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# 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

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NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2025

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Ephesians 5:15-16 “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”

As of February 1<sup>st</sup>, we’re a few weeks into what I like to call *normal season*; January 8<sup>th</sup> through mid-April. A week or two after New Years Day, the holiday mood has certainly passed and everything has started back up again, mostly just picking back up where we left off before Christmas. By February, any excitement the first snowstorm or two can bring has passed.

Spring weather is months away, and when it arrives in mid-April or so, our minds will shift quickly into *finish-line season*, as activities are finishing up and summer vacation season is about to begin. By August, the beginning school year and new fall activities are a welcome arrival as we tire of the heat and humidity. Then it’s time to do all the fun fall things, enjoying the colors, and moderate weather. Then it’s Christmas season again.

*Normal season* is the time of year when not a lot of new things are happening, the few holidays are one-day affairs, and when we are most likely to live on autopilot. For parents, the grind of lugging your kids all over creation is probably quite like what you were doing from September through mid-December. For seniors, you may struggle with the cold and driving at night is tough, especially when the sun continues to set so early. For students, you’ve been at it since August and the semester’s finish line is too far away to look forward to.

For most of us, this is the time of year when we are both adjusted to and tired of our routines, going about our lives and ordinary activities without much happening that disrupts the normal. For some, this season might be named *wish-away season*, the time of year we want to pass as soon as possible, so we

can get to Spring and Summer.

As you read this, you may have noticed that your pastor has written four paragraphs without mentioning anything about Jesus, the Bible, or the Christian faith. How easy is it for us who have new life in Christ to let our entire lives be dictated by and focused on where we are on the calendar year? We wish away the winter, then grind through Spring, kick back in the summer, get busy in the fall, and then get caught up in the holidays. Then it’s time to do it again. On top of the calendar, some of us may be going through a relational, health, or financial trial that merely adds to the chains of the calendar.

The question you and I need to ask God is how we can live for him today. Instead of the calendar carrying us along, what special opportunities to be a witness are here in the present? Opportunities that will be missed once the weather is nice. Opportunities that exist BECAUSE of where we are on the calendar. The question isn’t what God will call us to after we “get through” this busy season, finish a class, complete a big project at work, finish our kids’ Spring activities, or whatever.

Who are the parents as busy as us standing near us at our kids’ basketball games? Who are the senior neighbors, friends, and acquaintances who have the same short window of daylight to drive who could use a call, a daytime visit, or a plate of cookies? Who are the classmates and colleagues in proximity who are as tired of the routines as we are? We all have others around us who are not only are chained to the calendar, but without the hope of Christ. How can we show them the love of Christ today?


The danger of putting off such questions today is that we will have similar excuses tomorrow and the next day. The evil days of our calendar really fall into one of two types: hard days and fun days. We will always have today’s excuse of being either too busy working or too busy having fun to either serve God, love others, seek the Lord in his word and prayer, or to be a witness.

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“From the Pastor” continued

Paul’s advice to the Ephesians is good advice today, whatever day you are reading this: *“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”*

**FEBRUARY  
PRAYER TIMES**

**Wednesday, February 5**  
7:00 pm  
and  
**Thursday, February 6**  
11:00 am

# BIBLE QUIZZING

Steel City Bible Quiz Tournament

On Jan 17 -18 Norwin’s Bible Quizzers sent a team to the Steel City Classic Tournament at Allegheny Center. A total of 13 senior teams from 6 districts competed in the 2 day event. The team from Norwin came in 2nd place. Congratulations Norwin Quizzers!!



We are looking for people to help with our youngest members in the nursery on Sunday mornings - both during the Sunday School hour and also during the 10:45 Worship Service. You must have your clearances (which the church will pay for).

Please contact Elena Dornin or the church office if this is a ministry you would like to help with.



**“There’s not an empty or unplowed field in all the world today that God doesn’t intend for a harvest.”**

–Tim Crouch

## MISSIONS CONFERENCE

February 15 & 16, 2025

Mike & Ruth Ann from Portugal will speak with us on Saturday and Sunday about how the Lord is working through them and their ministries in Portugal.

Saturday will begin at 11:00 am followed by a Soup and Sandwich lunch. Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you are able to bring in a crock-pot full of soup, and also if you are attending the lunch. Both sheets are located on the shelf in the narthex.

Sunday Mike & Ruth Ann will speak in both Worship Services and also to the Youth Sunday School class.

Circle this weekend on your calendar and plan to come hear Mike & Ruth speak.





Thursday, February 27  
11:00 am

Our first meeting of the new year is Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 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 “A Box of Chocolate” game. How well do you know your chocolates?



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.

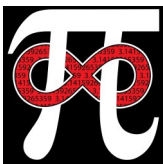
We look forward to seeing you February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

Another Pi Day is being planned for:  
Friday, March 14, 2025  
6:30 pm

Watch your bulletins for more information.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.



**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.



**PRESCHOOL VALENTINE PARTIES**  
3-year old ~ Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>  
4-year old ~ Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

If you are part of our Preschool Prayer Ministry and would like to send your prayer buddy a Valentine, please have bring it to the church office by Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

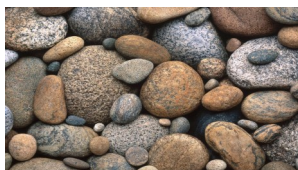
Jesus loves me this I know  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong,  
They are weak, but He is strong.

## UPON THIS ROCK

In Scripture, rocks and stones become important players. 1 Peter 2:5-9, "Ye also, as lively stones" skipping with joy, across the living waters, let us dive in. Genesis 28:11, And he took of the stones of that place and put them for his pillows. Stones for a pillow? Genesis 31:46, And Jacob said unto his brothers gather stones, make a heap and they did eat there up on the heap. Stones for a table? Exodus 25:7, Onyx stones adorned outerwear, including crowns. Exodus 28:9, Take two onyx stones and engrave on them the 12 tribes. Exodus 33:22, I will put you in a cleft of the rock and cover thee with my hand. Cleft is a split in a rock. Deuteronomy 27:5, Build an altar of whole stones. Joshua 4:7, these stones shall be for a memorial. 1 Samuel 17:40, David chose 5 smooth stones out of the brook. 1 Samuel 24:2, Upon the rocks of the wild goats. Goats love to climb, hop and skip. At my friends farm a goat hopped up on the trunk of my car! 2 Chronicles 32:27, Precious stones. Ezekiel 36:26, Stoney hearts. Proverbs 30:26, the conies are but a feeble folk yet makes their houses in the rocks. Coney is an English word for rabbit. A tailless, gregarious animal. Luke 19:38, The stones would immediately cry out. Acts 7:59, And they stoned Stephen and he kneeled down and cried with a loud voice, Lord lay not this sin to their charge. And when he said this, he fell asleep. I read in Dakes annotated reference bible "What a wonderful position and spirit in which to die, he died on his knees and without malice towards his murderers." Matthew 27:51, And the earth did quake and the rocks rent. {split in two} Did the rocks split in response to the shock of the crucifixion? What is our response? Were we created to quake or rent? O come let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker. Words of praise and worship. . . . I go to the rock of my salvation. . . . I go to the stone that the builders rejected. Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee. He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock where rivers of pleasure I see. I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone. Great is thy faithfulness, morning by morning new mercies I see.

Carry on. . . . .

Blessings,  
Deborah D.



Mark you calendars! We are planning a "Garage Sale Giveaway" for Saturday, May 3.

We will once again have separate rooms for different categories of donated items to help with overcrowding. One of the rooms is a Christmas room. If you have any left-over Christmas items you no longer use, consider saving them and donating them to our giveaway.

We do not have room at the church to store items but wanted to make everyone aware that we will be having the giveaway this year so you can start saving items.

**DONATIONS NEEDED!** All donated items need to be clean. Suggested items for donations are: books, dishes, glassware, pots and pans, kitchen utensils and appliances. If donating bedding, such as sheets/blankets, please mark with size. Baby items such as strollers, play pens (is there such a thing nowadays), high chairs and of course toys and games, are always in demand. If any small appliances or tools are donated, they must be in good working condition.

Please note that we are not able to accept the following items: TV's, knick-knacks, clothes or large furniture items.

Please try to make sure your donations can be useful.

In April we will post a sign-up sheet for people to help set-up tables in rooms, collect and organize the donations into the different rooms, greet and assist our guests on May 8th, and clean-up.

If you have any questions, please contact Mardy Rogers or Cindy Barnhart.

