



*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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**THE UNFOLDING PROMISE**  
*THE FAITH STORY OF ABRAHAM*  
*Sermon Series*

**Sunday, April 19, 2026 – 10:45am Worship**



## Welcome to Neelsville!

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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](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 11.**

# Order of Service

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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

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

## Welcome & Announcements

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Pastor SeongSu Hong

\* = please rise if you are able

## \*Call to Worship

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2 Samuel 22:2-4

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

Leader: He said, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,

**All:** my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge,

Leader: my savior; you save me from violence.

**All:** I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies."

## \*Hymn

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*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* (Kauflin/Robinson/Wyeth)

#10

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love!

Hitherto Thy love has blessed me, Thou has brought me to this place,  
And I know, Thy hand will bring me safely home by Thy good grace.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face,  
Full arrayed in blood-washed linen, how I'll sing Thy sovereign grace.  
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry, bring Thy promises to pass,  
For I know Thy pow'r will keep me till I'm home with Thee at last.

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## **\*Prayer of Adoration**

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*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**

*Yet Not I, But Christ In Me*  
(Robinson/Thompson/Farren)

**#594**

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What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.  
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus. For my life is wholly bound to His.  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken, For by my side the Savior, he will stay.  
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing, For in my need, his power is displayed.  
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me. Through the deepest valley he will lead.  
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, The future sure, the price, it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, And he was raised to overthrow the grave.  
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated. Jesus now, and ever, is my plea.  
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free! Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, For he has said that he will bring me home.  
And day by day I know he will renew me Until I stand with joy before the throne.  
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to him.  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

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## Confession of Sin

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*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, you are faithful. Your promises are true and will come to pass. Lord, you set the stars in their place and form the earth and everything in it. Forgive us as we place limits on your generosity, care and power. As the father in Mark 9 cries out, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief!" Forgive us in the times when the circumstances seem so large that it causes fear and doubt to arise within us. Forgive us when we take matters into our own hands, look to our own wisdom and turn away from you. May your gospel of grace always lead us back to the One who is able and willing to work in us and for your glory.

## Silent Confession

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*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

Romans 8:37-39

*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: No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and are loved deeply.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

## \*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

*Christ Is Mine Forevermore*  
(Robinson/Thompson)

Michele Kelly, organ

*“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 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.**

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 20

*Please turn in the pew Bible to page 13 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.*

### Sermon

*Two Steps Forward and One Step Back*

Pastor SeongSu

*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.

I love You, Lord, oh, Your mercy never fails me;  
All my days I've been held in Your hands.  
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head,  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

*Chorus:* All my life You have been faithful,  
All my life You have been so, so good;  
With every breath that I am able,  
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love Your voice. You have led me through the fire.  
In darkest nights, You are close like no other.  
I've known You as a Father, I've known You as a friend.  
And I have lived in the goodness of God. (*Chorus*)

*Bridge:* Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.  
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.  
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now; I give You everything.  
Your goodness is running after, It's running after me. (2x)

(*Chorus 2x*)

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**\*Charge & Benediction**

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*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.*

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**\*Postlude**

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*We close with another instrumental piece, carrying praise to God out of the church and into the world.*

**After Worship Today!**

**Choir Rehearsal will take place at 12:30pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to join!**



<sup>1</sup> From there Abraham journeyed toward the territory of the Negeb and lived between Kadesh and Shur; and he sojourned in Gerar. <sup>2</sup> And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. <sup>3</sup> But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife." <sup>4</sup> Now Abimelech had not approached her. So he said, "Lord, will you kill an innocent people?" <sup>5</sup> Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." <sup>6</sup> Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that you have done this in the integrity of your heart, and it was I who kept you from sinning against me. Therefore, I did not let you touch her. <sup>7</sup> Now then, return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, so that he will pray for you, and you shall live. But if you do not return her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours."

<sup>8</sup> So Abimelech rose early in the morning and called all his servants and told them all these things. And the men were very much afraid. <sup>9</sup> Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done." <sup>10</sup> And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What did you see, that you did this thing?" <sup>11</sup> Abraham said, "I did it because I thought, 'There is no fear of God at all in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.' <sup>12</sup> Besides, she is indeed my sister, the daughter of my father though not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife. <sup>13</sup> And when God caused me to wander from my father's house, I said to her, 'This is the kindness you must do me: at every place to which we come, say of me, "He is my brother."'"

<sup>14</sup> Then Abimelech took sheep and oxen, and male servants and female servants, and gave them to Abraham, and returned Sarah his wife to him. <sup>15</sup> And Abimelech said, "Behold, my land is before you; dwell where it pleases you." <sup>16</sup> To Sarah he said, "Behold, I have given your brother a thousand pieces of silver. It is a sign of your innocence in the eyes of all who are with you, and before everyone you are vindicated." <sup>17</sup> Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children. <sup>18</sup> For the Lord had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

## Something to think about . . .

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

1. Where am I relying on my own wisdom instead of trusting God's promises? Abraham acted out of fear rather than faith. Consider areas in your life where fear is shaping your decisions more than trust in God.
2. What "old patterns" or sins do I keep returning to, even after God has proven His faithfulness to me? Abraham repeats a familiar failure. Reflect on habits or responses you tend to fall back into when pressure returns.
3. How has God shown His faithfulness to me even when I've been unfaithful? God protects Sarah and preserves His promise despite Abraham's failure. Take time to remember specific moments where God remained steady when you were not.
4. Is God asking me to "step back" and correct something in my life right now? Like fixing the shingles, sometimes obedience means undoing something that has been done wrongly. What might God be calling you to repair, confess, or realign?
5. How can I be an instrument of God's grace to others, even after I have failed? God still uses Abraham to pray for Abimelech. How might God want to use you to bless others, even in your weakness?

# Grow and Go with Us!

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

## 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** (Youth Room / Andrew Small Room)

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

## 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 – Life Lessons from 1&2 Peter** (Parlor)

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

**Sundays at 9:30am – Basics of Christian Beliefs** (Room 1 & Online)

Contacts: Craig Wilson & Bill Kroah ([cdw6@msn.com](mailto:cdw6@msn.com))

**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** (Online)

Contact: Brian Farrell ([bpf3356@gmail.com](mailto:bpf3356@gmail.com)) **\*not mtg 4/22**

**Fridays at 9:30am – Women’s Bible Study on Joshua** (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 4/19	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

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Monday 4/20

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Tuesday 4/21	10:00am	MomCo Meeting
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Wednesday 4/22	7:00pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Youth Group (Parlor)

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Thursday 4/23

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Friday 4/24	9:30am	Women's Bible Study – <i>Joshua</i> (Parlor)
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Saturday 4/25	9:00am	ESOL Classes (Fellowship Hall Entrance)
	<b>11:00am</b>	<b>Choir &amp; Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)</b>

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Sunday 4/26	9:15am	Sunday Morning Small Group – <i>Life Lessons</i> (Parlor)
	9:30am	Classes for All Ages!
	<b>10:45am</b>	<b>Worship Service (Sanctuary)</b>
	12:15pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

# 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.

**Support the Rockville Women's Center Baby Bottle Campaign from 4/26 to 5/10 and make a meaningful impact.** There are two ways to make a donation (1) Please pick up an empty baby bottle in the Narthex, fill it with coins, cash, and/or check (payable to **NPC with a memo to RWC**), return it on **5/10** – OR – (2) Prepare cash or check payable to **NPC with RWC in the memo** to be collected during offering time now through 5/10. **Questions?** Contact Jaimie Bement, Mercy Muna, Lena Shirley or Joanne Wilson.

**The Women's Tea Committee will meet in the Library after worship on Sun 4/26.** If you want to help with this fun event on Sat 6/6, please join us! Any questions, please contact Cathy Brown ([ccbrown8488@gmail.com](mailto:ccbrown8488@gmail.com)) or Gerry Davis ([gerry.davis@outlook.com](mailto:gerry.davis@outlook.com)).

**You're invited!** NPC's local missions "Inside Out Dads" Ministry at the Montgomery County Boyd's Jail & Good News Global invites you to a **FREE banquet on Thurs 5/14 at 6:30 pm at Shady Grove Presbyterian in Derwood, MD.** This fundraiser benefits the Gospel Chaplain Ministry in the jail. RSVP through this QR code! Contact Craig Wilson ([cdw6@msn.com](mailto:cdw6@msn.com)) with any questions.



**Photo Directory Update** – Our team just received the draft of our new photo directory, and it looks great! We have a few minor corrections that the directory company will pick up, and the hard copies should arrive in early May. Thank you for your patience!

**It's time to sign up for Vacation Bible School!** Each daily program includes activities centered on knowing God as the Creator, growing in relationship with Him, and sharing the love of Christ with others. **Register at this QR code to join us on August 3-7 at 9am-12pm for kids age 3 years through 4th grade.**



# Financial Update

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	March Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income (\$K)	\$ 80.3 K	\$ 204.6 K	\$ 191.8 K	\$ 827.9 K
Expenses (\$K)	\$ 71.2 K	\$ 182.8 K	\$ 221.7 K	\$ 859.4 K
Quarterly Mission Expense (\$K)	\$ 16.4 K	\$ 16.4 K		



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

Excess Income/Expenses	-\$ 7.3 K	\$ 5.4 K
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# Stay Connected with Neelsville

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## CONTACT INFO

### Questions?

office@neelsville.org

### Website

www.neelsville.org

### Phone

301-972-3916

### Office Hours

Tues-Thurs 10am-4pm

**Mon & 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.*

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

[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)

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## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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[@neelsvillechurch](https://www.instagram.com/neelsvillechurch)