



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 14, 2025 – 10:45am Worship
Third 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

Prelude	<i>Joy Has Dawned</i> (Getty/Townend)	Natalia Suwuh Angkuw
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We invite you to let the music quiet your mind and heart to prepare for worship.

Welcome & Announcements	Pastor Jeffrey Rickett
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* = please rise if you are able

*Call to Worship	from Psalm 95
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God’s words in scripture remind us that He is the one who calls us to gather.

Leader: Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving –

All: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Leader: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

All: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Leader: As we raise our voices in prayer and song, we join the heavenly host in their unending hymns of praise! Worship the Lord!

Advent Reading & Lighting of the 3rd Candle	JOY	Kyle, Jaimie, & Owen Bement
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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.

Heavenly Father, we thank You that we are the recipients of your great love and the gift of salvation. As King David prayed so long ago, restore to us the JOY of your salvation.

Forgive us when we fail to remember that the gift of your Son Jesus lights the way to a joy-filled life. Every day may we be deeply comforted by the joy of your presence. Fix our hearts on the eternal satisfaction we find in You. Help us to boldly proclaim this Gospel Good News by our words and our actions. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Baker/Neale)

#715

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict’ry o’er the grave.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel.

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Prayer of Adoration

Pastor Jeff

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

What Child Is This (Dix/Stainer)

#734

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through/ the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise, the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the son of Mary!

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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

Of the Father's Love Begotten #716
(Prudentius/Neale/Baker/Blankenship)

Jonathan Harris

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 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.

Hymn

Jesus, Strong and Kind
(Buchanan/Robinson/Farren/Thompson)

#362

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

John 1:1-18

Please turn in the pew Bible to page 886 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

*King Jesus Brings Saving Joy
in the Midst of Our Lostness*

Pastor SeongSu Hong

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.

*Hymn

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel
(Boswell/Getty/Papa/Townend)

#727

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; This, the Christ, who was long foretold.
Lo, in the shadows of Bethlehem, Promise of dawn now our eyes behold.
God, Most High, in a manger laid. Lift your voices and now proclaim,
“Great and glorious, Love has come to us.” Join now with the hosts of heaven.

Come we to welcome Emmanuel, King who came with no crown or throne.
Helpless, He lay, the Invincible. Maker of Mary, now Mary’s son.
O, what wisdom to save us all. Shepherds, sages before Him fall.
Grace and majesty, what humility. Come on bended knee, adore Him.

Gloria! Gloria! *(Repeat)*

Go spread the news of Emmanuel. Joy and peace for the weary heart.
Lift up your heads for your King has come. Sing, for the Light overwhelms the dark.
Glory shining for all to see. Hope alive, let the gospel ring.
God has made a way. He will have the praise. Tell the world His name is Jesus.

Gloria! Gloria! *(Repeat)*

***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!

Please stay for a brief Congregational Meeting to elect Lynda Osei Boateng to a 1-year term as Trustee.

Join us for Second Sundays Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall! Share lunch with one another and hear a testimony from M & P. All are welcome!

Jesus' Saving Joy comes:

- To shine light where darkness feels overwhelming
- To reveal God's glory – full of grace and truth
- To offer “grace upon grace” to all who come to Him

Next Week: *King Jesus Brings Saving Love in the Midst of Our Fallenness*
(Luke 1:26-38)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Something to think about . . .

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

1. Where do I sense darkness in my life right now and what would it mean to let Jesus' light into that place?
2. Have I mistaken Jesus' light for judgement when it is actually offered to be life-giving? How can I change my mindset on this?
3. Where do I need to let go of earning grace and begin receiving grace again today?
4. What part of Jesus' character do I most need to remember this week?

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

♪♪ **Song Rehearsal:** Next Gen Praise Team will meet no later than 9:40am in the Sanctuary next Sunday 12/21. This includes vocalists and instrumentalists. Sunday School resumes as normal for any student not participating in the performance.



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)

Wed Night Youth Group Christmas Party 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 Condrick (acondrick@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) ***not mtg 12/24 or 12/31**

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

Contact: Sue Farrell (bfarrell01@aol.com) ***not mtg 12/19 or 12/26**

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 12/14	12:00pm	Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
	12:15pm	Second Sundays Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)

Monday 12/15

Tuesday 12/16	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
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Wednesday 12/17	7:00pm	NPC Students Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00pm	Co-Ed Bible Study – <i>Revelation</i> (Online)
	7:15pm	Men's Bible Study – <i>Fulfillment</i> (Online)

Thursday 12/18

Friday 12/19

Saturday 12/20

Sunday 12/21	9:15am	Sunday Morning Small Group (NPC Parlor)
	9:30am	Classes for All Ages!
	10:45am	Worship Service (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.

We will hold a short congregational meeting TODAY 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.

Also TODAY, join us for Second Sunday Fellowship 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!

The church office will be closed 12/23 - 1/1 so all our staff can have spiritual rest and quality time with their families for the holidays. The office email and voicemail will be checked for urgent matters periodically during that time.

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 NEXT Sun 12/21.** Look for more info in our e-letter. Contact Michelle Nelson at msn617@gmail.com with questions.



Christmas at Neelsville

Join us to worship the unexpected King! Find more info at our Christmas webpage thru this QR code or www.neelsville.org/ministries/christmas-2025.



- **NEXT Sun 12/21 – “Family Christmas Service” @ 10:45am**
Our regular Sunday service will have special elements from the Next Generation Ministry to celebrate Christmas.
- **Wed 12/24 – Christmas Eve Service @ 6pm**
Our traditional candlelight service includes the lighting of the Christ Candle, special music, and congregational songs.

Invite your friends and neighbors with Christmas postcards available in the Narthex!

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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