



Narberth Presbyterian Church

August 25, 2024

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

August 25, 2024

Prelude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
Jinhee Shim, organ

arr. Payne

Welcome

Pastor Farrar

Call to Worship

Responsive Reading

Pastor Debbie

Come to listen for all God seeks to teach us.

God has given us birth by the word of truth.

We are drawn to God.

We leap for joy when we know God's care.

Every perfect gift comes to us from God.

God's image is a part of each one of us.

God's grace has been poured into our lives.

Wisdom and understanding are offered to us.

Who will dwell on God's holy hill?

Those who walk uprightly and speak the truth.

We will honor God by honoring our neighbors.

We will act toward them as we wish to be treated.

*Hymn #29

O Worship the King

Lyons

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:6; 1 Timothy 1:15-17; John 3:16

Lisa Hoffman

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Debbie

Father, we are easily angered and slow to forgive. We speak without listening and listen without really hearing. Our tongues become weapons rather than instruments of healing. We can be more critical than helpful. Turn us around so that we can accept your forgiveness, and learn to love ourselves as you want us to be, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Prayer & Assurance of Pardon

Our Creator knows our intent. If we truly turn from our undisciplined ways, a new way is opening up for us, and God welcomes us as partners in the gospel. If we believe in that gospel, our salvation is assured and so is our place in God's kingdom. Amen.

Wednesday Night Offering, "Moms at the Well"

Heather Gallagher

Choir Announcement & Invitation

Linda Pilacik

*The Peace

Since we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus, let's share that peace with each other: The peace of the Lord be with you!

And also with you.

Worship Songs

*Son of Heaven
Behold Him
He Will Hold Me Fast*
NPC Worship Band

Children & Youth dismissed to Sunday School

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Psalm 23

Wilson/Litchfield

Dan Purring, vocals, Linda Pilacik, piano

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Pastor Farrar

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-14

Pastor Farrar

Message

In the Beginning

Pastor Farrar

***Hymn #594**

Like a River Glorious

Wye Valley

Benediction

Pastor Farrar


Postlude

Prelude in Classic Style
Jinhee Shim, organ

Young


Prayer Ministry

Mark Wenger

Explorers Class – A new Explorers Class will be offered this fall to anyone who would like to learn more about our church and what we believe. This is a great opportunity to “explore” membership at NPC. If you would like to participate or learn more, please reach out to Sara Mahoney in the church office (smahoney@narberthpres.org). 

Volunteer Fair! Save the date on Sunday, September 8th for the NPC Volunteer Fair. Learn more about the many ministry areas of NPC and discover ways you can get involved and strengthen our community! The Volunteer Fair will take place directly following service in the gym and FOOD is provided. Please contact Sara Mahoney in the church office if you have any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Starting in early September: Choir Rehearsal (Thursday, September 5th) and Bell Choir Rehearsal (Monday, September 9th). Both groups are always looking for new members and no musical experience is required! Reach out to Linda Pilacik (lpilacik@narberthpres.org) to get more information or to join! 

A Celebratory Milestone! Stephen Welsh teaches dance at Eastern University. For the past several years, Stephen has been teaching students in the Prison Education Program [PEP] at State Correctional Institution – Chester. On Tuesday, August 19th, Stephen and Pastor Debbie were privileged to be present at the prison, as the first cohort of 22 men received their associate's degree in liberal arts, in what was a beautiful service of Christian worship, and celebration of these men and their academic achievements. This program is offering hope through learning that is academic, emotional, spiritual and relational, through professors and volunteers who commit to the process and the people, who are creative in their delivery, and open-hearted as they reach out to the staff, as well as to the incarcerated men. Please thank God for Stephen and the others who teach and tutor and pray for both the ones who teach and encourage, as well as for the men, whether they are soon to be released, or not, to continue to learn, to grow, and to serve in their current context.

All-Church Retreat! Save the Date for Friday, May 2nd – Sunday, May 4th 2025! Mark your calendar now.

Turkey Study Tour Debbie Watson and Diane Chen have arranged with Tutku Educational Travel to lead a group from Narberth Presbyterian Church and Palmer Theological Seminary on a 13-day study tour to Turkey from December 28, 2025 to January 9, 2026. Stops include Istanbul, Cappadocia, Perga, Antalya, as well as the cities of the seven churches in Revelation. Registration will begin in the fall. Please contact Diane (dianegchen@gmail.com) for a trip brochure or to express an interest in joining the tour. Space is limited.

Notes From Justice and Mercy: Redeemed for a Cause recently made a very exciting announcement! On July 19th, they began providing teen girl-centered services at their Teen HUB located at 730-732 West Moyamensing Avenue, Philadelphia, PA, 19148 (the South Philly drop-in center). Teen girls have access to basic needs items such as free toiletries, food, life skills workshops, health education, sex and breast health, yoga & meditation sessions, crisis & case management, health screenings & referrals, individual & group counseling/coaching, life coaching, referrals to our partners, and others! They will also be having a girls' night every 4th Friday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00pm. The center's new hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday (1st & 3rd week of the month only), and Saturday 12:00 – 2:00pm. NPC folks have many opportunities to help: praying, volunteering to keep the center open for more hours, donating and more. All groups and/or individuals looking to get involved should contact Dawn Williamson (redeemedforacause@gmail.com.) Our Volunteer Advocate for anti-human trafficking is Sally Kapner.

PRAYER INFORMATION

Please Remember in Prayer

Missions: Standing Rock, North Dakota St. James Church, in Cannon Ball, is the first place where the Episcopal Church came onto the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota. Through it, three other congregations were begun. For almost 115 years, this congregation has served in one of North Dakota's toughest towns, where alcoholism and unemployment are both very high. Jesus and this congregation aren't going to give up, so they continue to find ways to minister to the everyday needs of the people. Please pray for the Lord's increasing blessing in, among and through the people of Cannon Ball and the Standing Rock Reservation.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

Bible and Bingo is Back – Join us in Sunday School this August as we hear a new Bible story and play a fun game of Bingo! Prizes too! This is a fun way for our new Kindergarten students to get acclimated to big kid Sunday School.

Children's Ministry is Updating our Records – Parents please see NPC's Friday Newsletter to update important information about your child (infants through 5th grade 2024-2025 school year). A direct email will be sent with this link to all families in Children's Ministry as well. Thank you!

Sunday School Fall Kickoff is Sunday, September 8th – On Sunday, September 8th we will bless children and teachers at the front part of worship, kickoff our new Sunday School programming, and enjoy the **Volunteer Fair** in the gym with a light lunch provided!



Kids Praise is Back – PreK through 5th grade are invited to the Choir Room each Wednesday night beginning September 11th from 7:00pm-8:00pm for music fun!

All-Church Retreat! Save the Date for Friday, May 2nd – Sunday, 4th, 2025! More details soon!

VBC 2025! Yes, Save the Dates Now! – Monday, June 16th through Friday, June 20th from 9:00am until 11:30am. Theme to be revealed!!

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: YOUTH

Youth Sunday School – All Youth (6th-12th) are encouraged to attend Sunday School. Youth are dismissed to the Youth Room from the sanctuary.

Youth Sunday School is changing! Beginning on Sunday, September 8th, 6th-9th grade will be dismissed for Sunday School. Our 10th-12th graders will stay in service, with the opportunity to join a small group immediately following service. We hope that this shift challenges our students in new and impactful ways. If you have any questions please talk to Claire Woods (cwoods@narberthpres.org.)

Parent Meeting: We will have a parent meeting on Sunday, September 15th immediately following service in the Youth Room. Come ready to hear about what is happening for NPC Youth this Fall!

COMING THIS FALL: 

Middle School Fall Retreat! Calling all 6th-8th grade students! Join us at Breakaway for an awesome weekend retreat in NE Maryland. September 27th-29th will be a weekend you won't want to miss. Register by Sept. 7th. For more information, please contact Claire.

High School Fall Retreat! Join all 9th-12th grade students for a weekend away at Blue Mountain Conference & Retreat Center! October 25th-27th will be a weekend filled with worship, impactful messages, games, and FUN! Register by Oct. 5th. For more information, please contact Claire.

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.

GriefShare: "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 called GriefShare. 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. This is a place where you can be around people who understand the pain of your loss. The first GriefShare session will meet on **Monday, September 9th from 6:30 – 8:00pm** in either the Parlor or the Chapel area and will continue into December (note that you can join at any time). It is important to register on the GriefShare website (see link in the Friday newsletter). Reach out to Alice Antonelli (arichardson1@gmail.com) or Gerri Wismer (geewis46@gmail.com) for more information about the group."




New Bible Study: A Heart after God: Learning from the Great Prayers of the Bible "*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*" – *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18* Together, we will examine and learn from some of the beautiful and powerful prayers in the Bible such as the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6, Luke 11), David's prayer of repentance (Psalm 51), Jesus' prayers of suffering (Matthew 26) and His high priestly prayer (John 17), Paul's prayer for the Ephesians (Ephesians 3:14-21), and Daniel's and Moses' prayers of intercession (Daniel 9, Exodus 32-34).

Day/Time: This will be a 5-week study (9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10) on Thursdays from 7:00 – 8:15pm. Women meet in the parlor and men meet in the Pastor's office.

Questions: Contact Lalitha Naveen (lnaveen100@gmail.com), Ken Eng (K_Eng@msn.com), or Tim Neilson (mytn1122@gmail.com)

Overeaters Anonymous. 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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

Regular Wednesday Night programming will begin on Wednesday, September 11th with a church family supper followed by the following offerings: 

Moms at the Well: Motherhood can be challenging! For centuries, women met daily at neighborhood wells to draw water for their families, meeting a very significant physical need. But these wells were also gathering spaces, providing much-needed community and relationships. Join us this fall for a new Bible study, led by Heather Gallagher and Linda DiLullo, called *“Moms at the Well: Meeting God through the mothers of scripture”*. This Bible study offers a modern-day “well” for mothers, a gathering place to encourage one another and take an honest look at the challenges we face as moms. It also allows us to experience the God who invites us into a process of spiritual transformation. We will begin **Wednesday, September 11th from 7:00pm-8:00pm** and this study will run for seven weeks. If you are interested in attending, please email Danielle Kauffman (dkauffman@narberthpres.org). There is a book that goes along with the study so RSVP’s will help us plan well.

Three Free Sins: Please join us this Fall for what promises to be an eye-opening, enlightening book study of *Three Free Sins: God’s Not Mad at You*, by Steve Brown, retired Pastor and Seminary Professor. Each week we’ll be reading one (brief) chapter of this down-to-earth book, thinking about, and discussing it. We’ll have a good time and, I trust, will be encouraged to live our lives more humbly and more confidently before God, and with each other! Books will be available for a \$10 donation, or you can purchase one yourself.

Kids Praise is Back – PreK through 5th grade are invited each Wednesday night for music fun!

Middle School Youth Group! Each week offers games, lessons, and fun! All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are encouraged to attend and bring a friend!

THE SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

At our best, Elders and Deacons seek by the grace of God to be examples of Jesus Christ and models of the quality-of-life which God desires for the whole church. It is a great privilege and responsibility – we welcome your prayers!

Elders

As there were in Old Testament times elders for the government of the people, so the New Testament Church provided persons with particular gifts to share in governing and ministry. Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world.

It is the duty of elders, individually and jointly, to strengthen and nurture the faith and life of the congregation committed to their charge. Together with the pastor, they should encourage the people in the worship of God, equip and renew them for their tasks in the church and for their mission in the world, visit and comfort and care for the people, with special attention to the poor, the sick, the lonely and those who are oppressed. They should inform the pastor and the session of those persons and structures that may need special attention. They should assist in worship. They should cultivate their ability to teach the Bible and may be authorized to supply places that are without the regular ministry of the Word and Sacrament. Those duties that all Christians are bound to perform by the law of love are especially incumbent upon elders because of their calling to office and are to be fulfilled by them as official responsibilities. (Excerpts from the *Book of Order* (2009/11))

Deacons

The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this office.

It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them from time to time by the session, such as leading the people in worship through prayers of intercession, reading the Scriptures, presenting the gifts of the people, and assisting with the Lord's Supper. (Excerpts from the *Book of Order* (2009/11))

The Nominating Committee is receiving recommendations for the offices of Elder and Deacon to begin in January 2025. It is not necessary to obtain the permission of the person you are suggesting. It is preferable for the Nominating Committee to make the initial contact should this person be nominated.

In light of the description above, if you have individuals to suggest for **Elder**, please write them down below. Please describe briefly why you believe the individual would be suitable for this office.

For the office of Elder:

Name: _____

Reason for recommendation: _____

Name: _____

Reason for recommendation: _____

Name: _____

Reason for recommendation: _____

(Further names may be suggested on a separate paper.)

In light of the description above, if you have individuals to suggest for **Deacon**, please write them down below. Please describe briefly why you believe the individual would be suitable for this office.

For the office of Deacon:

Name: _____

Reason for recommendation: _____

Name: _____

Reason for recommendation: _____

Name: _____

Reason for recommendation: _____

(Further names may be suggested on a separate paper.)

Please put this form in the collection plate or drop off in the church office.

BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, August 25

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor

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

Monday, August 26

7:00pm PNC Meeting, Parlor

8:00pm Overeaters Anonymous, Pastor's Office

Tuesday, August 27

12:15 – 1:15pm Staff Meeting, Parlor

Wednesday, August 28

Thursday, August 29

Friday, August 30

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

Saturday, August 31

Sunday, September 1

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor

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

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: ilmpsy910@gmail.com

Narberth Presbyterian Church

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Friday 9:00 am - 3:00pm

Phone: 610-664-4880

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E-mail: office@narberthpres.org

CCLI # License #387124

Jesus Christ, Minister

Farrar Griggs, Pastor

Cell #: (704) 239-4735

Email: fgriggs@narberthpres.org

Deborah Watson, Associate Pastor

Danielle Kauffman, Intergenerational Ministry

Claire Woods, Director of Youth Ministry

Sharon Shallow, Nursery Coordinator

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, Director of Preschool

Chris Marinelli, Weekday Custodian

Larry Lubchuk, Weekend Custodian



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