



NEELSVILLE
P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H

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

SERMON SERIES

Did Jesus Really Say That?

THE CHALLENGING
TEACHINGS
OF JESUS



Sunday, June 28, 2026 – 10:45am Worship
Day of the Christian Martyr

What is Day of the Christian Martyr? _____

Today we gather in a special way to worship our God as we remember our brothers and sisters in faith around the world who have lost their lives and those facing persecution this very moment as they bravely share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

Philippians 1:27-28

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.

Order of Service

Corporate worship is our shared surrender to Jesus' costly call. As we gather for corporate worship, we deny ourselves, seek His Kingdom above all, reconcile with one another, and submit to His hard but life-giving words. Corporate worship transforms us into people shaped by the cross-learning together to follow the One who calls us to lose our lives and find them in Him.
– Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

Prelude *Variations on Amazing Grace* (Haan) Michele Kelly, organ

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 66:1-2 Peter Muriuki
(quoted by Stephen in Acts 7:49-50)

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

Leader: This is what the Lord says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?"

All: Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?" declares the Lord.

Leader: "These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word.

***Praise Song** *Majesty/Lord I Lift Your Name on High* Hayford/Founds

Majesty, worship His majesty; Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise
Majesty, kingdom authority; Flow from His throne unto His own; His anthem raise

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King

Majesty, worship His majesty; Jesus who died, now glorified; King of all kings

Lord, I lift Your name on high; Lord, I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life; I'm so glad You came to save us

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

Lord, I lift Your name on high; Lord, I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life; I'm so glad You came to save us

Refrain: 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 (3x)

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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.

***Hymn**

Take My Life and Let It Be (Havergal/Malan)

#281

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days—
Let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee, swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee, filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold— not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose, ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine— it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart— it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne, it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love— my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only all for Thee, ever, only, all for Thee.

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Confession of Sin (unison)

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

Dear Heavenly Father, please forgive us for all the ways in which we have fallen short of Your Word and Your Way, especially opportunities we have let pass to share the Gospel and be a witness for You. Thank You for so willingly forgiving us, just as You forgive everyone who denies You in any way. Thank You that there is no condemnation for us as long as we are in Your Precious Son, Jesus. Please use us mightily to share the Gospel. In the Beautiful Name of Your Son Jesus we pray, Amen.

Silent Confession

Written words can never reflect exactly what is in each individual's heart, so this is a time for us to consider our own waywardness and speak it silently to God.

*Assurance of Pardon

When we confess our sins, seeking God's help to turn away from them, we are assured that He will extend grace, mercy and forgiveness. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross.

Leader: Hear the good news of the gospel: To all who confess their sins and look to Jesus in faith, there is now no condemnation. Our Father is rich in mercy and delights to forgive. Though we fall short in witness and obedience, Christ has perfectly obeyed in our place. Though we deny Him in many ways, He never denies His own.

In Jesus Christ—crucified, risen, and reigning—you are forgiven, welcomed, and renewed by His grace. Walk in the freedom and joy of His salvation.

All: Thanks be to God.

Receiving of New Covenant Partner

Tamanda Linzie

Covenant Partners commit to be in a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ and with the body of believers, walking together in love, remembering one another in prayer, helping one another in times of need, faithfully participating in worship, sharing our gifts, and spreading the gospel to the world.

Would you like to learn more about becoming a Covenant Partner at Neelsville? If so, please reach out to Pastor Jeff or Brian Farrell (bpf3356@gmail.com) for more info.

*Confession of Faith (unison)

Nicene Creed

Since the earliest years when disciples gathered, Christians have formulated statements to

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

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 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 & 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

Well Done (Kapchinski)
(observing the Day of the Christian Martyr)

Chancel Choir

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

*Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

A song of praise used by Christians since the early 18th century.

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said: "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do... for your Father know what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:"

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Children's Blessing

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

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

Hymn

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

#362

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

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

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Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:27-30; 18:1-14

Please turn in the pew Bible to pages 810 & 823 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

Cut, Throw, and Tear: The War for the Heart!

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

I Set My Hope On Jesus (Papa/Boswell/Getty)

#616

When this life of trials tests my faith, I set my hope on Jesus.
When the questions come and doubts remain, I set my hope on Jesus.
For the deepest wounds that time won't heal, there's a joy that runs still deeper.
There's a truth that's more than all I feel. I set my hope on Jesus.

Chorus: I set my hope on Jesus, my rock, my only trust,
Who set His heart upon me first. I set my hope on Jesus.

Though I falter in this war with sin, I set my hope on Jesus.
When I fail the fight and sink within, I set my hope on Jesus.
Though the shame would drown me in its sea, and I dread the waves of justice,
I will cast my life on Calvary. I set my hope on Jesus. (Chorus)

Though the world calls me to leave my Lord, I set my hope on Jesus.
Though it offers all its vain rewards, I set my hope on Jesus.
Though this heart of mine is prone to stray,
Give me grace enough to finish 'till I worship on that final day.
I set my hope on Jesus. (Chorus 2x)

I set my hope on Jesus.

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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 an instrumental piece, carrying praise to God out of the church and into the world.

After Worship Today!

Choir Rehearsal will begin at 12:30pm today in the Sanctuary! All are invited!

Did Jesus Really Say That? The Challenging Teachings of Jesus

Big Idea: Because Jesus has rescued us and made us his beloved disciples, we pursue radical purity and radical humility so that nothing in us becomes a stumbling block to others or to our own souls.

- True _____ Begins with Radical _____ (Matt. 18:1-4)
- The _____ of Causing Others to _____ (Matt. 18:5-7)
- The _____ Against the Sin _____ (Matt. 5:27-30; Matt. 18:7-9)
- The _____ Jesus Blesses (Matt. 5:8-9)
- The Shepherd Who Seeks the _____ (Matt. 18:10-14)
- Takeaways

Final Remarks

Next Week: *Turn the Other Cheek* (Luke 6:29)

Scripture

Matthew 5:27-30 - ²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Matthew 18:1-14 – ¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³ and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. ⁷ “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. ¹⁰ “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Something to think about . . .

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

1. What does Jesus mean by “become like children” in Matthew 18? How does the call to childlike humility (not innocence or naïveté) confront the ways we seek status, recognition, or control in our daily lives?
2. Jesus warns against causing others to stumble. Where might your attitudes, habits, or blind spots unintentionally “trip up” the faith of others—especially the vulnerable or the overlooked in our church family?
3. Jesus uses shocking imagery about cutting off a hand or gouging out an eye. What “drastic steps” might you need to take to remove a pattern, relationship, or activity that leads you toward sin or harms others spiritually?
4. “Blessed are the pure in heart” and “Blessed are the peacemakers.” How does a pure heart (single-minded devotion to God) naturally lead to peacemaking in relationships? Where is God inviting you to pursue reconciliation or gentleness this week?
5. The parable of the lost sheep shows God’s relentless care for every believer. How does God’s pastoral heart shape the way you view: your own failures, the failures of others, and the mission of our church toward those who wander?

Grow and Go with Us!

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

Next Generation Ministry

👉 **NPC Kids and Students Sunday School is now on break for the summer.**



Ages: Birth – 5th grade

Contact: kids@neelsville.org

👉 **VBS Registration is filling up!**

Scan the QR code to register for Rainforest Falls VBS (Aug 3-7 at 9am-12pm). While we explore the nature of God, we point our campers to living as a follower of Christ through praise songs, scripture lessons, recreational games, hands-on science, and more!



Ages: 6th – 12th grade

Contact: students@neelsville.org

Wednesday Night Youth Group will continue to meet throughout the summer at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

***On the 3rd Wednesday of each month**, Youth Group meets at 5:30pm for a service project.

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 – Life Lessons from 1&2 Peter (Parlor)

Contact: Adam Condrick (acondrick@segalco.com)

Sundays at 9:30am – Did Jesus Really Say That? (Room 1)

Contact: Pastor Jeff (pastorjeff@neelsville.org)

Sundays at 9:30am – The Essentials of the Faith (Conf Rm & Online)

Contacts: Peter Muriuki & Craig Wilson (cdw6@msn.com)

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

Contact: Craig Wilson (cdw6@msn.com) ***not meeting tonight 6/28**

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

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

This Week at Neelsville

More details of this week's schedule and upcoming events can be found in our weekly e-letter. Scan this QR code for last Friday's edition.



Sunday 6/28 12:30pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Monday 6/29

Tuesday 6/30

Wednesday 7/1 7:00pm Women's Bible Study – *Sermon on the Mount* (Online)
7:15pm Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday 7/2

Friday 7/3 **Holiday – Church Office Closed**

Saturday 7/4 **Holiday - Church Office Closed**

Sunday 7/5 9:15am Sunday Morning Small Group – *Life Lessons* (Parlor)
9:30am Classes for All Ages!
10:45am Worship Service (Sanctuary)
12:00pm Reception: 4th of July & Missions Return (Welcome Ctr)
12:00pm Men's Ministry Meeting (Conference Room)
12:30pm Women's Panera Lunch (Seneca Meadows)
7:00pm Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

Announcements

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

Reception: Please join us on Sun 7/5, in the Welcome Center following the church service. We are celebrating America's 250 years, plus the safe return of our youth missionary team from the Dominican Republic for all they did in spreading the gospel. God is good!

NPC Ladies! Let's get together for lunch after church NEXT Sun 7/5 after the reception! We will meet at 12:30-ish at Panera (Seneca Meadows) for a nice time of fellowship. Bring a friend!

Save the Date! On Sat, 7/11 from 9:00am to 11:30am we will have a light breakfast and our next meeting to *Cultivate a Flourishing Congregation!* In small group discussion we will examine our church's strengths, limitations, and resources, as well as the needs of our congregation and the surrounding community. This will help us identify opportunities to grow and flourish!

Pastors William and Susanna Okleley are looking for help to finish portions of the church building. The pair lead Blessed Redemption Outreach Ministry (BROM) in Haatso-Narhman, Accra, Ghana. Currently, the building needs clean-up from flooding (occurred the first week of June), burglar proof bars on the windows and doors to prevent theft, and new musical instruments (damaged by power fluctuations & the flood). **Anyone wishing to financially contribute to this work may write a check to William D. Okleley, or place cash into a pew envelope marked for William Okleley, into the church offering plate.** (Note: This is NOT a tax-deductible contribution). Contact Sue Farrell for more information (bfarrell01@aol.com).

Financial Update

	May Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income (\$K)	\$ 61.8 K	\$ 326.5 K	\$ 314.3 K	\$ 827.9 K
Expenses (\$K)*	\$ 57.8 K	\$ 331.2 K	\$ 362.7 K	\$ 859.4 K



neelsville.org/give

Excess Income/Expenses	\$ 3.9 K	-\$ 4.7 K
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*Additional expenses related to the DR Missions trip and the Cross renovation were released from restricted accounts (Harget Fund, Youth Missions, and Memorial Fund). Total of **\$42K released from restricted funds and not added to May Expenses.**

Stay Connected with Neelsville

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 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

Ulung Tanoto – *Director of Worship & Music*

ulung@neelsville.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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