



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



DISCIPLESHIP | **EXPLORED**

Following the One Who Loves Us

Small Group Sermon Series

Sunday, September 7, 2025 – 10:45am Worship

Welcome to Neelsville!

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

First Time Here?

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

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 – 3rd 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.

Join us for Classes for All Ages at 9:30am Sunday. We have offerings for everyone from preschoolers to adults. Learn more on page 10.

Order of Service

God ordained us to gather for worship because he knows us and the weakness of our fickle, grumbling and easily distracted hearts. He knows how soon we forget the depth of our need as sinners and the expansiveness of his provisions in Jesus Christ. So, in grace he calls us to gather once again, to be excited once again, to be rescued once again. – Paul David Tripp

Prelude

Give Me Jesus (Spiritual arr. Hayes)

Michele Kelly

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

Based on Philippians

Connie Barnes

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

Leader: Come, people of God, let us gather in the presence of Christ, whose grace has called us and whose love sustains us.

All: We come, confident in Christ, assured that the good work begun in us will be carried to completion.

Leader: Let us worship the Lord together, who is our confidence, our unity, our joy, our peace, and our hope—now and forevermore.

All: Amen

*Hymn

In Christ Alone

Townend/Getty

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground, His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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Prayer of Adoration

Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

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.

*Hymn

He Will Hold Me Fast

Habershon/Merker

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

Refrain: He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His Promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast. *(Refrain)*

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last! *(Refrain 2x)*

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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.*

Merciful Lord, we gather in Your presence, aware of our need for grace.
Though You have begun a good work in us, we confess we have
doubted Your faithfulness and neglected Your call. Forgive us for
trusting our own strength rather than resting in Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

*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

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 God: The One who began a good work in you will carry it to completion. In Christ, you are forgiven and sustained by a love that never fails.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Confession of Faith

Augsburg Confession of Faith (1530)

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: How are we who are sinners, forgiven and declared righteous before God?

All: We cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions.

Leader: We receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us.

All: For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness.

Time of Offering

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

Christine Gormley, piano & Michele Kelly, organ

"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." – Martin Luther

*Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

A song of praise used by Christians since the early 18th 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 Blessing

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 blessing.

Scripture Reading

Philippians 1:1-11

Please turn in the pew Bible to page 980 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

Confident In Christ

Pastor Jeff

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.

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

The Lord’s Supper was instituted by Jesus on the night before He was crucified. He blessed bread and wine to remind us of his sacrifice - the bread is the sign of his broken body and the juice we use is the sign of his shed blood.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Holy and merciful God, our Father, you have made us in your image and for yourself. You have made this good world for us to tend and to enjoy. God our Father,

People: Hear the praise of grateful hearts.

Leader: You sought your ancient people when they strayed from you. You freed them from the oppressor and brought them home. God, our Father,

People: Hear the praise of grateful hearts.

Leader: You have sent your Son to bring us home to you.

Leader: By his Incarnation–	People: You have found us.
Leader: By his Death–	People: You have forgiven us.
Leader: By his Resurrection–	People: You have freed us.
Leader: God, our Father,	People: Hear the praise of grateful hearts.

Prayer of Consecration

God's promises are confirmed as we partake in faith – spiritual nourishment enabling our growth in grace, affirmation of our union with God, and gratitude for our fellowship with other believers.

The congregation will be invited by rows to receive bread and juice. When returning to your seat, please wait for us to take the elements together.

Leader: Holy and merciful God, our Father, send down your Holy Spirit on our bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and on your people, that we may be the body of Christ, reconciled to you and to each other by his blood. By your Holy Spirit make us—

People: One with Christ, one with each other, and one in mission to all the world,

Leader: Until Christ shall come in final victory and we feast together at his heavenly banquet. We cry,

People: Maranatha! Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen!

Congregational Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

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.

***Hymn** *The Goodness of Jesus* Aghajanian/Druery/Farren/Maxwell/Robinson/Thompson

Come you weary heart now to Jesus.
Come you anxious soul now and see.
There is perfect love and comfort in your tears.
Rest here in His wondrous peace.

Chorus: Oh the goodness, the goodness of Jesus. Satisfied, He is all that I need.
May it be, come what may, that I rest all my days in the goodness of Jesus.

Come find what this world cannot offer.
Come and find your joy here complete.
Taste the living water, never thirst again.
Rest here in His wondrous peace. (*Chorus*)

Come and find your hope now in Jesus.
He is all He said He would be.

Grace is overflowing from the Saviour's heart.
Rest here in His wondrous grace. (*Chorus 2x*)

May it be, come what may, that I rest all my days in the goodness of Jesus.

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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.

***Postlude**

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

After Worship Today!

Men's Ministry Planning Meeting will be held after Worship in the Conference Room.

The Women's Ministry is meeting for lunch at 12:30-ish at Panera (Seneca Meadows) for a nice time of fellowship. Bring a friend!

- A _____ Greeting – (vv. 1-2)
- Confidently _____ God in Remembrance of You (vv. 3-4)
- Confident Partnership in the _____ (v. 5)
- Confidence in _____ and His Work in You (v.6)
- Confident Grace in _____ (vv. 7-8)
- Confident Prayer of _____ with and through Jesus (vv. 9-11)
- Final Remarks

Next Week: *Living In Christ* (Phil. 1:12-26)

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Something to think about . . .

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

1. In v. 1, what three phrases or words describe a disciple of Jesus Christ? How does this give you confidence?
2. In v. 2, define grace and peace. How does receiving these gifts give you confidence?
3. According to Philippians 1:6, what is Paul confident about? How can he be so confident? (v. 5)
4. What do you think the phrase "partnership in the gospel" means in practical terms?
5. How can we be confident that God is working in us? What might that look like in your life and in your daily relationships?
6. As you visualize the 5 scenes described in the sermon, which scene most encourages you? Why?

Grow and Go with Us! _____

Next Generation Ministry



Ages: Birth – 5th grade

Contact: kids@neelsville.org

★ **Sunday School is back at 9:30am!**

We meet in the Ed Wing (lower entrance) for PreK – 5th Grade.



Ages: 6th – 12th grade

Contact: students@neelsville.org

★ **Our school year schedule resumes this week!**

Sunday School at 9:30am (Andrew Small Room)

STARTS THIS WED 9/10- Youth Group is moving to Wednesdays at 7pm. (Fellowship Hall)

Young Adult Ministry

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



Contact: youngadults@neelsville.org

Thursdays at 7:30pm – Weekly Gathering (Andrew Small Room)
***Begins this Thursday!**

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

Adult Ministry

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

Scan the QR code for more details and descriptions.



Sundays at 9:30am – Study of Discipleship, Grace and the Believer's Response (Conf Rm)

Contact: Craig Wilson (cdw6@msn.com)

New Small Groups begin this week!

Learn more about Discipleship Explored and sign up for a Small Group at this QR Code or at the paper sign-up in the Narthex. Groups will meet throughout the week at a variety of locations including NPC, in homes and online.



This Week at Neelsville

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.



Sunday 9/7	12:00pm	Men's Ministry Meeting (Conference Room)
	12:30pm	Women's Lunch at Panera (Seneca Meadows)
	5:30pm	Small Group led by the Hongs & Ricketts (Frederick)
	5:30pm	Small Group led by Jason Evans (NPC Parlor)

Monday 9/8		
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Tuesday 9/9	6:30pm	Small Group led by Michele Kelly & Craig Wilson (Parlor)
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Wednesday 9/10	7:00pm	NPC Students Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00pm	Men's Small Group led by Brian Farrell (Online)
	7:00pm	Women's Small Group led by Joanne Wilson (Online)

Thursday 9/11	7:30pm	Young Adults Small Group (Andrew Small Room)
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Friday 9/12	9:30am	Women's Small Group led by Sue Farrell (Parlor)
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Saturday 9/13	9:00am	ESOL Begins (Fellowship Hall and Classrooms)
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Sunday 9/14	9:15am	Small Group led by Adam & Diane Condrick (NPC Parlor)
	9:30am	Classes for All Ages!
	9:30am	Small Group led by Eric & Lena Shirley (NPC Lg Classroom)
	10:45am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	12:00pm	Church Picnic (Back Field)
	5:30pm	Small Group led by the Hongs & Ricketts (Frederick)
	5:30pm	Small Group led by Jason Evans (NPC Parlor)

Announcements

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

Join us on Sun 9/14 after the worship service for the Annual Church Picnic! Please bring a large side dish to share. The church will provide chicken, hot dogs and dessert. Feel free to dress casually too, so you can enjoy the games or pie eating contest. Contact Connie Barnes or Keely Hutto for questions.

Men are invited to a backpack trek on the Appalachian Trail in Maryland, 10/18 - 10/19. Please **sign up by 9/15**. Contact Craig Wilson (csw6@msn.com) for questions, pathway, gear, etc. Online orientation meeting if enough interest.

Luisa, our Community School Liaison at Christa McAuliffe sent the following note: *"Thank you so much for the backpacks! Many parents had signed up for one. I truly appreciate our partnership. I had a table with your ESOL flyer and your church's name displayed so parents know where the backpack donations came from. With your support, we were able to help so many families."*

Financial Update

	July Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income (\$K)	\$47.7 K	\$ 465.4 K	\$ 442.5 K	\$ 784.0 K
Expenses (\$K)*	\$ 57.0 K	\$ 466.3 K	\$ 486.4 K	\$ 824.8 K



neelsville.org/give

Excess Income/Expenses	-\$ 9.3 K	-\$ 0.9 K
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*Adjusted expense includes mortgage principal

Stay Connected with Neelsville

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 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

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

seongsu@neelsville.org

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

janna@neelsville.org

Michelle Nelson – *Director of Ministry Support*

office@neelsville.org

Melissa Evans – *Children's Coordinator*

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

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

Moderator – Peggy Hurkett

deacons@neelsville.org

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

Moderator – Jason Craft

trustees@neelsville.org

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