

# North Presbyterian Church

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2026

9:30 a.m.

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

### Greeting, Welcome, Announcements

**Prelude** *When Morning Gilds the Skies* arr. Carter

### Call to Worship

Creator of the cosmos, of eternity and time:

**Be with us in *this* time.**

Savior of the world, healer of the nations:

**Be with us in this place.**

Breath of all that lives, of people near and far:

**Stir within our lives.**

Maker-Spirit-Son, God of here and now:

**Be present in our worship, that we may find new ways to be present in your world.**

**Song for Preparation** *Bless the Lord* Hymn 544

### Prayer of Invocation

**\*Hymn 19** *God of Great and God of Small*

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

### \*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love. Amen.

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

### \*Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news!

**God loves us! God forgives us!**

**\*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

*The Lord is My Light*  
Dale Suckow, soloist

Allitsen

## WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture

Revelation 22 :1-2

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Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Reflection

Friends of Giv'at Haviva  
Mr. Mohammad Darawshe

## WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD

### \*Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a bright and amazing God, who has been to the depths of despair on our behalf; who has risen in splendor and majesty; who decorates the universe with sparkling water, clear white light, twinkling stars and bright colors, over and over again. We believe that Jesus is the light of the world; that God believes in us, and trusts us, even though we make the same mistakes over and over again. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as sisters and brothers, and to the Maker's business in the world. God said: Let there be light! 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 346

*For the Healing of the Nations*

### Prayers of the People

#### Offertory

*Surely the Presence of the Lord*

arr. Marohnic

### \*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 772**

*Live into Hope*

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

**\*Charge**

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

*To God Be the Glory*

arr. Carter

*\*Please stand as you are able*

*Mohammad Darawshe is the Director of Strategy at the Center for Shared Society at Givat Haviva. He holds a master's degree in Peace and Conflict Management from Haifa University and is a Robert Bosch Academy Fellow and faculty member at the Hartman Institute. Previously worked as co-director of The Abraham Initiatives, elections campaign manager at the Democratic Arab Party and United Arab List and was a leadership fellow at the New Israel Fund.*

### **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY**

*Liturgist:* Patti Thayer  
*Live Stream:* Randy Bigler  
*Ushers:* Jim & Diane Sprague



Mural at Givat Haviva representing a shared future for Israeli Jews and Arabs, 2017

# Hymns

## Hymn 19      **God of Great and God of Small**

God of great and God of small, God of one and God of all, God of weak and God of strong, God to whom all things belong, Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

God of land and sky and sea, God of life and destiny, God of never-ending power, yet beside me every hour, Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

God of silence, God of sound, God by whom the lost are found, God of day and darkest night, God whose love turns wrong to right, Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

God of heaven and God of earth, God of death and God of birth, God of now and days before, God who reigns forevermore, Alleluia, alleluia, praise be to your name.

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## Hymn 346      **For the Healing of the Nations**

For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord; for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords; to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release, that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace. Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned: pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan. In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind; for our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

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## Hymn 772      **Live into Hope**

Live into hope of captives freed, of sigh regained, the end of greed. The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee!

Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity, removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.

Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be, the right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.

Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed. God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

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## Scripture Readings

<sup>1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.



# CALENDAR

## Sunday, September 6

9:30 am Worship

10:45 am Adult Ed/Lib

## Monday, September 7

Labor Day

## Tuesday, September 8

## Wednesday, September 9

## Thursday, September 10

9:00 am Zumba/WH

## Friday, September 11

## Saturday, September 12

## Sunday, September 13

9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib

10:15 am Worship

*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

9:00 am - 2:30 pm

*To see a complete list, go to*

<https://northchurchwilliamsville.org/weekly-bulletin-and-north-star/>

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Spiritual Gifts: Come join Adult Ed's kick-off to fall programs on Sunday, Sept. 13th 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. 20: Psalms that teach us about Prayer
- 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](mailto:debbie.katz55@gmail.com) for more information. ***Join us in the Adult Education class and grow your faith among friends. Everyone is welcome.***

### **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.

### **REYNE'S RETIREMENT CELEBRATION!**

On September 13, following worship & during our Welcome Back Picnic, we will present Reyne with several gifts to thank her for her time with us and wish her her retirement. If you would like to contribute toward these gifts to Reyne, please your check marked "Reyne's Retirement Gift," made payable to North Presbyterian Church, by September 5. We hope you'll join us for the picnic as we celebrate together and wish Reyne well!



well in  
send

### **WELCOME BACK PICNIC SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> !**

Join us on September 13, for our Welcome Back Picnic immediately following worship service on Sunday. Come enjoy food and fellowship as we welcome everyone back and celebrate together.





## **2026 WALK OF ABRAHAM – September 15<sup>th</sup>!**

For the month of North Presbyterian Church is proud to Co-Sponsor the 2026 Walk of Abraham: **Celebrating 250 Years of American Independence** on Tuesday, September 15. The 4.5 mile walk begins at North Presbyterian Church at 4:00 P.M., with additional starting points at M&T Bank (Maple & North Forest- at 5:00 P.M.) & Heim Middle School at 5:30 P.M. The walk concludes at the Islamic Center, followed by a program, shared meal, and America 250 Quiz Competition. Non-Walkers are welcome!

The event is free & open to the public; registration is required by September 10 at [wny@mpac.org](mailto:wny@mpac.org). A \$10 or more donation is suggested for the meal, with proceeds benefiting the Harvest House Baby Shower.

## **CHICKEN BBQ**

The next Weidner's chicken BBQ is **Wednesday, September 16**. Louise Cooper will be selling tickets after the Worship service for the next few weeks. PLEASE! Help us make this event as successful as possible! Invite your friends and neighbors. Treat your family! If you can sell a few tickets, we would greatly appreciate your help!

## **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!

## **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!

## **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: Please see Bob Henderson for a copy of the book.
- September 23, 1:00 pm – *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali

## **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](mailto: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!

**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:* 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 Wohlueter

## Session Committees

| <u><b>Committee</b></u>           | <u><b>Contact Person</b></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,<br>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.*

