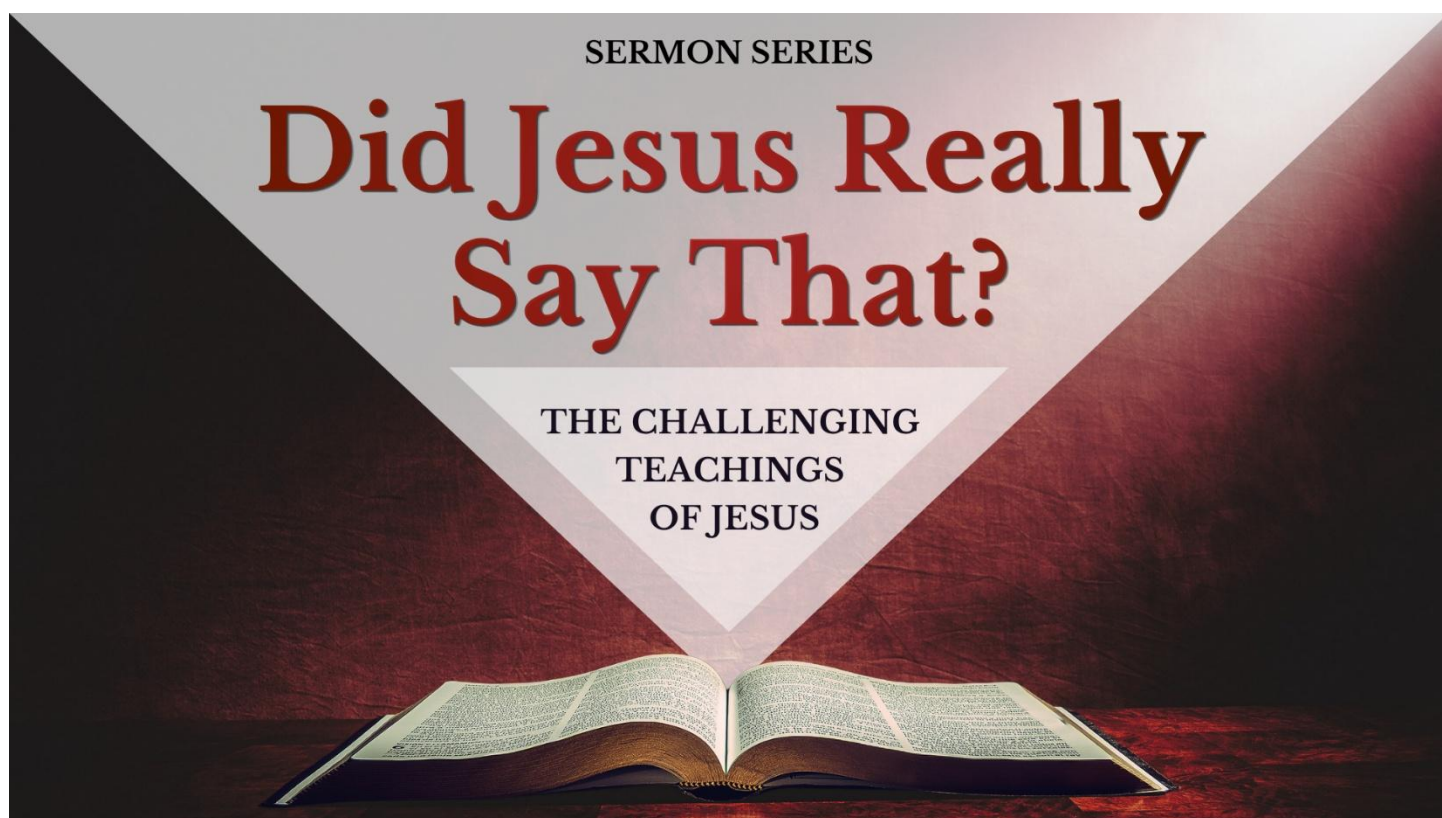




NPC strives to be an intercultural church of believers in Jesus Christ who delight to share the good news in Germantown and beyond.



Sunday, August 16, 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.

NEXT GEN SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK ON AUGUST 30! Join us for classes for All Ages at 9:30am Sunday. We have offerings for everyone from preschoolers to adults. Learn more on page 10.

Order of Service

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

Doctor Jesus (The Grace Thrillers)

Praise Team

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

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor SeongSu Hong

* = please rise if you are able

*Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1-5

Eric Shirley

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 all that is within me, bless His holy name.

All: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits—who forgives all your sins, who heals all your diseases,

Leader: who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

All: We come to worship the Lord who forgives, heals, restores, and renews. We come to the One who calls sinners and makes them whole.

*Hymn

Wonderful, Merciful Savior (Rodgers/Wyse)

#199

Wonderful, merciful Savior, precious Redeemer and Friend;
Who would have thought that a Lamb could rescue the souls of men?
Oh, you rescue the souls of men.

Chorus: You are the One that we praise, you are the One we adore.
You give the healing and grace our hearts always hunger for,
Oh, our hearts always hunger for.

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper, Spirit we long to embrace;
You offer hope when our hearts have hopelessly lost the way.
Oh, we hopelessly lost the way. (*Chorus*)

Almighty, infinite Father, faithfully loving Your own;
Here in our weakness you find us falling before your throne.
Oh, we're falling before your throne. (*Chorus 2x*)

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***Prayer of Adoration**

Pastor Jeffrey Rickett

Our Pastor leads a prayer in which we lift our hearts to praise God for who He is and to express our deep love for Him.

***Hymn**

Lord, Have Mercy (For What We Have Done)
(Boswell/Papa/Tealy/Keyes)

#113

For what we have done and left undone, we fall on your countless mercies.
For sins that are known and those unknown, we call on your name so holy.
For envy and pride, for closing our eyes, for scorning our very neighbor.
In thought, word and deed we failed you, our King; how deeply we need a Savior.

Chorus: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on us.

For what You have done, your life of love you perfectly lived, we praise You.
Though tempted and tried, you fixed your eyes; you finished the work God gave You.
And there on the tree, a King among thieves, you bled for a world's betrayal.
You loved to the end, our merciful friend; how pure and forever faithful. (*Chorus*)

Bridge: For hearts that are cold, for seizing control; for scorning our very Maker.
In thought, word, and deed we failed you, our King;
How deeply we need a Savior.

(*Chorus 2x*)

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Confession of Sin

Based on Luke 5:27-32

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 said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Like Levi, we are people He finds in the middle of our ordinary lives, carrying burdens, failures, and habits we cannot heal on our own. Let us come honestly before the Great Physician.

All: Merciful God, we confess that we often hide our sickness from You. We cling to self-reliance, we minimize our sin, and we resist Your call to follow.

Forgive us for the ways we wander, for the pride that keeps us from Your renewing grace, and for the fear that keeps us from Your presence. Have mercy on us, Jesus. Call us again and make us whole. 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 5:27-32

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 does not wait for the healthy—He comes for the sick. He does not call the righteous—He calls sinners. To all who turn to Jesus, He speaks a better word: Your sins are forgiven. Your life is redeemed. Your place at His table is secure.

People: Thanks be to God for the mercy of Christ, our competent and compassionate Physician.

*Confession of Faith (unison)

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines

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: In one God: Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who provides order, purpose, meaning, and fulfillment to all creation.

We believe: That in Jesus Christ, who was born of Mary, God became man and is sovereign Lord of life and history.

We believe: That the Holy Spirit is God and is present in the world, empowering and guiding believers to understand and live out their faith in Jesus Christ..

We believe: That the church is the one body of Christ, the whole community of persons reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and entrusted with God's ministry.

We believe: The resurrection of Jesus Christ has overcome the power of death and gives assurance of life after death.

We believe: And we look forward to his coming again in all fullness and glory to make all creation new and to gather all the faithful under God's kingdom.

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

The Prayer (Sage/Foster)

Eileen & Steve Bauer

"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

Sung in Italian

La luce che tu dai
Nel cuore resterà
A ricordarci che
L'eterna stella sei
Quanta fede c'è
E la fede che hai acceso in noi
Sento che ci salverà

English Translation

The light that you give
In our heart it will remain
To remind us that
You are the eternal star
How much faith there is
And the faith that you have kindled within us
I feel it will save us

*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.

Back to School Blessing

Pastor SeongSu Hong

As our students and teachers are preparing to start a new school year, we take a moment to pray over them.

Lord, as our students and teachers embark on another school year, we ask for your protection over them. May they walk in Jesus' light in all their daily interactions and grow in knowledge and empathy to the needs around them. We ask for them to find joy in the return to their studies this year.

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 5:27-32

Please turn in the pew Bible to pages 861 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

*Sinners in the Hands of
a Competent Physician*

Elder Jonathan Harris

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 Jeff

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.

Minister: Let us boldly proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

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.

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace. By our communion, keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel, preserve us from all sin and strengthen us for life as your ambassadors in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn

Jesus Paid It All (Nifong)

#810

I hear the Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all."

Chorus: Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe.
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

Lord, now indeed I find Thy power and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots, and melt the heart of stone. *(Chorus)*

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save," my lips shall still repeat. *(Chorus)*

Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.
He washed it white as snow. He washed it white as snow.

O Praise the one who paid my debt, and raised this life up from the dead. *(4x) (Chorus)*

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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 Paid It All (Nifong)

Praise Team

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

- Sin as Sickness
- Repentance as Medicine
- Righteousness as Health

Next Week: *Eating Flesh and Drinking Blood* (John 6:53-56)

²⁷ After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.” ²⁸ And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

²⁹ And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. ³⁰ And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” ³¹ And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

Something to think about . . .

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

1. What are some of the pictures or metaphors of God that you tend to latch onto? Are there any in particular which make you want to be closer to him? Are there any which make you want to keep your distance?
 - a. What are the primary pictures or metaphors which Jesus uses?
2. How would it change the way you view sin to think of it as a sickness, rather than as a strictly legal category?
 - a. In which areas of your life has the sickness of sin paralyzed you? What would it look like if you were healed?
3. The medicine of repentance consists of a twofold action of (1) turning away from sin and (2) turning toward God. Where in your life do you try to do one action and not the other?
4. Jesus is our good, competent physician: he will not be satisfied until we are fully healed, fully healthy, fully righteous, and ready for full communion with him and the Father.
 - a. How does this view of Jesus as our physician and his goal for us impact our response to the salvation he brings?
 - b. How does this view help us increase our faith and trust in his work?
5. Levi left everything to follow Jesus. What are you holding onto which is preventing you from following his teachings and his example?

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 & youth (ages 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

We're preparing for the new school year! Please take a moment to update our records thru this QR code for each child in your family, ages birth thru 5th grade.



Ages: 6th – 12th grade

Contact: students@neelsville.org

Wednesday Night Youth Group meets at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.

***On the 3rd Wednesday of each month**, Youth Group meets at 5:30pm for a service project. **Mtg this week 8/19!**

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)

NEW Small Groups Begin Sunday, September 6! _____

This fall, we're stepping into a church-wide sermon and small-group series through *1 Peter — Living Hope in Exile*. In a world that often feels scattered, pressured, or uncertain, Peter's letter reminds us that God has given us a living hope that steadies us, shapes us, and sends us out as His people.

Why Small Groups Matter

Small groups are the heartbeat of discipleship at Neelsville. They're where Scripture becomes shared life, where encouragement becomes real, and where faith grows through honest conversation and prayer. If Sunday worship is the gathering of the whole family, small groups are the living rooms — places to be known, strengthened, and formed together.

Whether you're new, returning, or simply longing for deeper connection, this is the perfect time to join in.

When & How to Join

Small groups will meet throughout the week — different days, times, and formats — so you can find a group that fits your rhythm.

Sign up today using this QR code in the bulletin or on the screen.

Your registration helps us connect you with a group where you can grow, contribute, and walk alongside others in Christ.



Series Begins: Sunday, September 6

Come ready to open the Scriptures, engage deeply, and discover how God forms resilient hope in His people — even in seasons of exile.

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 8/16	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
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Monday 8/17

Tuesday 8/18

Wednesday 8/19	5:30pm	Youth Group Service Project (Fellowship Hall)
	7:15pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday 8/20

Friday 8/21

Saturday 8/22

Sunday 8/23	9:30am	Adult Classes (Rm 1 and Conf Rm)
	10:45am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

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.

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.

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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