

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

September 15, 2019

In preparation for worship, please take time to silence all electronic devices, and quiet our thoughts, so that we all may focus our hearts and minds on the Lord.

Prelude *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* **Hopson**

Welcome and Call To Worship

Hymn #62 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* **St. Deno**

Prayer of Invocation

Family News

Scripture Reading **Psalm 139:1-4, 7-10, 13-16, 23, 24** (P.974, 975)

9:00am John Hart
10:45am Betsy Hayden

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All the people: Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we have sung of your greatness and your glory. You are all knowing and all powerful. Yet your eye is on the sparrow, and you hold us in your mighty hand. We confess that the chaos and uncertainty of life can make us afraid. Please forgive us for not trusting you, and keeping others at a distance. As Jesus blessed the children, we ask that you would bless us. Help us to hear the voice of Jesus, "Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid." We pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Invitation to Spiritual Renewal Weekend October 18-20 **Jack Comstock**

Greeting

Worship Song *What A Friend* **Matt Maher**

Anointing and Blessing of Children and Teachers

Hymn #470 (1) **Jesus Loves Me, This I Know** **Linda Pilack**
piano

During the 9:00am service and the 10:45am service, children in K through 5th grades may be dismissed to Children's Sunday School. During the 9:00am service, 6th grade and up meet in the Youth Room for Sunday School.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer **Deborah Watson,**
Associate Pastor

give a special gift (over and above regular giving) to help our neighbors in the Bahamas. Checks can be made out to Narberth Presbyterian, and designated to "Hurricane Relief." Our gifts will be channeled through the Salvation Army, who are working directly on the field to provide practical and spiritual assistance.

NEW SERMON SERIES. Today we continue a brand new series of messages on Spiritual Formation, "Called To Flourish: How Christ Is Formed In Us." We are considering the process by which Jesus Christ shaped Simon to become Peter, the "Rock," and how Christ is likewise formed in each of us.

In all his frailty and humanity, Simon Peter is one of us, and also living proof that change is possible. By God's grace, Jesus accepts us as we are, but he does not leave us there. Jesus said, "When a pupil is fully trained, he or she will be like the master" (Luke 6:40). This is whole life discipleship, and the path to a flourishing life.

A working definition of spiritual formation: "Christian spiritual formation refers to the intentional communal process of growing in our relationship with God and becoming conformed to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit." (James Wilhoit, Spiritual Formation As If The Church Mattered).

Sermon Next Sunday: Who Is Jesus? (In a secular society without absolutes)

FAMILY MINISTRY: CHILDREN, YOUTH & PARENTS

ACTIVATE Your Faith! - Children's Sunday School Curriculum! Elementary-aged children will begin to put their faith into action this fall. Get ready to Walk in Wisdom, Love, Truth, and Faith! AND with many new and exciting service projects!

2 yr olds & 3 yr olds meet in The Blue Door Rm (#105) during the 9:00 service.

4 yr olds through PreK meet in The Red Door Rm (#107) during the 9:00 service.

****Please note the younger classes combine during the 10:45 service in RM #107****

Our Nursery (Rm #104) is available at the 9:00 and 10:45 worship services. This room is best for infants through 23 months.

****Please sign your child in and out of each classroom****

Children's Sunday School Offering! Now through the end of October, the children of NPC will be collecting items to help support Our Friend's on the Parkway. You can leave your donations in the boxes on the stage in the gym. **Items Needed:** backpacks, rolling suitcases, sleeping bags, reusable shopping bags, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, small bottles of shampoo/conditioner, lotion, underwear, socks, sneakers

All are welcome to ACTIVATE. Sunday School takes place during the 9:00 and 10:45 services.

INGREDIENTS OF A GODLY LIFE! New Wednesday Night Programming

Wednesdays, children up to 5th grade are invited to explore the ingredients that go into a godly life, while they help "cook up" some food and fun!

Children will have unique opportunities to be in the kitchen and create delicious meals and snacks. Children's program begins at 7:00pm and we meet in RM #107 (Red Door Room). Hope to see many of you there

On Wednesday nights this fall, we will be starting a weekly Middle School gathering for our Youth. Come for dinner before if you are able but otherwise we will be in the youth room from **6:30pm until 8pm**. We hope to continue to build the Middle School group into a consistent gathering that pairs with the normal Wednesday night programming.

Spiritual Renewal Weekend Children's Programming! Children (K - 5th) are invited to programming designed especially for them during NPC's Spiritual Renewal Weekend (October 18th, 19th, 20th)! All are encouraged to attend **"Praise Party!" Praising God all the time!** Our weekend will be packed with fun, crafts, games, lessons, music and moon-bounce! Look to RSVP soon.

SAVE THE DATES

Friday, Oct. 4 Parent's Night Out

Friday, Nov 1-Sunday, Nov3 The Philadelphia Project Blitz Weekend 3RD - 5TH Grade

SAVE THE DATES

YOU ARE INVITED TO
Narberth Presbyterian Church's
Spiritual Renewal Weekend
October 18th-20th

Can God use your pain for his purpose?

Can your joy be restored and sustained?

Do you want time to connect with your friends at church?

This in-house, church-wide **Spiritual Renewal Weekend** is a chance for all of us to set aside time to dig into prayer, worship, connection – and fun – together as a church family.

All Members and friends are welcome!

What's Happening!

Friday night, starting at 6:30 pm, we will gather for welcome and a brief talk, and then enjoy an inspiring concert by Philly-based, singer songwriter, Joy Ike!

Saturday morning, we'll have two teaching sessions, with a break, and then have lunch together.

In the **afternoon**, free time for fun and fellowship activities for all ages including our annual Fall Fest.

We'll gather at 5:30 pm for dinner followed by worship and teaching, finishing up around 8:00 pm.

And **Sunday**, we will have one combined church service from 9:30 am - 11:00 am and celebrate together!

Children (K - 5th) will enjoy a "Praise Party" retreat of their own during adult programming and childcare for infants through PreK will be provided as well.

Look out for an emailed invitation with more information and an opportunity for you to RSVP!

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP FALL OFFERINGS

Sunday Morning Classes:

- **8:00am Class** – All are invited – whether you attend weekly, or drop in from time to time! We share coffee, cake, and conversation focused on the scripture passages for each week’s worship service and sermon. If you are an early bird, we would love for you to join us in the comfortable setting of the Parlor, for what is always a rich time of fellowship and learning.
Pastor Debbie Watson facilitates the group. Parlor
- **9:30 -10:30 am Sunday School Class on I and II Samuel**
Please join us for a group study of I and II Samuel this fall. As described in the NIV Application Commentary that we will be using, “The books of Samuel offer something for everyone: kings and prophets, great battles and greater heroes, action and romance, loyalty and betrayal, the mundane and the miraculous. In Samuel, we meet Saul, David, Goliath, Jonathan, Bathsheba, the witch of Endor, and other unforgettable characters. And we encounter ourselves. For while the culture and conditions of Israel under its first kings is vastly different from our own, the basic issues of humans in relation to God, the Great King, have not changed. Sin, repentance, forgiveness, adversity, prayer, faith, and the promises of God—these continue to play out in our lives today”.

The class will be discussion-based and led by a rotating group of class members. We look forward to having you join us. Questions? Email Sue Wenger at mswenger@yahoo.com. Parlor

DISCIPLESHIP FALL OFFERINGS

Wednesday Night Classes This Fall Starting SEPTEMBER at 7:00pm

- **Debbie Watson:** “The Least of These” grows out of Debbie’s heart, and her doctoral studies. The classes will alternate between the biblical grounding of all our giving (to benefit other Christians, as well as our neighbors near and far), and in-person (or virtual) visits by people engaged in ministries to the least, the last, the forgotten. This is a great way to be encouraged and inspired as both a recipient and channel of God’s blessings. Come for any or all of our gatherings! Everyone is welcome – from senior high school students to senior citizens! **7:00-8:00pm September 11-October 16.**

- **Clara Louie:** What does the story of two widows and a prominent landowner in the countryside of Judah have to teach us about the issues of shame, exclusion, loss, and hopelessness? How can the story of a few ordinary folks become the light and hope in a time of social and religious degradation? How did God work out his eternal plan of salvation through simple people carrying out their mundane roles? Come find out as we study the Biblical *Book of Ruth* together. This is a 6-week interactive Bible study from **7:00-8:00pm September 11-October 16.**

- **Steve Weed: Knowing What You Believe: Mere Christianity** by CS Lewis: On Wednesday nights this fall, Pastor Steve will lead a book study on the Christian classic, Mere Christianity by CS Lewis. This class has wide appeal: for seekers, for those new to Christian faith, as well as for seasoned believers. Lewis appeals to both mind and heart. His “apologetic” is not only to know Christ, but to receive his life, and to grow in his likeness. Many regard Mere Christianity as the most compelling and winsome summary of the Christian faith in the last 100 years. Along with a careful and patient reading of the book, there will be ample use of scripture, discussion, and practical application, as we seek to draw nearer to Christ and to one another. We are living in a time of extreme cultural currents and upheaval. If ever there was a time for Christians to develop a more grounded faith, and a more robust life in Christ, it is NOW. Our class runs for 11 Wednesday nights, **7:00-8:15 pm September 11-November 21 . Sign-up sheet for this class in Chapel.**

John Chafee: A weekly, Wednesday night Middle School, 6th -8th grade gathering for our Youth. Come for dinner before the class or meet in the youth room **6:30-8:00pm Youth Room**

Danielle Kaufmann: Ingredients of a Godly Life. Come explore the Ingredients for a godly life. Children up to 5th grade are invited. **Class begins at 7:00pm RM #107 (Red Door)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW Explorers' Class begins Sunday September 22 12:15 to 2:30pm.

A new 5-week Explorers' Class will begin on Sunday afternoons, Sept. 22, led by Pastor Steve and Debbie. The Explorers' Class is designed for newcomers and provides a warm, welcoming atmosphere for discussing our relationship with Christ, opportunities and mission of NPC, and what it means to be Presbyterian Christians. Lunch is provided and childcare as needed. **Sign up in Chapel.**

Childcare and lunch provided

- † **Donations of personal size toiletries for Neighborhood Crusades** can be placed in the donation box under the bulletin board right outside the sanctuary door on the Windsor Ave. side of our building. Items needed at this time include lotion, washcloths, toothbrushes and toothpaste, combs, and disposable razors. Thank you!

- † **There is a new sign-up sheet in the Chapel for September/October dates for ministry to folks who are homeless in Philadelphia.** If you are available for one or more time slots, please stop over and sign up. Thanks!