



# Narberth Presbyterian Church

September 15, 2024

# LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

September 15, 2024

Prelude

*Toccata in C Major*  
Jinhee Shim, organ

*Bach*

Welcome

Pastor Farrar

Call to Worship

Responsive Reading

Pastor Debbie

Call on God with praise and thanksgiving.

Tell of God's wonderful works.

**Today we open ourselves to God's presence.**

**Let the hearts of all who seek God rejoice.**

When we eat, we are reminded of God's provision.

When we drink pure water, we give thanks.

**Surely God has blessed us with food and drink.**

**Daily we are strengthened for tasks we face.**

We are guided by God's laws and statutes.

We benefit from God's generosity.

**Let all the people worship with joy.**

**Let all whom God has chosen sing together!**

\*Hymn #52

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

*Ellacombe*

*Scripture Reading*

Psalm 24:7-10; Psalm 72:15-17;  
Matthew 7:7; Revelation 3:8

Tom Patterson

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Debbie

O God, we are people of the flesh more than people of the Spirit. Our lives are not worthy of the gospel of Christ. We confess our lack of attention to your laws, your living Word, your prompting Spirit. You alone are our salvation, our healing, our high opportunity to serve. We choose to belong to you. Accept and change us, we pray. Amen.

Silent Prayer & Assurance of Pardon

*God has offered us a presence we do not recognize, bread we have ignored, and compassion we have not deserved. The food from heaven is offered to us daily, freely given to all who are open to receive it. Let us rejoice in this moment of God's amazing generosity, opening our lives to the gifts of God, that we might share them with others. Praise God!* **Amen.**

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Jack Comstock

Parkway Ministry Announcement

Linda Behmke



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pastor Nominating Committee Update:** As previously reported in an update, the PNC had interviewed a candidate presented to us by Shepherd Staff, our search firm, and had been strongly interested in moving forward with them. The candidate notified us shortly thereafter, however, that they were respectfully withdrawing from consideration due to personal reasons. We did not have any new candidates during the month of August, so we did not meet. Since then, two potential candidates have been brought to our attention by Shepherd Staff. We voted to give approval for the search firm to proceed with its process of vetting and interviewing the first candidate. We have also asked Shepherd Staff to inquire about whether a second candidate would be interested in serving in Pennsylvania. Please continue to pray boldly and expectantly for God's provision for us of a new Senior Pastor.

**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.

**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.

**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.

## PRAYER INFORMATION

### Please Remember in Prayer

**Missions: Cornerstone Christian Academy** is a co-educational, independent Christian school, offering a full academic program for students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Cornerstone's faculty, staff and volunteers (including from NPC) have served the children and families of Southwest Philadelphia since 1988. Their vision is to be a model urban Christian school where students are grounded in faith, shaped with Christ-like character, and equipped with knowledge & skills to excel in high school, college, & throughout life. As the school year begins, please pray for the adults of Cornerstone Christian Academy to live their faith so that the children see Christ in them, are drawn to, and inspired to follow him, too.

## INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

**Sunday School** – This fall our K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be using the *Gospel Light* curriculum and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> begin with a series called *Bible Trivia*. All are welcome in the gym for Sunday School fun and learning!

**NPC Nursery** – The NPC Nursery (RM 107) is led by Sharon Shallow and volunteer team. Each week our youngest (infants – PreK) are learning about God through music, art, and play. We follow the *Growing Up for God* Bible series.

**Kids Praise Wednesday Night Children's Program** – PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to the Choir Room each Wednesday night from 7:00 – 8:00pm for music fun. Come make a joyful noise!

**The Philadelphia Project Blitz Weekend (November 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>)** – 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

**Teen Girls & Guys:** This program will kick off on the first Sunday of October. Stay tuned for details on how you can join these groups!

**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> graders are welcome to join us for Sunday School in the Youth Room! They will be dismissed following worship during the service.

**Youth Parent Meeting TODAY!:** 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. 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. For more information, please contact Claire.

**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 Oct. 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

Wednesday Nights got off to a good start this past week! Join us on Wednesdays 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 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 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

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

### 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 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

## *Monday, September 16*

6:15 – 7:15pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
6:30 – 8:00pm GriefShare, Parlor  
8:00pm Overeaters Anonymous, Pastor's Office

## *Tuesday, September 17*

12:15 – 1:15pm Staff Meeting, Parlor  
7:00pm Session Meeting, Parlor

## *Wednesday September 18*

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

## *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: [jlmpsych910@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@narberthpres.org)**

CCLI # License #387124

## *Thursday, September 19*

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 20*

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

## *Saturday, September 21*

## *Sunday, September 22*

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor  
9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream

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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