

Our Vision

Changing lives through God's love.

Our Mission

To be a caring, forgiving Christian community that welcomes people of all ages to join us on life's journey in finding God, growing spiritually, sharing our faith, and reaching out to serve others.

Our Core Values

Authenticity, Community, Spiritual Growth, Diversity, Can Do Attitude, Roots.

(Visit our website <http://norvalunited.ca/> for full details)

Our Statement of Inclusion

In response to God's call, Norval United Church (NUC) is committed to welcoming and celebrating people of all ages, genders, gender identities, gender expressions, racialized groups, sexual orientations, family configurations, abilities, ethnic backgrounds, and economic circumstances, into full participation in the life and work of NUC.

With the help of the Holy Spirit, we strive to:

- create a safe, respectful, and welcoming community
- celebrate the gifts of one another
- receive with gratitude the leadership, service, and ministry of one another and celebrate and honour the life passages of all (births, baptisms, weddings, blessings, healing, death, and dying)
- continue our discovery of what it means to be an inclusive community
- challenge ourselves to grow toward greater inclusion and justice seeking for all people

Current Ministry and Vision

Norval United Church is a 172 year old congregation that has been blessed by God with new life and vibrancy. For many years the congregation was rooted in farm country with the core of the church being dairy, apple, and mixed farming. From 1850 to 2019 the church was located in the small village of Norval. Since the mid 1990s the cities around Norval (Georgetown, Brampton, Mississauga) have grown significantly.

In 1999 NUC's first long-range planning committee was formed. After many years of plans and changes to plans, our new church building was opened in November 2019 in nearby Georgetown South, an area of significant growth. An additional 20,000 homes are planned for the farmlands in the fields west of the new Church. We are currently under contract with Kindred Works (formerly UPRC) for the second phase of our development, on the vacant three acres of property to the north and west of our current building. There is the potential for 157 rental units, some at full market rental value and some geared to income. This will serve our community as well as provide a long-term source of revenue to Norval United.

Our new, fully accessible Norval United Church building was designed intentionally to be a multi-use space for the community and includes a spacious commercial kitchen. We have a wide range of community groups using space at the church. We are home to North Halton Community Living Adult Day Program from Monday to Friday. North Halton Distress Centre has office space 24/7 in order to provide on demand support for folks in the community. Links to Care holds a once a week Mom and Tots morning program. In conjunction with PRISM, we hold a monthly safe space for 2SLBT2Q1A+ youth and their families and allies to meet. The church and these groups have developed positive working relationships. We also have many other groups using space once a week, once a month or for one-time events. The building is quickly becoming an active space throughout the week. It is so heart-warming to see the new building finally being used the way it was designed, not just for the Norval United Church family of faith but as a building for the community.

Rentals are managed by a volunteer Facilities Manager. Set up and take down for the various events are managed by our full-time contracted building custodian.

The pandemic caused us to close the building in February 2020 and we quickly pivoted to worshipping online. During this time, we developed a strong online presence and the decision was made post Covid to continue with online services. An online service is now offered at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, followed by an in-person service at 10 a.m. Our two services are averaging a total of 135 attendees with many more views of the online service via YouTube and Facebook throughout the week.

We became an Affirming Ministry in 2023 and celebrate P.I.E. Day. Our Affirming Ministry Team remains in place as we continue to do the work of welcoming and celebrating the 2SLGBTQIA+ folks in our community by offering small group, learning activities.

In 2024 we received 10 new members through confirmation, transfer of membership, adult baptism, or profession of Faith.

God blessed us with the ability to pay off our mortgage and a vibrant mortgage burning worship service was held in February 2025.

Our full time Minister of Word, Sacrament, and Pastoral Care offers Sunday morning messages that are relatable to our lives today. Humour is always included which adds to our relaxed, welcoming experience. Pastoral care for both those that worship online and in person is an important part of this ministry.

We have a strong volunteer worship team who meet with our Ministerial staff, a contracted Tech Support Staff person, and a very talented pianist who has been employed by Norval United since 1987. Our Office Administrator works in our office from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Children and youth are vitally important to the life and work of Norval United Church. This is an area that has been slow to recover since Covid but we are excited for the potential of new growth. We are blessed to have 8 youth volunteers to assist with children on Sunday mornings. They take turns with two of these teens being paid an honorarium each week. Most parents opt to keep their children in the Sanctuary for the first part of worship with a children's time (stories, songs) before the children leave for their own program. . Currently we have 20 children from 10 families who attend, however attendance is sporadic, with anywhere from 2 to 7 children attending each Sunday. The children have activity tables in a corner of the sanctuary that they may use during the first part of worship. It warms our hearts when we hear their sounds and makes everyone smile at their occasional antics. Children often take part in readings with their family for various parts of the service, and have offered our land acknowledgement. They have helped their families greet folks as they arrive and assisted their families in serving at coffee time following the service. The people of NUC take to heart Jesus' call in Matthew 19:14 to let the children come to him.

Norval United is known for an excellent summer camp program. Growing from a 15-year experience of doing Vacation Bible Schools, Norval now offers four weeks of all day, week-long summer camps. These popular camps, which always have a waiting list, are led by college and university youth and provide a great experience for the campers. Just as important, though, is the training and leadership opportunities for Middle School and High School youth at the camps.

We are especially grateful for our Youth Leadership Team which was initiated by the teen youth who meet monthly to provide leadership not just at Norval United but also at community events. Another worship/small group experience that grew out of the pandemic is Midweek Breath, a 30-minute guided meditation, offered via Zoom on a Wednesday evenings. Midweek Breath includes a prayer, a poem, a music video and a 15-minute guided meditation. The preparation for this is offered by our

Minister, worship team, and volunteers. People gather each week from both in person and online worship communities. We planned it as a brief Lenten exercise in 2021 and it has just continued to become a well-loved time of quiet worship together.

“Our Daily Minute” is an inspirational devotion that reaches more than 3,000 inboxes each day.

We have a strong social media presence. In addition to our Facebook and YouTube channel, we can also be followed on Instagram. Norval Online, our weekly newsletter, sent by email, tells of the many activities happening at Norval United as well as relevant community activities. These social media posts are managed by our Office Administrator.

We have a dedicated governing body who meet monthly and set annual goals. These goals include the actions required to meet the goal, a timeline for doing so and who is responsible.

Norval United is perceived in the community as a busy, active, growing warm, welcoming congregation where people are sincere, genuine, caring and compassionate.

Reaching out to serve others is one of our most important Pillars of Faith. We have a dedicated outreach team who work to help us meet the needs of the community outside our walls. One of their projects is coordinating a monthly stone soup Sunday where the volunteers prepare and package servings of soup for our local Food for Life and a Food Sharing Program.

Norval reaches out to the community with Grief Support groups, monthly hymn sings at three long-term care facilities and our Prayer Purls knitting group. Norval is active in supporting local groups and charities such as Georgetown Breadbasket, Halton Women’s Place, Links2Care, Food for Life etc. Norval United is working with other local congregations to sponsor 4 refugee families and to support the building of a new hospice.

Norval United is in a unique position. It has re- invented itself from what for years was the typical faith community. We see the use of our building by community groups as integral part of our calling to be church in this community, as a way of living out our faith and reaching out to the world.

We pride ourselves on always being an adaptable church with a strong “Can Do” attitude for new ideas.

We are so grateful and look forward to seeing what God has in store for us. Thanks be to God.