



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



Sunday, October 11, 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.
- **Pick up 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 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

House of the Lord (Smith/Wickham)

Ulung Tanoto

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

Welcome & Announcements

Brian Farrell

* = please rise if you are able

*Call to Worship

Based on Psalm 34:1-22

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

House of the Lord

Smith/Wickham

We worship the God who was; We worship the God who is
We worship the God who evermore will be
He opened the prison doors; He parted the raging sea
My God He holds the victory (yeah)

Chorus: There's joy in the house of the Lord
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise
There's joy in the house of the Lord
Our God is surely in this place
And we won't be quiet
We shout out Your praise

Oh oh oh; We shout out Your praise

We sing to the God who heals; We sing to the God who saves
We sing to the God who always makes a way
'Cause He hung up on that cross; Then He rose up from that grave
My God's still rolling stones away (*Chorus*)

Bridge: ('Cause) We were the beggars
Now we're royalty
We were the prisoners
Now we're running free
We are forgiven accepted
Redeemed by His grace
Let the house of the Lord sing praise (*Repeat Bridge*) (*Chorus 2x*)

Oh oh oh; We shout out Your praise

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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** *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)* (Newton/Tomlin/Giglio) **#393**

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear; and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Chorus: My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains, unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me; His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. (*Chorus 2x*)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine, You are forever mine.

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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: Beloved in Christ, the apostle Peter calls us to a life shaped by holiness and love—a life of unity, sympathy, brotherly affection, tender hearts, and humble minds. He calls us to turn away from evil and do good, to seek peace and pursue it, to bless even when we are wronged.

Let us confess the ways our lives fall short of this holy calling.

All: Merciful God, You have called us to reflect Your goodness in the way we live and love. Yet we confess that our hearts are often divided. Instead of unity, we have harbored resentment. Instead of sympathy, we have been indifferent. Instead of blessing others, we have repaid hurt with hurt. We have feared suffering more than we have trusted Your goodness. We have forgotten that Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to You. Forgive us, Lord. Renew our hearts by Your Spirit. Shape our lives to reflect the holiness and love that flows from Your saving grace. 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 1 Peter 3:12, 18

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 of the gospel: The Lord sees the righteous and hears their prayer. And Christ Himself suffered for you—the righteous in place of the unrighteous—to bring you to God. Because of His saving work, your sins are forgiven, your salvation is secure, and your life is now held in the goodness of God.

All: Thanks be to God! Through Christ we are forgiven, restored, and made new. May our lives reflect His holiness and love.

*Confession of Faith (unison)

Apostles' Creed

Christians have long formulated statements to summarize what we believe. These creeds 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 and 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

Psalm 23 (Wickham)

Ulung Tanoto and Rova Andriamanamizao

"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.

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 message.

Hymn	<i>Jesus, Strong and Kind</i> (Buchanan/Robinson/Farren/Thompson)	#362
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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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Scripture Reading	1 Peter 3: 8-18
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Please turn in the pew Bible to pages 1015 or flip ahead in the bulletin to page 9 to follow the text as it is read.

Sermon	<i>The Inner Qualities of Righteous Living</i>	Pastor Jeff
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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.

*Hymn	<i>My Worth Is Not in What I Own</i> (Getty/Kendrick)	#285
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My worth is not in what I own, not in the strength of flesh and bone,
But in the costly wounds of love at the cross.

My worth is not in skill or name, in win or lose, in pride or shame,
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.

Chorus: I rejoice in my Redeemer—greatest treasure, wellspring of my soul.
I will trust in him, no other; my soul is satisfied in him alone.

As summer flowers we fade and die; fame, youth and beauty hurry by,
But life eternal calls to us at the cross.

I will not boast in wealth or might, or human wisdom's fleeting light.
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross. (*Chorus*)
Two wonders here that I confess: my worth and my unworthiness;
My value fixed, my ransom paid at the cross. (*Chorus 2x*)

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***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**

My Worth Is Not in What I Own (Getty/Kendrick)

Praise Team

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

After Worship Today!

There will be a **Congregational Meeting after worship TODAY** to elect our new Officers for 2027. Read our officer candidate bios through this QR code or pick up a paper copy in the Narthex.



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

Righteous living of an exiled Christian assumes:

- The Inner Qualities That Sustain Christian Community (v. 8)
- The Christian's Call to Repay Evil with Blessing (v. 9)
- The Lord's Opposition to Christians Who Do Evil (vv. 10-12)
- The Christians Suffering for Doing Good (vv. 13-17)

Next Week: *The Righteous Conqueror* (1 Peter 3:18-22)

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰ For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” ¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered[b] once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...

Something to think about . . .

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

1. What are the inner qualities of righteous living found in v. 8? If we display these qualities within the church, how might they impact the church as a whole? Which ones do you find difficult to display?
2. When have you faced a situation where blessing someone who wronged you felt impossible, and what helped (or could have helped) you respond with humble love instead of retaliation?
3. Peter warns that God is against those who do evil, even among His people. How does this sober truth challenge the way you think about “small sins,” habits, or attitudes you tend to excuse?
4. What fears or pressures make it hard for you to do good when obedience might lead to suffering, and how does honoring Christ as Lord reshape those fears?
5. Peter anchors everything in Christ’s suffering—the righteous for the unrighteous—to bring us to God. How does Christ’s victory make a life of humble love not only possible but compelling, even when the stakes feel too high?

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 10/11	12:00pm	Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers (Sanctuary)
	12:30pm	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00pm	Ezekiel Bible Study (Online)

Monday 10/12

Tuesday 10/13	7:00pm	1 st Peter Small Group led by Pastor Jeff (Parlor)
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Wednesday 10/14	10:00am	MomCo Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
	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 10/15

Friday 10/16	9:30am	Women's 1 st Peter Small Group led by Sue Farrell (Parlor)
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Saturday 10/17	9-11am	ESOL Classes (Fellowship Hall Entrance)
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Sunday 10/18	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!
	12:00pm	Choir Rehearsal (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.

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) – Share Christmas gifts, God's love, and the Gospel, with children around the world! Informational flyers and OCC "shoeboxes" are in the narthex for you to pick up. Filled shoeboxes are due on Sunday 11/8! Questions? Contact: Sue Farrell, Angela Macri or Bev Cook.



Save the date for our Fall-O-Ween on Sat 10/24 from 2-4pm! It will be a relaxed, picnic-style event where we can get to know one another, enjoy some good food, play games, and have fun together as a church family. Children are encouraged to wear a Halloween costume, too. Please invite your friends and family! **Also, help is needed** with serving snacks, interacting with kids' games, and setting up and tearing down. **Donations are welcome** of small pumpkins (for kids to paint) and candy. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please contact Pastor SeongSu (seongsu@neelsville.org).

Blessed to be a blessing is the theme of our 2027 Stewardship season. Let's remember all the large and small ways in which the Lord has blessed us. We can in turn bless others, each in our own way. "I will bless you ... and you will be a blessing." (Genesis 12:2) **You may submit your estimated giving for 2027 using this QR code.**



Please pray for these new ministry opportunities and consider how you can best serve families in need. This fall, we have planned to be offering four ways to serve. Please see the remaining opportunities below, so you may make the best plan financially.

- **October** – Serve children around by world by filling **Operation Christmas Child** shoeboxes with small gifts. See above for more info.
- **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

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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