

Small Groups at Nassau Church

Lent 2025



Called to the Impossible: Life through Death

Small groups provide a space to engage with Scripture and questions in community. Through guided discussions, shared reflections, and deep listening, we will seek to discern God's movement in our lives and in the world around us. This Lent, we invite you to step into the challenge of resurrection faith—not as a distant ideal, but as a lived reality that calls us to hope, renewal, and transformation.

Our Lenten theme, *Called to the Impossible: Life through Death*, invites us to explore the transformative power of resurrection hope. Resurrection assumes death yet dares to proclaim that death does not have the final word. Together, we will reflect on what kind of faith is needed in the world we inhabit today.

Get *Linked-In for Lent* as our education, small groups, and preaching life at Nassau Church provide multiple perspectives on the same Scripture passages. Join us on Sunday mornings in the Assembly Room as Nate Stucky, Director of *The Faminary Project* at Princeton Theological Seminary, leads adult education.

Whether joining a small group following the *Linked-In* series or one of the *Art of Faithfulness* groups, participation will enrich your faith and build friendships within the congregation. If you have never been part of a Small Group, why not try it out? If you are a perennial participant, welcome back! Space may be limited for many groups, so sign up soon!

Called to the Impossible

MONDAYS, MAR. 3 TO APR. 7, 12:00-1:00 PM

*Len Scales & Pat Costigan, leaders
on Zoom*

Len Scales serves as the Associate Pastor for Faith Formation, Mission, and Outreach. In addition, she is the Executive Co-Director of the Westminster Foundation and the Presbyterian Chaplain at Princeton University.

Pat Costigan holds a doctorate in Educational Psychology from Rutgers University, specializing in text comprehension, learning difficulties, and dyslexia. An elder at Nassau, Pat also serves on the Adult Education Committee and as an usher.

MONDAYS, MAR. 3 TO APR. 7, 1:30-3:00 PM

*Carol Wehrheim, leader
Wehrheim Home, Skillman, NJ*

Carol Wehrheim is clerk of session at Nassau. She finds small groups a necessary part of her life with Nassau Church and enjoys playing cornhole.

MONDAYS, MAR. 3 TO APR. 7, 4:00-5:30 PM

*Anne Thomsen Lord & Melissa Davis, leaders
Participants: Third through Eighth Graders
Room 301, Nassau Presbyterian Church*

Anne Thomsen Lord has four children at home and works at the Princeton YMCA and Home-Works Trenton. She holds a degree in Christian education from Princeton Theological Seminary and occasionally preaches at Old Tennent Presbyterian Church.

Melissa Davis, a Nassau member since 2007, has served as an elder, deacon, and on the Children's & Family Ministry and Membership Committees. Previously, she worked in the movie theater and software industries, but she now has one child at home and dedicates her time to community volunteering. She believes small groups are a fantastic way to build meaningful connections.

THURSDAYS, MAR. 6 TO APR. 10, 3:00-4:30 PM

*Dave Davis, leader
Stuart Hall Room #11 (3rd Floor)
Princeton Theological Seminary*

Dave Davis has served as Pastor and Head of Staff at Nassau Presbyterian Church since the fall of 2000. He holds a Ph.D. in Homiletics from Princeton Theological Seminary, where his research focused on preaching as a corporate act and the active role of the listener in the preaching event.

THURSDAYS, MAR. 6 TO APR. 10, 7:00-8:30 PM

*Thomas & Trevor Thornton, leaders
on Zoom*

Thomas and Trevor Thornton moved to the Princeton area in 2018 for Trevor to study piano pedagogy at the New School for Music Study in Kingston. They soon became members of Nassau Presbyterian Church and later served as deacons. In 2023, they were married at Nassau before relocating to Norman, Oklahoma, where Trevor is pursuing a doctorate in piano performance and pedagogy, and Thomas is establishing a new garden. Thomas, a manager at a medical staffing company, started a charitable backyard garden in 2020, partnering with the Princeton Mobile Food Pantry to donate fresh produce to those in need.

FRIDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY, MAR. 7 TO APR. 11, 8:00-9:00 AM

*David Boyd & Keith Mertz, coordinators
on Zoom*

This ongoing Bible Study meets each Friday morning to discuss the upcoming week's sermon text. Currently eleven men participate, with weekly leadership rotating among the established members. We warmly welcome new participants for this Lenten series. You may find the discussion so engaging that you choose to continue throughout the year! Contact David or Keith for the Zoom link or if you have any questions.

David Boyd davidcbo@aol.com

Keith Mertz keithdmertz@gmail.com

SUNDAYS, MAR. 16 TO APR. 6, 4:30-6:00 PM

Speaking of Hymns

Martin Tel, leader

Tel Home, Princeton, NJ

Gather for an informal conversation about the hymns that we sang together in our morning worship service. We'll hear one another's stories as they link to the songs in worship and in our lives. Martin will share the histories of some of the hymns. Everyone is invited to join for the Princeton Seminary Choral Concert on April 13 as a capstone group experience.

Martin Tel is the Director of Music at Princeton Theological Seminary and the organist at the First Presbyterian Church of Dutch Neck. He grew up on a dairy farm in Washington state, where some of his earliest memories of singing come from hearing his father belt out psalms and hymns while milking the cows. Martin and his wife, Sharilyn, have been members of Nassau Presbyterian Church for nearly twenty years.

Art of Faithfulness Groups

SUNDAYS, MAR. 9 TO APR. 13, 7:00-8:00 PM

The Spiritual Art of Making Movies about Artists

Marshall McKnight &

Roz Anderson Flood, leaders

on Zoom

What are the spiritual practices of poets, novelists, painters and musicians? We will explore this theme by viewing the biopics of such artists. Our discussion will examine how artist and filmmaker alike are inspired.

Roz Anderson Flood is a deacon, a ruling elder, a member of the Worship and Arts Committee and sings second alto in the Adult Choir. She is a former member of the Adult Education Committee who has led workshops in poetry and participated in many small groups at Nassau.

Marshall McKnight, a lifelong movie buff, has been a Nassau Church member since 2011. He is a deacon and is active on the Mass Incarceration Task Force. He also serves on the Adult Education and Membership Committees. A former journalist, he has spent the last two decades working for the State of New Jersey.

MONDAYS, MAR. 10 TO APR. 7, 7:00-8:30 PM

Faith Filled Mixed-media Art

Robin Seiz & Kim Kleasen, leaders

Music Room, Nassau Presbyterian Church

Unlock your creativity and express your faith through mixed-media art. Over five weeks, we will explore creative expression by inviting you to notice the world around you and recognize how God shows up in everyday moments. You'll gather inspiration, create art, and share your work within a supportive community. No former experience in art is necessary, just bring an open heart, your faith and the desire to explore something new.

Robin Seiz is a mixed-media artist grateful to be doing what she loves in the second chapter of her life. She has always engaged in creative pursuits—scrapbooking, jewelry making, and gardening—and over the last five years, she has focused on mixed-media art. Her work is rooted in a love for paper, all things vintage, and upcycling.

Kim Kleasen is a ruling elder and deacon who views creativity as a pathway to deepening faith and purpose. Her studies in spiritual direction at General Theological Seminary led to the launch of The Art of Faithfulness at Nassau, where she is one of its leaders.

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THURSDAYS, MAR. 6 TO APR. 10, 7:30-9:00PM

Sacred Art of Photography: Creation

*Ned Walthall & Tim Brown, leaders
on Zoom*

Sacred Art of Photography returns this spring with a focus on creation. What can creation tell us about our own creativity, about what we make, and how we go about making it? The poet Theodore Roethke once wrote, “In a dark time, the eye begins to see.” How in a dark time can we make the world new? Can our visual imaginations help with that? Let’s find out.

Members will be asked to create photographs in response to texts about creation from the Old and New Testaments. Texts include, but may not be limited to, Genesis Chapters 1 & 2, Job 38:4-7, Hosea 4:3, John 2:1-12, Matthew 6:25-29, 2 Corinthians 5:17, and Revelations 21:1-5. You will need a camera, but no special skill or knowledge in how to use it.

Ned Walthall is a photographer based in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. He received his MFA from the Institute of Art and Design at New England College (formerly the New Hampshire Institute of Art). His work has been shown throughout the United States and abroad. Additionally, his street photography in Grand Central Terminal after the Covid pandemic has been featured in the online journal *Lenscratch*. His work can be seen at nedwalthall.com and he can be followed on Instagram at [@walthallphotography](https://www.instagram.com/walthallphotography).

Tim Brown has led and participated in numerous small groups. He has been an amateur photographer going back to when cameras used film and lenses had to be focused by hand. For over fifty years he has been on a photographer’s journey of discovery, reveling in the light of the world.

Feedback from some Fall ‘24 Small Group participants:

“I have found small groups to be the best way to meet people and to get to know them. The topics have been interesting and the spirit of the groups friendly and lively.”—James VanderKam

“The best way to connect with others, to share lives, to experience community.”—Thomas Quinlan

“It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about our Lord and to fellowship with other church members.”—Pat Costigan

“Great way to explore your faith and get to know others in the congregation who have much to offer in this journey.”—Sallye Zink

“Always great to gather with Nassau friends in any forum. Small groups is a terrific way to do that regularly.”—Tom Charles

Sign Up

Sign up in Fellowship beginning Sunday, February 16, or online beginning Tuesday, February 18.

Space is limited for many groups, so sign up soon!



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