

North Presbyterian Church

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

10:15 a.m.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Greeting, Welcome, Announcements

Prelude

Thine Is the Glory

Keesecker

Call to Worship

The good news resounds:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

We celebrate the God who is our refuge.

In God's presence there is gladness and rest.

God is always before us;

we shall not be shaken.

Song for Preparation

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Hymn 466

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!

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Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 248

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

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

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Embodied God, you pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, imbuing us with the grace and patience that you have shown to us time and again. We experience your presence, but are quick to judge those who do not believe as we do. We look down on those who ask for proof, we scorn those who scoff at our faith. Forgive us and soften our hearts. Remind us of our own human doubts, that we might have compassion for all and freely share your grace. Amen.

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

*Assurance of Forgiveness

God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for us.

Thanks be to God for such a hope. Alleluia!

Sisters and brothers, hear the good news!

God loves us! God forgives us!

***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!

Intended for repeated singing like other chants from the Taizé Community, this text began in Czech as "Nebojte se." The English version uses the language of the angel's greeting to Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary," who went to Jesus' tomb on Easter morning (Matthew 28:5-6).

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

Anthem

Lord of the Dance
Dale Suckow, Soloist

arr. Hayes

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

I Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Page 232
Page 115

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

Sermon

"Doubting Faithfully"

WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***Hymn 257**

The Risen Christ

The Ordination and Installation of Officers

Elders: Joe Alber, Lois Anneler, Mary Lou George*, Warren Marcus, Matt Bottorff*

Deacons: Ashley Aronson, Sue Boldt, Marty Shafer, Faye Wohlhueter

Sentences of Scripture (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 27)

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination and Installation

The Presentation of Candidates for Ordination and Installation

Constitutional Questions to the Elders-elect and Deacons-elect

Questions to the Congregation

Do we, the members of the church, accept these men and women as Elders and Deacons, chosen by God, through the voice of this congregation, to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?

The people respond: **We do.**

Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

The people respond: **We do.**

Prayer

Declaration of Installation

Welcome

Prayers of the People

Offertory

Air

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 254**

That Easter Day with Joy was Bright
WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

***Charge**

***Benediction**

Postlude

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Keesecker

**Please stand as you are able*

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY

Liturgist: Patti Thayer

Live Stream: Lisa Marsherall

Ushers: Randy & Kerri Bigler

Hymns

Hymn 248 Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed. In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend. Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

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Hymn 257 The Risen Christ

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet from garden tomb through darkened city street, unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear, and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side, breathes out his Spirit on them to abide whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe; new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.

The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand the bread for those who fail to understand, reveals himself, despite their lingering tears, enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.

May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand with the oppressed in this and every land, till all are blessed and can a blessing be, restored in Christ to true humanity.

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Hymn 254 That Easter Day with Joy was Bright

That Easter day with joy was bright; the sun shone out with fairer light when, to their longing eyes restored, the apostles saw their risen Lord.

He bade them see his hands, his side, where yet the glorious wounds abide, the tokens true which made it plain their Lord indeed was risen again.

From every weapon death can wield, your own redeemed forever shield; O lord of all, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide.

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Scripture Readings

I Peter 1:3-9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



CALENDAR

Sunday, April 12

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

Monday, April 13

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

Tuesday, April 14

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting
- 1:30 pm Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study/Zoom

Wednesday, April 15

- 10:00 am Chair Yoga/WH
Wednesday Morning Book Group/DR

Thursday, April 16

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

Friday, April 17

- 6:30 pm OneWorld Choir/Chapel

Saturday, April 18

- 8:00 am Run Forest Run/PL

Sunday, April 19

- 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
- 3:00 pm Girl Scout Troop #30160/WH

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.

The understanding of God that many Christians insist is so clear in the Bible makes faith seem like an all-or-nothing proposition. When much of that rigid projection seems in doubt, it's not surprising that many people leave behind this take-it-or-leave-it religion. Pastor Mark Feldmeir offers an introduction to a God that many people weren't aware existed—a mysterious, uncontainable, still-active God who loves and cares for real people with real problems. *Life after God* offers glimpses of the ineffable God, who can emerge when we forget what we think we're supposed to believe about God and open us up to the mystery, wonder, and compelling love we crave.

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:

- 4/19/26, 4/26/26
- 5/10/26, 5/31/26
- 6/14/26

HELP FILL THE SHOPPING CART!

For the month of **APRIL**, the Sunday School will, once again, be compiling **BIRTHDAY BAGS** for the University Food Pantry. We have streamlined the items in the bag in hopes of being able to make 50 bags. The following is what is needed for each bag:

- 1 medium-sized bag
- 1 cake mix
- 1 can of frosting
- 1 pkg. of birthday plates
- 1 pkg. of birthday napkins
- 1 pkg. of candles
- 1 pkg. of balloons

Optional items might be a birthday banner (difficult to find!); a roll of scotch tape and solid-colored plates and napkins for older kids or adults.

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!

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR GINNY BRADLEY

A memorial service for Ginny Bradley will be held on **Saturday, May 2**, at 10:30 am. Everyone is invited to a lunch reception in Westminster Hall immediately following the service.

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:

- April 15, 10:00 a.m. — *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke* in the Richest Country on Earth by Sarah Smarsh
- April 22, 1:00 pm — *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin
- May 27, 1:00 om — *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 Koterias

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.

