North Presbyterian Church

24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026
10:15 a.m.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Greeting, Welcome, Announcements

Prelude *Voluntary* Croft

Call to Worship

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.
The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.
We desire to live in God's house and to seek God in this holy temple.
We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.
Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.
Teach us your ways and make straight our paths in this hour of worship and always.

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 362** *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

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

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trust in your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good. In the name of Jesus we pray. 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

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

Anthem *Sing to God* Mozart

Sing to God a hymn of gladness, all ye nations, come into his presence, come with singing, worship the Lord with a song. Amen.

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WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Amos 5:18-24 Page 854
Matthew 25:1-13 Page 28

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

Sermon "Oil in Our Lamps"

WE RESPOND AND GIVE THANKS TO GOD

***Affirmation of Faith**

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.
—from *A Brief Statement of Faith* PC(USA)

***Hymn 757** *Today We All Are Called to be Disciples*

Prayers of the People

Offertory *Kingsfold* arr. Carter

***Doxology** Hymn 607

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

***Prayer of Dedication 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.
Creator of all, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it.
You have entrusted us with gifts— time, talent, energy, money— and asked us to use them to build your kingdom. With thanks and praise we respond to your call.
We bring these gifts you have given, returning your generosity, paying it forward.
We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears, our dollars and our hours. We commit ourselves to work for your world, to love and serve wherever you call.
We ask your blessing on this, your church, as we seek to follow you with heart, mind, and soul.
Bless also these gifts, our investment in your future, that they may multiply in faith, hope, and love.
Hear us, O God, as we lift the prayer Christ teaches us:
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 767** *Together We Serve*

WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD IN THE WORLD

***Charge**

***Benediction**

Postlude *Fantasia* Handel

**Please stand as you are able*

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS TODAY

Liturgist: Jeff Faunce
Live Stream: Lisa Marsherall
Ushers: Bob & Norma Henderson

Hymns

***Hymn 362 Rejoice ! Rejoice, Believers**

Rejoice! Rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing and darker night is near. The Bride-groom is arising and soon he will draw nigh. Up, watch with expectation; at midnight comes the cry.

See that your lamps are burning; replenish them with oil; look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand; arise, O heirs of glory; the Bride-groom is at hand!

Our hope and expectations, O Jesus, now appear; arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere! With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988-1989 observance, which had the theme "Celebrate the Journey." The late 18th century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.

Hymn 757 Today We All Are Called to be Disciples

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord, to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword, to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace. But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream, with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem. For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease, a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living word, and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard. As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

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Hymn 767 Together We Serve

Together we serve, united by love, inviting God's world to the glorious feast. We work and we pray through sorrow and joy, extending God's love to the last and the least.

We seek to become a beacon of hope, a lamp for the heart and a light for the feet. We learn, year by year, to let love shine through until we see Christ in each person we meet.

We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor, the busy, the lonely, and all who need care. We offer a home to those who will come, our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.

Together, by grace, we witness and work, remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong. Together we serve in Spirit and truth, remembering love is the strength of our song.

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Scripture Readings

Amos 5:18-24

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is
darkness, not light, 19 as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. 20 Is not
the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? 21 I hate, I despise
your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 Even though you offer me
your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being
of your fatted animals I will not look upon. 23Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will
not listen to the melody of your harps. 24 But let justice roll down like water and righteousness
like an ever-flowing stream.

Matthew 25:1-13

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to
meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3When the foolish took
their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5As the
bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6But at midnight there was a
shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7Then all those young women
got up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our
lamps are going out.' 9But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us;
you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10And while they went to buy it,
the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet,
and the door was shut. 11Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to
us.' 12But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13Keep awake, therefore, for you know
neither the day nor the hour.



CALENDAR

Sunday, November 8
9:00 am Adult Ed/Lib
9:00 am Bible Study/S-261
10:15 am Worship/Sunday School
11:15 am SOUP SALE!/WH/NARTHEX
11:15 am Coffee Hour/WH
1:30 pm Chinmaya Mission Bala Vihar/Chapel
Monday, November 9
9:00 am Circuit/WH
10:00 am Yoga/WH
12pm Really Terrible Orchestra/Chapel
6pm Session/Chapel
Tuesday, November 10
1:30 pm Bible Study/Zoom
3:00pm Presbytery Stewardship Committee/Library
Wednesday, November 11
9:00 am Circuit/WH
10:00 am Yoga/WH
Thursday, November 12
Friday, November 13
9:00 am Zumba/WH
6:30 pm One World Choir/Chapel
Saturday, November 14
Sunday, November 15
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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT ED: 9: 00 *a.m. in the Library*
Our series of stand-alone topics.
Don't know much about the early centuries of church history? Get your feet wet by hearing about the conversations between the more famous classic heretics and the orthodox Christians, whose theology was passed down to us in the creeds. Pat Townsend will review two books: *Heresy: A History of Defending the Truth*, by Alister McGrath, and *Heretics for Armchair Theologians*, by Justo Gonzalez and Catherine Gunsalus Gonzalez. Ask yourself: What heresies are thriving in our time?

1. **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.

2. **Nov 15th** ***This session will be held in the chapel !***
Sarah Emhof will be introducing us to the **Close Up Foundation** and will lead a discussion on Civil Discourse.

How do we shift political conversations from debate to dialogue?
Sarah will share the work she is doing with the **Close Up Foundation,** teaching students and teachers the skills of civil discourse. As part of a national initiative, they are hosting 16 NextGen roundtables that bring high school students together to experience deliberative dialogue. This session will offer the research and background in the work, and she will lead us in a mini deliberative dialogue.

Close Up Foundation is a nonprofit civic education organization based in Arlington, VA, offering immersive, week-long programs in Washington, D.C. for middle and high school students, teachers, and educators, focusing on civics, public policy, and democratic engagement.

Mission and Overview
Founded in 1971 by Stephen A. Janger, Close Up's mission is to inspire young people to find their unique voice and develop the skills and awareness needed to be engaged citizens for life. Since then, over one million students and educators have participated in their programs. The organization uses Washington, D.C. as a "living classroom," giving students direct access to government offices, policy discussions, and elected officials.

3. **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.

Please 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 – November 8, 2026

As our daily Psalm Challenge continues, we reach Psalm 51 by November 8. This psalm is David's prayer for forgiveness and cleansing; written after Nathan the prophet had exposed his sins against Bathsheba and Uriah. It is one of seven penitential psalms. Theologically, David confesses that his sin was preeminently against God, since violations of the covenant are offenses against God. He admits it sprang from what he is and has been from birth, so he asks God to create a new heart, since his sin so tainted his heart that he needed a completely new one that only God could give him. Yes, he sinned against God. David seems to be blind to how his actions affected many people both in his family and nation. Because David's sin was premeditated, no prescribed sacrifice addressed the psalmist's plight, and capital punishment would have been just. Only God's gracious forgiveness offered to the contrite sinner was applicable for intentional sins. This shows that God wants true repentance from the inside out rather than simply external observances. David's response to being called to account can provide believers with a model for repentance. Grounded in the truth that God's unfailing, covenantal love is the basis for God's mercy. However, living with the consequences of David's actions was complex.

Psalm 51

For the music leader. A psalm of David, when the prophet Nathan came to him just after he had been with Bathsheba.

1 Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love! Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!
2 Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin!
3 Because I know my wrongdoings, my sin is always right in front of me.
4 I've sinned against you—you alone. I've committed evil in your sight. That's why you are justified when you render your verdict, completely correct when you issue your judgment.
5 Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin, from the moment my mother conceived me.
6 And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places; you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.
7 Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow.
8 Let me hear joy and celebration again; let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.
9 Hide your face from my sins; wipe away all my guilty deeds!
10 Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!
11 Please don't throw me out of your presence; please don't take your holy spirit away from me.
12 Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit.
13 Then I will teach wrongdoers your ways, and sinners will come back to you.
14 Deliver me from violence, God, God of my salvation, so that my tongue can sing of your righteousness.
15 Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
16 You don't want sacrifices. If I gave an entirely burned offering, you wouldn't be pleased.
17 A broken spirit is my sacrifice, God.
You won't despise a heart, God, that is broken and crushed.
18 Do good things for Zion by your favor. Rebuild Jerusalem's walls.
19 Then you will again want sacrifices of righteousness— entirely burned offerings and complete offerings. Then bulls will again be sacrificed on your altar.

HELP FILL THE SHOPPING CART!

For the month of **NOVEMBER**, we are collecting items for **TURKEY BASKEY ITEMS.** 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!

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 NIGHT PEOPLE

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

NPC NEEDLERS

The NPC Needlers meet the **first Thursday** of each month 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, and all are welcome!

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.

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. On **Wednesday Nov 18th**, the book group meets at 10AM in Dickinson Room, we will be reading *"Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague"* by Geraldine Brooks. Please join us.

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.

YOUTH BROCCOLI CHEESE SOUP FUNDRAISER

The Youth Group will be making and selling delicious homemade broccoli cheese soup on **Sunday, November 8,** to raise funds for Montreat! Soup will be available for **$10 per quart**. Please consider purchasing a quart or two to support our youth and their upcoming Montreat experience. Thank you for your support!

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	***Class of 2028***	***Class of 2029***
Harvey Blakely	Jim Atwood	Joe Alber
Matt Bottorff	Randy Bigler	Lois Anneler
Olivia Ebsary	Paul Hahn	Mary Lou George
Debbie Katz	Diane Sprague	Warren Marcus

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Duncan Hemink

Class of 2027	***Class of 2028***	***Class of 2029***
Mary Atwood	Fred Hacker	Ashley Aronson
Marge Blakely	Nancy Kim	Sue Boldt
Duncan Hemink	Patti Thayer	Marty Shafer
Lynda Roemer	Pam Ostermeier	Faye Wohlhueter

Session Committees

Committee	***Contact Person***
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)

North Presbyterian Church Venmo Code
Scan with camera to donate!
Thank You!

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.

