



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

The background image for the sermon series is a landscape painting. It depicts a vast, flat, orange-brown desert floor in the foreground. In the distance, there are low, rounded mountains or hills. The sky above is a mix of dark, muted colors like green and blue, with a bright, yellowish-green glow on the horizon, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall style is painterly and atmospheric.

THE UNFOLDING PROMISE

THE FAITH STORY OF ABRAHAM

Sermon Series

Sunday, February 22, 2026 – 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 11.

Order of Service

Christian worship is the gathered response of God's people to God's revelation of Himself. It is our wholehearted offering of praise, gratitude, and obedience to the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Worship centers on God's character and saving work – especially the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ – and shapes us to live as His witnesses in the world. In worship, we listen to God through Scripture, speak to God in prayer and song, and present our lives as a living sacrifice. It is both a foretaste of the eternal praise of heaven and the weekly reorientation of our hearts around the One who alone is worthy.

– Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

Prelude

We invite you to let the music quiet your mind and heart to prepare for worship.

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

* = please rise if you are able

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 33:18-22

Connie Barnes

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

Leader: Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.

All: Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name.

Leader: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

All: We gather to celebrate His grace and to rest in His assurance—knowing that, in Christ, we are welcomed into His everlasting home.

*Hymn

Take My Life And Let It Be (Havergal/Malan)

#281

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days—
Let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee, swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee, filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold— not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose, ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine— it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart— it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne, it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love— my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only all for Thee, ever, only, all for Thee.

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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.

***Praise Song**

Way Maker (Egbu)

You are here, moving in our midst; I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, working in this place; I worship You, I worship You. (2x)

Chorus: (You are) Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper,
Light in the darkness, my God, that is who You are. (2x)

You are here, touching ev'ry heart; I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, healing ev'ry heart; I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, turning lives around; I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, mending ev'ry heart; I worship You, I worship You. (*Chorus 2x*)

That is who You are. (8x)
(*Chorus 2x*)

Bridge: Even when I don't see it, You're working.
Even when I don't feel it, You're working.
You never stop, You never stop working.
You never stop, You never stop working. (4x)

(*Chorus 2x*)

That is who You are. (4x)

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Confession of Sin

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.

Leader: Merciful God, we confess that, like Lot, we often fail to trust You. We choose what looks good in our own eyes, forgetting Your promises and grace. We have doubted, compromised, and strayed from the path of faith.

All: Forgive us, Lord. Restore us by Your mercy, and lead us to trust You more deeply, even when Your answers are not immediate or visible. In Christ we pray. 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

Based on Romans 8:1

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 good news! God is faithful—He restores what failure has damaged and honors those who trust in Christ. In Him, we have the guarantee of forgiveness, freedom from condemnation, and the promise of a lasting, eternal home. In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and secure in His love.

All: Thanks be to God!

*Confession of Faith (unison)

Heidelberg Catechism (Q/A 1-2)

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: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

All: That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Leader: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

All: Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

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

Holy Forever (Tomlin/Wickham/Johnson/Ingram)

"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 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.

Please turn in the pew Bible to page 9-10 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

Resident or Pilgrim?

Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

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

When We Walk With the Lord (Trust and Obey)
(Sammis/Towner)

#456

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,
What a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil he doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blest if we trust and obey.

Chorus: Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

But we never can prove the delights of his love,
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor he shows, and the joy he bestows
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet, we will sit at his feet,
Or we'll walk by his side in the way;
What he says we will do, where he sends we will go—
Never fear, only trust and obey. (*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!

Choir Rehearsal will begin at 12:15pm in the Sanctuary! All are welcome!

Mission Trip Meeting will begin at 12:15pm in Room 1.

Financial Update

	January Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income (\$K)	\$ 72.4 K	\$ 72.4 K	\$ 68.8 K	\$ 827.9 K
Expenses (\$K) *	\$ 52.2 K	\$ 52.2 K	\$ 67.3 K	\$ 859.4 K



Excess Income/Expenses	\$ 20.2K	\$ 20.2K
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neelsville.org/give

*Adjusted expense includes mortgage principal

January 2026 income of \$72.4K, exceeding budget projections of \$68.8K. Expenses of \$52.2K, maintaining cost control, and operating \$15.1K under budget.

The Unfolding Promise: The Faith Story of Abraham

- Abram's Return: Grace Restores What Failure Damaged (vv. 1–4)
- The Test of Prosperity (vv. 5–7)
- Lot's Choice: Living by Sight (vv. 8–13)
- Abram's Choice: Living by Promise (vv. 14–18)
- Gospel Connection: The Greater Abram and the Better Choice (Matt 4:1-11)
- How This Speaks to Christians Today
- Final Remarks

Next Week: *Gospel to the World* (Genesis 14)

¹ So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb. ² Now Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold. ³ And he journeyed on from the Negeb as far as Bethel to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Ai, ⁴ to the place where he had made an altar at the first. And there Abram called upon the name of the Lord. ⁵ And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, ⁶ so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions were so great that they could not dwell together, ⁷ and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites were dwelling in the land.

⁸ Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, for we are kinsmen. ⁹ Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go to the right, or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left." ¹⁰ And Lot lifted up his eyes and saw that the Jordan Valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the direction of Zoar. (This was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.) ¹¹ So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan Valley, and Lot journeyed east. Thus they separated from each other. ¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. ¹³ Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord.

¹⁴ The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵ for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. ¹⁷ Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." ¹⁸ So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord.

Something to think about . . .

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

1. Where did Abram go after leaving Egypt? What do Abram's actions say about his attitude toward God?
2. How did Abram set a good example for us in dealing with spiritual failure? How was his response different from that of Adam and Eve after they disobeyed in the Garden of Eden?
3. How did Abram's offer and Lot's choice reveal their attitudes toward wealth?
4. How did Lot make his decision, and what sins tempt us today in the same way?
What practical measures could you take in your life to decrease the power of these sins?
5. God gradually revealed his blessed plan to Abram, bit by bit. How was Abram's experience of God so far like yours or different from yours?
6. How is Jesus the greater Abraham and the better choice? How does trusting Jesus help us to live as a pilgrim more than a resident?

Grow and Go with Us! _____

Opportunities are offered for all ages, to grow in our relationship with God, impacting our lives.

Next Generation Ministry

 **We're having another flag football game on Sat 3/7 at 12-2pm!** All ages are invited to join us on the backfield.



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 meets at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

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 – Get Your Life Back (Parlor)

Contact: Adam Condric (acondric@segalco.com)

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

Contact: Bill Kroah (billtrac108@gmail.com)

Sundays at 9:30am – The Imperfect Disciple (Room 1)

Contact: Pastor Jeff (pastorjeff@neelsville.org)

Sundays at 7:00pm – Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

Contact: Craig Wilson (cdw6@msn.com)

Wednesdays at 7:00pm – Women's Lenten Study (Online)

Contact: Kim Evans (kyejohn316@gmail.com)

Wednesdays at 7:15pm – Men's Lenten Bible Study (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 2/22	12:15pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	12:15pm	Mission Trip Meeting (Room 1)
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

Monday 2/23

Tuesday 2/24

Wednesday 2/25	7:00pm	NPC Students Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00pm	Women's Lenten Bible Study – <i>Jesus' Final Week</i> (Online)
	7:15pm	Men's Lenten Bible Study – <i>Jesus' Final Week</i> (Online)

Thursday 2/26

Friday 2/27	9:30am	Women's Bible Study – <i>Abraham</i> (Parlor)
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Saturday 2/28	10:00am	ESOL Classes (Lower Entrance)
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Sunday 3/1	9:15am	Small Group – <i>Get Your Life Back</i> (Parlor)
	9:30am	Classes for All Ages!
	10:45am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	12:15pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

Announcements

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

Men's and Women's Online Lenten Studies – “Jesus’ Final Week” We are excited to have two online studies during Lent on Wednesday evenings. We will walk through the events of the final week of Jesus’ life through the perspective of each of the four Gospel writers, learning what God was doing in that week that changed our world. Join us as we gain wisdom from following the path to the cross—the path that Jesus walked for us. See pg. 11 for times & contact info.

Women's Retreat, “Resting in God's Presence.” Friday Night and Saturday (3/6 – 3/7) at Neelsville. We would like to have everyone registered by TODAY so we can aptly prepare for you. Reserve your spot! Cost is \$30. For more info & to register, use this QR code. Email questions to women@neelsville.org or see the Retreat Planning Team in the narthex after church.



Do you miss Hugh? Me too - Hugh Smith had coordinated the **American Red Cross Blood Drive** two to three times a year on Saturdays. We collected 50-70 pints of blood, which helps save lives in our community. We need a new coordinator. Is this something you may be interested in? Want to know more? Contact Joanne Wilson at joannelwilson@gmail.com for more information.

There will be a Flag Football game on Sat 3/7 from 12pm to 2pm in the Back Field at the church. All ages are welcome! Contact Pastor SeongSu with questions.

Serve Neelsville Middle School with Spaghetti Dinners! We are planning monthly spaghetti dinners at NPC beginning this March to serve NMS and hopefully expand to the Germantown community in the future. Are you interested in serving with set-up, clean-up, cooking or being a table host (getting to know our guests)? Please reach out to James Nelson to get involved (jan196@gmail.com).

We have another opportunity to serve and bless Neelsville Middle School. The 6th graders are participating in an Outdoor Education program, and we can help some of them with items they don't have including sleeping bags, duffle bags, pillows and bath towels. You may sign up thru this QR code to let us know what you would like to contribute. Amazon links to specific sleeping bags and duffle bags are included in the sign-up. **All items are due at church by Sun 3/22.** Thank you in advance for your wonderful support!



Summer Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic – NPC will be on mission June 20-26 in the DR through an organization Foundation for Peace. We will be working hand in hand with the local church to amplify their ministries in the community, help with their church construction, and most importantly, worship with them. **If you are interested and have not signed up, please attend our first meeting TODAY in Room 1 after worship.**

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.

Co-Moderators – Vangie Fletcher, Carol Harris, & Lynn Kroah

deacons@neelsville.org

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

Moderator – Jason Craft

trustees@neelsville.org

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