

# North Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

10:15 a.m.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

*He Lives*

Ackley arr. Edwards

Greeting, Welcome, Announcements

Choral Introit

*Introit for Easter Day*

Schweizer

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Call to Worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

God has answered us!

**God has come to earth to become our salvation!**

This is the day the Lord has made:

**let us rejoice and be glad! Alleluia!**

Prayer of Invocation

\*Hymn 232

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

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

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

**Resurrected Christ, there is nothing we can do to deserve the grace you give us. There is no way we can earn your love, there is no way we can be worthy of your forgiveness. And yet you shower these mercies on us. You, who have taken away the sting of death, meet us where we are, in our doubt and fear, in our regrets and shame, in our delight and awe. Meet us here in this place, and call us once again to trust in you. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

God says to us, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

**Christ says to us, 'Do not be afraid.'**

We need not fear; we are forgiven, we are loved, we are redeemed!

**Alleluia!**

\*Response

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  
Text and Music © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

BE NOT AFRAID  
4.4.8.D

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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**

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

Schweizer/Goss

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**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture**

Colossians 3:1-4  
Matthew 28:1-10

Page 201  
Page 33

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

**Sermon**

"No Time for Fear"

**WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

**\*Hymn 234**

*Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

**Offertory**

*Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing*

arr. Keesecker

**\*Doxology**

**(Tune: Hymn 609)**

***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.**

Almighty Triune God...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Hymn 236, *The Strife Is O'er*

***On this most holy day of days,***

***To God your hearts and voices raise,***

***In laud and jubilee and praise. Alleluia!***

In Jesus Christ...love has the final victory.

Hymn 236, *The Strife Is O'er*

***The three sad days are quickly sped,***

***Christ rises glorious from the dead:***

***All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!***

Holy God, we are your Easter people...as Christ taught 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

**Gracious God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this meal you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us. Now send us forth from this place by the power of your Spirit to tell this good news to the world: The Lord has risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.**

\*Hymn 239

*Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*

**WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD**

\*Charge

\*Benediction

Response

*"Hallelujah!"*

Handel

*Additional singers are invited to come forward to sing with the choir.*

**Postlude**

*The Master Hath Come (Ash Grove)*

Smith

*\*Please stand as you are able*

**LANCASTER BRASS QUINTET**

Trumpets: Richard Goss  
Nicholas DeAngelis  
Horn: Marcus Francisco  
Trombone: Jared Rupp  
Tuba: Adam Batt

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY**

*Liturgist:* Pat Townsend  
*Live Stream:* Tim Hutton  
*Ushers:* Bob & Norma Henderson



## EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS



**JoAnne Alderfer**, in celebration of North Church where Jim & I and our children found a “home away from home” for 40+ years

**Lois Anneler**, in celebration of NPC Choir

**Neil & Jane Arnold**, in honor of Sharon Dittmar

**Randy & Kerri Bigler**, in honor of family

**Susan & Scott Bradley**, in memory of Ginny Bradley

**Jeff & Livy Ebsary**, in celebration of family

**Ed Eisenlord**, in celebration of the Easter Brass!

**Jean Ervin**, in memory of William (Bill) Ervin, Anna Sowder & Ginny Bradley

**Paula Firestone**, in memory of Edward and Pauline Firestone

**Jeff Faunce & Lisa Marsherall**, in memory of Dorothy & Ray Faunce, Kathy & John Marsherall

**Mary Lou George**, in memory of Anselm George; in honor of our children; in celebration of our grandchildren

**Marlene Harrington**, in memory of Chuck, Sandi & Jeremy Weiss

**Bob & Norma Henderson**, in celebration of Spring 2026

**The Hennessys**, in memory of Melvin & Carolyn Phillips and Tom & Dottie Hennessy

**Lynlee Hochrad**, in memory of Joseph Sabatula Jr.; in celebration of Carter, Avery, Iris, Eden & Callen

**Marcia Hunt**, in memory of Robert & Betty Hunt and loved ones no longer here

**Hutton Family**, in memory of Rosemary “Grammy” Snyder

**Marilyn Link**, in memory of Tony Link

**Gloria McDowell**, in memory of William McDowell & Dawn McDowell

**Richard & Judy Mesmer**, in memory of our parents

**Heather Randall**, in memory of my husband, Paul D. Randall

**Mitch & Lynda Roemer**, in celebration of Luke Mitchel Schmitt & Henry Roemer Rusek

**Karen & Bill Roesser**, in celebration of memories, homecomings, and new birth

**The Sendziak Family**, in memory of John & Lois Richardson

**Chris & Marty Shafer**, in memory of Barbara Lindamood; in celebration of grandchildren Charlie, Campbell, Grace & Miles

**Sheridan Skura**, in memory of my parents & grandparents

**Andres & Mary Soom**, in celebration of grandchildren

**Jim & Diane Sprague**, in celebration of our grandchildren and their parents

**Carol & Dale Suckow**, in memory of our parents

**Patti Thayer & Fred Hacker**, in celebration of Peace & Love

**Faye Wohlhueter**, in memory of Bill & Margaret Clark

# Hymns

## Hymn 232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is rise today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia! Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured. Alleluia! Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia! Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

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## Hymn 234 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness! God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness, loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters; led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ has burst his [prison, and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen. All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor, with the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render; comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection!

Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal, nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal: but today, among your own, you appear, bestowing your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.

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## Hymn 239 Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King! To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today! Death's mighty stone is rolled away. Let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die, and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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## Scripture Readings

### Colossians 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup>So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

### Matthew 28 :1-10

<sup>1</sup>After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."



# CALENDAR

## Sunday, April 5 – Easter Sunday

- 7:30 am Easter Sunrise Service
- 10:15 am Worship
- 1:30 pm Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar/Chapel

## Monday, April 6 - Easter Monday – **Office Closed**

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

## Tuesday, April 7

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting
- 10:45 am Pilates/Chapel
- 7:00 pm Deacons/Lib

## Wednesday, April 8

## Thursday, April 9

- 10:00 am Zumba/WH
- 6:30 pm Girl Scout Troop #30018/Lib

## Friday, April 10

- 6:30 pm OneWorld Choir/Chapel

## Saturday, April 11

- 10:00 AM LE3/WH

## Sunday, April 12

- 9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib
- 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

*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

***Church Office will be closed***  
***Monday, April 6, 2026***

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

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## 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.

### **April 5 – Easter Sunday Adult Ed will not meet.**

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. **April 5 – Easter Sunday Bible Study will not meet.**

### **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](mailto: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!

### **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](mailto: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 2026

Joe Alber  
Lois Anneler  
Louise Cooper  
Warren Marcus

#### Class of 2027

Harvey Blakely  
Olivia Ebsary  
Debbie Katz  
Ryan Koterias

#### 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](mailto: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.*

