



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



Sunday, March 29, 2026 – 10:45am Worship

Celebrate Easter with Neelsville

Scan the QR code or go to neelsville.org/ministries/easter-2026 to find all the information on Neelsville's Holy Week and Easter Events. Pick up a postcard in the Narthex to invite your friends and neighbors!



- **This Fri 4/3 is Good Friday**
 - **We're Open for Prayer from 12pm – 6pm** (*see below for details)
 - **Worship Service at 7:00pm** (in-person only)

- **Next Sun 4/5 is Easter Sunday!**
 - **9am Worship Service** (in-person only)
 - **Easter Brunch between Services** – Join us for brunch in the Welcome Center and bring your own cut flowers to “Flower the Cross” at the Welcome Center’s front entrance. It makes a beautiful backdrop for family photos!
 - **11am Worship Service** (in-person and online)
 - **12pm Egg Hunt** on the **front lawn** for NPC Kids

***Join us on Good Friday for prayer stations in the Welcome Center & Narthex from 12pm-6pm.** This will be a quiet time of prayer and reflection where we take a close look at ourselves and see areas we need to grow in Christ both individually and corporately. As we look inward, we hope to see the lies the world tells us, a clearer view of who we are and our purpose, and the beauty of Jesus Christ as He calls us out from our sins and brokenness and into transformation with Him.

Join us for Easter Brunch! Please bring a finger food to share and join us in the Welcome Center on Easter Sunday for brunch between the 9am and 11am worship services. Clean up help is appreciated, as well as help to receive the food! If you can help, please contact Gerry Davis (Gerry.davis@outlook.com).

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

*Call to Worship

Isaiah 41:8-10

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

Leader: But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

All: Thanks to God, our Friend.

Leader: You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"

All: Thanks to God, our Friend.

Leader: Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

All: Thanks to God, our Friend.

*Hymn

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (Threlfall)

#803

Hosanna, loud hosanna, The little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple The joyful anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them Close folded to His breast,
The children sang their praises, The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed 'Mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, And chanting clear and loud;
The Lord of earth and heaven Rode on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children Should on His bidding wait.

"Hosanna in the highest!" That ancient song we sing,
For Christ is our Redeemer, The Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise Him With heart and life and voice,
And in His blissful presence eternally rejoice.

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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**

Gratitude

Lake/Howe/Hastings

All my words fall short I got nothing new
How could I express All my gratitude

I could sing these songs As I often do
But every song must end And You never do

Chorus: So I throw up my hands And praise You again and again
‘Cause all that I have is a hallelujah, hallelujah
And I know it’s not much But I’ve nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah, hallelujah

I’ve got one response I’ve got just one move
With my arms stretched wide I will worship You (*Chorus*)

Bridge: Come on my soul Oh don’t you get shy on me
Lift up your song ‘Cause you’ve got a lion inside of those lungs
Get up and praise the Lord (2x)

(*Chorus*)

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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.

Lord, today we see You as our King. You are the One who rides in not on a war horse, but on a donkey. You come in humility, speaking peace to Your people and to all who come in Your name. You call us Your friends, for a friend lays down his life for those he loves, and You have done this at the cross. Forgive us for the times we forget. Forgive us for

the times we have not laid down our lives for You and for our neighbors. Forgive us when we turn a blind eye to the least of these. Forgive us when we grow desensitized to the pain and brokenness around us. Forgive us when our focus is on completing tasks rather than sitting at Your feet. During this Passion Week, remind us again who You are. Turn our hearts back to You - our God, our King, and our Friend.

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

Colossians 1:13-14

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.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

*Confession of Faith (unison)

Nicene 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.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

*The term “catholic” means “universal,” throughout all ages and 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

“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.

Special Music

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
(arr. Galbraith)

Next Generation Praise Team

“You came from Heaven to earth, to show the way. From the Earth to the cross, my debt to pay. From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift Your name on high.”

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.

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Scripture Reading

Genesis 18

Please turn in the pew Bible to page 12 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

God's Friend

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.

*Praise Song

Living Hope

Johnson/Wickham

How great the chasm that lay between us, How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation I turned to heaven And spoke your name into the night.
Then through the darkness, Your loving kindness Tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine, so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory To wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven. The King of kings calls me His own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Chorus: Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain. There's salvation in your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope! (2x)

Then came the morning that sealed the promise, Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion Declared the grave has no claim on me. *(Repeat verse)*

Jesus, Yours is the victory! *(Chorus 2x)*

Jesus Christ, my living hope! God, You are my living hope!

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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 will rehearse at 12:30pm. This will be a final rehearsal for Easter Sunday!

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.

¹And the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth ³and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, ⁵while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it and make cakes.” ⁷And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.” ¹⁰The Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵But Sarah denied it, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.”

¹⁶Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. ¹⁷The Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.” ²⁰Then the Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” ²⁶And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” ²⁹Again he spoke to him and

said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.”³⁰ Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.”³¹ He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.”³² Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”³³ And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

Something to think about . . .

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

1. How does Abraham’s eager and generous hospitality reveal his relationship with God? In what ways might our response to God’s presence show the status of our friendship?
2. Sarah laughs at God’s promise, yet God still fulfills it. What does this teach us about the nature of doubt and God’s faithfulness? How should we respond when we find ourselves struggling to believe what God has said?
3. God chooses to reveal His plans about Sodom to Abraham. What does this show about God’s desire for relationship and partnership with His people? How should knowing God’s truth shape the way we live and lead others?
4. Abraham approaches God with humility and boldness in interceding for Sodom. What does this teach us about praying to God as a friend? How can we grow in both reverence and confidence as we bring the needs of others before God our friend?

Grow and Go with Us! _____

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

Please note that Classes for All Ages and small groups will not be held on Easter Sunday.
We look forward to Sunday School resuming for Kids, Students and Adults on Sunday, April 12th.

Next Generation Ministry

🎵 **Thank you to the Next Gen Praise Team** for providing special music today! They will also perform at the 11am service on Easter Sunday!



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.
***We will meet this Wed 4/1 but not Wed 4/8.**

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 – Bible Study (Parlor)

Contact: Adam Condrick (acondrick@segalco.com)

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

Contact: Bill Kroah (billtrac108@gmail.com)

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

Contact: Craig Wilson (cdw6@msn.com) ***not mtg 4/5**

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 Joshua (Parlor)

Contact: Sue Farrell (bfarrell01@aol.com) ***not mtg 4/3**

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 3/29	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
PALM	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)
SUNDAY!		

Monday 3/30

Tuesday 3/31

Wednesday 4/1	7:00pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Youth Group for 6 th -12 th Grade (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 4/2

Friday 4/3	12 – 6pm	NPC Prayer Stations (Welcome Center & Narthex)
	7:00pm	Good Friday Service (Sanctuary)

Saturday 4/4

Sunday 4/5	9:00am	Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary)
EASTER	10:00am	Easter Brunch (Welcome Center)
SUNDAY!	11:00am	Easter Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	12:00pm	Egg Hunt (Front Lawn)

Monday 4/6 **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**

Announcements

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

Easter candy donations and non-food items are being collected in the narthex for our annual egg hunt treat bags. Please make sure candy is individually wrapped. If you need some ideas for non-food items, check out our Amazon wish list at this QR code! Items are due **by THIS WED 4/1**. Contact Melissa Evans with questions. (melissa@neelsville.org)



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.

The Nominating Committee is seeking names of people who are recommended to serve as elders, deacons, and trustees. 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1:6-9, and 1 Corinthians 4:2 are some of the guiding passages for selecting elders, deacons, and trustees. Names can be given to any member of the Nominating Committee (Sam Amoaka-Atta, Sandy Hutto, Peggy Hurkett, Jason Evans, Alison Williamson, Lena Shirley and Bob Macri) or names may be submitted through the online form at this QR code. You can also pick up a paper copy in the Narthex & drop it off in the Church Office.



THANK YOU to all those who donated items to the Outdoor Education program at NMS. They were very thankful for all we provided. It reminds me of Ephesians 3:20 “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” – Val Rickett

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 youth (ages 10+). 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!

Save the date! NPC 's local missions jail ministry at the Montgomery County Boyd's Jail along with **Good News Global invites you to a free banquet on Thurs 5/14 at 6:30 pm at Shady Grove Presbyterian.** Details to follow. Contact Craig Wilson (cdw6@msn.com) with any questions.

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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