



**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.*

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SERMON SERIES

# Did Jesus Really Say That?

THE CHALLENGING  
TEACHINGS  
OF JESUS



**Sunday, July 5, 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.

# Order of Service

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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

*What Wondrous Love This Is*  
(American Folk Melody)

Ulung Tanoto

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

## Welcome & Announcements

Brian Farrell

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\* = please rise if you are able

## \*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 81 and Matthew 23

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

**Leader:** People of God, hear the voice of the Lord: "Oh, that my people would listen to me..." This is the same voice Jesus lifted over Jerusalem, longing to gather His children under His wings. The God who calls us is the God who loves us.

**All:** We come, ready to listen, ready to return, ready to rest under His sheltering mercy.

**Leader:** Though we have wandered, though our hearts have resisted, the Lord has not stopped calling. He stands before us with compassion, inviting us to say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

**All:** We come to worship the One who gathers the willing, restores the weary, and fills the desolate places with His presence.

**Leader:** Let us open our hearts, for the God who longs for His people is here to meet us with grace.

**All:** We worship the Lord with joy and gratitude.

## \*Praise Song

*Shout to the North*

Smith

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Men of faith, rise up and sing of the great and glorious King.  
You are strong when you feel weak, in your brokenness complete.

*Chorus:* Shout to the north and the south; Sing to the east and the west.  
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up, women of the truth, stand and sing to broken hearts  
Who can know the healing pow'r of our awesome King of love. (*Chorus*)

*Bridge:* We've been through fire, we've been through rain;  
We've been refined by the pow'r of His name.  
We've fallen deeper in love with You.  
You've burned the truth on our lips. (*Chorus*)

Rise up church with broken wings, fill this place with songs again  
Of our God who reigns on high. By His grace again we'll fly. (*Chorus*)

Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of heaven and earth.

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## **\*Prayer of Adoration**

Brian Farrell

*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.*

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## **\*Hymn**

Speak O Lord (Getty/Townend)

**#292**

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to receive the food of Your holy word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail; Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

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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: Jesus laments over Jerusalem, saying, "How often I would have gathered your children together... and you were not willing."  
We confess that we too have resisted His voice, trusted in our own

strength, and allowed our hearts to grow desolate. Let us come before Him with honesty and hope.

**All:** Merciful Lord, we confess that we have turned from Your gathering love. We have ignored Your call, chosen paths that lead to emptiness, and built our lives on foundations that cannot stand. Forgive us for the ways we shut You out, for the pride that keeps us distant, and for the fear that keeps us from returning. Gather us again by Your grace, and make our hearts a dwelling place for Your presence. Through Christ 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: Though Jesus spoke of a desolate house, He also promised a day when His people would say, "*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*" In Christ, that day has come. The One who lamented over our wandering has gone to the cross to gather us forever. In Him, your desolation is met with mercy, your distance is met with welcome, your sin is met with forgiveness.

**All:** Thanks be to God! In Christ we are gathered, restored, and made whole.

## \*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

So Will I (Hastings/Houston/Fatkin)

Ulung Tanoto

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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.

Please turn in the pew Bible to pages 829 or flip ahead in the bulletin to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

A Desolate House

Theo R.

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.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Holy and merciful God, our Father, you have made us in your image and for yourself. You have made this good world for us to tend and to enjoy. God our Father,

People: Hear the praise of grateful hearts.

Leader: You sought your ancient people when they strayed from you. You freed them from the oppressor and brought them home. God, our Father,

People: Hear the praise of grateful hearts.

Leader: You have sent your Son to bring us home to you.

Leader: By his Incarnation— People: You have found us.

Leader: By his Death— People: You have forgiven us.

Leader: By his Resurrection— People: You have freed us.

Leader: God, our Father, People: Hear the praise of grateful hearts.

Prayer of Consecration

God’s promises are confirmed as we partake in faith – spiritual nourishment enabling our growth in grace, affirmation of our union

Leader: Holy and merciful God, our Father, send down your Holy Spirit on our bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and on your people, that we may be the body of Christ, reconciled to you and to each other by his blood. By your Holy Spirit make us—

*with God, and gratitude  
for our fellowship with  
other believers.*

***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.***

**People:** One with Christ, one with each other, and one in mission to all  
the world,

Leader: Until Christ shall come in final victory and we feast together at  
his heavenly banquet. We cry,

**People:** Maranatha! Even so, come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen!

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## **\*Hymn**

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

**#594**

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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## **\*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.*

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## **\*Postlude**

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

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*Did Jesus Really Say That? The Challenging Teachings of Jesus*

**Next Week:** *Sell All of What You Have* (Luke 18:18-23)

<sup>37</sup> “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>38</sup> See, your house is left to you desolate. <sup>39</sup> For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

## Something to think about . . .

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

1. What is the spiritual condition of your "inner house"?
2. Are you opening or shutting the doors of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces?
3. Is your daily living embracing Jesus ' invitation to be gathered, the fierce hope of proclaiming, " Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"?

## **After Worship Today!**

**Please join us for a reception in the Welcome Center** celebrate America's 250 years, Neelsville's safe and successful mission trip to the Dominican Republic, and our two new Covenant Partners, Keely Hutto and Tamanda Linzie.

There will be a **Men's Ministry Meeting** in the Conference Room at 12:00pm.

Ladies, please join us for **Lunch at Panera (Seneca Meadows)** at 12:30pm!

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



Ages: Birth – 5th grade

Contact: [kids@neelsville.org](mailto: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](mailto:students@neelsville.org)

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

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

## 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 – Did Jesus Really Say That?** (Room 1)

Contact: Pastor Jeff ([pastorjeff@neelsville.org](mailto:pastorjeff@neelsville.org))

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

Contacts: Peter Muriuki & Craig Wilson ([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)) **\*not meeting tonight 6/28**

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

Contact: Kim Evans & Joanne Wilson ([joannelwilson@gmail.com](mailto:joannelwilson@gmail.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 7/5	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Reception (Welcome Ctr)</b>
	<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Men's Ministry Meeting (Conference Room)</b>
	<b>12:30pm</b>	<b>Women's Panera Lunch (Seneca Meadows)</b>
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

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Monday 7/6

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Tuesday 7/7

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Wednesday 7/8	7:00pm	Women's Bible Study – <i>Sermon on the Mount</i> (Online)
	7:15pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

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Thursday 7/9

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Friday 7/10

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Saturday 7/11	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>CFC Meeting and Light Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)</b>
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Sunday 7/12	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>
	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.

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

**THIS 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!

**Please join us NEXT SUN 7/12 after Worship for a 2nd Sunday Fellowship Lunch** to learn more about Sons of Thunder Ministry, a mission in Zambia that NPC has supported for many years. NPC members Tom and Michele Costa recently visited Sons of Thunder, and will provide their thoughts, observations, and encouragement. Please join us!

**Missions Prayer Support – In July we are praying for the Sons of Thunder Ministry in Zambia, which is feeding Africa physically and spiritually through the enabling of the Holy Spirit.** They are sharing the gospel; running a medical clinic, lab, & maternity center; providing education and scholarships; teaching farming God's Way; and feeding the needy. We encourage you to pray for the success of these ministries. **TODAY we are specifically praying** for their spiritual grounding. The ministry was founded on God's word and remains faithful to it. We pray that they will be able to show God's love through their many activities and efforts, and that their support of local churches and outreach will bring many more people to know and love Jesus. We pray that they can continue to feed Zambia spiritually. We pray especially for God's guidance and wisdom for the new leadership on the farm: for Innocent and for Able.

## Financial Update

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



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

<b>Excess Income/Expenses</b>	\$ 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

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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)

**Ulung Tanoto** – *Director of Worship & Music*

[ulung@neelsville.com](mailto:ulung@neelsville.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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