



*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, May 17, 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 10.**

# Order of Service

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Corporate worship at Neelsville Presbyterian Church is our shared heartfelt response to God as a multi-ethnic, multi-generational family in Christ. Rooted in Scripture and centered on the gospel, we gather as one body to pray, sing, hear God's Word, and be formed together into Christ's likeness for the sake of our community, our neighborhood, and the world.

– Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

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## Prelude

*This Is My Father's World* (arr. Wood)

Michele Kelly, organ

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

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## Welcome & Announcements

Brian Farrell

\* = please rise if you are able

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## \*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 105

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

Leader: He led His people with joy and His chosen ones with singing.

**All:** The Lord has been faithful from generation to generation.

Leader: Praise the Lord who remembers, rescues, and restores.

**All:** We will worship the Lord with gladness and give Him thanks.

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## \*Hymn

*Oh How Good It Is* (Getty/Holmes/Townend)

#62

Oh how good it is when the family of God  
Dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.  
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love  
Are the fruit of His presence here among us.

*Chorus:* So, with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,  
And with one heart we'll live out His Word;  
Till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,  
For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh how good it is on this journey we share,  
To rejoice with the happy, and weep with those who mourn;  
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,  
When we offer the blessing of belonging. (*Chorus*)

Oh how good it is to embrace His command  
To prefer one another, forgive as He forgives;  
When we live as one, we all share in the love  
Of the Son, with the Father, and the Spirit. (*Chorus*)

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## **\*Prayer of Adoration**

Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

*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**

*Behold Our God*

Altrogge/Baird

Who has held the oceans in His hands? Who has numbered every grain of sand?  
Kings and nations tremble at His voice. All creation rises to rejoice.

*Chorus:* Behold our God, seated on His throne. Come, let us adore Him.  
Behold our King, nothing can compare, Come, let us adore Him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord? Who can question any of His words?  
Who can teach the One who knows all things?  
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds? (*Chorus*)

Who has felt the nails upon His hands, bearing all the guilt of sinful man?  
God eternal, humbled to the grave; Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign! (*Chorus*)

*Men:* You will reign forever.

*Women:* Let your glory fill the earth. (*Chorus 2x*)

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## **Confession of Sin**

*Seeing how great and good God is, we are reminded that we have, more often than we wish, failed to live as God has designed.*

**Leader:** God of Abraham, Isaac, and Rebekah, You call us to walk in faithful obedience, trusting that You go before us.

**All:** But we confess that we often hesitate, doubt, and choose our own way.

**Leader:** You guide Your people by Your quiet providence, weaving Your purposes even when we cannot see them.

**All:** Yet we confess that we grow impatient, anxious, and fearful, acting as though our lives depend only on us.

**Leader:** You provide everything Your servants need—wisdom, strength, and daily grace.

**All:** But we confess that we chase lesser things, rely on our own resources, and forget Your generous care.

Leader: Lord, have mercy on us.

**All:** Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may walk in the way of faith. 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. The God who went before Abraham's servant is the same God who goes before you. He is faithful to His covenant, steadfast in His love, and generous in His mercy.

**All:** The Lord remembers His promises forever.

Leader: In Jesus Christ—the true Son of promise—God has provided everything necessary for our forgiveness and life. To all who turn to Him in faith, He says: “I will be your God, and you will be My people.”

**All:** In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new. Thanks be to God.

## \*Confession of Faith

Apostle's 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.*

Leader: Let us confess together what we as Christians believe.

**All:** 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

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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

Graves Into Gardens (Lake/Brown/Furtick/Hudson)

Praise Band

*"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 Message

Melissa Evans

*On alternate Sundays, the young children receive a blessing or they gather to hear a mini-message, often sharing a point from the upcoming sermon in a relational way with the children.*

**Children ages 3-3rd grade will be dismissed to the Worship & Praise Zone following the message.**

## Hymn

*Jesus, Strong and Kind*  
(Buchanan/Robinson/Farren/Thompson)

#362

Jesus said that if I thirst, I should come to him.  
No one else can satisfy, I should come to him.

*Chorus:* For the Lord is good and faithful. He will keep us day and night.  
We can always run to Jesus. Jesus, strong and kind.

Please turn in the pew Bible to page 17 or refer to the scripture insert to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

The God Who Goes Before You

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.

\*Hymn

Facing a Task Unfinished (We Go to All the World)
(Wesley/Getty/ DeBarra/Cash/Houghton)

#485

Facing a task unfinished that drives us to our knees,
A need that, undiminished, rebukes our slothful ease.
We who rejoice to know thee renew before thy throne
The solemn pledge we owe thee to go and make thee known.

Chorus: We go to all the world, with kingdom hope unfurled;
No other name has power to save, but Jesus Christ the Lord!

Where other lords beside thee hold their unhindered sway,
Where forces that defied thee defy thee still today,
With none to heed their crying for life, and love, and light,
Unnumbered souls are dying and pass into the night. (Chorus)

We bear the torch that, flaming, fell from the hands of those
Who gave their lives, proclaiming that Jesus died and rose.
Ours is the same commission, the same glad message ours;
Fired by the same ambition, to thee we yield our pow'rs. (Chorus)

O Father who sustained them, O Spirit who inspired,
Savior, whose love constrained them to toil with zeal untired,
From cowardice defend us, from lethargy awake!
Forth on thine errands send us to labor for thy sake. (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

Allegro Maestoso from Water Music
(Handel)

Michele Kelly, organ

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

## **After Worship Today!**

**VBS Leader Training is in the Fellowship Hall.** Join us if you're considering helping with VBS August 3-7 and would like to learn more!

**Choir Rehearsal will begin at 12:30pm** in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!



Please see the scripture insert.

## Something to think about . . .

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

1. How does it feel “at stake” in Genesis 24, and what does this story reveal about the kind of God we are dealing with?
2. Where do you see “faithful action” (not passivity) in Abraham and the servant (vv. 1–9)? What does it look like to act in line with God’s promises without trying to control the outcome?
3. What moments in the chapter highlight God’s providence—His quiet, behind-the-scenes guidance (especially vv. 12–27 and 48–52)?
4. What stands out to you about the servant’s prayer (vv. 12–14)? How might his posture shape the way you pray about decisions and needs right now?
5. Where are you at a crossroads today, and how are you most tempted to “grasp for control”? What would it look like to trust the God who goes before you this week?
6. This story points forward to Jesus—the true Son of promise who secures a bride (the Church). How does that strengthen your faith, and what is one concrete step of response you want to take (like Rebekah’s “I will go,” v. 58)?

# Grow and Go with Us! \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Sunday School at 9:30am** (Ed Wing for PreK - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)



Ages: 6th – 12th grade

Contact: 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)

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

Contact: Pastor Jeff (pastorjeff@neelsville.org)

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

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

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

Contact: Craig Wilson (cdw6@msn.com)

**Wednesdays at 7:00pm – Women’s Bible Study** (Online)

Contact: Kim Evans & Joanne Wilson (joannelwilson@gmail.com)

**Wednesdays at 7:15pm – Men’s Bible Study on Psalms** (Online)

Contact: Brian Farrell (bpf3356@gmail.com)

**Fridays at 9:30am – Women’s Bible Study on Joshua** (Parlor)

Contact: Sue Farrell (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 5/17	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	<b>12:30pm</b>	<b>VBS Training (Fellowship Hall)</b>
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

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Monday 5/18

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Tuesday 5/19	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>MomCo Meeting (Fellowship Hall)</b>
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Wednesday 5/20	5:30pm	Youth Service Project (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Women's Bible Study – <i>Sermon on the Mount</i> (Online)
	7:15pm	Men's Bible Study – <i>Psalms: Prayers of the Heart</i> (Online)

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Thursday 5/21

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Friday 5/22	9:30am	Women's Bible Study – <i>Joshua</i> (Parlor)
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Saturday 5/23

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Sunday 5/24	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>
	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

# Financial Update

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	<b>April Actual</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
<b>Income (\$K)</b>	\$ 59.3 K	\$ 264.8 K	\$ 253.1 K	\$ 827.9 K
<b>Expenses (\$K)</b>	\$ 68.4 K	\$ 268.7 K	\$ 294.5 K	\$ 859.4 K



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

<b>Excess Income/Expenses</b>	-\$ 9.1 K	-\$ 4.0 K
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# 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 2nd and 4th Sundays in May.**

**It's almost time to celebrate and bless our NPC graduates!** If your child is graduating this year from high school or college, please send to NPC Students ([students@neelsville.org](mailto:students@neelsville.org)) his/her full name, a baby picture and recent picture, name of the school they are graduating from, and if a college graduate, their major(s). **Photo and info is due by Mon 6/1.**

**Women's Tea in England - You're invited to our annual Tea on Sat 6/6 from 10am to 12:30pm** where we will enjoy English cuisine and culture. You don't want to miss this fun, faith-filled fellowship event! Childcare is provided for those who pre-register. It's also great opportunity to invite a friend! We'd love to see you! You may register at this QR code or at [www.neelsville.org](http://www.neelsville.org). Any questions or if you want to help, please contact Gerry Davis at ([gerry.davis@outlook.com](mailto:gerry.davis@outlook.com)) or Cathy Brown at ([ccbrown8488@gmail.com](mailto:ccbrown8488@gmail.com)).



**Sign up now as a Vacation Bible School volunteer or participant August 3-7 from 9am-12pm.** 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)