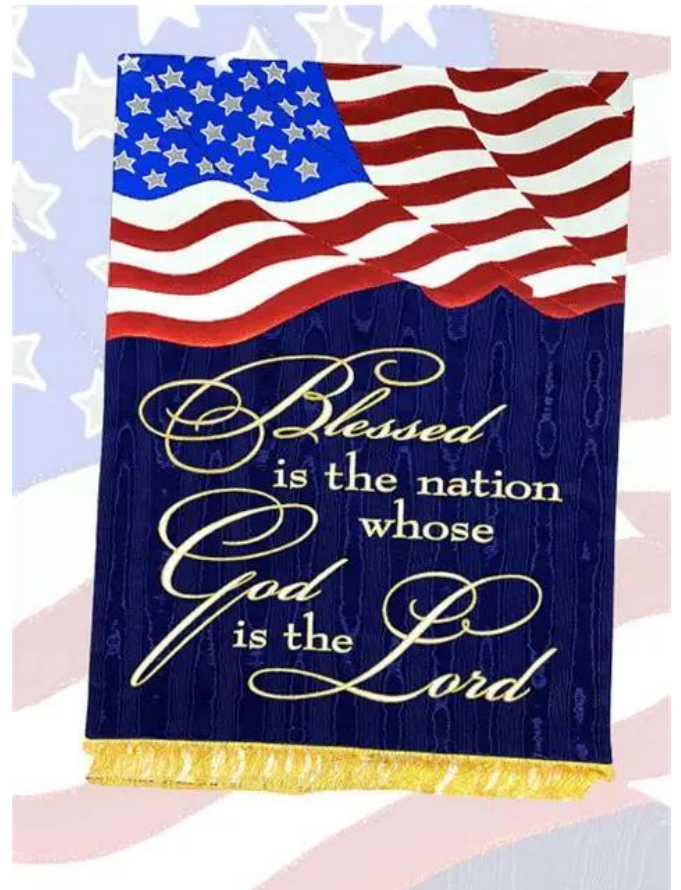
## CHURCH STAFF

**Rev. Scott Dorn**, Lead Pastor

**Melanie Passarella**, Administrative Assistant

**Kurt Schaefer, Sr.**, Treasurer

**Lynda Stine**, Financial Secretary





*"I sought the Lord, and He delivered me, and delivered me from all my fears."  
Psalm 34:4*

**Ongoing Prayer Needs**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>All those affected by violence &amp; war, and for peace between world governments</p> <p>Russell &amp; Bethany Alexander</p> <p>Bob Arrants</p> <p>Brooke &amp; Natalie (Maggie McCans)</p> <p>Bonnie (John Jones)</p> <p>Jim Chambers (Sally Vickers)</p> <p>Michael Fletcher (Lynn Seidel)</p> <p>Eugene Holt (John Venafra)</p> <p>Tina Kadri (Judy Arrants)</p> <p>Robin Kim</p> <p>Gary Leranian (Madeline Deane)</p> | <p>Miriam Martin</p> <p>Janice MacBride</p> <p>Mary (Gina Dukes)</p> <p>Liz Murray (Lynn Seidel)</p> <p>Rev. Bill Neff</p> <p>Donna Riegel</p> <p>Linda Sams</p> <p>Lynn Seidel</p> <p>Ruth Schenkenberger</p> <p>Sandra Shanahan</p> <p>Bernie, Bobbie &amp; Katie Shimkus (Laura Welch)</p> <p>Sue (Mary Thompson)</p> <p>Michael Tate</p> <p>Jacob Tercha (Bobbi Blum)</p> <p>Joan Touhill (Lynn Seidel)</p> <p>Toya (Gina Dukes)</p> |
|---|--|

*Need a loved one added or deleted from the On-Going Prayer list? Simply call or email the church and we'll make the changes.*

**May 17 to June 7  
Prayer Requests**

Christopher	Veterans
Loaves & Fishes	Blondell
LBCP	Pastor Bill
Terri	Nat Jones
Linda Sams	McCans Family
Joan	Alma
Drew	Mrs Shanahan
Owen	Jeremiah
Finley	Patrick



**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT NIGHT**  
**is on summer break. Will resume**  
**in October.**

**New Addresses!**

**Wilma Jane Hutchinson**  
mail welcomed!  
**c/o Asbury Grace Park**  
**1170 West Main Street**  
**Stroudsburg, PA 18360**

\*Please note if you send a card- Jane can no longer read or write due to her medical condition. You can write in the card and a staff member would probably read it to her.  
She likes dogs, lighthouses, flowers, gardening, sailing ships, golf, and dolls (she collected the lifelike Franklin Mint type dolls) if possible cards with these pictures would be greatly appreciated. Her birthday is August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Lynn Seidel** cell# 610-908-4401 mail & calls welcomed!  
**414 S. Hamilton St.**  
**Telford, PA 18969**

**Pastor Domingos Fernando** cell# 973-597-8577 mail & calls welcomed!  
**1007 Ohio St Apt A**  
**Pittsburg, KS 66762**

**Lynn Crump** mail welcomed!  
**c/o Emmajane VanVorce**  
**7146 State Rte 17C**  
**Endicott, NY 13760**

# FAMILY CORNER

## Five Faith-Building Tips for Children

[DiscipleLand Staff](#) June 3, 2019 [Biblical worldview](#), [Building Confidence](#), [Discipleship](#), [Engaging kids](#), [Faith](#) [No Comments](#)

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him” (Hebrews 11:1, 6, ESV).*

### How Kids Think

“Can you prove it?” Some kids are taught to believe that the scientific method is the ultimate test of validity. That worldview belittles people who believe in miraculous events, calling them simple-minded and uninformed. Faith is viewed as a weakness that cannot stand up to scientific reasoning. This is contrary to a child’s natural capacity for wonder, mystery, and belief in realities larger than him or herself. It is no wonder Christ held up a child’s faith as something valuable in the kingdom of God.

### How God Thinks

Faith forms a bridge that connects truth and hope. At one end, the bridge of faith rests securely upon the tangible foundation of Scripture. The events revealed in the Bible are factual and historically reliable. We can teach our children to discover and explore the evidence and learn how science and history back up the Scriptures. On the other end, the bridge of faith reaches toward God’s intangible promises yet to come and trust in His character. Since the Bible defines faith as the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1), children can possess unwavering belief that God is real, the Bible is true, and the Lord’s promises for the future can be trusted.

### True Story

Five-year-old Jake worked hard to earn \$20 by doing chores and cleaning around the house for mom.

Very proud of his accomplishment, Jake had big plans for buying a soft brown hamster – his first pet.

Mom and Dad were beginning to teach Jake the value of tithing. After praying and seeking wisdom, they were led to ask their son to give a chunk of his money to the Lord. If Jake tithed, the purchase of a new pet would need to wait a few more weeks. At this request, dramatic tears erupted; this little boy wondered why God would ask such a difficult sacrifice! Would his plans for purchasing a hamster ever be possible? After continual reminders that the Lord is good, faithful, and worth saying “yes” to, Jake’s sadness lessened and he responded. With hesitant trust and growing expectancy, he gave half of the hard earned money away.

Two days later, a letter arrived in the mail with birthday money from Grandma —double the amount that Jake had given to God’s work! Mom and Dad rejoiced at the Lord’s kindness. Jake saw the gift as not just a present from Grandma, but as a present from the Lord showing His faithfulness and generosity. Jake’s faith soared!

### Personal Example

Think about the process of learning to rock climb and how that relates to faith. Wonderful gear straps you in and keeps you firmly anchored to the rock. Yet, no matter how many times you have climbed, with those first steps your heart races even though the rope and the harness hold you secure. The more often you climb, the more you remember that the rope will hold. Your brain stops assessing how far the drop is and you begin focusing on the adventure ahead. Fear of falling diminishes and you are more willing to take risky, bold steps.

The same is true in your relationship with the Lord. The Scriptures show what God is like, but that truth does not change the way you live until you trust Him. This trust is expressed most fully when we choose to listen to God more than any other person or circumstances and we respond in view of what the Lord shows us in the Word and in prayer. It is such a delight to navigate life with faith in God’s existence and character—just as the presence of the rope allows the rock climber to enjoy their adventure without fear of falling.

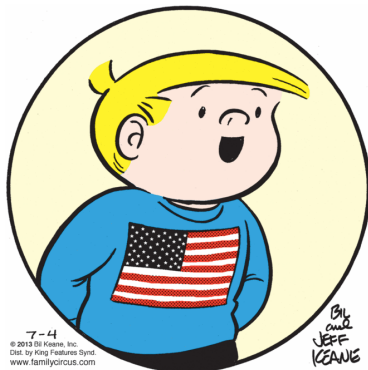
## What You Can Do

Faith is like a muscle—the more you exercise it, the stronger it becomes. Expressing faith doesn't require a long leap, but it does include short steps of practical trust.


To develop this trust, practice small steps of faith with your kids.

1. Read Scriptures frequently (Romans 10:17). Look especially at the role of faith throughout the Gospels, and Abraham's example of unwavering belief in the Lord's promises (Romans 4).
2. Pray expectantly (Matthew 21:22). Trust God to be faithful.
3. Walk uprightly (Galatians 5:16). Help your child depend on the Spirit so he or she chooses God's best rather than selfish desires.
4. Trust in God's strength (Proverbs 3:5-6). When your child is fearful or doubtful, encourage him or her to remember the Lord's faithfulness through testimony and stories from your own life.
5. Respond to the Lord's commands (Matt 14:22-32). Keep your eyes on the Lord as you obey Him in new and difficult circumstances.

Share with friends... 



"This is my favorite shirt 'cause it has our country's logo on it."

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*Give your child or yourself the gift of Bible knowledge. Norwood United Methodist Church offers Sunday morning programs for all ages that is Bible content centered. These programs help not only children, but adults to be able to discern the truth of God's Word from the deceptions of the world's shallow offerings of peace and love. Learning what God's Word has to say about living life to the fullest, helps us to become able to cope with problems that crop up in our lives. Come out and see how your life will be improved by learning God's principles in the Bible.*

*Cornerstone Bible Class is for adults of all ages. We meet at 9:00AM in the Chapel. Little Sprouts Bible class is for ages 3 -5/6 years old and meets every Sunday during the worship service. Bible Bunch class is for 6 to 11 years old. Bible Bunch class meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month during the worship service. All Bible classes meet from September through May. For questions please contact the NUMC church office at 610-532-0982.*



[Little Blessings Christian Preschool](#) Registration is open!

Call 610-583-4780 or email [norwoodlittleblessings@yahoo.com](mailto:norwoodlittleblessings@yahoo.com) for more information.

Little Blessings Amazon Wish List: [LBCP WISH LIST](#)

Open all year Fundraisers: [radafundraising.com](http://radafundraising.com) and [mableslabels.com](http://mableslabels.com) .

Please enter group name LITTLE BLESSINGS CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

The setting for this year's V.B.S. will be the Emerald Isle and the Bible hero will be David, "a man after the Lord's own Heart".

The children will learn the Lord's Prayer and what it means to use it during their daily prayer time at home.

Every stop on this Irish Adventure through Psalm 23 will teach them about the Good Shepherd and how he cares for his sheep like David discovered throughout his life as a shepherd and later as a King.

Each day the students will enjoy an opening video which sets the stage for the Bible lesson. Games, songs, crafts, and refreshments follow.

V.B.S. is free. We will be collecting a "free will" offering taken in the classroom for the Children's Hunger Fund.

This year we will not have a class for completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade. All those 4 years old through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible.

This special week will be held from July 27<sup>th</sup> through July 31<sup>st</sup>. Each day begins at 9:00am and dismissal will be at 11:30am.

Please register as soon as possible online at

<https://norwoodumcorgcontact.myanswers.com/emerald-crossing> ,

or by using the QR code below



or call the church office at 610-532-0982

Spread the word among your family, friends and neighbors!



**Men's Breakfast will resume on Oct 3 at 8:00am.** We meet on the first Saturday of months October to May in the Social Hall. Please join us. More info contact Bob Gibbs



**Women's Breakfast will resume on Oct 10 at 8:30am.** We meet every second Saturday of months October to May in the Social Hall. More info contact Sally Vickers 610-565-0924 or [jimsallyvickers@verizon.net](mailto:jimsallyvickers@verizon.net).



Faith-building friendship, fun, food, and fellowship.



**Handy Hands will resume on September 21 at 1:00pm.**


Do you like to knit, crochet or do other types of hand work? If so, we meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday every month in the Parlor. More info contact [Randy Gibbs](#), or [Lynda Stine](#).

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry-our local food bank-a ministry of the Prospect Hill Baptist Church-needs donations for the upcoming fall and winter season. Please place donation in tote in narthex. *This is an opportunity to show our thankfulness for all God has given to us.*



needs: canned beans; peanut butter; box or bagged pasta; tomato products; canned meat products (chicken, tuna, spam); snacks (cereal/granola bars, fruit snacks, etc.)

Amazon wish list: <https://a.co/03zcnZln>

Ryan Buchanan.....	2
Natalie McClay .....	4
	
Terri Jones .....	7
Donna Riegel .....	8
Jeremiah Anderson .....	13
Jonathon Evans .....	14
Ashley Gibbs .....	14
Justin Eckert .....	15
Bill Shanahan .....	15
Charlene Schaefer .....	17
Bob Arrants .....	31

Worship Ministry				
Mo.	Liturgist	Joys	Ushers	
5-Jul	Joyce	Anna	Tom G	Bob G
12-Jul	Brittany	Sally	Bill F	Lynda S
19-Jul	Kelli	Anna	Bob G	Jim V
26-Jul	Jeremiah	Sally	Tom G	Lynda S



# America 250 Wordsearch

F C O I N O D R S U J P A V L K F R  
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DECLARATION  
FLAG  
FOURTH  
FRANKLIN  
INDEPENDENCE  
JEFFERSON

JULY  
LIVINGSTON  
PARTY  
PHILADELPHIA  
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL  
SHERMAN  
STAMP  
STATES  
TWO FIFTY  
UNITED  
USA

## July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7:30pm N.A. Meeting	<b>2</b> 5:30pm N.A. Meeting 7:00pm Nar-Anon Meeting	<b>3</b> Pastor's Day Off <b>6:00pm Youth Group</b> 10:00pm N.A. Meeting	<b>4</b> OFFICE CLOSED 11:00am N.A. Meeting
<b>5</b> <b>10:00am Worship Service</b> 10:00am Worship Service with Holy Communion	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00am Prayer Hour	<b>8</b> 7:30pm N.A. Meeting	<b>9</b> 5:30pm N.A. Meeting 7:00pm Nar-Anon Meeting	<b>10</b> Pastor's Day Off <b>6:00pm Youth Group</b> 10:00pm N.A. Meeting	<b>11</b> 11:00am N.A. Meeting
<b>12</b> <b>10:00am Worship Service</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00am Prayer Hour	<b>15</b> 7:30pm N.A. Meeting	<b>16</b> 5:30pm N.A. Meeting 7:00pm Nar-Anon Meeting	<b>17</b> Pastor's Day Off <b>6:00pm Youth Group</b> 10:00pm N.A. Meeting	<b>18</b> 11:00am N.A. Meeting
<b>19</b> <b>10:00am Worship Service</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:00am Prayer Hour	<b>22</b> 7:30pm N.A. Meeting	<b>23</b> 5:30pm N.A. Meeting 7:00pm Nar-Anon Meeting	<b>24</b> Pastor's Day Off <b>6:00pm Youth Group</b> 10:00pm N.A. Meeting	<b>25</b> 11:00am N.A. Meeting
<b>26</b> <b>10:00am Worship Service</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00am Prayer Hour	<b>29</b> 7:30pm N.A. Meeting	<b>30</b> 5:30pm N.A. Meeting 7:00pm Nar-Anon Meeting	<b>31</b> Pastor's Day Off <b>6:00pm Youth Group</b> 10:00pm N.A. Meeting	