

# Narberth Presbyterian Church

September 14, 2025

# LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

September 14, 2025

Prelude

*Blessed Assurance*

arr. Miller

Jinhee Shim, organist

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Debbie

Call to Worship

Psalm 108:1-5

The Boccasini Family

Opening Prayer

Pastor Mark

Hymn #254

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

*Ode to Joy*

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:1-11

Jeff Snyder

Prayer of Confession

Jack Comstock

Father, we confess that this week we have not done all we desired to do to please you. And we are grateful that our relationship with you does not depend upon our imperfect efforts but on your sovereign grace. Amen.

Silent Prayer & Assurance of Pardon

*Thank you, Father, for your grace and forgiveness freely bestowed on all who believe in Jesus Christ the Lord, who are resting not in our imperfect works, but in his perfect life, his substitutionary atonement on the cross, his literal resurrection from the grave, and the hope of his soon return. Amen.*

The Peace

Worship Songs

*Jesus on the Mainline*

*Pass Me Not, Oh Gentle Savior*

*Goodness of God*

NPC Worship Band

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Pastor Debbie

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Adagio and Allegro from Sonata in E*

*Handel*

Pam Fleming, violin, Jinhee, piano

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Message

**The Power of Purpose**

Pastor Mark

Sermon Scripture: Acts 1:8

Hymn #507

*I Then Shall Live*

*Finlandia*

Children Singing

*This is the Day*

Benediction Prayer

Pastor Mark

Postlude

*Voluntary in A Major*

*Selby*

Jinhee Shim, organist

Prayer Ministry

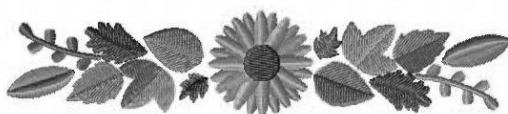
Isabel Lally

**NPC's Volunteer Fair** – Join us TODAY! for NPC's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Volunteer fair taking place in the gym. Come down to see the many Ministry Areas of NPC and find out how you can get involved! Snacks and Drinks provided!

**Fall Day Prayer Retreat:** Join us for a day of solitude in community on **Saturday October 11, 9:30am – 2:30pm.**, at the Gallaghers' idyllic barn in Devon, PA. You will have an opportunity to spend some time on spiritual exercises which take us to the three instances where Mary of Bethany was at Jesus' feet. Or you may spend some time at Jesus' feet in whatever way you desire in silence. Sign up at the Adult Discipleship table at the Volunteer Fair or with Clara Louie (claralouie@yahoo.com) after that. Registration fee is \$20. It is a bring-your-own-lunch event.

**You're Invited!** Join one of NPC's mission causes, Save a Life, for their 10 Years Anniversary Celebration. See the Weekly Newsletter or reach out to Faithe Hornung for more details.

**NPC's Door Access System** has been replaced as a part of our Nonprofit Security Grant. All active door FOBs (the small plastic piece you hold against the FOB reader to enter the building when it its locked) must be renewed. Please bring your FOB to Tim Roykouff for this simple process. Tim will be at the side (Windsor) door on Sunday morning before and during worship and at the Safety and Security table during the Volunteer Fair that follows worship. Questions? Please call the church office at 610-664-4880 or email Tim at troykouff@narberthpres.org.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**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 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00pm** in the Parlor 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.

**The Discipleship Committee** would like to identify all active small groups at NPC. If you currently facilitate or participate in a small group, please email Diane Chen (dianegchen@gmail.com) and let her know. We appreciate your response!

**Nominating Committee** – the 2026 Nominating Committee, co-chaired by Jan Kennedy & Jack Comstock is looking for Elder and Deacon Nominations. See p. 8 & 9 of the bulletin for more information. Fill out the form or email office@narberthpres.org to submit a nomination.

**Men’s & Women’s Bible Studies:** Join us for a new Bible study series on the **Book of Romans**, beginning Thursday, September 11, 2025. Together, we will explore Paul’s powerful letter to the Romans, a book that has shaped Christian faith for centuries with its deep truths about God’s grace, salvation, and the life of faith. This study is open to all, whether you’re new to Bible study or have studied Scripture for years. Martin Luther called the Book of Romans “*the soul’s daily bread*,” and said “*It can never be read or meditated too much and too well. The more thoroughly it is treated, the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes.*” Invite a friend and be part of this journey with us! We meet on Thursdays at 7:00pm (women meet in parlor; men meet in the copy room). Questions? Contact: Ken Eng (K\_Eng@msn.com); Lalitha Naveen (lnaveen@temple.edu); or Tim Neilson (mytn1122@gmail.com).

**Parkway Ministry – Volunteers Needed** Our Parkway Ministry goes out every Sunday to serve food, thus sharing the love of Christ with our homeless neighbors near Logan Circle. We are in need of more volunteers to help with preparing lunches, delivering food, as well as spending time with the people we serve. If you’d like to get involved or have any questions, please contact Ilonka Comstock (610-416-4096) or Jack Comstock (484-885-0789).

## PRAYER INFORMATION

### Please Remember in Prayer

**Missions: Cornerstone Christian Academy** is a co-educational, independent Christian school, offering an academic program for students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Cornerstone's faculty, staff and volunteers 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 throughout life. As the school year begins, 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.

**Notes from Justice & Mercy:** Ken Eng and his group of educators and tutors will be holding three courses beginning this month. An **SAT Prep series** began on 9/13. These free classes are hosted by City Line Church. A second **SAT Prep series** will be held at Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic Church, starting on 9/20. The third course is an **English language class** also held at Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic Church, starting on 9/20. Contact Ken Eng (610-241-5177 or k\_eng@msn.com). for more information on any of these classes. **Please pray** for the instructors and the students. Improving skills is an important part of each class, but also important is helping each student to see their true value in Christ.

## INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

**Praise Party Sunday School Kick Off is TODAY!** – A NEW program year begins for children on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and we are going to celebrate with a special praise party (Nursery through 5<sup>th</sup> grade)! Music, craft, bible fun and more. Hope to see you there!

**Kids Praise is back** – PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to the Choir Room each Wednesday from 7:00 – 8:00pm beginning September 17<sup>th</sup> for music fun! Join us for songs, instruments and friendship.

**Prayer Warriors NEW Sunday School Curriculum** – Beginning Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> (K – 5<sup>th</sup>) will learn to become Prayer Warriors. Children will also receive a new prayer journal that we will use during this time together.

**Parkway Ministry Service Project** - Our K – 5<sup>th</sup> children will make sandwiches, pack cookies and create a special craft on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> for our Friends on the Parkway. Please look for a SignUp Genius to help supply items.

**Trunk Or Treat at NPC** – All children are invited to the NPC parking lot for a fun Trunk OR Treat on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 – 11:30am. Please RSVP to Danielle to join the fun OR volunteer! More details soon.

## INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: YOUTH

**Sunday School Kick Off for High School and Middle School** – We begin a NEW program year on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> with Donuts and Discipleship! MS will meet in the outer youth room and HS will meet in the main youth room.

**Middle School Youth Group** – All 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to join us for Youth Group each Wednesday from 7:00 – 8:00pm beginning September 17<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there!

**HS Sunday School with Jesse Byler** – All 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to attend Sunday School on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> with Young Life leader, Jesse Byler. Jesse is very excited to be with our youth and share his love for the Lord.

**Bonfire & Phillies** – All High School students are invited to watch the Phillies game and eat s'mores at the Hein home on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 10:00pm. Please RSVP to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org).

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMMING

**Regular Wednesday Night programming begins THIS WEEK! on September 17<sup>th</sup>!** Join us for a church family supper starting at 5:45pm followed by the following offerings which begin at 7:00pm:

**Grace in Chaos: *Biblical Hope for the Hard Days of Motherhood*** – All moms, with children of any age, are encouraged to join this 8-week study led by Sarah Boccasini. This study is designed to strengthen you with a biblical, gospel centered vision of motherhood. Do you ever feel overwhelmed as a mom—struggling with anxiety, despair, or comparison? This study is for you! The study includes weekly reflections around the themes of hope, peace, anxiety, control, and comfort. This is designed to be a supportive community for moms, where we can study scripture together, pray, and equip you to teach your children about the Bible. Each week will conclude with simple take-home ideas for you to practice spiritual disciplines with your children. Please reach out to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpresbyterian.org) if you plan to join this class. There is a book that goes along with it and we are asking for \$8.00 to help offset the cost.

**Hebrews Study** – Pastor Mark will begin an expositional study through the New Testament book of Hebrews. The class will be fully in-person. Note taking outlines will be provided at each class. You will be challenged and blessed studying one of the Bible's greatest doctrinal and practical presentations of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**“Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine”** is a 7-week video/discussion-based study by Max Lucado, which focuses us in on how God in his grace, offers to change our hearts, our very lives. Come discover what God tells us about this grace, that is not in any way wimpy, but is a grace that emboldens and grabs us, calling us to life that is turned upside down in the best way possible! All are welcome to this study, for as few or as many of the sessions as you can attend!

**Kids Praise** – Music fun is back this fall! All children (PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade) are encouraged to join us as we sing, create rhythms, play instruments and have fun! Hope to see you there!

**Middle School Youth Group** - All 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited for Bible study, games and snack. Friends are welcome to attend with you!

# 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 2026. 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.

# 2025 CHURCH OFFICERS

## THE SESSION

Mark Gende – Moderator

### Class of 2025

Linda Behmke  
\*Jack Comstock  
\*Jan Kennedy  
Simon Hauger

### Class of 2026

\*Jie Cai  
Diane Chen  
\*Brint Nicolai  
Mark Wenger

### Class of 2027

Susan Costantino  
\*Jay Field  
\*Jim Hornung  
Katie Kennedy

## THE BOARD OF DEACONS

### Class of 2025

Karen Pappas  
Ann Saddel  
Rashmi Vyas  
\* Sandi Wray

### Class of 2026

Lorraine Hoffner  
Chang Liu  
Rick Plummer  
\*Gerri Wismer

### Class of 2027

Kevin Cope  
Suzanne Morrison  
\*Donald Vangore

\* serving second term

## 2025 MISSIONARY CAUSES

### Mission

Amnion Pregnancy Center  
 Child Evangelism Fellowship, Inc. – N. Ireland  
 Chosen People Ministries– Paul Cruz  
 Cornerstone Christian Academy  
 CRU City – Brindleys (Unite Philly)  
 CRU International–Leah Darwin  
 Development Associates International  
 Disciple Makers – Rebecca and Dan Hall  
 ECO Church Planting and Global Missions Funds  
 Esperanza Health Center  
 Fellowship of Christian Athletes – Kasey Dougherty  
 Global Horizons – Cephas Tushima  
 Habitat for Humanity –N. Central Philadelphia  
 House of His Creation  
 InterAct Ministries – Dan & Bev Mayerle  
 Interserve-USA – Jan Kennedy  
 Kingdom Connect – Ben Duffy  
 Neighborhood Crusades Inc.  
 New Horizons/Amoenitas – Scott Todd  
 Olney Christian School  
 Presby's Inspired Life (Human Good)  
 Rancho Del Rey  
 REAP Granada-Scott Esposito  
 Redeemed For A Cause Outreach – Sakinah Love  
 Save a Life – Nadia Gordynsky  
 Servant Partners – Dan & Denise Anderson  
 The Antioch Partners – Haugens  
 The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota (Standing Rock)  
 The Philadelphia Project – Rev. Ray Garcia  
 The Welcome Church – Schaunel Steinnagel  
 United World Mission – Nick & Ginny Woodbury  
 World Link – Jack Nelson  
 Wycliffe Bible Translators – Al & Barb Shannon  
 Young Life (Western Philadelphia Suburbs)

### Ambassador

Alice Antonelli  
 Danielle Kauffman  
 Jennifer & Tim Roykouff  
 Joyce Lewis  
 Tom & Alyson Burnett  
 Kathy McLean  
 David Fraser  
 Bob Moore

### Open

Julie Fernandez  
 Ashley Reed  
 Scott Todd  
 Linda Behmke  
 JoAnne Kaplan  
 Marilyn Reed  
 Jesse Kennedy  
 Ken & Sally Kapner  
 Marilyn Reed  
 Marilyn Reed  
 Ann Sattel

### Open

### Open

Charlie Choi  
 Sally Kapner  
 Faithe Hornung  
 Faithe Hornung

### Open

Ashley Reed  
 Dave Bellamy  
 Jane Murray  
 Rob & Sandi Wray  
 Kim Ishmael

### Open

# BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

## ***Sunday, September 14***

### *Fall Kick-Off*

8:15am Adult Sunday School, parlor

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

Directly following the Worship Service:

Volunteer Fair, gym

## ***Monday, September 15***

6:30 – 8:00pm GriefShare, Parlor

8:00pm Overeaters Anonymous, Parlor

## ***Tuesday, September 16***

7:00pm Session Meeting, Parlor

## ***Wednesday, September 17***

5:45 – 6:45pm Church Family Supper, Gym

7:00 – 8:00pm Grace in Chaos, Chapel

7:00 – 8:00pm Hebrews Study, Parlor

7:00 – 8:00pm Grace (Video Study), 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](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 18***

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

7:00 – 8:15 pm Men's Bible Study, Copy Room

## ***Friday, September 19***

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

## ***Saturday, September 20***

## ***Sunday, September 21***

8:15am Adult Sunday School, Parlor

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

## **Church Staff**

Mark Gende, Senior Pastor

Deborah Watson, Associate Pastor

Danielle Kauffman, Intergenerational Ministry

Sharon Shallow, Nursery Coordinator

Jinhee Shim, Organist

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](http://www.narberthpres.org)

[twitter.com/narberthpres](https://twitter.com/narberthpres)

[facebook.com/narberthpresbyterian](https://facebook.com/narberthpresbyterian)