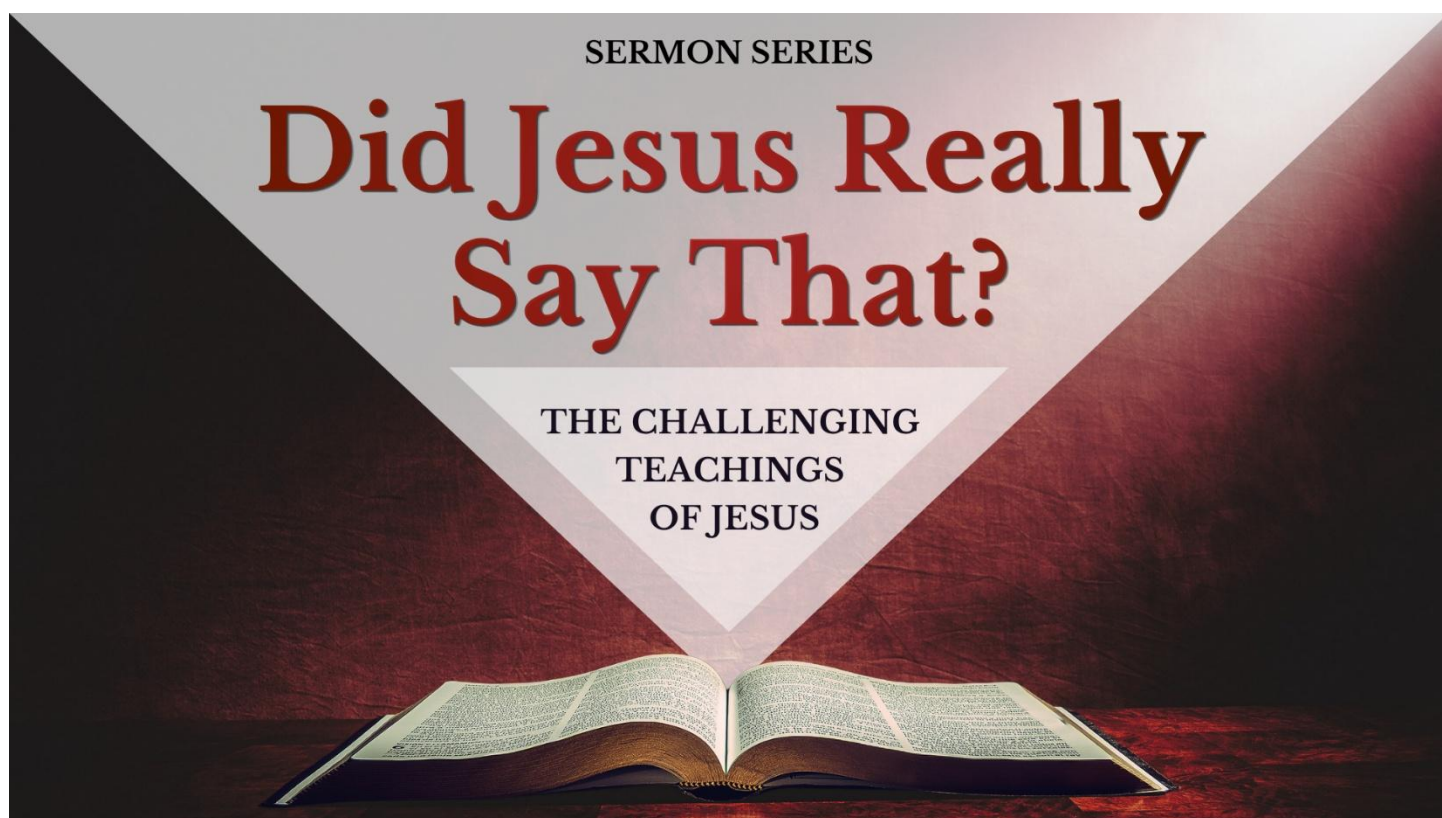




NPC strives to be an intercultural church of believers in Jesus Christ who delight to share the good news in Germantown and beyond.



Sunday, August 2, 2026 – 10:45am Worship

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

Softly and Tenderly (Thompson)

Ulung Tanoto

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

Welcome & Announcements

Angela Macri

* = please rise if you are able

*Call to Worship

Psalm 103:2-5, Luke 5:24-26

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

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

People: He forgives all our iniquity, heals all our diseases, redeems our life from the pit, and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

Leader: Come before Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, who has authority on earth to forgive sins.

People: We come with awe and gratitude, for in him mercy meets us, forgiveness raises us, and grace sends us out in worship.

All: Let us worship the Lord, who forgives, restores, and makes all things new.

*Praise Song

Shout to the Lord

Zschech

Our Jesus, our Saviour, Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days, we want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.
Our comfort, our shelter, tower of refuge and strength;
Let every breath, all that we are, never cease to worship You.

Chorus: Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing.
Power and majesty, praise to the King.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name.
We sing for joy at the work of your hands,

Forever we'll love you, forever we'll stand.
Nothing compares to the promise we have in You.

(Repeat All)

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***Prayer of Adoration**

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**

Softly and Tenderly (Thompson)

#406

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling , Calling for you and for me
See on the portals He's waiting and watching , Watching for you and for me

Chorus: Come home, come home, Ye who are weary come home
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling, "O sinner come home"

O for the wonderful love He has promised, Promised for you and for me
Though we have sinned He has mercy and pardon, Pardon for you and for me *(Chorus)*

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies, Mercies for you and for me? *(Chorus)*

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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.

Holy and Merciful God, we confess that we often come to you seeking relief from our visible burdens—our pain, sickness, grief, strained relationships, weariness, fear, uncertainty, and the pressures that weigh on our bodies, minds, homes, and communities—while ignoring the deeper sickness of sin within us. We have doubted the authority of Christ, questioned your mercy, resisted your word, and trusted our own strength, having a plan B, more than trusting your grace to meet our needs.

Forgive us for the bitterness we have nurtured, the debts we have refused to release, and the people we have failed to carry to Jesus in prayer, love, and persistence. Forgive us for standing near truth while guarding ourselves against its claim on our lives.

Lord Jesus Christ, speak again the word only you can speak. Forgive our sins, heal our hearts, raise us from spiritual paralysis, and make us a forgiven people who become a forgiving people. 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

Based on Luke 5:20, 24 and 2 Cor. 5:18-19

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: Jesus Christ has authority on earth to forgive sins. To the one brought before him in need, he said, "Your sins are forgiven you." To the one who could not raise himself, he said, "Rise, pick up your bed and go home."

In Christ, God reconciled the world to himself, not counting our sins against us. Therefore, all who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are forgiven, restored, and raised into a new life of worship.

Hear and believe the good news, in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

*Confession of Faith (unison)

Belgic Confession, 1561

Since the earliest years when disciples gathered, Christians have formulated statements to summarize what we believe. These creeds help remind us of the richness of our faith and can help answer the questions of those who may be wondering about Christianity.

We believe that God—who is perfectly merciful and, also very just—sent the Son to assume the nature in which the disobedience had been committed, in order to bear in it the punishment of sin by his most bitter passion and death. So, God made known his justice toward his Son, who was charged with our sin, and he poured out his goodness and mercy on us, who are guilty and worthy of damnation, giving to us his Son to die, by a most perfect love, and raising him to life for our justification, in order that by him we might have immortality and eternal life. Amen.

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

Tend (Gentile/Rose/Early)

Angela Macri

"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

Luke 5:17-26

Please turn in the pew Bible to pages 861 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 10 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

Son of Man Forgives Sin

Elder Connie Barnes

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

Pastor SeongSu Hong

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 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.

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—

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!

He became sin, who knew no sin;
That we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Chorus: Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel.
The Rescue for sinners, The Ransom from heaven;
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine
Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, love so amazing. (*Chorus*)

Bridge: All our hope is in You, All our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God, The Light of the world. (*Chorus*)

Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all. The Lord of all! The Lord of all.

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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**

Jesus Messiah (Carson/Cash/Reeves/Tomlin)

Praise Team

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

After Worship Today!

Please join us starting at noon for VBS Decorating! Lunch is provided for volunteers!

Ladies, please join us at 12:30 for a Women's Lunch at Panera! (Seneca Meadows)

Did Jesus Really Say That? The Challenging Teachings of Jesus

Big Idea: Jesus has authority on earth to forgive sins, and his forgiveness raises us into a new life of worship, witness, and mercy.

A crowded room and a deeper need:

The greater gift:

- The deepest human need is not merely relief from suffering; it is _____ with God.

The sign

- Jesus has the _____ to _____ sins.

The Synoptic Witness (Matt. 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Psalms 103:2-5)

The Church's Ministry

- The _____ community becomes a _____ community.

Personal Application

- Forgiveness means _____ revenge and telling the truth about the wrong.
- Forgiveness is not an _____ we generate. It is a _____ we receive and then give.

The invitation

- Grace raises us to a new life of _____.

KEY TRUTHS TO REMEMBER

- Jesus sees the deeper need beneath the visible need.
- Forgiveness is the greater miracle because it restores us to God.
- The visible healing confirmed Jesus' invisible authority to forgive sins.
- The forgiven community is called to become a forgiving community.

WHERE AM I IN THE ROOM?

- The man on the mat: Do I need to receive mercy from Jesus instead of trying to fix myself?
- The friends: Who is God calling me to carry to Jesus through prayer, love, and persistence?
- The crowd: Am I close enough to see Jesus but still not surrendered to him?
- The critics: Am I resisting the claim of Jesus even while standing near the truth?

TAKEAWAY: Jesus still has authority on earth to forgive sins. When he speaks forgiveness, he also calls us to rise, walk, worship, and bear witness to his mercy.

Next Week: Sabbath for Man (Mark 2:27-28)

¹⁷ On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. ¹⁸ And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, ¹⁹ but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. ²⁰ And when he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” ²¹ And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” ²² When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts? ²³ Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? ²⁴ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.” ²⁵ And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. ²⁶ And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, “We have seen extraordinary things today.”

Something to think about . . .

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

1. What visible need am I bringing to Jesus today?
2. What deeper need might Jesus be addressing beneath it?
3. Where do I need to receive forgiveness more deeply?
4. Whom do I need to forgive, release, or begin praying for?
5. How can I help carry someone else to Jesus this week?

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 on break for the summer.**



Ages: Birth – 5th grade

Contact: kids@neelsville.org

👉 **VBS starts tomorrow!**

Rainforest Falls VBS (Aug 3-7 at 9am-12pm) explores the nature of God, pointing 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. ***Not mtg 8/5**

***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 9:30am – 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)

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 8/2	12:00pm	VBS Decorating (Sanctuary/Narthex/Welcome Center)
Monday 8/3	9am-12pm	VBS (Welcome Center)
Tuesday 8/4	9am-12pm	VBS (Welcome Center)
Wednesday 8/5	9am-12pm 7:15pm	VBS (Welcome Center) Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Thursday 8/6	9am-12pm	VBS (Welcome Center)
Friday 8/7	9am-12pm	VBS (Welcome Center)
Saturday 8/8		
Sunday 8/9	9:30am 10:45am 12:00pm	Adult Classes (Rm 1 and Conf Rm) Worship Service (Sanctuary) Second Sundays Fellowship & VBS Finale (Front Lawn)

Announcements

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

Decorating Help Needed After Worship Today! Our team will meet TODAY after worship to finalize the Rainforest Falls transformation! We are excited for the kids to engage with the beauty and nature of God through the upcoming week. Please join us to help create this for the kids and families!

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

The NPC Men's Ministry is having a Hugh Smith Memorial Cookout in the back parking lot on Sat 9/26 at 5pm. We will reflect on the ministry work and life of our brother Hugh as our Lord empowered him, blessed him and carried him home. Stay tuned for further details and signup information.

Reach the World Thru ESOL - Neelsville will again have ESOL classes beginning Sat, Sept 12 at 9-11am with over 100 students that register. **We need a teacher for our beginner class and an administrator to be available 8:30-10am every other Saturday.** God is bringing people right to our door so that we can share His love and help them to see Him at work among us. Consider being a part of our ESOL program. Contact Joanne Wilson at joannelwilson@gmail.com to ask about any of these ways or other ways of ministering to our community.

Financial Update

	June Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income (\$K)	\$ 78.3 K	\$ 404.8 K	\$ 413.9 K	\$ 827.9 K
Expenses (\$K)	\$ 53.3 K	\$ 379.5 K	\$ 429.7 K	\$ 859.4 K
Difference	\$ 24.9 K	\$ 25.2 K		



neelsville.org/give

Footnote – Income for June includes payment from Camp Sonshine. Any extraordinary expenses paid out of prior designated/special funds, are excluded from these figures.

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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