
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

JUNE 2024



Pastor's Corner

Mark 2:27 *"And Jesus said to the Pharisees, 'The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.'"*

In Mark 2:23-3:6, Jesus challenges the Pharisaic practice of the Sabbath. Certainly, the Pharisees were quite aware of the command to keep the Sabbath from Exodus 20:8, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." In this section of Mark, Jesus challenges the legalistic application of this command; the keeping of all sorts of do's and don'ts to ensure one doesn't break the Sabbath. In our 21st century context, this isn't a hard teaching. We like it when Jesus seems to give us liberty.

The Christian church adopted the concept of Sabbath to Sunday, when we gather as a body for worship. The older we are, the more we grown up in a context when more people went to church and did so with great regularity, missing only on special occasions. Stores were closed and there were fewer organized activities, clubs, or sports.

Today, fewer Christians hold a strong theology of Sabbath rest. Where this belief exists, it's mostly relegated to believing in the importance of attending church on Sunday mornings. The point isn't to pine for "the good old days," when the institutional church held a more central place in culture. It is to say that whether Sabbath rest was truly practiced as a spiritual discipline more in the past, it is desperately needed today. Whether that looks like an entire Sunday, another day set apart for Sabbath rest, or even just times throughout our week, we all need time to be still before God.

The Pharisees needed to hear that man was not made for Sabbath. We in the 21st century more often need to hear that Sabbath was made for man. Unlike the "good old days," we live with the 24-hour

news cycle. We carry around hand-held devices that keep us constantly connected to more people, to more drama, to more entertainment, and other distractions. Yet, with all the increased connection, much of it is shallow.

Aside from today's distractions, there is a little lie that I've found myself believing. It's the idea that busyness is a virtue. If I'm not working, then I should be doing X. If I'm relaxing, I should "relax" in a particularly constructive way. If not, then I'm tempted to equate entertainment with Sabbath. If I'm too tired for even that, I can take a nap so that I have energy to be busy again when I wake up. Instead, the thing I need the most, is the last thing I want to make time for: being still and quiet before God.

If I'm feeling guilty for watching TV, I'm inclined to replace it with a more constructive hobby, something I need to get done, or some intense bible reading or study. Maybe I should pray more? If I do, I should be constructive about that! I should go down my lists and maybe journal some? Yet, the last thing even in prayer that I'm inclined to make time for is being still and quiet before God.

The impending summer season often provides us with a little more time for various forms of rest and relaxation. Many of us will take a vacation. What I need more of, maybe you do too, is time with God. I certainly want to make time for personal prayer and bible study, not just prep for the next sermon. Yet, what I need most is time with God, especially just being still, knowing he is with me and that I can just rest in his presence. Whether that's a big piece of Sunday afternoons or evenings, and/or some early mornings or other times, I need more times of stillness in my life. I want to hear from God and enjoy his presence. May we all make time to enter his Sabbath rest. Jesus said in Matthew 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."



The Norwin Alliance Preschool
is accepting 3 year old registrations for the
2024-2025 school year.

The **3yr old class** meets Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00—11:30 am OR 12:30—3:00 pm (if there are enough children to have an afternoon class). Child must be potty trained and be 3yrs old by September 1st.

The **4yr old class** meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00—11:30 am. **The 4yr old class is FULL.**

You may contact the church office to register or fill out the form below and return to the office.

A \$75.00 registration fee is required to reserve your spot.

Norwin Alliance Church Preschool
REGISTRATION
2024—2025



Parent's name: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone : _____

Email address: _____

Child's Name: _____

Child's birthday: _____

Please register my child in the: 3 year old class _____

4 year old class FULL

Class time preference: AM _____ PM _____

****Class preference will be decided by the date the registration form AND the \$75 registration fee are received. You will be notified if your preference cannot be granted.****

****Checks may be made payable to:
Norwin Alliance Church****



PRAYER TIME

Join us on the first Wednesday at 7:00 pm and/or the first Thursday at 11:00 am 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.

We hope that those who cannot meet on Wednesday night, will be able to join us on Thursday morning.

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



The June meeting of Norwin Alliance Keen-Agers will be on Thursday, June 27th at **11:00 am**.

The meal will be Chicken (provided), picnic foods, and dessert. Please bring a picnic food to share. Entertainment is by Kathy Rhodes Bafle.

*** * Food Pantry item is: Condiments, Peanut Butter, Jelly (plastic containers please).**

Everyone age 50 and over is invited to join us for lunch and fellowship.

Hope to see you on June 27th ~ we are looking forward to having a great afternoon together.

"FOR I KNOW
the plans
I have for you,"
declares the
Lord, "PLANS TO
PROSPER
& NOT TO HARM."
plans to give you
HOPE & a future
Jeremiah 29:11

Our 2024 Norwin High School Graduates (Graduation was May 24)



Andrew Ewing

Parents: Patrick & Becky Ewing
College Attending: **University of Pittsburgh ~
Greensburg Campus**
Major: **IT-Administration**
Minor: **Computer Science**



Sophia LoChiatto

Parents: Frank & Chris LoChiatto
College Attending: **West Liberty University**
Major: **Marketing**



The congregation is cordially invited to help celebrate the graduation of:

Andrew Ewing

Saturday, June 8, 2024

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Oak Hollow Park
(Locust Pavilion)

RSVP to Patrick Ewing at
724-757-4787 by June 1st if
you are able to attend.

Bible Quizzing News!



The next step for the WPA Bible Quizzers is the International Competition at Stow Alliance Fellowship Church in Stow, Ohio July 9-13.

Western PA is sending 2 teams. Daniel Cox is advancing from Norwin Alliance. Alexis also qualified but is unable to attend. CONGRATULATIONS!!

Other quizzers are from Allegheny Center Alliance and Westfield, NY. There is a WPA 1 Team and a WPA 2 Team. Daniel will be competing on the WPA 1 team. There are 9 youth representing Western PA: Seth, Mari, Eden, Anna, Daniel, Miles, Lydia, Liam, Levi.

Please keep the Quizzers in your prayers as they prepare for the International Competition.

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Packing Party!

EVERYONE is invited!

Saturday, July 27, 2024



Join us for fun and fellowship as we pack items that have been donated into shoeboxes. Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you will be attending the party.

Our goal is 100 boxes!

Demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world through Operation Christmas Child.

** Please help with this great ministry ~ Sign the sheet in the narthex and donate items to go in the shoeboxes.

All donations may be dropped off at the church office.

Boxes will be available if you want to make individual boxes.



VBS 2024

Norwin Alliance Church

Jonah

June 19, 26

July 3, 10

6:30-8:00 PM

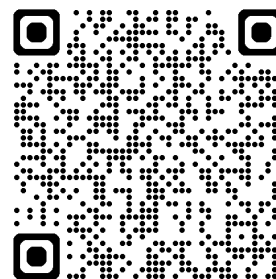
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Ages 3 - completion of 5th grade

Ways to register:

1. On-line through our website: www.norwinalliance.org which will direct you to the following link: <https://forms.gle/XBRq9RDLgnJXoASH7>

2. Scanning this QR code:



3. Paper forms are on the shelf in the small narthex.

4. Use the form on the back of this newsletter.

Invite your family and friends and join us on June 19 & 26 and July 3 & 10.

Each night at VBS, the kids will enjoy:

- + Prayer
- + Lesson/Memory Verse
- + Music
- + Craft
- + Snack

Lessons:

- | | |
|-------|------------------|
| Day 1 | Obedience |
| Day 2 | God's Compassion |
| Day 3 | Forgiveness |
| Day 4 | The Gospel |



**2024 Vacation Bible School****Registration Form**
(one form per child, please)**Jonah****Wednesdays June 19 & 26 and July 3 & 10**
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Child's name: _____

Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last grade completed: _____

Name of parent(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Home Church: _____



Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Phone: _____ Relationship to child: _____

Authorization for Publication of Photographs:I ☐ Authorize☐ Do Not Authorize Norwin Alliance Church to use Photographs of

(Name) _____ for local publication, brochures or web posting.

I ☐ Authorize☐ Do Not Authorize Norwin Alliance Church to use Photographs of

(Name) _____ for posting throughout the church facility.

CHURCH USE ONLY

Crew number or name: _____