
KOINONIA

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship (Koinonia) of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

2 Corinthians 13:14

NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH

APRIL 2016



God is the good news in the springtime as He changes creation into a sermon for His glory.

In his book, "God is the Gospel", pastor John Piper reminds us how the Lord gets much honor from His work in His children. He says, "God is your greatest joy as you have embraced the good news of His Son. You have also received His gifts, His miracles, and His guidance. The more you delight in God, the more display His glory."

Your every moment of faith, obedience, love, and even failures work together for honoring the Lord and furthering His kingdom in your soul and in His world. Keep trusting Him, child of God.

Voting happens for us this month for us followers of Jesus in a blessed nation. Pray for all the people running for office to be servants of God and to turn to Christ for salvation and wisdom. Keep God's Word in your voting.

Vote pro-life. Vote for Christian character. Vote to help the poor. Vote to aid the immigrant. Vote to equip our soldiers. Vote for good stewardship of taxes, debt is a curse. Vote to protect Israel.

Be a follower of Jesus, not a blind member of a political party. Jesus is King of kings, the little men and women voted into office are merely sinners in need of His grace. Pray for them all.



The following items were discussed at the Elder and Ministry Board meetings in March:

1. The following DMC items were approved: the youth to see "God's Not Dead 2" the second weekend of April; VBS will be June 12-15; Shelli and Renee to plan a retreat for the senior high youth to replace attending LIFE this year.
2. Discussed the Church Vision Statement (see next page for this Vision Statement).
3. Appointed Joe Cox and Bill Swope to serve on the Ministry Board.
4. Decision was made to continue to use the 1984 version of the NIV Bible for awhile longer, but allow other translations as preferred by those teaching.
5. All Church Bowling will be Wednesday, April 27th at Norwin Bowl from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. The church will cover the cost of the lanes.
6. Marquis Laughlin will come to NAC to present "Acts of the Word" on Sunday, May 15th in the 10:45 service. He will present the second half of Revelation.
7. Although we had a shortfall of our projected budget needs, we received more in February than we spent.
8. Nemes Glass replaced the large window in the narthex and put new weather stripping between all the double doors.
9. New tablecloths will be purchased for Funeral Dinners.



High School Graduates

If you are graduating from High School this year, please submit the following to the church office asap:

1. School graduating from
2. High School picture
3. College you will be attending
4. Degree you are pursuing

Norwin Alliance Mission and Vision

Purpose Statement:

Norwin Alliance Church exists to be Spirit-Filled disciples of Jesus Christ who are totally committed to loving God, loving one another and making disciples in our local communities as well as to the ends of the earth.

Our Motto: Loving God, One Another and Making Disciples

Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus- It is only through the Holy Spirit's empowerment that we are able to love God, love one another and make disciples. The evidence of being Spirit-Filled is the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-26).

Totally committed - We are passionate about fulfilling our core values.

Loving God - The Great Commandment, to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" is our primary core value (Matt. 22:36-38).

Loving One Another - The Second Commandment, to "Love your neighbor as yourself" is our second core value (Matt. 22:36-39; John 13:35).

Making Disciples - The Great Commission, to "make disciples" (which is made up of both evangelism and discipleship) is our third core value (Matt. 28:16-20).

In Our Communities - Our immediate harvest field is made up of the people who live and work in the communities around the church and who do not know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Acts 1:8).

To the Ends of the Earth - Our extended harvest field is all people who do not know Jesus, both in North America and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Definition:

A Spirit-Filled Disciple of Jesus Christ is an individual who has repented, prayed to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, is being filled with the Holy Spirit and is reflecting the character and priorities of Jesus.

Repented - To ask for forgiveness, to turn away from sin toward God (Acts 3:19; 20:26).

Prayed to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord - To place one's trust in Jesus alone for salvation as well as submitting to the Lordship of Jesus (John 1:12; Romans 10:9-10).

Being filled with the Holy Spirit - To continually submit to the Holy Spirit, resulting in the fruit of the Spirit being evidenced in one's life (Gal 5:16-26).

Reflecting the character and priorities of Jesus - To be living out Jesus' character traits (godliness, holiness, righteousness) and his priorities (doing the will of the Father) day-by-day (John 20:21; 1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Peter 1:15-16).



A note from the TRUSTEES

Help us keep Norwin Alliance looking good.

If you **USE** it, put it away ~ do not leave items in the sink, strainer, on the counter, or in the frig.

If you **MOVE** it, put it back ~ furniture, flags, tables, chairs

If you **OPEN** it, close it ~ doors, windows, cupboards, closets. Make sure outside doors are pushed closed when you leave the church.

If you **UNLOCK** it, lock it back up ~ Outside doors/ kitchen door

If you **TURN IT ON**, turn it off ~ lights, air-conditioners, heat, fans

If you **SPILL** it, wipe it up

If you **DROP** it, pick it up

Thank You!

CONNECTION SERVICE

**Sunday, April 12th
6:30 pm**

Speaker: Janis Swope

Worship: "Glorified Train Wreck"

Come for worship and fellowship!



KEEN-AGERS

The snow is gone, celebrate Spring with the Keen-Agers group!

Last month Regina Daniels took a group Keen-Ager picture, it is gorgeous.

Marci Smith sang, her music was so uplifting and inspiring during the Easter Celebration.

At our April 28th meeting, we are having Red Cross with a safety seminar and offers of free installation of smoke detectors in your home at no cost to you. Come and enjoy lunch and have a great time meeting and talking with everyone.

The main entrée for lunch will be ham and scalloped potatoes. Please bring a covered dish and/or dessert to compliment our meal. First time attendees do not have to bring food. Please remember to bring your own table service.

Devotions will be presented by Howard Grove.

If you have any questions about Keen-Agers, please call Joe and Pat Beyer (724-863-1441).

Looking forward to seeing you on Thursday, April 28th.



VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

Our subject again this month is PRAYER.

Philip Yancey's book **Prayer - Does It Make Any Difference** gives an emphasis on prayer to remind us and to encourage us. Prayer is keeping company with God (p.62). Prayer is a consent that opens the way for grace to work. (p.103)

There are 650 prayers that can be studied in the Bible. A prayer that is most recognized and familiar to us is The Lord's Prayer. But as we pray at church, or wherever we choose, it is meaningful to us. Do we understand how it helps our relationship to **God the Father**. Mr. Yancey reminds us to trust God with our secrets and be honest and confident in our **Father**. Philippians 1:4 says; *"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy."* Verse 9 reads: *"And this is my prayer that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight."* Here Paul and Timothy are writing to the saints at Philippi, sending words of encouragement and instruction. In today's society, we should also be aware of these words from God's Word. "Prayer invites me to bring my whole life into God's presence for cleansing and restoration." (Mr. Yancey, p.42). On page 103 we read; "Prayer is a consent that opens the way for grace to work." Karl, a former chaplain in the military who was paralyzed from the chest down wrote: "I believe God is present in the midst of our

brokenness. I just wish I could feel that presence." And Abraham Lincoln has shared this with us; "I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere to go." From these witness, we can be aware of a personal need for God. "We do not know what we out to pray for, but the Spirit Himself interceded with groans that words cannot express. The Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will (p.273). On page 315 we read: "Prayer means keeping company with God who is already present."

Charles Stanley encourages us that "Prayer is more than giving God requests. It involves seeking His will to guide our entreaties. Three words describing prayer are: listening, speaking, and acting on what we hear from Him, a lifestyle based on trust in God's promise to answer His children." Suggested Scripture for study are: Luke 18:1-8; I John 5:14-15; and I Timothy 6:17-19.

In **The Daily Bread**, these words of encouragement have been found. "Even in your painful situation, you can trust Him to do what is best." We are reminded to: "look in the mirror of God's Word."

Two books used for information are in the church library. Titles are: **Prayer - Does It Make Any Difference**, by Philip Yancey; and Susie Larson's book: **Alone in Marriage**.

Prayer is an obligation, a blessing and a privilege.



CONCERT of PRAYER
Sunday, April 24th
7:00 pm



All Church Bowl ~ Wednesday, April 27th

- Where:** Norwin Bowl
Center Highway
- Time:** 6:30 - 8:30 pm
- Cost:** The church will cover the cost of the lanes and shoes
- Note:** Each family is requested to bring a snack to share. No outside beverages are permitted - Beverages may be purchased from the bowling lanes

Please sign the sheet in the narthex with the number of people attending.

The Women's Corner

By Janis Swope

Although at this very moment snow is covering every blade of grass and every limb and twig on our trees, it is officially Spring. There is not enough snow to shovel and the driveways and roads don't really need cleared. The snow will melt away in a few hours and if you sleep late you might miss seeing it at all. My father-in-law and now my husband call these kinds of late winter snows "onion snow." I think the reasoning behind this is that onions can now be planted in your garden without any worry that damage will be done to the onions.

The weather man has promised that in a day or two we might even have temperatures in the 60's. Like everyone else I look forward to nicer days. As a true Pennsylvanian I like the changing of the seasons. Spring is especially nice. The red-winged black birds are back in abundance at the bird feeder along with those pushy grackles. A week or two later the gold finches start showing up adding more color to the scene at the feeder. The peonies have already pushed their way through the ground and by late May will be glorious in their shades of pink. God has given us so much so see and appreciate in nature that I never fail to be amazed at the variety He created. Looking forward to Spring with the birds returning and flowers to look for is one of His gifts that He has given us to enjoy. God wants me to look forward.

He doesn't want me or you to look back at the things we left behind. He wants us to look ahead at what He has in store for us. He wants us to know that whatever is down the road He will be right there with us. The most wonderful thing to look for is our hope, our goal, that thing we all strive for – Heaven. Keep your focus on what lies ahead. Don't look back on what you have already gone through unless it is to praise God for walking you through it. Look back only to learn from the past so that you and I can press forward to reaching our goal of Heaven and eternity with Jesus. Spring. Isn't it wonderful?

The Ladies Bible Study would like to invite you to join us as we finish up the last of Genesis. After much input from The Ladies, I have decided that the next logical thing to do would be to continue our journey into the Old Testament by looking at Exodus. If you would like to join us we would be happy to have you. We meet Monday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the craft room and end at noon. And as usual, we'll have the coffee on!

The Last Word

"The cross is the blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled, but we have to get near enough to it for its sparks to fall on us." – John Stott in "Authentic Christianity"



CHILDREN'S SPRING PROGRAM

**Sunday, April 24, 2016
10:45 am**

The children have been busy learning Scriptures and Biblical concepts through singing songs inspired by the Book of Psalms.

Please come Sunday, April 24th to hear the "Psalms in Psongs".

Rehearsals ~ Sunday, April 17th at Noon
Saturday, April 23rd at 10:00 am

Parents - please be sure your child attends these last rehearsals.

Respite Care

Do you need a break from caring for your loved one? Would you like to be able to go grocery shopping, the bank, or out to lunch without worry about leaving your loved one alone?

The Widow's Ministry Group would like to help. They will come sit with your loved one so you can get out.

Please contact the church office with your need. This will be passed on to the Widow's Ministry and someone from the group will contact you.

