

LORD'S DAY OF CELEBRATION

November 30, 2025

Prelude

Sleepers, Awake!
Jinhee Shim, organist

Bach

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Debbie

Call to Worship

Isaiah 51:3

Isabel Lally

Hymn #133

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

Opening Prayer

Pastor Debbie

Lighting the First Advent Candle (HOPE)

The Steenhoff Family,

Romans 5:1-5

Andrew, Shiang-Ju, & Michael

Declaration of Hope:

As we wait expectantly for the coming of Christ, we light the Candle of Hope. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Amen.

Prayer of Confession

Ruth Ellen Patterson

God of hope and provision, we speak a lot about thanksgiving and hope, but beyond the words, these things are sometimes lacking in our lives. We worry about having enough of what we want and need. We grumble about what we have and slip into fear of the future – immediate and long-term. Forgive us, Lord, for looking down, when we should be looking to you, remembering your goodness in the past, thanking you for your kind care, and trusting you to continue to be good – today – and in the days to come. Strengthen our focus *on* you, and our trust *in* you, in every situation of life. We pray with gratitude and with hope, in the name of your greatest provision – your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Silent Prayer & Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

Worship Songs

Sweet, Sweet Spirit
Gratitude
O Come Let Us Adore Him
NPC Worship Band

Prayer of Commissioning for Forrest & Julie Fernandez

Forrest and Julie will be going to Togo, W. Africa on a medical mission trip with World Medical Mission (through Samaritan's Purse) from December 1-19. Please pray for their safety, the work being done at the hospital, and God's outpouring of love on those working and being treated there.

Children & Youth dismissed to Sunday School

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer **Pastor Debbie**

Passing of Friendship Pads & Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Come Thou Almighty King* *Shackley*
Linda Pilacik & Jinhee Shim, piano

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Scripture Reading **Luke 1:5ff; Hebrews 11:1-2** **Jeff Snyder**

Message **Gratitude, Hope, Hearts & Hands** **Pastor Debbie**

Hymn #135 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* *Hyfrydol*

Benediction **Pastor Debbie**

Postlude *Sleepers, Awake!* *Arr. Hobby*
Jinhee Shim, organist

Prayer Ministry **Linda Behmke**

An Update from Session to Our Church Family

Dear Church Family,

Happy Thanksgiving! We're grateful for a meaningful leadership coaching weekend with nearly 45 staff, Elders, Deacons, and ministry leaders participating. Please pray for the Session as we meet on Sunday, November 30th to discern next steps.

Join us this Wednesday, and every first Wednesday of the month, for our monthly prayer gathering from 7:00 – 8:00pm.

Please note that there will be no congregational meeting on December 14th. Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 11th to review the 2026 budget and vote on Elder and Deacon candidates.

Peacemaking Training for the congregation will be offered on Saturday, Dec. 6th (9:00am – 12:00pm) or Sunday, Dec. 7th (11:30am – 2:30pm); both sessions offer the same content.

Thank you for your prayers, presence, and partnership as we walk forward in hope and gratitude.

The Session of Narberth Presbyterian Church

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday November 30

First Sunday in Advent

9:30am Worship Service: Join us as we light the candle of Hope.

Sunday December 7

Second Sunday in Advent

9:30am Worship Service: Join us as we celebrate communion & light the candle of Peace.

Guest Preacher: Erik Larsen

Monday December 8

6:30 – 8:30pm GriefShare Surviving the Holidays Event, Parlor

Wednesday, December 10

6:30pm Gingerbread Bash! This is a fun, hands-on Christmas event where we build gingerbread nativities, hear the Christmas story, and discover the life-changing gift of God's Son, Jesus. **RSVP to Danielle by November 30th.**

Thursday December 11

11:30am Christmas Luncheon & Carol Sing: All ages are welcome to join us in the Parlor for this annual event which is sure to get you in the Christmas spirit!

Sunday December 14

Third Sunday in Advent

9:30am Worship Service: Join us as the Choir presents an intergenerational presentation of scripture and music & we light the candle of Joy.

Thursday December 18

11:00am Pre-School Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary

Sunday December 21

Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:30am Worship Service: Join us as we experience the Christmas Story through the **Annual Children's Christmas Pageant** at the end of the Worship Service. We will also light the candle of Love.

Guest Preacher: Steve Weed

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00pm Children's Candlelight Service This shorter service is designed for families with young children. Battery-operated candles will be used to conclude the service.

5:30pm Candlelight Service

8:00pm Traditional Candlelight Service (live streamed)



FINANCIAL UPDATE

The past several months at Narberth Presbyterian Church have included disruptions. Finance Committee planned to communicate earlier and more frequently in 2025 than in previous years regarding church finances but, humbly, we must acknowledge that this too was disrupted. So, if you feel you should have gotten more frequent and earlier information, you are correct, with our apologies.

All that said, for the first 10 months of 2025, donations totaled \$696,828, a monthly average of \$69,683 and a cumulative deficit of (\$282,574) less than the \$979,402 that was spent. In these figures there is some good news. Last year at this time we were approximately \$80,000 further behind (\$362,000) and with strong giving through the end of 2024, ended the giving year nearly at a break-even point. This congregation has historically weighted their gifts to as much as 50% of the annual amount given in the 4th quarter, but this year, we are coming into the 4th quarter considerably ahead of those numbers. Still, if giving does not accelerate, we will end the year with a deficit of about (\$250,000). You are not seeing an error. Aggressive expense management and prudent cost cuts will reduce the projected end-of-year deficit from the current level even if giving remains at the average amount of this year without an end-of-year surge.

As a supporter of Narberth Presbyterian Church, you may feel uncertainty causing you to withhold your gifts in response. While that is a logical human response that can be understood, faith is not always logical. We are called to believe before we see. Believing in this way can make the improbable, even the impossible, reality. God has made this happen before, He can do this right here, right now too.

So, as you look at your giving in the remaining 30-some days in 2025, please be in prayerful consideration. This message is in no way meant to burden those doing all they can, but possibly to inspire those who may be looking for a way to create positive impact with the great gifts God has given them.

It may also be a time to review your investments to see if you could create impact and experience practical tax benefits by making a stock gift to the church before the end of the year. Jim Hoffman, NPC's Treasurer, can confidentially consult with you on this process to show you how this works.

The members of Finance Committee along with all of Session appreciate your ongoing generosity and prayers. Please also be in prayer for the Session as they wrestle with planning the 2026 budget in a world that has changed a great deal since they planned the 2025 budget.

Please contact any member of Finance Committee (Jim Hoffman, Treasurer, Ruth Ellen Patterson and Tim Roykouff, Committee Members) with questions, comments or concerns.

PRAYER INFORMATION

Please Remember in Prayer

Missions: In these days of uncertainty for the poorest of the poor in this country, please pray for them, for every organization, and ministry who reach out with food, shelter, encouragement and hope, and for those with the power to provide or withhold such help – that the Lord would provide through the generous minds, hearts and hands of mere mortals, and draw everyone concerned to himself in faith, hope, and love.

Notes from Justice & Mercy: Sakinah Love is working on materials to teach hotel workers the signs of human trafficking and what to do about it. She is also working with families who need basics. The current government shutdown is adding to their struggles. Sally Kapner is asking for donations of women's personal care items to address the ongoing need. Please contact Sally if you have items to donate. Human trafficking uses social media to enable harmful practices for our children. The Kids Online Safety Act is currently before the Senate and needs to be passed this session. You can reach out to your Senators about the need to vote for it. Learn more by looking up The National Center on Sexual Exploitation or by talking with Sally.

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: CHILDREN

Children's Advent Calendars – Sunday, November 30th begins Advent and Children's Ministries will be giving a special Advent Calendar to each family during Sunday School.

Pumpkin Parables – A parable is a lot like a pumpkin seed. It starts out as just a small story but ends up with a really big important lesson! This November 3rd – 5th graders will learn more about Jesus' parables together. See you in Sunday School.

Pumpkin Prayers – During November, our K – 2nd graders will connect with God and grow their faith during Sunday School as they continue their prayer curriculum and enjoy a fun pumpkin craft.

NPC Nursery – The NPC Nursery is available each Sunday in RM 107 for infants – PreK. Join Miss Sharon and team for an age-appropriate Bible lesson, music, craft and friendship!

Kids Praise – PreK through 5th grade are invited to the Choir Room each Wednesday from 7:00 – 8:00pm for music fun! Join us for songs, instruments and friendship.

Gingerbread Bash – Get ready for nativity building with candy! Our annual Gingerbread Bash will take place on Wednesday, December 10th at 6:30pm in the gym. This event is best for PreK – 5th grade. Please RSVP to Danielle (dkauffman@narberthpres.org) by **Sunday, November 30th**.

Children's Christmas Pageant – Please save the date for our annual Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 21st. The pageant will take place in the sanctuary following the message. More details soon!

INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY NEWS: YOUTH

MS & HS Sunday School – This Sunday, November 30th MS and HS students will meet in the inner youth room for Sunday School led by Ann Sattel. We hope to see you there!

Youth Service Opportunities at NPC – Calling all 6th – 12th graders! Come and serve at NPC! There are many areas that have great opportunities waiting for you. Greeting, Ushering, Scripture Reader, Nursery Volunteer and more! Please reach out to Danielle to get plugged in.

Middle School Youth Group – All 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are encouraged to join us for Youth Group! ***Our last meeting before the Christmas Break is December 9th.***

BUILDING DISCIPLES IN THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday in Advent

8:15am Adult Sunday School, parlor

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

Monday, December 1

6:30 – 8:00pm GriefShare, Parlor

8:00pm Overeaters Anonymous, Chapel

Tuesday, December 2

12:15pm Staff Meeting, Parlor

7:00pm Deacons Meeting, Parlor

Wednesday, December 3

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

7:00 – 8:00pm Prayer Meeting, Chapel

Led by Clara & Godfrey Louie

7:00 – 8:00pm Grace in Chaos, Parlor

7:00 – 8:00pm Kids Praise, Choir Room

Thursday, December 4

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

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

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

Friday, December 5

Saturday, December 6

9:00 – 12:00pm Peacemaking Session

Sunday, December 7

Second Sunday in Advent

8:15am Adult Sunday School, Parlor

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

Christmas Hymn Sing during the Service.

Guest Preacher: Erik Larsen

11:30am – 2:30pm Peacemaking Session

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

Church Staff

Deborah Watson, Associate Pastor

Danielle Kauffman, Intergenerational Ministry

Sharon Shallow, Nursery Coordinator

Jinhee Shim, Organist

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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