



*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 26, 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

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## Prelude

*Holy Holy Holy* (arr. Bober)

Christine Gormley, piano

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

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## Welcome & Announcements

Pastor SeongSu Hong

\* = please rise if you are able

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## \*Call to Worship

Hebrews 10:19-25

Eric Shirley

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

Leader: Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

**All:** by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

Leader: let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,

**All:** with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Leader: Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

**All:** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

To God be the glory, great things he hath done;  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the lifegate that all may go in.

*Refrain:* Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!  
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
And give him the glory, great things he hath done.

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To ev'ry believer, the promise of God;  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (*Refrain*)

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer and higher and greater will be  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (*Refrain*)

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**\*Prayer of Adoration**

Pastor SeongSu Hong

*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***Because He Lives (Gaither)***#826**

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus, He came to love, heal and forgive.  
He lived and died to buy my pardon, An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

*Chorus:* Because He lives I can face tomorrow;  
Because He lives all fear is gone.  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby, And feel the pride and joy he gives,  
But greater still the calm assurance: This child can face uncertain day because he lives. (*Chorus*)

And then one day I'll cross the river, I'll fight life's final war with pain.  
And then, as death gives way to vict'ry, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns. (*Chorus*)

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## Confession of Sin (unison)

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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.*

We proclaim that you are the God who sees and the God who hears. You make known your plans to your people and invite them to be part of those plans and receive far more than what we put in. You invite us into your Kingdom plan, yet we often take matters into our own hands. Forgive us when we desire a different path, or when fear and doubt cause us to return to our old ways. Forgive us when we forget how good and faithful you are. Create in us a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit.

## 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 8:1

*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:** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

In Christ your sins are forgiven.

**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 and generations.

## Time of Offering

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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

*God of Grace*  
(Getty/Rea/arr. Larson)

Chancel Choir

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*"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

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*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

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*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

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*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

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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.

*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.*

**Scripture Reading**

Genesis 21

**Please turn in the pew Bible to page 15 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.**

**Sermon**

*Crossing the Rubicon*

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.**

**\*Hymn**

*By Faith (Getty/Townend)*

**#157**

By faith we see the hand of God, in the light of creation's grand design,  
In the lives of those who prove his faithfulness, who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth, with the pow'r of his promise in their hearts  
Of a holy city built by God's own hand, a place where peace and justice reign.

*Chorus:* We will stand as children of the Promise;  
We will fix our eyes on him, our souls' reward;  
Till the race is finished and the work is done,  
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day, when the longed-for Messiah would appear,  
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death and rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go, in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost,  
To deliver captives and to preach good news, in ev'ry corner of the earth. *(Chorus)*

By faith this mountain shall be moved, and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail;  
For we know in Christ all things are possible, for all who call upon his name. *(Chorus 2x)*

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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**

*The Strife is Over, The Battle Done*  
(Pierluigi/arr. Berry)

Christine Gormley, piano

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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!**

**Please join us in the Library for a Ladies Tea Planning Meeting.** All are welcome to help!

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*The Unfolding Promise: The Faith Story of Abraham*

- Isaac and Ishmael

- Hagar and Ishmael

- Abraham and Abimelech

**Next Week:** *Faith Faces the Complexity of God* (Genesis 22)

<sup>1</sup> The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup> And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup> Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac. <sup>4</sup> And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup> Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup> And Sarah said, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me." <sup>7</sup> And she said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

<sup>8</sup> And the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. <sup>9</sup> But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, laughing. <sup>10</sup> So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not be heir with my son Isaac." <sup>11</sup> And the thing was very displeasing to Abraham on account of his son. <sup>12</sup> But God said to Abraham, "Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named. <sup>13</sup> And I will make a nation of the son of the slave woman also, because he is your offspring." <sup>14</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba.

<sup>15</sup> When the water in the skin was gone, she put the child under one of the bushes. <sup>16</sup> Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, "Let me not look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. <sup>17</sup> And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. <sup>18</sup> Up! Lift up the boy, and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make him into a great nation." <sup>19</sup> Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. <sup>20</sup> And God was with the boy, and he grew up. He lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. <sup>21</sup> He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother took a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

<sup>22</sup> At that time Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army said to Abraham, "God is with you in all that you do. <sup>23</sup> Now therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my descendants or with my posterity, but as I have dealt kindly with you, so you will deal with me and with the land where you have sojourned." <sup>24</sup> And Abraham said, "I will swear."

<sup>25</sup> When Abraham reproved Abimelech about a well of water that Abimelech's servants had seized, <sup>26</sup> Abimelech said, "I do not know who has done this thing; you did not tell me, and I have not heard of it until today." <sup>27</sup> So Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two men made a covenant. <sup>28</sup> Abraham set seven ewe lambs of the flock apart. <sup>29</sup> And Abimelech said to Abraham, "What is the meaning of these seven ewe lambs that you have set apart?" <sup>30</sup> He said, "These seven ewe lambs you will take from my hand, that this may be a witness

for me that I dug this well.”<sup>31</sup> Therefore that place was called Beersheba, because there both of them swore an oath.<sup>32</sup> So they made a covenant at Beersheba. Then Abimelech and Phicol the commander of his army rose up and returned to the land of the Philistines.<sup>33</sup> Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba and called there on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God.<sup>34</sup> And Abraham sojourned many days in the land of the Philistines.

## **Something to think about . . .**

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

1. In what way did Ishmael’s welfare depend on his response to Isaac? In what way does our welfare depend on our response to another child of promise, Jesus Christ?
2. How does God’s care for Hagar and Ishmael challenge the way you view His compassion for those outside your circle?
3. What painfully difficult things does God ask us to give up? Why does He do that?
4. If others looked at your life like Abimelech looked at Abraham, would they see God is with you?

# 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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**Next Gen Sunday School for Kids & Students will not be held NEXT Sun 5/3.** All are invited to the Fellowship Hall for a Mission Trip Breakfast fundraiser. Details can be found in the announcements.

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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)

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*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.

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## 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** (Conf Rm & 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 on Psalms** (Online)

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

**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 4/26	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Women's Tea Planning Meeting (Library)</b>
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

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Monday 4/27

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Tuesday 4/28

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Wednesday 4/29	7:00pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Youth Group (Parlor)
	7:15pm	Men's Bible Study – <i>Psalms: Prayers of the Heart</i> (Online)

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Thursday 4/30

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Friday 5/1	9:30am	Women's Bible Study – <i>Joshua</i> (Parlor)
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Saturday 5/2	9:00am	ESOL Classes (Fellowship Hall Entrance)
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Sunday 5/3	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Missions Trip Breakfast Fundraiser (Fellowship Hall)</b>
	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) *No Lord's Supper</b>
	12:30pm	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.

**Please note the Lord's Supper will be served on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in May.**

**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.

**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!

**Serving is where Christians find fulfillment and joy and where they walk most closely with Christ. Please help support the mission team traveling to the Dominican Republic this June!** Support with your prayers that they carry the gospel forward and with financial donations in one of the following ways: using this QR code or at one of their upcoming fundraiser events. The first fundraiser is a **home-cooked breakfast NEXT Sun 5/3 in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00-10:15 am** and the second fundraiser is a **car wash on Sat 5/16 from 12 - 2 pm**.



**NPC Ladies! Let's get together for lunch after church NEXT SUN 5/3!** We will meet at 12:30-ish at Panera (Seneca Meadows) for a nice time of fellowship. Bring a friend!

**Join us for the next 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Fellowship event! We will celebrate Mother's Day on Sun 5/10 after worship in the Welcome Center!** We are honoring all women who help raise all our children and make our lives richer with their caring ways.

**Sign up now as a Vacation Bible School volunteer or participant August 3-7 from 9:00-12:00.** Registration is flourishing and we're already 1/3 full! The Rainforest Falls theme provides beautiful scenery to remind us of God's glorious creation. While we explore the nature of God, we're also pointing our campers to living as a follower of Christ through praise songs, scripture lessons, recreational games, hands-on science, and more! We look forward to your involvement. **Register your children through the QR Code.** Contact Pastor SeongSu ([seongsu@neelsville.org](mailto:seongsu@neelsville.org)) if you would like to volunteer.



# 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



**Facebook**

[Facebook.com/neelsville](https://www.facebook.com/neelsville)



**Instagram**

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