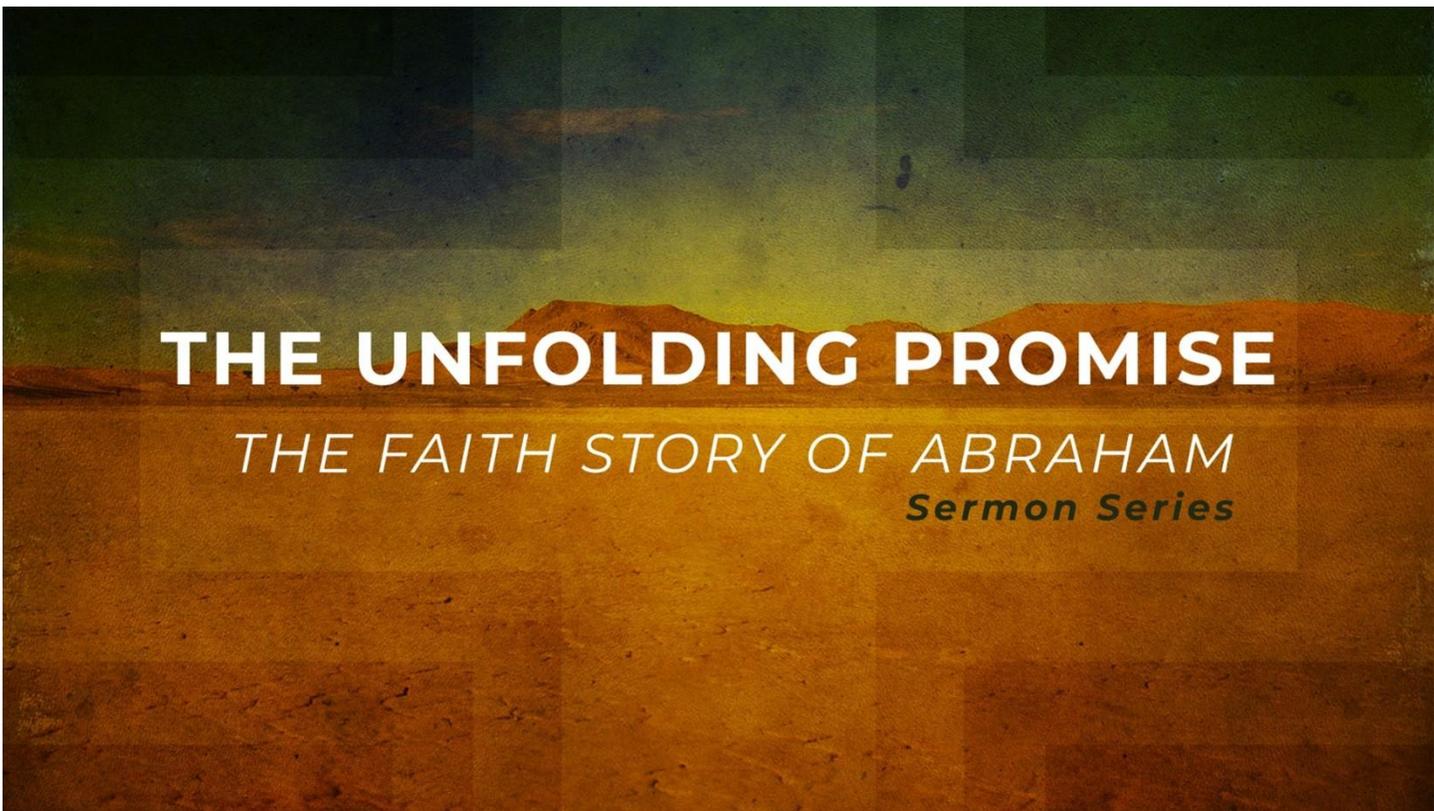




NPC strives to be an intercultural church of believers in Jesus Christ who delight to share the good news in Germantown and beyond.



THE UNFOLDING PROMISE
THE FAITH STORY OF ABRAHAM
Sermon Series

Sunday, March 15, 2026 – 10:45am Worship

Welcome to Neelsville!

Welcome to Neelsville Presbyterian Church! We are so thrilled that you are visiting 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

Minute for Mission

Rebuilding Together

Craig Arold

From time to time we take a moment to demonstrate how we give back to the community using the gifts God has given us. By doing so, we honor Him and spread His love.

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 34:17-18;
Psalm 139:1-3; Genesis 16

Eric Shirley

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

Leader: The Lord hears the cries of the afflicted; He draws near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

People: The God who searches us and knows us is the God who sees us in our need.

Leader: Before a word is on our tongues, He knows it completely. When we wander into the wilderness, He comes to find us.

People: Let us worship the Living One who sees, who hears, and who comes near.

All: Come, let us worship the Lord our God.

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.

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 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 SongYour Will Be Done* (Thompson/Robinson)

Your will be done, my God and Father as in heaven, so on earth.
My heart is drawn to self-exalting, help me seek Your kingdom first.
As Jesus walked, so shall I walk held by Your same unchanging love.
Be still my soul, O lift your voice and pray,
“Father, not my will, but Yours be done.”

How in that garden he persisted, I may never fully know.
The fearful weight of true obedience, it was held by him alone.
What wondrous faith to bear that cross! To bear my sin, what wondrous love!
My hope was sure when there my Savior prayed:
“Father, not my will, but Yours be done.”

When I am lost, when I am broken, in the night of fear and doubt.
Still I will trust in my good Father, yes, to one great King I bow!
As Jesus rose, so I shall rise in ransomed glory at the throne.
My heart restored with all Your saints I sing:
“Father, not my will, but Yours be done.”

As we go forth, our God and Father, lead us daily in the fight.
That all the world might see Your glory and Your Name be lifted high.
And in this Name we overcome, for You shall see us safely home.
Now as Your church, we lift our voice and pray:
“Father, not my will, but Yours be done.”

And in this Name we overcome, for You shall see us safely home.
Now as Your church, we lift our voice and pray:
“Father, not my will, but Yours be done.”
“Father, not my will, but Yours be done.”
“Father, not my will, but Yours be done.”

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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 God, You are faithful to Your promises, yet we confess that we often grow impatient with Your timing. Like Abram and Sarai, we take matters into our own hands, trusting our plans more than Your word. We confess the ways we have wounded others through our fear, jealousy, or selfishness. We confess our silence when we should have spoken, and our harshness when You call us to mercy. Forgive us for running back to old patterns, old sins, and old “Egypt” instead of trusting You in the wilderness. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Find us, hear us, and see us by Your grace. Through Jesus Christ our Savior 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

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: Just as the Lord found Hagar in the wilderness, so in Christ He has come to find us. He is the God who hears our cries, the God who sees our affliction, the God who carries our sins to the cross and clothes us in His righteousness. “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love... He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.”

In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven, welcomed, and seen.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Confession of Faith (unison)

Apostles' Creed

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.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic* church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The term "catholic" means "universal," throughout all ages & generations.

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

Gratitude (Lake/Bowe/Hastings)

Praise Team

"Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us." – 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 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.

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

Genesis 16

Please turn in the pew Bible to page 11 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

The God Who Sees Us In the Wilderness

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.

Minister: Let us boldly proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

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.

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace. By our communion, keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel, preserve us from all sin and strengthen us for life as your ambassadors in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Praise Song**

Jesus Messiah (Carson/Cash/Reeves/Tomlin)

He became sin, who knew no sin;
That we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Chorus: Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, The Ransom from heaven;
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine
Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing. (*Chorus*)

Bridge: All our hope is in You, All our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, The Light of the world. (*Chorus*)

Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all. The Lord of all! The Lord of all.

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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 the "Meet Your Deacon" Fellowship in the Welcome Center! Join us for some St. Patrick's Day treats and the opportunity to meet, converse and really get to know your deacon. We hope to see you!

There will be a Mission Trip Meeting in Room 1 at 12:15pm after Worship today.

Next Gen Praise Team will meet directly after Worship for 15 minutes.

Choir will rehearse at 12:30pm after Next Gen Praise Team is finished.

The Unfolding Promise: The Faith Story of Abraham

- The Temptation of the Promise Delayed (vv. 1–2)

- The Mess We Make When We Take Control (vv. 3–6)

- The Merciful God Who Finds, Hears, and Sees (vv. 7–14)

- The Hope of the Outsider and the Faithfulness of God (vv. 13–16)

- Gospel Connection — The God Who Sees Us Most Clearly in Jesus Christ

- Final Remarks

Next Week: *El Shaddai: The God of Impossible Promises (Genesis 17)*

¹ Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. ² And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³ So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. ⁴ And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵ And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the Lord judge between you and me!" ⁶ But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

⁷ The angel of the Lord found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸ And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." ⁹ The angel of the Lord said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." ¹⁰ The angel of the Lord also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." ¹¹ And the angel of the Lord said to her,

"Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the Lord has listened to your affliction. ¹² He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

¹³ So she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her, "You are a God of seeing," for she said, "Truly here I have seen him who looks after me." ¹⁴ Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵ And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

Something to think about . . .

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

1. Why was it wrong for Abram to have a child by Hagar? How did the "solution" of a child actually increase Abram and Sarai's problems?
2. What name did Hagar give to God and why? (Gen.16:13)
3. Have you ever been tempted to take matters into your own hands because you thought that God was taking too long to answer your prayers? What warning signs should you be aware of when choosing between right and wrong actions?
4. What are some of the unexpected sources of temptation that have been a problem for you in the past? Where has God shown you mercy during those temptations?
5. How does beholding Jesus who finds, hears and sees you encourage you as you live in the gap between promise and reality?

Financial Update

	February Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income (\$K)	\$ 54.3 K	\$ 126.7 K	\$ 130.5 K	\$ 827.9 K
Expenses (\$K)	\$ 58.9 K	\$ 110.9 K	\$ 134.8 K	\$ 859.4 K

Excess Income/Expenses	-\$ 4.6 K	\$ 15.9 K
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neelsville.org/give

February income was \$54.3K and expenses were \$58.9K, resulting in a monthly deficit of \$4.6K. Year-to-date income is \$126.7K, slightly below budget.

Grow and Go with Us!

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

Next Generation Ministry



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)



This Wed 3/18, NPC Students will serve at the Spaghetti Dinner instead of our regular weekly Youth Group. We'll be back at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall on Wed 3/25. Contact Pastor SeongSu or James Nelson (jan196@gmail.com) for details.

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 Condrick (acondrick@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 Bible 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 3/15	12:15pm	Missions Trip Meeting (Room 1)
	12:15pm	“Meet Your Deacon” Fellowship (Welcome Center)
	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) w Next Gen Praise Team
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

Monday 3/16

Tuesday 3/17

Wednesday 3/18		Spaghetti Dinner! (Contact James Nelson for details)
	7:00pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	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 3/19

Friday 3/20	9:30am	Women's Bible Study – <i>Abraham</i> (Parlor)
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Saturday 3/21	9:00am	ESOL Classes (Lower Entrance)
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Sunday 3/22	9:15am	Small Group – <i>Get Your Life Back</i> (Parlor)
	9:30am	Classes for All Ages!
	10:45am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	12:00pm	NPC Mini Workday (Welcome Center)
	12:00pm	Tea Committee Meeting (Library)
	12:30pm	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.

NPC is prayerfully searching for our next Director of Worship and Music (part-time) who will help us continue to grow as a worshipping community centered on the gospel of Jesus Christ. This person will guide our musical life—leading congregational singing, directing our choir and praise teams, coordinating musicians, and partnering with our pastors to craft services that are reverent, joyful, and welcoming to all. If you know someone who might be a good fit, contact Pastor Jeff for full job description and inquiries.

Serve Neelsville Middle School with Spaghetti Dinners! We are planning monthly spaghetti dinners at NPC beginning **THIS WED 3/18** 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)? Contact James Nelson (jan196@gmail.com).

Sleeping bags, pillows and bath towels are still needed to bless Neelsville Middle School! They will be used by 6th graders who will participate in the Outdoor Education program. You may sign up thru this QR code which has Amazon links to specific items. **All items are due by NEXT SUN 3/22 in the Narthex.** Thank you for your support!



The Trustees invite you to join us for a mini workday after worship NEXT SUN 3/22. We'll be cleaning the interior walls around the church with Magic Eraser (supplies provided). There will be pizza lunch provided for volunteers afterwards. Contact trustees@neelsville.org if you can help!

The Women's Tea Committee will meet in the library after worship NEXT SUN 3/22. If anyone would like to join and help with the tea on Sat 6/6, please come! Many hands make light work. Contact Gerry Davis or Cathy Brown.

Do you miss Hugh? Request #2 – Here is a ministry that our friend Hugh would have jumped at! Our friends M and P are staying at home right now and need some support. We would like to have people from the congregation go to their home in Montgomery Village and spend an hour or so once a week or once every other week. Your conversation will help them with their English and provide friendship since they are quite alone. Willing to chat and offer encouragement? Contact Joannelwilson@gmail.com for more information.

Job Search for M&P – Our friends, M&P, are in search of employment and have a heart to serve. M's degree is in Civil Engineering with experience in home remodeling and renovation. P would like to find a family in need of childcare or elder care. If you know of any opportunities for them, please reach out to Joanne Wilson (joannelwilson@gmail.com) or Steve Amar (sandkamar@gmail.com).

NPC will be sponsoring a Rebuilding Together project again in April! Our resident, Ana Martinez, and her adult son, Francisco, need several repairs to their Gaithersburg home's interior and exterior. Many hands are needed to help, and volunteers of any skill level are welcome, including high school youth (ages 14+). The project days will be all day on Saturdays, 4/11 and 4/18 starting at 8am each day, but any amount of time that you can serve will be appreciated. Please contact James Nelson (jan196@gmail.com) to sign-up. Thanks to all who support this mission every Spring!

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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