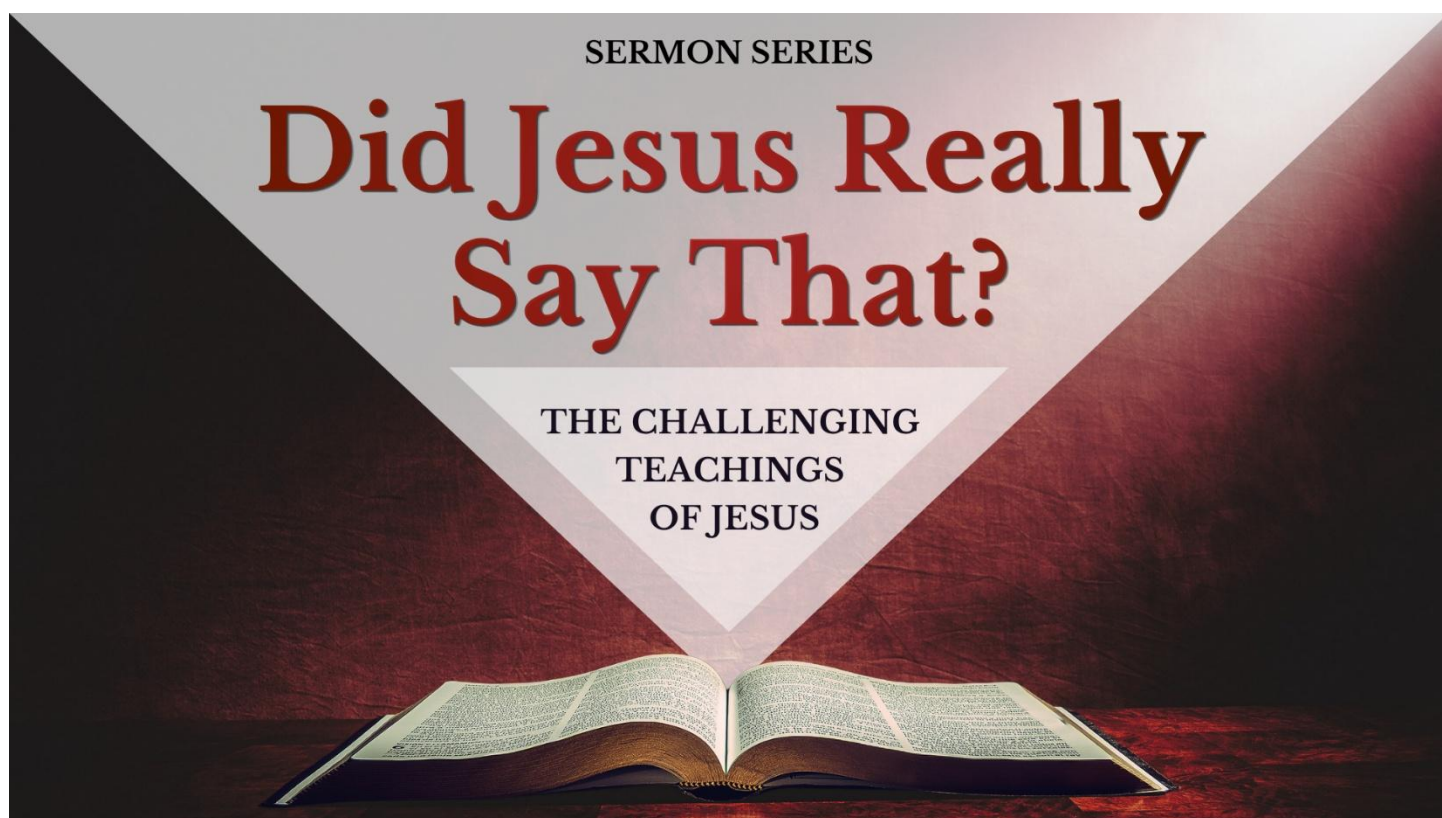




NPC strives to be an intercultural church of believers in Jesus Christ who delight to share the good news in Germantown and beyond.



Sunday, August 23, 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 NEXT SUNDAY, 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

Better Is One Day (Redman)

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

Based on John 6:53-56 and Psalm 104:15

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

Leader: Come, all who hunger for life that does not fade;

All: The Lord gives bread to strengthen the human heart.

Leader: We come to Christ, the true bread from heaven,

People: Who nourishes us with eternal life.

Leader: Come, all who thirst for grace deeper than our need;

People: The Lord gives wine to gladden the heart and oil to make the face shine.

Leader: We come to Christ, the true drink

People: Whose presence fills us with gladness and hope.

Leader: In him we abide, and he abides in us; our hearts are strengthened by his life.

People: With glad and grateful hearts, let us worship the living Christ.

*Praise Song

Better Is One Day

Redman

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord almighty.
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

Chorus: Better is one day in Your courts, better is one day in Your house,
Better is one day in Your courts than thousands elsewhere. (2x)

One thing I ask and I would seek: To see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells. (2x) (*Chorus*)

Bridge: My heart and flesh cry out for You, the living God.
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen. Come once again to me.
I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You, to You.

Bridge 2: Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day than thousands elsewhere. (2x)
(*Chorus*)

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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**

As the Deer (Nystrom)

#538

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship You.

Chorus: You alone are my strength, my shield; to You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship You.

I want You more than gold or silver. Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye.

You're my friend and You are my brother, even though you are a King.
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything. (*Chorus*)

You alone are my strength, my shield; to You alone may my spirit yield. (3x)
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship You.

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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.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the source of life. You give the bread that
strengthens our hearts and the living water that satisfies our souls.
You invite us to feed on you by faith, to abide in you, and to receive
from you all that we need for life with God.

Yet we confess that we often neglect your gifts. We ask for our daily bread, then live as though we must provide it by our own strength. We receive your mercy, then rush back to self-reliance. We thirst for grace but turn to lesser things to satisfy us. Forgive us, Lord. Teach us to hunger for you more deeply, to trust you more fully, and to rest in the life you alone can give. Strengthen our hearts with your grace, gladden us with your presence, and draw us again into communion with you. 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: Jesus says, "Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." In Christ, the true bread from heaven and the true drink of grace, God gives life to sinners and welcomes all who come to him by faith. Therefore, if you are in Christ, your sins are forgiven, your life is hidden with him, and his grace is enough to strengthen your heart today and forever.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Confession of Faith

Heidelberg Question 76

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: What is it to eat the crucified body and drink the shed blood of Christ?

All: It is not only to embrace with a believing heart all the sufferings and death of Christ, and thereby to obtain the forgiveness of sins and life eternal; but moreover also, to be so united more and more to His sacred body by the Holy Ghost, who dwells both in Christ and in us, that although He is in heaven, and we on the earth, we are nevertheless flesh of His flesh and bone of His bones, and live and are governed forever by one Spirit, as members of the same body are by one soul.

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

Give Me Jesus (Spiritual)

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 Message

Melissa Evans

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 Loves Me (Warner/Bradbury)

#360

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong; they are weak but he is strong.

Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

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Please turn in the pew Bible to pages 892 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

Eating Flesh and Drinking Blood

Craig Wilson

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

The Lord Is My Salvation (Myrin/Getty/Nockels)

#178

The grace of God has reached for me, And pulled me from a raging sea,
And I am safe on this solid ground: The Lord is my salvation.

I will not fear when darkness falls, His strength will help me scale these walls.
I'll see the dawn of the rising sun: The Lord is my salvation.

Chorus: Who is like the Lord our God? Strong to save, faithful in love.
My debt is paid and the victory won: The Lord is my salvation.

My hope is hidden in the Lord, He flows each promise of His word.
When winter fades, I know spring will come: The Lord is my salvation.

In times of waiting, times of need, When I know loss, when I am weak.
I know His grace will renew these days: The Lord is my salvation. (*Chorus*)

And when I reach my final day, He will not leave me in the grave.
But I will rise, He will call me home: The Lord is my salvation. (*Chorus*)

Glory be to God, the Father. Glory be to God, the Son.
Glory be to God, the Spirit. The Lord is our salvation. (2x)

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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!

Men's Ministry will meet in the Conference Room to begin planning the Hugh Smith Memorial Cookout on September 26.

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

Did Jesus Really Say That? The Challenging Teachings of Jesus

Observations, questions and reflections on today's sermon...

Next Week: *The Only Way* (John 14:6)

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

⁵³ Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them.

⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

Something to think about . . .

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

1. What are the reasons I follow Jesus?
2. What is my view of Jesus and how does it compare to the Gospel accounts of who he is?
3. How are my views of Jesus shaped by my family, church experience, profession and traditions?
4. How can I ensure the way I follow after Jesus is shaped by His Word in the Bible?
5. Examine yourself with these questions using Psalm 139:23-24 and consider meeting with other Christians to discuss.

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 NEXT SUNDAY 8/30 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.

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 8/23	12:00pm	Men's Ministry Meeting (Conference Room)
	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Monday 8/24

Tuesday 8/25

Wednesday 8/26	7:00pm	Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)
	7:15pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Thursday 8/27

Friday 8/28

Saturday 8/29

Sunday 8/30	9:30am	Classes for All Ages!
	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.

Men are invited to attend a meeting after worship TODAY in the Conference room. We will be planning the upcoming Hugh Smith Memorial Cookout.

Sunday School returns NEXT SUN 8/30 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 meet. Flyers direct the student to the online registration at this QR code. Take some to share!



EVERYONE can serve at our Neelsville Workday! Please join us **Sat 9/12 from 12 – 3pm** for a workday to install new stage curtains. Any amount of time you can share is appreciated! Please see Jason Craft for more information (trustees@neelsville.org).

Reach the World Thru ESOL - Neelsville will again have ESOL classes beginning Sat, 9/12 from 9-11am with over 100 students that register. **We still need an administrator to be available 8:30-10am every other Saturday.** 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

	July Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income (\$K)	\$ 52.3 K	\$ 456.0 K	\$ 482.9 K	\$ 827.9 K
Expenses (\$K)	\$ 64.1 K	\$ 443.6 K	\$ 501.3 K	\$ 859.4 K
Difference	- \$ 11.8 K	\$ 12.4 K		



neelsville.org/give

Footnote – Any extraordinary expenses (or contributions) paid out of (or for) 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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