

Narberth Presbyterian Church

October 29, 2023

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

October 29, 2023

Prelude

I. Introduction-Choral

Boellman

II. Menuet gothique (from Suite Gothique)

Jinhee Shim, organ

Welcome and Family News

Pastor Steve

Call to Worship

Hebrews 12:1,2

Emmy Davis

Hymn #77

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Lobe Den Herren

Prayer of Invocation

Pastor Debbie

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:41-47

Pam Fleming

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, thank you for giving us the grace to be present today to worship you. We confess that we are not the fellowship of the strong, but the fellowship of the weak who are being made strong by your generous grace. What a relief to come as we are, not only to you, but to one another. Please forgive us for thinking less of the church than you do. Grant us fresh eyes to see you as Head of the church, and one another as the body of Christ. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Sacrament of Baptism

Harper Reese Ferich

Tucker James & Brody William Ferich

Parents: Andy & Eliakim Ferich

Daniella Berger Policarpo

Nicholas Berger Policarpo

Parents: Rocco & Tatiana Policarpo

The Greeting

Worship Song

Living Hope

NPC Worship Band

Children & Youth dismissed to Sunday School

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer Pastor Debbie

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Gospel Medley* *Arr. Adams*

Pam Fleming, violin, Jinhee Shim, piano

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading Psalm 133; Ephesians 4:1-6 Pastor Debbie

Sermon NPC's Home Field Advantage Pastor Steve

Hymn # 700 *We Are God's People* *Symphony*

Benediction Pastor Steve

Postlude *Toccata from Suite Gothique* *Boellman*

Jinhee Shim, organ

Prayer Ministry Jan Kennedy

New! Men's and Women's bible studies on the book of James. See page 7 for details.

Pastor Steve's retirement dinner! Thanks to everyone for RSVP'ing by the deadline for Pastor Steve's retirement dinner. Please know that your contributions are still welcomed and appreciated to help to defray costs. Donations can be made via check (made out to Narberth Presbyterian Church with Retirement Dinner noted in the memo), cash (in an envelope marked with Retirement Dinner), online, (and elect Retirement Dinner), or by text to 610-624-4831 (fund Retirement Dinner).

If you have questions please reach out to Linda Behmke, Ashley Reed, Katie Kennedy, Michelle Phillips, or Jennifer Fisher.

Sunday November 12th at 9:30 am is Pastor Steve's final Sunday Worship Service as our Senior Pastor. Those attending are encouraged to arrive early for a full and resounding service.

There are copies of Pastor Steve's **Top 40 Lessons of Faith and Life** and **60 Most Influential Scripture Verses** available in the chapel.

We need your help! The Parkway Ministry continues to request donations of food and warm clothing. See the weekly newsletter for details; reach out to Jennifer Bonovitz or Marilyn Reed for more information and ways to get involved.

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The PNC has an update on both the Senior Pastor and Transitional Pastor searches.

For our Senior Pastor position, the PNC has hired a search firm, Shepherds Staff, to help find a greater number of qualified candidates. The PNC is still responsible for taking any forwarded candidates through our review process and for making final decisions. In order to help us, Shepherds Staff will be coming for a weekend visit sometime in early December. In addition, we continue to post our position on job sites. We are currently reviewing a recent submission.

In the search for a Transitional Pastor, after vetting and interviewing a potential candidate via Zoom, the PNC invited the candidate and his wife to come for a visit. They did so the weekend of October 14th. During their time here, the candidate met 1-on-1 with several key staff members and attended a staff luncheon. Both the candidate and his wife met with Session, the PNC, and attended Sunday services.

Upon the conclusion of their visit, the PNC received feedback from staff and Session. With that and our own time with him, the PNC unanimously and enthusiastically decided to extend a call to Farrar Griggs to be our Certified Transitional Pastor. He has graciously accepted our call and will be coming with his wife Cindy to NPC in just a few short weeks! In fact, his first official day is November 13th, the day after Steve retires. And just so you know, he also goes by the name of Skip.

Farrar was a naval officer before starting his own attorney practice for many years in North Carolina. During that time, he served in a variety of lay positions in the Presbyterian church, including thirty plus years as an elder. He also served as a lay pastor before going back to seminary to be ordained as an ECO pastor. He recently completed his DMin plus ECO Certification as a Transitional Pastor. In this capacity as an ECO Transitional Pastor, he has served at two different churches in recent years.

As a person and leader, Farrar is articulate, humble, intelligent, Spirit-filled, and wise. He understands what we are going through, has already given us helpful counsel, and is willingly moving from his hometown in North Carolina to serve us. And as he will wholeheartedly attest to, he is also coming with his greatest asset, his wonderful wife Cindy. She brings a lot of warmth and wisdom to us and is accomplished in her own right. By God's providence, they will be moving into an apartment across the street from the church.

We are so grateful to God for His provision and for all of you who have been praying for us. He is good! Thank you! Now, please pray for a smooth move for Farrar and Cindy and that they are able to settle in easily. Please also pray for the PNC and the person that God is calling to be our next Senior Pastor.

NPC FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are thankful for your financial participation with NPC. Your gifts allow our ministry to flourish, helping us to reach out and support missions locally and around the world, teach our children and youth, and maintain our church building.

Through September, your giving to NPC has totaled \$693,968, which is just ahead of last year at this time and represents 59% of our annual budget of \$1,178,400 for 2023.

Spending in budgeted areas is \$873,829.45, which is just below budget through three quarters.

It is a normal pattern to receive a large percentage of giving in the fourth quarter. Historically, this helps NPC to meet our budgeted giving number, but we do not take this for granted. \$484,432 is needed in Quarter 4 to reach budget.

We would ask that you prayerfully consider what you are able to give to help us meet budget, so we may fulfill God's purpose for NPC of building disciples in the love of Jesus Christ as we grow up in worship, grow together in community, and grow out in witness and service.

Ways to Give to NPC:

- **Text** your gift to 610-624-4831 with the dollar amount you wish to donate and optionally, a keyword such as Easter (e.g., \$25 Easter), if you would like your gift directed to that cause. Gifts without a keyword will support the general fund.
- Visit **Give on the NPC Website** to make your gift securely online.
- **Mail** your gift to: Narberth Presbyterian Church, Attn: Financial Secretary, 205 Grayling Avenue, Narberth, PA 19072
- **Donation Plates** are passed weekly during worship.
- **Donation Boxes** at both entrances remain for anyone wishing to drop off their tithe or gift in this way.
- Give by the **transfer of appreciated stock** to NPC. Donating stock directly is one of the most tax-smart ways to give. By donating stock that has appreciated for more than a year, you are able to claim the full market value of the stock at the time of donation as a charitable deduction on your taxes, and avoid capital gains on the stock. Reach out to our Treasurer, Jim Hoffman at jimh@delval.com or 267-236-3559 for our brokerage account info, which is needed to initiate the transaction with your broker.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

Pumpkin Parables – 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 – Infants through PreK are welcomed in room 107 each Sunday! Miss Sharon and our faithful volunteers lead creative Bible lessons that help children interact with God's Word. 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.

Kickball with Pastor Steve - Join Pastor Steve in the church gym from 4:00 – 5:00pm for a lively kickball game on Thursday, November 2nd. Children and Youth are welcome!

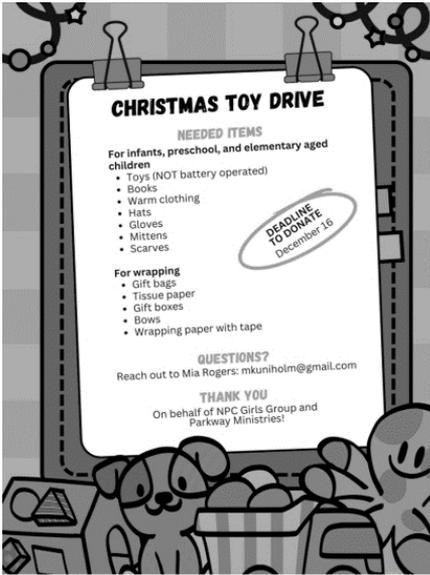
The Philadelphia Project Blitz Weekend for 3rd, 4th, 5th grade - November 3rd, 4th, 5th – Please pray for our children and volunteers attending The Philadelphia Project this Friday through Sunday.

Children's Christmas Pageant - Save the date for Sunday, December 17th! Our pageant will take place at the end of worship in the sanctuary.

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.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY: YOUTH

Teen Girls' Ministry – Sunday, October 29th, Teen Girls' Ministry will meet in the gym directly following worship and head to Get Cafe! Parents can pick up your daughter from the church at 12:30pm. 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.

The Philadelphia Project Blitz Weekend for Youth – Join us for a meaningful weekend of service Friday, December 1st through Sunday, December 3rd! This weekend is open to current 6th through 12th graders. The cost is \$99 to participate, and scholarships are available. Please RSVP to Lisa Hoffman (Lisa.hoffman1@verizon.net) or reach out with any questions.

Youth Sunday School – Middle School and High School meet in the Youth Room each Sunday. Together we are connecting to Jesus and learning to see the beauty in the gospel.

Middle School Youth Group - Middle School Youth Group meets every Wednesday in the Youth Room from 7:00 – 8:00pm. All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are encouraged to attend.

High School Youth Group – High School Youth Groups meets every Sunday in the Youth Room from 7:00 – 8:00pm. **This Sunday, October 29th join Pastor Steve to hear more about “Loving God and Loving Baseball”!** All 9th through 12th graders are encouraged to attend.

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.

An invitation to live into a deeper transformative friendship with Jesus. Join us for a spiritual formation group for women, exploring the following questions: What is Christian spiritual formation? What is my picture of God? Myself? The Gospel? How do people change? How do I follow Jesus? Through Biblical insights, experiential prayer, 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 from 4:00 – 5:30pm, through November 12th**. Contact Heather Gallagher (minimeheather@gmail.com) or Clara Louie (claralouie@yahoo.com).

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead – James 2:26. The book of James emphasizes the importance of living out one's faith through actions and practical wisdom. It teaches us how to be mature Christians. Join the Women's Bible Study as we explore the book of James on **5 Thursday nights from 7:00 – 8:15pm** in the Parlor, starting November 2nd (and skipping the week of Thanksgiving). Contact Lalitha Naveen (lnaveen100@gmail.com) or Clara Louie (claralouie@yahoo.com) if you have any questions.

NEW Men's Interactive 5-week Bible Study on the Book of James starts on Thursday, November 2, from 7:00-8:15 p.m. in Pastor Steve's office. Please contact Ken Eng (k_eng@msn.com) or Naveen Daniel (nav@drexel.edu) for questions. All men are welcome!

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 21st 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. 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 an opportunity to do that.

Most Influential Scripture Verses. Along with his 40 Top Lessons of Faith and Life, Pastor Steve has put together his 60 most influential scripture verses. He will share these over his last 3 Wednesday nights.

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!

Middle School Youth Group – Beginning Wednesday, October 25th, Middle School Youth Group will meet on Wednesdays evenings from 7:00pm – 8:00pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The journey of grief is a painful process; you do not need to walk it alone. We encourage you to come to the video and support group, GriefShare. The sessions 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. You will find this to be a place with people who understand the pain of your loss. GriefShare sessions meet on **Monday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00pm in the Chapel** into December (note that you can join at any time). It is important to register on the GriefShare website. Contact Alice Antonelli (arichardson1@gmail.com) or Gerri Wismer (geewis46@gmail.com) for more information about the group.

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.

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.

- November 17th Paris (2022/23) & Cambridge 2023 (Debbie Watson & Diane Chen)
- December 15th Sr. Christmas Carol Sing & Tea (Save the date)

This year, **Amnion Pregnancy Care Medical Center** marks four decades of unwavering commitment to empowering women, supporting families, and ensuring that every child is given the opportunity to thrive. To commemorate this incredible journey, we will be gathering on November 2, 2023, at 6:00pm at Drexelbrook Event Center for a special fundraising banquet that promises to be joyful, memorable, and inspiring! The **Keynote Speaker will be Allie Beth Stuckey**, a pro-life voice for this generation, with a passion for speaking truth from a Biblical perspective. **Registration is easy and free** (note that a fundraising offering will be taken during the evening). To secure your spot, register by October 23rd. See the weekly newsletter for registration links or go to www.friendsofamnion.org.

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).

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: This week, please pray for the ministries that make up **NPC!**, asking the Lord to fill us each and all with his powerful Spirit of love and justice, so that as we reach out – to each other – and beyond the congregation, into the community – the love of Christ and the mercies of God would flow through us, and many be both encouraged and drawn to the One who is Creator, Redeemer, and Lord!

BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, October 29

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 Teen Girls Group, meet in the Gym
4:00 – 5:15 Women's' Spiritual Formation, Parlor
7:00 – 8:00pm High School Youth Group, Led by Pastor Steve Youth Room

Monday, October 30

6:15 – 7:15pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:30 – 8:00pm GriefShare, Chapel
7:30pm PNC Meeting, Parlor

Tuesday, October 31

5:00 – 8:00pm Youth Halloween Party, McGrew's Home

Wednesday, November 1

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 **Last Wednesday Night Class with Pastor Steve**, Parlor.
7:00 – 8:00pm Kids Praise, Miss Danielle, Choir Room
7:00 – 8:00pm Middle School Youth Group, Youth Room

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

Thursday, November 2

4:00 – 5:00pm **Last Kickball with the Pastor**, Gym

6:30 – 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday, November 3

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

Open to new women!

TPP Blitz Weekend for grades 3-5

Saturday, November 4

7:30am Men's Small Group, Parlor

Open to newcomers!

11:30am Memorial Service for Dolores

Coombs

Sunday, November 5

8:15am Sunday School (Parlor)

8:30 – 9:15am Prayer Meeting, Pastor Steve's Office

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

4:00 – 5:30pm Women's Spiritual Formation Group, Parlor

7:00 – 8:00pm High School YG, Youth Room

Stephen N. Weed, Pastor
Deborah Watson, Associate Pastor
Danielle Kauffman, Intergenerational Ministry
Lisa Hoffman, Interim Youth Director
Jinhee Shim, Organist
Sarah Comstock, Worship Band Leader
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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