

North Presbyterian Church

4th Sunday after Pentecost

June 21, 2026

9:30 a.m.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Greeting, Welcome, Announcements

Prelude *Prelude in C Major* J. S. Bach

Call to Worship

Do not be afraid:

God hears our cries when we are lost.

Do not be afraid:

God does not leave us abandoned.

Do not be afraid:

God is with us, now and always.

Song for Preparation *Nothing Can Trouble* Hymn 820

Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble; nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.

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Prayer of Invocation

***Hymn 39** *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

(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 try to follow your word: to put others above ourselves, to remember that we are all bound together as your beloved children, to seek the common good instead of our own interests. But it is so easy for our lesser selves to get the better of us. We succumb to jealousy, vindictiveness, callousness, and indifference. In your mercy, send your healing to those we have hurt, and to our own misguided souls so that we may follow you once more. Amen.

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

*Assurance of Forgiveness

We are united in Christ's life, death, and resurrection: he has saved us from sin so that we might live in God.

Thanks be to Jesus Christ, who frees us from sin!

***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!"

Graduate Recognition

Henry Hutton, Eddie George, Matthew Harrington
Sarah Hennessy, Sara Koteris, Joseph Baudo, Daniel McKee
Kai Harrington, Alex McMullen

Children's Time

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

Anthem

My Lord, What a Morning

African American Spiritual

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Genesis 21:8-21

Page 17

Matthew 10:24-39

Page 10

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Compassion > Conflict"

WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***Hymn 378**

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

Offertory

As the Wind Song

Myrray/Lim

***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.

Blessed are you, strong and faithful God...we sing the ageless hymn of your glory:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Hymn 556

All holy God...and exalted him as Lord of creation:

Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen

Hymn 557

Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move...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 765**

May the God of Hope Go with Us

WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

***Charge**

***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able*

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY

Liturgist: Lisa Marsherrall

Live Stream: Randy Bigler

Ushers: Sue Boldt & Louise Cooper

Hymns

Hymn 39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee. thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see. all I have needed they hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain.*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow; blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain.*

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Hymn 378 We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom

We wait the peaceful kingdom, when wolf and lamb shall lie in gentleness and friendship without a fear or sigh, when lion shall be grazing, when snake shall never strike; a little child shall lead us both strong and weak alike.

Where is the peaceful kingdom? When will this new day start? We long for peace and comfort to reign within each heart. Yet not in our lives only, nor simply in our home; we pray that all creation will one day find shalom.

When wars of desolation and hate come to an end, when nation meets with nation and calls the other "friend," still peace in all its fullness will only have begun: *shalom* for all creation begins with justice done.

That little child shall lead us to walk the chosen way, to share the peaceful kingdom, to greet God's newborn day. The child born in a stable is sent to break our chains, to bring through word and table the day when justice reigns.

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Hymn 765 May the God of Hope Go with Us

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

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Scripture Readings

Genesis 21:8-21

⁸The boy grew and stopped nursing. On the day he stopped nursing, Abraham prepared a huge banquet. ⁹Sarah saw Hagar's son laughing, the one Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham. ¹⁰So she said to Abraham, "Send this servant away with her son! This servant's son won't share the inheritance with my son Isaac."

¹¹This upset Abraham terribly because the boy was his son. ¹²God said to Abraham, "Don't be upset about the boy and your servant. Do everything Sarah tells you to do because your descendants will be traced through Isaac. ¹³But I will make of your servant's son a great nation too, because he is also your descendant." ¹⁴Abraham got up early in the morning, took some bread and a flask of water, and gave it to Hagar. He put the boy in her shoulder sling and sent her away. She left and wandered through the desert near Beer-sheba. ¹⁵Finally the water in the flask ran out, and she put the boy down under one of the desert shrubs. ¹⁶She walked away from him about as far as a bow shot and sat down, telling herself, I can't bear to see the boy die. She sat at a distance, cried out in grief, and wept.

¹⁷God heard the boy's cries, and God's messenger called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "Hagar! What's wrong? Don't be afraid. God has heard the boy's cries over there. ¹⁸Get up, pick up the boy, and take him by the hand because I will make of him a great nation." ¹⁹Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well. She went over, filled the water flask, and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰God remained with the boy; he grew up, lived in the desert, and became an expert archer. ²¹He lived in the Paran desert, and his mother found him an Egyptian wife.

Matthew 10:24-39

²⁴Disciples aren't greater than their teacher, and slaves aren't greater than their master. ²⁵It's enough for disciples to be like their teacher and slaves like their master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, it's certain that they will call the members of his household by even worse names.

²⁶Therefore, don't be afraid of those people because nothing is hidden that won't be revealed, and nothing secret that won't be brought out into the open. ²⁷What I say to you in the darkness, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, announce from the rooftops. ²⁸Don't be afraid of those who kill the body but can't kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell. ²⁹Aren't two sparrows sold for a small coin? But not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father knowing about it already. ³⁰Even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹Don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

³²Therefore, everyone who acknowledges me before people, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. ³³But everyone who denies me before people, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

³⁴Don't think that I've come to bring peace to the earth. I haven't come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵I've come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a

daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶People's enemies are members of their own households.

³⁷Those who love father or mother more than me aren't worthy of me. Those who love son or daughter more than me aren't worthy of me. ³⁸Those who don't pick up their crosses and follow me aren't worthy of me. ³⁹Those who find their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives because of me will find them.



CALENDAR

Sunday, June 21

- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Adult Ed/Lib

Monday, June 22

- 9:00 am Circuit Class/WH
- 10:00 am Chair Yoga/WH

Tuesday, June 23

- 10:45 am Pilates/Chapel
- 1:30 pm Tuesday Afternoon Bible Stud/Zoom

Wednesday, June 24

- 10:00 am Chair Yoga/WH

Thursday, June 25

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

Friday, June 26

Saturday, June 27

Sunday, June 28

- 9:30 am Worship
- 10:45 am Adult Ed/Lib

*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 Adult Ed's summertime Bible study beginning on June 21st when North adopts summertime worship at 9:30 am. The Adult Ed class meets in the Library 15 minutes after the worship service.

We will discuss the Horizons Bible study entitled *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians*. There are nine lessons based on first Corinthians. This Bible study explores the letter's setting, divisions within the congregation, and ultimately, the gifts given to all through the work of Christ. Readers will be fascinated by this journey to Corinth and will explore how Paul's timeless message of loving unity calls Christ's followers today.

Each lesson is independent of each other, so come when you can and enjoy learning about our faith among friends. Debbie Katz will have several copies of the book available for purchase (\$15) or to borrow.

Join us in the Adult Education class and grow your faith among friends. Everyone is welcome.

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.

INTERFAITH PICNIC

Plans are underway for North Church to host an interfaith picnic with our friends from the Chinmaya Mission, Congregation Shir Shalom, the Amherst Mosque on Heim Road, and Bridges from Borders. Mark your calendars and save the date of July 12, 2026, beginning at 5 pm. Watch the weekly *News from North* email for more details!

HELP NEEDED

A couple of volunteers are needed to water the new plants. It takes about an hour, and it must be done at least twice a week until the cold weather arrives. Coiled hoses have been placed on both sides of the building that reach everything except the tree at the end of the Memorial Wall (that requires a small bucket of water to be carried from one of the faucets). Please contact the Church Office if you are interested.

SESSION NOTES

The Session met on June 15, 2026.

- A shared-use agreement was approved.
- A motion was approved to have driveway asphalt repaired.
- A baptism was approved.
- The Safety Committee still needs two more members.
- Phase 1 of the landscaping project is nearly complete.
- Prices are being requested for concrete sidewalk repairs.

The next meeting will be August 10, 2026.

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.

HELP FILL THE SCHOOL BUS

Help us fill the "school bus" with **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** for the **Agnes Youth and Family Center** backpack program, which supports local students ages 3 to 14. Requested items include:

- #2 pencils, sharpeners, erasers, and pens
- Markers, crayons, highlighters, glue sticks, and sticky notes
- Loose-leaf paper, construction paper, notebooks (college-ruled and wide-ruled), folders, index cards, and children's scissors
- Paper towels, tissues, cleaning wipes, and baby wipes

The "school bus" will be parked in the Narthex throughout **JULY 12**. Please place your donations in the bus.

Thank you for your support! Your generous donations will help many students and families.

HELP FILL THE SHOPPING CART!

For the month of **JUNE**, we are collecting **personal care products**: Hair products: shampoo for Afro-textured hair; Dental care: toothpaste, toothbrushes (adult and kids), mouthwash, dental floss; body wash, deodorant for men and women, hand soap, feminine hygiene products (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. ***Book groups will not meet in June, July, or August.*** The books up for discussion and the meeting times/dates when they resume meeting in the fall are:

- September 16, 10:00 am - *Marley & Me: Life and Love With the World's Worst Dog* by John Grogan
- September 23, 1:00 pm – *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali

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	
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.

