



Narberth Presbyterian Church

February 25, 2024

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

February 25, 2024

Prelude

Partita on "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

Walther

Jinhee Shim, organ

Welcome

Pastor Farrar

Call to Worship

Pastor Debbie

Welcome to the time of covenant renewal.

The God of our salvation greets us here.

We are reminded of God's promises to us;

We remember the promises we have made.

Sense the Spirit descending on us now.

Hear God's welcoming voice.

Surely God is with us.

We can hear God calling our names.

See the rainbow in the sky.

Wonder at God's steadfast love.

All creation proclaims the wonders of God.

We come together to learn what God wants to teach us.

Amen

*Hymn #20

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Ode To Joy

Scripture Reading

Psalm 37:23-24,29-31

Mary O'Connor

*Prayer of Confession

Pastor Debbie

Have mercy on your church, O God, for we forget the covenant into which you call us. We muddle along in our self-serving schemes rather than waiting on your word. We follow the path of least resistance without seeking your highest way. We forget our baptism into a faith community built on trust and forgiveness. We turn from the vision of heaven to the treacherous hell of selfishness. O God, we turn to you to lead us to a new day. According to your steadfast love, forgive us, we pray. Amen

*Silent Prayer & Assurance of Pardon

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. —Psalm 130:3-4, 7-8, NRSV

*The Peace

As God has given us peace through Christ, let us share that peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

***Worship Songs**

Sing With All Your Heart
Son of Heaven
I Love You Lord
NPC Worship Band

Children & Youth Dismissed to Sunday School

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Lead Me to Calvary
Linda Pilacik, vocals & piano

Hussey/Kirkpatrick

***Doxology and Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of the People

Pastor Farrar

Scripture Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Pastor Farrar

Sermon

We Are Witnesses

Pastor Farrar

***Hymn #72**

To God Be the Glory

Benediction

Pastor Farrar

Postlude

Jesus, Priceless Treasure
Jinhee Shim, organ

Walther

Prayer Ministry

Jay Field

Welcome Claire Woods, Director of Youth Ministry - We are excited to announce that Claire Woods will join the NPC staff beginning Sunday March 3rd as our new Director of Youth Ministry at NPC!

Road to Emmaus with Jesus Day Retreat: “*Abide in me, and I in you.*” Perhaps this invitation from Jesus is resonating with your soul’s desire? Join us as we explore the theme “Abiding” in NPC’s next silent day retreat on **Thursday April 11, 9:30am – 2:30pm, at St. Raphaela Center, Haverford, PA.** You will have the opportunity to spend time with God in solitude with community and to receive spiritual direction, if desired. Registration deadline and the non-refundable fee of \$45 for St. Raphaela is due on March 24. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Contact Clara Louie (claralouie@yahoo.com) to sign up and for scholarship assistance. Registration will be closed once maximum capacity is reached.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Early Church: A Sampling of Themes of Unity, Witness and the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts: A sermon Series on several themes in the book of Acts. Come join us as we compare and contrast church today with the Apostolic church movement. We are better together!

Islands in a Common Sea

Acts 2:37-47 – Church: the Fellowship of the Believers

Are You a Groupie?

Acts 2:46,47 – Relationships, ministry, teaching, evangelism

Witnessing from Solomon's Portico

Acts 3:1-19 – What I do have, I give to you

We Cannot But Speak

Acts 4:1-12 – We cannot but speak what we have seen and heard

One Heart

Acts 4:32-35 – Those who believed were of one heart

And the Spirit Said...

Acts 8:26-40 – Rise and Go!

We are Witnesses

Acts 10:34-43 – Commanded to testify. Everyone who believes in him is forgiven.

Laboring Outside the Gate

Acts 16:9-15 – Faith, obey, adapt

Recent Session Actions: The Session met February 20th and the following actions were approved:

- The church will pay \$100 toward the cost of each staff member who attends the All-Church Retreat in May.
- Next Diaconate meeting: March 5, 2024, Jay Filed will attend as session liaison
- Next Session Meeting: March 19, 2024

Slideshow this Friday! All ages are welcome to this gathering, where Pastor Debbie and Diane Chen will share pictures and stories from their recent trip to Italy. This is a great opportunity to meet and get to know your NPC “neighbors” in-person! We also have snacks! We will meet on **Friday, March 1st at 1:30pm in the Parlor.**

NPC Christian Preschool registration for the 2024-2025 school year is now OPEN! Our preschool offers two-day, three-day, and five-day options for children aged 18 months to pre-kindergarten. The school day runs from 9:00am – 12:00pm from mid-September to early-June, and we also offer afternoon programming (12:00 – 3:00pm) through Lunch Bunch. Registration will also open for our wonderful six-week summer camp that runs from late June to early August. For more information, please reach out to director Virginia Davis at preschool@narberthpres.org or 610-664-8890.

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, GriefShare The sessions address topics and issues for those who are grieving the death of a loved one. GriefShare meets weekly, the content is Christ-centered & 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. GriefShare will begin on **Monday, March 18 from 6:30 – 8pm in the Chapel** and continue into June (note that you can join at any time). It is important to register on the GriefShare website. Please email Alice Antonelli (arichardson1@gmail.com) or Gerri Wismer (geewis46@gmail.com) for more information about the group.

Men's Small Group There is an open small group for men looking to connect in a more intimate setting. The Men's Small group **meets from 7:30 – 9:00am on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month in the Parlor**. Donuts sometimes exist, but coffee is *always* guaranteed! The format of the group is designed to facilitate intimate sharing, prayer, and accountability. While the study of scripture helps to facilitate those conversations, education is not the primary goal of this group. Our purpose is to provide a place for men to deepen relationships with a small cohort of other men and experience what it looks like for "iron to sharpen iron." Contact Justin Crawford (me@JustinCrawford.com / 646.588.9042) for more information.

Overeaters Anonymous. This displaced group from Overbrook Presbyterian Church will be using space at NPC. 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.

Notes From Justice and Mercy NPC's *Loving Our Neighbors Ministry* has numerous branches, each with different partners. Jennifer Bonovitz skillfully, tirelessly and, most important, lovingly, keeps it all moving smoothly. One such partnership is with Stop the Risk, an organization in Kensington that works with people suffering from addictions. NPC helped to procure a grant to build tiny houses there. Jennifer and others help provide lovely holiday meals for these neighbors. Another partnership is with The Mitzvah Pantry in Bala Cynwyd. Jennifer and her helpers pick up donations from local stores and take them to Bala. From there a wide variety of items are distributed at the pantry location and some are delivered to seniors. The newest branch of *Loving Our Neighbors* is in North Philly at 23rd and Ridge and it is growing quickly. Large quantities of groceries are given out to the near-by community and a local pastor comes to Jennifer's home to pick up a plethora of food and goods for his congregation. Jennifer is very thankful for the many people of NPC who give generously of their time, talents and resources. Whatever your skill set and availability, Jennifer has a spot for you that is just waiting to be filled.

PRAYER INFORMATION

Please Remember in Prayer

Missions: Save A Life – Nadia Gordynsky founded Save-A-Life, which operates 9 centers in Ukraine, one in Poland, and maintains their headquarters here in Philadelphia. Their work emphasizes crisis pregnancy support, violence and domestic abuse assistance, humanitarian aid for mothers and their children, and the education of youth about sexual integrity and the sanctity of life. Please pray for the staff, the people they help, and their neighbors, as they now are in the second year of a costly, and frightening war, that they will continue to offer help in the love of Christ to all who ask.

Loving Our Neighbors Ministry Please pray for Jennifer Bonovitz and her ability to keep going, for the generosity of NPC folks and the community at large, and for more individuals (maybe you) to join Jennifer in this rewarding ministry. (See p.5 for more details)

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

Cross my Heart NEW Lenten Series for Children - During Sunday School we will dive deeper into God's great love, given to us in the person of Jesus and shown to us through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We will end our Sunday School lesson each week by exploring the "Pray-ground" and discovering fun ways to pray!

Children's Lenten Offering - Beginning Sunday, February 18th children are encouraged to bring in personal care items to support The Parkway Ministry. Please send in full-size: bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, washcloth, chapstick, large Ziplock bags. Also please pray for our Friends on the Parkway.

Kids Praise – Children (PreK-5th grade) are encouraged to join us each Wednesday for a time of music fun! We meet in the choir room from 7:00 – 8:00pm.

Preschool Sunday is March 17th – Join us on this special day as we highlight the Narberth Christian Preschool. Come and meet our Preschool Family!

VBC 2024 – START THE PARTY!

Save the Date for VBC! Jesus gives us the most amazing reason to party! This summer get ready to celebrate the good news of Jesus! Join us Monday, June 17th through Friday, June 21st from 9:00 – 11:30am at NPC for VBC 2024. VBC is best for those age 4 by June 1st, 2024 through those entering 5th grade (2024-2025 school year). Rising 6th graders through adults are encouraged to volunteer for this awesome week. Online registration for students and volunteers begins Sunday, March 17th. Let's get this VBC party started! Please reach out to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) with any questions.

Youth Volunteers needed for VBC 2024 – Mark your calendar for Vacation Bible Camp the week of Monday, June 17th – Friday, June 21st! Rising 6th graders through adults are encouraged to volunteer! Online Registration begins March 17th for students and volunteers! Please reach out to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) with questions.



INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: YOUTH

Meet and Greet with Claire Woods is Sunday, March 3rd - All youth and their families are invited to meet Claire and enjoy food and fellowship in the NPC gym directly following service on March 3rd. Please note that Teen Girls and Teen Guys will not take place this Sunday.

Confirmation Class 2024 begins Sunday, February 25th – Confirmation Class will begin next Sunday, February 25th during Sunday School time. Please pray for our 2024 Confirmands as they begin this important step in growing their faith.

TONIGHT!  **Youth Bowling at Wynnewood Lanes** - All youth (6th – 12th) are invited to an evening of bowling on Sunday, February 25th from 6:30 – 8:30pm. Please reach out to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) if you'd like to attend.

Daylight Savings Breakfast is March 10th - All are encouraged to attend breakfast at NPC to celebrate “springing ahead”! Eggs, Pancakes, Coffee and more! Breakfast will be served in the gym from 8:30-9:15. If you are interested in cooking please reach out to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org).

Youth Sunday School – All 6th through 12th graders are invited to the Youth Room for Sunday School. Youth are dismissed from the sanctuary.

High School Youth Group – HS Youth Group is on a short pause and will start back up again in March.

Middle School Youth Group – All 6th – 8th graders are invited to Youth Group each Wednesday at NPC from 7:00 – 8:00pm. We meet in the Youth Room for games, devotional, and fellowship.

The Philadelphia Project – Summer of Service Retreat for Youth - All 6th through 12th graders are encouraged to attend a meaningful week of service with The Philadelphia Project! Mark your calendar for July 21st – 27th. Please reach out to Dave Bellamy (dbellamy@narberthpres.org) to RSVP or for more information.

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

Save the Date for the 2024 All-Church Retreat – NEW BEGINNINGS!

Get out your calendar and mark the dates for the All-Church Retreat:



Who: YOU! All ages are encouraged to attend this special weekend together.

What: A fun-filled retreat weekend with our church family including: adult talks, fun activities for children & youth, worship, prayer, and fellowship.

When: Friday, May 10th through Sunday, May 12th

Where: Sandy Cove Ministries Retreat Center in beautiful North East, MD

Come away with the Lord and the community of NPC for a weekend of refreshment, fellowship, and fun. Meet new friends, enjoy the beauty of God's creation, and rest in the Lord's presence. We'll spend time in Scripture as we consider the significance of change and what it looks like to navigate through times of transition—in our own lives and in our life together. There will be time for recreation, worship, personal reflection, and fun for all ages. This retreat can be tailored to be what you need. All are welcome! Come as you are. There is something for everyone, no matter what season of life you are in.

Our speaker is Rev. Jane Filkin, the Director of Leadership Development & Spiritual Formation at Eastern University's Campolo Center for Ministry and the Founder of BETWEEN Life Coaching. Jane's passion is to encourage, develop, and equip others to be who God has made them to be and do what God has called them to do. She is an ordained ECO pastor and has served in pastoral ministry for 20 years. Jane holds a Master of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and a degree in Sociology and Education from UC Berkeley as well as an Advanced Certificate in Life Coaching from the American Association of Christian Counselors and a Certificate in Resilient Leadership from The Seattle School of Theology and Psychology. Jane loves to be outside, have a house full of kids, take long walks, journal, and prepare and share good food.

To register please contact Danielle Kauffman with your \$100 deposit. Full payment is due April 1, 2024. You can also leave your deposit online by choosing "2024 Spring Retreat" or by texting with the keyword "retreat".

Look for pricing sheets around the church and check back for updates!

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.

Adult Bible Study – The Gospel of Mark. The Gospel of Mark is a vivid and dynamic account of the ministry and message of Jesus Christ. It is the shortest of the four gospels and portrays Jesus as the Servant of God: "*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*" (Mark 10:45).

When: Thursdays from 7:00 – 8:15pm, starting Thursday, Jan 18th

Where: Women's Bible Study: Church Parlor; Men's Bible Study: Pastor G's office

Who: Women's Bible Study: contact Lalitha Naveen: lnaveen100@gmail.com.

Men's Bible Study: contact Ken Eng: K_Eng@msn.com

New Bible Study: A study of the Book of Acts, which promises, "*you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth.*" Upon Pentecost the Holy Spirit revolutionized the faithful, created the early church, and began to disrupt and transform the world. Acts documents the power of God working in and through his people in ways that were impossible until then. Join us in the Parlor on the **1st, 3rd, & 4th Saturdays of each month from 9:30 – 10:30am beginning February 17th**. Reach out to Rob Wray (robwrayofpa@verizon.net) for more information.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES

New Wednesday Night Study for Lent! *Rediscover Jesus*, by Matthew Kelly. This book is divided into 40 daily readings of a page or two, a Bible verse, a question to ask, a thought to ponder, and a sentence prayer. Kelly prompts us to get to know Jesus in a deeply personal way: As the carpenter from Nazareth, the itinerant preacher, the Son of God, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the Lamb of God, the new Adam, the Messiah, the Alpha and the Omega, the Chosen One, the Light of the World, the God-Man who wants good things for us more than we want them for ourselves, the healer of our souls. You can order the book on-line or pick up a copy here at church (\$10 suggested donation).

Encounters with Jesus – Join us as we look all throughout the Bible for where and how Jesus appears in surprising and even amazing ways. Imagine yourself there with him, hearing what he says and seeing what he does, right there in front of you. What do you learn about Jesus that you didn't know before, and what does that tell you about what God is really like and how to love him even more? Come have these encounters with us in a 10-week class in the Parlor or on Zoom. Led by Mark Wenger.

Kids Praise – Children (PreK-5th grade) are encouraged to join us for a time of music fun! Thank you to Linda Pilacik for leading this energetic time!

Middle School Youth Group – All 6th – 8th graders are invited to Youth Group in the Youth Room for games, devotional and fellowship.

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

*Mike Boccasini

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, February 25

2nd Sunday in Lent

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor
9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream
Youth Confirmation Class during Sunday School
6:30 – 8:30pm Youth Bowling, Wynnewood Lanes

Monday, February 26

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

Tuesday, February 27

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

Wednesday, February 28

5:45 – 6:45pm Church Family Supper, Gym
7:00 – 8:00pm Rediscover Jesus, Pastor Debbie, Chapel
7:00 – 8:00pm Encounters with Jesus, Mark Wenger, Parlor.
7:00 – 8:00pm Kids Praise, Miss Danielle, Choir Room
7:00 – 8:00pm Middle School Youth Group, 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, February 29

6:30 – 8:00pm Choir Practice, Choir Room
7:00 – 8:15pm Women's Bible Study, Parlor
7:00 – 8:15pm Men's Bible Study, Pastor's Office

Friday, March 1

1:30pm Slideshow, Parlor

Saturday, March 2

8:30 – 9:30am Kids' Basketball, Gym
9:30 – 10:30am Acts Bible Study, Parlor

Sunday, March 3

3rd Sunday in Lent

8:15am Sunday School, Parlor
9:30am **Worship Service** In-person and live-stream
Introduction & Commissioning of Claire Woods, Youth Director, during the service

Jesus Christ, Minister
Farrar Griggs, Pastor
Cell #: (704) 239-4735
Email: farrargriggs@gmail.com
Deborah Watson, Associate Pastor
Danielle Kauffman, Intergenerational Ministry
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, Dir. of Preschool
Chris Marinelli, Weekday Custodian



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