
KOINONIA

“That the communication (Koinonia) (pronounced: coy no nee a) of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.” Philemon 1:6

NORWIN ALLIANCE CHURCH

APRIL 2008



Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Good news explodes from Jesus' resurrection in countless ways. The song, "Because He Lives" by Bill Gaither gives many practical truths.

"Because He Lives I Can Face Tomorrow" ~ Tomorrow belongs to the risen Lord. Jesus faced tomorrow for you already. He knows the future and holds it in His care. When real concerns press on your mind, Jesus says "do not worry about tomorrow" because nothing about tomorrow can separate you from His love and presence. By God's grace, tomorrow you will be more Christ-like in character than you are today.

"Because He Lives All Fear is Gone" ~ When Jesus arose He said, "Do not be afraid." Whatever your greatest fears are, Jesus is far greater. No problem can stand before Omnipotence. Since Jesus defeated death for you and took on hell's judgment for you, what's your problem? Face your fears with Jesus and they will be replaced by His peace.

"Life is Worth the Living Just Because He Lives" ~ Since the living Lord gives eternal life today, everyday counts for forever. Jesus is accomplishing works of everlasting value through what you are doing. Your work, relationships, recreation, and even your rest is never for nothing. You are God's workmanship. Christ is the First and the Last so rejoice in Him always because He is near in all you do. "He walks with you and talks with you along life's narrow way."

Passion Week Schedule of Events



Sunday, April 5th ~ Palm Sunday

8:30 & 10:45 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School

Wednesday, April 8th

Community Mid-Week Lenten Service

Sponsored by the Norwin Men's Prayer Fellowship. Services are held from **Noon to 12:25** at the First United Church of Christ, on Main Street in Irwin. A **Hymn Sing** will be held from 11:30 - **Pastor Wood** is the speaker.

6:30 pm Club NAC
7:00 pm Youth and Adult Service

Friday, April 10th ~ Good Friday

7:00 am Good Friday Fellowship Breakfast at Pamela's in the Strip District downtown.
7:30 am Good Friday Breakfast at PLUMA Banquets, Colony Dr. You can purchase tickets from the church office until April 6th. Cost is \$11.00
12:15 "Walk of the Cross" beginning at First U.C.C. and continuing through Irwin.
6:40 pm Organ Prelude
7:00 pm Good Friday Communion Service at NAC



Easter Sunday Activities

6:30 am Sunrise Service
7:00 am Continental Breakfast
8:30 am Morning Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School for all ages
10:45 am **"BELIEVE"** ~ Easter Cantata



"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet . . . BELIEVE"



KEEN-AGERS

Seniors 50 and over ~ Come to the Keen-Agers meeting on Thursday, April 23rd at 11:30 am for Good Food, Good Fun, and Good Fellowship.

Our menu this month is: Ham barbeque, side dishes, and desserts. Our program will be a DVD on the life of Jesus.

We would love to see you at our meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Long or Betty Kunkle, Co-Presidents of the Keen-Agers.



Eighteen highly competitive athletes enjoyed a night of Cosmic Bowling on March 13th. This replaced the Snow Tubing event that was cancelled due to the warm weather conditions.

Fierce but friendly bowlers competed for first place. Once again, Steve Meyer took the title with a score of 168. Chas Hoffman came in second with a score of 142. Third, but not last, was Mike Salvi with a score of 140. It was a great night of fun and fellowship.

Upcoming events:

- April 17-19 **BREAKAWAY**—Sr. Youth Retreat in Erie, PA
- May 9 **Sonshine Kitchen** ~ re-scheduled from February
- June 14 **Youth and Graduate Sunday.** All high school graduates will be honored and college/technical school grads will be recognized.



Come and join us for a **Contemporary Service** on Sunday, May 3rd at 6:30 pm!

A more relaxed atmosphere and a different style of music will be characteristic of this service, and we encourage family, friends, neighbors, and YOU to attend!

Refreshments will be served following the service, which is expected to end around 8:00 pm.

Childcare will be provided.



Church membership classes will be held Sunday, April 19th through Sunday, May 10th during the Sunday School hour (9:45 am).

Be a part of a wonderful church as we glorify God and serve Christ together. We are imperfect in practice but perfect in Christ.

Come and experience Jesus changing lives and help us reach many with the Gospel.

Canceled Stamps/Campbell labels

The Alliance continue to collect canceled stamps. When removing the stamps from your envelopes, please remember to leave 1/4" of paper around the stamps.

Campbell soup labels are also collected. Please do not cut the label but bring them in whole.

There is a small basket above the coat rack in the small narthex that you can place your cancelled stamps and soup labels in.

Thank you!

VIGNETTES BY VIRGINIA

With Missions Conference fresh on our hearts and minds, and remembering the reports from David Kindervater, Mary Cloutier, and Doug Ord, our focus again is MISSIONS. Four 'ladies' from Norwin Alliance Church just returned from a "missions" trip to Mexico. Another "missions" trip to Biloxi, Mississippi for mid-summer 2009 is in the planning stages.

In reviewing some recent ALIFE magazines, the concentrated message is missions, missions, and more missions. Charles Spurgeon inspired us with his words, "Every Christian is a missionary or an imposter." Pastor John Chisham urges us, "Don't be an imposter - - share your faith."

As a resident of North America, United States, and SW Pennsylvania, what tangible ministries can we have in 2009? The most obvious is financial giving. Along with giving, we can pray. Another possibility is actually participating in a mission trip. How about here at home? The potential for service/ministry is plentiful. This writer is sure that you can find your 'fit' as you ask God for guidance and wisdom. (A few ideas: teaching, music ministry, fellowship, we are often in need of nursery helpers, the new "prayer shawl" ministry, etc., etc. . .)

Another challenge to parents/grandparents is the releasing of your children/grandchildren for Christian service. This writer often thinks of the young people who have attended Norwin Alliance Church in the past. Some of these, now young adults, at one point time had a "calling" on their lives. But where are they now? What occupation are they pursuing? Is the challenge of missions and/or ministry still before them? PRAY, PRAY, PRAY that our youth AND ADULTS will have a vision for the lost all across the globe.

In the early years of our denomination, A.B. Simpson was known as a man "with oil on him", the oil meaning the Holy Spirit. Simpson's vision for missions and lost souls touched countless lives. His message then, and still is today, of Jesus Christ, the Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King. Are you ready? How are you spending your time/talents/ money in anticipation of His return?



Mission Needs

The C&MA really needs additional offerings to help send missionaries overseas.

Presently, close to 900 missionaries are on the field. 30 will be sent back to the states because of needed offerings. The national budget for the C&MA is \$37.5 million.

Give sacrificially as the Lord speaks to your heart.

DMC Appreciation Sunday
Sunday, April 26, 2009

All teachers, assistants, and volunteers in all capacities will be the guest for our Appreciation Luncheon.

Come April 26th and say "Thank You!" to our faithful workers and plan on staying for a fun filled day beginning with our Children's Program and ending with a delicious lunch prepared by our dedicated Fellowship Committee.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Sunday, April 26th
10:45 am



Fasten your seatbelts as the Norwin Alliance Church Children's Choir takes you on a fun-filled, inspirational ride on the Holy Highway with the GPS (God's Plan of Salvation) as your guide.

Special Birthday Remembrance for Rhoda Cooper



On Sunday, February 22nd, Mark and Janice Lazzaro planned a special event to honor Rhoda on her 94th birthday ~ they took the Children's Sunday School students and teachers to sing to her at Briarcliff Nursing Home.

With Mark at the helm, all the teachers and children piled into the church van and set out for a great time! Janice had a birthday gift for Rhoda and all the children and teachers signed cards for her.

A special thank you to Mark and Janice for planning this special event and a special than you to the adults and children who made the day special for Rhoda.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 22 - June 26

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Registration begins **May 3rd**.

Please note the change: VBS will begin on **Monday** and conclude on Friday. **NO CLOSING DINNER THIS YEAR**. The fifth day is the fifth day of the lesson.

DAY 1 ~ God Is With Us (Exodus 3:1-4:17)

God speaks to Moses in the Burning Bush

Verse: "God answered, 'I will be with you'"
Exodus 3:12

DAY 2 ~ God Is Powerful (Exodus 7:1-10:29)

God sends plagues on Egypt.

Verse: "I will show You that I am Lord"
Exodus 7:17

**DAY 3 ~ God Does What He Says He Will Do
(Exodus 11:1-12:42)**

God spares the Israelites at Passover

Verse: "The Lord will always keep His promises"
Psalm 145:136

DAY 4 ~ God Gives Us Life (Matthew 27:11-28:10)

Jesus dies and comes back to life

Verse: "He is risen from the dead"
Matthew 28:5-6

DAY 5 ~ God Cares For Us (Exodus 14:1-15:21)

Verse: "Don't be afraid"
Exodus 14:13



If you are age 16 and over and would like to play on the NAC softball team, please sign the sheet in the narthex. Practices will begin in April. The season runs from May until August.

If you have any questions, please contact Justin Metzger, Bob Menzies, or Bill Freise.



*Jesus, hail the Lamb,
with thorns Your only crown;
Enthroned upon the bitter cross
And robed with wounds for all.*

*Worthy is the Lamb
Who tasted death so cruel,
Whose hand were nailed
that formed the earth;
What mercy for such fools.*

*Holy is the Lamb;
It was for me You died.
Complete surrender to the cross,
Love's perfect sacrifice.*

*I live now ransomed by Your blood,
My Savior, God and friend.*

"Jesus, Hail the Lamb" by John Hartley and Gary Sadler