



*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, January 4, 2026 – 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.

**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

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In the midst of twinkling lights, carols and gatherings, we remember that Christmas is not simply about celebration – it is about incarnation. 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

*Aria on the hymntune “Jewels”* Wood

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

Adapted from Psalm 150

Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

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

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary.

**All:** Praise him in his mighty heavens!

Leader: Praise him for his mighty deeds.

**All:** Praise him according to his excellent greatness!

Leader: Praise him with trumpet, lute and harp

**All:** Praise Him with tambourine, strings and pipes. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord, Hallelujah!

## \*Hymn

*God of Grace* (Getty/Rea)

#156

God of grace, amazing wonder, irresistible and free;  
Oh, the miracle of mercy, Jesus reaches down to me.  
God of grace, I stand in wonder, as my God restores my soul.  
His own blood has paid my ransom; awesome cost to make me whole.

God of grace, who loved and knew me long before the world began;  
Sent my Saviour down from heaven – perfect God and perfect man.  
God of grace, I trust in Jesus; I'm accepted as his own.  
Ev'ry day new grace sustains me, as I lean on Him alone.

God of grace, I stand astounded, cleansed, forgiven and secure.  
All my fears are now confounded, and my hope is ever sure.

God of grace, now crowned in glory, where one day I'll see your face;  
And forever I'll adore You in Your everlasting grace.

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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

*I Am Not My Own*  
(Anderson/Fowler/Peterson/Shive)

#355

The One who made the heavens made my heart and soul,  
Before I drew a breath, I was loved and known.  
I am His creation, the Maker's masterpiece,  
And all that He designs will be done in me.

My body is a temple of the Living God,  
I'll worship in this house that his blood has bought.  
As I bear his image, oh, may I not profane  
The holiness I hold in this earthly frame.

*Chorus:* I belong to the Lord; oh, I am not my own.  
I belong to the Lord; I am not my own.  
I will honor him, for this I know:  
I belong to the Lord; I am not my own.

And if he has redeemed me, I am not my own;  
The measure of my worth is his love alone.  
He declares my standing and he declares my state.  
So I will know myself by the name he gave.

I am not my own, and now my heart is free;  
Oh, Maker, come and make what you will of me.  
There is nothing broken that you cannot repair,  
So Lord, I leave my life in your loving care. (*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.*

Lord, your kingdom is made up of people from every tongue, tribe and nation. Each is made in your image, yet we allow that amazing diversity to divide us and cause divisions among us. Lord, bind our hearts together in Your love. By your precious Holy Spirit, help us to recognize every root of division and to replace it with Your love, compassion,

humility, and grace. Lord, teach us to value each other as members of the same body. Where there is misunderstanding, bring clarity; where there is hurt, bring healing; where there is pride, bring humility. May we speak with kindness, listen with patience, and serve with joy, so that our fellowship would be a reflection of heaven's harmony. In Jesus' name, 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

Psalm 103:8-12

*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: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, believe the Good News; we are forgiven.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## Installation of Officers

Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

**Elder:** Adam Condrick

**Trustee:** Lynda Osei-Boateng

From Westminster Larger Catechism,  
Questions 62 and 63

*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.*

Leader: What is the visible Church?

**All:** The visible Church is a society made up of all such as in all ages and places of the world do profess the true religion, and of their children.

Leader: What are the special privileges of the visible Church?

**All:** The visible Church hath the privilege of being under God's special care and government; of being protected and preserved in all ages, notwithstanding the opposition of all enemies; and of enjoying the communion of saints, the ordinary means of salvation, and offers of grace by Christ to all the members of it in the ministry of the gospel, testifying, that whosoever believes in him shall be saved, and excluding none that will come unto him.

## 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

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (Wood)*

Michele Kelly

*"Music is a fair and glorious gift of God." Martin Luther*

### \*Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

*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.

### 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.***

### Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

*Please turn in the pew Bible to page 966 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.*

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.*

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,

*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: 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!

## \*Hymn

*'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus (Stead/Kirkpatrick)*

**#404**

'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word;  
Just to rest upon His promise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

*Chorus:* Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! Oh, for grace to trust him more!

I'm so glad I learned to trust him, precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;  
And I know that he is with me, will be with me to the end. *(Chorus)*

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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!

**Could you stay and help take down the Christmas decorations?** We will take them down immediately following the worship service. The more hands we have the faster it will go. Please see Gerry Davis for instructions before getting started. Thanks!

**The Men's Ministry is having a planning meeting in the Conference Room.** Any interested men are welcome to attend!

- Christ Died for All
- Regard Each Other as a New Creation
- Live Out Our Reconciliation

**Next Week: Why We Are Here: Our Core Convictions**  
**A Global Family: The View from Heaven (Revelation 7:9-12)**

<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup> and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## Something to think about . . .

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

1. What does Paul mean when he says, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation”? How does this challenge the idea that people can’t really change?
2. Why can’t outward changes (habits, appearance, behavior) fully transform us? According to the sermon, what kind of change is needed instead?
3. What does it mean that God has given believers the “ministry of reconciliation”? How should this shape the way we see and treat other people?
4. When you don’t feel like a new person, what truth from 2 Corinthians 5:21 should you remind yourself of? How does Christ becoming sin for us change how we see ourselves before God?

# Grow and Go with Us! ---

## Next Generation Ministry

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Ages: Birth – 5th grade

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

**Sunday School at 9:30am** (Ed Wing for PreK - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)



Ages: 6th – 12th grade

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

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

**Wednesday Night Youth Group** meets at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

## 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)

**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

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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 9:15am – Small Group** (Parlor)

**Contact:** Adam Condrick ([acondrick@segalco.com](mailto:acondrick@segalco.com))

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

**Contact:** Jason Evans ([jason.evans@vikamd.com](mailto:jason.evans@vikamd.com))

**Sundays at 9:30am – How to Talk about Jesus** (Room 1)

**Contact:** Pastor Jeff ([pastorjeff@neelsville.org](mailto:pastorjeff@neelsville.org))

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 5:00pm – Frederick Small Group**

**Contact:** Pastor SeongSu Hong ([seongsu@neelsville.org](mailto:seongsu@neelsville.org))

**STARTS JAN 11 - Sundays at 7:00pm – Ezekiel Bible Study** (Online)

**Contact:** Craig Wilson ([cdw6@msn.com](mailto:cdw6@msn.com))

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

**Contact:** Brian Farrell ([bpf3356@gmail.com](mailto:bpf3356@gmail.com))

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

**Contact:** Sue Farrell ([bfarrell01@aol.com](mailto:bfarrell01@aol.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 1/4	12pm	Christmas Un-Decorating
	12pm	Men's Ministry Meeting (Conference Room)

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Monday 1/5

Tuesday 1/6

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Wednesday 1/7	7:00pm	NPC Students Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)
	7:15pm	Men's Bible Study – <i>Fulfillment</i> (Online)

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Thursday 1/8

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Friday 1/9	9:30am	Women's Bible Study – <i>Abraham</i> (Parlor)
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Saturday 1/10

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Sunday 1/11	9:15am	Sunday Morning Small Group (Parlor)
	9:30am	Classes for All Ages!
	10:45am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	<b>12:15pm</b>	<b>Second Sundays Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)</b>
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

# Financial Update

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	Nov. Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income (\$K)	\$117.1 K	\$ 777.5 K	\$ 728.3 K	\$ 784.0 K
Expenses (\$K)*	\$ 62.3 K	\$ 766.3 K	\$ 760.3 K	\$ 824.8 K
Excess Income/Expenses	\$ 54.8 K			\$ 11.3 K



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

\*Adjusted expense includes mortgage principal

November shows a very strong monthly income, which is a combination of rental income and increased end of the year giving. Expenses were average and account for about 53% of income in November, resulting in a net positive YTD.

## **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.

**Thank you for showing love to local families this Christmas with our Giving Tree!** 50 children have been blessed with gifts, and each family enjoyed a Christmas meal. May they all remember the true gift of Christmas and grow in a relationship with Christ in the coming year.

**Due to the winter storm warning on our last Second Sunday Fellowship, we have rescheduled our speakers for NEXT Sun 1/11!** 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!!

**Can you donate coffee?** Fellowship committee is asking for donations of ground regular and decaf coffee and teas for Sunday mornings. We especially need decaf coffee at this time. Please place your donations on the counter in the Welcome Center. Thank you!

**Women's Retreat coming in March!** Mark your calendars for Friday night and Saturday - March 6th & 7th here at Neelsville. Stay tuned for more information!

# 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)

### Natalia Suwuh Angkuw – Interim Director of Worship Music

[nsuwuh@gmail.com](mailto:nsuwuh@gmail.com)

### 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)

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook

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Instagram

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