

North Presbyterian Church

5th Sunday After Epiphany

February 8, 2026

10:15 a.m.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Greeting, Welcome, Announcements

Prelude

"Kingsfold"

Callahan

Call to Worship

Let us worship the eternal God, the source of love and life, who creates us.

Let us worship Jesus Christ, the risen one, who lives among us.

Let us worship the Spirit, the holy fire, who renews us.

To the one true God be praise in all times and places, through the grace of Jesus Christ.

Song for Preparation

Dona Nobis Pacem

Hymn 752

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

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Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 692

Spirit Open My Heart

(Please pass "Joys and Concerns" to center aisle to be collected during the singing of the hymn.)

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people. You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world. Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving. Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins. Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world. Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

*Silent Confession *(A time for personal confession of sin)*

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, hear the good news: When we cry for help, God says, "Here I am!" When we ask for mercy, God grants it freely, longing for a closer walk with us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

***Response**

We Are Forgiven

Hymn 447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

***Passing of the Peace**

Having received Christ's peace, let us share it by turning to our neighbors and greeting them, saying "May the peace of Christ be with you!"

Children's Time

(Children may go to Sunday school in the north basement after Children's Time.)

Anthem

Light Dawns on a Weary World

Bringle/Rowan
arr. Ellingboe

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.

*Refrain: The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
As all the world in wonder echoes shalom, shalom.*

Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.

Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.

Refrain.

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn find wilderness reborn.

Hope blooms in a weary world: the promised green of Eden comes.

Refrain.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Isaiah 58:1-12
Matthew 5:13-20

Page 688
Page 4

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Light Rises"

WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in a bright and amazing God, who has been to the depths of despair on our behalf; who has risen in splendor and majesty; who decorates the universe with sparkling water, clear white light, twinkling stars and bright colors, over and over again. We believe that Jesus is the light of the world; that God believes in us, and trusts us, even though we make the same mistakes over and over again. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as sisters and brothers, and to the Maker's business in the world. God said: Let there be light! Amen. (© The Iona Community from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, published by Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Fourth Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall St., Glasgow G2 3DH, UK)

***Hymn 753**

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayers of the People

Offertory

Saraband

Purcell

***Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow:
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia; Alleluia;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost;
Alleluia; Alleluia; Alleluia; Alleluia; Alleluia.*

***Prayers of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

And we pray as Christ taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

***Hymn 757**

Today We All Are Called to be Disciples

WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

***Charge**

***Benediction**

Postlude

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

arr. Shackley

**Please stand as you are able*

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY

Liturgist: Pat Townsend

Live Stream: Lisa Marsherrall

Ushers: Karen & Jon Roesser

Hymns

Hymn 692 Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain: Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living. As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. *Refrain.*

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story. In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. *Refrain.*

May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. *Refrain.*

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Hymn 753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O, Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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Hymn 757 Today We All Are Called to be Disciples

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord, to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword, to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace. But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream, with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem. For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease, a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word, and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard. As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

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Scripture Readings

Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Matthew 5:13-20

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called

great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.



CALENDAR

Sunday, February 8

- 9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib
- 9:00 am Bible Study/S261
- 10:15 am Worship/Sunday School
- 11:15 am Annual Congregational Meeting
- 1:30 pm Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar/Chapel

Monday, February 9

- 9:00 am Circuit Class/WH
- 10:00 am Chair Yoga/WH
- 7:00 pm Session/Chapel

Tuesday, February 10

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting
- 1:30 pm Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study/Zoom
- 4:00 pm Worship Committee/Zoom

Wednesday, February 11

Thursday, February 12

- 9:45 am Zumba/WH
- 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop #30018/Lib

Friday, February 13

- 4:00 pm BRAVO Workshop
- 6:30 pm OneWorld Choir/Chapel

Saturday, February 14

- 9:30 pm BRAVO Workshop

Sunday, February 15

- 9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib
- 9:00 am Bible Study/S261
- 10:15 am Worship
- 11:15 am Coffee Hour/WH
- 11:30 am Choir Rehearsal/CR
- 12:00 pm BRAVO Workshop
- 1:30 pm Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar/Chapel
- 2:00 pm BRAVO Concert

*CR—Choir Room
CSS—Congregation Shir Shalom
EGA—Embroidery Guild
GS—Girl Scouts
DR—Dickinson Room
FJC—Family Justice Center
FONP—Friends of Night People
Kit—Kitchen
LE3—Before and After School Program
Lib—Library
MG—Memorial Garden
PL—Parking Lot
Ofc—Church Office
WH—Westminster Hall*

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 3:00 pm

To see a complete list, go to <https://northchurchwilliamsville.org/weekly-bulletin-and-north-star/>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT ED: 9 a.m. in the Library

Come join in the discussions at the Adult Ed group that meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 am in the library.

February 8 & 15 - Join the Adult Ed class for a brief look at *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by Dalai Lama XIV and Desmond Tutu.

March 1 through March 29 - Join the Adult Ed class for this year's Lenten series *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage* by Richard Rohr.

Join us in the Adult Education class and grow your faith among friends. Everyone is welcome.

BIBLE STUDY: 9 am in Room S-261

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in Room S261 for Bible study.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY: 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

Bible study with Pastor Bill is held every Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. If you are interested in joining, please call the church office or email n.church.npc@gmail.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school schedule for January-June 2026:

- 2/08/26, 2/22/26
- 3/8/26, 3/22/26
- 4/19/26, 4/26/26
- 5/10/26, 5/31/26
- 6/14/26

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual meeting of the congregation will be held immediately following the worship service this morning. The meeting is for the purpose of electing elders and deacons, electing at-large members of the Nominating Committee, reviewing the budget, approving the Pastor's terms of call, and conducting other business appropriate for a congregational meeting. Copies of the Annual Report are available in the Narthex.

CHILI FUNDRAISER

If you ordered chili from the Youth Fellowship fundraiser, payment and pickup will be this morning following the worship service. Thanks to everyone who purchased chili to support our Youth!.

INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT

On **February 22nd**, Adult Education will host an intergenerational program after coffee hour. We encourage all to stay and get to know the children of the Youth Fellowship Program. A goodwill lunch will be provided and activities and crafts for all to do. We will start with a game called "Friendly Feud" and then create a wooden cross out of Balsa wood. Our lunch will be centered on what the children like, but adults will also. In fact, we will start with dessert! Please join us for a fun and interactive intergenerational event.

HELP FILL THE SHOPPING CART!

For the month of **FEBUARY**, we will collect **CANNED FRUIT** and **FRUIT CUPS** (small jars please). Place your donations in the shopping cart parked in the narthex and remember that reusable bags are always appreciated. Thank you for your continued support! Many families are being helped with your generous donations!

BOOK GROUPS

Everyone is invited to participate in a book group discussion. Groups meet in the Dickinson Room on the third and fourth Wednesdays of the month. The books up for discussion and the meeting times/dates when they resume meeting in the fall are:

- February 18, 10:00 a.m. - *How the South Won the Civil War* by Heather Cox Richardson
- February 25, 1:00 pm - *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you would like to be added to our mailing list or receive our weekly email newsletter, please contact the Church Office with your name, address, phone number, and email address: n.church.npc@gmail.com or 716-632-1330.

MINISTERS: THE CONGREGATION

Pastor/Head of Staff: The Rev. William T. Hennessy

Administrative Assistant: Reyne Jankowski

Facilities Caretaker: Mack Bigler

Director of Music, Organist: Marlene Harrington

Bookkeeper: Carol Lynn Saxer

Childcare Supervisor: Regina Koteras

Coordinator of Sacred Arts: Olivia Ebsary

Director of Music, Children & Youth: Alanna Carlins

Musical Assistant: Kurt Ebsary



Our Church Officers

Clerk of Session: Mitch Roemer

Treasurer: Brad Hahn

Assistant Treasurer: Mary Beth Karr

Class of 2026

Joe Alber
Lois Anneler
Louise Cooper
Warren Marcus

Class of 2027

Harvey Blakely
Olivia Ebsary
Debbie Katz
Ryan Koteras

Class of 2028

Jim Atwood
Randy Bigler
Paul Hahn
Diane Sprague

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Jim Loree

Class of 2026

Sue Boldt
Jim Loree
Faye Wohlhueter
Marty Shafer

Class of 2027

Marge Blakely
Duncan Hemink
Lynda Roemer
Mary Atwood

Class of 2028

Fred Hacker
Nancy Kim
Patti Thayer
Pam Ostermeier

Session Committees

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>
Adult Education & Faith Formation	Debbie Katz
Advocacy and Outreach	Mary Lou George
Children's Christian Education	Debbie Hutton
Membership	Jim Atwood
Finance	Jim Atwood
Human Resources	Joe Alber
Property	Randy Bigler
Stewardship	Debbie Katz
Worship	Olivia Ebsary, Jeff Faunce, Sue D'Angelo

MISSION STATEMENT

Brought together by our shared faith in Jesus Christ,
Called by God to live as faithful disciples,
Blessed by our diverse gifts and experiences,
We commit ourselves to:
Worship together,
Teach and learn from one another,
Nurture each other with care and love, and
Reach out in ministry and mission to the world.
(Adopted by the Session June 5, 2006)

LET'S CONNECT

Website: <https://northchurchwilliamsville.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/northchurchwilliamsville/>

Phone: 716-632-1330

Email: n.church.npc@gmail.com

Thursday e-blast and special announcements:

Please make sure the church office has your current email address if you wish to receive email.

