

North Presbyterian Church

2nd Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

10:15 a.m.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Greeting, Welcome, Announcements

Prelude

Jesus, Remember Me

Berthier

Call to Worship

Our hearts are ready, O Lord, our hearts are ready!

We will sing and make melody! We will awaken the dawn!

We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, we will sing praises to you among the nations.

For your steadfast love is great above the heavens, and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Song for Preparation

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

Hymn 654

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

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Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

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

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We are timid and fearful as we follow your lead. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to be born again into the life of Christ, trusting that you have included us by grace in the family of faith. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

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

Lord, Have Mercy upon Us

Capo 1: (Em) Fm (Bm7) (Em) (C) Cm7 Fm D^b

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us; Christ, have mer - cy up -

(C) (B) (Cmaj7) (Em) (Bm7) (Em)
D^b C D^bmaj7 Fm Cm7 Fm

on us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: J. Christopher Pardini, 2005
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KYRIE ELEISON (Pardini)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news!

God loves us! God forgives us!

*Response

Gloria Patri et Filio

by Jacques Berthier

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, Pa - tri et Fi - li - o,

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, Spi - ri - tu - i San - cto.

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*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!"

Anthem

I Lift My Eyes (Psalm 121)
InerG

Getty & Getty

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Psalm 121
John 3:1-21

Page 571
Page 93

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Which Way the Wind Blows"

WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*Affirmation of Faith

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. —from Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39, NRSV

*Hymn 292

As the Wind Song

Prayers of the People

Offertory

Change My Heart, O God

Espinosa

*Doxology

Hymn 607

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, who we adore. Amen.*

*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 490

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

*Charge

*Benediction

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able*

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY

Liturgist: Pat Townsend

Live Stream: Tim Hutton

Ushers: Joe Alber & Mary Beth Karr

Hymns

Hymn 645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God our salvation. With healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power has made God's gracious mercy keepeth; by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth. Within the kingdom of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing, an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing, as with a mother's tender hand God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud thy praises, that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and body, take your part: to God all praise and glory!

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Hymn 292 As the Wind Song

As the wind song through the tree, as the stirring of the breeze, so it is with the Spirit of God, as the heart made strangely warm, as the voice within the storm, so it is with the Spirit of God. Never seen, ever known, where this wind has blown bringing life, bringing power to the world, as the dancing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep desire, so it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again, so it is with the Spirit of God, as the green in the spring, as a kite on a string, so it is with the Spirit of God, making worlds that are new, making peace come true, bringing gifts, bringing love to the world, as the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the feast, so it is with the Spirit of God.

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Hymn 490 Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb. Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

Every day we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed. Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread. God, renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways! To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise! We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born. By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

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Scripture Readings

Psalm 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? ²My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. ⁶The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night. ⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.



CALENDAR

Sunday, March 1

- 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
- 1:30 pm Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar/Chapel
- 2:00 pm Girl Scout Troop #34166/WH

Monday, March 2

- 9:00 am Circuit Class/WH
- 10:00 am Chair Yoga/WH
- 7:00 pm Advocacy & Outreach/Zoom
- Deacons/Lib

Tuesday, March 3

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting/Ofc
- 10:45 am Pilates/Chapel
- 5:30 pm Lent Soup & Study/WH

Wednesday, March 4

- 9:00 am Circuit Class/WH
- 10:00 am Chair Yoga/WH
- 1:00 pm Adult Ed Committee/Lib

Thursday, March 5

- 9:00 am Zumba/WH
- 1:00 pm NPC Needlers
- 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop #30018/Lib

Friday, March 6

- 6:30 pm OneWorld Choir/Chapel/WH

Saturday, March 7

Sunday, March 8

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

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.

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:

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

LENT SOUP AND STUDY

Join us for Lenten soup and study suppers in Westminster Hall from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays during Lent. The meal will take place at 5:30 pm. Enjoy homemade soup, fresh bread, and dessert followed by study discussion at 6:15 pm. The topic is Faith Journeys. Each week we will hear from a different individual about their personal faith journey. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you can call or email the church office, (716) 632-1330 or n.church.npc@gmail.com.

- March 3 - Marty Shafer
- March 10 - Azubike Kalu-Nwiwu
- March 17 - Debbie Katz
- March 24 - Louise Cooper

Childcare will be available during the study time. Please contact the Church Office ahead of time to let us know your needs: n.church.npc@gmail.com or 716-632-1330.

NPC NEEDLERS

The NPC Needlers meet **Thursday, March 5**, at 1 p.m. in the Dickinson Room. Come, bring your projects to work on, start, or finish. Enjoy helping others to become needlers and join in some lively conversation. All are welcome!

HELP WANTED!

Web Team

Two individuals with experience in website maintenance are needed to keep the church's website up to date. Some familiarity with WordPress would be helpful. The following tasks are usually done weekly, if necessary: posting the prior week's sermon with accompanying date changes, adding new and deleting past activities with corresponding text and sometimes images, and updating links to the bulletin and live stream on the Worship With Us and Live Streaming pages on the website. Experience with or becoming proficient with social media would also be useful. Please respond to Joe Alber with questions or to express interest. (antonealber@gmail.com; 716-834-6560)

Office Assistants

The HR Committee is interested in creating a pool of several dedicated individuals to help in the church office. The commitment will range from two or three hours a week and require the volunteers agree to a relatively predictable schedule to ensure coverage. The work will entail answering the phone, greeting visitors, responding to inquiries, typing, copying/printing materials, and other typical office tasks. Please respond to Joe Alber with questions or to express interest. (antonealber@gmail.com; 716-834-6560)

CHURCH DIRECTORY

The 2026 church directory complete with pictures this year is now available. Printed copies are available for pickup in the Narthex. A digital copy is also available. See Thursday's *News from North* email or contact the church office to have one emailed to you.

HELP FILL THE SHOPPING CART!

For the month of **MARCH**, we are collecting **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS** (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.; regular or small sizes, 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:

- March 18, 10:00 a.m. - *Hiroshima* by John Hersey
- March 25, 1:00 pm - *The Sunday Philosophy Club* by Alexander McCall Smith

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.

