

Narberth Presbyterian Church

September 1, 2024

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

September 1, 2024

Prelude

It is Well with My Soul
Jinhee Shim, organ

arr. Hamlin

Welcome

Pastor Farrar

Call to Worship

Responsive Reading

Vera Comstock

Listen! God is welcoming us to this time of worship.

Young and old, rich and poor, all are welcomed.

This is a place where all belong.

This is a time when all are accountable to God.

The maker of all seeks our common good.

The God of mercy calls on us to be merciful.

We are not judges over our sisters and brothers.

We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Come to sing praises and put your trust in God.

Come to prepare yourself to serve in Christ's name.

We bring all our needs to God, our hope.

We want to share faith and hope with others.

*Hymn #72

To God Be the Glory

To God Be the Glory

Scripture Reading

Psalm 100; Psalm 29:9-11; Psalm 11:4

Isabel Lally

Prayer of Confession

O God, we confess that our good intentions have gone astray. We favor the people who are like us and honor those we deem to be important. We write off those with whom we disagree and exercise our self-serving behavior. It is so much easier to give advice than to do good. Father, we plead for your forgiveness. We pray for a depth of faith that can make a difference in our lives and the world. Amen.

Silent Prayer & Assurance of Pardon

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

Video Announcement – GriefShare

***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

Oh How I Need You

Abide

NPC Worship Band

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Debbie

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Abide With Me

Monk, arr. Strong

Kristin Nelson, clarinet, Linda Pilacik, piano

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading

John 2:12-23

Pastor Farrar

Message

In His Holy Temple

Pastor Farrar

***Hymn #782**

Come, Share the Lord

Divernon

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God, the Lord's table.

Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them 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 holy God, creator and ruler of the universe. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and called us to love and serve you.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born in humility, he came to rule over all. Helpless as an infant, he showed the power of your love. Poor in things of the world, he brought the wealth of your grace. Rejected by many, he welcomed all who sought him.

In his death and resurrection, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us people of hope.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. The class will meet for two consecutive Sundays on September 29th & October 6th in the Parlor. If you would like to participate or learn more, please reach out to Sara Mahoney (smahoney@narberthpres.org) in the church office. 

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!

Olney Christian School: A big thank you to all who donated school supplies. They will go a long way to making sure the children have a great year! See the Friday Newsletter for a few pictures.

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: Rancho del Rey Daniel Moller's parents, Hank and Anne Moller, sold their PA home in 1954, moved to Mexico with their 3 children. There they saw poor and homeless children living in the city trash dump. The Mollers took in "boys of the street" and in 1956 purchased a home on an orange plantation south of Monterrey, Mexico. Soon, more than 50 boys joined their family. Decades later, Daniel continues the work of Rancho del Rey – a place where children who have been traumatized will grow in safety, in an environment with the resources to meet their physical, spiritual, social, emotional and intellectual needs, and where the boys' parents receive training, safe haven as needed, and support to become healthy families. Here, boys will be reintegrated into their families and channeled into higher education. Please pray for the boys, their parents, and the staff to accomplish the Lord's will for all of them.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

Family Worship is Sunday, September 1st – Today is Family Worship at NPC! All Kindergarten through 5th grade students and encouraged to worship with their church family and participate in Communion. The NPC Nursery is available for infants through PreK in RM 107.

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. Food and fellowship provided! 

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 was sent with a link to all families in Children's Ministry as well. Thank you!

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 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!



WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS

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, September 1

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor

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

Monday, September 2

Holiday – Church Office Closed

8:00pm Overeaters Anonymous, Pastor's Office

Tuesday, September 3

12:15 – 1:15pm Staff Meeting, Parlor

Wednesday, September 4

Thursday, September 5

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

Friday, September 6

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

Saturday, September 7

Sunday, September 8

Kick-Off Sunday

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor

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

Blessing of the children during the Worship Service

Volunteer Fair directly following the Worship Service, Gym

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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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

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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 Roykouff, 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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