

## 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



1 Corinthians 2:1-5 *"And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."*

In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul recounts his ministry to the church in Corinth. If you read any of Paul's letters, including his letters to this church, it's clear that he is quite capable of lofty speech, wisdom, and persuasion. However, Paul shifts his focus away from himself and human ability and highlights the power of God.


Paul's point here in 1 Corinthians 2 is not an evaluation of his speaking ability or spiritual gifts in general, but to draw attention to the power of God. Despite Paul's weakness, even fear and trembling, the Holy Spirit moved powerfully among the Corinthians. Like Paul, we need the Holy Spirit to move powerfully through us as well.

During the summer months, when many of our church activities slow down, it's common to evaluate and consider new strategies before we "launch" in the fall. Because the rhythms of church life often mirror the school calendar, in many ways the fall can feel more like a new year than January 1<sup>st</sup>. No doubt, it is vital for a church to always be intentional in our use of time and resources.

And yet, we need something beyond better strategies and methods—as important as they are. We need the Holy Spirit to work in and through us. Careful planning, wise stewardship, and intentional ministry all matter. But these things do not accomplish spiritual transformation on their own. Certainly, our posture towards God needs to be one of humility, surrender, and

obedience. We must remain desperate for His power to work in and through us, even through our weaknesses and despite our shortcomings.

Would you join me and the church leadership in prayer this summer? Certainly, pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we gear up for the fall. But even more, pray that the Holy Spirit would empower the work we do as a church, and our individual witness. Pray for all our ministries: Sunday Schools, youth and children's, discipleship groups, worship, senior ministries, and outreach. Pray that we would be a people ready to be led and used by and for God and His purposes. Pray that we would not trust in what we can accomplish, but in what God alone can do in and through us.



**July  
PRAYER TIMES**

**Wednesday, July 1**  
7:00 pm

**Thursday, July 2**  
11:00 am





Saturday, July 18, 2025  
6:30 pm

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

Our goal is 100 boxes!

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

We will once again be collecting items to fill shoeboxes for OCC. A sign-up sheet is available on the shelf in the narthex. Please sign under the item(s) you would like to donate. Please read the sheet carefully. Ex: if you sign on the line under box of crayons - be aware you are signing up to bring 5 boxes of crayons for each line you sign. Do NOT sign in any of the greyed out sections.

All items for the shoeboxes need to be returned by Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

Boxes will also be available soon if you would like to pack individual boxes yourself.



### Dartball Fun Days

Mondays, July 13 and 27 ~ 7:00 pm

The Dartball Team is inviting anyone interested in Dartball to come and try it out this summer.

This is a great time of instruction, fellowship, and fun without the pressure of league play.

League play will resume in the fall.

Come and join the fun!



The Prayer Shawl Ministry is off for the summer, they will meet again in September.



**Wednesday, July 22, 2026**

**6:30 – 8:00 pm**

Join us for a FREE, fun-filled evening with:

ANIMALS

HOT DOGS on the grill

KONA ICE

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



**Keen-Agers**

Keen-Agers is for those at NAC and in the community 50 years of age and older

The July meeting of the Norwin Alliance Keen-Agers will be on Thursday, July 23 at 11:00 am.

The meal will be Ham Barbecue and Macaroni/Cheese, picnic sides. Please bring a dish to share.

**\*\* Food Pantry item is: PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS (TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, DEODORANT, BODY SOAP, ETC.)**

We invite everyone 50 and over to join us.

Hope to see you July 23.

Below is a poem written by Emily Cox. It is a reflection on communion and drinking the "blood" of Christ in light of the OT injunctions against drinking blood.

I clasp the cup. The liquid inside is red.  
Red like blood. "Drink this, My blood," He said.  
"It is the blood of the New Covenant."  
It was not so under the Old Covenant.  
The command was clear: "Do not drink the blood.  
You may eat meat of what parts the hoof and chews the cud,  
but pour out its lifesource—do not drink the blood.

"For the life is in the blood"—the reason too was clear:  
respect for life given, and for Life Giver, reverent fear.  
A line drawn that we, the creature, have no right to cross.  
Yet now, holding this cup, I reflect on Your cross.  
And ponder that there may be another reason too.  
You said, "Take and drink my blood poured out for you."  
This reserved as most holy act—all other blood taboo.

"The life is in the blood"—so your law had said.  
A sacrifice could die in one's stead,  
but one cannot receive life from sacrificial ewe.  
I can partake only in the life from You.  
You said, "Whoever drinks My blood abides in Me;  
the one who drinks My blood will not be thirsty."  
Dear Lord, Your life's blood is my life's only plea.

This cup I drink holds the blood of grapes.  
And I think of the vine that grew those grapes.  
The vine soaked up the early and the late rains  
and pumped them, its lifesource, into its branches' veins.  
You, Jesus, called Yourself the True Vine,  
so I, as the branch, to You must entwine,  
and receive life flowing from Your veins to mine.

Meditation on Leviticus 17; Deuteronomy 12; Luke 22; John 6 and John 15



Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup>  
At NAC

Save the date and  
watch the bulletins  
for more information.



Saturday, December 5, 2026

Plans are underway for our Christmas Outreach. *"Families will be transported back in time to the town of Bethlehem to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It has been some years since that special night, and the miracle baby has gone on to do some truly incredible things. The citizens of Bethlehem can't stop talking about Jesus and his incredible life on earth."*

VOLUNTEERS are needed to make this event a success – STATION LEADERS & HELPERS (all crafts are set, we just need you to implement), REGISTRATION TABLE, TOWNSPEOPLE, DECORATING HELPERS, PARKING 'PATROL', PHOTOGRAPHER, ADVERTISING LEADER

Items needed for the stations ~ if you are able to donate any of the following items, please let the church office know: WORSTED WEIGHT YARN (whites, creams, tans), OLD WOODEN CUTTING BOARDS (will be using rocks on them to crush frankincense).

It might seem like there is plenty of time before this event but there is much that needs to be organized to make it a memorable and successful event and we need your help.

If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please see Mardy Rogers, Lori Nelson, or Cindy Barnhart or sign the sheet in the narthex.