



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



Sunday, December 7, 2025 – 10:45am Worship
Second Sunday of Advent

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 11.

Order of Service

The season of Advent invites us to pause and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. In the midst of twinkling lights, carols and gatherings, we remember that Christmas is not simply about celebration – it is about incarnation. This Christmas, let us reflect on how Christ’s presence transforms our lives. Where there is fear, He brings courage. Where there is sorrow, He brings comfort. Where there is division, He brings reconciliation. Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and wise men responded with worship – may we do the same, offering our hearts in gratitude and service. – Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

*The flower on the communion table is in honor of Amari Wilson,
born on November 28 to Murielle Abissi and Cedric Wilson. May God bless their family!*

Prelude	<i>Good Christian Men, Rejoice</i> (arr. Wood)	Michele Kelly, organ
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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	From Psalm 29, Isaiah 26
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*God’s words in scripture
remind us that He is the
one who calls us to
gather.*

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

All: The Lord is enthroned as King forever. The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Leader: Our God has promised that He will keep in perfect peace all who trust in Him, all whose thoughts are fixed on Him.

All: Today we come to worship God the Father who blesses us with his peace, God the Son who is the Prince of Peace, and God the Holy Spirit who cultivates within us the fruit of peace.

Advent Reading & Lighting of the 2nd Candle	PEACE	Peter, Catherine, Amy & Eli Njuki
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A family will present a biblical reading to reflect on Christ’s birth and continued presence in the world to help prepare individuals and the community for the celebration of Christmas. A new candle is lit each week in the four weeks before Christmas. The Advent wreath is circular shape representing God’s infinite love.

Congregational Prayer (unison)

Advent worship has a focus on “already” and “not yet.” We reflect on the wonder of the first coming of our Lord Jesus. We also long for his promised second coming to set all things right for the new heavens and new earth.

Prince of Peace, reveal yourself to us today. We long for peace in our lives, our homes, our church, our work, and the whole world. Forgive us when we allow our minds to descend into turmoil, confusion, and distress. Forgive us when we neglect to be your peacemakers. Help us to slow down, accept Christ’s invitation to rest in Him, and seek out the peace that only You provide. We thank You that we are not alone even in our deepest conflicts. You have provided all we need to live out your peace. May we live for your glory. Amen.

*Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Wade/Francis)

#781

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest! *(Refrain)*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *(Refrain)*

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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

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (Sears/Willis)

#773

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven's all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains, They bend on hovering wing:
And ever o’er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,
Look now! For glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

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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

Noel (Redman/Tomlin/Cash)

Praise Band

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried "Alleluia!"

*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.

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said: "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do... for your Father know what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:"

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.

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.

Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to him.
No one else can satisfy, I should come to him.

Chorus: For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:6-7; John 14:27-29

Please turn in the pew Bible to pages 573 and 901 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

*King Jesus Brings Saving Peace
in the Midst of Our Restlessness*

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!

*Praise Song

Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me
(Robinson/Thompson/Farren)

#594

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus. For my life is wholly bound to His.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, For by my side the Savior, he will stay.
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing, For in my need, his power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me. Through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, The future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, And he was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated. Jesus now, and ever, is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, For he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

***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 Meeting is after Worship in the Conference Room.

Choir rehearsal will start at 12:15pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

Please join one another in fellowship in the Narthex and Welcome Center!

Sermon Notes

*King Jesus Brings Saving Peace
in the Midst of Our Restlessness*

Advent Series – Jesus, The Unexpected King

- The Promise of Peace to the Restless (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- The Gift of Peace to the Restless (John 14:27)
- The Mission of Peace for the Renewed (John 14:28-29)

Next Week: *King Jesus Brings Saving Joy in the Midst of Our Lostness*
(John 1:1-18)

Isaiah 9:6-7 – ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

John 14:27-29 – ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

Something to think about . . .

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

1. Why are you troubled and afraid?
2. What kind of peace does Jesus offer? How is it different from what the world tries to offer?
3. What do you need to surrender to fully experience the peace that Jesus offers?

Financial Update

	Oct. Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income (\$K)	\$50.8 K	\$ 660.5 K	\$ 634.5 K	\$ 784.0 K
Expenses (\$K)*	\$ 88.7 K	\$ 703.8 K	\$ 698.0 K	\$ 824.8 K



neelsville.org/give


Excess Income/Expenses	-\$ 37.8 K	-\$ 43.3 K
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*Adjusted expense includes mortgage principal

YTD adjusted October expenses exceed YTD income by 43K. October offering Income was down, and October Expenses included HVAC, Plumbing and Roof Repairs.

Grow and Go with Us! _____

Next Generation Ministry

 **Advent Series:** Next Gen Sunday School will have a special 3-week Advent study this year each week through 12/14.



Ages: Birth – 5th grade

Contact: kids@neelsville.org

Sunday School at 9:30am (Ed Wing for PreK - 5th Grade)



Ages: 6th – 12th grade

Contact: students@neelsville.org

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

Wednesday Night Youth Group at 7pm (Fellowship Hall)

Young Adult Ministry

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



Contact: youngadults@neelsville.org

Fridays at 7:30pm – Weekly Gathering (Parlor)

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 9:15am – Small Group (Parlor)

Contact: Adam Condric (acondric@segalco.com)

Sundays at 9:30am – Advent Devotional Discussion (Conf Rm)

Contact: Eric Shirley (eric.shirley1965@gmail.com)

Sundays at 9:30am – Jeremiah Bible Study (Library and Online)

Contact: Jason Evans (jason.evans@vikamd.com)

1st & 3rd Sundays at 5:00pm – Frederick Small Group

Contact: Pastor SeongSu Hong (seongsu@neelsville.org)

Wednesdays at 7:00pm – Co-Ed Bible Study on *Revelation* (Online)

Contact: Craig Wilson (cdw6@msn.com)

Wednesdays at 7:15pm – Men's Bible Study on *Fulfillment* (Online)

Contact: Brian Farrell (bpf3356@gmail.com)

Fridays at 9:30am – Women's Bible Study on *Abraham* (Parlor)

Contact: Sue Farrell (bfarrell01@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 12/7

HAPPY 180TH BIRTHDAY, NEELSVILLE!

12:00pm

Men's Ministry Meeting (Conference Room)

12:15pm

Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Monday 12/8

Tuesday 12/9

Wednesday 12/10 7:00pm

NPC Students Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)

7:00pm

Co-Ed Bible Study – *Revelation* (Online)

7:15pm

Men's Bible Study – *Fulfillment* (Online)

Thursday 12/11

Friday 12/12

9:30am

Women's Bible Study – *Abraham* (Parlor)

Saturday 12/13

8:30am

Men's Fellowship Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday 12/14

9:15am

Sunday Morning Small Group (NPC Parlor)

9:30am

Classes for All Ages!

10:45am

Worship Service (Sanctuary)

12:00pm

Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)

12:15pm

Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Announcements

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

Many thanks to the Thanksgiving Box volunteers! To those who helped pack the Thanksgiving Boxes on Nov 16th, you truly made light work of a big task - thank you! To those delivered the Thanksgiving Boxes on Nov.23rd – thank you! We received several nice comments from the families you delivered to. Many thanks to both groups for helping some of the less fortunate in our community have a Happy Thanksgiving. There is no better way to demonstrate the love of our savior Jesus Christ than by loving our neighbors.

The Cost and Rewards of Discipleship! Stewardship Reminder - Please try to turn in your Estimated Giving Card for 2026 **TODAY** – in the offering plate, to the church office or submit online at this QR code. Our Elders are working on next year's budget and **giving information received by today will be especially helpful.** Thank you!



Men's Fellowship Breakfast THIS SAT 12/13 at 8:30-10:30am – Join the Men's Ministry for an early morning fellowship and breakfast talk from Hugh Smith about his discipleship journey at NPC. **Contact Craig Wilson if you will attend at cdw6@msn.com by this Wed 12/10.** Feel free to invite men, young and older, and think and pray about inviting your neighbors.

Join us for Second Sunday Fellowship NEXT SUN 12/14 after worship. We will have lunch together in the Fellowship Hall and hear the testimony of M and P, who came to the US last year in July. Since then, they've attended NPC's ESOL classes, learned more about the Christian faith and were baptized. In June, M was picked up by ICE, but God restored him to us after 5 weeks in detention in Texas. Join us to hear how God worked His miracles during M's detainment. Thanks be to God for this amazing story!

We will hold a short congregational meeting NEXT SUN 12/14 immediately after worship to elect Lynda Osei Boateng to a 1-year term as Trustee. All officers (Elders, Deacons, and Trustees) will be installed during worship on Sun 12/21. Please mark your calendar for these important dates.

Show love to a local family this Christmas with our Giving Tree! Select a tag from the tree in the Narthex or use our Sign-Up Genius QR code to select a gift or baked good that you would like to provide for one of our 18 families. Return the baked goods & wrapped gifts with their tag attached and place them one of the wrapped boxes in the Narthex. **All items are due by Sun 12/21.** Look for more info in our e-letter. Contact Michelle Nelson at msn617@gmail.com with questions.



Save the Date! Neelsville's Christmas Eve service will be at 6pm on Wed, Dec 24.

Learn about all of our Christmas studies and services at this QR code or www.neelsville.org/ministries/christmas-2025



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

Natalia Suwuh Angkuw – *Interim Director of Worship Music*

nsuwuh@gmail.com

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