



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



Sunday, September 6, 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 WILL RETURN NEXT SUN 9/13!

Join us for Classes for All Ages at 9:30am Sunday. We have offerings for everyone from preschoolers to adults. Learn more on page 11.

Order of Service

In the context of 1 Peter, worship means far more than singing or gathering for a service. Peter frames worship as the *whole-life response* of God's chosen people—exiles who live faithfully in a world that does not always welcome the gospel. Therefore, worship is the lived, communal, hope-filled response of God's people—rooted in Christ, sustained by grace, empowered by the Spirit, and expressed through faithful lives in an unfriendly world. – *Pastor Jeffrey Rickett*

Prelude

Desert Song (Ligertwood)

Ulung Tanoto

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

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Jeffery Rickett

* = please rise if you are able

*Call to Worship

Psalm 33:18-22

Connie Barnes

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

Leader: The eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His steadfast love.

All: Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.

Leader: In Him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in His holy name.

All: Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You.

*Praise Song

Desert Song

Ligertwood

This is my prayer in the desert; When all that's within me feels dry.
This is my prayer in my hunger and need. My God is the God who provides.

This is my prayer in the fire; In weakness or trial or pain.
There is a faith proved of more worth than gold. So refine me, Lord, through the flame.

Chorus: I will bring praise. I will bring praise.
No weapon formed against me shall remain.
I will rejoice. I will declare, God is my victory, and He is here.

This is my prayer in the battle, When triumph is still on its way.
I am a conqueror and co-heir with Christ, So firm on His promise I'll stand. (*Chorus*)

Bridge: All of my life, in every season, You are still God.
I have a reason to sing. I have a reason to worship. (2x) (*Chorus*)

This is my prayer in the harvest, When favor and providence flow.
I know I'm filled to be emptied again. The seed I've received I will sow.

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***Prayer of Adoration**

Pastor Jeff

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.

***Praise Song**

Sovereign Over Us

Keyes/Brown/Mooring

There is strength within the sorrow, there is beauty in our tears.
And You meet us in our mourning with a love that casts out fear.

You are working in our waiting, sanctifying us;
When beyond our understanding, You're teaching us to trust.

Chorus: Your plans are still to prosper, You've not forgotten us;
You're with us in the fire and the flood.
Faithful forever, perfect in love; You are sovereign over us.

You are wisdom unimagined, who could understand Your ways?
Reigning high above the heavens, reaching down in endless grace.

You're the lifter of the lowly, compassionate and kind,
You surround, and You uphold me; And Your promises are my delight.

Bridge: Even what the enemy means for evil, You turn it for our good,
You turn it for our good and for Your glory.
Even in the valley You are faithful; You're working for our good,
You're working for our good and for Your glory. *(Repeat Bridge)*

(Chorus)

Faithful forever, perfect in love; You are sovereign over us.

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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.

Merciful Father, we confess that we often forget who we are—Your chosen people, called to live as exiles in this world. We chase comfort instead of holiness, fear rejection more than disobedience, and shrink back when faith brings suffering. Forgive us for trusting in ourselves rather than in Your grace. Renew our hearts by Your Spirit, that we may live in obedience and hope through Jesus Christ, our Living Hope.

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

1 Peter 1:3

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. He is willing to do this because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross.

Leader: According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

In Christ, you are forgiven, chosen, and secure—citizens of heaven even while living in exile. Rejoice and live in His abundant grace.

All: Thanks be to God

*Confession of Faith

Apostles' 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.

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

Blessings (Story)

Ulung Tanoto &
Natalia Suwuh Angkuw

"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.

Scripture Reading

1 Peter 1:1-2

Please turn in the pew Bible to pages 1014 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 10 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

Living In Exile

Pastor Jeff

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 9.

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 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!

Would you be free from your burden of sin? There's power in the blood, power in the blood
Would you o'er evil a victory win? There's wonderful power in the blood

Chorus: There is power, power, wonder working power
in the blood of the Lamb
There is power, power, wonder working power
in the precious blood of the Lamb

Would you be free from your passion and pride? There's power in the blood, power in the blood
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide; There's wonderful power in the blood (*Chorus*)

Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow? There's power in the blood, power in the blood
Sin stains are lost in its life giving flow; There's wonderful power in the blood (*Chorus*)

Would you do service for Jesus, your King? There's power in the blood, power in the blood
Would you live daily his praises to sing? There's wonderful power in the blood (*Chorus 2x*)

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Charge & BenedictionThe Benediction Hope*

Rickett/Tanoto

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. We then join in singing the Benediction together.

May grace and peace be multiplied to you
Peace to all of you, who are in Christ

PostludeThere Is Power in the Blood (Jones)*

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

After Worship Today!

Choir will rehearse at 12:30pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to sing!

The Women's Ministry is meeting for lunch at Panera. Join us at the Seneca Meadows location and feel free to bring a friend!

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.

- Elect Exiles (v. 1)
 - Christians live as chosen people in a world that is not their true home.
 - God gathers a diverse, scattered people into one family in Christ.
- The Work of the Triune God (v. 2)
 - Father: His foreknowledge anchors our identity and hope.
 - Spirit: He sets us apart and empowers faith and holiness.
 - Son: His blood cleanses, claims, and commissions us.
- Our Calling in Exile
 - Live as holy witnesses in a world that may not understand us.
 - Multiply grace and peace in our relationships, church, and community.
- Christ Our True Home
 - Jesus walked the exile path before us.
 - He is our security, our unity, and our hope.

Next Week: *A Living Hope* (1 Peter 1:3-12)

¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Something to think about . . .

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

1. Where do you most feel like an “exile” right now—at work, at home, in culture, or in relationships? What would it look like to live as God’s chosen person in that space this week?
2. Peter says we are chosen “*according to the foreknowledge of God the Father.*” How does God’s prior love in choosing you steady you in a situation where you feel anxious, overlooked, or uncertain?
3. The Spirit sanctifies us—He sets us apart and shapes our character. What is one specific area of obedience or holiness the Spirit is prompting you to pursue this week?
4. Christ’s blood both cleanses and claims us. What is one practical way you can live as someone *claimed* by Jesus—whether through forgiveness, courage, or sacrificial love?
5. Peter blesses believers with “*grace and peace multiplied.*” Who in your life needs multiplied grace or peace from you this week? What concrete step can you take to offer it?

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 9/13 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

To help us prepare 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 9:15am – Why Did Jesus Have to Die? (Parlor)

Contact: Adam Condrick (acondrick@segalco.com)

Sundays at 9:30am – Wrestling with God:

Lessons from the Book of Job (Conf Rm & Online)

Contact: Craig Wilson (cdw6@msn.com)

Sundays at 7:00pm – Ezekiel Bible Study (Online) ***back on 9/13**

Contact: Craig Wilson (cdw6@msn.com)

1st Peter Small Groups – 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. **Sign up for a small group at this QR code to discover *A Living Hope in Exile*.**



- Sun at 9:30am in Room 1 (shirleyfamily4@gmail.com)
- Tues at 7pm in Parlor (pastorjeff@neelsville.org)
- Wed at 7pm Online (women) (joannelwilson@gmail.com)
- Wed at 7:15pm Online (men) (bpf3356@gmail.com)
- Fri at 9:30am in Parlor (women) (bfarrell01@aol.com)

Small Groups Begin This Week! _____

This fall, we're stepping into a church-wide sermon and small-group series through *1 Peter — A 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.



This Sermon Series begins TODAY!

Your small group leader will be contacting you with more details. 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 9/6	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	12:30pm	Women’s Ministry Lunch at Panera (Seneca Meadows)
Monday 9/7	Labor Day – Church Office Closed	
Tuesday 9/8	7:00pm	1 st Peter Small Group led by Pastor Jeff (Parlor)
Wednesday 9/9	7:00pm	Youth Group (Fellowship Hall)
	7:00pm	Women’s 1 st Peter Small Group led by Joanne Wilson (Online)
	7:15pm	Men’s 1 st Peter Small Group led by Brian Farrell (Online)
	7:15pm	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Thursday 9/10		
Friday 9/11		
Saturday 9/12	9-11am	ESOL Classes (Fellowship Hall Entrance)
	12-3pm	Neelsville Workday
Sunday 9/13	9:15am	Small Group led by Adam & Diane Condrick (NPC Parlor)
	9:30am	1 st Peter Small Group led by Eric Shirley (Ed Wing, Room 1)
	9:30am	Classes for All Ages! All Next Gen Classes Begin!
	10:45am	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	12:00pm	Church Picnic! (Back Field)
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

Announcements

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

Join us on Sun 9/13 after the worship service for the Annual Church Picnic! NPC will provide fried chicken as the main dish for this 2nd Sunday Fellowship event. Please bring a large helping of your favorite dish to share. (Last names A-M bring a side dish, N-Z bring a dessert.) If you can help with the event, please reach out to Adam & Diane Condrick or Michelle Nelson.

MomCo (formerly MOPS) is getting ready to begin a new school year! We are looking for a few volunteers to serve as occasional substitutes throughout the school year when our regular volunteers are out. We will be meeting on Wednesdays from 10am-12pm. Please contact Jaimie (fernsjaimie@gmail.com) or Danielle (dl.hrrs13@gmail.com) to get started.

EVERYONE can serve at our Neelsville Workday! Please join us **THIS 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).

Please stop by the Welcome Center after church NEXT SUN 9/13 for some sweet treats. Rindra and Amanda will be selling baked goods to support the Foundation for Peace. They are going on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic this fall to provide medical care to unreached communities.

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.

Please pray for these new ministry opportunities and consider how you can best serve families in need. Over the next four months, we will be offering four ways to serve and want you to be aware of each ministry, so you can make the best decision financially (see the list below).

- **September** – Donate Outdoor Ed supplies for 6th graders at **Neelsville Middle School**.
- **October** – Serve children around by world by filling **Operation Christmas Child** shoeboxes with small gifts.
- **November** – Donate non-perishable food to fill **Thanksgiving Boxes** for local families and help us pack them on November 15.
- **December** – Support the annual **Giving Tree** ministry by providing gifts for children from Neelsville Middle School and Waters Landing Elementary School.

We have another opportunity to serve and bless Neelsville Middle School. The 6th graders are participating in their Outdoor Education program again this Fall and we can help with items yet needed. **Please sign up for something to contribute via this QR code. All items are due at church by Sun 9/27.** There will be a labeled container in the narthex for collection of items. Thank you in advance!



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

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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