

# North Presbyterian Church

Day of Pentecost

May 24, 2026

10:15 a.m.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

### Greeting, Welcome, Announcements

#### Prelude

*The Holy Ghost Jigs*

Keesecker

#### Call to Worship

O God, who called all life into being,  
**The earth, sea and sky are yours.**  
Your presence is all around us,  
**Every atom is full of your energy.**  
Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth,  
**With her we yearn for justice to be done,**  
For creation to be freed from bondage,  
**For the hungry to be fed,**  
For captives to be released,  
**For your kingdom of peace to come on earth.**

#### 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 280

*Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us*

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

##### \*Call to Confession

##### \*Prayer of Confession

Infinite God, you come to us in many colors, shapes, and languages. You speak to each of us in the way we can understand. You reach out to us and meet us where we are. But we are quick to limit you to what we can understand and control. Forgive us, and set your Spirit loose among us. Challenge us, surprise us, and open us to your power, that we might know you more deeply, follow you more faithfully, and love more fully. Amen.

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

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

Scripture is clear: everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. God draws us together, offering salvation, forgiveness, and new life to all.

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

**\*Response**

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

Hymn 591

**\*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**

*Many Gifts*

Pote

Many gifts, one spirit. Many songs, one voice.  
Many reasons, one promise. Many questions, one choice.  
O God, we pray for unity, give guidance from above.  
In our differences unite us in the circle of your love.  
O God, remind us we are not alone.  
Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.  
  
Help us learn to love each other, show us ways to understand.  
We are members of one family, growing strong by joining hands.  
O God, remind us we are not alone.  
Though we move on different pathways, we are walking to your throne.  
  
Take our many ways of working, blend the colors of each soul  
Into the beauty of a rainbow, give us life, Lord, make us whole.

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**A Choral Reading**

*Holy Spirit, Come to Us*

Hymn 284

Holy Spirit, come to us; kindle in us the fire of your love.  
Holy Spirit, come to us. Holy Spirit, come to us.

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**Scripture**

Acts 2:1-21

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

**Sermon**

"Blowing the Lid Off"

**WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit**

**everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,**

**sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,**

and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

**The same Spirit**

who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

**In a broken and fearful world**

the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,**

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

**Offertory**

*Spirit of God*

Tennent

**\*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**

**Hymn 506**

*Look Who Gathers at Christ'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.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing...of all the angels and saints who sing:

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Hymn 556

Holy are you, indeed, and blessed...as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen*

Hymn 557

Send your Holy Spirit upon us...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**

**Holy God, we thank you for this feast of grace and life. As we have been served, help us to serve our neighbors. As we have been fed, help us to feed all who are hungry. As we have been loved, help us to love the world—because in Christ Jesus you have loved us. Amen.**

**\*Hymn 290**

*O Day of Joy and Wonder!*

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

**\*Charge**

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*

arr. Carter

*\*Please stand as you are able*

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY**

*Liturgist:* Patti Thayer

*Live Stream:* Tim Hutton

*Ushers:* Jim & Diane Sprague

# Hymns

## Hymn 280      **Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us**

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; come with Pentecostal power; give the church a stronger vision; help us face each crucial hour. Build upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone, still the church is called to mission that God's love shall be made known.

We would raise our alleluias for the grace of yesteryears; for tomorrow's unknown pathway, hear, O Lord, our humble prayers. In the church's pilgrim journey you have led us all the way; still in presence move before us, fire by night and cloud by day.

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us; give us words of fire and flame. Help our feeble lips to praise you, glorify your holy name. father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One: what mystery! We would sing our loud hosannas now and through eternity.

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## Hymn 506      **Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!**

Look who gathers at Christ's table! Hear the stories that they bring. Some are weeping; some are laughing; some have songs they want to sing. Others ask why they're invited, burdened by the wrong they've done. Christ insists they are all welcome. There is room for everyone.

Clouds of light surround the table; ancient followers appear, saints confessing how they wrestled with their guilt, their doubt and fear. Peter tells of his denying Christ was ever in his sight; Paul relates his fruitless efforts to obliterate the light.

Their sad stories are repeated in a thousand different ways, but they share one thing in common: they all end in thanks and praise for the host who has invited north and south and east and west to converge around this table, where all life is fed and blest.

Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to be surprised by the host whose hands are wounded, who will open wide your eyes when he blesses bread and breaks it—truth and manna from above!—and then passes wine that wakens in your heart the taste of love.

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## Hymn 290      **O Day of Joy and Wonder!**

O day of joy and wonder! Christ's promise now fulfilled: the coming of the Spirit that holy love has willed. Our Lord in human body to mortal eye is lost, yet comes in flame upon us at blessed Pentecost.

The world, in sheer amazement, the truth must now declare: that those who once were cowards are brave beyond compare; and tongues, which could not utter their faith in Jesus' name, defy all persecution God's glory to proclaim!

We too may know your power; your courage makes us strong. Your love, your joy, your patience can all to us belong. Come now and dwell within us, O Comforter divine. Come to our hearts, and keep them; there let your brightness shine.

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## Scripture Readings

### Acts 2:1-21

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>5</sup>Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup>And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup>Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup>And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? <sup>9</sup>Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup>Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, <sup>11</sup>Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." <sup>12</sup>All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup>But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>15</sup>Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. <sup>16</sup>No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup>'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. <sup>18</sup>Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. <sup>19</sup>And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. <sup>20</sup>The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. <sup>21</sup>Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'



# CALENDAR

## Sunday, May 24

- 10:15 am Worship
- 11:15 am Coffee Hour

## Monday, May 25 – Office Closed

Memorial Day Holiday

## Tuesday, May 26

- 9:30 am Staff Meeting
- 10:45 am Pilates/Chapel
- 12:00 pm Dress A Girl
- 1:30 pm Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study/Zoom

## Wednesday, May 27

- 9:00 am Circuit Class/WH
- 10:00 am Chair Yoga/WH
- 1:00 pm Wednesday Afternoon Book Group/DR

## Thursday, May 28

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

## Friday, May 29

## Saturday, May 30

## Sunday, May 31

- 9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib  
Bible Study/S261
- 10:15 am Worship/Sunday School
- 11:15 am Coffee Hour/WH

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

<b><u>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</u></b>
Monday - Thursday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
<i>Church Office will be closed</i> <i>Monday, May 25</i> <i>Memorial Day Holiday</i>

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.

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.

***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](mailto:n.church.npc@gmail.com).

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We only have a few more weeks left before we break for the summer. Sunday School schedule for the remainder of the spring:

- 5/31/26
- 6/14/26

### **PENTECOST OFFERING**

The 226th General Assembly (2024) sunset the Pentecost Offering and moved the causes it supported under the umbrella of the Christmas Joy Offering. The last PC(USA) Pentecost Special Offering was collected in 2025.

The Advocacy and Outreach Committee recommended, and Session approved, creating our own Pentecost offering. The new North Church Pentecost Offering will support the Montreat Fund, which helps bring thoughtful speakers to conferences, maintain the facilities, and provide recreational activities throughout the year. Montreat was heavily affected by the devastating floods of 2025 and is still recovering. If you would like to hear how meaningful and life-changing the Montreat experience has been for our youth, just ask them! We hope Montreat will continue to thrive for many years to come!

Donation envelopes will be available in the Narthex, and the new North Church Pentecost Offering will be received for the next two weeks. Thank you for considering a donation!

### **WILLIAMSVILLE EAST CHORAL EVENTS**

Williamsville East Choral Concerts are the culmination of months of hard work, collaboration and organization. Here is a schedule of upcoming events. Everyone is invited to come out to see and hear Henry Hutton and his fellow choir members perform and enjoy an evening of music!

- May 28, 2026 - 7 pm - Senior Cabaret
- June 9, 2026 - 7 pm - Spring Choral Concert

Williamsville East High School is located at 151 Paradise Road in East Amherst.

### **YOUTH GROUP SUB SALE**

The annual youth group sub sale fundraiser will be held on June 7, 2026, to raise money for this summer's trip to Montreat. We are very proud to be sending 5 students from our congregation this year!!!

Sub combos (sub, chip, cookie) are \$12 and a bottle of water can be added for \$1. Please complete the enclosed order form to order your subs. Marcia Hunt will also be on hand on Sunday following the worship service to take your order. You can pick up your order immediately following the morning worship on June 7.

Payment is due at the time of pick up unless pre-paying online. Checks can be made payable to North Presbyterian Church. **RETURNING THIS YEAR:** We've added the ability to make online credit card payments! Thank you as always for supporting our youth!

### **BINGO & POTLUCK!**

Please plan to join us immediately following the worship service on **Sunday, June 14**, for a rousing game or two (or three!) of Bingo and a Potluck lunch. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex (or contact the church office: 716-632-1330 or [n.church.npc@gmail.com](mailto:n.church.npc@gmail.com)) to let us know how many will be attending for planning purposes. Bring your favorite dish to share and stay for some fun and fellowship!

### **OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT**

Office S258 in the South wing will be available to rent starting in June. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please contact the church office: 716-632-1330 or [n.church.npc@gmail.com](mailto:n.church.npc@gmail.com).

### **HELP FILL THE SHOPPING CART!**

For the month of **MAY**, we are collecting **BOXED 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!

### **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 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](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.*

