



2022 Watching for Newness

Isaiah 43:19

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Happy 2022 Norwood United Methodist!

God has something exciting for us this year. It is springing up. It is a new thing. Do we perceive it? As we make new year's resolutions, as we imagine what we want out of our next year, let us take an attitude of excited watching. As Christians, we are often waiting and watching, witnessing to God's hope in the midst of a wilderness and wasteland. However, even as we continue to wait and watch, it's exciting to be reminded that God has already come to us, and is even now doing something among us! We're not done watching, but God planted seeds among us last year, and now, as we continue to watch for God, we can see if we look closely, that new buds of life are springing up around us! This year, it's our job to watch for this budding energy among us and water and cultivate it!

Our next year together is full of something that God has brought to us. It is a new thing, which means that it may be unfamiliar, but it is a good thing, sent from a loving God. It is springing up in our midst. The question for the start of this year is, do we perceive the new thing that God is springing up in our midst? I am excited to hear what you see God doing in our congregation. Together, I am excited to "Taste and see that the Lord is good".

Jeremiah 29:11

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

When we begin to perceive a newness, a fresh thing happening, it can be both exciting and scary. It's human nature not to like the unknown. But God has so many good things for us that we have not yet known. And, like a good parent, God lets us know that what's coming around the bend in 2022 is a thing of love. The Lord promises that this year is planned out for us. Although life may seem random to us, God knows what is happening, and what we need. God has a plan for us. And how wonderful it is that these plans are to prosper us, give us hope, and give us a future! We can rest and hope for these gifts from God as a child does. A child doesn't have to work to bring about a birthday or Christmas or a celebration. They are allowed to just rest and wait in excited anticipation. So, let's be children in 2022. Let's wait with eyes wide open for our Divine Parent to do something in our midst and bring us a gift that has been planned and set aside for our hope and future.

God Loves you!

Sincerely,
Pastor Brendan

The Epiphany . . .

. . . (manifestation) of the LORD - **January 6**, an even more ancient celebration among Christians than Christmas, originally focused on the nativity,



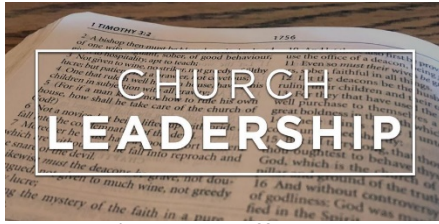
incarnation, and baptism of Christ. Today we celebrate the coming of the 'three' wise men (magi), who brought gifts to the Christ child. It marks the end of the Christmas Cycle, which began the First Sunday of Advent.

Men's & Women's Breakfast!

We will meet downstairs in the Social Hall for this special combined men's and women's breakfast **January 8 at 8:15 am**. It's a time for fellowship and to build a relationship with one another. Please join us.

Leadership Consecration Sunday


Our thanks for all those who have faithfully and graciously served in 2021. Join us in recognizing and commissioning Norwood UMC's elected officers and ministry leaders for 2022 on **Sunday, January 9**. Please keep the attached copy of Church Council members and other elected officers. Refer to them as needed or desired to know how your church works, which ministry areas, committees or groups you belong in or serve with, and how they are related. Others may be added to this list as noted in future newsletters.



Check Out Our Website!!

ALL committee meeting dates have been entered for 2022 on our [website calendar](#). Arrow over any listed event; if there is any additional information regarding the event, it will pop up on the screen. The newsletter can be found under the heading **CONNECT**, just scroll down and click **Newsletter**. If you do not have the Adobe Acrobat reader, you can download it free from their website: www.adobe.com.





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



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

Psalm 34:4

Ongoing Prayer Needs:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Margie & Joe Bellon | John & Terri Jones |
| Joe Bradford | Tina Kadri (Judy Arrants) |
| Bob Brooks | Carol Luther Lauria |
| Tracy Cangelosi | Gary Leranian (Madeline Deane) |
| Jim Chambers | Eleanor Luther |
| Jerry & Barbara Chreiman | Janice MacBride |
| Madeline Deane | Liz Murray (Lynn Seidel) |
| Ron Dixon | Rev. Bill Neff |
| Michael Fletcher (Lynn Seidel) | Donna Riegel |
| Sam & Dolores Getty | Ruth Schenkenberger |
| Bill & Anne Gibbs | Bernie, Bobbie & Katie Shimkus (Laura Welch) |
| Joan Glisson (Anna Glisson) | Michael Tate |
| Tommy Glisson | Jacob Tercha (Bobbi Blum) |
| Carol Hammes | Joan Touhill (Lynn Seidel) |
| Eugene Holt (John Venafra) | |
| Marla Hsu (Anna Glisson) | |

Current Prayer Needs:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Russell Alexander | Barbara Greer |
| Carmen | Carol Hammes |
| John Coale | Janet Holmes |
| Cox Family | Comfort for Gladys Johnson family in her passing |
| Carly Dixon | Jill Mansor |
| Ron Dixon | Ken Samaron |
| Jenn Drummond Tuttle | Kurt Schaefer |
| Emma Jane | Sandy Shanahan |
| Family member | Cindy Tuttle |
| Friend | |
| Cheryl Gaynor | |

Members Residing in Retirement Care and Nursing Home Centers

- Myda Curcio - Maris Grove
 Bob & Myrtle Nelson – Broomall Rehab & Nursing Ctr

Norwood United Methodist Church
Church Council Officers 2022 (code # 585)

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Ex-Officio Chairperson: Robert Gibbs Vice-Chairperson: Anna Glisson Pastor: Brendan Van Gorder^S Church Lay Leader: Jim Vickers Conference Lay Member: _____ Conference Lay Member alt: _____ Secretary: Lynda Stine^S Treasurer: Kurt Schaefer, Sr^S Financial Secretary: Lynda Stine^S Membership Secretary: Pat Beckett^S Admin. Asst: Pat Beckett^S</p> | <p>Chairpersons of Trustees: Tom Glisson Staff/Parish Relations: Bill Fisher Finance: Anna Glisson</p> <p>* newly elected ^S paid Staff</p> <p>C:\MyFiles\Church Council Officers – 2022</p> | <p>Members-at-Large Lynn Crump Ashley Gibbs Randy Gibbs Anna Glisson Carol Hammes William Hutchinson Jim McKay Bill Shanahan Daniel Shanahan (YA) Jim Vickers Sally Vickers</p> |
|--|--|---|

Other Elected Officers

Staff / Parish Relations Committee - 3 yr term (code # 530)

Pastor: Brendan Van Gorder
Chair: Bill Fisher
Church Lay Leader: Jim Vickers
Lay Member of Annual Conference: _____
Lay Member of Annual Conference alternate: _____

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>2022 (12/31/22 ends)</u> | <u>2023 (12/31/23 ends)</u> | <u>2024 (12/31/24 ends)</u> |
| Dorie Borrell | Lynn Crump | * Bill Fisher |
| Joan Schaefer | Ashley Gibbs | * Dick Goldsborough |
| Cindy Tuttle | _____ | * Carol Hammes |

Nominations and Leadership Development - 3 yr term (code # 550)

Chair: Brendan Van Gorder^S, Pastor
Vice-Chair: Pat Beckett^S
Church Lay Leader: Jim Vickers

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>2022 (12/31/22 ends)</u> | <u>2023 (12/31/23 ends)</u> | <u>2024 (12/31/24 ends)</u> |
| Anna Glisson | Pat Beckett ^S | * Roberta Blum |
| _____ | Lynn Crump | * Joan Schaefer |
| _____ | Robert Gibbs | * Lynda Stine ^S |

Trustees - 3 yr term (code # 580)

Chair: Tom Glisson

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>2021 (1/31/22 ends)</u> | <u>2022 (1/31/23 ends)</u> | <u>2023 (12/31/23 ends)</u> |
| Lynn Crump | Rich Borrell | John Jones |
| Tom Glisson | Andrew Vickers | Joyce McKay |
| Kurt Schaefer, Sr ^S | | |

Finance Committee - (code # 582)

Chair: Anna Glisson
Vice-Chair: _____
Treasurer: Kurt Schaefer, Sr^S
Asst Treasurer: _____
Financial Secretary: Lynda Stine^S
Asst Financial Secretary: Holly Goldsborough
Church Lay Leader: Jim Vickers
Conference Lay Member: _____
Conference Lay Member alternate: _____
Church Council Chair: Robert Gibbs
Board of Trustees Chair: Tom Glisson
Disaster Relief Cmte Chair: Pastor Brendan Van Gorder^S
Scholarship Cmte Chair: Kurt Schaefer, Sr^S
Memorial Cmte Chair: Pat Beckett^S
Staff-Parish Relations Chair: Bill Fisher

Finance Cmte Members-at-Large:
 Lynn Crump Carol Hammes

Wesley's Covenant Prayer

From John Wesley's Covenant Service, 1780

I am no longer my own, but thine.
 Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
 exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and heartily yield all things
 to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
 let it be ratified in heaven. Amen



| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Gary Buchanan | 7 |
| Greg Buchanan | 7 |
| Dolores Getty | 8 |
| Harry Heywood..... | 10 |
| Joanne DiFabio | 12 |
| Carol Hammes | 12 |
| Angela Litwin | 14 |
| Christina Pentimall..... | 14 |
| Bill Fisher, Sr..... | 15 |
| Rich Borrell..... | 16 |
| Daniel Shanahan | 18 |
| Cindy Tuttle..... | 21 |
| Barbara Brooks..... | 24 |
| Mary Lee Colflesh | 30 |



Handy Hands

Do you like to knit, crochet
 or do other types of hand work?
 If so, please join us **Monday:**
January 10 at 1:00 pm in the

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

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Pastor Brendan will begin a new Bible Study class on the Book of Luke. Classes will be held **January 5 to**

March 24; and meet **7:00 pm** in the Parlor. If

you are interested, or would like further info, please contact Pastor Brendan at

pastorbrendan33@gmail.com



Reading material for spiritual formation and inspiration is available in the hallway outside the sanctuary. [Our Daily Bread](#) includes daily scripture readings and words of insight, usually including personal stories. Visit our website for other devotional [online inspirations](#). Donations are appreciated, but not required. Share the good news of Christ with someone this month!

HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

Jesus said, ***“The time has come . . . The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”*** (Mark 1:15 NIV). And again, ***“I have come so that they may have life, and have it more abundantly.”*** (John 10:10) That includes you! To have that abundant and eternal life simply “repent” or “turn” to God and believe the good news of Jesus Christ! You can do this in your heart by asking God’s forgiveness of your sins (thoughts and actions which separate you from God’s love and holiness). Please contact Pastor Brendan for further assistance.



Parent's Corner

Biblical Worldview Begins at Home; [DiscipleLand Staff](#), November 18, 2015; [Biblical worldview](#), [Discipleship](#), [Raising Godly Children](#), [Teaching the Bible](#) [No Comments](#)

“Although most people own a Bible and know some of its content, our research found that most Americans have little idea how to integrate core biblical principles to form a unified and meaningful response to the challenges and opportunities of life.” –George Barna

In his article *Family Ministry: How a Biblical Worldview Shapes the Way We Teach Our Children*, Timothy Paul Jones reminds us that our children are far more than our children.

To have a biblical worldview is to interpret every aspect of our lives—including our relationships with children—within the framework of God’s story. At the center of God’s story stands this singular act: In Jesus Christ, God personally intersected human history and redeemed humanity at a particular time in a particular place. Yet this central act of redemption does not stand alone. It is bordered by God’s good creation and humanity’s fall into sin on the one hand and by the consummation of God’s kingdom on the other.

This story of creation, fall and law, redemption, and consummation is the story that Christians have repeated to one another and to the world ever since Jesus ascended into the sky and sent his Spirit to dwell in his first followers’ lives. This age-old plot-line should frame every aspect of our lives—including how we treat and train children.

Gifts from God and Sinners in Need

In each movement of God’s storyline, it is clear that children are neither burdens to be avoided nor byproducts of human sin. **Every child is a blessing and a gift** (Ps. 127:3–5). Even before humanity’s fall into sin, God designed the raising of children to serve as a means for the multiplication of his manifest glory around the globe (Gen. 1:26–28). A few bites of forbidden fruit, raising Cain as well as Abel, and a worship service that ended in fratricide took their toll on that first family—but God refused to give up on his first purpose to turn the family into a means for revealing his glory. God promised that, through the offspring of Eve, he would send a redeemer to fulfill his plan to pour out his glory over all the earth (Gen. 3:15; 4:1, 25). The family becomes a path both for bringing the Messiah into the world and for passing the message of the Messiah from one generation to the next.

After the fall, men and women still exercise divinely-ordered dominion over God’s creation by raising children (Gen. 1:26-28; 8:17; 9:1–7; Mark 10:5–9). What has changed in the aftermath of the fall is that children have become not only gifts to be nurtured but also sinners to be trained. And yet, in all of this, the family remains a means

in God’s plan, never the goal and never the source or center of our identity.

1. In a biblical worldview, the training of children is a primary parental responsibility: Parents possess a responsibility not only to provide their children’s needs but also to train their children to reflect God’s glory. This doesn’t release the larger community of faith from a responsibility for shaping children’s souls. The Great Commission to “make disciples” was given to the whole people of God and includes every age-group (Matt. 28:19). Neither does this mean that parents must be the sole instructors in their children’s lives. Parents may partner with church ministries or enlist schools to develop certain skills in their children’s lives—but parents still bear final responsibility before God for how their children are trained for life.

In the Old Testament, Moses commanded parents—and particularly fathers—to train their children in God’s ways (the pronouns translated “you” and “your” in Deut. 6:6–7 are masculine singular in the original language). Moses expected children to ask their parents about their family’s spiritual practices, and he prepared fathers to respond in ways that highlighted God’s mighty works (Ex. 12:25–28; Deut. 6:20–25). These expectations persisted throughout Israel’s songs and early history (Josh. 4:6; Ps. 78:1-7). This ancient heritage of songs, statutes, and ceremonies foreshadowed the coming of Jesus and explicitly recognized the primacy of parents in their children’s training.

Paul reiterated this point in the New Testament when he reminded fathers to nurture their children in the “training and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4). Paul seems to have derived this phrase from Deuteronomy 11:2, where “discipline of the LORD” prefaced a description of how God disciplined his people to remind them of his covenant with them. In other letters, Paul applied these same two terms—training and instruction—to patterns that characterized the disciple-making relationships of Christian brothers and sisters. Training implied discipline and described one of the key results of training in the words of God (2 Tim. 3:16). Instruction included warnings to avoid unwise behaviors and ungodly teachings (1 Cor. 10:11; Titus 3:10). Such texts strongly suggest that Paul was calling parents—and particularly fathers—to do far more than manage their children’s behaviors and provide for their needs. Paul expected parents to train their children to engage with their world in light of God’s words and God’s ways.

2. In a biblical worldview, the training of children is worldview training. This training includes far more than merely increasing children’s biblical knowledge or involving them in a community of faith. Moses commanded the Israelites to teach their offspring to view all they did (“hands”) and all they chose (“forehead”), as

well as how they lived at home (“doorposts”) and how they conducted business (“your gates”) within the all-encompassing framework of a God-centered worldview (Deut. 6:8-9). “Wisdom” in Proverbs was conveyed from father to child and included not only knowledge about God but also practical skills for engaging with the world in light of God’s truth. Skills in craftsmanship, leadership, and a broad range of other fields all fell under the heading of wisdom, which begins with “the fear of the Lord” (Exod. 31:3, 6; Deut. 34:9; Prov. 1:7). Persons outside the believing community may possess these skills, but only the believer sees them as God intended, as signposts pointing to the order and glory of God. There is no biblical warrant for separating the training of children into “secular” and “sacred” categories, with one handled by the world and the other superintended by parents. God is Lord over all of life.

3. In a biblical worldview, the training of children includes formal and informal components. Moses commanded the Israelites not only to teach God’s words to their children but also to discuss these truths informally throughout each day (Deut. 6:7-9). In Proverbs, the father passed on particular teachings to his son (Prov. 4:2) but he also provided occasional instructions in response to specific situations (Prov. 4:1)—once again, a combination of formal and informal components. The biblical pattern is for both parents to be involved in these practices of formal and informal training. The book of Proverbs specifically mentions the mother’s role five times (Prov. 1:8, 4:3, 6:20, 31:1, 26). According to biblical scholar Peter Gentry, this inclusion of the mother is unparalleled in the wisdom literature of the Ancient Near Eastern nations that surrounded Israel. The father possessed a particular responsibility to lead, but the father’s responsibility did not negate or diminish the mother’s supportive role in the nurture and admonition of children.

Your Child is Far More Than Your Child

Viewed from the vantage of creation and fall, children are both gifts to be treasured and sinners to be trained. Yet no amount of training can ever raise a child to the level of God’s perfect righteousness. And even the best training may not result in a child’s perseverance in the faith; the popular text that declares “even when he is old he will not depart” is not an airtight promise to parents but a proverb—a pithy observation about how life typically works (Prov. 22:6).

Every order of creation, including our training of children, has been subjected to frustration with the gap between the glory of God’s creation and the fact of humanity’s fallenness (Rom. 8:20–22). The ultimate answer to this gap is not better education but a perfect substitute—and that’s precisely what God provided in Jesus Christ. Through Christ, God himself bridged the gap between his perfection

and humanity’s imperfection (2 Cor. 5:21). The death of Jesus brought about the possibility of redemption in the present; his resurrection guaranteed the consummation of God’s kingdom in the future.

This truth introduces a radical new dimension to how we view children. To embrace God’s redemption is to be adopted in Jesus Christ as God’s heir, gaining a new identity that transcends every earthly status (Rom. 8:15–17; Gal. 3:28–29; 4:3–7; Eph. 1:5; 2:13–22). As a community united in Christ, the church becomes the believer’s first family. “Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother,” Jesus said (Matt. 12:50). Paul made much the same point when he directed Timothy to encourage “younger men as brothers” and “younger women as sisters” (1 Tim. 5:1–2). Because the church is a family, in instances where one parent is absent or an unbeliever, other believers may become that child’s parents in the faith (2 Tim. 1:2, 5; 3:15).

What this means for followers of Jesus is that every child is far more than a child. Every child is a potential or actual brother or sister in Christ; each one is an eternal soul whose days will long outlast the rise and fall of all the kingdoms of the earth. They and their children and their children’s children will flit ever so briefly across the face of this earth before being swept away into eternity (James 4:14).

Whatever children stand beside us in eternal glory will not stand beside us as our children or as our students. They will stand beside us because and only because they have become our brothers and sisters, “heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ” (Rom. 8:17; see also Gal. 4:7; Heb. 2:11; James 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:7). If these children become our brothers and sisters in Christ, their days upon this earth are preparatory for glory that will never end (Dan. 12:3; 2 Cor. 4:17–5:4; 2 Pet. 1:10–11). That’s why our primary purpose for the children that we educate in our churches and homes must not be anything as small and miserable as earthly success. Our purpose should be to leverage children’s lives to advance God’s kingdom so that every tribe, every nation, and every people-group gains the opportunity to respond in faith to the rightful King of kings.

Article used with permission. Timothy Paul Jones, Ph.D.
For more on this topic by Dr. Jones: [Family Ministry Field Guide](#)

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January 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Church Office 610-532-0982 Please leave a voicemail and we will get back to you as soon as possible | Sunday in-person 10:00 AM Worship and livestreamed on Facebook | | | REMOTE Office Schedule Mon to Fri 10a to 2p | | 1 New Year's Day! |
| 2 Holy Communion 9:00 AM Adult SS 10:00 AM Worship | 3 Office Closed | 4 | 5 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM N.A. | 6 7:00 PM Nar-Anon | 7 Pastor's Day Off 10:00 PM N.A. | 8 8:15 AM Men's & Women's Breakfast 9:00 AM Christmas "UN-decorating" of church |
| 9 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Adult SS 10:00 AM Worship | 10 1:00 PM Handy Hands | 11 7:00 PM Council mtg | 12 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM N.A. | 13 7:00 PM Nar-Anon | 14 Pastor's Day Off 10:00 PM N.A. | 15 |
| 16 Human Relations Day (special offering) 9:00 AM Adult SS 10:00 AM Worship & "Start with One-Kenya" Concert | 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed | 18 | 19 7:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Trustees mtg 7:30 PM N.A. | 20 7:00 PM Nar-Anon | 21 Pastor's Day Off 10:00 PM N.A. | 22 |
| 23 9:00 AM Adult SS 10:00 AM Worship | 24 | 25 | 26 7:00 PM Bible Study | 27 7:00 PM Nar-Anon | 28 Pastor's Day Off | 29 |
| 30 9:00 AM Adult SS 10:00 AM Worship | 31 | | | | | |

Norwood United Methodist Church

315 Chester Pike
Norwood, PA 19074-1401

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2022 Newsletter

Staff

Brendan Van Gorder, Pastor

Pat Beckett, Administrative Assistant

Kurt Schaefer, Sr, Treasurer

Lynda Stine, Financial Secretary

Worship

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

Contact Info

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



**Eastern PA Conference of the
United Methodist Church**