



*We exist to introduce people to
Jesus Christ
and strengthen lives through Him!*

**Pastor Brendan
Van Gorder
December 2022**



Red, Green, and Blue Christmas

For some, Christmas is the happiest and saddest time of the year. On one hand we have the very hope of our salvation, Jesus, breaking through the barrier between heaven and earth and being born to us as our savior. On the other hand we remember our loved ones and how we used to spend Christmas with them and how we can't anymore now that they've crossed over into heaven. With this dual feeling we come to see Jesus and hear again the message:

**For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
~ Isaiah 9:6-7**

Even in difficult times the birth of a child is celebrated. Especially during the pandemic many people considered how dangerous this world will be for such a precious little infant, and how unknown their future will be living in it. But even still, there is a gladness: that this little one is here WITH Us! They have arrived. They're on this side and it's a good thing.

How much more with Jesus! God has arrived on the scene not a moment too soon! Just when we needed to remember that all hope was not lost, we meet a baby in a manger. One who will be strong enough to hold governments on his shoulders. One who will be gentle enough to be called wonderful, counselor, and Mighty God. And one who we can rely on to be our everlasting father and prince of peace.

If this season is a mix of happiness and grief for you, know that the Prince of Peace came to walk right alongside you. Right after the happy event of his birth, Joseph and Mary fled with Jesus to escape him being killed. Jesus is familiar with birth and death being so closely linked, happiness and sadness filling the same breath and the same moment. The good news is, Jesus

will walk with us through our times of need. Remember that good Psalm,

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

~ Psalm 23:4

We have with us a comfort, an "ever present help in times of need". This Comfort is Jesus. This Prince of Peace is Emmanuel, God with Us, Jesus the Christ, and if you are not sure how to smile in this season. Try imagining the face of baby Jesus. So powerful, so majestic, the savior of us all, looking up, in wonder, in newness, in excitement, in love. Jesus is here for you. To love you and to hold you no matter what feelings you're experiencing. Jesus is ready to embrace your full self. Take a minute and just sit with Jesus. Take a minute to remember, that Jesus has come to earth, to this mess, for you. Sincerely,

~ Pastor Brendan



[Blue underlined text](#) in the newsletter is a link to [SAFE websites/forms](#). Click and explore!



We will have the Men's Breakfast **Saturday, December 3 at 8:00 am**. We meet once a month on the first Saturday of the month, October to June. It is a time for fellowship and to build a relationship with one another. Please join us.



We will be celebrating our Christmas Eve Service on **Saturday, December 24 at 7:00 pm**. Don't miss one of the most beautiful and inspirational services of the year!! Bring your friends and family.

If severe winter weather makes travel to the church unsafe, services and events may be canceled or rescheduled. If the church has your email address, you will be informed of any cancellations or changes using that media. We also will use our "robo" calling system, "Dial My Calls", which will call your home/cell, again, only if we have that information. If your phone is set up to not show your caller ID, the "robo" calls will not be accepted.



Friday, December 23, up to and including **Monday, January 2.**

Karen Gutmaker	1	
Marla Hsu	1	
Nancy Evans	4	
Nancy Pentimall	5	
Mary Lou Smith	10	
Norman Passarella	13	
Joyce McKay	15	
Aiden Dreyer	16	
Brindy Gibbs Reiher.....	19	
Zoramya Van Gorder	23	
Lisa Phillips	24	
Pat Beckett	30	



Christmas Caroling

Everyone is invited to join our annual tradition of going Christmas caroling to shut-in members and friends of our church. This is a joyous event for all ages: children, youth, adults, and seniors. We will meet at the church **Sunday, December 18 at 5:00 pm**. If

anyone can no longer get in and out of cars for the caroling, they are still welcome to join us at the Vickers' home around 6:30; 3 Moccasin Trail, Media.

Take a little time from your busy holiday schedule to share the love of the Season with folks we don't see very often. You will be blessed! **We are requesting homemade cookie donations to give to the shut-ins.** Join the Vickers at their home after caroling for light refreshments. Contact the Vickers at 610-565-0924 / jimsallyvickers@verizon.net.

Using Our Prayers, Presence and Service to God as Good Stewards



As the scripture reminds us, we are all ministers in the body of Christ. **Thanks** to all of you who submitted your COGG Financial Gifts Response form November 20 (or submitted since then), presenting your financial intentions and commitments for 2023. If you have not yet sent in your form, additional forms are on the glass display case in the hallway. You can then fill out and place in the offering box.

PARENTS' CORNER

Teach Children the Real Meaning of Christmas

[DiscipleLand Staff](#) December 2, 2018 [Children's Ministry Curriculum](#), [Children's Ministry Resources](#), [Parenting](#), [Raising Godly Children](#), [What Kids Need](#) [14 Comments](#)



As we turn our attention to the Lord Jesus this Christmas, the following story will help kids and parents remember the Real Meaning of Christmas.

Practical Idea: download your copy of the “**Real Meaning of Christmas**” below, read the story to your children, or email the download to your parents suggesting that they read it to their families this Christmas season.

Children ask, “What is God really like?” Schools, friends, television, and other sources expose children to a variety of ideas. Much of what kids hear about “god” does not even resemble the God who reveals Himself in the Bible.

God delights to disclose Himself to all who seek Him. Knowing the Lord personally and enjoying His greatness is the highest privilege of every Christian! The Bible is the one inspired place to find out about God—His personality, His attributes, His Names, and His character. A child’s basic outlook and attitude toward life is shaped by the way he or she pictures God.

Introduce your child to our awesome God. Each week, explain and discuss one of God’s attributes, names, or character traits. Encourage your child to know God truly and intimately. Just as a jeweler delights in each facet of a beautiful diamond, your love for God grows as you examine each aspect of His character (see 1 Chronicles 29:11; Proverbs 2:4-5; Acts 17:24-25).

The Real Meaning of Christmas

One week before Christmas, a well-known visitor made a surprise appearance...

I had just finished the household chores and was preparing for bed when a noise startled me. I cautiously opened the door to the front room. To my amazement, Santa Claus stepped from behind the Christmas tree! He placed one finger over his mouth so I would not cry out.

“What are you doing here?” I exclaimed. Then I realized that Santa had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. The eager, boisterous soul we all know was very sad. Santa offered one, simple statement, “**TEACH THE CHILDREN!**” I was puzzled—what did he mean? Anticipating my question, with one quick movement he brought forth a great bag from behind the tree.

I stood there bewildered. Santa explained, “Teach the Children! Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. So many people today have forgotten what Christmas is really about!”

Santa then reached into his bag, pulled out a tiny **FIR TREE**, and placed it on the mantle. “Teach the Children that the stately fir tree remains green all year round, showing the everlasting hope of mankind. The needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of our prayers that always reach God.”

Santa again reached into his sack and pulled out a brilliant **STAR**. “Teach the Children that the Bethlehem star was the sign of promises long ago. God promised to send a Savior to deliver the world. The bright star pointed to the fulfillment of that promise—God’s only Son had been born!”

Next, Santa pulled a **CANDLE** from his bag. “Teach the Children that the candle symbolizes that Jesus, God’s Son, is the light of the world. When we see this light remember the One who overcomes the darkness.”

Once again Santa reached into his sack. This time he removed a **WREATH** and placed it on the tree. “Teach the Children that the wreath reveals the endless nature of God’s love. Real love never ceases. Nothing can stop God’s amazing love.”

Santa then pulled from his bag an ornament of **HIMSELF**. “Teach the Children that Santa Claus symbolizes the generosity and good will we show to others because God has given us His very special Son. Don’t forget to tell the Children that Saint Nicolas was not part of the first Christmas in Bethlehem.”

Santa then reached into his sack and carefully placed a **CANDY CANE** on the tree. “Teach the Children that the candy cane represents the shepherd’s staff. The crook on the staff rescues sheep who have strayed from the flock. God never gives up on people who wander from Him.”

Next, He removed a delicate **ANGEL** and lifted it to the very top of the tree. “Teach the Children that angels shouted the glorious news of the Savior’s birth. These heavenly messengers sang ‘Glory to God in the highest! Peace and good will to everyone on earth!’” (con’t Pg 4)

Finally, Santa pulled out a beautifully wrapped **GIFT**. He said, "Teach the Children that God deeply loves people, so He gave them His most precious gift—Jesus, His only Son. When the wise men arrived in Bethlehem, they bowed before the Child and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This is why we give gifts to others each Christmas."

Then Santa paused. He stared at the tree and seemed to be pleased. I saw that the twinkle had returned to his eyes. He turned, looked at me, and smiled. Santa offered these final words, "Remember to teach the Children the true meaning of Christmas. Please don't put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant. Jesus Christ is the real reason for the Christmas season. I am glad to join all others who bow down and worship Him, our Lord and God." —Author Unknown

Free Resource: The Real Meaning of Christmas Download

Free download: ([Click here](#) for PDF download – read to your kids, print and give to kids as take home, or email to parents and ask them to read to their kids)



Share with friends...

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Dear Church Friends: The Staff/Parish Relations Committee would like to have the congregation continue the custom of giving money to a "Christmas Purse" to be distributed among the Pastor and other staff members as a way of showing appreciation for their services.



Envelopes may be found in the narthex on the literature table. You may also include in your offering envelope, noting on your offering envelope "**Christmas Gift**". You may place envelope in the collection plate, or mail it to the church c/o Kurt Schaefer, Sr. Donations must be received no later than **Sunday, December 18.**



"I sought the Lord, and He delivered me, and delivered me from all my fears."

Psalm 34:4

Ongoing Prayer Needs

- | | |
|---|--|
| Alex (Sally Vickers) | Robin Kim |
| Alice & Ed Sabre | Jamie King (Lynda Stine) |
| All those affected by violence & war, and for peace between world governments | Carol Luther Lauria (Sally Vickers) |
| Russell & Bethany Alexander | Gary Leranian (Madeline Deane) |
| Bob Arrants | Eleanor Luther |
| Joe Bradford | Janice MacBride |
| Brook & Natalie (Maggie McCans) | Susan Markow (John Jones) |
| Jim Chambers (Sally Vickers) | Miriam Martin |
| Jerry & Barbara Chreiman | Mary (Gina Dukes) |
| Madeline Deane | Liz Murray (Lynn Seidel) |
| Michael Fletcher (Lynn Seidel) | Rev. Bill Neff |
| Sam & Dolores Getty | Donna Riegel |
| Bill & Anne Gibbs | Sandy (Anna Glisson) |
| Eugene Holt (John Venaфра) | Ruth Schenkenberger |
| Marla Hsu (Anna Glisson) | Sandra Shanahan |
| John & Terri Jones | Bernie, Bobbie & Katie Shimkus (Laura Welch) |
| Tina Kadri (Judy Arrants) | Michael Tate |
| | Jacob Tercha (Bobbi Blum) |
| | Joan Touhill (Lynn Seidel) |
| | Toya (Gina Dukes) |

Current Prayer Needs

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Barbara | comfort for Fran Hutchinson | Leah |
| Bob Arrants | family in her passing | Maria Mooney |
| Aunt Dottie & Uncle John | Janice MacBride | Linda North |
| Sam & Dolores Getty | Jim | Pastor Brendan's 10 siblings |
| Tommy Glisson | John | Pat & Shirley |
| Bill Hutchinson | Karen | Alice & Ed Sabre |
| | | Sandy |
| | | John Venaфра, Jr |

Residing in Retirement Care & Nursing Homes

Bob Nelson – Broomall Rehab & Nursing Ct



There are still some remaining boxes of church envelopes in the narthex. Please don't forget to pick up your box, and your neighbor's. This will save us

\$5.10 to mail each box. **PLEASE DO NOT USE THESE ENVELOPES BEFORE JANUARY 2023.**

~ Lynda M. Stine, Financial Secretary

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
REMOTE Office Schedule Monday to Friday 10a to 2p		Church Office 610-532-0982 Please leave a voicemail and we will get back to you as soon as possible		1	2 6:00p Youth Group 10:00p N.A.	3 8:00a Men's Breakfast
4 2nd Sunday of Advent Holy Communion 10:00a Worship 10:00a Children's Bible Classes	5	6	7 7:00p Bible Study/ZOOM 7:30p N.A.	8 7:00p Nar- Anon	9 6:00p Youth Group 10:00p N.A.	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent Newsletter Deadline 10:00a Worship 10:00a Children's Bible Classes	12	13	14 7:00p Bible Study/ZOOM 7:30p N.A.	17 7:00p Nar- Anon	18 6:00p Youth Group 10:00p N.A.	19
18 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00a Worship 10:00a Children's Bible Classes 5:00p Christmas Caroling	19 1:00a Handy Hands	20	21 1st Day of Winter 7:00p Bible Study/ZOOM 7:30p N.A.	22 7:00p Nar- Anon	23 Office Closed 6:00p Youth Group 10:00p N.A.	24 7:00p Christmas Eve Service
25 Christmas Day!! NO worship service at Norwood UMC. Please view pre-recorded sermon offered by our Eastern PA Conference of The United Methodist Church	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed 7:30p N.A.	31 Office Closed 7:00p Nar- Anon	Sunday in-person 10:00a Worship and live-streamed on Facebook	

Visit us at www.NorwoodUMC.org, Like us on bit.ly/FacebookNUMC

Follow us on bit.ly/InstagramNUMC, Subscribe to us on bit.ly/YouTubeNUMC

Contact us at NorwoodUMC@gmail.com to join our email list

Norwood United Methodist Church

315 Chester Pike
Norwood, PA 19074-1401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2022 Newsletter

Staff

[Brendan Van Gorder](#), Pastor

[Mike Nelson](#), Youth Pastor

[Pat Beckett](#), Administrative Assistant

[Kurt Schaefer, Sr](#), Treasurer

[Lynda Stine](#), Financial Secretary

Worship

10:00 am in-person Worship,
and live-streamed on Facebook

Contact Info

Norwood UMC / 610-532-0982
315 Chester Pike, Norwood, PA 19074-1401



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