



Narberth Presbyterian Church

February 26, 2023

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

February 26, 2023

Prelude *Grave and Adagio from Sonata No. 2* Mendelssohn
Jinhee Shim, Organist

Welcome and Family News Pastor Steve

Justice and Mercy Video Racial Justice Marilyn Reed

Announcement NPC Racial Reconciliation Scholarship Linda Behmke

Call to Worship Ezekiel 36:25-27 David Cai

Hymn #2 *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty* Nicaea

Prayer of Invocation Pastor Debbie

Scripture Reading Romans 6:1-4; Ephesians 1:13,14 Justin Crawford

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, in baptism you joined us to Christ in his death, that we might be raised with Christ into new life. Yet we allow the sins of the past to hold us hostage, and fear of the future to rob us of hope. Through the cross, forgive our willful sins and hidden faults. Please heal our relationships and fill us with the peace of Christ. As we renew our baptism, remind us of who we are in Christ, and what we shall become by your amazing grace. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Silent Prayer and the Assurance of Pardon

The Greeting

Worship Song *I Will Call Upon The Lord*
NPC Worship Band

Children and Youth dismissed to Sunday School

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer Pastor Debbie

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus Stead
Dean Pappas, vocals and guitar

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading	Matthew 3:13-17; Galatians 3:26-29	Pastor Debbie
Sermon	How Do We Change? Time To Re-Center	Pastor Steve

Hymn #568	<i>Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated (1,4)</i>	<i>Hendon</i>
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RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

The Heidelberg Catechism

What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his propose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Questions of Reaffirmation

Pastor Steve

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you renounce all evil, and powers in the world which defy God's righteousness and love?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that separate you from the love of God?

I renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love, to your life's end?

I will, with God's help.

Prayer of Rededication

Pastor Debbie

During a time of music and worship, those who want to receive renewal of baptism and anointing with oil may come to the Elders and Deacons at the front of the church.

Worship Songs

I Love You Lord

Glorify Your Name

Linda Pilacik, piano, Jinhee Shim, organ

Benediction

Pastor Steve

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue in C Major

Bach

Jinhee Shim, Organist

Prayer Ministry

Linda Behmke

TODAY, on this first Sunday of Lent, there will be an opportunity to renew your baptism. Toward the end of the service, all are invited to come forward.

Elders and Deacons will be available at the front of the sanctuary. As you are led, you are invited to come forward and to stand or to kneel. You will be asked to state your full name, as in baptism. The Elders and Deacons will anoint you with oil, making the sign of the cross on your forehead. They will then offer a simple, declarative prayer of blessing: "I anoint you in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for the renewal of your baptism. May the Lord bless you and keep you and grant you His peace. Amen."

The liturgy we are using comes out of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship, including anointing with oil. So, whether you were baptized as a baby, or as a believing young person or adult, this is an opportunity for you to renew your baptism.

If you have never been baptized or received Christ as your Lord and Savior, you might consider coming forward as a way of indicating you are ready to take that step. Then, at some point in the future, you could be baptized.

May today be a significant milestone in our walk with God, and a beautiful time of worship together. Glad you are here!

Special Disaster Relief Offering for Turkey. For the next three Sundays we will hold a special offering for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Turkey. Your gifts may be given to NPC and designated for earthquake relief. Our offering will be distributed through First Hope, a Turkish NGO established by an association of Protestant Christian churches.

There will be a grief support group on the fourth Monday of the months of January through March. This grief group will be an informal gathering to share whatever is on your heart (i.e., open discussion). Those grieving the death of a loved one or friend are welcome (former attendance in GriefShare is not required). The next session will be held on **Monday, February 27th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm** in the chapel of the church. No need to RSVP, just show up as you are able.

Save the Date: A new 6-week Explorer's Class will begin on March 19th from 11:00-12:45. Light brunch and childcare provided. There is a sign-up in the chapel.

Day Retreat of Solitude in Community "Come unto me, all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest". This gentle invitation from God is extended to our community as we once again will host a day of silence and solitude on **Wednesday March 22nd from 9:30-2:30 pm at the Saint Raphaela Retreat House**. Through prayer, times of quiet and guided meditation, we will consider the themes of *loss, grief and disappointment*, drawing from the Road to Emmaus With Jesus (Luke 24:13-29) passage. You will have the opportunity to spend time with God individually in solitude but may also receive prayer and spiritual direction, if desired. **The non-refundable fee of \$35 is due on March 8th to secure your spot.** Sign up in the chapel or contact Linda DiLullo at ldilullo3@gmail.com or 610-453-3420 for scholarship aid and questions.

NPC Racial Reconciliation Scholarship After Session and many of our members completed the Lenten devotional, "An American Lament", we created a Racial Reconciliation Team under the umbrella of the Justice and Mercy Committee. The purpose of this team was to find a concrete way to express NPC's lament over the way Black people and other minorities have been oppressed in this country and our desire to help level the playing field. The team, with Session's approval, settled on establishing a \$1200 college scholarship to be awarded to a local, low-income Black graduate of either Lower Merion or Harrington High Schools. The scholarship will be awarded as part of the Lower Merion Township Scholarship Fund which receives applications from low-income students and matches them with one of over 60 available awards. NPC's announcement can be found on Lower Merion Township Scholarship Fund's website under the "News" heading and says:

"Narberth Presbyterian Church has been a part of the Lower Merion and Narberth community since 1891. Over the past 130 years, the church has gone through various structural changes and growth, but their mission to be a good neighbor in the community hasn't changed. Narberth Presbyterian hopes to support our LMSD graduates pursue their dreams of a post-secondary education. They believe that education is the best way for our local youth to live, grow, and prosper. We are grateful that the Narberth Presbyterian Special Award will support a graduate with financial need."

In the Spring we will have the opportunity to meet with the person that the Scholarship Fund has chosen to receive our award and hope to be a source of encouragement to this person as they complete their education. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of the team, Linda Behmke, Ashley Reed, and Marilyn Reed.

Amnion Baby Bottle Fundraising Campaign Your family and one little bottle can make a BIG change for a mom and dad who are struggling with an unintended pregnancy. As you place your donation in the bottle, know that you are helping Amnion continue to provide valuable services to those in crisis. Amnion's medical services are 100% free and confidential. Their nurses provide pregnancy tests, ultrasound, STD testing and treatment, and other consultative services. Please continue to remember Amnion's work in your prayers and remember to **bring your bottles back by Sunday, March 5th** so we can share the blessing with Amnion and the families they serve. Baby bottles are in the Chapel and Narthex of the church. If you would like to know more about Amnion visit www.amnion.org or call (610) 622-9957 or (610) 444-7172.

Breakfast at NPC on Sunday, March 12th! Let's celebrate daylight savings time together. All are invited to the church gym for a delicious breakfast with pancakes, eggs, sausage, and coffee from 8:30am-9:15am!

Sermon Notes

(To be handed in and shared with the Pastor)

How Do We Change?

Time To Re-Center

Romans 6:1-4; Ephesians 1:13,14

Matthew 3:13-17; Galatians 3:26-29

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

Books of the Bible Sunday School Curriculum! Each week children will learn a few books of the Bible along with some simple hand motions and a tune to memorize them all. *“Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.” Proverbs 30:5*

Children’s Lenten Offering! Throughout Lent the Sunday School children will be collecting a special offering to benefit The Philadelphia Project. TPP is a well-loved mission of NPC and next month our children and youth will be attending a weekend of service with them. We have a goal of \$300 and if we can meet it - we will enjoy an ice-cream party!

New Children’s Wednesday Night Program – Mashup! Join us for **“Mashup”** and learn how Easter and Christmas connect each Wednesday night from 7:00pm – 8:00pm in RM 107. Kids will gain new insight into the truth that Jesus came as a baby but grew into a man who laid down his life to save us. We will also enjoy special activities and treats each week with a Christmas/Easter theme. All are welcome!

Girl Scout Sunday is March 12th – On Sunday, March 12th we will celebrate the Girl Scouts of NPC as they lead parts of service and host the coffee hour table with delicious Girl Scout Cookies! If your daughter is a Girl Scout, please contact Danielle to get involved (dkauffman@narberthpres.org).

The Philadelphia Project Blitz Weekend for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders! Courtney Zellers from TPP will be with our children and youth on Sunday, March 12th to talk more about this awesome opportunity during Sunday School. It’s not too late to join us on this special weekend of service that will take place on Friday, April 28th – Sunday, April 30th. For more information, please reach out to Danielle.

Save the date: ALL Church Retreat! – “LIFE TOGETHER”! All ages are encouraged to attend the NPC All-Church Retreat taking place in Sandy Cove, MD on May 12th, 13th, and 14th! We belong together and we need each other so join us for an amazing adventure away building our lives with each other and with Jesus! Please reach out to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) with questions or to register!

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY: YOUTH

Teen Girls' Ministry for 6th – 12th grade! Join us Sunday, February 26th for a service project! Together we will cook meals and learn more about “Well Rooted” an organization that helps families and young adults impacted by the foster system. We will meet in the church gym directly following the service to walk to the McGrew’s home. Our time will end at 1:00pm this week. If you have questions, please reach out to Lisa Hoffman (Lisa.hoffman1@verizon.net) or Danielle Kauffman (dkauffman@narberthpres.org).

The Philadelphia Project Blitz Weekend! Save the date for April 21st – 23rd as all 6th – 12th graders are invited to The Philadelphia Project Blitz Weekend. Please RSVP for the Blitz weekend to Juwan (jwilliams@narberthpres.org). Male and female chaperones are needed as well. Please reach out if interested!

Learn more about The Philadelphia Project! Courtney Zellers from TPP will be joining our children and youth during Sunday School on Sunday, March 12th. This is a great opportunity to hear all about this amazing time of service. Parents with youth interested in serving are welcome to join us in the Youth Room for this presentation.

Middle School Youth Group! Middle School Youth Group meets each Wednesday evening from 7:00pm – 8:00pm in the Youth Room. Each week offers games, lessons, and fun! All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are encouraged to attend and bring a friend!

High School Youth Group! Each Sunday, all 9th – 12th graders are encouraged to come enjoy time together from 7:00pm – 8:00pm in the Youth Room. Join us for a time of community, theology, and an opportunity to know, live, and share your faith.

Confirmation Classes – Are you interested in joining NPC? Would you like to learn more about what we believe and where the foundational practices of church originate? Well, we are inviting all youth (6th – 12th grade) to confirmation class. Our classes will begin **Sunday February 26th** and will take place during Sunday School time. If families would like to participate in this journey reach out to Juwan via email or text.

Save the date: ALL Church Retreat! – “LIFE TOGETHER”! All ages are encouraged to attend the NPC All-Church Retreat taking place in Sandy Cove, MD on May 12th, 13th, and 14th! We belong together and we need each other so join us for an amazing adventure away building our lives with each other and with Jesus! Please reach out to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) with questions or to register!

CLASSES

11:15am Sunday Class: Join us for a thought-provoking look at the **book of Daniel**, with stories about people living out their faith while under cultural pressure, and stories of amazing visions, miracles, and prophecy. This 12-week class will have some teaching but mostly engaging discussion. We will meet in the Parlor and have a Zoom option for those who can't be there in person. Led by Mark Wenger and Charlie Hurst. Please contact Mark at markfwenger@yahoo.com for the Zoom link.

Wednesday Class: *The New Testament in Its World* 37 weeks in length, this video-based study will look at the entire New Testament. Each week, we will travel from the twenty-first century to the era of Jesus and the first Christians, where we will learn about how the message of the Gospel impacted them and their world. All are welcome to the Chapel, from 7-8pm each Wednesday. Only the Bible is needed. All the reading is found in its pages. Following each video there will be a time of interactive conversation based on what we have just seen/heard. If you would like to understand the NT at a deeper level, here is one opportunity to do that For more information, please e-mail or call Debbie Watson (dwatson@narberthpres.org – 610-664-4880 ext.114).

Wednesday nights at 7:00: "Pastor Steve's All-Time Favorites." Steve will share some of his favorite sermons, books, and readings over the last 40 years. There is no homework, and each class stands by itself, so please come as you are able. Right now, we are focusing on Pastor Steve's #1 favorite Christian book, *The Song Of Ascents*, the spiritual autobiography of E. Stanley Jones.

"Book of the Month" – Monday nights at 7:30pm. As Pastor Steve comes into the homestretch of ministry at NPC, one of his endeavors this winter and spring is to lead a "Book of the Month" study. The first book for 2023 is entitled: **"Getting To Know God's Voice: A 31-Day Interactive Journey"** by Jenny Randle.

The theme of this practical study is to "discover the Holy Spirit in your everyday life." Brief daily readings are required as well as attendance in a 5-week class. Short and sweet and strong! The book study will run from **January 30th to February 27th 7:30 – 8:45pm.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Music Ministry: CHOIR Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! You may have this opportunity at choir rehearsal which meets in the **Choir Room at 11:00am or directly following the worship service.** There is always room for more voices!

Windsor Bells: The Windsor Bells are seeking more hands to chime in and ring for the Glory of God! Please do not let inexperience stop you from joining the fun of bell choir. If you are interested, add your name to the sign-up sheet located in the chapel or reach out to Linda Pilacik. **We will rehearse on Monday evenings at 6:15pm.**

Spiritual Formation Workshops for Women - 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, “And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” What does Christlikeness look like? How are we to live into being his image-bearers in the unique way he has created us? What gets in the way of our transformation into Christ likeness? In this series of four in-person workshops, we will take a look together at the garden of our soul – its design, its seeds, and its weeds. This Intergenerational Women’s Workshop will be led by Clara Louie and will take place at NPC on **Sundays, March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 from 4:00pm - 5:15pm.** Participants are required to have taken the online WEPSS test (\$15) before they start the series. Please RSVP to Danielle Kauffman (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) if you plan to attend.

Dr. Janet Moore is a licensed psychologist with over 30 years of therapeutic expertise. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Bible from Philadelphia College of Bible and a Master’s degree in Theology from Denver Seminary. With an understanding of spirituality and faith in clients’ lives, she is able to provide spiritually-integrated psychotherapy. Janet offers counseling to adults and couples experiencing such struggles as depression and anxiety, relationship issues, life crisis, grief, and personal adjustment problems. She provides compassionate help to survivors of physical, emotional, sexual, and spiritual abuse. Contact Dr. Moore at 610-664-4880 Ext 121, or 484-686-6630, jlmpsy910@gmail.com

NPC Christian Preschool registration is now open for the 2023-2024 school year. 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. We also offer afternoon programming (12-3pm) through Lunch Bunch for preschoolers and Kindergarten Enrichment for morning kindergarteners, and we have a wonderful six-week summer camp that runs from June 27 – August 3, 2023. 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.

PRAYER INFORMATION

Missions Prayer Focus: Matt and Anna Shenk (CRU – For Richmond-Virginia)

Their prayer request right now is that they would be known as people who love the Lord passionately, and who love their neighbors incredibly well. They pray that they are known as a community of people who may be imperfect but who strive to reflect Jesus to others and provide a positive witness for Christ to the world around them. They also pray for a spirit of unity in their church in the midst of so much division in our nation.

Notes From Justice and Mercy: Since February is Black History month, let's take the opportunity to look for ways to encourage the Black community. Maybe it could be watching a documentary on Black achievements, reading a book by a Black author, or dining at a Black-owned restaurant. Please pray for NPC's Racial Reconciliation Committee as they work toward racial justice.

Neighborhood Crusades likes to give out **hygiene kits** to the homeless people they evangelize. Please donate personal size toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, soap, wash clothes, razors, deodorant, shampoo, or quart-size Ziplock bags. Place them in the box under the bulletin board right outside the sanctuary doors on the Windsor side of the building. Contact Marilyn Reed if you have any questions. 215-776-3598 Thank you!

BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, February 26

First Sunday in Lent

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor

9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream

11:00am Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

11:15 Sunday School, the book of Daniel, Parlor

7:00 – 8:00pm High School Youth Group

Monday, February 27

6:15 – 7:15 Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

7:30 – 8:45 Book Study: Getting to Know God's

Voice, Pastor Steve, Parlor

Tuesday, February 28

7:00pm Missions Meeting, Parlor

Wednesday, March 1

5:45 – 6:45pm Church family supper in the gym

7:00 – 8:00pm Children's class (K-5th) with Danielle

7:00 – 8:00pm MS Youth Group with Juwan

7:00 – 8:00pm Video Series: "The New Testament in Its World", Pastor Debbie, Chapel

7:00 – 8:00pm "Pastor Steve's All-Time Favorites",

Pastor Steve, Parlor

Thursday, March 2

9:30 – 11:30am Full Staff Meeting, Parlor

4:00pm Kickball with the Pastor

Friday, March 3

11:00am Women's Bible Study (In-person)

6:30 – 9:00 Alpha Marriage Course, Parlor

Saturday, March 4

Sunday, March 5

8:15am Sunday School (Parlor)

9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream

11:00am Choir Rehearsal

11:15am Sunday School Class, the book of Daniel, Parlor

7:00 – 8:00pm High School Youth Group

Each Week

Christian Pre-School – 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: jlmpsych910@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

Stephen N. Weed, Pastor

Deborah Watson, Associate Pastor

Danielle Kauffman, Intergenerational Ministry

Juwan Williams, Intergenerational Ministry

Jinhee Shim, Organist

Colin & Sarah Comstock, Worship Band Ldrs

Linda Pilacik, Director of Music

Matt Weed, Worship Tech. Coordinator

Tim Roykoff, 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 Pre-School

Chris Marinelli, Weekday Custodian

Michael Ochal, Weekend Custodian



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