
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

October 2024



1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” This verse is often used as an encouragement when going through the hard times in life. However, this verse came to mind the other night while washing dishes.

I wasn’t going through a “hard time.” However, it was a typically busy weekday with Kate and I both working all day. I picked up Michael on my way home while Kate made us dinner. After dinner, I quickly headed back to church for a meeting. Meanwhile, Kate took care of Michael and then put him to bed.

When I got home, Kate was finishing up a project for work in her office and the kitchen needed cleaning. My default reaction to chores after a long day, even if it was a good one, is annoyance. The typical, “why can’t we just have a little time to relax” came into my mind. However, as I started doing the dishes, I chose to be thankful. The sink full of dishes was the result of a delicious meal that was abundant enough to provide an easy lunch the next day. All the stuff to put away was the result of having not only needs but wants met as well.

I had recently been thinking about wanting time to be quiet before God and now I had it. I had the next twenty-five minutes to move about the kitchen doing an otherwise mentally relaxing task. On a day when a large percentage of my time was in a seated position, the movement was good for me. Choosing thankfulness truly was a choice. It turned what could have been “one more thing on my plate” into a peaceful time in God’s presence.

Hopefully, I choose the same attitude when I do chores tonight and tomorrow. No doubt, time to be still is a need we have. However, I’m learning that peace and rest are available in unlikely times and places. I’m realizing that I often dread light physical work because it produces a type of silence that leads to worry. Most of the time, I loathe such work, not because of its difficulty, but because it interferes with the ways I want to distract myself: TV, phone, news, books, etc. My prayer is we choose to use those times of simplicity as opportunities to be still before God.



OCTOBER PRAYER TIMES

Wednesday, October 2

7:00 pm

and

Thursday, October 3

11:00 am

A new **ADULT STUDY**
Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm



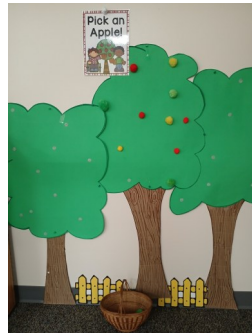
This study will run **each Wednesday** evening,
(except for the 1st Wednesday which is our
Prayer Meeting).

Please join us!



Welcome back to Preschool! We have started our 6th year at the Norwin Alliance Church and we're off to a great start! We welcomed 11 3-year olds and 14 4-year olds to our classes.

In the month of September, we are focusing on getting to know each other and we will also learn all about apples. Our dramatic play area is an apple orchard this month.



Looking ahead to October, we will have our Annual Family Hayride at the Goodman Family Farm. This is always a wonderful evening! We will be learning about pumpkins and nocturnal animals.

Miss Karly, from the Norwin Public Library, is scheduled to come read and do some fun activities with the 4-year old class. We will also be introducing a new music program that will visit one of our classes each month.

Please continue to keep the children and teachers in prayer as the new school year gets underway.

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. October's collection item: **Macaroni and Cheese.**

Thank you so much for any contributions you can make.



Prayer Warriors are needed for our Preschool students, families, and teachers.

A sign-up sheet is available on the shelf in the narthex with the names of our students and teachers. Please prayerfully consider being part of this ministry. There are 25 students and 3 teachers.

Prayer is one of the greatest support we can give to our preschool children but tangible encouragement is important as well. We ask that you periodically send in birthday cards, special holiday cards, notes of encouragement to your child. All correspondence needs to come through the church office. They will be given to the teachers who will then put all notes in the students' folders to go home.

You will be contacted with specific prayer needs as they arise.

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



Pastor Appreciation Month is a special time that is set aside each year to honor pastors and their families for their hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings provided to their congregation.

Sunday, October 20th as been designated "Pastor Appreciation Sunday" by our Elders. There will be a special luncheon following the 10:45 service to honor Pastor Mike/Kate Groop and Pastor Joe/Becky Cox. If you would like to "shower" Pastor Mike and Joe with cards of thanks and appreciation ~ there will be a box available on the 20th.

"And now, friends, we ask you to honor those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love."

I Thessalonians 5:12-13

Jolt 2024

October 25-27, 2024
Laurelville Camp, Mt Pleasant, PA

Jolt is a weekend retreat for middle students in 6th-8th grade, for them to be able to experience God together and be challenged to walk in greater intimacy with Him.



Speaker: Brandon Vieth

Discipleship and Young Adult Pastor at Cornerstone Ministries in Murrysville, PA.

Worship: Matt & Zuli Mason

This husband and wife worship leading duo draw from a heritage of gospel, jazz, and contemporary Christian music to create a Spirit-filled sound that uniquely flows through them. Though they are both established artists in their own right, they cherish every opportunity to do ministry together



Fill a Bottle, Save a Life!

Norwin Alliance Church is once again partnering with Network of Life (formerly known as Women's Choice Network) by participating in their Baby Bottle Campaign.

Please consider donating during this year's Baby Bottle Campaign!

You can pick up a bottle from the table in the narthex, fill with cash or a check and return the bottle to the church by October 27.

There is also a sign-up sheet to partner with "The Road Crew". "The Road Crew" prays in order to clear the paths to their centers, removes obstacles, and opens highways for women that will lead them to their doors and point them to Christ. Please sign the sheet on the table if you are interested in partnering with Network of Life in this manner. Prayer requests will be e-mailed to you.

All proceeds directly benefit programs at Network of Life



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RECAP

Sunday, September 22, 2024

The following business was voted on and approved:

- ⇒ The proposed 2025 Budget for \$342,739.40 was This is an increase of 2% from last year's budget.
- ⇒ The Nominating Committee was formed. Members elected at the meeting were: Lori Deliman and Lori Deliman. They will join Rebecca Curran and Brian Denney who were elected by the Elder Board.

Please Remember ~

- ⇒ If you turn the light on, please turn it off
- ⇒ If you use a key to unlock a door, please lock it back up
- ⇒ If you open a window, please close it
- ⇒ If you move it, please move it back
- ⇒ If you spill it, please wipe it up
- ⇒ If you borrow it, please return it
- ⇒ If you turn on heat/air, please turn it off

Kitchen Use ~

- ⇒ Turn off coffee makers ~ empty and clean out filter ~ wash pots ~ wipe off the coffee maker
- ⇒ Do not leave items in the strainer. Dry them and put them away.
- ⇒ Do not leave left over food in the refrigerator (or put or name on it)

~ Thank You ~



The October meeting of Norwin Alliance Keen-Agers will be on Thursday, October 24th at 11:00 am.

The meal will be Soups and Stews, Salads, Cheese Tray, Pumpkin dessert.

Cheryl Dobrowolski will be our guest singer that day.

* * Food Pantry item is: Macaroni and Cheese.

Reminder: Money for the November and December Catered lunches is due at the October meeting. If you are only attending one month, the cost is \$13.00/person. If you are attending both months, the cost is \$25.00/person.

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

Hope to see you on October 24th ~ we are looking forward to having a great afternoon together.



**Growth
Among
Thorns**

I love feet. They carry us about, chasing after what we have purposed in our hearts. Dear feet, I choose the strait gate and the narrow way which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it. Matthew 7:13 KJV.

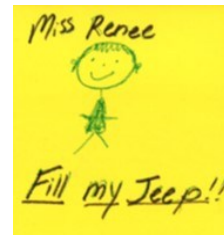
Careful comrades, taking one step at a time. Trials can easily trip us up causing a twisted ankle. Staying in the center, avoiding the edge of the narrow way, where berm and rocks entice you into brambles and thistles. Encounters with thistles most assuredly raw pain and blood. My faith has the attributes of Scottish thistles, a symbol of resilience and determination. "And some seeds fell among thorns and the thorns sprung up and choked them" Matthew 13:7

Many times, I feel like I am choked out. But God has always transplanted me back to where I belong, resulting in a humble, thought-provoking walk.

Blessings, Deborah D.



**Operation
Christmas Child**
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE



In July, boxes were packed for the Shoebox Ministry during the packing party. There is still an opportunity to participate in this ministry. Boxes are available in the narthex outside the Sanctuary.

Please be sure to pick up a pamphlet with the labels. Cost for each box is \$10.00. You may give on-line or mail a check in the postage paid envelope attached to the pamphlet.

You may also "Build a Box" on-line: samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline. Once on the page, click on "create a goal page" and then type in Norwin Alliance Church. You can then start "building/filling" your box. The cost is \$25.00 which includes the \$10.00 postage fee.

Please have your boxes back to the church by Sunday, November 3rd. Don't forget to put a band around your box and put a label on. Also, please don't forget to send in your \$10.00 postage.

All boxes will be dedicated on Sunday, November 10th. The youth will be delivering the boxes to the Operation Christmas Child Processing Center near Washington, D.C. as part of "Freedom Tour ~ Youth Missions Trip 2024."

Let's fill Renee's jeep and make a difference in a child's life that they will remember for a life-time.

