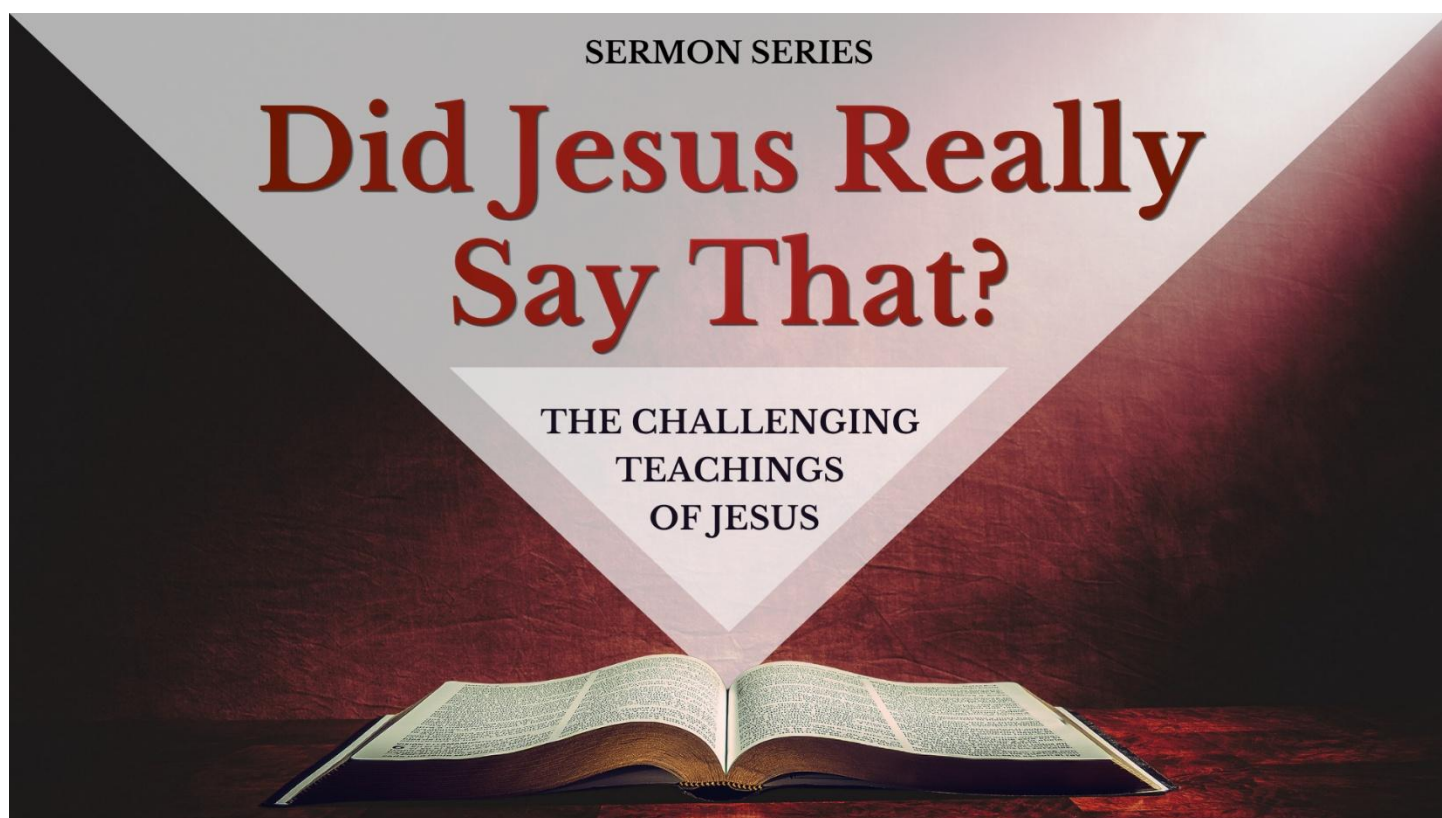




NPC strives to be an intercultural church of believers in Jesus Christ who delight to share the good news in Germantown and beyond.



Sunday, August 9, 2026 – 10:45am Worship

Welcome, VBS Families!

Welcome and thank you to all the families that participated in our Neelsville Vacation Bible School this week! We loved hosting and serving you all and hope the children had a blessed time. Our hope is that you see who we are and what we do, and in that, you will see the love of Christ in us. If you have not found a church home, we welcome you to join us. If you have questions about our faith, please talk to us and we would love to share. Once again, thank you!

In Christ,

Pastor SeongSu Hong

Next Generation Ministries

seongsu@neelsville.org

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

Everlasting God (Brown/Riley)

Ulung Tanoto

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

Psalm 116:7-8, Hebrews 4:9-10

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

Leader: Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

People: For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;

Leader: So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,

All: for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

*Praise Song

Everlasting God

Brown/Riley

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord, We will wait upon the Lord (2x)

Our God, You reign forever, Our hope, our Strong Deliverer

Chorus: You are the everlasting God, The everlasting God

You do not faint, You won't grow weary

You're the defender of the weak, You comfort those in need

You lift us up on wings like eagles (*Verse and Chorus repeat*)

Our God, You reign forever, Our hope, our Strong Deliverer (*Chorus*)

*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

All Creatures of Our God and King (Baird/Draper)

#67

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us and sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
O burning sun with golden beam,
and silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Great rushing winds who are so strong,
You clouds above that sail along
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Fair rising morn with praise rejoice,
stars nightly shining find a voice
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
and worship Him in humbleness.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
and praise the Spirit, Three-in-One.
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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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.

O Lord, You rested from Your work and invited us into Your Sabbath rest—a rest where we do not labor for our salvation but receive it as Your gracious gift. In that rest, You call us into worship, fellowship, and communion with You.

Forgive us when we live as though we are indispensable, believing that everything depends on us. Forgive us when we become so busy that we neglect prayer and fail to seek Your wisdom, power, and will. Forgive us when we spend so much time doing things for You that we forget to spend time with You.

Lord, realign our hearts to remember that You alone are the giver of life and that it is You who works in and through us. Teach us to rest in Christ, trusting not in our own works or strength, but in Your finished work and unfailing grace. May our lives flow from communion with You rather than striving to earn Your acceptance. 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 Isaiah 43:25

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: I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

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

People: Thanks be to God!

*Confession of Faith (unison)

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.

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.

Special Presentation

*Rainforest Falls
Vacation Bible School*

*SeongSu Hong,
Melissa Evans & Angela Macri*

Today is the VBS Finale and we celebrate this past week all the way from "Rainforest Falls!" We will share some highlights from VBS and will present a skit like the ones this past week! Through skits, songs, and stories we learned that God is our creator, God knows everything, God is our safe place, God is love, and God is forever. Wow God!

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	God Is (Mizell) God Loves Us So (Stocker)	VBS Children & Leaders
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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

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
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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.

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*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.

Please turn in the pew Bible to pages 838 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

The Sabbath Is For Man

Pastor SeongSu Hong

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

In Christ Alone (Townend/Getty)

#181

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground, His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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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

In Christ Alone (Townend/Getty)

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 for a picnic lunch on the Front Lawn for our Second Sundays Fellowship with our VBS Families! These lunches are held on the second Sunday of each month so we can get to know one another better and hear what is going on within our church ministries.

Thank you from Rainforest Falls! _____

Rainforests are amazing! A variety of restorative plants thrive in that lush setting and half of the Earth's land animals find shelter there. While we explored the richness of Rainforest Falls and its vibrant natural environment, our VBS team connected this to the nature of God. He is a refuge, He provides life, and He restores us. Wow, God!

We had a life-changing adventure this week with over 50 local children and want to thank you for lifting this ministry in your prayers. Throughout the week, our leaders reminded kids to keep their eyes open to seeing all that God has done and is still doing around them. Seeds of faith were planted in young hearts and we know He will continue the work to help these truths take root in their lives.

A very sincere thank you to those who served in our 2026 Vacation Bible School ministry. We stand in awe of the wonders that can happen when we all work together. Thank you for those who donated time, energy, supplies, food, drinks, and more to lighten the load. We felt God's love with us daily and thank you for your compassion and care for this program.

Did Jesus Really Say That? The Challenging Teachings of Jesus

Main Point: The Sabbath is a Gift

- The Sabbath is for Man
- Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath

Next Week: *Sinners in the Hands of a Competent Physician* (Luke 5:27-32)

²³ One Sabbath he was going through the grainfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. ²⁴ And the Pharisees were saying to him, “Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” ²⁵ And he said to them, “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: ²⁶ how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?” ²⁷ And he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.”

Something to think about . . .

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

1. Jesus said, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.” What does this teach us about God’s purpose for the Sabbath?
2. How did the Pharisees misunderstand the Sabbath and how can we fall into a similar mindset of turning God’s good gifts into burdens?
3. According to today’s scripture, what does true Sabbath rest look like? How is it more than simply taking a day off from work?
4. Jesus declared that He is “Lord even of the Sabbath.” Why is this such a significant claim, and how does resting in Christ free us from striving to earn God’s acceptance?
5. What is one practical way you can receive the Sabbath as God’s gift this week—making time to worship, rest, enjoy Christian fellowship, or trust Christ instead of relying on your own efforts?

Grow and Go with Us! _____

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

Next Generation Ministry

👉 **Sunday School returns on August 30 for all children age 3 years and older.** Join us weekly from 9:30-10:30am as we review chronological Bible lessons as part of The Gospel Project curriculum.



Ages: Birth – 5th grade

Contact: kids@neelsville.org

😊 **VBS Finale is TODAY during Worship!**

😊 **Please join us in the Front Lawn for lunch TODAY after Worship** for our Second Sundays Fellowship with our VBS Families!



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 9:30am – 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 8/9	12:00pm	Second Sundays Fellowship & VBS Finale (Front Lawn)
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Monday 8/10

Tuesday 8/11

Wednesday 8/12	7:00pm	Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)
	7:15pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday 8/13

Friday 8/14

Saturday 8/15

Sunday 8/16	9:30am	Adult Classes (Rm 1 and Conf Rm)
	10:45am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

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.

Announcements

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

Sunday School returns on August 30 for all children aged 3 years and older. If you wish to learn more about working with our Next Generation, please connect with Pastor SeongSu Hong or Melissa Evans to serve this amazing ministry. We always welcome more Neelsville adults to partner in discipleship and education of our children and youth. Serve weekly or monthly, whatever works for your schedule.

Stay tuned for our Next Generation fall family event calendar! We have plans for outdoor activities, a Fall-O-Ween festival, and more this year! Make sure you are signed up to receive our weekly newsletter so you can join the fun. Scan the QR code on the back of this bulletin or email your request to office@neelsville.org.

ESOL Classes Start in September – Know anyone who would like to be in an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) class? We will be starting classes on Sat 9/12 at 9-11am. Students of all ages, and levels of English proficiency are welcome. There are flyers in the Narthex to give to friends, co-workers and others you may come in contact with. Flyers direct the student to the online registration at this QR code. Take some to share!



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.

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.

Neelsville Membership - Would you like to learn more about becoming a Covenant Partner (member) of NPC? The first step is to attend two brief sessions to learn more about our church, our denomination, and our beliefs. Then you can decide if you would like to join. The sessions can be scheduled when convenient for you – on Sunday mornings, weekday evenings, or even remotely. For more info contact Pastor Jeff or Brian Farrell (bpf3356@gmail.com).

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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