
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

NOVEMBER 2024



Romans 8:26 says, “the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.” The Holy Spirit is also central to our individual and corporate prayer life. This promise serves as an encouragement when we pray. Not only does God know what we are trying to pray for, the Holy Spirit takes an active role in aiding our prayers. Further, in Romans 8:27, Paul says that “the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” In a sense, the Holy Spirit fixes our prayers so that they are in accord with God will. This should take the fear out of prayer, wondering if we are praying the “right way.”

We live in an individualistic culture. Like all people, our default tendency will be to read and apply scripture through our cultural lens. It would be a sign of the times for western believers to take *helps us* and *intercedes for us* in Romans 8:26 and to individualize these promises. If we don’t stop to think about our cultural lens, we will read this promise as *helps us individually* and *intercedes for us individually*. While the Holy Spirit’s intercession is available to us as individuals, his intercession is promised to us in community and corporately as well.

1 Corinthians 6:19 is a very well-known and quoted passage: “your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.” Quoted less frequently is 1 Peter 2:5: “you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” I believe this is because being an individual temple resonates with our individualistic culture more than *being built together* does. Yet, if there is a central

passage in scripture on prayer, it must be where Jesus overtly said to *pray like this* in Matthew 6:5-14, which we typically refer to as *The Lord’s Prayer* but could arguably be called *The Disciples’ Prayer*.

Notice that Jesus says, “**Our** Father....give **us** this day....and forgive **us**...as **we** forgive those....lead **us** not into temptation...” Jesus could have given this format instead: “**My** Father.... give **me** this day.....forgive **me**... as **I** forgive....lead **me** not...” However, Jesus taught us not only how to pray in solitude, but in community.

While we can and do recite this prayer corporately, we can also use the Lord’s prayer to guide our general prayer life. This prayer reminds us of the intimate restoration we have with our Heavenly Father, our need for forgiveness, the need to have soft hearts that forgive others, to pray for our own and others’ needs, and to seek the furtherance of his kingdom or our own agenda.

Did you catch what I just said? In saying *our prayer life*, I bet your mind interpreted this as *my prayer life* or *each of our individual prayer lives*. We cannot neglect the importance of praying with other believers. James 5:16 says, “confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” Jesus can use the vulnerability we have between ourselves and other believers so that we show the love of Jesus to each other.

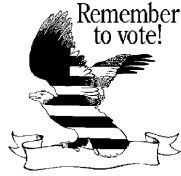
Jesus said in Matthew 18:19-20 “Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” While believers are individually indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we often experience his manifest presence together in community, especially in the context of praying together. Let me encourage us to not neglect praying together!



Set your clocks **BACK** 1hr before going to bed on **Saturday, November 2nd.**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5th

NAC is a polling facility. Voting will be in the back youth area. Please do not enter the church through the back.



NOVEMBER PRAYER TIMES

Wednesday, November 6
7:00 pm
and
Thursday, November 7
11:00 am



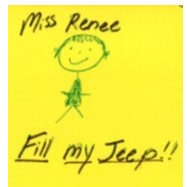
Veteran's Day
Monday,
November 11, 2024

Thank you to all of those that have served, and are serving in the American Armed Forces.

Let your actions reflect your heart and love of the Lord. Reach out and bless someone this Veteran's Day.



Operation Christmas Child
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE



All shoeboxes should be returned to the church **Sunday, November 3rd**

Remember to:

~ ~ Enclose a check (made out to Samaritan's Purse *note OCC on memo line) for **\$10.00** per box to cover shipping and handling cost.

~ ~ Attach the appropriate label (girl/boy) and mark the appropriate age category.

"Unmade" Boxes are available under the shelf in the narthex. Please take one, fill it up, and return by Nov. 6th.

Let's fill Renee's jeep to overflowing!



**Youth Mission Trip
FREEDOM TOUR**

14 people (Youth, Leaders, Adults) will be traveling to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center in Maryland to help pack Shoeboxes.

The group will leave NAC early Saturday morning, November 30th ~ tour The Mall in DC, arrive at the processing center at 6pm and work until 10:00 pm, and return to NAC on Sunday, December 1st.

Please keep the group in prayer - pray for good health, safe travels and awareness of the nearness of God, gratitude we live in our nation enjoying freedom to worship and serve AND most importantly, the recipients of the boxes!

Thank you to Renee Himler for organizing this trip.



SENIOR ADULTS MINISTRY

Keen-Agers

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

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

11:00 am

This is a catered meal by reservation only. Cher Chamberlin is our special program for the day.



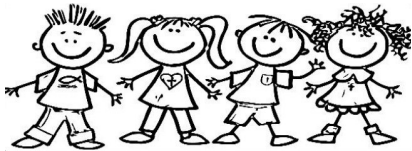
DECEMBER 19, 2024

11:00 am



Our December meeting is also a catered meal. Steve Tori will be our special program for that day.

Money and RSVP's are due now. Please contact Cindy at the church to reserve your spot.



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. November's collection item: **Paper Products and Canned Veggies**

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.



Brandon Kerr is directing "The Sound of Music" at the Geyer Theater in Scottsdale, PA on November 21-24.

All performances are at 7:30 pm - Saturday, November 24th has an additional show at 2:30 pm.

If you would like to attend the show, you can purchase tickets at Geyerpac.com.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024
9:00 am - Noon

Join us Saturday, November 30th to help in decorating the church for the Christmas season. A light lunch will be provided. ALL ages are welcome!

Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you are able to help.



The girls will meet on Monday, November 11th at 7:00 on in the back youth area.

This will be the last meeting until February.

If you like to knit and/or crochet, please join them.

Contact Mardy Rogers if you would like to have more information on this group.

VIGNETTES by VIRGINIA

Having given much thought on the significant importance for Christian believers in today's hectic environment, it is obvious that we are reminded and encouraged to PRAY, the main discernments being blessings, encouragement, strength and worship. Being aware of Christians around the world praying for each other is comfort and joy; but personal knowledge of God's love and salvation are available to everyone, everywhere.

I Thessalonians 5:17 reminds us to 'pray continually'. First missionary Paul had the privilege (and responsibility) to teach in many countries - AD 46 to AD 60. His lessons about prayer and the motivation of the Holy Spirit dwelling in the believer's soul was to encourage, comfort, guide, convince and intercede for us. (cf: for Pastor Charles Stanley with notes from Ephesians 3:14-19)

Sue Pott, Editor of *Mission Frontiers*, (March/April 2024) noted that more than ONE million people live in unreached people groups around the world. A group of missionaries met to share their ministries. The remark was: "There are no easy answers. We cannot expect to create a recipe for completing the task of world evangelization simply because we gather to talk about it. Likewise, we cannot hope to see the task completed without investing serious thought, prayer and discernment to the many changing factors at play in the world today, looking for opportunities that only God can reveal, as we ask Him to lead us."

"To be sure, the progress of the Gospel over the past 50 years is astounding!! We are witnessing remarkable growth because of the focus on unreached peoples fueled by prayer." "We all rub shoulders at the throne of grace, asking God to bring His kingdom."

Most of us are aware how God answers our specific prayer requests. We find JOY, PEACE, RELAXATION, TESTIMONY, ENERGY with that response. Be ready and anxious to share that devotion to another person. God loves each and every one of us.

John 3:16; Colossians 1:9-14, prayer for a discerning spirit; Romans 12:12, be faithful prayer; and Philippians 4:6&7, be prayerful and thankful in everything.

Close with a prayer by Charles Stanley: "Help me remember Your truth sets me free and You'll never leave me to face anything alone. I trust you, God, of all comfort. In Jesus' name. AMEN."



Turkey Giveaway
Saturday, November 23, 2024
9:00 - 11:30 am

We will once again be providing 30 families with a full turkey dinner (one per family) on Saturday, November 23rd.

If you are able to contribute to the dinner, or if you can help on the 23rd, please sign the sheet in the narthex.

Call-ins for the turkeys is Tuesday, November 19th from 9:00 - 9:45 am ONLY. No reservations will be accepted from the answering machine or before 9:00 am on the 19th.

Thank you in advance for any help and/or food donations you can give.

". . . I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40