



Forming Community, Practicing Family

⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body,
and each member belongs to all the others.

Romans 12:5

²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name,
there am I with them.

Matthew 18:20

We're designed to be in community with each other. It's a part of our being-human blueprint. As a church we have always felt like a family. Sunday morning is always a chance to be known and to form relationships. When we say yes to this invitation, when we say yes to each other, we "belong to all the others" as it says in Romans 12:5. This belonging is both comforting and challenging. We would like to pick who we belong to, but when we say yes to being part of a community, we are saying yes to belonging to that whole community, everyone who it holds, and everyone who it could hold in the future.

God created us to be siblings. Among siblings there is play and competition, love and conflict, conversation and collaboration. Some siblings are by blood, some siblings we choose, some siblings we become family with in church, and other siblings are just out there in the world connected to us just by their being another human part of God's human family. Despite our troubled family past-drama, conflict, violence, reconciliation, etc, at the end of the day, we all actually belong to every person in this human family. We all have one divine parent, and we are all part of the big community of God's daughters, sons, orphans, forgotten, or prodigal wanderers. Every human is one of God's kids.

Our family and community at Norwood is continually changing. I pray we continue to draw in more young

people and I pray we continue to draw in more people from our neighborhood and neighboring neighborhoods. But that will be up to you. Who will you draw in? How will you welcome those who God draws in? If you do come across someone, you can be certain that God has crossed your paths for a reason. Matthew 18:20 tells us, when two or three are gathered, Jesus is in our midst. So how will we make that a reality? How will we make a family that is so full of love that we feel Jesus in our very midst? How do we make new family? And, how will we live out our yes to being part of a community, if that community keeps getting bigger and bigger? With a wider community comes exciting new possibilities! So what new form will our body take when we add people into the mix? And how will each person's unique experience challenge us and grow us?

The key to being community and being family is to be open to doing things together. If any of us decide that we alone have the key to our future, we are not acting as one body. If we decide within ourselves or among a few of us, how things must be done, we are not acting as one body. One body decides *everything* together. One body listens to each other and works as one.

As Norwood changes and grows, listen to each other. Let's take very seriously an effort to be led by the child, to let the last of us be the first. But most of all, let's "form one body", let's act as one. When we are envisioning how to be together, when we are meeting in our different councils and meetings, let's try hard to get everyone's voice heard, everyone's creative self included in creating together.

No one has a solo in this music of being the church. We sound better if we play as a symphony, we sound beautiful if everyone is playing together and listening to the other as they play.

With Love,
Pastor Brendan

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

May 4

N.D.P. is observed annually by law on the first Thursday of May. We invite you to gather with us in Rose Tree Park at 11:30 am under the "big flag" for Prayer and Worship! This year, we're celebrating 72 years of years of annual prayer in the United States! Will you join us on this special day as we gather together to pray for our Nation?

www.nationaldayofprayerdelco.com/



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

Ongoing Prayer Needs

- | | |
|---|--|
| Alex (Sally Vickers) | Jamie King (Lynda Stine) |
| Alice & Ed Sabre | Carol Luther Lauria (Sally Vickers) |
| All those affected by violence & war, and for peace between world governments | Gary Leranian (Madeline Deane) |
| Russell & Bethany Alexander | Eleanor Luther |
| Bob Arrants | Janice MacBride |
| Joe Bradford | Susan Markow (John Jones) |
| Brook & Natalie (Maggie McCans) | Miriam Martin |
| Jim Chambers (Sally Vickers) | Liz Murray (Lynn Seidel) |
| Jerry & Barbara Chreiman | 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 | Michael Tate |
| Tina Kadri (Judy Arrants) | Jacob Tercha (Bobbi Blum) |
| Robin Kim | Joan Touhill (Lynn Seidel) |
| | Toya (Gina Dukes) |

Current Prayer Needs

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Amy | Mother of Constellation school fire |
| Dale & Pat Beckett | R.M. Palmer Co explosion |
| Pastor Brendan & family | Norman Passarella |
| Cole, Michael & Landon | Dolores Rocese |
| Mariam Collins | Ed Sabre |
| Comfort for Joanne Cook family in her passing | Jim Sinno |
| Pat Dunn | shooting victims |
| Comfort for family of the 9 army service men killed in helicopter crash in KY | Tornado victims in south |
| Jen | Steve & Shelli Towey |
| Lynn Kelly & family | Victims in Turkey & Syria |
| | Toni Tursi |
| | George Weaver |

Residing in Retirement Care and Nursing Homes

Bob Nelson – Broomall Rehab & Nursing Ctr

If you have requested a Loved One be added to the On-Going Prayer list, please inform the church of any updates.



We will have the Men's Breakfast **Saturday, May 6 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.

FREE "Community Event Night"

Sunday, May 7, 2023

**5:30 pm - Dinner
6:30 pm - Music Night**

Held at

Norwood United Methodist Church

315 Chester Pike, Norwood

www.NorwoodUMC.org / NorwoodUMC@gmail.com



Join us for good food, fun, singing contemporary songs, and an old-fashioned hymn sing

Parent's Corner

Children Need To Know: God Prizes These Virtues

[DiscipleLand Staff](#) November 27, 2013 [Children Need To Know](#), [Children's Ministry Curriculum](#), [Children's Ministry Resources](#), [Family](#), [Parenting](#), [Raising Godly Children](#), [What Kids Need](#)



“Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14 ESV

How Kids Think

In an effort to be “cool” and to fit in, many children become satisfied with lackluster spiritual growth. They don’t put a high priority on God, His Word, or the Church. As a result, many settle for lukewarm hearts and aimless living instead of pursuing closeness with God.

When it comes to spiritual growth, children rarely rise above the level of adult expectations. They reach only as high as we hold the bar. Unfortunately, adults often place the bar far too low, causing kids to believe that their faith is not all that important.

How God Thinks

Though the world belittles selflessness, righteousness, discipline, and humility, God prizes these virtues. Loving the Lord and His commands is the only route to a meaningful life. By fixing their eyes on Jesus and His ways, children can learn to walk toward Him and away from anything that hinders their progress.

Encourage kids to be like Jesus in thought, word, and deed. This starts with repentance and a heart that truly wants to follow the Lord. The Apostle Paul is an excellent model. After Christ had made him clean and whole, Paul not only established high standards throughout his years of service, he also challenged believers to follow his example (Philippians 3:8-14).

True Story

One of Allison’s toughest battles as a parent was to “...do everything without grumbling or arguing.” Throughout the day at home, she and her 5-year-old son struggled with negative attitudes. One day, Allison read Philippians 2:14-16 to little Cory and talked about how much she wanted to ‘shine like a star in the sky’ by choosing not to grumble, argue, or complain. So she embarked on a “fast” from complaining and grumbling in everyday conversations for a month.

Allison also chose to scrutinize each thought—to identify inward complaints or temptations. She took negative attitudes to Jesus. Before long, Allison noticed that her heart was shifting. As she was open with Cory about her journey to stop complaining, he started to imitate her. She noticed that Cory chose to say positive, thankful things. And her son began to recognize when he was complaining. At a low point he stopped and asked, “Mom, is that ca-plaining?” Allison would smile and nod, “Yeah, that is, buddy.” Then she invited Cory to apologize to Jesus for complaining. Afterward, they practiced an alternate way to express Cory’s need without whining.

Sometimes it felt like slow going, but the small wins were genuine, not forced. As Allison set a high standard for herself, Cory joined her spiritual journey; he picked up the standard and began to grow!

Life Example

Running in a competitive race is not something the average person can just do without training, eating right, and preparing. When Darlene began training for a half-marathon, several things became clear—if she ate whatever she wanted, got little sleep, and neglected to stretch before running, she would not be successful.

About three months before the race, Darlene began a more rigorous training schedule. She made a calendar, began to eat and hydrate better, and set weekly goals. As Darlene began training, she was often tempted to cut corners, to get by, and to not finish well. Her ignoble instincts advised, “That’s good enough. Back off your pace. Take it easy.” Noticing this trend, Darlene started to push herself. When she set a goal of 3 miles, she finished 3 miles—even if it meant running at a more modest pace. She refused to let the “take-it-easy monster” dictate her actions!

Soon running became much easier. As reaching each goal became habit, Darlene’s stamina and endurance increased, too. Many times she ran beyond the distance she had planned—feeling like she could keep going and going! Laziness rarely reared its ugly head, and running became more and more enjoyable.

How true this is of our daily choices! When God sets high standards—of loving our neighbors, remaining humble, and being ‘set apart,’ we exercise the fruit of self-control in the power of the Holy Spirit to make excellent choices. Let us run in such a way to finish well (1 Corinthians 9:24).

(continued on next page)

What You Can Do

It is time to “raise the bar.” Kids have untapped potential to learn practical skills for using God’s Word, relating to people, and living out their faith in the real world. Challenge your child to reach his or her full potential as a Christian.

1. Use teachable moments (Deuteronomy 6:1-7): Your son or daughter needs modeling and intentional conversation about using God’s truth to make right choices. Discuss daily situations your child will face. Practice saying “yes” and “no.” Shepherd him or her as new challenges and choices arise.
2. Set the bar high (1 Corinthians 9:24-27): Establish expectations based on your child’s ability. Raise or lower those expectations when appropriate.
3. Encourage Each Other Daily (Hebrews 3:12-14): Building up one another as a family makes a huge difference! Daily words of encouragement help each family member pursue God’s very best!
4. Walk with Jesus (John 15:1-4, 9-10): To make wise choices, keep your heart connected to Jesus! Practice family devotionals together; then when your child reaches the elementary grades, help him or her establish a personal time with Jesus.

[Raising Godly Children’s Toolkits: for Toddlers, Preschoolers, & Kindergarteners](#)

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May is Christian Home Month Family Prayer

God, we give you thanks because you have done and continue to do amazing things! Thank you for giving us hope for a better world during these difficult days. Help each member of this family follow you and bring hope to others in creative ways. Amen.

Scriptures of Hope: [John 14:15-21](#); [Isaiah 9:6-7](#);

**God loves you.
Christ is with you.
The Holy Spirit moves through you.
As you share God’s hope with the world.**



Handy Hands

Do you like to knit, crochet or do other types of hand work? If so, please join us **Monday; May 15 at 1:00 pm** in the Parlor. Questions?

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

May Ministries Schedule

Sunday Liturgist/Scripture Schedule

Date	Welcome &/or Liturgist - 1 st scripture	Offering &/or Liturgist - 2 nd Scripture
May 7	Ashley Gibbs	Bill Shanahan
May 14	Delano Anderson Jeremiah Anderson	Pastor Brendan Joan Schaefer
May 21	Pastor Brendan Lynn Seidel	Jim Vickers
May 28	Pastor Brendan	Lynn Crump

Sunday Children’s Bible Classes

Date	Teacher	Volunteer
May 7	Pastor Mike Nelson	Randy Gibbs
May 14	Sally Vickers	Bill Shanahan
May 21	Lynn Crump	Ashley Gibbs
May 28	Sally Vickers	Carol Hammes

Friday Youth Group

Pastor Mike Nelson, Teacher

Date	Volunteer	Volunteer
May 5	Ashley Gibbs	
May 12	Brendan Shanahan	Mary Lou Smith
May 19	Ashley Gibbs	
May 26	Sally Vickers	Jim Vickers

Lee Estes.....	4
Eleanor Luther.....	4
Gary Thompson.....	6
Garrett Thompson.....	14
Bill Hutchinson Jr.....	22
Jim Miles.....	25
Terri Boorse.....	27
Jerry Chreiman.....	30
Logan Greer.....	30
Clare Gorbey.....	31



May 2023 / Christian Home Month

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
REMOTE Office Schedule Monday to Friday 10a to 2p	1	2 7:00pm Worship mtg	3 7:30pm N.A.	4 7:00pm Nar-Anon	5 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off 6:00pm Youth Group 10:00pm N.A.	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast
	7 Holy Communion 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Children's Bible Classes 10:00am Worship 5:30pm FREE Community Event Night - Dinner 6:30pm FREE Community Event - Music	8 7:00pm SPRC mtg	9 7:00pm Church Council mtg	10 7:30pm N.A.	11 7:00pm Nar-Anon	12 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off 6:00pm Youth Group 10:00pm N.A.
14 Mother's Day 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Children's Bible Classes 10:00am Worship	15 1:00pm Handy Hands	16	17 7:00pm Trustees mtg 7:30pm N.A.	18 7:00pm Nar-Anon	19 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off 6:00pm Youth Group 10:00pm N.A.	20
21 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Children's Bible Classes 10:00am Worship	22 7:15pm Little Blessings Board mtg	23	24 7:30pm N.A.	25 7:00pm Nar-Anon	26 Office Closed Pastor's Day Off 6:00pm Youth Group 10:00pm N.A.	27
28 Pentecost 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:00am Children's Bible Classes 10:00am Worship	29 Memorial Day	30	31 7:30pm N.A.		Church Office 610-532-0982 Please leave a voicemail and we will get back to you as soon as possible	

Visit 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 SERVICE REQUESTED



Always count your
blessings ✝️ ❤️

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



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