



Narberth Presbyterian Church

February 4, 2024

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

February 4, 2024

Prelude

Adoro Te Devote
Jinhee Shim, organ

Raffy

Welcome

Pastor Debbie

Call to Worship

Vera Comstock

*Hymn #5

Come, Thou Almighty King

Italian Hymn

Opening Prayer

Pastor Debbie

Scripture Reading (to be read responsively) **Psalm 139:1-16**

Katie Kennedy

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts, God!

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we confess today our offenses – against you and our neighbor. You know, even more than we do, the nature and extent of our sin – as we have wandered from you, chosen our own way, wasted your gifts, forgotten your love, hoarded your blessings. Have mercy on us, in our sorrow and shame at our sin. Forgive us in your mercy, and fill us to overflowing with your forgiveness, so that we may live in it – ourselves, and with our neighbor. We ask in the Name of Jesus, who died to make this possible, Amen.

***Silent Prayer & Assurance of Pardon**

The Apostles' Creed

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 on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence 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 Peace**

As God has given us peace through Christ, let us share that peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

***Worship Song**

All the People Said Amen
Who You Say I Am
NPC Worship Band

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Debbie

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Fall Afresh

Riddle

Jennifer Fisher, vocals, Jamie Gaffga, guitar

***Doxology and Prayer of Dedication**

Scripture Reading

Psalm 8; Isaiah 43:1,2

Allison Foley

Sermon

Who Are You?

Pastor Debbie

***Hymn #112**

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

St. Agnes

Invitation To Communion

Danielle Kauffman

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give You thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe. You fashioned this world in love and govern all the earth with grace and peace. Your reign is for all time, and your mercy is without end. May your kingdom come and your will be done, on earth, as it is in Heaven.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Born as King in David's line, He lived with the lowly and cared for the least of Your children. His power was revealed in weakness, His majesty in mercy.

His only earthly throne was a cross on which to die. Even there His arms stretched out to embrace friends and foes in love. From the grave You raised him to Your right hand where he rules again from heaven, and commands true loyalty from peoples and nations.

Remembering Your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from Your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate His dying and rising. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to You to be a living and holy sacrifice dedicated to Your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Pastor Debbie

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn #700

We Are God's People

Symphony

Benediction

Pastor Debbie

Postlude

Prelude No. 38
Jinhee Shim, organ

Page

Prayer Ministry

Linda Behmke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Early Church: A Sampling of Themes of Unity, Witness and the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts: A sermon Series on several themes in the book of Acts. Come join us as we compare and contrast church today with the Apostolic church movement. We are better together!

Islands in a Common Sea

Acts 2:37-47 – Church: the Fellowship of the Believers

Are You a Groupie?

Acts 2:46,47 – Relationships, ministry, teaching, evangelism

Witnessing from Solomon's Portico

Acts 3:1-19 – What I do have, I give to you

We Cannot But Speak

Acts 4:1-12 – We cannot but speak what we have seen and heard

One Heart

Acts 4:32-35 – Those who believed were of one heart

And the Spirit Said...

Acts 8:26-40 – Rise and Go!

We are Witnesses

Acts 10:34-43 – Commanded to testify. Everyone who believes in him is forgiven.

Laboring Outside the Gate

Acts 16:9-15 – Faith, obey, adapt

NPC Christian Preschool will open registration for the 2024-2025 school year for ALL families on Monday, February 5th. Our preschool offers two-day, three-day and five-day options for children aged 18 months to pre-kindergarten. The school day runs from 9am – 12pm from mid-September to early-June, and we also offer afternoon programming (12 – 3pm) through Lunch Bunch. Registration will also open for our wonderful six-week summer camp that runs from late June to early August. To receive more information as well as the link to register, please reach out to director Virginia Davis at preschool@narberthpres.org or 610-664-8890.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update: Consultants from Shepherd Staff, the search firm hired by the PNC, have finished all their preliminary advertising, query of contacts, and compilation of targeted churches/organizations. They have begun and will continue to follow up with interested contacts and referral sources. They have also begun preliminary conversations and resume collection for potentially interested candidates. Each week, they submit to the PNC an update of their progress. The PNC also continues to receive submissions via our own job postings. We currently are reviewing one new candidate. Please pray for the PNC as we anticipate Shepherd Staff presenting us with candidates in the near future and we meet on Monday to discuss our new candidate. Please also pray for the person God is calling to be our next Senior Pastor.

“Super Bowl” Offering! Next Sunday, **February 11th**, our Youth will be collecting the annual “Super Bowl” offering that will help the homeless in Philadelphia. Look for our NPC Youth at the end of service next week to give. Thank you!

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 14th! Join us for Ash Wednesday Service beginning at 7:00am and 7:00pm in the NPC Sanctuary. This is a special service which marks the beginning of Lent, a time of renewed devotion to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. The NPC Nursery will be available for infants through Kindergarten at the 7:00pm service. Please note that individual programming for children, youth, and adults will not take place on this day.

New Bible Study: A study of the Book of Acts, which promises, *“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth.”* Upon Pentecost the Holy Spirit revolutionized the faithful, created the early church, and began to disrupt and transform the world. Acts documents the power of God working in and through his people in ways that were impossible until then. Join us in the Parlor on the **1st, 3rd, & 4th Saturdays of each month from 9:30 – 10:30am beginning February 17th**. Reach out to Rob Wray (robwrayofpa@verizon.net) for more information.

NEW Group @ NPC – Overeaters Anonymous. This displaced group from Overbrook Presbyterian Church will be using space at NPC. This is a support group for people who are struggling with their eating and want a caring group to support them in getting their eating and weight “right.” The group meets on **Monday evenings at 8:00pm** in the Pastor’s office both in person and via Zoom. New members are welcome; reach out to Eric (610-742-8196) with questions or to get the Zoom link.

Notes From Justice and Mercy NPC’s *Loving Our Neighbors Ministry* has numerous branches, each with different partners. Jennifer Bonovitz skillfully, tirelessly and, most important, lovingly, keeps it all moving smoothly. One such partnership is with Stop the Risk, an organization in Kensington that works with people suffering from addictions. NPC helped to procure a grant to build tiny houses there. Jennifer and others help provide lovely holiday meals for these neighbors. Another partnership is with The Mitzvah Pantry in Bala Cynwyd. Jennifer and her helpers pick up donations from local stores and take them to Bala. From there a wide variety of items are distributed at the pantry location and some are delivered to seniors. The newest branch of *Loving Our Neighbors* is in North Philly at 23rd and Ridge and it is growing quickly. Large quantities of groceries are given out to the near-by community and a local pastor comes to Jennifer’s home to pick up a plethora of food and goods for his congregation. Jennifer is very thankful for the many people of NPC who give generously of their time, talents and resources. Whatever your skill set and availability, Jennifer has a spot for you that is just waiting to be filled. Please pray for Jennifer’s ability to keep going, for the generosity of NPC folks and the community at large, and for more individuals (maybe you) to join Jennifer in this rewarding ministry.

PRAYER INFORMATION

Please Remember in Prayer

Please pray for patience and discernment for the PNC. Please also pray for the person that God is calling to be our next Senior Pastor.

Missions: CRU – Dave & Katie Brindley Please pray for Dave Brindley, who, for the past 7 years, has been bringing Christians together across racial and denominational lines for the flourishing of the city, through The Philadelphia Gospel Movement, and UnitePhilly (a ministry of CRU). Dave and Katie are committed to leading the kind of revival that causes people to come to Jesus while impacting Philadelphia's at-risk neighborhoods, resulting in city transformation.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

Family Worship is Sunday, February 4th – Children and Youth (K-12th) are encouraged to worship with their family and participate in Communion. Worship Bags for children will be available at both entrances of the church. The NPC Nursery will be available, as usual, for our infants through PreK in RM 107.

Wall of Love next Sunday, February 11th – Our Sunday School children will enjoy a special Valentine Party next Sunday! We will have fun crafts and snacks, put Blessing Bags together for our Friends on the Parkway, and create our famous NPC Wall of Love!

Pixel Party Sunday School Series – Wait a minute, you have never heard of a pixel party? Let's fix that! A single pixel by itself is nothing too special, it's just a small square. But when you put a bunch of those pixels together, they combine to form a picture. During Sunday School, kids will use colored sticky notes to form pictures that help tell our Big Bible Story. All are welcome!

Kids Praise – Children (PreK-5th grade) are encouraged to join us each Wednesday for a time of music fun! We meet in the choir room from 7:00 – 8:00pm. Please note Kids Praise will not meet February 14th. Instead, all are encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday service at NPC.

VBC 2024 – START THE PARTY!

Save the Date for VBC! Jesus gives us the most amazing reason to party! This summer get ready to celebrate the good news of Jesus! Join us Monday, June 17th through Friday, June 21st from 9:00 – 11:30am at NPC for VBC 2024. VBC is best for those age 4 by June 1st, 2024 through those entering 5th grade (2024-2025 school year). Rising 6th graders through adults are encouraged to volunteer for this awesome week. Online registration for students and volunteers begins Sunday, March 17th. Let's get this VBC party started! Please reach out to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) with any questions.

Youth Volunteers needed for VBC 2024 – Mark your calendar for Vacation Bible Camp the week of Monday, June 17th – Friday, June 21st! Rising 6th graders through adults are encouraged to volunteer! Online Registration begins March 17th for students and volunteers! Please reach out to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) with questions.



INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: YOUTH

Confirmation Class 2024 – If your youth (6th – 12th grade) is interested in joining Narberth Presbyterian Church and would like to be a part of a new Confirmation Class, please reach out to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org). Confirmation Class will be held during our Sunday School time for 8 Sundays. Start date will be Sunday, February 18th.

Youth Sunday School – Sunday, February 4th is Family Worship! All youth are encouraged to worship with their church family and participate in Communion.

Teen Girls' Ministry – Girls Group meets Sunday, February 4th! We will walk together to the McGrew's home (400 Woodside Ave) to make sandwiches for The Parkway Ministry. You can pick up your daughter at 12:30pm from the McGrew's.

Teen Guys' Ministry – Guys Group meets Sunday, February 4th! We meet in the Youth Room directly following service for lunch and this week we have a painting project! Wear your "work" clothes. You can pick up your son at 12:45pm from the church.

High School Youth Group – Please note HS Youth Group will not meet tonight! Instead, please plan to attend Teen Girls or Teen Guys.

Middle School Youth Group – All 6th – 8th graders are invited to the Youth Group each Wednesday at NPC from 7:00 – 8:00pm. We meet in the Youth Room for games, devotional, and fellowship. Please note there is no MS Youth Group on February 14th. All are encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday service at NPC.

The Philadelphia Project - Summer of Service Retreat for Youth - All 6th through 12th graders are encouraged to attend a meaningful week of service with The Philadelphia Project! Mark your calendar for July 21st – 27th. Please reach out to Dave Bellamy (dbellamy@narberthpres.org) to RSVP or for more information.

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

Save the Date for the 2024 All-Church Retreat – NEW BEGINNINGS!

Get out your calendar and mark the dates for the All-Church Retreat:



Who: YOU! All ages are encouraged to attend this special weekend together.

What: A fun-filled retreat weekend with our church family including: adult talks, fun activities for children & youth, worship, prayer, and fellowship.

When: Friday, May 10th through Sunday, May 12th

Where: Sandy Cove Ministries Retreat Center in beautiful North East, MD

Guest Speaker: Rev. Jane Filkin!

Rev. Jane Filkin is the Director of Leadership Development & Spiritual Formation at Eastern University's Campolo Center for Ministry and the Founder of BETWEEN Life Coaching. Jane's passion is to encourage, develop, and equip others to be who God has made them to be and do what God has called them to do. She has served in pastoral ministry for 20 years and is ordained in ECO. Jane holds a Master of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and a degree in Sociology and Education from UC Berkeley as well as an Advanced Certificate in Life Coaching from the American Association of Christian Counselors and a Certificate in Resilient Leadership from The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology. Jane loves to be outside, have a house full of kids, take long walks, journal, and prepare and share good food.

To register please contact Danielle Kauffman with your \$100 deposit. Full payment is due April 1, 2024. You can also leave your deposit online by choosing "2024 Spring Retreat" or by texting with the keyword "retreat".

Look for pricing sheets around the church and check back for updates!

CLASSES

8:15am Sunday Class – Please join us – in the NPC Parlor, or via Zoom – for a time of conversation focused on the scriptures for the day's worship service. All are welcome! Contact Pastor Debbie for the Zoom link.

Adult Bible Study – The Gospel of Mark. The Gospel of Mark is a vivid and dynamic account of the ministry and message of Jesus Christ. It is the shortest of the four gospels and portrays Jesus as the Servant of God: "*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*" (Mark 10:45).

When: Thursdays from 7:00 – 8:15pm, starting Thursday, Jan 18th

Where: Women's Bible Study: Church Parlor; Men's Bible Study: Pastor G's office

Who: Women's Bible Study: contact Lalitha Naveen: lnaveen100@gmail.com.

Men's Bible Study: contact Ken Eng: K_Eng@msn.com

Men's Small Group There is an open small group for men looking to connect in a more intimate setting. The Men's Small group **meets from 7:30 – 9:00am on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month in the Parlor.** Donuts sometimes exist, but coffee is *always* guaranteed! The format of the group is designed to facilitate intimate sharing, prayer, and accountability. While the study of scripture helps to facilitate those conversations, education is not the primary goal of this group. Our purpose is to provide a place for men to deepen relationships with a small cohort of other men and experience what it looks like for "iron to sharpen iron." Contact Justin Crawford (me@JustinCrawford.com / 646.588.9042) for more information.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

Faith Lessons in the Old Testament – In this 5-week Old Testament series, we will travel to the lands of the Bible, and learn, on-site, with Dr. Ray VanderLaan, how God guided his people to a specific place – the Promised Land – to impact the world both in ancient times and today. Everyone is welcome to join this class (in the Chapel) for any or all of the lessons, which will include a video and conversation following.

Encounters with Jesus – Join us as we look all throughout the Bible for where and how Jesus appears in surprising and even amazing ways. Imagine yourself there with him, hearing what he says and seeing what he does, right there in front of you. What do you learn about Jesus that you didn't know before, and what does that tell you about what God is really like and how to love him even more? Come have these encounters with us in a 10-week class in the Parlor or on Zoom if you can't attend in person. Led by Mark Wenger.

Kids Praise – Children (PreK-5th grade) are encouraged to join us for a time of music fun! Thank you to Linda Pilacik for leading this energetic time!

Middle School Youth Group – All 6th – 8th graders are invited to Youth Group in the Youth Room for games, devotional and fellowship.

BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, February 4

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor
9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream
Teen Girls' following Worship, McGrew's Home
Teen Guys' following Worship, Youth Room

Monday, February 5

Preschool Registration Opens for Current/Church Families

6:15 – 7:15pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
7:00pm PNC Meeting, Parlor
8:00pm Overeaters Anonymous, Pastor's Office

Tuesday, February 6

7:00pm Deacons' Meeting, Chapel

Wednesday, February 7

5:45 – 6:45pm Church Family Supper, Gym
7:00 – 8:00pm Faith Lessons in the Old Testament, Pastor Debbie, Chapel
7:00 – 8:00pm Encounters with Jesus, Mark Wenger, Parlor.
7:00 – 8:00pm Kids Praise, Miss Danielle, Choir Room
7:00 – 8:00pm Middle School Youth Group, Youth Room

Each Week

Christian Preschool – 610-664-8890 x118

2, 3 & 5 Day Programs 9:00am to 12 noon & 12 noon to 3:00pm Extended Day Program, Sept.-May

AA meets 12:30pm, Monday–Saturday & Sunday at 4:30pm

Counseling: Dr. Janet Moore: cell: 484-686-6630 email: ilmpsvch910@gmail.com

Narberth Presbyterian Church

205 Grayling Avenue

Post Office Box 414

Narberth, PA 19072

Office hours:

Mon-Thurs. 9:00am to 4:00pm

Friday 9:00 am - 3:00pm

Phone: 610-664-4880

Fax: 610-668-8225

E-mail: office@narberthpres.org

CCLI # License #387124

Thursday, February 8

6:30 – 8:00pm Choir Practice, Choir Room
7:00 – 8:15pm Women's Bible Study, Parlor
7:00 – 8:15pm Men's Bible Study, Pastor's Office

Friday, February 9

10:00 – 12:00pm Ladies Bible Study, Parlor

Saturday, February 10

8:30 – 9:30am Kids' Basketball, Gym
8:30am – Women's Breakfast, Parlor

Sunday, February 11

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor
9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream
Newcomers' Luncheon in the Parlor
Following Worship Service
7:00pm High School Youth Group, Youth Room

Jesus Christ, Minister

Farrar Griggs, Pastor

Cell #: (704) 239-4735

Email: farrargriggs@gmail.com

Deborah Watson, Associate Pastor

Danielle Kauffman, Intergenerational Ministry

Lisa Hoffman, Interim Youth Coordinator

Jinhee Shim, Organist

Sarah Comstock, Worship Band Leader

Linda Pilalik, Minister of Music

Matt Weed, Worship Tech. Coordinator

Tim Roykouff, Business Administrator

Sara Mahoney, Administrative Assistant

Hugh Barrie, Assistant Property Manager

Joyce B. Nicolai, Bookkeeper

Ruth Ellen Patterson, Financial Secretary

Isabel Lally, Pastoral Visitor

Virginia Davis, Dir. of Preschool

Chris Marinelli, Weekday Custodian

Devon Jackson, Weekend Custodian



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