
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

FEBRUARY 2024



Romans 13:1 says, *“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.”* This must have been a hard teaching for many of those in the early church, some of whom would suffer and even be martyred for their faith. In the 2000 years since the Holy Spirit led Paul to write this command, there have been many times and places when these words would have been difficult or even offensive to believers.

2024 is shaping up to be one of the most contentious elections in recent history. With the 24-hour news cycle, we are not immune from being caught up and distracted from our true hope and our true calling as followers of Jesus. As important as elections can be, this verse in Romans indicates that the authority that exists has been and will be instituted by God. Though God doesn't always approve of how our elected leaders act, He is sovereign. Jesus is our true king and will one day return to reign. Until He does, the Lord will accomplish His purposes irrespective of the governing authorities.

This doesn't mean that Christians shouldn't care about elections or educate themselves on political issues. Nevertheless, our union with Christ should govern HOW we engage in politics. Here are a few guidelines for the believer when engaging in politics:

1. Limit the time you spend consuming news media and discussing politics. Be wary of voices that encourage you to hate, disdain, or look down on people that disagree with you.
2. Don't allow political engagement of whatever sort to distract you from spiritual disciplines and serving the world as part of Christ's body.
3. Pray fervently for elected leaders and candidates to govern with integrity, nationally, regionally, and locally. Pray for their salvation and sanctification.

4. When discussing politics, do so with honesty, humility, and gentleness. Seek to understand the reasons others may support a position or candidate that you don't. Don't presume the worst possible motive for their view, even if you still believe they are wrong.
5. Pray for believers, unbelievers, friends, and family that disagree with you politically. However much you disagree with them, pray for them, and love them as Christ loves you.
6. Whatever happens in 2024, commit to pray for our community, country, world, and its leaders. Seek to glorify Christ in all aspects of your life including your political engagement.



WEDNESDAY PRAYER TIME

1st Wednesday of each month
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
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 Preschool News

It's hard to believe our school year is half way over! We spent the month of January talking about polar animals, winter and snow. We transformed our dramatic play area into an ice-skating rink including a concession stand. We also built an igloo to read books in. We had ice fishing, feed the polar bear and a penguin letter matching activity too! When learning about the letter Pp we had a pajama day and a pancake feast. We had several parent volunteers and it was a wonderful morning!

We are currently enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year. We have had several tours and currently have (14) 4- year olds registered and (8) 3-year olds. We'd love to be able to offer a PM class next fall for both ages. If you know anyone who may be looking for a preschool we'd love for you to send them our way.

Norwin Alliance Preschool NOW ENROLLING

3 year old class -
Tues and Thurs 9-11:30am
4 year old class -
Mon, Wed and Fri 9-11:30

Come learn and play with us! Sensory exploration, fine and gross motor activities, free play, art experiences and so much more!

Call us at 724-864-1570 to schedule a tour!



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. February's collection item: **SOUPS/ RAMEN NOODLES**

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.



EUREKA!

Let's celebrate Pi π Day (3.14)

Friday, March 15, 2024

6:30 pm

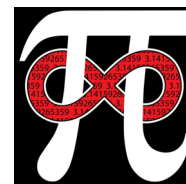
π Day is the global celebration of the constant Pi (3.14) founded in 1988 by Larry Shaw, physicist, who chose the date representing the first three digits.

Mathematical constants are important as we will learn, however, no life will be complete without knowing The Constant, Christ (3:16).

Plan to **Attend, Invite** (another version of AI) and bring your appetite for all things Pi(e).

Please sign up: online or in the narthex so we know IF we need 30 pizzas or 5 pizzas!

Time to get our GEEK on!



MEMBERSHIP CLASS

New Member Classes will meet each Sunday morning in February at 9:45 am in the classroom down the ramp. Classes begin Sunday, February 4th.

Please let Pastor Mike, Pastor Joe, or the church office know if you are interested in attending these classes.



Coming March 9th Resurrection Egg Hunt

11:00 am

Watch your bulletins for more information and how to register for this great event.

VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

(her January article)

Greetings to new calendar year 2024! We wonder what will happen in 2024 - especially since it is time to elect a President again.

We can grab at opportunities; be thankful and enjoy families, infants/children, graduates, bride/grooms, neighbors, employment, retirement, church worship/fellowship, music, God's Word, prayer, health, etc, etc. Numerous blessings can be reminders to us as we enter a new year.

One of the most expressive promises in God's Word is God is always with us (Matthew 28:20). As a believer, we are assured that Jesus will soon return. The world is a MESS but God is in control. Pastor David B. Biebel wrote in his book, *Jonathan, You Left Too Soon*; "God is supreme. God is sovereign. He is in control. Through our trials God is taking us toward perfection in Christ." The Biebel family lost their son Jonathan (age 3) to a rare disease and almost had the second son, Christopher, die from the same disease. Pastor and Mrs. Biebel shared how God helped them through the grief process and reaching out to/with others who lived in similar situations.

As we enter an "unspoiled" LEAP year, actually our privilege of prayer and recognition of God's authority and sovereignty will be a testimony of His love, mercy, and grace (Romans 8:28-29).

Former Pastor Charles Stanley shares; "Set your mind on Jesus Christ. He gives His power and strength for obedience, presence to rely on, and love to encourage you (Hebrews 12:2). Get on your knees everyday (Joshua 1:7-9). The key is to focus, do exactly what God says."

Suggested passages to read/study as 2024 is entered: Psalm 27:14, 34:8, and 37:4-5; Isaiah 53:1-6; John 14:26-27

Blessings galore to you in 2024!!



Thursday, February 22

11:00 am

Our first meeting of the new year is Thursday, February 22nd at 11:00 am.

Our lunch menu will be Italian dishes and salads. Get out those Italian recipes, make your favorite dish, and share with the group 😊

Our program will be by Cher Chamberlin. You won't want to miss her singing.

If you are 50 years of age or older, and want some good fellowship, food, fun, and meeting new friends, this is the group for you.

Each month we will be collecting items for the Irwin Food Bank. At our February meeting, please bring in SOUPS/RAMEN NOODLES.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office at 724-864-1570.

We look forward to seeing you February 22nd.

Mid-Week Lenten Services



Norwin Ministerium and
New Hope Presbyterian Church
12727 Lincoln Way
N. Huntingdon

Wednesdays during the Lenten Season
Starting Wednesday, February 14th
11:30 am — 12:30 pm

The day begins at 11:30 am with a Hymn Sing.
A luncheon will be served at 12:30 pm
(free will offering accepted)

2023 PRAYER CHAIN

New 2023 Prayer Chains are in the process of being put together.

What is the Prayer Chain and what does it do?

Those members and adherents of Norwin Alliance Church who wish to be prayer intercessors for the church family are placed on Deaconess' lists. You are called to pray only - you do not need to make any phone calls. When the intensive prayer chain is activated (for emergency or critical needs of our immediate church family), your Deaconess will call you to pray. This chain is also activated to inform of service closings. All other prayer requests are circulated through the Deaconesses and Elder only for prayer.

Not all prayer requests go through the intensive prayer chain. As stated above, only emergency or critical needs of our immediate church family are placed on the intensive chain ~ unless the family specifically requests that the full chain be activated. Some prayer requests are of a personal nature and only the Elders and Deaconesses are contacted for prayers.

When calling in prayer requests, if you want the intensive prayer chain activated, please indicate this when calling. In the same manner, not all requests are printed on the Praise and Petition sheet. We try very hard to honor everyone's privacy. If you would like your request printed on the Praise and Petition sheet, please state this when calling in for prayer.

When called to prayer ~ pray as though the need was for a member of your own family ~ we are all a part of God's family.

EVERYONE who would like to be part of the Prayer Chain needs to submit your name and phone number to the church office by **February 19th**.

If you have any questions about the Prayer Chain, please contact Karen Watkiss or Cindy Barnhart



Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

I Thessalonians 5:17

PRAYER CHAIN

Yes, I would like to be a part of the Prayer Chain.

Please include my name.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Please turn this completed form into the church office by Sunday, February 19, 2023.