



NESHAMINY-WARWICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 8, 2024

WELCOME

HYMN NO. 306

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

People: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

Leader: Our merciful God, maker of us all, pleads the cause of the poor and afflicted.

People: Open our hearts to demonstrate God’s grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Leader: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

People: Praise the Lord!

WORSHIP SONG

“God of Wonders”

Lord of all creation
Of water earth and sky
Heavens are your tabernacle
Glory to the Lord on high (*Chorus*)

**God of wonders beyond our galaxy
You are holy, holy
The universe declares your majesty
You are holy, holy
Lord of heaven and earth Lord of heaven and earth**

Early in the morning
I will celebrate the light
When I stumble in the darkness
I will call your name by night (*Chorus*)

Hallelujah to the Lord of heaven and earth (4x)

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 8:1-14

8 Does not wisdom call and understanding raise her voice? ²On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; ³beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: ⁴“To you, O people, I call and my cry is to all who live. ⁵O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. ⁶Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right, ⁷for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. ⁸All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. ⁹They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge. ¹⁰Take my instruction instead of silver and knowledge rather than choice gold, ¹¹for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her. ¹²I, wisdom, live with prudence, and I attain knowledge and discretion. ¹³The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. ¹⁴I have good advice and sound wisdom; I have insight; I have strength.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

WORSHIP SONG

“Your Love Never Fails”

Nothing can separate even if I ran away
Your love never fails
I know I still make mistakes,
but You have new mercies for me everyday
Your love never fails

You stay the same through the ages
Your love never changes
There may be pain in the night
But joy comes in the morning
And when the oceans rage
I don't have to be afraid
Because I know that You love me
Your love never fails

The wind is strong and the water's deep but
I'm not alone here in these open seas
Your love never fails
The chasm is far too wide I never thought I'd reach the other side
Your love never fails

You make all things work together for my good. (4x)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Donna Mazeika

(We invite all children through 5th grade to come up to the front of the Sanctuary for a special message for them. They will then be dismissed to their Sunday School teacher, or if you prefer they may return to their seats with you.)

CHOIR ANTHEM

"A Clean Heart"

CALL TO CONFESSION

God knows us completely. God knows our hearts and discerns our thoughts. Let us then confess what we carry within us that does not honor God or God's path of righteousness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, although we honor you with our words and worship, our hearts are often far from you. We are quick to judge, quick to exclude, quick to put others down instead of building them up. Forgive us, God. Help us amend our ways. Help us embrace the inclusive love you graciously offer us and expect us to offer others. Amen.

(Please take a moment of silent confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

(Please stand if you are able)

RESPONSE TO ASSURANCE

"Gloria Patri"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(You may be seated)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Hear us, O God, as we share ourselves, our prayers, our hopes with you. Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence as we lift these petitions to you today. We pray for students newly returned to school. We pray for their curiosity, imagination and intellect to bloom. We pray that they persevere through every new challenge, that they take advantage of their education, that they work hard to develop their emerging skills. We pray also for parents and teachers navigating the transition out of summer and into this new academic year. Bless these, we pray, with your wisdom and grace. We pray for our nation during this volatile election season. May our leaders be led by your wisdom; may they clearly discern your will and seek to follow it. May we not wage war with words and demeaning rhetoric, entrenching us into further divisiveness, but find ways to speak our truth in love, remembering that all are a part of the Beloved Community. We pray for the suffering across our globe. We pray for peace in the Middle East and for the Ukrainian people to enjoy the freedom and dignity they deserve. We pray for all those who are forced to endure violence, destruction and abuse. Mighty and merciful God, we claim your promise of restoration for all who suffer. We glorify you for your constant presence, help and hope. We now lift up our prayers to you in a time of silence...

Time of Silent Prayer

Finally, hear us pray the prayer Christ taught us, saying, "Our Father..."

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We have more to offer than we recognize or realize. God has given us abundant gifts. Let us faithfully respond to our generous God, by presenting our tithes and offerings.

OFFERTORY

Suzanne Zak Carver

*(If you are our guest, please don't feel obligated to participate.
We would be honored if today's service could be our gift to you.)*

(Please stand if you are able)

DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, how often we take for granted all that we have. How often we fail to recognize how blessed we are. Take these gifts we give in response to your generosity and use them to further Christ's mission and ministry in a hurting world. **Amen.**

(You may be seated)

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 8:22-36

²² "The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. ²³ Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. ²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. ²⁵ Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, ²⁶ when he had not yet made earth and fields or the world's first bits of soil. ²⁷ When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, ²⁸ when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, ²⁹ when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, ³⁰ then I was beside him, like a master worker, and I was daily his delight, playing before him always, ³¹ playing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race. ³² "And now, my children, listen to me: happy are those who keep my ways. ³³ Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. ³⁴ Happy is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. ³⁵ For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, ³⁶ but those who miss me injure themselves; all who hate me love death."

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Standing at the Tree”
Pastor Mark Lyndaker-Studer

(Please stand if you are able)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Book of Common Worship; Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God’s purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

HYMN NO. 302

“I Danced in the Morning”

CHARGE

Go out into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold onto what is good. Render no one evil for evil. Uplift the fainthearted. Support the weak. Laugh with those who laugh and mourn with those who mourn. Do this in a spirit of joy and appreciation for you are God’s child. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

BLESSING

May the God who made you, loved you, and live with you, bring you to a faith that cannot be weighted down and a courage that knows no bounds.



Prayer Concerns: Ian Smith (nephew of Dorothy Moritz)
Sheila Law (sister of Dorothy Moritz)
Bill Reiss (father of Robin Haug)
Pete Davis (friend of Mike O'Neill)
Sally Ault (family of Melissa Meade)
Thomas Ceneviva (friend of Laura Stillonovich)
Cyndee Carr (friend of Laura Stillonovich)
Karin Heart (friend of Laura Stillonovich)
Kayla (friend of Sandee Wilson)
Nicholas Stickle
Alice Bray
Debbie and Bob Stokes (friends of Sandee Wilson)
Gloria Rossi (friend of Lisa Pearsall)
Michele Rouseau (friend of Wendy Wirsch)
Swarling Aguero (friend of Dalia Lucas)
Paulette Gold (friend of Sandee Wilson)
Joseph Kaplan (friend of Dalia Lucas)
Marge Ayres (sister of Joe Mazeika)
Dawn Hampson (daughter in law of Eloyce Sturgeon)
Kay and Al (friends of Sandee Wilson)
Carmen Maligia (friend of Bill Watson)
Rich McNeeley (cousin of Sally Traubel)
Liz Sculli (friend of Eloyce Sturgeon)

Ongoing Concerns: Leslie Bonner
Rina Mironas
Cathy Shaheen
David Rankin
Charles Sutton
Debbie Edwards
Kerry Zimmerman
Debbie Watson



PULPIT FLOWERS

The pulpit flowers are given in loving memory of her son, David William Stroup by Dottie (Stroup) Kieffer. Deacons Beth Haller & Peg Kaelin will deliver the flowers. Each week the flowers can be a bright moment for someone needing prayers or praise. If anyone in the congregation has a person in mind to give the pulpit flowers to, please contact Cindy Anderson at 215-672-3219.



WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Starting September 11th

10:00 A.M. in the Auditorium

The Sermon on the Mount: *Matthew Chapters 5-7*

Most of us have probably heard sayings from Jesus' famous teaching, commonly called the Sermon on the Mount. It's only 100 verses, but the sermon has created an enduring legacy that has shaped countless lives throughout history. Jesus lays out his moral vision for humanity, emphasizing the importance of compassion, humility, and forgiveness. Join us Wednesdays at 10 AM for Bible study each week.

Newcomers are always welcome!



NEXT MEETING
Sunday October 20th, 6:00 PM
At NWPC (Lounge)

The Men's Group will reconvene in October. We'll meet on the third Sunday of the month from October through May (no Men's Group in December). We will be discussing Eugene Peterson's book *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction – Discipleship In An Instant Society*. While there is no need to read the book for the Men's Group meetings, books are available at no cost. The Men's Group is a great opportunity to get to know other men at NWPC better, and to participate in discussing Bible themes as well as challenges we face in living a life of faith today. Please join us! For more information or any questions you have you can talk to Pastor Mark or Rick Rugel. Please let us know if you plan to join us so we know how many will be coming.

WAYS TO GIVE



ONLINE:
www.nwpc.net



- ON YOUR PHONE:**
- Open the camera on your phone
 - Point the camera at the QR code
 - Follow phone prompts to give via credit card



ENVELOPE:
1401 Meetinghouse Road,
Warminster PA 18974



**THE
COMPASSIONATE
FRIENDS**
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

The Compassionate Friends is a support group for grieving parents and grandparents. The purpose of the group is to provide support to grieving parents through this extremely difficult time. A co leader, who has also lost a child, facilitates the meeting. The group will meet the third Wednesday of every month in the lounge from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. For additional information please contact Jan Millin at 215-820-3506 or janmke12@gmail.com.

FOOD COLLECTION

The need for assistance is great and you can help! We continually collect non-perishable food items for the Coordinating Council of Health and Welfare's Warminster Food Bank. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off in the bin right inside the double-glass doors by the Sanctuary any time. This ongoing mission is coordinated by the Deacons.

WHOLYFIT™

WholyFit is a women's ministry for your mind, body and soul. We use gentle stretching and holding poses to increase stability, strength and flexibility as we grow closer in worship. We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the auditorium. Live music from Keith Rounds every first Tuesday of the month. Please contact Chelsea Rounds at mrsrounds@gmail.com for more information.



The Adult Mission Team is looking for volunteers to assist in rehabbing houses in Phoenixville this fall with our partner Good Works.

Good Works is a Christian nonprofit organization whose mission is: Transforming lives by repairing homes for low-income families and sharing the hope found in Jesus Christ. Our services are currently offered to homeowners in central & northern Chester County, PA. Repairs are provided at no cost to the homeowners and volunteers do most of the work.

Do you have construction/handyman skills? Perfect – your help and guidance is needed. No construction skills but are willing to follow directions and learn new skills? Perfect - there is work for you too. Example – Darlene has NO construction skills but has helped many times and learned lots of new skills. We have all sorts of skill levels. The tasks are varied so we can match people to the available tasks. There are always supervisors to guide/teach us. Good Works provides all the tools. We have three dates planned – each are the 3rd Thursday of the month. You can sign up for one date or all dates:

Thursday September 19th

Thursday October 17th

Thursday November 21st

If you can't volunteer but would like to donate to Good Works please visit <https://www.goodworksinc.org/> or scan the QR code



Contact Dave or Darlene Baker if interested @ dblions1980@gmail.com to learn more about this volunteer opportunity or to be added to our Mission Team distribution List. Join us for the Fun, Fellowship and Making a Difference.

THIS WEEK AT NESHAMINY

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge

—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary

—Food & Fellowship 10:15 am Auditorium

—Mission Team Meeting 10:30 am Lounge

—Christian Ed Meeting 10:30 am Book Lounge

MONDAY—Finance/Property Team Meeting 7 pm Zoom

TUESDAY—WholyFit 7 pm Auditorium

WEDNESDAY—Sarah Circle 9:15 am Lounge

—Bible Study 10 am Auditorium

THURSDAY—Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Choir Room

SUNDAY—Prayer Group 8:30 am Lounge

—Worship Service 9 am Sanctuary

—Food & Fellowship 10:15 am Auditorium

—Deacon Meeting 10:30 am Lounge

—Mary-Martha Circle 10:30 am Book Lounge

—Outreach Team Meeting 10:30 am Youth Room

—Youth Group 6 pm Youth Room

Church Staff

Rev. Mark Lyndaker-Studer, Pastor

Donna Mazeika, Director of Children & Youth

Rev. Sameh Shaker, Pastor of Visitation

Dr. Suzanne Zak Carver, Director of Music

Keith Rounds, Contemporary Music

Marianne Tierney, Business Manager

Cheryl Overton, Church Administrator

Remembering that the members of Neshaminy-Warwick Presbyterian Church are the ministers and missionaries of our faith community, our Pastoral Staff and Support Team provide leadership and specialized ministries.