

North Presbyterian Church

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

10:15 a.m.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Greeting, Welcome, Announcements

Prelude

Wild Mountain Thyme

Traditional Scottish melody

Call to Worship

In this place,

friends and strangers meet, the broken are mended, and the weary welcomed.

In this moment,

the ordinary becomes miraculous, and life is on pause. This is God's time.

In this sanctuary,

God's goodness is revealed. Our doors open with kindness. Our lives join together.

Song for Preparation

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Hymn 466

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 276

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

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

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of justice and truth, you ask us to give to you the things that are yours.

If we are honest, we know we hold so much back. We have promised you our obedience, but we often fulfill our own desires first. We have promised you our worship, but we give our attention to idols instead. We have promised to do your work in the world, but we put it last on the list of priorities. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Increase our generosity that we might give freely, grateful for all of the gifts you have given us. Amen.

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

*Assurance of Forgiveness

The good news remains true: God has chosen us, forgives us, and walks beside us, helping us become imitators of Christ.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Alleluia!

*Response

We Are Forgiven

Hymn 447

*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!"

Time for Gratitude

Montreat Youth Conference

NPC Youth Fellowship

(Children may go to Sunday School following presentation)

Anthem

Wonderful Wanderings

I'm wonderful, In my wandering. I don't have every answer, my questions outnumber the stars. I circle around the same thoughts like I'm lost, asking where you are. But you call my name in the chaos, you've always known where I am. You're not scared of all my shadows. You take me just as I am.

Wonderful, Wandering. Wonderful, Wandering.

If I'm lost and just can't shake it, when I'm trying hard to make it. You find me in my wander, you find me in the mystery. I get lost in holy wonder, I'm not alone in that adventure. So sing over me.

Wonderful, Wandering. Wonderful, Wandering.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Isaiah 45:1-7

Page 674

Matthew 22:15-22

Page 24

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"We Are Not Our Own"

WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire. We believe in a "with-us" God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity. We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place: into action, into vulnerability, and into the streets. We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line; to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation; to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit for God's new community of hope. Amen.

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***Hymn 726**

Will you come and follow me

Prayers of the People

Offertory

Down to the River to Pray

***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 644**

Give thanks, O Christian people

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: Matt Bottorff

Ushers: Jean Ervin & Lisa Ervin

Hymns

Hymn 276 Sing a New Song unto the Lord (Psalm 98)

Refrain: Sing a new song unto the Lord; let your song be sung from mountain's high. Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing hallelujah!

Shout with gladness! Dance for joy! O come before the Lord. And play for God on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound. Refrain.

Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Savior now has come. He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song. Refrain.

Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord. The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I know my Savior lives. Refrain.

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Hymn 726 Will You Come and Follow Me

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known; will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"

"Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"

"Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me?"

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Hymn 644 Give Thanks, O Christian People

Give thanks, O Christian people, for workers of our day who heed the call to service and make it their life's way to go to feed the hungry, to tend to those in need, to work for equal justice, till all God's folk are freed.

Give thanks, O Christian people, for leaders of our years who live to share with others our joy when Christ appears, to teach the ones who seek light, to guide the faltering feet, to lead the followers forward our living Lord to meet.

Give thanks, O Christian people, for all who love the Lord, who live each day believing in God's eternal Word: to share Christ's love in living, to witness with each deed, to use the talents given to plant the gospel seed.

Give thanks, O Christian people, for life in fellowship with all who trust our Savior their serving to equip: to ease another's burdens, to cope in joy and stress, to magnify God's message and Christ's great love confess.

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Scripture Readings

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹ They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.



CALENDAR

Sunday, October 18

9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib
9:00 am Bible Study/S-261
10:15 am Worship/Sunday School
11:15 am Coffee Hour/WH
1:30 pm Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar/Chapel

Monday, October 19

9:00 am Circuit
10:00 am Yoga

Tuesday, October 20

1:30 pm Bible Study/Zoom
6:30 pm PEO Sisterhood/WH

Wednesday, October 21

9:00 am Circuit
10:00 am Yoga
10:00 am Book Club/DR

Thursday, October 22

Friday, October 23

6:30 pm One World Choir/Chapel
9:00 am Zumba

Saturday, October 24

Sunday, October 25

9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib
9:00 am Bible Study/S-261
10:15 am Worship
11:15 am Coffee Hour/WH
1:30 pm Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar/Chapel

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

*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 - 1:30 pm



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Here are the stand-alone topics coming up in the month of **October** and **November**. 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: pizza, fruits, veggies, brownies, and skippy cups, a book reading and activities. **Please come and meet the children of our church and share your spiritual gifts with them.**

On Oct 25th we will start a series of stand-alone topics:

1. October 25th, Jae-sun Lee will lead us in a discussion from the book *Protestant Reformation Questions and Answers*.
2. Nov 1st, Pat Townsend will lead a discussion from the book "Heretics" from the - Armchair Theologians.
3. 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
4. Nov 15th, Sarah Emhof will lead a discussion on Civil Discourse.
5. Nov 22nd. "Poetry in the psalms" We will share some poems by Mary Oliver, and we encourage you to bring your favorite poems to share.. This class will be led by Pat Townsend. ***Join us in the Adult Education class and grow your faith among friends. Such an opportunity to be in community with like-minded people should not be missed. Everyone is welcome.***

The Daily Psalm Challenge

As you follow our daily Psalm Challenge, you'll reach Psalm 29 by October 18.

Psalm 29 is a hymn praising God as King of creation, announced through the thunderclaps of a storm moving from the Mediterranean across Lebanon. The phrase "the voice of the Lord" appears repeatedly, that God is manifest in the storm.

This psalm answers the prayer in Psalm 28:1, that God not remain silent. Theologically, the psalm 29 served as a testimony and protest against worship of the Canaanite god Baal, who was thought to be the divine power in the thunderstorm. Baal was depicted with a lightning bolt in his hand, but psalm 29 stresses that Yahweh strikes with lightning's power. The psalm ends with confidence that God's rule brings peace to his people in the midst of any imaginable chaos.

Psalm 29

- 1 Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly begins, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.
- 3 The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
- 8 The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 9 The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare, and in his temple all say
"Glory!"
- 20 The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
- 11 May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

HELP FILL THE SHOPPING CART!

For the month of **OCTOBER**, we are collecting items for **SOUPS & CEREALS**. The collection will be shared with the University PC Food Pantry. 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!

CALLING ALL BAKERS!!

Please email, call, text or sign up on a signup sheet available after worship to bake or volunteer to sit at the table and talk to folks. Debbie Hutton dsnyder97@yahoo.com 716-903-1053.

North Church family and friends- please sign up to donate baked goods or volunteer at the table. We will again host a bake sale during Election Day voting on Tuesday November 3, 2026 starting at 6 am until we run out of baked goods and/or volunteers to talk with voters about our church community in Westminster Hall. The tables will contain baked goods that will be given to anyone with an opportunity to give a freewill donation to benefit the Turkey Basket Project. We will have the beautiful picture sign boards made by Reyne Jankowski to talk about all the great people in our church community and all the great things our church community does. It is requested that you individually package baked goods to make it easy for voters to grab and take with them for their day. Let's share our love and joy with our community!

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:

- 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.

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!

FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT PEOPLE

The NPC Needlers The Friends of the Night People are in need of winter clothing. Gently used adult and children's winter clothing of all kinds will be gratefully accepted. A receptacle will be available in the narthex over the next few weeks for collecting your clothing donations. This receptacle will be in addition to the UPC Food Pantry shopping cart.

NPC NEEDLERS

Thank you, as always, for your generosity in supporting these 2 worthy organizations.

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!

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.

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.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

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.

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 Wohlueter

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.

