
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 2017



This Resurrection Season, and all the way to heaven, give your greatest praises to Jesus our Risen Lord. Add your overwhelming gladness to these songs and Scripture that honor God our Savior.

*“His Kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o’er earth and heaven
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given.” ~ Wesley*

*“Welcome happy morning,
Age to age shall say
Hell today is vanquished
Heaven is won today.” ~ Ellerton*

*“He lives . . . Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me
. . . He lives within my heart.” ~ Ackley*

“Because I live, you will live also.” John 14:19

*“Christ died for us, Christ rose for us.
Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us!
Who can ever keep Christ’s love from us?”*
Romans 8:34-35

“Jesus died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died and rose for them.” 2 Corinthians 5:15

“These are the words of Him who is First and Last, who died and came to life again.” Revelation 2:8

As an old preacher once praised, *“To Jesus the eye of the believer is ever directed, on Jesus he must rest, on Jesus he must live, on Jesus he must die, on Jesus he stands forever in the presence of a righteous God.” Amen*

Passion Week Schedule of Events

Sunday, April 9th

- 8:30 am Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Worship Service
- 6:30 pm *Connection Service*



Wednesday, April 12th

- Noon Community Mid-Week Lenten Service at the First United Church of Christ, on Main Street in Irwin
- 6:30 pm Youth
- 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study

Friday, March 25th

Good Friday

- 7:00 pm Good Friday Service at NAC



Easter Sunday Activities

- 7:00 am Sunrise Service
- 7:30 am Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 am Morning Worship Service
- 9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
- 10:45 am Cantata ~ *“Lead Me to the Cross”*



“There are many roads that lead to Easter: a palm-lined street, a long dirt road up a hill of death, and finally a passageway that led from a garden tomb into a morning that would light the entire world. Jesus walked them all in obedience, knowing that each path led Him closer to the fulfillment of His Father’s plan of redemption for us all. To those watching from the sides of the roads, He gave the strength to follow Him . . . and believe.”

I have decided to follow Jesus! No turning back!



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

1. The following DMC items were approved: youth group trip to Eden Roller Rink on April 1; Graduate Sunday June 11; Promotion Sunday/Teacher Appreciation with luncheon August 20; AWANA Petting Zoo October 4; Advent Luncheon December 17.
2. Approved pursuing the following ideas pending leaders: Children's Day at Irwin Park, Youth Evening at Irwin Park, Basketball Camp, Backpack Giveaway, Turkey Giveaway, *Financial Peace* seminar
3. Approved having "Church in the Park" the second Sunday in September
4. Approved Terry and Yvonne Blair to organize a Church wide Bowling Night. Will coordinate the date with AWANA's.

LIBRARY



Thank you for the books & videos that were donated. If anyone has read a good book lately, please contribute a review for the Koinonia to the

As you look at the library (lower level of the church) ~ on the LEFT are: 1. Children's Books 2. Teen Books 3. Fiction (fantasy). As you turn and look to the right, starting on the RIGHT hand side of the bookcases you will find true stories (non-fiction) and encouragement and inspiration; in the CENTER are Bibles and Bible study books.

A good book to read by Jonathan Cahn is "*The Book of Mysteries*." It has a deep and intriguing thought for each day. He is the author of "*The Harbinger*."

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



Connection Service

Sunday, April 9
6:30 pm

"The Royal Law"

Speaker: Janis Swope

Samaritan's Purse presents: *Facing Darkness* at the Cinemark Theatre at the Monroeville Mall.

Thursday, March 30 only
7:00 pm

Facing Darkness is a true story of two doctors who contracted Ebola in West Africa and their faith and work in recovery.

Tickets:

Adults	\$12.50
Seniors	\$11.50
Students	\$11.50
Child	\$10.50



"Straight up: Devotions Delivering the Word Without Compromise So Your Life Rises to Jesus" is a 232 page book of daily devotions based squarely on Scripture and written by Shelli Prindle.

The cost is \$15 hand-delivered at Norwin Alliance or \$15 plus \$5 shipping if mailed. Checks made payable to Hope & Passion Ministries.

To get your book, please contact Shelli Prindle or Bria Craycraft.

Youth activities

NAC YOUTH GROUP IS GOING TO:



www.EdenParkRollerRink.com

428 Eden Park Blvd., McKeesport, PA 15132
412-751-3200

WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

COST: \$10 FOR ADMISSION / SKATES / PIZZA / POP
(PAY YOUTH LEADER AT THE DOOR)

PARENTS

**** PLEASE PLAN TO TRANSPORT YOUR YOUTH(S) DIRECTLY TO AND FROM EDEN PARK ROLLER RINK.**

ARRIVAL: 7:15 PM (START SKATING AT 7:30 PM)

DISMISSAL: 10:00 PM (PLEASE ARRIVE BY **9:50 PM**)



“God does not exist to fulfill our personal dreams. Rather, we exist to glorify God; and, in doing so, we find our greatest joy.”

Shelli Prindle



W.PA Sr. Youth Retreat
Beulah Beach Campground
Vermillion, Ohio

April 28-30



Speaker: Gary Witherall



Worship:
“About A Mile”

We have ten students (9-12 grade) attending BREAKAWAY 2017.

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We watched the life story of Josh McDowell, who turned from being an atheist to Christ during his college years. Josh went on to be the Christian apologist who has shared the Good News of Jesus with more teens than anyone in the world. He is author of the famous best-selling book, “More Than a Carpenter.” Each of our teens were given a copy of this book. Our discussion after watching the movie proved that our teens were greatly impacted by the conversion of Josh McDowell.



KEEN-AGERS

Senior Group

Thursday, April 27

11:30 am



April is a very blessed month. We celebrate our Jesus's death for anyone who desires to accept Him as their Savior, and rejoice in Jesus' resurrection that we may have life everlasting with Him always. Happy Easter to all our Seniors that share a share a wonderful love of serving our Lord every day.

Lunch for this month is: baked ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetables, salads and strawberry sundaes. Please bring a covered dish and/or dessert to compliment our meal. First time attendees do not have to bring any dishes, just come and join us for a time to Praise the Lord together, share lunch and enjoy socializing with each other. Please remember to bring your own table service.

Devotions will be presented by Elaine Holstine.

All seniors 50 years of age and above are cordially invited to our Keen-Agers' meeting and luncheon. Please invite a friend or neighbor to our meeting.

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

We are looking forward to having a great afternoon of Worship, Lunch, and Entertainment with everyone. Mark your calendars for Keen-Agers the 4th Thursday of each month at 11:30 am at Norwin Alliance Church.

Sincerely,

Joe and Pat Beyer, Co-Presidents

VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

QUESTION: Do you ever ask yourself: Why go to church? Could just turn the TV on and watch someone and worship with that program; OR read my Bible and study at home. Just too tired; Have so many things to do at home - laundry, cleaning - you name it. Am behind in so many responsibilities!!!

Granted, a person does not have to go to a church 'building' to worship God. Sometimes we cannot attend "church", (illness, travel, work). But what about FELLOWSHIP? ? And actually having others around you to share the teaching of God's word and how God guided their life. II Corinthians 12 ~ John 17

Writer Platt reminds us in **Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream RADICAL.** Let's look at some of his thoughts.

"For when we abandon the trinkets of this world and respond to the radical invitation of Jesus, we discern the infinite treasure of knowing and experiencing Him." (p. 18)

"The goal of the gospel is to make much of God." (p. 46)

"Will we risk everything - - our comfort, our possessions, our safety, our security, our very lives to make the Gospel known among unreached peoples?" (p. 160). Lots of food for thought with that statement.

"We can rest confident in the fact that nothing will happen to us in this world apart from the gracious will of a sovereign God." (p. 172)

God loves each and every one of us VERY, VERY much. Let others remind you. Remind yourself - and more important - read and study God's Word to remind you of His precious FORGIVENESS, LOVE, HEALING, ENERGY, WISDOM, PEACE, JOY, etc.

Closing with the message from the chorus "*The Day of Thy Power*" from Psalms 110:3, written by Jack W. Hayford:

May I stand, O Lord, in this holy place.

May I worship Thee and behold Thy face.

May I be transformed by Thy Word and Thy Spirit

And behold the day of Thy power.

The Women's Corner

By Janis Swope

Ahhh, the second day of Spring! I am so happy that Spring has officially arrived! For some reason, this winter seemed drearier than others. We didn't get as much snow as other places, but it sure seemed that our cloudy days really outnumbered our uncloudy days. (By the way, that reminds me, the song "An Uncloudy Day" was the favorite song of our dear brother in heaven, Woody Lauffer. I miss seeing him welcome everyone with a hug on Sunday mornings!) Well, getting back to cloudy days, it is the second day of Spring and I am still waiting for an uncloudy day! Hopefully before the day is over I will get a glimpse of blue sky. In the meantime, I will believe that one will come along eventually. I have faith that it will.

Speaking of faith, how is your faith doing? What do you have faith in? Do you have a saving faith in Jesus? What is a saving faith? Does anyone know? Well, to the best of my ability, I will try to answer that one for you. A saving faith is faith in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. You believe that He died on the cross to atone for your sins and give you everlasting life. You have asked Him to come into your heart to reside there by way of the Holy Spirit.

How do you know you have a saving faith? Because not only do you believe that Jesus died to atone for your sins, but you love Him for what He accomplished on the cross and because of that, you want to be obedient to Him. He becomes Lord of your life and you no longer want to live life on your terms, but on Jesus' terms. When we live our lives on His terms, He gives us joy and peace during the difficult times we face. We have an inner joy that has nothing to do with how things are going or how we are feeling. How do I know this? Because I have experienced it for myself. I can witness to you that even when the worst seems to happen, He is with you. He can give you the ability to praise Him and love Him.

Another way you know you have saving faith is that you want to do good. You know longer want to continue doing the things the rest of the culture and world are doing. Instead you want to be good and do good. Doing good things or works just starts to come naturally. Your focus shifts from being all about you to being all about others and how you can help them. Keep in mind that these good works have nothing to do with your salvation, but instead follow after you are saved by Jesus and come to faith in Him. And there are so many ways to help

people and be of service to them and God.

How is your faith? I have put my faith in Jesus and because of that faith I know he walks with me every day. I also have faith that one day Jesus will return to this world and take His followers to heaven to be with Him for eternity. I'm still working on my faith that we will see blue sky in Western Pennsylvania!

The Women's Sunday School Class is still learning what James wants us to know about living as a Christian. If you are interested, please join me and others in the Craft Room at 9:45 a.m on Sunday mornings. The Ladies Bible Study is finding out how the wilderness Tabernacle mirrors present day church. Please consider this an invitation to join us as we journey through the book of Exodus. 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

*"God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing."
– C.S. Lewis*



DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO
Prayer.
COLOSSIANS 4:2

CONCERT of PRAYER
Sunday, April 30th
7:00 pm