
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

DECEMBER 2023

What is Advent?

Derived from the Latin word “Adventus,” meaning “coming” or “arrival,” Advent is a season celebrated by millions of Christians worldwide. Commencing on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, Advent extends until Christmas Eve. The exact duration varies between 22 and 28 days, reflecting the fluidity that mirrors the unpredictable timing of Christ’s second coming. Advent is a chance to carve out time and commemorate the coming of Christ into the world. It’s embracing a Psalm 46:10 lifestyle for a few weeks each year: “Be still and know that I am God.”

Why do we celebrate Advent as Christians? The answer lies in its dual nature. Advent is both a celebration of Christ’s birth and an anticipation of His return, serving as a poignant reminder that as Christians, we live in a state of “already, but not yet.” We celebrate Christ’s birth, acknowledging that He has already come into the world, while simultaneously awaiting His promised return. Instead of sprinting toward Christmas morning, Advent invites us to breathe deeply and appreciate the anticipation of Christ’s birth. What we must realize is that it’s not about adding one more thing.

Advent is about making space for the best thing, so our hearts have room for Jesus as Christmas arrives. This Advent, as we light the candles and count down the days until Christmas, may we celebrate with expectant hearts, savoring the season as we look forward with excitement to receiving the greatest gift God has ever given His children.

A360 Media (2023). *Simply Jesus: The Heart of Christmas*.

25-Day Advent Reading Plan

Dec. 1:	Isaiah 9:2-7
Dec. 2:	Isaiah 11:1-5
Dec. 3:	Isaiah 7:10-14
Dec. 4:	Micah 5:1-5
Dec. 5:	II Samuel 12:1-6
Dec. 6:	Luke 1:26-33
Dec. 7:	Luke 1:34-38
Dec. 8:	Luke 1:46-55
Dec. 9:	Matthew 1:18-35
Dec. 10:	Luke 2:1-7
Dec. 11:	Luke 2:8-12
Dec. 12:	Luke 2:13-20
Dec. 13:	Matthew 1:1-16
Dec. 14:	Romans 6:20-23
Dec. 15:	Galatians 4:1-7
Dec. 16:	I Timothy 1:15-17
Dec. 17:	Titus 3:3-7
Dec. 18:	Philippians 2:6-8
Dec. 19:	John 14:1-6
Dec. 20:	Daniel 7:13-14
Dec. 21:	Revelation 1:4-7
Dec. 22:	Revelation 3:20-22
Dec. 23:	Revelation 22:12-13
Dec. 24:	Revelation 22:16-17
Dec. 25:	Revelation 22:20





WEDNESDAY PRAYER TIME

1st Wednesday of each month

Wednesday, December 6

7:00 pm

Join us on the first Wednesday of each month for a time to pray for: one another; our church family; the mission, purpose, staff, and leaders of Norwin Alliance Church; the church universal; our community; our nation; and the world. If you have a specific prayer request, please join us for this time of prayer, or if you cannot attend, please contact the church office with your prayer request. We pray that this special time of monthly prayer together will help us see what God wants us to do as a church and build unity in and through our church members.

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

- Matthew 18:19-20

Norwin Alliance Church

Invites Families to Experience a...



**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 16TH
1- 4 PM**

Doors open at 1 pm,
the last tour starts at 3 pm.

This fun Christmas adventure lets families explore the city of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus' birth. Guests will visit booths around the city, and enjoy hands-on experiences, crafts, and a live nativity – all while learning about Jesus. **Come take a stroll with us through Bethlehem.**

Norwin Alliance Church

10585 Farview Drive – North Huntingdon

For more information, call 724-864-1570



EVENTS

- Dec. 3 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 9 Christmas Cantata ~ "LOVE WAS BORN A KING" ~ 6:30 pm
- Dec. 10 Second Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata ~ LOVE WAS BORN A KING" ~ 10:45am
- Dec. 13 AWANA Family Christmas 6:45 pm
- Dec. 14 Keen-Agers Christmas Catered Meal 11:00 am (by RSVP)
- Dec. 16 "A Night in Bethlehem" Event 1:00—4:00 pm
- Dec. 17 Third Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Saturday, December 9th

6:30 pm

AND

Sunday, December 10th

10:45 am



Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to hear our Adult Choir as they present their Christmas Cantata, "LOVE WAS BORN A KING" on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. May the music touch your hearts, and may the message fill you with hope, joy, and the blessing of Christmas.

The DMC will not be hosting their annual Advent Luncheon this year. They will be participating in "A Night in Bethlehem".

Norwin Alliance Church Preschool



Another month has flown by and its time for all the hustle and bustle that comes along with the holiday season. In the month of November, we focused on thankfulness and all things surrounding Thanksgiving. We shared the things we are thankful for, we talked about our favorite Thanksgiving foods and learned about turkeys. We also talked about community helpers and had Officer Bauer and her K9, Zargo visit the 4 year old class. The 3 year old class had a visit from Detective Harris.



We also had various community helper areas set up for lots of pretend play. We had doctors, construction workers, vets and more! The kids loved it!

Our dramatic play area was set up as a grocery store so that the children could create their own Thanksgiving feast to share with friends.

In December, we will focus on Christmas and will teach the children the Nativity story. We will also have many fun days during the month like Santa hat day, wear your favorite holiday shirt, etc. Our playroom will transform into a toy workshop and bakery for the month. The kids will be given the opportunity to wrap toys and then give them to a friend to unwrap, they will

get to bake cookies in the bakery and decorate trees in the tree farm area. There is something so special about getting to spend this season with a bunch of 3 and 4 year olds!

We will be having our first ever Family Christmas Sing-a-long the first week of December so we have been working hard learning all the songs and motions for the songs.

Also something new this year - Birthday Cakes for Jesus. We know that the holiday season can get very busy, and it may be tough at times to find opportunities to share the true meaning of Christmas with young children, so we wanted to give our families an easy activity to do together. Every child loves to bake and they love helping their grown-ups in the kitchen, so we'd like to provide each of our families with everything they need to bake a Birthday Cake for Jesus.

The Preschool wishes everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

* * Note from church office ~ if you would like to help the preschool teachers by providing a boxed cake mix (white, yellow, or chocolate only please) and a can of icing, please sign the sheet in the narthex and bring your donations to the church by December 11th. THANK YOU!



Each month the preschool children collect specific food items for the Irwin Area Food Pantry. If you would like to contribute, a box is available in the narthex. December's collection item: **CANNED PASTAS** (SPAGHETTI O'S, RAVIOLI, BEEFARONI, SPAGHETTI and MEATBALLS etc.)

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.

YEAR END REPORTS

ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS.....from KEEN-AGERS, DMC, LEAD ELDER, LEAD TRUSTEE, TREASURER, ASST. TREASURER, YOUTH...your End-of-Year reports are due to Cindy Barnhart no later than Sunday, January 14th. Please make sure that your report includes a financial report (if applicable).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a meeting of the congregation on Sunday, January 28th at 11:30 AM.

Even though only members are permitted to vote, everyone is invited to attend the meeting.

Come hear how NAC did in 2023.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The window in the small narthex will be covered with paper so you can display Christmas cards to the congregation. You may sign one card to the entire church family and tape it to the "window".

SENIOR ADULTS **Keen-Agers**

For all those in the community
50 years of age and older



Thursday, December 14, 2023

11:00 am

Keen-Agers will meet two weeks early in December.

This is a catered meal by reservation only. Please see Cindy Barnhart if you would like to attend but have not reserved your spot.

The Laurel Harmony Chorus will be our special program for the day.

Officers for 2024 were elected at our November meeting and will be installed at our December meeting. The 2024 Officers are as follows:

President	Cindy Barnhart
Vice President	Harold Lawhorne
Secretary	Ruth Minto
Treasurer	Georgia Conley
Asst. Treasurer	Bill Swope
Kitchen Head	Lori Deliman

Church Greeters

If you would like to be a part of our Greeter Ministry, we'd love to have you join us.

We need greeters for before and after the 8:30 and 10:45 services.

Please contact the church office if you are interested.

A little child,
A shining star,
A stable rude,
The door ajar.
Yet in that place,
So crude, forlorn,
The Hope of all
The world was
born.

Anonymous