



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

**Pastor Brendan  
Van Gorder**  
**June 2023  
Newsletter**



## **Summer Schedule**

**June 11 to September 3**

**Worship at 10 am to 11 am**

Downstairs in the *air-conditioned* Social Hall



### **Conflict: Listening and Uniting**

**James 1:19** “Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

#### **Listen to Each Other**

When there is conflict there is a natural tendency to try to get your point across. You want to convince the person who is conflicting with you that your way is the better way. Have you ever been in a conversation and the person you were talking to got so excited that they started making a point before you even finished your sentence? It doesn't feel good. Cutting someone off is not in the righteousness of God. Listening to someone deeply, really trying to see, understand, and love the person; that is in the righteousness of God. If you find yourself in a discussion or in a conflict, you should keep coming back to this: “be quick to hear and slow to speak”. “Be quick to hear and slow to speak”. There's a lot of wisdom in this. After all, you know why you believe what you believe, but do you really understand why the other person believes what they believe? Try to hear them, or in other words, be slow to speak. Instead of focusing on winning the issue, focus on winning a closer relationship with the person you are in conflict with. And when you do speak, be slow about it, try to speak from a place of love and curiosity. Love your own experience and understanding, love their experience and

understanding, and curiously try to find a place of agreement or respect.

**Ephesians 4:1-6:** “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. **2** Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **3** Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism; **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

#### **Unity: One Body**

It is hard to bear with someone in love. Bearing with someone means putting up with them. It means swallowing your comfort and pride. Being willing to do life with them even though they are difficult to live with (as long as they are not hurting you of course). Why do we bear with each other? Because God has made us one. God has made us Christians through Jesus. God has given us a body, and God has given us the challenge to keep that body one. One body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, a whole lot of people with a whole lot of conflicting temperaments and understandings, but at the end of the day, one God and Father of all. We are all trying to figure out how to live this life with Jesus, and none of us has all the answers. Instead, God is asking that we bear with each other, struggle with each other, listen to each other, love each other, and at the end of the day, come together and declare that Jesus is Lord, and that Jesus is asking us to feed and love his sheep.

I pray for listening and unity.

Sincerely,  
Pastor Brendan

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**Blue underlined text in the newsletter is a link to  
SAFE websites/forms. Click & explore!**

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*"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	Liz Murray (Lynn Seidel)
Mary Ann Finley (Kurt Schaefer)	Rev. Bill Neff
Michael Fletcher (Lynn Seidel)	Donna Riegel
Sam & Dolores Getty	Sandy (Anna Glisson)
Bill Gibbs	Ruth Schenkenberger
Eugene Holt (John Venafr)	Sandra Shanahan
Marla Hsu (Anna Glisson)	Bernie, Bobbie & Katie Shimkus (Laura Welch)
John & Terri Jones	Jim Stevenson
Tina Kadri (Judy Arrants)	Michael Tate
	Jacob Tercha (Bobbi Blum)
	Joan Touhill (Lynn Seidel)
	Toya (Gina Dukes)

**Current Prayer Needs**

Aiden	Joyce P.
Dale Beckett	Captain Carl Popadick
Carol	Joyce P.
Carol, Mark & Chris	Captain Carl Popadick
Evie Bradley	Mary Lou Smith's two daughters
Deborah & Jester-Lee Family	Lynn Seidel
Glenn & Ann	Jim Stevenson
Jim	Those with mental health issues
Harry Kane	Hubert Zepf
Kim	
comfort for Mark & Chris in Carol's passing	

**Residing in Retirement Care & Nursing Homes**

Bob Nelson – Broomall Rehab & Nursing Ctr



**Handy Hands**

Do you like to knit, crochet or do other types of hand work? If so, please join us *Monday; June 19 at 1:00 pm* in the Parlor.

Questions? Please contact [Lynn Crump](#), [Randy Gibbs](#), or [Lynda Stine](#).

**Vacation Bible School is asking for donations of the following item before July 2, 2023:**

Rolls of blue painter's tape. The tape can only be the 1-inch width of **Scotch brand** blue painter's tape. We have tried other brands in the past and have found that the decorations do not stick to the walls using those brands. Each year we use at least 10 rolls or more to hang up the decorations. Please give the rolls of tape to either Carol Hammes or Randy Gibbs. They can also be left in the door pocket on the church office door. Thanks!!



Thank you for all the birthday wishes and cards you sent to me to help me celebrate my 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was wonderful to hear and receive cards from all of you and I enjoyed reading the notes you wrote. I appreciated you making my 95<sup>th</sup> birthday memorable!

In Christ, ~ **Bill Hutchinson**



Lynda Stine.....	1
Joan Glisson.....	2
Miriam Martin.....	2
David Borrell.....	3
Rochelle Amadio .....	6
Peter Greer.....	17
Bonnie Wadsworth .....	17
John Venafr Sr .....	18
Hope Goldsborough.....	26

There will be **No Summer Adult or Children's Sunday School Classes** this year. Sunday School classes will resume September 17, 2023.

~ **Commission on ED**

# Parents' Corner

## What Kids REALLY Need



[DiscipleLand Staff](#) June 17, 2019 [Biblical literacy](#), [Biblical worldview](#), [Discipleship](#), [Raising Godly Children](#), [What Kids Need](#) [No Comments](#)

### Where are today's Christian kids?

Once upon a time, Christian parents asked their children after church, "What did you learn about God?" Today, the question is often, "Did you have fun?"

Not too long ago, churches offered Bible training for all ages—wanting to fully equip children to serve Christ. Today, many churches offer high-energy, entertainment-based programs—wanting to keep kids happy and to make recruiting easy. Children rarely use their Bibles.

As a result, children today:

- know more about video games than they know about God
- love peer approval more than they love Jesus
- serve themselves before they consider the needs of others.

In this generation as never before, cultural gravity relentlessly pulls Christian children down—and they are drowning. Statistics warn us that eight out of every ten Christian kids are drinking in the world's value system. Nearly 80% of our children leave the church by the time they complete high school.

This problem is magnified today because the world's value system is "post-Christian." Fifty years ago, the church and western culture were sailing in the same direction. The Ten Commandments were respected and cherished across our society. Lying, cheating, stealing, and infidelity were universally recognized as wrong. Nations possessed a code of values that were based on solid moral footings. This, of course, is said to be passé! Our society no longer reflects a Biblical world-view. Western culture has reversed its direction, charting a course that openly opposes Christian interests.

Now, as churches and parents, we have lost sight of our educational moorings. We're adrift at sea and not sure which harbor is home. As a direct result, most Christian kids today have no foundation. We're raising a generation of children who have missed out on essential Bible training. When the world comes calling, many fall prey to dubious activities and deceptive philosophies. It is only natural that children who have routinely swallowed teaching about relativism and tolerance have little regard for moral

absolutes. They turn away from their Christian roots and step off the gangplank into uncertain seas.

### What does Jesus call His Church to do?

Jesus' Great Commission "Make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:18-20) is the church's primary mandate. Through 20 centuries, Jesus' final challenge has stirred His followers to action. Discipleship is much more than "part-time Christianity." Jesus' preeminent passion, the focus of His ministry, His earthly delight—was His twelve disciples. It is certainly true that He ministered to the masses, but Christ poured His life into those twelve diverse men.

Jesus modeled discipleship to His select band of followers. The Lord knew that if He failed to effectively train the twelve, His mission would ultimately fall short of its global objective. Jesus really loved His disciples—and they knew it! Discipleship was Christ's sole weapon to win the world. He never mentioned "Plan B."

After Jesus' ascension into heaven, His disciples knew what Jesus expected them to do. They were to go and repeat with other believers what Christ had done with them. Did His followers succeed? Absolutely! Not too many years later, antagonists to the Gospel reported that Jesus' disciples had "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). First and foremost, Jesus Christ calls the Church and every believer in the Church to follow His example and "make disciples."

### What do disciples look like today?

Discipleship is the ongoing process whereby Christians grow in Biblical knowledge, Christlike character, and faithful conduct—to the glory of God. Walking in Jesus' steps and being His disciple is the Christian's highest privilege!

When we examine the lives of dynamic disciples throughout history, we consistently find three components:

- Knowledge: Growing disciples KNOW God intimately. They develop a reservoir of KNOWLEDGE based on a Biblical worldview.
- Character: Growing disciples LOVE God passionately. They display Christlike CHARACTER in every area of life.
- Conduct: Growing disciples SERVE God selflessly. They demonstrate faithful CONDUCT that honors God and helps people.

The Bible illumines a finite number of "must know" topics to understand, "must be" traits to exhibit, and "must do" activities to experience. When a child's developmental process includes that knowledge, those traits, and those experiences, we can be reasonably assured that we have done our part to build a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ. Effective discipleship interweaves these three dimensions—knowledge + character + conduct.

### Why disciple children?

Jesus Christ commissioned the Church with only one task—“make disciples.” With regard to children, most churches today are doing a poor job discharging that responsibility. If Jesus paid us a surprise visit, we would show Him our nice classrooms and resource centers. We might introduce Him to our teaching staff, invite Him to share snacks with preschoolers, and ask Him to teach the older kids. Afterwards, my guess is that Jesus might say: “Thank you for the tour. I can see that you’re having a good time together. You’ve invested in resources and environments. But I came today for another reason—remember the one thing I commanded you to do? Now, please show Me your disciples.” What will you and I say when Jesus asks us that question?

In his book, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*, George Barna wrote, “...ministry to children is the single most strategic ministry in God’s kingdom” (p. 14). God has given parents primary responsibility for the spiritual training of their children. But many parents don’t know where to begin. They feel overwhelmed with this responsibility. So, parents often entrust this task to the Church, or to chance.

This is why disciple making is the most pivotal ministry that churches can provide. It is time for churches to encourage and equip parents to carry out their responsibility. The vitality of the next generation of Christians pivots on its willingness to do so. Churches must plan purposeful ministries to disciple parents and children. As your church considers the needs of children, please remember Jesus’ highest priority. Discipleship is the one thing we cannot neglect.

### How can we motivate kids?

Many kids have lost interest in spiritual matters. They are discouraged about trying to please God. From their perspective, it is not “cool” to be godly. So they focus on their own desires and let the world guide them. The number one challenge in churches today is to overcome mediocrity. Christian kids are satisfied with Luke warmness. To counteract this trend, some churches have replaced content-rich children’s ministries with high-energy programs. This may keep kids from being bored and it may eliminate the need to recruit volunteers, but it also severs teacher-learner relationships that foster discipleship. If we routinely motivate kids with flashy events, we are doomed to the “bigger and better” cycle. Each new program must offer more energy, excitement, and “wow” than the previous one.

Instead, we must move kids from extrinsic to intrinsic motivation. Throughout the Bible, God uses a variety of cause-effect techniques to motivate His people. Some are positive and some are punitive; some are earthly and some

are eternal. Some are fascinating and some are frightening. Remind children that every human being will someday meet the Creator face-to-face—and give an account to Him.

Every child can be motivated—though not every child responds to the same stimulus. Find ways to lift your child’s eyes from self to God. Help him or her realize that our omnipresent God is both loving and just. Establish an appropriate system of rules and rewards. Reinforce attitudes and behaviors that honor God. Show how faith is relevant to life. Encourage, affirm, model, pray.

### Summary

Unless a force greater than the influence of gravity is exerted on an object, it will fall to the earth. Unless Christianity exerts a stronger influence than the world, the enemy’s persuasive tactics will pull our kids from the truth and ultimately cause them to fall away. The Great Commission hinges on the effectiveness of the church’s educational ministries.

“As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; But speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.” (Ephesians 4:14-16)

***Discipleship is the one thing that kids REALLY need.*** To navigate the turbulent seas and reach the spiritual harbors that God intends, kids need a firm foundation in God’s Word. They need help to grow into solid disciples of Jesus Christ. They need our help. Children’s discipleship is the hope of the world! *by Mark Steiner, Th.M.*



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## June Ministries Schedule

### Sunday Liturgist/Scripture Schedule

Date	Welcome &/or Liturgist - 1 <sup>st</sup> scripture	Offering &/or Liturgist - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Scripture
Jun 04	Ashley Gibbs	Bill Shanahan
Jun 11	Delano Anderson Jeremiah Anderson	Joan Schaefer
Jun 18	Lynn Seidel	Jim Vickers
Jun 25	<b>OPEN</b>	Lynn Crump

## - Sarah Gallo's Stories -

### GLORIA A DEUS! (Glory to God!)



How can I put into words the incredible events that have been taking place here at Alcance-Vinde Meninos? Simply put, God has been working in ways that have surpassed even my wildest expectations and dreams for this ministry. The privilege I have to be God's hands and feet, thanks to your financial contribution/monthly support and MANY many prayers, the Lord has been busily working here in Brazil.

As my last update mentioned, our coordinator Ellis discovered a cancerous tumor in her breast that needed to be surgically removed. With God's grace and protection, the doctors were able to remove it completely. She had to go through a rigorous amount of testing before starting treatment, which will be done in four sessions, 20 days in between each session, to allow her body to recover. While Ellis has been ordered by the doctor to stay home and recuperate, I have been put in charge to lead our ministry as acting coordinator.

What a time of growth and reliance on the Lord for HIS wisdom and strength! We have 70 children and 40 teens that we attend to during the year, Monday through Thursday. The blessing of investing in their lives for the year is truly an opportunity that I thank God for every day, despite the challenges we are faced

with. This past month, there were many threats made to the schools (where our children and teens attend) of either shootings or bringing weapons, but we are praising God for His protection.

As we continue to preach the Gospel message of God's saving grace and His miraculous transformation, the devil does wage war against us. Thank Jesus Christ for the victory He has already won and the victory we can walk in everyday! I also praise God that I was able to get my permanent residency document figured out. Next step: CITIZENSHIP (This will take another four years to complete). Thank you so much for your continued support!

**PRAYER REQUESTS: Ellis-health and treatments to go well**

**Sarah-Praise that my documents went through. Continual wisdom in coordinating**

**Roberto-Wisdom in decisions that have to be made concerning our ministry**

**Our interns Joy and Meredith-Encouragement, continual learning of the language, health**

**Kevin-Trip to the States would go well, continual wisdom in camp coordinating**

**Richard (Kevin's brother)-Wisdom in seeing if God is leading him here to Alcance**

**Duda-Next steps after this year (finishing her time with us)**

Donate to Sarah Gallo - Missionary for Brazil:

<https://missions.wol.org/missionaries/Sarah-Gallo-226618/>

Word of Life Ministries Int'l <https://wliusa.org/>

# June 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>REMOTE Office Schedule</b> <b>Monday to Friday</b> <b>10a to 2p</b>	<b>Church Office</b> <b>610-532-0982</b> <b>Please leave a voicemail and we will get back to you as soon as possible</b>			<b>1</b> 7:00pm Nar-Anon	<b>2</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 6:00pm Youth Group 10:00pm N.A.	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>NO COMMUNION</b> <b>Peace with Justice SUN (special offering)</b> 10:00am Children's Bible Classes 10:00am Worship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:30pm N.A.	<b>8</b> 7:00pm Nar-Anon	<b>9</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 6:00pm Youth Group 10:00pm N.A.	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>Summer Worship Schedule - held in Social Hall</b> 10:00am Worship	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:30pm N.A.	<b>15</b> 7:00pm Nar-Anon	<b>16</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 6:00pm Youth Group 10:00pm N.A.	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Father's Day</b> 10:00am Worship	<b>19</b> 1:00pm Handy Hands	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:30pm N.A.	<b>22</b> 7:00pm Nar-Anon	<b>23</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 6:00pm Youth Group 10:00pm N.A.	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10:00am Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:30pm N.A.	<b>29</b> 7:00pm Nar-Anon	<b>30</b> <b>Pastor's Day Off</b> 6:00pm Youth Group 10:00pm N.A.	

Visit [www.NorwoodUMC.org](http://www.NorwoodUMC.org) for church “goodies” and our other Norwood UMC media platforms.

# Norwood United Methodist Church

315 Chester Pike  
Norwood, PA 19074-1401

RETURN REQUESTED



## June 2023 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

Click on icon links



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