

Small Groups at Nassau Church

Lent 2026

An Apostle in Prison: Paul's Letter to the Philippians



This Lent, our church community will journey together through one of the New Testament's most hopeful texts: Paul's Letter to the Philippians. Written while Paul was imprisoned, this short letter offers a remarkably rich reflection on faith, suffering, joy, and Christian community.

Over five weeks, small groups will read the letter closely, focusing on one chapter each session. We will begin by exploring Paul's experience of imprisonment and the world in which this letter was written, then turn to the theological themes that emerge from the text: the meaning of suffering in Christian life, early understandings of Christ, justification by faith, resurrection hope, church leadership and conflict, generosity, and solidarity with those who suffer.

Small groups provide space to engage Scripture in community through guided discussion, shared reflection, and deep listening. As we listen to Paul's words from prison, we will reflect together on what it means to live faithfully in challenging circumstances—and how joy, hope, and courage take shape in lives formed by Christ. This Lent, we are invited not only to study an ancient letter, but to discover how its message still speaks to the life of the church and the world we inhabit today.

Linked-In Learning Groups meet weekly for six weeks.

Paul's Letter to the Philippians

SUNDAYS, FEB. 15—MAR. 22, 4:00-4:45 PM

Anne Thomsen Lord & Rachel Halbo, leaders
Participants: Fourth through Eighth Graders
Room 207, Trinity Church, Episcopal
33 Mercer Street, Princeton, NJ

Anne Thomsen Lord has been worshipping at Nassau since 2009 and raised her four children here. She holds a degree in Christian education from Princeton Theological Seminary and serves as Director of Family Ministries at Trinity Church in Princeton.

Rachel Halbo is a certified special education teacher and a second-year student at Princeton Theological Seminary. Originally from California, she has been working with Homework Hangout (Choir 3-4-5) since September 2024.

MONDAYS, FEB. 16—MAR. 23, 12:00-1:00 PM

Pat Costigan, leader
on Zoom

Pat Costigan has worked for 35 years in both the UK and US providing remedial instruction, supporting teachers and parents, and providing diagnostic assessments. Pat is an Elder, sits on the Adult Education Committee, and serves as an Usher.

MONDAYS, FEB. 16—MAR. 23, 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.

WEDNESDAYS, FEB. 18—MAR. 25, 11 AM-12 PM

Dave Davis, leader
on Zoom

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.

WEDNESDAYS, FEB. 18—MAR. 25, 1:30-3:00 PM

Pam Wakefield, leader
Wakefield home, Skillman, NJ

Pam Wakefield has served on session, as a deacon and as a member of the Mission and Outreach Committee. She looks forward to welcoming a small group in her new home at Stonebridge in Skillman.

WEDNESDAYS, FEB. 18—MAR. 25, 7:00-8:00 PM

Len Scales, leader
on Zoom

Len Scales serves as the Associate Pastor for Faith Formation, Mission, and Outreach. She also serves part-time as the Executive Co-Director of the Westminster Foundation and Presbyterian Chaplain at Princeton University.

FRIDAY MEN'S BIBLE STUDY,
FEB. 20—MAR. 27, 8:00-9:00 AM

David Boyd & Keith Mertz, coordinators
on Zoom

Join us on Friday mornings for a weekly conversation centered on the upcoming Sunday's sermon text. Through shared reading and discussion, participants reflect together on Scripture and its meaning for faith and daily life. New participants are warmly welcomed for this Lenten series, with leadership shared among group members—and many find the conversation rich enough to continue beyond Lent.

Art of Faithfulness Groups

SUNDAYS, FEB. 15—MAR. 22, 4:00-5:30 PM

Musica Divina: Prayer as Listening

Kim Kleasen & Noel Werner
on Zoom

Join us in the practice of *holy listening* as a form of prayer. Through music and shared reflection, we will listen attentively for God's presence in our lives—individually and as a community.

Kim Kleasen is often found singing in the choir loft with the Adult Choir or playing her flute. Through her leadership with *The Art of Faithfulness*, Kim invites others to engage the creative arts and their own God-given creativity as pathways to deepening faith and hope in God.

Noel Werner is in his 19th year as Director of Music at Nassau Presbyterian Church. A past dean of the Central New Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and a recipient of the Sylvia Award for Music Director of the Year, he holds degrees from Westminster Choir College, Indiana University (Bloomington), and Christian Theological Seminary. Noel is the husband of Rev. Wendi Werner and the proud father of Sophie and Emily.

SUNDAYS, FEB. 15—MAR. 22, 7:00-8:00 PM

Films About Immigration

Marshall McKnight &
Roz Anderson Flood, leaders
on Zoom

Join us as we explore stories of conflict, sanctuary, and salvation through film. Together, we will reflect on the spiritual questions these stories raise and their resonance with biblical themes of journey, hospitality, and hope.

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, FEB. 16—MAR. 23, 7:00-8:30 PM

The World as God's Language: Ink Brush Painting as Ecological Prayer

KimyiBo, leader
Music Room, Nassau Presbyterian Church

Join us for a contemplative workshop that brings together silent prayer and East Asian ink brush painting. Through guided practice, we will deepen spiritual and ecological awareness while attending closely to the world around us. *Participation is open to middle school and older; no art experience required.*

KimyiBo is a Korean-American artist based in Berlin. Her work with ink, prints, and artist's books draws on her experiences as an immigrant and caregiver, inviting reflection on belonging, resilience, and hope.

THURSDAYS, FEB. 19—MAR. 26, 7:30-9:00PM

Sacred Art of Photography: Six Instances of Grace in Your Life

Ned Walthall & Tim Brown, leaders
on Zoom

Join us as we return to the practice of sacred photography with a focus on noticing grace in everyday life. Each week, participants will create photographs that reflect moments of grace—or the absence of grace—inviting deeper reflection on how God's presence is revealed through attentive seeing. *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

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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.

SATURDAYS, FEB. 28—MAR. 21, 3:00-4:30 PM

Poetry, Faith, and the Diaspora: Seeking Home

Roz Anderson Flood &

Charlotte Valvanis, leaders

*Participants: High School Students
on Zoom*

Join us for an introduction to reading and writing poetry shaped by themes of migration and belonging. Through shared reading and creative practice, we will explore journeys of faith and the longing for home that runs through both poetry and spiritual life.

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.

Charlotte Blythe Valvanis, is a senior at Princeton High School who is passionate about exploring international relations and immigration stories. At Nassau, she is a member of the youth choir, Worship and Arts Committee, and youth elder on Session.

Feedback from some Fall '25 Small Group participants:

"Great conversations, open sharing, thoughtful questions and lots of laughter made this a very meaningful experience." – Patti Daley

"The Linked-In experience adds so much breadth and depth to the study. I continue to be amazed by the knowledge and experiences of our congregation which they so openly share." – Sallye Zink

"One of the highlights of my NPC experience!"
– Jonathan Milley

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

"They are a wonderful opportunity to deepen faith, form new relationships, and connect deeply with our community." – Kim Kleasen

"The groups have inspired me to dig deep into personal faith experiences in a different way than regular church services." - anonymous

"I always recommend participating in a small group! Great way to get to know church members on a deeper level through conversations and contemplation." – Marie Shock

Sign Up

Sign up in Fellowship beginning Sunday, February 1, or online beginning Tuesday, February 3.

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



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