



# Narberth Presbyterian Church

September 29, 2024

# LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

September 29, 2024

**Prelude**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

*arr. Swann*

Jinhee Shim, organ

**Welcome**

**Pastor Debbie**

**Video Announcement – Practicing the Way**

**Call to Worship**

**Responsive Reading**

**Caitlin Henry**

**Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!**

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

**Know that the Lord, he is God!**

**It is he who made us, and we are his;**

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!**

**Give thanks to him; bless his name!**

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

**Come, let us worship God!**

**\*Hymn #62**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

*St. Denio*

**Scripture Reading**

**Psalm 23**

**Trae Hoffner**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Jack Comstock**

Eternal God, you created us, and you sustain us moment by moment by your great love. We sing of your faithfulness and love, but when troubles come – to us or to others – we often forget and lose hope. Instead of casting our cares on you, we sometimes hold on to them until we can't imagine life without them. Forgive us, Lord, for choosing to give up in the troubles of life, rather than give them and ourselves to you – to redeem, and to remind us that in life and in death, you will never let us go. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

**Silent Prayer & Assurance of Pardon**

*The Lord who created us, knows us through and through, and his forgiveness can reach the deepest places of failure in us. Hear the good news: the grace of God is stronger than our shame and guilt, and in Christ Jesus, we are indeed forgiven. 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

*King of My Heart*  
*No Longer Slaves*  
*Everything's In Your Hands*  
NPC Worship Band

*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

Just One God

arr. Davis

NPC Choir, Linda Pilacic, director

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 4:16 – 5:5

Pastor Debbie

Message

When the Norm Is Not What You Get

Pastor Debbie

\*Hymn #473

*And Can It Be That I Should Gain?*

*Sagina*

Benediction

Pastor Debbie

Postlude

*Toccata on “Amazing Grace”*

*Pardini*

Jinhee Shim, organ

Prayer Ministry

Jay Field

**Explorers Class** – A new Explorers Class will begin TODAY for 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.

**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](mailto:office@narberthpres.org) to submit a nomination.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Gifts of Hope (A Message from Ashley Reed):** Hello my church family, this year will be our 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 26<sup>th</sup>. More details to come.

**All-Church Retreat! Save the Date for Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup>, 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](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: Orphan Care** For well over a decade, Orphan Care has sought to encourage adoption and foster care of children unable to live with their biological parents, and to offer encouragement and support to individuals, couples, and families who have opened the doors of heart and home to children in need of a positive, stable, nourishing family setting. Please pray comfort, encouragement, and hope for the children and their biological parents; provision, encouragement, loving endurance, and hope for the foster/adoptive families, and for restoration of joy and trust. Please pray also for more open hearts and homes, whether for short term respite care, longer term fostering, or adoption. Ask the Lord for discernment concerning your own involvement in this ministry, which gives children and young people a loving welcome when they are feeling anything but, and bears with them as they navigate life in a safe, supportive family setting.

## 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.

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

**Kids Praise Children's Program** – PreK – 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 ([dkauffman@narberthpres.org](mailto:dkauffman@narberthpres.org)). Please RSVP to Danielle by Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**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!

**VBC 2025! – Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> through Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>** 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: Join us on Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>!** Teen Girls will walk together to the McGrew's home for a meal, short devo, and cookie decorating. Teen Guys will meet in the Youth Room for a meal, time of devo, and games! Let Claire know if you are planning to attend!

**High School Small Group** – All high school students (9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>) are invited to the youth room every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday following worship to dive deeper into the sermon scripture. Please reach out to Claire with any questions.

**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.

**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

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!

**Practicing the Way: Starting October 2<sup>nd</sup>**, 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.

# 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 29*

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor

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

**Explorers Class** directly following the Worship Service, Parlor

## *Monday, September 30*

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

6:30 – 8:00pm GriefShare, Parlor

8:00pm Overeaters Anonymous, Pastor's Office

## *Tuesday, October 1*

12:15 – 1:15pm Staff Meeting, Parlor

7:00pm Deacons Meeting

## *Wednesday October 2*

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

7:00 – 8:00pm Practicing the Way, Parlor

## *Thursday, October 3*

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, October 4*

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

## *Saturday, October 5*

9:30 – 2:30 Prayer Retreat, the Gallagher's

Barn & Ruins, Devon, PA

11:00am Memorial Service for Faithé

Hornung's brother, Gordon

## *Sunday, October 6*

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor

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

**Explorers Class** directly following the Worship Service, Parlor

**Teen Girls/Teen Guys** Kick-Off

## *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: [ilmpsvch910@gmail.com](mailto:ilmpsvch910@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

Jimhee 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



## **On the Web:**

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