

North Presbyterian Church

5th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026

10:15 a.m.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Greeting, Welcome, Announcements

Prelude

Hope

Keesecker

Call to Worship

Jesus says, 'I am the Way for you.'

And so we come to follow Christ.

Jesus says, 'I am the Truth for you.'

And so we come to dwell in the light.

Jesus says, 'I am the Life for you.'

And so we come, leaving behind all else to which we cling.

Let us worship God.

Song for Preparation

Bless the Lord

Hymn 544

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

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Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 301

Let Us Build a House

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

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Christ, our way, our truth, our life, you have shown us the way, so clearly and fully.

You have not simply told us how to live, you have shown us. But we still don't get it.

We do not believe all you have said to us; we do not trust the way you have shown us.

Help us, O God. Forgive us. Open our ears to your truth, open our eyes to your way,

and lead us into new life. Amen.

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

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Jesus prepares a place for us, Jesus brings us close to him, Jesus answers us even in our unbelief.

We are God's own people. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

***Response**

by Jacques Berthier

Be Not Afraid 243

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1998
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1998
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BE NOT AFRAID
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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!"

Children's Time

(Children may return to their seats after Children's Time.)

Anthem

The Call

Smith arr. Routley

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a Way as gives us breath;
Such a Truth as ends all strife; such a Life as killeth death!

Come my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a Light as shows a feast;
Such a Feast as mends in length; such a Strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a Joy as none can move;
Such a Love as none can part; such a Heart as joys in love!

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

I Peter 2:1-10
John 14:1-7

Page 233
Page 108

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

Sermon

"Becoming God's Own"

WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*Hymn 515 *I Come with Joy*

Offertory *I Come with Joy* arr. Carter

*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.*

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

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.

Holy God, creator of the universe...with all those who sing your praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymn 556

We praise you, most holy God...to live for him in joy and grateful praise:

Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Hymn 557

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit...the prayer Christ teaches us, saying:

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.

Communion of the People

Our Lord invites all who trust in him, and all who long to trust in him, to share in this meal, which he has prepared. *(The bread for communion is gluten-free. Please come up the center aisle to receive the bread and take a cup of juice from the tray. You are invited to carry the elements back to your seat so we can all eat and drink together.)*

The Prayer after Communion

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

*Hymn 526 *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

*Charge

***Benediction**

Postlude

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

arr. Carter

**Please stand as you are able*

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY

Liturgist: Jeff Faunce

Live Stream: Lisa Marsherall

Ushers: Joe Alber & Mary Beth Karr

Hymns

Hymn 301 **Let Us Build a House**

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

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Hymn 515 **I Come with Joy**

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

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Hymn 526 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain: Jesus lives again; earth can breath again; pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one; at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. *Refrain.*

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! *Refrain.*

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Scripture Readings

I Peter 2:1-10

¹Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander.

²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." ⁷This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," ⁸and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

John 14:1-7

¹"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."



CALENDAR

Sunday, May 3

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

Monday, May 4

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

Tuesday, May 5

- 8:30 am Friends of Night People
- 9:30 am Staff Meeting
- 10:45 am Pilates/Chapel

Wednesday, May 6

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

Thursday, May 7

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

Friday, May 8

- 9:00 am Presbyterian Village Mother's Day Brunch/WH
- 6:30 pm OneWorld Choir/Chapel, WH

Saturday, May 9

Sunday, May 10

- 9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib
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.

Please join the Adult Education Class for eight Sundays starting April 12th, to discuss the book *Life After God: Finding Faith When You Can't Believe Anymore* by Mark Feldmeir.

Each class will start with a video and there are study questions to guide our discussion at the end of the book. We have books you can purchase or borrow, ask Reyne in the church office, or come to the first class on April 12th to obtain a copy.

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:

- 5/10/26, 5/31/26
- 6/14/26

HAPPY MAY DAY!

Join the youth fellowship in Westminster Hall immediately following the worship service for a taco lunch. You will have a choice of tacos, burritos, or taco salad. Free will offering (suggested \$10) to benefit the youth trip to Montreat this August. Please join us for a fun lunch and help support the youth of NPC!

NPC NEEDLERS

The NPC Needlers meet **Thursday, May 7**, 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!

CHICKEN BBQ

The first Weidner's chicken BBQ for the season is **Wednesday, May 20**. Louise Cooper will be selling tickets after the Worship service for the next few weeks. PLEASE! Help us make this event as successful as possible! Invite your friends and neighbors. Treat your family! If you can sell a few tickets, we would greatly appreciate your help!

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKET SALE

On **Sunday, May 10**, the congregation and guests of NPC will have the opportunity to purchase a blanket for \$10 through Church World Service. Where else can you possibly buy a blanket for that price? Please consider honoring a woman in your life (Mother's Day is May 11!) by purchasing a blanket that will provide warmth, comfort and a sense of security to some unknown person in the world.

There will be a table set up in the narthex where you can purchase your honorary gift that will definitely lift the spirits of the recipient. Checks should be made out to North Presbyterian Church with "Blankets" written on the Memo line. Thank you, in advance, for your continuing generosity.

NORTH CHURCH WEBSITE REDESIGN

We are in the process of updating and redesigning the North Church website. We would appreciate any comments and input you may have on the content of the current website--what do you like, not like; what could be eliminated or changed; anything you would like to see that is not currently there; any other comments you wish to share. All observations and comments are welcome. Please email the church office: n.church.npc@gmail.com. Thank you!

HELP FILL THE SHOPPING CART!

For the month of MAY, we are collecting PASTA and SAUCE (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:

- May 20, 10:00 am – *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- May 27, 1:00 pm – *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn

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 2027

Harvey Blakely
Matt Bottorff
Olivia Ebsary
Debbie Katz

Class of 2028

Jim Atwood
Randy Bigler
Paul Hahn
Diane Sprague

Class of 2029

Joe Alber
Lois Anneler
Mary Lou George
Warren Marcus

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Duncan Hemink

Class of 2027

Mary Atwood
Marge Blakely
Duncan Hemink
Lynda Roemer

Class of 2028

Fred Hacker
Nancy Kim
Patti Thayer
Pam Ostermeier

Class of 2029

Ashley Aronson
Sue Boldt
Marty Shafer
Faye Wohlhueter

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.

