



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 13, 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.

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

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

Forever (Tomlin)

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

Based on Psalm 127
and 1 Peter 1:3-12

Peter Njuki Muriuki

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

Leader: "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?"
God has given us new birth into a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

All: We come to worship the God who is our light, our salvation, and
our living hope.

Leader: Though we have not seen Him, we love Him; though we do not
see Him now, we believe and rejoice with inexpressible joy.

All: Let us worship the Triune God who guards our inheritance and
keeps us by His power.

*Hymn

Forever

Tomlin

Give thanks to the Lord, Our God and King! His love endures forever!
For He is good, He is above all things, His love endures forever!
Sing praise! Sing praise!

With a mighty hand and out-stretched arm, His love endures forever!
For the life that's been reborn, His love endures forever!
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise!

Chorus: Forever God is faithful, Forever God is strong,
Forever God is with us, forever, forever.

From the rising to the setting sun His love endures forever!
By the grace of God, we will carry on. His love endures forever!
Sing praise, sing praise, sing praise, sing praise (*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**

It is Well with My Soul

Spafford/Bliss

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well, with my soul.”

Refrain: It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. (*Refrain*)

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought:
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (*Refrain*)

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
“Even so,” it is well with my soul. (*Refrain*)

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Confession of Sin

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: Peter reminds us that our faith is tested, refined like gold in the fire, so that it may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Let us confess the ways our faith has faltered, our hope has dimmed, and our love has grown cold.

All: Merciful Father, You have given us a living hope, yet we confess that we often live as though our hope were fragile. We have allowed fear to overshadow faith, complaint to replace gratitude, and earthly concerns to crowd out eternal joy.

Forgive us for doubting Your goodness, for resisting Your refining work, and for forgetting the salvation You have secured for us. Renew our hearts by Your Spirit, and restore to us the joy of being Your redeemed people. Through our Living Hope we pray. 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

1 Peter 1:3-12

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: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In His great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Your inheritance is secure, kept in heaven for you, and you yourself are guarded by God's power.

In Christ, your sins are forgiven and your salvation is sure.

All: Thanks be to God for our living hope in Christ.

*Confession of Faith (unison)

Nicene 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.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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

I Am a Poor, Wayfaring Stranger

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

Pastor SeongSu

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 1:3-12

Amanda Rickett-Barton

Please turn in the pew Bible to pages 1014 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon

A Living Hope

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 8.

*Hymn

Living Hope

Johnson/Wickham

How great the chasm that lay between us, How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation I turned to heaven And spoke your name into the night.
Then through the darkness, Your loving kindness Tore through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Who could imagine, so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory To wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken; I am forgiven. The King of kings calls me His own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever. Jesus Christ, my living hope.

Chorus: Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain. There's salvation in your name.
Jesus Christ, my living hope!

Then came the morning that sealed the promise, Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion Declared the grave has no claim on me. *(Repeat verse)*

Jesus, Yours is the victory! *(Chorus 2x)*

Jesus Christ, my living hope! God, You are my living hope!

***Charge & Benediction**

The 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

***Postlude**

Living Hope

Johnson/Wickham

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

After Worship Today!

Join us on the back field for the Annual Church Picnic! There will be delicious food and fun games for an encouraging time of fellowship.

See Rindra and Amanda at the picnic for some sweet treats. They are selling baked goods to support their mission trip to the Dominican Republic this fall to provide medical care to unreached communities through the Foundation for Peace.

- God establishes our hope in Christ (v. 3)
- God maintains our hope: our inheritance and His protection (vv. 4-5)
- Joy through trials in Christ our hope (vv. 6-9)
- God's promises of hope are fulfilled in Christ (vv. 10-12)
- Final Remarks

Next Week: *Living Holy* (1 Peter 1:13-2:3)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! 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, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹ inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Something to think about . . .

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

1. How is the living hope described in verses 3-9 different from hope the world offers? Why does it deserve to be called living hope?
2. In v. 6-9, Peter says suffering for Jesus shows that our faith is genuine and will lead to joy. Do you find it easy or hard to agree? Explain.
3. In verses 10-12, how does Peter's explanation of Old Testament give you even more hope?
4. Who is one person you can encourage this week regarding Christ being our Living Hope?

Grow and Go with Us! _____

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

Next Generation Ministry



Ages: Birth – 5th grade

Contact: kids@neelsville.org

Sunday School at 9:30am (Ed Wing for PreK - 5th Grade)

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

Sunday School at 9:30am (Andrew Small Room)

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)

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 9/13	12:00pm	Church Picnic! (Back Field)
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

Monday 9/14

Tuesday 9/15	7:00pm	1 st Peter Small Group led by Pastor Jeff (Parlor)
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Wednesday 9/16	5:30pm	Youth Group Service Project (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 9/17

Friday 9/18

Saturday 9/19	9-11am	ESOL Classes (Fellowship Hall Entrance)
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Sunday 9/20	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!
	10:45am	Worship Service with the Lord's Supper (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

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.

Announcements

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

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.

The International Day Committee will meet in the library following the worship service NEXT Sun 9/20 and you're invited! We could use your help to ensure that Neelsville's International Day on Sun 10/4 is a great success. Please contact Gerry Davis for any questions (Gerry.davis@comcast.net).

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. RSVP to Craig Wilson at cdw6@msn.com by Wed 9/23.

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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