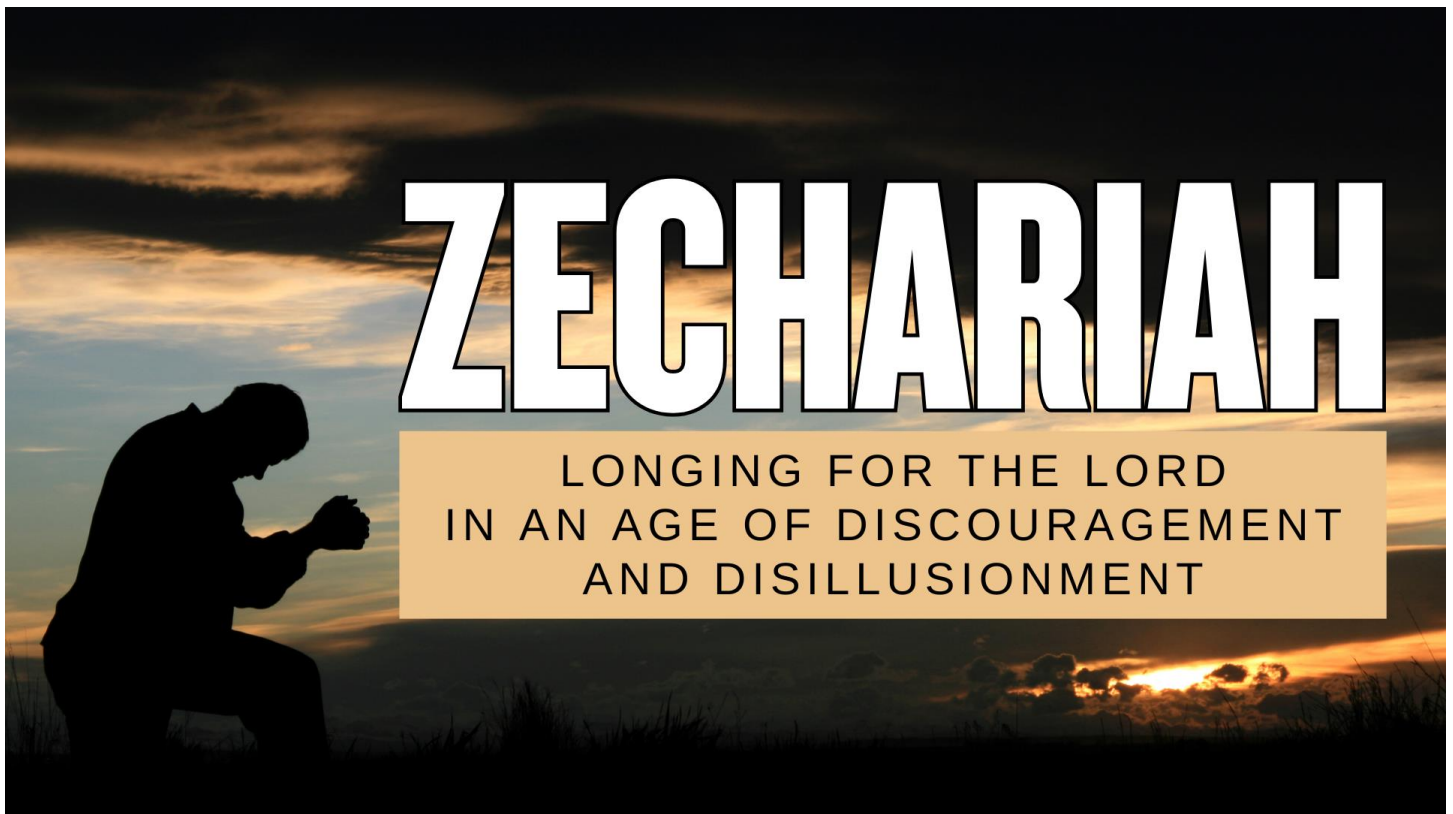




*NPC strives to be an intercultural church of believers in Jesus Christ who delight to share the good news in Germantown and beyond.*

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**Sunday, July 27, 2025 – 10:45am Worship**



# Welcome to Neelsville!

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Welcome to Neelsville Presbyterian Church! We are so thrilled that you have visited with us today. We are a church that is growing more and more captivated by Jesus Christ, delighting to glorify and serve Him in every area of our lives. Wherever you are in your walk with God, we have resources for you and your family. Please contact me if you have any questions or desire additional information. Thanks for visiting and I hope you experience the welcome of Christ during your time with us!

Warmly in Christ,

Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

[pastorjeff@neelsville.org](mailto:pastorjeff@neelsville.org)

## First Time Here?

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We're so glad you've joined us! Please fill out a green guest card in the pew and hand it to a Welcome Team member for a small gift. They can help connect you with our various ministries and answer any questions you may have.

When you join us again, please take a moment each Sunday to sign in with our Welcome Team. This helps us to stay connected and to reach out to ensure you are well if we haven't seen you in a while.

## Tips for Families

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We are a church who believes in the value of families worshipping together, and we welcome the wiggles & giggles of little ones in the pews.

Look for the  station outside the Sanctuary to learn more about...

- **Nursery Care** – Available for children 2 years and under during the service.
- **Worship & Praise Zone** – Children ages 3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to a Bible Story & crafts during the sermon. Please check-in before worship at the kids' station.
- **Worship Activity Bags** – Feel free to grab one for your child to use during the service.

# Order of Service

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Worship has been misunderstood as something that arises from a feeling which “comes upon you,” but it is vital that we understand that it is rooted in a conscious act of the will, to serve and obey the Lord Jesus Christ. – Graham Kendrick

## Prelude

Tom Costa, organ

*We invite you to let the music quiet your mind and heart to prepare for worship.*

## Welcome & Announcements

Pastor SeongSu Hong

\* = please rise if you are able

## \*Call to Worship

Adam Condrick

*God's words in scripture remind us that He is the one who calls us to gather.*

**Leader:** Come, people of God, and behold the words of the Lord, who declares His sovereign hand over the heavens and the earth, the Creator who forms the spirit within humanity.

**All:** You promise us salvation and assurance of Your defense.

**Leader:** The Lord has set Jerusalem as an immovable rock, His protection surrounding those who trust in Him.

**All:** Let us gather to honor the One who pours out His Spirit of grace and supplication, the One who strikes down sin and strengthens the faith of His people.

**Leader:** Come, let us worship the Lord Almighty, our shield, our salvation, and our eternal hope.

## \*Hymn

*Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King*

Wyeth/Robinson/Miller

Come Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.  
Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love .

I was lost in utter darkness 'til You came and rescued me.  
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free.  
Now my soul can sing a new song. Now my heart has found a home.  
Now Your grace is always with me and I'll never be alone.

*Chorus:* Come Thou Fount come Thou King, Come Thou precious Prince of Peace  
Hear Your bride to You we sing, Come Thou Fount of our blessing (2x)

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.  
Let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above. (*Chorus 2X*)

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## Prayer of Adoration

Pastor SeongSu Hong

*Our Pastor leads a prayer in which we lift our hearts to praise God for who He is and to express our deep love for Him.*

## \*Praise Song

*Man of Sorrows*

Ligertwood/Crocker

Man of sorrows, Lamb of God, by His own betrayed.  
The sin of man and wrath of God has been on Jesus laid.

Silent as He stood accused, beaten, mocked and scorned.  
Bowling to the Father's will, He took a crown of thorns.

*Chorus:* Oh that rugged cross, my salvation, where Your love poured out over me.  
Now my soul cries out hallelujah, praise and honor unto Thee.

Sent of heaven, God's own Son, to purchase and redeem  
And reconcile the very ones who nailed Him to that tree. (*Chorus*)

*Bridge:* Now my debt is paid. It is paid in full  
By the precious blood that my Jesus spilled.  
Now the curse of sin has no hold on me.  
Whom the Son sets free, Oh is free indeed (2x)

(*Chorus*)

See the stone is rolled away. Behold the empty tomb.  
Hallelujah God be praised. He's risen from the grave! (*Chorus*)

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## Confession of Sin (unison)

*Seeing how great and good God is, we are reminded that we have, more often than we wish, failed to live as God has designed.*

Gracious Lord, in the words of Zechariah, we recognize the depth of our sin and the wounds inflicted upon Your heart. We confess that we have failed to trust in Your provision, turning away from Your refuge and seeking safety in fleeting idols. We acknowledge the times we

have been blind to Your grace, forgetting Your promise to cleanse us and draw us near.

Like those who mourn for the One they have pierced, we too grieve the ways we have rejected Your love, choosing pride and rebellion over humility and submission. Forgive us, we pray, for the times we have faltered in our faith, failing to honor You as our fountain of life and purity.

Cleanse us, Triune God, with the waters of Your mercy, and refine us as silver and gold in the fire of Your holiness. Teach us to embrace Your covenant of love, to walk in the strength of Your Spirit, and to proclaim Your salvation to the nations. May our lives reflect the cleansing You promise and the hope You restore through Your eternal care in Christ. Amen.

## Silent Confession

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*Written words can never reflect exactly what is in each individual's heart, so this is a time for us to consider our own waywardness and speak it silently to God.*

## \*Assurance of Pardon

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*When we confess our sins, seeking God's help to turn away from them, we are assured that He will extend grace, mercy and forgiveness. He is willing to do this because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross.*

Leader: Hear the promise of the Lord through the prophet Zechariah:

Though the people mourn for the One they have pierced, the Lord opens a fountain to cleanse them from sin and impurity. He declares that He will refine His people as silver is refined and test them as gold is tested. They will call on His name, and He will answer them, saying, "They are My people," and they will respond, "The Lord is our God."

Beloved, rejoice in the assurance that through Christ, the fountain of life has been opened. Our sins are washed away, and the Lord calls us His own. Be glad, for the Good Shepherd restores us, refines us, and renews us as His people, united forever in His grace. Amen.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

## \*Confession of Faith

Middle East Reformed Fellowship

*(MERF is a family of churches throughout the Middle East; it began in Beirut, Lebanon in 1971)*

*Since the earliest years when disciples gathered, Christians have formulated statements to summarize what we believe. These creeds help remind us of the richness of our faith and can help answer the questions of those who may be wondering about Christianity.*

**Leader:** The Bible reveals the true and living God, Sovereign Creator and Ruler of the universe.

**All:** This one and only God is revealed as three distinct persons:

**Leader:** Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the same in substance, equal in power and glory, working all things after the counsel of His will.

**All:** Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who for us and for our salvation became fully man.

**Leader:** Being conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, he was born of her without sin. He, by His perfect obedience and atoning death, provided full satisfaction to God for the sins of His elect people.

**All:** He was raised bodily from the dead and ascended to heaven where He sits at the right hand of God

**Leader:** From there, He reigns over His universal Church and Kingdom. At the last day, a day known only to the Father, He will return in glory to judge the living and the dead: the saved to enjoy His eternal glory and mercy, and the lost to suffer eternal conscious punishment.

**All:** The Holy Spirit is the one who inspired the prophets and apostles to write the Scriptures.

**Leader:** He authenticated their writings and ministry by means of supernatural gifts. He takes the things of Christ and sovereignly applies them to His people by calling, regenerating, sanctifying and glorifying them for Christ's eternal Kingdom.

**All:** The Church is the instrument ordained by God to bring the message of the Gospel to a lost and condemned human race and to carry out His purposes in the world.

**Leader:** The mission of the Church is, therefore, the preaching of the Gospel and the discipling of all nations, this mission being accompanied by "doing good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

**All:** AMEN!

## Time of Offering

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We have an opportunity to give financially to support the work of the local and global church, offering what we are able with cheerful hearts, grateful for God's blessings. Giving also includes generously sharing our time and talents to care for one another and the community around us.



**Please take the plate and pass it down the pew to the usher. To give online, scan the QR code.**

## Offertory

*Another World in View*

Margaret Kemngang & Friends

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*"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul." – Johann Sebastian Bach*

## \*Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

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*A song of praise used by Christians since the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.*

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Children's Message

Melissa Evans

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*On alternate Sundays, the young children receive a blessing or they gather to hear a mini-message, often sharing a point from the upcoming sermon in a relational way with the children.*

**Children ages 3-3rd grade will be dismissed to the Worship & Praise Zone following the message.**

## Scripture Reading

Zechariah 12:1 - 13:9

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*Please turn in the pew Bible to page 798 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.*

## Sermon

*The Pierced One*

Pastor SeongSu Hong

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*A pastor or an elder of the church gives this extended message explaining the scripture passage, what it meant to the original readers, and how it applies to us today. Our pastor often preaches through a book of the Bible, using a selection of verses each week.*

**Space for Sermon Notes is provided on page 8.**

## Congregational Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

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*At this time, the Pastor may pray for the needs of individuals, the church, the community or nation. We join in with the words Jesus taught us to pray.*

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



*Chorus:* Praise the Lord, His mercy is more.  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many; His mercy is more.

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?  
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore.  
Our sins they are many; His mercy is more (*Chorus*)

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?  
What Father so tender is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.  
Our sins they are many; His mercy is more. (*Chorus*)

What riches of kindness He lavished on us.  
His blood was the payment; His life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.  
Our sins they are many; His mercy is more. (*Chorus 2x*)

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**\*Charge & Benediction**

*The pastor gives a charge to go into the world in Jesus' name, living and serving in ways that give witness to God's love. He then raises his hands, giving a blessing for the congregation to receive.*

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**\*Postlude**

*We close with another instrumental piece, carrying praise to God out of the church and into the world.*

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**After Worship Today!**

**Please stay for a short Congregational Meeting** in the Sanctuary immediately after Worship to elect and install Adam Condric as an elder.

**VBS Decorating will take place at 12:30pm TODAY!** Come help us transform the Sanctuary into the Alaskan Wilderness. Lunch will be provided.

### *Longing for the Lord in an Age of Discouragement and Disillusionment*

Main Point: The Lord defends Jerusalem and works transformation.

- God's Defense of Jerusalem (vv. 12:1-9)
- A Spirit of Grace: A Time of Mourning (vv. 12:10-14)
- The Purifying Fountain (vv. 13:1-9)

**Next Week: *The Final Renewal* (Zech. 14:1-21)**

<sup>12:1</sup> The oracle of the word of the Lord concerning Israel: Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him: <sup>2</sup> “Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. <sup>3</sup> On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it. <sup>4</sup> On that day, declares the LORD, I will strike every horse with panic, and its rider with madness. But for the sake of the house of Judah I will keep my eyes open, when I strike every horse of the peoples with blindness. <sup>5</sup> Then the clans of Judah shall say to themselves, ‘The inhabitants of Jerusalem have strength through the LORD of hosts, their God.’

<sup>6</sup> “On that day I will make the clans of Judah like a blazing pot in the midst of wood, like a flaming torch among sheaves. And they shall devour to the right and to the left all the surrounding peoples, while Jerusalem shall again be inhabited in its place, in Jerusalem.

<sup>7</sup> “And the LORD will give salvation to the tents of Judah first, that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem may not surpass that of Judah. <sup>8</sup> On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them.

<sup>9</sup> And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

<sup>11</sup> On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. <sup>12</sup> The land shall mourn, each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; <sup>13</sup> the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the Shimeites by itself, and their wives by themselves; <sup>14</sup> and all the families that are left, each by itself, and their wives by themselves.

<sup>13:1</sup> “On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

<sup>2</sup> “And on that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, so that they shall be remembered no more. And also I will remove from the land the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness. <sup>3</sup> And if anyone again prophesies, his father and mother who bore him will say to him, ‘You shall not live, for you speak lies in the name of the LORD.’ And his father and mother who bore him shall pierce him through when he prophesies.

<sup>4</sup> “On that day every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies. He will not put on a hairy cloak in order to deceive, <sup>5</sup> but he will say, ‘I am no prophet, I am a worker of the soil, for a man sold me in my youth.’ <sup>6</sup> And if one asks him, ‘What are these wounds on your back?’ he will say, ‘The wounds I received in the house of my friends.’

<sup>7</sup> “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me,” declares the LORD of hosts. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones. <sup>8</sup> In the whole land, declares the LORD, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive. <sup>9</sup> And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘They are my people’; and they will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”

## **Something to think about . . .**

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*Use these questions for your own personal reflection and study at home.*

1. What is the connection between mourning for sin and cleansing from it?
2. What does heartfelt mourning look like in someone’s life?
3. In your own life, how do you run away from God or try to remove him from your life?
4. How does the appropriation of Zechariah 12:1-13:9 by the Gospel writers show us both the depth of our sin and the greatness of God’s saving grace?
5. How does God’s grace lead us to a transformed life?

# Grow and Go with Us! \_\_\_\_\_

## Next Generation Ministry

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**Next Gen Summer Sundays will be focusing on VBS Decorations on 7/27 and 8/3!**

*Our 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to help immediately after worship. Lunch provided!*

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*Ages: Birth – 5<sup>th</sup> grade*

Contact: [kids@neelsville.org](mailto:kids@neelsville.org)

★ **Only a few spots remaining for VBS True North!**

**Aug 4-8 at 9am – 12pm for K – 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

Scan this QR Code for more information!



*Ages: 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade*

Contact: [students@neelsville.org](mailto:students@neelsville.org)

★ **Pastor SeongSu has some outings planned for our middle & high school students! Reach out to him to join the fun!**

## Young Adult Ministry

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*A place for those aged  
18-40ish to grow in  
Christ & community.*



Contact: [youngadults@neelsville.org](mailto:youngadults@neelsville.org)

**Thursdays at 7:30pm – Weekly Gathering** (Andrew Small Room)

**Join our Group app!** Scan the QR code to stay informed of upcoming events and service opportunities.

## Adult Ministry

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*Join a class or small  
group that meets  
throughout the week!*

*Scan the QR code for  
more details and  
descriptions.*



**Sundays at 9:30am – Attributes of God and God's Love** (Conf Rm)

Contact: Jason Evans ([evans@vika.com](mailto:evans@vika.com))

## This Week at Neelsville

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More details of this week's schedule and upcoming events can be found in our weekly e-letter. Scan this QR code for last Friday's edition.



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Sunday 7/27	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)</b>
	12:30pm	VBS Decorating (Sanctuary)

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Monday 7/28

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Tuesday 7/29

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Wednesday 7/30

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Thursday 7/31	7:30pm	Young Adult Gathering (Andrew Small Room)
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Friday 8/1

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Saturday 8/2	10:00am	VBS Decorating (Historic Church)
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Sunday 8/3	9:30am	Adult Ministry Class (Conf. Rm.)
	10:45am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	12:30pm	VBS Decorating (Sanctuary)

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## Financial Update

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	May Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
<b>Income (\$K)</b>	\$ 62.9 K	\$ 315.8 K	\$ 289.6 K	\$784.0 K
<b>Expenses (\$K)*</b>	\$ 71.5 K	\$ 356.7 K	\$ 355.0 K	\$824.8 K



[neelsville.org/give](https://neelsville.org/give)

<b>Excess Income/Expenses</b>	- \$8.6 K	- \$41.0 K
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May Income was higher due to new tenant + summer rentals, plus Cemetery Fund reimbursed Operating for Lawncare; however, May Offering was lower than average. May Expense included an additional pay cycle plus payments made from Afghan Fund to support Afghan families.

# Announcements

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Please send your announcements to [office@neelsville.org](mailto:office@neelsville.org) by Tuesday at Noon for next week's bulletin & e-letter.

**We will hold a congregational meeting TODAY** directly after the worship service in the sanctuary to elect and install Adam Condrick as an elder. Please plan to attend.

**True North VBS is nearly here, and the planning is in full swing! Our team is decorating after worship service TODAY!** This is a great chance to see the behind-the-scenes magic firsthand and to share your gifts and talents. Open to all ages and abilities.

**After over 18 years of dedicated and sacrificial service, our staff Treasurer, Wendy Couillard, will be retiring on 8/31.** I encourage you to thank her for serving with humility and distinction in this essential role for our church. **Due to her retirement, we will be looking for a new part-time staff Treasurer.** If interested in finding out more about this position, please contact Pastor Jeff at [pastorjeff@neelsville.org](mailto:pastorjeff@neelsville.org). The job description will be available soon.

**Backpacks for McAuliffe Elementary School** – This August, we are helping Christa McAuliffe Elementary (a Title 1 school in Germantown) prepare for the school year. We have been asked to donate **NEW EMPTY PLAIN COLORED BACKPACKS**. The school asks for plain backpacks in different colors for girls and boys so the children don't compare them. They have other supplies, so they are requesting the backpacks be empty. **Please place your backpack donation in the Local Missions box in the Narthex by Sun 8/17.**

**Small Group Leader Training for Fall Sermon series and Small Groups:** Discipleship Explored - The Marks of a Disciple of Jesus Christ. **On Sun 8/3 at 9:30** there will be a training on how best to use the Discipleship Explored material in your small groups. This will be held in Room 1. Please see Pastor Jeff for more details or questions.

**NPC will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Sat 8/30 from 9am – 2pm.** Scan the QR Code or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and search for "NeelsvillePresbyterian" (no spaces) to sign up to support this life-giving program. Questions? Contact Hugh Smith at [hugh3smith@comcast.net](mailto:hugh3smith@comcast.net).



**Men's Ministry is planning a "cool" October overnight backpacking trip** on the Appalachian Trail in MD. Date TBD. If interested or have questions, contact Craig Wilson ([cdw6@msn.com](mailto:cdw6@msn.com)).

# Stay Connected with Neelsville

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## CONTACT INFO

### Questions?

office@neelsville.org

### Website

www.neelsville.org

### Phone

301-972-3916

### Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 10am-4pm

Fri 10am – 1pm

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Email [office@neelsville.org](mailto:office@neelsville.org) to join the prayer chain.



## E-LETTER SIGNUP

The Weekly Neelsville News is delivered each Friday at 10am.



## MINISTRY STAFF

**Rev. Jeffrey Rickett** – *Lead Pastor*

[pastorjeff@neelsville.org](mailto:pastorjeff@neelsville.org)

**Rev. SeongSu Hong** – *Pastor of Next Generation Ministries*

[seongsu@neelsville.org](mailto:seongsu@neelsville.org)

**Dr. Janna Leigh Ryon** – *Director of Worship Music*

[janna@neelsville.org](mailto:janna@neelsville.org)

**Michelle Nelson** – *Director of Ministry Support*

[office@neelsville.org](mailto:office@neelsville.org)

**Melissa Evans** – *Children's Coordinator*

[melissa@neelsville.org](mailto:melissa@neelsville.org)

## LAY LEADERSHIP

**Elders** – *Oversee the spiritual health of the congregation as well as the congregation's faithfulness to God's mission.*

Clerk of Session – Eileen Bauer

[session@neelsville.org](mailto:session@neelsville.org)

**Deacons** – *Nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation.*

Moderator – Peggy Hurkett

[deacons@neelsville.org](mailto:deacons@neelsville.org)

**Trustees** – *Provide care and oversight for Neelsville's buildings and grounds.*

Moderator – Jason Craft

[trustees@neelsville.org](mailto:trustees@neelsville.org)

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## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



**Facebook**

[Facebook.com/neelsville](https://www.facebook.com/neelsville)



**Instagram**

[@neelsville.church](https://www.instagram.com/neelsville.church)