

North Presbyterian Church

18th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27 2026

10:15 a.m.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Greeting, Welcome, Announcements

Prelude

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord who is our provider.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

God brought us out of bondage and has made us free.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in God.

Glorious are the deeds of our God, and mighty are his acts.

The Lord is our hope. Our trust is in 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.

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 475

Come, thou Fount of every blessing

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

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Righteous God, we confess that we have not lived as your obedient children.

We have honored you with our words, but we have denied you with our actions.

We have not pursued the mind of Christ, who took the form of a servant, for we have acted with selfish ambition. We have put our interests before the interests of others and have not regarded them in humility. Forgive us our arrogance, awaken our hearts to sincere repentance, and enable us to will and to work for your good pleasure, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news!

God loves us! God forgives us!

*Response

We Are Forgiven

Hymn 447

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

***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

Third Grade Bible Presentation
(Children may go to Sunday School after Children's Time.)

Anthem

God Is Here Today

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Philippians 2:1-13

Page 197

Matthew 21:23-32

Page 23

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Becoming Imitators of Christ"

WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in God whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all, and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, we trust in God; and, in the name of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the Spirit of love, and in the company of the faithful so to be the Church, for the glory of God. Amen. (© The Iona Community from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, published by Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Fourth Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall St., Glasgow G2 3DH, UK)

***Hymn 702**

Christ be beside me

Prayers of the People

Offertory

Calm to the Waves

***Doxology**

***Praise God, from all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit ever more;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.***

***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 314**

Longing for light, We Wait in Darkness

WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

***Charge**

***Benediction**

Postlude

**Please stand as you are able*

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY

Liturgist: Pat Townsend

Live Stream: Lisa Marsherall

Ushers: Joe Alber & Mary Beth Karr

Hymns

Hymn 475 **Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by they help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

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Hymn 702 **Christ Be Beside Me**

Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart. Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part. Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me; Christ be on all tongues telling of me. Christ be the vision in eyes that see me; in ears that hear me Christ ever be.

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Hymn 314 **Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness**

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. *Refrain.*

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst. Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. *Refrain.*

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. *Refrain.*

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. *Refrain.*

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Scripture Readings

Philippians 2 :1-13

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, ⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, ¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Shining as Lights in the World ¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21 :23-32

²³ When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.



CALENDAR

Sunday, September 27

9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib
9:00 am Bible Study/S-261
10:15 am Worship
11:15 am Coffee Hour

Monday, September 28

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

Tuesday, September 29

10:45 am Pilates

Wednesday, September 30

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

Thursday, October 1

9:00 am Zumba/WH

Friday, October 2

Saturday, October 3

Sunday, October 4

9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib
9:00 am Bible Study/S-
10:15 am Worship
11:15 am Coffee Hour

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 - Friday
9:00 am - 1:30 pm

261

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT ED: 9:00 *a.m. in the Library*

Spiritual Gifts: Come join Adult Ed's fall programs on Sundays at 9 am in the library.

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth assuring them that everyone was given spiritual gifts by the Spirit for the body of the church. What was true in Paul's time is true today. Each of us has different gifts our church can benefit from. Take a brief test to help reveal where your spiritual gifts lie -- some gifts are obvious, and some gifts may be waiting to be developed. Join in the conversation, there will be insights, different ideas and plenty of laughter.

Beginning on Sunday, September 20th and running through October 11th, the Adult Ed class will discuss W. David O. Taylor's book, "*Open and Unafraid*." This book is not an introduction to the book of psalms, rather it is an invitation to use the psalms to help us in our walk with God. To help us become more familiar with the psalms, we suggest you take the daily psalm challenge. Begin on day one, read psalm one. Then on day two, read psalm two. Continue each following day with the next psalm as you read through the book of psalms. Don't be discouraged if you miss a day, just pick up where you left off. In class we will read and discuss the following chapters in "*Open and Unafraid*"

- Sept. 27: Psalms that reflect our Sadness and Anger
- Oct. 4: Psalms that focus on the topics of Enemy and Justice
- Oct. 11: Psalms that celebrate Life and Creation

"*Open and Unafraid*" is available through Amazon.com or ThriftBooks.com. Contact Debbie Katz at debbie.katz55@gmail.com for more information. ***Join us in the Adult Education class and grow your faith among friends. Everyone is welcome.***

Here are the stand-alone topics coming up in the month of **October** and **November**.

1. Oct 18th there will not be a class at 9:00am but we are planning an intergenerational event where we will discuss with the class "What are your Spiritual gifts". We plan to have a kid-friendly lunch, a book reading and activities. **Please come and meet the children of our church and share your spiritual gifts with them.**
2. October 25th, Jae-sun Lee will lead us in a discussion from the book Protestant Reformation Questions and Answers
3. Nov 1st, Pat Townsend will lead a discussion from the book "Heretics" from the - Armchair Theologians .
4. Nov 8th, Jim Lorre will introduce the class to the New Revised Bible where 9 bibles have been purchased for the library by the congregation in memory of Ginny Bradley
5. Nov 15th, Sarah Emhof will lead a discussion on Civil Discourse.

Please Join us in the Adult Education class and grow your faith among friends.

NEWS FROM THE WITHERSPOON LIBRARY

The Adult Education Committee has taken the lead in purchasing a set of study bibles in memory of Ginny Bradley. Ginny was a member of North Presbyterian-Williamsville and a faithful participant in the Adult Education program. The study bibles will be kept in the library for use by any church group that needs them. If you would like to donate a bible in Ginny's memory, please send a check for \$35 to the church office marked "Bible Fund" before the end of the month. Thank you.

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:

- September 23, 1:00 pm – *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali

HELP FILL THE SHOPPING CART!

For the month of **SEPTEMBER**, we will collect **TOILETRIES!** We are especially in need of toothbrushes, toothpaste, soaps & feminine hygiene products. 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!

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

NPC NEEDLERS

The NPC Needlers meet Thursday, October 1, 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. We will meet the **first Thursday** of each month, and all are welcome!

CHURCH CALENDAR

The Fall season is about to start, and the schedule is already beginning to fill in! Just a reminder, if you need space in the building for a meeting or event, please check with the church office in advance to be sure the space you need is (or can be made) available for your use. Please do not assume the space you want will be available when you need it. We will make every effort to accommodate everyone's needs, and a little advance planning makes it less stressful for all! Thank you.

DRESS A GIRL

The Dress A Girl group are scheduled on the **fourth Tuesday** of the month in Westminster Hall. We start with a light lunch and time to catch up with each other, then onto creating yarn dolls & sewing dresses. We are there from 12 to 4 pm, come and go as you like. If you'd like more information, contact Mary Soom (marysoom@gmail.com). All are welcome!

NORTH STAR

If you have any articles or information you would like included in the Fall North Star, please email to the church office n.church.npc@gmail.com no later than September 25th. Thank you!

SESSION

The Session met on September 14th. A motion was approved to transfer a membership from North Church. A motion was approved to hold a youth apple picking event on Sept. 18th. Organizing leadership for Coffee Hour was discussed. A motion was approved to repurpose previously rented office space for storage. New safety-related signs will be posted. One lease and two shared-use agreements were approved. The next Session meeting will be on Monday, October 12.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Looking for nominees for Session & Deacons. Please forward suggestions to: Lois Anneler, Louise Cooper, Mary Beth Karr, Mary Atwood, or Mitch Romer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2026-2027 Sunday School schedule

We are excited to welcome back and welcome new Sunday School students age Pre-K 4 year olds through 8th grade students for Sunday School during worship services!

High school students are welcome to volunteer as assistants with teachers and students during Sunday school. Worship services begin at 10:15 am starting 9/13/26. Please mark your calendars for these dates:

- 9/13/26, 9/27/26
- 10/4/26, 10/18/26
- 11/8/26, 11/22/26
- 12/6/26
- 1/10/27, 1/24/27
- 2/7/27, 2/28/27
- 3/7/27, 3/21/27
- 4/11/27, 4/25/27, 5/9/27
- 5/23/27, 6/6/27

Please contact Debbie Hutton at voice/text 716-903-1053 or email dsnyder97@yahoo.com to express your interest in Sunday School as a student or as a volunteer assistant or teacher. Thank you for supporting our youth through helping them to grow a closer relationship to God!

Coffee Time, North Church: 2027 and Beyond

Since January 2023 the Membership Committee at North Presbyterian Church, Williamsville has organized Coffee Time after Worship September through June. Coffee Time offers a weekly opportunity for fellowship by Worship attendees. The Membership Committee will continue to participate in Coffee Time 2027 and beyond, but desires broader participation from the congregation. Specifically, the Membership Committee is looking for a volunteer to coordinate Coffee Time beginning in 2027. Interested persons can obtain information from Jim or Mary Atwood or Membership Committee members, Marty Shafer, Heather Randall, Tim Hutton, Alanna Carlins, Harvey Blakely and Sarah Hennessy. Thank you.

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: Maria Casey

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.



