



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



A LIVING HOPE IN EXILE

small group sermon series on 1st Peter

Sunday, September 20, 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. **With this in mind, an important update on a Nursery drop-off can be found at this QR code.**



Look for the  station outside the Sanctuary to ...

- **Check in for the Nursery or Worship & Praise Zone** which are available during the sermon and provide age-appropriate lessons and activities. Children will worship with their families and then be dismissed to these activities after the Children's Blessing.
 - **Nursery** - Available for children 3 years and under.
 - **Worship & Praise Zone** – Children ages 4 – 3rd grade.
- **Grab a Worship Activity Bag** 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 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

Cello Suite no. 1 (J.S. Bach)

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

The flower on today's communion table is in honor of David and Cathy Brown's granddaughter, Joelle Liana Richardson, born on August 28 to Erin and Colin Richardson. May God bless their family!
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*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 34

Adam Condrick

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

Leader: I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together!

All: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Leader: Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

All: The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned. Praise the Lord!

*Hymn

What a Beautiful Name

Fielding/Ligertwood

You were the Word at the beginning, one with God the Lord Most High.
Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in You, our Christ.

Chorus 1: What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a beautiful Name it is, nothing compares to this.
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us, so Jesus, You brought heaven down.
My sin was great, Your love was greater, what could separate us now?

Chorus 2: What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is,
The Name of Jesus Christ my King.
What a wonderful Name it is, nothing compares to this.
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.
What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

Bridge 1: Death could not hold You, the veil tore before You.
You silence the boast of sin and grave.
The heavens are roaring the praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again.

Bridge 2: You have no rival, You have no equal.
Now and forever God, You reign.
Yours is the kingdom, Yours is the glory,
Yours is the Name above all names.

Chorus 3: What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is.
The Name of Jesus Christ, my King.
What a powerful Name it is, nothing can stand against.
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.
What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

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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.

***Praise Song**

Only A Holy God
(Farren/Smith/Robinson/Thompson)

#11

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make every king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendor outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God.

Chorus: Come and behold Him, the One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy, forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.

What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God. (*Chorus 2x*)

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God. Only my Holy God. (*Chorus 2x*)

Come and worship the Holy God.

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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 lives in Christ should be marked by holiness and sincere love, motivated by the goodness of God who saved us and secured our salvation. Let us confess the ways we have fallen short of this calling.

All: Holy and gracious Father, You have called us to set our hope fully on Your Son Jesus, Our Living Hope, yet we often place our hope in lesser things. You have called us to be holy, yet we return to old patterns and desires. You have called us to love one another earnestly, yet we have withheld compassion, spoken harshly, and pursued our own interests first. Forgive us for forgetting the price of our redemption—the precious blood of Christ. Cleanse us, renew us, and grow us into people whose lives reflect Your holiness and love. 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. He is willing to do this because Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross.

Leader: Hear the good news from 1 Peter: You were ransomed not with perishable things, but with the precious blood of Christ. You have been born again through the living and abiding Word of God. And because of God's goodness, He is growing you in your faith—shaping you into holiness, and forming you into sincere, extravagant love. In Christ, you are forgiven, made new, and kept by grace.

All: Thanks be to God, who saves us, secures us, and makes us holy in love.

*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.

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

Holy Forever
(Tomlin/Wickham/Johnson/Ingram)

Ulung Tanoto, Rich Gray,
Angela & DorothyEllen Macri

"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 will be dismissed to the Nursery and 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 1:13 - 2:3

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 Holy

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.

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

By Faith (Getty/Getty/Townend)

#157

By faith we see the hand of God,
in the light of creation's grand design,
In the lives of those who prove his faithfulness,
who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth,
with the pow'r of his promise in their hearts
Of a holy city built by God's own hand,
a place where peace and justice reign.

Chorus: We will stand as children of the Promise;
We will fix our eyes on him, our souls' reward;
Till the race is finished and the work is done,
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith the prophets saw a day,
when the longed-for Messiah would appear,
With the pow'r to break the chains of sin and death
and rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go,
in the pow'r of the Spirit to the lost,
To deliver captives and to preach good news,
in ev'ry corner of the earth. (*Chorus*)

By faith this mountain shall be moved,
and the pow'r of the gospel shall prevail;
For we know in Christ all things are possible,
for all who call upon his name. (*Chorus 2x*)

***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**

By Faith (Getty/Getty/Townend)

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!

The International Day Committee will meet in the Library 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 Call to Live Holy (vv. 13-17, 22, 2:1-2)
 - Ready for Action – v.13
 - Don't Look Back – v.14
 - Be Holy – vv.15-16
 - Stand Awed – v. 17
 - Love Earnestly – v. 22
 - Put Away Pettiness – v. 2:1
 - Crave Spiritual Growth – v. 2:2
- The Transformation to Live Holy – The Redeeming Work of Christ (vv. 18-21, 23-25)
- The Motivation to Live Holy – Taste the Goodness of God (vv. 1:13, 2:3)

Next Week: *Jesus the Cornerstone* (1 Peter 2:4-10)

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, ²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; ²⁴ for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, ²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

¹ So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Something to think about . . .

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

1. What reasons does Peter give for why we should live holy?
2. According to Peter, what does a holy life look like? How does this compare to what you and your neighbor usually think when you hear someone say people should be holy?
3. What is our foundation in living holy? Why is this important to keep front and center as we live holy?
4. Based on what Peter has written so far, what are some ways his readers have "tasted that the Lord is good" (2:3)? How has this motivated you to live holy and to help others to pursue living holy?

Grow and Go with Us!

Next Generation Ministry



Ages: Birth – 5th grade

Contact: kids@neelsville.org

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

All of our kids (birth-5th grade) need to be registered each school year. This ensures we place them in age-appropriate activities and we have correct contact information for communication, emergencies and your child's security. Please take a moment to register each child in your family through this QR code.



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)

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 9/20	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

Monday 9/21

Tuesday 9/22	7:00pm	1 st Peter Small Group led by Pastor Jeff (Parlor)
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Wednesday 9/23	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 9/24

Friday 9/25

Saturday 9/26	9-11am	ESOL Classes (Fellowship Hall Entrance)
	5:00pm	Men's Ministry Cookout (Back Parking Lot) <i>In Memory of Hugh Smith</i>

Sunday 9/27		NMS Outdoor Ed Collections Due!
	9:15am	Small Group led by Adam 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 (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

Financial Update

	Aug Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income (\$K)	\$ 64.7 K	\$ 520.5 K	\$ 551.9 K	\$ 827.9 K
Expenses (\$K)	\$ 91.2 K	\$ 527.3 K	\$ 572.9 K	\$ 859.4 K
Difference	- \$ 26.5 K	- \$ 6.8 K		



neelsville.org/give

Footnote – Any extraordinary expenses (or contributions) paid out of (or for) prior designated/special funds are excluded from these figures. Large increase in expense was due to our bi-annual payment to global missionaries.

Announcements

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

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 NEXT SUN 9/27.** There will be a labeled container in the narthex for collection of items. Thank you in advance!



Next Generation Ministry is hosting a Flag Football Game on Sat 10/3 at 10am on Neelsville's back field. All ages welcome for a fun time and little friendly competition! See Pastor SeongSu with any questions.

International Day is Sun 10/4! We will not only celebrate our church's diversity, but our unity in love for Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and our love for each other. Please feel free to wear your native dress or that of your ancestry. We will have a potluck lunch after worship so please bring a large dish to share. This would be a great time to bring a dish representing your culture. Any questions feel free to contact Gerry Davis (Gerry.davis@comcast.net).

Next Gen Ministry is hiking Sugarloaf Mountain on Sat 10/10 at 10am. Both Kids & Students are invited; a parent must accompany children in 3rd grade and younger. Sign up using this QR code. We'll meet at church and head out for a little adventure to marvel in God's creation. See Pastor SeongSu with any questions.



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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