



# Narberth Presbyterian Church

September 8, 2024

# LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

September 8, 2024

Prelude

*Come, Thou Almighty King*  
Jinhee Shim, organ

arr. Ring

Welcome

Pastor Farrar

Call to Worship

Responsive Reading

Alexa & Will Higgins

Tell the whole congregation of God's people.

This is a day for new beginnings.

**This is a time for God's appearing.**

**This is the moment for faithful response.**

Praise God in the assembly of the faithful.

Praise God for love that fulfills God's law.

**Praise God for life enriched by love.**

**Praise God for love that fulfills God's law.**

This is the hour to wake from our sleep.

The energy of God's love fills this place.

**Here we claim our identity as Christians.**

**Here we become the church of Jesus Christ.**

\*Hymn #26

*Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*

*Lauda Anima*

*Scripture Reading*

Psalm 51:7-10; Psalm 103:1-5;

Ruth Ellen Patterson

2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:23; Ezekiel 36:25-27

Prayer of Confession

Katie Kennedy

**O God, we have not been faithful to your commands. We have been more ready to condemn than to console, more eager to justify ourselves than to work for understanding. We feed the flames of dissent instead of welcoming the freeing power of forgiveness. We gather as two or three, not to welcome your presence but to gossip about those who are absent. Our sins are destroying us. Father, turn us around to a new way of being. Amen.**

Silent Prayer & Assurance of Pardon

*Salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers. God's healing presence has come among us and dwells within us. Our openness to God's transforming love releases in us the potential for wholeness. With God, there is no limit to what can be accomplished in our lives and through his presence in us. He is the way, the truth and the life. Amen.*

\*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

*In the Fields of the Lord*  
*The Blessing*  
NPC Worship Band

Anointing & Blessing of Children, Youth, & Teachers

Hymn #470

*Jesus Loves Me, This I Know (v 1)*

*Jesus Loves Me*

*Children & Youth (6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade) dismissed to Sunday School*

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Debbie

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Praise Him, Praise Him*

*arr. Shackley*

Linda Pilacik & Jinhee Shim, piano

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading

John 3:1-15

Pastor Farrar

Message

The Odd Couple

Pastor Farrar

\*Hymn #557

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

*Scott*

Benediction

Pastor Farrar

Postlude

*Voluntary in A Major*

*Selby*

Jinhee Shim, organ

Prayer Ministry

Diane Chen

**Volunteer Fair!** Join us TODAY 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. See you there!

**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 29<sup>th</sup> & October 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Recent Session Actions:** The Session met August 20<sup>th</sup>, and the following actions were approved:

- Adoption of a Committee Restructure. The Principal Committees are to become Worship, Ministry, Mission, Fellowship, Discipleship and Administration & Operations. Each of the first five Committees will have two elders chairing it. The existing committees will become subcommittees assigned to the various new committees, and the Session will begin to review, add and purge those committees as needed.
- Acknowledged a Regional Presbytery meeting at Grace Church, Bethlehem, PA on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Three presbyteries will attend. If interested, please contact Farrar, Debbie, or Sara for more information.
- Acknowledged the convening of the Officer Nominating Committee. Co-Chairs are Pam Fleming and Linda DiLullo.
- Next Deacons Meeting: September 10.
- Next Session Meeting: September 17.

**Road to Emmaus with Jesus Day Retreat:** As the fall season begins, life and ministry pick up at a faster pace again! Without the intentionality of slowing, soon enough we can be swallowed up in the unceasing demands that come our way. “Come to the Table” is the theme of our silent day retreat on **Saturday October 5, 9:30am – 2:30pm at the Gallagher’s Barn & Ruins in Devon PA**. You will have the opportunity to spend time with God in solitude with community and to receive spiritual direction, if desired. Contact Elder Linda DiLullo at [ldilullo3@gmail.com](mailto:ldilullo3@gmail.com) or 610-453-3420 to sign up. Registration will be closed once maximum capacity is reached. The cost is \$20, which includes refreshment and retreat material. It is a bring-your-own-lunch event.

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

**All-Church Retreat! Save the Date for Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dianegchen@gmail.com)) for a trip brochure or to express an interest in joining the tour. Space is limited.

# PRAYER INFORMATION

## Please Remember in Prayer

**Missions: NPC Christian Preschool** As the 2024-2025 school year begins, please lift up prayers of joy, gratitude, and provision, for Virginia Davis, who directs the Preschool, for the wonderful staff of teachers, aides and specialty instructors, and for the children and their families. Pray that this school year will be filled with blessings for all concerned, and that they will – individually and together – thrive!

**Notes From Justice and Mercy:** The Chestnut Foundation cares for people with transverse myelitis and is currently experiencing many challenges. Benjamin has made progress in his abilities but is struggling socially. Shelby is a sweet 20-going-on-12-year-old and needs total care. The family would like to find assistance in locating care that is appropriate for her needs and abilities. Usually, grandmother, Maryann, and family friend, Donna Hart, offer crucial support to Benjamin and Shelby's father, Matthew, with whom the children live. But Maryann had to travel to help her daughter and Donna was in a rehab facility until after Labor Day, trying to regain strength after her heart surgery. Please pray that appropriate help for the Chestnuts will come quickly. Pray that Benjamin and Shelby will be agreeable to that help when it arrives. Praise that after 5+ weeks in the hospital and rehab, Donna is finally home.

## INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

**Sunday School Fall Kickoff is Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** – On Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Bible Trivia NEW Sunday School Series** – Learning what's in the Bible can be great fun, but the most important reason to learn what's IN the Bible is so we know how to live it OUT! Join us in Sunday School for this fun new series.

**Kids Praise begins Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>** – PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to the Choir Room each Wednesday night beginning September 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 8:00pm for music fun.

**The Philadelphia Project Blitz Weekend (November 1st-3rd)** – All current 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join Miss Danielle on an amazing weekend of service with TPP. If you would like to register or help chaperone, please email Danielle.

**Children's Ministry is Updating our Records** – Parents please see NPC's Friday Newsletter to update important information about your child (infants through 5<sup>th</sup> 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!

## INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: YOUTH

**Middle School Youth Group:** MSYG kicks off this Wednesday, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Youth Room! We will gather for games, a lesson, and small group discussion! We are excited to see you there!

**NEW High School Small Group:** All 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to take part in a NEW High School Small Group. We will hold a brief meeting on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> in the church gym following worship. Come enjoy a soft pretzel and learn more details on our student-led Bible Study and fellowship.

**Youth Sunday School** – All 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join us for Sunday School in the Youth Room! They will be dismissed following worship during the service.

**Youth Parent Meeting:** Parents of NPC Youth, come and hear important information on the upcoming program year, ask questions, and learn more about the NPC Youth vision and activities that are being planned. We will meet in the Youth Room following service on September 15<sup>th</sup>. All Youth are invited to the gym for a soft pretzel and fellowship with Lisa and Jim Hoffman. Hope to see you there!

**Middle School Fall Retreat!** Calling all 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students! Join us at Breakaway for an awesome weekend retreat in NE Maryland. September 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> will be a weekend you won't want to miss. Register by September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**High School Fall Retreat!** Join all 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students for a weekend away at Blue Mountain Conference & Retreat Center! October 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> will be a weekend filled with worship, impactful messages, games, and FUN! Register by October 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 begins this week! Join us on Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> for 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited each Wednesday night for music fun!

**Middle School Youth Group!** Each week offers games, lessons, and fun! All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

# 2024 CHURCH OFFICERS

## THE SESSION with Current Ministry Connections

Pastor Farrar Griggs – Moderator

### Class of 2024

\*Linda DiLullo

Jay Field

\*Pam Fleming

Jim Hornung

### Class of 2025

Linda Behmke

\*Jack Comstock

\*Jan Kennedy

Nina O'Connor

### Class of 2026

\*Jie Cai

Diane Chen

\*Brint Nicolai

Mark Wenger

## THE BOARD OF DEACONS with Current Ministry Connections

### Class of 2024

Ray Bellamy

Katie Kennedy

\*Dee Knight

Donald Vangore

### Class of 2025

Ann Sattel

Rashmi Vyas

\* Sandi Wray

### Class of 2026

Chang Liu

Lalitha Naveen

Rick Plummer

\*Gerri Wismer

\* serving second term

# BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

## *Sunday, September 8*

### *Kick-Off Sunday*

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor

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

**Blessing of Students & Teachers** during the Worship Service

**Volunteer Fair** directly following the Worship Service, Gym

## *Monday, September 9*

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

6:30 – 8:00pm GriefShare, Chapel

7:00pm PNC Meeting, Parlor

8:00pm Overeaters Anonymous, Pastor's Office

## *Tuesday, September 10*

12:15 – 1:15pm Staff Meeting, Parlor

7:00pm Deacons Meeting, Chapel

## *Wednesday September 11*

First day of Preschool!

## *Wednesday, September 11 (continued)*

5:45 – 6:45 Church Family Supper, Gym

7:00 – 8:00pm Moms at the Well, Parlor

7:00 – 8:00pm Three Free Sins, Chapel

7:00 – 8:00pm Kids Praise, Choir Room

7:00 – 8:00pm MSYG, Youth Room

## *Thursday, September 12*

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

7:00 – 8:15pm Women's Bible Study, Parlor

7:00 – 8:15pm Men's Bible Study, Pastor's Office

## *Friday, September 13*

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

## *Saturday, September 14*

### *Sunday, September 15*

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor

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

**Youth Parent Meeting** directly following the Worship Service, Youth Room

## *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](mailto:ilmpsy910@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](mailto:office@narberthpres.org)**

CCLI # License #387124

Jesus Christ, Minister

Farrar Griggs, Pastor

Cell #: (704) 239-4735

Email: [fgriggs@narberthpres.org](mailto: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



### **On the Web:**

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