



Narberth Presbyterian Church

September 22, 2024

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

September 22, 2024

Prelude

Grave and Adagio (from Sonata No. 2)

Mendelssohn

Jinhee Shim, organ

Welcome

Pastor Debbie

Call to Worship

Psalm 98:1-6

Michael Steenhoff

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!

*Hymn #50

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Mit Freuden Zart

Scripture Reading

2 Kings 5:1, 9-14

Lalitha Naveen

Prayer of Confession

Diane Chen

God Alone, we come to this place each week, to gather in your presence, to worship you, who alone are worthy, to hear from you, receive from you. Too often, we have other agendas, and rather than worship, rather than eagerly await a word from you, a touch from you, we are elsewhere in heart and mind. Not only do we miss you, Lord, we miss our neighbor, and we miss the life-changing work you are doing in and through them – work you long to do in and through us. Forgive us, and reset the focus of our lives – mind, heart, body – that we might never leave a service of worship the same way we came in. We ask in the catalytic Name of Jesus, Amen.

Silent Prayer & Assurance of Pardon

Video Announcement – The Practicing Way

Simon & Cindy Hauger

*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

You Are With Me
Goodness of God
NPC Worship Band

Children & Youth (6th – 9th grade) dismissed to Sunday School

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Debbie

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Pathetique, 3rd Movement
David Cai, piano

Beethoven

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading

Mark 3:1-6

Diane Chen

Message

Don't Leave the Way You Came In

Pastor Debbie

A Time of Prayer

*Hymn #520

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Trust in Jesus

Benediction

Pastor Debbie

Postlude

Fugue in C Major (from Sonata No. 2)
Jinhee Shim, organ

Mendelssohn

Prayer Ministry

Jack Comstock

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.

Nominating Committee – the 2025 Nominating Committee, co-chaired by Linda DiLullo & Pam Flemming is looking for Elder and Deacon Nominations. See p. 9 & 10 of the bulletin for more information. Fill out the form or email office@narberthpres.org to submit a nomination.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recent Session Actions: The Session met September 17th, and the following actions were approved:

- Permission was given for the Personnel Committee to write an official Parental Leave Policy which would allow for up to 8 weeks of paid leave to be used for childbirth or adoption. It would be stipulated to be started within 6 months of the life event and could be used continuously or on an intermittent basis. It could be used with or without utilization of FMLA but the Parental Leave portion would be paid – both would provide job protection.
- Any NPC staff member who chooses to attend either Heritage Presbyterian meetings and/or ECO National Gatherings would be reimbursed for all reasonable expenses including registration, transportation, lodging and meals if up-front payment is not an option. If up-front payment is possible this would be the preferred option.
- Acknowledging that we are all sinners, in need of God's mercy and grace, and desiring to progress in holiness, the session of Narberth Presbyterian Church affirms its interpretation of the Scriptures as read in their totality, and ECO Polity, that any person who has completed a meaningful preparation process as determined by the session, and has given a testimony to the session of his or her faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, may be welcomed as a covenant partner (member) by our church, provided he or she answers in the affirmative the questions normally asked to new members.
- Next Deacon's Meeting: October 1st.
- Next Session Meeting: October 15th.

Gifts of Hope (A Message from Ashley Reed): Hello my church family, this year will be our 20th annual Gifts Of Hope! It will also be my last in charge of the committee. It has been an honor to be a team member for over a decade, but my time has come to an end. The physical toll it takes on me has become too much for my body to keep up with. GOH is too important to our church family and our missionaries to end just because I cannot keep going. Join us this year to see what it is like to be a team member and help this vision come to life. Many hands make light work, and this is never truer than with GOH. Although I am stepping down, I am not abandoning those that go after me. I will share my knowledge and help create a smooth transition to a new team of people. If you would like to join us this year or have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you, Ashley (amr0819@gmail.com//215.776.1358)

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 Linda DiLullo (ldilullo3@gmail.com//610-453-3420) to sign up. The cost is \$20, which includes refreshment and retreat material. It is a bring-your-own-lunch event.

Fundraising Banquet: Join **Amnion Pregnancy Care Medical Center** for a special evening celebrating the strength of God's provision for life. We will be gathering on **October 15, 2024, at 6:00pm**, at Springfield Country Club (400 West Sproul Road, Springfield, PA 19064) for a special fundraising banquet that promises to be joyful, memorable and inspiring! The Keynote Speaker will be Scott Klusendorf, President of Life Training Institute and the host of the television series Life is Best. Registration is easy and free. Join us as our guest (note that a fundraising offering will be taken during the evening). To secure your spot, simply register by October 7, 2024, and let them know that you want to sit at Alice Antonelli's table.

Men's Breakfast will resume on Saturday, October 26th. More details to come.

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

Turkey Study Tour Debbie Watson and Diane Chen have arranged with Tutku Educational Travel to lead a group from NPC and Palmer Theological Seminary on a 13-day study tour to Turkey from December 28, 2025 – January 9, 2026. Registration is open! Contact Diane (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: Olney Christian School Founded in 2011, the Mission of Olney Christian School is to provide students in the Northeastern Philadelphia area with a choice for a quality, affordable, Christ-centered education. The vision of Olney Christian School is to equip students in our Philadelphia communities for life by educating their minds, nurturing their hearts, and training their hands with practical life skills. NPC recently helped furnish school supplies to brighten everyone's return to school! Please pray for the school to fully staff its faculty and to flourish during this academic year.

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. 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 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 – This fall our K – 2nd grade will be using the *Gospel Light* curriculum and 3rd – 4th 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.

NEW Family Fellowship Game – Church family of all ages are invited to the gym directly following worship on **Sunday, October 20th** for an intergenerational game. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Please RSVP by Sunday, October 13th to Danielle.

Kids Praise Children's Program – PreK – 5th 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 1st – 3rd) – All current 3rd, 4th, and 5th 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 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!

VBC 2025! – Monday, June 23rd through Friday, June 27th from 9:00am until 11:30am. Our theme this year is “Live it Out” – This summer we are focusing on one powerful action: loving like Jesus! At VBC we will not only hear about Jesus' love but also learn to express that love through our actions. Join us this summer at VBC!

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: YOUTH

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

High School Small Group - All high school students (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th) are invited to the youth room following worship to dive deeper into the sermon scripture. Please reach out to Claire with any questions.

Youth Sunday School – All 6th – 9th graders are welcome to join us in the Youth Room! They will be dismissed from the service following the worship songs.

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

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 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 Practicing Way: Starting October 2nd, Simon and Cindy Hauger are leading an 8-week series on Practicing the Way, a wonderful new book about spiritual formation. This series is intended to help you be more intentional on the journey of spiritual formation, help you get unstuck if you’ve stalled out, or just guide you to developing a deeper relationship with God. Simon and Cindy have been blessed by this series and are excited to share it with our larger community. If you want to learn more, you can check out the Practicing the Way website or reach out to Simon or Cindy directly (shauger@workshopu.org//215-605-6850).

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 22

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor
9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream
High School Small Group meeting in the Youth Room directly following the Worship Service

Monday, September 23

6:15 – 7:15pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
6:30 – 8:00pm GriefShare, Chapel
7:00pm E/D/S Prayer Meeting, Parlor
7:30pm PNC Meeting, Parlor
8:00pm Overeaters Anonymous, Pastor's Office

Tuesday, September 24

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

Wednesday September 25

5:45 – 6:45 Church Family Supper, Gym
7:00 – 8:00pm Moms at the Well, Chapel
7:00 – 8:00pm Three Free Sins, Gym
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

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, September 26

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 27

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

Saturday, September 28

Sunday, September 29

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

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:

www.narberthpres.org

twitter.com/narberthpres

facebook.com/narberthpresbyterian