

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

May 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

Real Christians Love Church ~ In the Bible, church is the gathered believers in Jesus with appointed elders who help shepherd God's people. Christians grow best together so we gather as the Body of Christ. Some Christians today think church is optional. They are dead wrong. They are dead spiritually and wrong Biblically.

I love church because:

- ★ Jesus loves church.
- ★ God is in church.
- ★ I like worshipping God with others.
- ★ I like the Bible and praying.
- ★ I like music that praises God.
- ★ I love people of all ages.
- ★ I like the teaching from the Bible.
- ★ I like serving and church people serve.
- ★ I like gathering to encourage one another.

The next time someone says, *"Why should I go to church?"* you can tell of why Jesus builds the church. I promise there is no other experience that equals the excitement of a bunch of sinners saved by grace praising God together as church.



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

1. Joe Cox will lead a "listening" session with High School students after worship on April 18th.
2. Approved Chrissy LoChiatto as a youth leader assistant.
3. Discussed putting Bibles back in the pews. The risk related to COVID will be researched and reported back to the Elders.
4. Discussed the issue of termite swarms in the church.
5. Approved renewing our maintenance agreement with Elk Htg/Air
6. The Preschool teachers met with the Ministry Board and shared about the school since their opening in 2019. If you are a prayer partner with one of the preschoolers and would like to send a card of encouragement, please leave in the office and the teachers will put in the student's folders. The children love "mail" ☺
7. **FREE PIANO** ~ it was approved to dispose of the piano in the Fellowship Hall. If anyone would like the piano, please contact the church office.
NOTE: You are responsible for pick-up and loading. The church will not be held liable. The legs are very unstable and the piano is heavy.



Norwin Alliance Preschool News

Each month the preschool children collect specific food items for the Irwin Area Food Pantry.

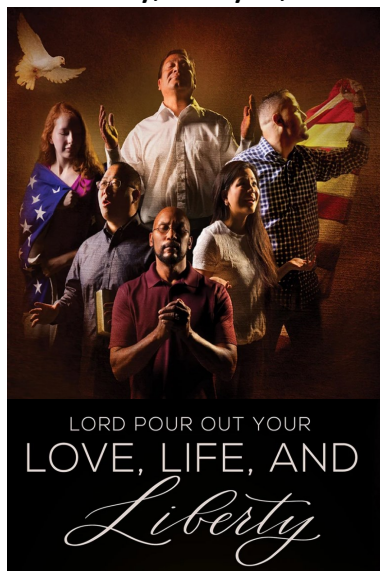
If you would like to contribute, a box is available in the narthex. May's collection item: **Laundry or Dish Soaps.**

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 6, 2021



"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

2 Corinthians 3:17 NASV

2021 NATIONAL PRAYER for AMERICA

Lord, we look up and see the billions of stars You created, and we praise You. We look around and see the billions of people You created in Your image; uniquely, fearfully, wonderfully, and we thank You. Wrap us in Your Spirit and unite us in Your family, Lord.

Thank You for loving us first. In Your love for the whole world, You sent Your Son to save us.

Jesus, in You alone we have abundant and everlasting life. Thank you for teaching and leading us to love and live, fruitful, and faithful. In Your life, death, resurrection, and ascension You are our Lord, our love, our life, and our liberty. You came to "bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners." You have freed us from the penalty and shame of our sin; free to live life as You designed and Your destiny for our Nation.

Spirit search us, convict us, as we repent for our sin and the sins of America. Please cleanse, fill, and send us. We rejoice, knowing that Your forgiveness makes us acceptable and effective vessels for Your love, life and liberty in our family, church,

education, workplace, military, government, art, entertainment, and media.

We pray that America will be united in love to serve You with all our hearts, all our ways, and all of our days. Unite us to pray, love; to live and walk by the Spirit. Conform and transform us as we pray and proclaim, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

We pray this is the name of Jesus, Amen.

Kathy Branzell

President, National Day of Prayer Task Force

**How to Pray for America**

"When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Psalms 11:3

I believe our nation is in trouble today, probably more than I've seen in my lifetime. We are contending with issues that are causing the very foundation of our country to crumble. Our moral and spiritual roots are eroding, the economy is misleading, family life is disintegrating, and political forces are at unprecedented odds . . . It can be tempting to believe that America has reached a point of no return. While these factors cause despair, we are reminded in Scripture that with God, nothing is impossible. No problem is too great for Him. Seasons of distress and uncertainty and hardship call for faithful, fervent prayer by God's people and remind us of our responsibility to humble ourselves before Almighty God. We cannot expect healing to come to our nation apart from obedience to God through His Holy Word. Pray that as a nation we would return to God. As we call on God, let us do so by genuine faith, believing that He hears our prayers. God can heal this great land, for which our forefathers fought and died. We need spiritual renewal, we need a revival in America, and we need each and everyone to pray. Lord, Hear Our Cry!

Franklin Graham

Excerpts taken from:

https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/how_to_pray_for_america

Music Notes



I'd like to take a moment and add my thanks to the Pastor's. Thank you choir for the Easter cantata. I am honored to work with such an amazing group. How many would volunteer to put together a cantata in 2 months with limited people involved? Well, 15 as it turns out. Thank you for your hard work and ministry to this church.

With the cantata behind us, the **choir** has only a few weeks left in the season. That said, you are still welcome to join us any time! We meet at 7 on Thursday nights in the sanctuary. You don't have to be a soloist to join. We love ensemble members too. Choir is for anyone 12 years old and up.



Another ministry that just began a month ago is our **bell choir**. For most of us, this is new. You do not need to read music to be a member. Just be willing to attend rehearsals. We've been meeting on Thursdays at 6:30 to rehearse. (The time may change for summer.)

Do you play an instrument or sing? Do you enjoy being in a small group of singers? I would like to have more folks for **special music**. Even if it's been a while, I'd gladly work with you to get you practiced up and ready to be a part of the music ministry.



Please contact Vicki Booher

#412-398-1343 or email me at

musicdirector@norwinalliance.org

if you'd like to participate in any of these ministries.



Norwin Alliance's Garage Sale Giveaway is six weeks away on Saturday, June 12th, from 9:00 am – Noon.

Research has shown that too much clutter in a home can add stress due to having to take care of and manage our "stuff". If you would like to de-stress your life, we invite you to make donations to our Garage Sale Giveaway.

Keep in mind we are looking for clean, working items that may be just what someone else can use. We are trying to avoid having too many knickknacks that if not chosen must be disposed of. A way to donate large items is to submit a photo of the item along with your contact information. We will post them in the Fellowship Hall so anyone interested in your item can contact you. (If you bring large items to the church you must pick them up at noon after the giveaway.) Donations will be accepted Thursday evening and all day Friday. Please check the bulletins for drop-off times.

Many volunteers will be needed to help make our event a success. There will be signup sheets in the narthex with different jobs such as setup on Thursday and Friday, help the day of, tear down and clean up.

Let's make this Outreach event a Ministry success. This is an excellent way to meet people and present the Lord without pressure. Be thinking of items you can donate and how you could participate.



High School Graduates

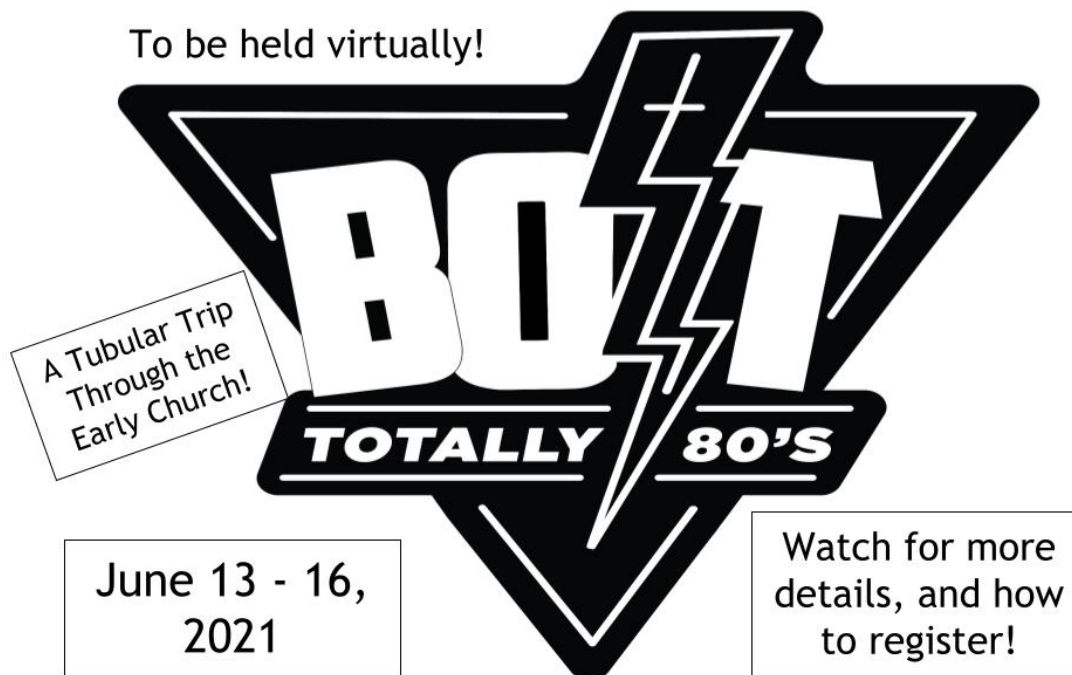
If you are graduating from High School this year, please submit the following to the church office asap:

1. School graduating from
2. High School picture
3. College you will be attending
4. Degree you are pursuing

Save the Date for

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

To be held virtually!



Norwin Alliance Church Preschool



The Norwin Alliance Preschool
is accepting registrations for the 2021-2022
school year.

The **3yr old class** meets Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00—11:30 am OR 12:30—3:00 pm. 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 OR 12:30—3:00 pm. Child must be 4yrs old by September 1st.

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

A \$50.00 registration fee is required to reserve your spot.

Norwin Alliance Church Preschool

REGISTRATION

2021-2022

724-864-1570



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 _____

Class time preference: AM _____ PM _____

****Class preference will be decided by the date the registration form AND the \$50 registration fee are received. You will be notified if your preference cannot be granted.****

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

VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

May is the month that keeps us busy with a variety of celebrations and holidays. When personally asked, your first response is usually Mother's Day and quickly followed by Memorial Day. Most of the special days during May are a tribute to the military men and women. It is an honor to remember how they serve the United States.

There are four military celebrations during the month of May; let's glance at these day because many of our family members are, or have been, involved in some aspect of service.

1. May 8, begun in 1945, known as VE Day and celebrates VICTORY in America and Britain. VE Day is a reminder to rejoice that the Nazis were defeated during WWII.
2. Armed Forces Day, the third Saturday of every May, was established by President Truman in 1949 to celebrate all five branches of the US military under the Department of Defense. This is to call attention for any service person in the USA and any foreign country that we should honor and support.
3. Cinco de Mayo (May 5), commemorates the Mexican Army's victory over French Empire at the Battle of Puebla May 5, 1862 under the leadership of General Ignacio Zaragoza. There is more popularity and celebration, including parades, dancing, cultural foods and parties in the USA than in Mexico that began in 1863 in California.
4. Memorial Day is a definite day; it began in 1868, the last Monday of May as Decoration Day, a Federal holiday, to recognize thousands of US military personnel who died. General James Garfield gave a speech at the Arlington National Cemetery with 5000 participants. Over 20,000 Civil War soldiers are buried there. People began to wear the red poppy as a traditional symbol. It is interesting to remember a Confederate Memorial Day is still celebrated in several states. 3pm is the time on Memorial Day for a National Moment of Remembrance across the USA.

Mother's Day was begun by Anna Jarvis for her mother Ann Reeves Jarvis, a peace activist and caregiver for the wounded soldiers during the Civil War. It took forty+ years to become a "holiday". President Woodrow Wilson signed the proclamation designating Mother's Day for the second Sunday of May as a national holiday in 1914. Today it is one of the most recognized and appreciated acknowledgments presented to the ladies around us—relatives, friends, Christian leaders, daughters, AND of course,

MOTHERS.

Looking at personal calendars, you will probably add graduations, weddings, showers, births, parties ? ? May can be a very busy month and we definitely PRAY that the virus will not bother us like it did last summer. God takes such excellent care of us in His love. Psalm 32:7,8,11: *"You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!"*

