



Narberth Presbyterian Church

October 1, 2023

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer		Pastor Debbie
Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory	<i>There is a Happy Land (Hindustani Air)</i>	arr. Shackley
	Linda Pilacik & Jinhee Shim, piano	
Doxology and Prayer of Dedication		
Scripture Reading	Luke 15:3-7; Romans 5:6-8	Juwan Williams
Sermon	The Mathematics of God's Love	Pastor Steve
Hymn #473	<i>And Can It Be That I Should Gain?</i>	<i>Sagina</i>
Invitation To Communion		Pastor Debbie

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up 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, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. We praise you for saints and martyrs, for the faithful in every age who have followed your Son and witnessed to his resurrection.

From every race and tongue, from every people and nation, you have gathered them into your kingdom. You have shown them the path of life and filled them with the joy of your presence.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Sent to be our Savior, he took our flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. His words are true. His touch brings healing. To all who follow him, he gives abundant life.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ, and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Pastor Steve

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn #498

I Love to Tell the Story (1,3)

Hankey

Benediction

Pastor Steve

Postlude *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (Caribbean Traditional)* Setting by Behnke
Jinhee Shim, organ

Prayer Ministry

Jan Kennedy

Today we celebrate Holy Communion. As Presbyterian Christians, we invite all who profess faith in Jesus Christ to receive communion, regardless of denominational affiliation or membership in this church. We will be sharing in the Lord's Supper by coming forward and receiving the bread and (individual) cup from a Pastor or Elder.

Today's Flowers are dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of my mother, Minjian Wang, who died one year ago today. Jie Cai

Today is Family Worship! Sunday School children (K-5th) are encouraged to worship with their church family and participate in Communion. All children are invited to sit with Miss Danielle in the first two pews. Please note the NPC Nursery is available as usual for infants through PreK aged children.

This Wednesday at 7:00pm, to celebrate the Phillies being in the Playoffs, Pastor Steve will share an old sermon on **"Loving God and Loving Baseball"**. All are welcome!

Explorer's Class Pastors Steve and Debbie will lead a new 3-week Explorers' Class on Sundays, October 8, 15, & 22 from 1:00 – 3:00pm. Please sign up in the Chapel or contact Debbie or Steve.

Pastor Steve's retirement dinner! You're invited! Save the Date! We are excited to invite you to celebrate this exciting event! On Friday, November 10th we will be celebrating Steve's 32 years of ministry at NPC and blessing him and Teri into retirement. Email invitations were sent this week with more details and a link to RSVP. The dinner will be at Drexelbrook in Drexel Hill, reception starting at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:45pm. This is an all-ages event! If you have questions please reach out to Linda Behmke, Ashley Reed, Katie Kennedy, Michelle Phillips, or Jennifer Fisher.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

Pumpkin Parables – Beginning Sunday, October 8th Sunday School children (K-5th) will look closer at parables that Jesus told to teach us big lessons. We will also enjoy pumpkin crafts and treats!

NPC Nursery – Our youngest and most adorable will begin their new series called Bible-In-Life. Each week Miss Sharon and our faithful volunteers lead creative Bible lessons that help children interact with God’s Word. The Nursery is best for infants through PreK. Please reach out to Sharon Shallow (sbshallow55@gmail.com) or Danielle Kauffman (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) with any questions or to volunteer.

Kids Praise – Join us on Wednesday Nights for music fun! Mrs. Pilacik, NPC’s Minister of Music, will be joining us each week for an exciting time of music. Get ready to make a joyful noise! We will meet in the Choir Room from 7:00 – 8:00pm. This program is best for PreK through 5th grade.

The Philadelphia Project Blitz Weekend for 3rd, 4th, 5th grade – Register today! All 3rd– 5th graders are invited to serve with TPP Friday, November 3rd through Sunday, November 5th. Registration costs \$75 and ends on October 8th. Please email Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) for more details or to register.

Save the Date for the 2024 All-Church Retreat! Get out your calendar and mark the dates for the All-Church Retreat taking place on Friday, May 10th through Sunday, May 12th in beautiful Sandy Cove, MD. Many more details soon.

The Philadelphia Project Benefit Dinner! Please consider joining us for this wonderful event to celebrate the great things the Lord has done in and through The Philadelphia Project. TPP is a well-loved mission cause of NPC and our children, youth, and adults have enjoyed meaningful service with them each year. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Dave Bellamy (dbellamy@narberthpres.org) or Danielle Kauffman (dkauffman@narberthpres.org). We hope to see you there!

Please Join Us
BENEFIT DINNER

SUPPORTING
THE PHILADELPHIA PROJECT

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY | **12** | AT 4 PM
2023

Flourtown Country Club

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY: YOUTH

Teen Girls' Ministry – Teen Girls' Ministry meets each Sunday for discipleship, fellowship, and food! Directly following worship, we walk to the McGrew's home and our time concludes at 12:30. All 6th – 12th grade girls are encouraged to attend! You can reach out to Danielle Kauffman (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) or Lisa Hoffman (Lisa.hoffman1@verizon.net) with any questions.

Teen Girls' Service Project – Teen Girls' Ministry is helping to support the Parkway Christmas Shop and you can get involved by donating new or gently used toys for children and babies. Please see the flier around NPC for more details. Donations can be left in the Toy Drive box in the Chapel. Contact Mia Rogers (mkuniholm@gmail.com) or Danielle Kauffman (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) to learn more.

Sunday School Curriculum – on September 10th we began a new Sunday School curriculum. This curriculum is based on a JESUS series that matches the theme of the church year: Visualizing Jesus. The goal of this curriculum is to enhance Youths' vision and connection to Jesus and support them in seeing the beauty of the gospel.

Middle School Youth Group will be on Sunday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00pm in the Youth Room. We are excited about this opportunity to come together and fellowship. This year we will focus on visualizing Jesus through games, interactive conversations, and at-home discipleship tools that will enhance your middle schooler's Christian journey.

High School Youth Group will continue Sunday evenings from 7:00 – 8:00pm in the Youth Room. Our sessions will include interactive conversations and hybrid fellowship. Our first lesson will be based on John 12:20-21... "Sir, we wish to see Jesus!"

CLASSES

8:15am Sunday Class – Please join us – live 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.

GriefShare® The journey of grief is a painful process; you do not need to walk it alone. We would encourage you to come to the video and support group called GriefShare (<https://www.griefshare.org>). The sessions specifically address topics and issues for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. GriefShare meets weekly, the content is Christ-centered and biblical, and the sessions will be led by Alice Antonelli and Gerri Wismer. You will find this to be a place where you can be around people who understand the pain of your loss. GriefShare sessions will meet on **Monday evenings from 6:30 – 8pm in the Chapel** into December (note that you can join at any time). It is important to register on the GriefShare website. Feel free to email Alice Antonelli (arichardson1@gmail.com) or Gerri Wismer (geewis46@gmail.com) for more information about the group.

Women's Bible Study The Apostle Paul was in prison when he wrote the letter to the Philippians exhorting them to rejoice always in the Lord. The word “joy” or “rejoice” is mentioned in the book of Philippians 13 times over 4 short chapters. Can we learn from Paul to rejoice in the Lord when we are going through trouble and hardship? Paul promises “*Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you (Philippians 4:9).*” Join the Women's Bible Study group as we study the book of Philippians over four weeks (on Thursdays, starting 9/21) from 7:00 – 8:15pm in the church parlor. Contact Lalitha Naveen (lnaveen100@gmail.com) or Clara Louie (claralouie@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about the class.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

The New Testament in Its World We will continue this 37-week, video-based study that looks 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. 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. **This Week: Luke-Acts.**

Top Lessons of Faith and Life Pastor Steve has recently put together a list of his top 40 lessons of faith and life. Each Wednesday night he will share at least one of them. All are welcome! This week, Steve will share an old sermon entitled, “**Loving God and Loving Baseball**”.

Kids Praise – Join us for music fun! Mrs. Pilacik, NPC's Minister of Music, will be joining us each week for an exciting time of music. Get ready to make a joyful noise!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beginning This Friday! *The Marriage Course* provides husbands and wives tools to build and strengthen a vibrant relationship over time. Couples enjoy a nice dinner at a table for two, watch a brief video presentation, and talk with each other about important issues. This is **not** a large group activity; rather, you and your spouse work only with each other. The cost for 7 weeks of dinner and the course materials is \$120 per couple. It's a bargain! So, whether you have been married a short time, or many years, this course is a great investment in your relationship! Contact Pastor Debbie to sign up or find out more. **We will meet from 6:30 – 9:00pm, beginning Friday, October 6th, through December 1st.** There will be no class on November 10th, due to Pastor Steve's retirement dinner, and none on November 24th, due to Thanksgiving.

New 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.

An invitation to live into a deeper transformative friendship with Jesus. Join us for a six-week spiritual formation group for women, exploring the following questions: What is Christian spiritual formation? What is my picture of God? What is my picture of myself? What is my picture of the Gospel? How do people change? How do I follow Jesus? Through Biblical insights, experiential prayer practices, group discussion, and personal reflection & journaling, we will examine how our *default* answers to these questions have been forming (or deforming) us, and we will learn to attune our hearts to the invitations Jesus has for us. This group meets on **Sundays, 4:00-5:30 p.m., October 8 through November 12.** To sign up, contact Heather Gallagher at minimeheather@gmail.com or Clara Louie at claralouie@yahoo.com.

Women's Breakfast on Saturday, October 14th in the Parlor. Join us for food, fun, and fellowship starting at 8:30am. Bring a devotional to share/swap with the group.

Senior Adult "Slideshows" are back! While these have, traditionally, been for people aged 60 and above, we welcome *everyone* (of any age) to these gatherings, which are interesting, informative, FREE, and offer a great opportunity to meet and get to know your NPC "neighbors" in-person! We also have snacks! We meet on Fridays at 1:30pm in the Parlor.

- October 20th Oberammergau (Nancy Davis & Nancy Wolfe)
- November 17th Paris (2022/23) & Cambridge 2023 (Debbie Watson & Diane Chen)
- December 1st Israel (Diane Chen)
- December 15th Sr. Christmas Carol Sing & Tea (Save the date)


One-Time Gathering – Again? There was a good turn out for a one-time gathering led by Pastor Steve last week. The message was on fear, anxiety, and sleep challenges. If you would be interested in another opportunity, please be in touch with Pastor Steve (sweed@narberthpres.org).

Save the Date for the Found Wandering Christmas Concert Sunday, December 17th in the evening at NPC!

Music Ministry’s 2023-2024 season: We are seeking singers, bell ringers, musicians of all instruments, ages, and ability levels to participate in our Music Ministry programs. We have an exciting year of musical selections and performances planned and we want **YOU** to be a part of it! Rehearsals will be on Monday nights for Bell Choir and on Thursday nights for the Sanctuary Choir.

Notes From Justice and Mercy: Our Loving Our Neighbors ministry has been blessed with generous donations from two large stores in Lower Merion. As a result, we've been able to provide food and other household goods to families along Ridge Ave. in North Philly, as well as to immigrant families in Upper Darby. A new partnership with the Mitzvah Pantry in Bala Cynwyd allows us to send food to families in West Philadelphia and Northeast Philadelphia. The Kensington Ministry continues with the help of a Project Home staff member who picks up donations of clothing at Jennifer Bonovitz's home and takes them to The Inn of Amazing Mercy for distribution to residents battling drug addiction. Please pray for continued, fruitful connections between businesses and people in need. Also pray for new leadership for this ministry.

Room For Restless Children The presence of children is a gift to the church, and children are always welcome in our services. In addition to the NPC Nursery downstairs, the Parlor is available to parents who wish to keep their child with them, even when the child is restless, crying, etc. during worship. The Parlor is set up so parents can view the service while caring for their child. We invite you to make use of this room, when needed, so that all who are in attendance can pray and worship.

Flower Dedication:  Each week beautiful flowers grace the altar of the church. They remind us of the Lord’s goodness and are a way to honor Him. You may provide 1 week’s flowers with a donation of \$25. Flowers may be given in memory/honor of someone or simply to God’s glory; your dedication will be acknowledged in the weekly bulletin. If you would like to dedicate flowers, please call Sara in the church office.

Dr. Janet Moore is a licensed psychologist with over 30 years of therapeutic expertise. With an understanding of spirituality and faith in clients’ lives, she can 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. Contact Dr. Moore at 610-664-4880 Ext 121, or 484-686-6630, jlmpsych910@gmail.com.

2023 CHURCH OFFICERS

THE SESSION with Current Ministry Connections

Pastor Steve Weed – Moderator

Class of 2023

*Jo-Anne Kaplan – Clerk of Session, Children’s Ministry

*Sue Wenger – Adult Discipleship, Co-Chair of PNC

Brint Nicolai – Chair of Worship Committee

Jie Cai – Finance Committee

Class of 2024

*Linda DiLullo - Prayer

*Pam Fleming – Children’s Ministry

*Clara Louie – Spiritual Formation

Jim Hornung – Property, Safety and Security

Class of 2025

Linda Behmke – Chair of Personnel

*Jack Comstock – Personnel, Chair of PNC

*Jan Kennedy – Liaison to Youth

Nina O’Connor – Safety and Security

THE BOARD OF DEACONS with Current Ministry Connections

Class of 2023

Gaby Anik – Treasurer, Deacons’ Assistance Fund

Gwen Blessing – Homebound Communications

*Godfrey Louie – Moderator, Deacons’ Assistance Fund

Gerri Wismer – Bereavement Care/GriefShare

Class of 2024

Ray Bellamy – Transportation

Katie Kennedy – Deacons’ Assistance Fund, College Age Communications

*Dee Knight – Ushering

Donald Vangore – Ushering

Class of 2025

*Mike Boccasini – Clerk, Youth Ministry

Ann Sattel – Missions

Rashmi Vyas – College Age Communications

* Sandi Wray – Deacons’ Pantry/Meal Train, Visitation

* serving second term

PRAYER INFORMATION

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.

Pray for Pastor Steve, for energy, wisdom, and grace to prepare for retirement and to bless NPC.

Missions: Amnion Pregnancy Center offers counseling to those who have undergone an abortion, whether recently or long ago, and provides support to young people who choose to parent their babies. Pray for those who provide the counseling, that they will be both kind and competent in their interactions with those who seek their help. Pray also for the clients to have hearts and minds open to the Lord as he comes to them through the ministry of Amnion staff and volunteers.

<http://amnionpregnancycenter.com/>

BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, October 1

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor
8:30 – 9:15am Prayer Meeting, Pastor Steve's Office
9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream
11:00am Parkway Ministry Meeting, Parlor
11:00am Teen Girls Group, meet in the Gym
1:00pm Nominating Committee Meeting, Parlor
6:00 – 7:00pm Middle School YG, Youth Room
7:00 – 8:00pm High School YG, Youth Room

Monday, October 2

9:30am – 2:30pm Prayer Retreat, Devon, PA
6:15 – 7:15pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:30 – 8:00pm GriefShare, Chapel

Tuesday, October 3

12:15 – 1:15pm Staff Enrichment, Parlor
7:00pm Deacons' Meeting, Parlor

Wednesday, October 4

5:45 – 6:45pm Church Family Supper, Gym
7:00 – 8:00pm The New Testament in Its World,
Pastor Debbie, Chapel
7:00 – 8:00pm Top Lessons of Faith and Life, Pastor
Steve, Parlor. **"Loving God and Loving Baseball."**
7:00 – 8:00pm Kids Praise, Miss Danielle, Choir Room

Thursday, October 5

4:00 – 5:00pm Kickball with the Pastor, Gym
6:30 – 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
7:00 – 8:15 Women's Bible Study, Parlor

Friday, October 6

10:00 – 12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study, Parlor
(Please note new time)

Saturday, October 7

7:30 – 9:00am Men's Group, Parlor

Sunday, October 8

8:15am Sunday School (Parlor)
8:30 – 9:15am Prayer Meeting, Pastor Steve's
Office
9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-
stream
1:00 – 3:00pm New Explorers' Class begins,
Parlor
4:00 – 5:30pm Women's Spiritual Formation
Group begins, Parlor
6:00 – 7:00pm Middle School YG
7:00 – 8:00pm High School

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
Juwana Williams, Intergenerational Ministry
Jinhee Shim, Organist
Colin & Sarah Comstock, Worship Band Ldrs
Linda Pilacik, Minister 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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