



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 14, 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	<i>All My Boast Is In Jesus</i> (Boswell, Getty, Papa, Fowler)	Janna Leigh Ryon, piano
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We invite you to let the music quiet your mind and heart to prepare for worship.

Welcome & Announcements	Pastor SeongSu Hong
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* = please rise if you are able

*Call to Worship	Based on Philippians
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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 to live in Christ, finding purpose and courage in every circumstance.

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	<i>All Praise to Him</i>	Kauflin/Merker/Bonar
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All praise to Him, the God of light, Who formed the mountains by His might.
All praise to Him Who names the stars that sing His fame in skies afar.
All praise to Him Who reigns in love, Who guides the galaxies above,
Yet bends to hear our every prayer, with sovereign pow’r and tender care.

All praise to Him whose love is seen in Christ the Son, the Servant King,
Who left behind His glorious throne to pay the ransom for His own.
All praise to Him Who humbly came to bear our sorrow, sin, and shame,
Who lived to die, Who died to rise, the all-sufficient sacrifice.

All praise to Him whose pow’r imparts the love of God within our hearts,
The Spirit of all truth and peace, the fount of joy and holiness.
To Father, Son, and Spirit now our souls we lift, our wills we bow.

To You, the triune God, we raise with loving hearts our song of praise.

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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 *Christ Our Hope In Life and Death* Boswell/Getty/Kauflin/Merker/Papa

What is our hope in life and death? Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence? That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand? What comes, apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end? The love of Christ, in which we stand.

Chorus: O sing, “Hallelujah!” Our hope springs eternal. O sing “Hallelujah!”

Now and ever we confess: Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul? God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known? In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise? Who stands above the stormy trial?

Who sends the waves that bring us nigh Unto the shore, the rock of Christ (*Chorus*)

Unto the grave, what will we sing? “Christ, He lives! Christ, He lives!”

And what reward will heaven bring? Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord, Then sin and death will be destroyed,

And we will feast in endless joy, When Christ is ours forevermore. (*Chorus 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.

Gracious Savior, You give us purpose and courage in every circumstance, yet we confess that fear and discouragement sometimes cloud our hearts. Forgive us when we fail to live courageously in You.

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: Take heart, for in Christ we find new life and boldness. By His mercy, our purpose is renewed, and our courage restored.

All: Thanks be to God!

Receiving of New Covenant Partners

Laquita Atkinson
Kyle & Jaimie Bement
Gaelle Besong

Covenant Partners commit to be in a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ and with the body of believers, walking together in love, remembering one another in prayer, helping one another in times of need, faithfully participating in worship, sharing our gifts, and spreading the gospel to the world.

Would you like to learn more about becoming a Covenant Partner at Neelsville? If so, please reach out to Pastor Jeff or Brian Farrell (bpf3356@gmail.com) for more info.

*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

It Is Well With My Soul
(arr. Governor)

Janna Leigh Ryon, 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 Message

Melissa Evans

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

Philippians 1:12-26

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

Living 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.

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

All I Have Is Christ

Kauflin

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ! Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!

I once was lost in darkest night, yet thought I knew the way;
The sin that promised joy and life had led me to the grave.
I had no hope that You would own a rebel to Your will,

And if You had not loved me first I would refuse You still.

But as I ran my hell-bound race, indifferent to the cost,
You looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross.
And I beheld God's love displayed, You suffered in my place;
You bore the wrath reserved for me; Now all I know is grace!

Chorus: Hallelujah! All I have is Christ! Hallelujah! Jesus is my life!

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone and live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands could never come from me.
Oh Father, use my ransomed life in any way You choose,
And let my song forever be: My only boast is You. (*Chorus 3x*)

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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!

All are invited to our Annual Church Picnic! Please join us in the back field for good food, games, and even a pie eating contest!

- God Works Through Our _____ to Advance the Gospel (vv. 12-14)
- The Motives of Others Cannot _____ the Gospel (vv. 15-18)
- A Life _____ in Christ Bears Fruit in Life and Death (vv. 19-26)
- Final Remarks – Fellow Saint in Christ, Magnify Christ in your Life! (v. 26)

Next Week: *One In Christ* (Phil. 1:27-2:11)

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. ¹⁶The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Something to think about . . .

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

1. What situation was Paul facing when he wrote Philippians 1:12-26? How did he interpret his imprisonment? How does Paul's perspective on adversity challenge or encourage you? In verses 12-14, what impact did Paul's chains have on others who were sharing the gospel? What adversity or challenge are you facing right now? How might God use it for good or for the advance of the gospel?
2. How does Paul respond to those who preach Christ out of envy or rivalry (verses 15-18)? What does this reveal about his priorities? Have you ever struggled with jealousy or comparison in ministry or faith? How can Paul's attitude help you respond?
3. Paul says, "to live is Christ, to die is gain" (verse 21). What does this phrase mean to you personally? How can this perspective change the way you view your life, work, and relationships? Why does Paul say that being with Christ after death is "far better," yet he still desires to stay and serve?
4. In verses 24-26, Paul expresses his desire to remain for the sake of others. Who in your life needs your encouragement, faith, or support? How does seeing your life in Christ as a platform for others' growth and joy in Christ change your approach to daily living?

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

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

★ **Youth Group is now on 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)

This small group is studying Discipleship Explored!

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)

Discipleship Explored Small Groups – What is the experience of following Jesus really like? Sign up for one of the following small groups at this QR code to find out.



- Sun at 9:15am in Parlor (ac0304di@verizon.net)
- Sun at 9:30am in Lg Classroom (eric.shirley1965@gmail.com)
- Sun at 5:30pm in Frederick (pastorjeff@neelsville.org)
- Sun at 5:30pm in Parlor (jason.evans@vikamd.com)
- Tues at 7pm in Parlor (cdw6@msn.com)
- Wed at 7pm Online (men) (bpf3356@gmail.com)
- Wed at 7pm Online (women) (joannelwilson@gmail.com)
- Friday at 9:30am in Parlor (women) (bfarrel01@aol.com)

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 9/14	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)
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Monday 9/15		
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Tuesday 9/16	7:00pm	Small Group led by Michele Kelly & Craig Wilson (Parlor)
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Wednesday 9/17	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)
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Thursday 9/18	7:30pm	Young Adults Small Group (Andrew Small Room)
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Friday 9/19	9:30am	Women's Small Group led by Sue Farrell (Parlor)
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Saturday 9/20	9:00am	ESOL Classes (Fellowship Hall and Classrooms)
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Sunday 9/21	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)
	5:30pm	Small Group led by the Hongs & Ricketts (Frederick)
	5:30pm	Small Group led by Jason Evans (NPC Parlor)

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



Excess Income/Expenses	-\$ 9.3 K	-\$ 0.9 K
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neelsville.org/give

*Adjusted expense includes mortgage principal

Announcements

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

Men are invited to a backpack trek on the Appalachian Trail in Maryland, 10/18 - 10/19.

Please **sign up by TOMORROW, 9/15**. Contact Craig Wilson (csw6@msn.com) for questions, pathway, gear, etc. Online orientation meeting if enough interest.

Do you have a video camera or camcorder sitting around collecting dust? Our NPC tech team is looking for someone to either donate or provide a loan of a video camera/camcorder for use in producing our Worship Service live stream. It would need to have HDMI output. If you think you have a camera that would work, please contact Lewis Johnston (lejohnston52@gmail.com).

Choir Rehearsals will resume on Sunday, 9/28 in the Sanctuary at 12:30pm after the Worship Service. All are welcome to sing!

Neelsville Membership - Would you like to learn more about becoming a Covenant Partner (member) of NPC? The first step is to attend two brief sessions to learn more about our church, our denomination, and our beliefs. Then you can decide if you would like to join. The sessions can be scheduled when convenient for you – on Sunday mornings, weekday evenings, or even remotely. For more info contact Pastor Jeff or Brian Farrell (bpf3356@gmail.com).

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

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook

Facebook.com/neelsville



Instagram

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