

January 1, 2023 Christmastide

Welcome to NATIONAL Presbyterian Church

Leading people to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ together in God's world

They set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. Matthew 2:9b

Transitional Senior Pastor

Associate Pastors

Rev. Allan Poole Rev. Donna Marsh Dr. Ouinn Fox

Parish Associates

Rev. Lisa Larsen Dr. Nancy Fox Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

Music

Dr. Michael Denham (Director)

Todd Fickley (Organist) Joanna Zorack-Greene (Contemporary Music Leader)

Ministry Directors Jonathan Edwards (Serve) Kristin Franke (Youth & Families)

Jill Meek (Children)

Leslie Saum (Connections)

HAPPY NFW YFAR!

Bible Reading Guides for 2023

Why not make 2023 the year you read through the Bible? One way to do this is by using a Bible reading guide. You can pick up a printed version in our Welcome Center or download your copy here from our Resources page. If you'd like to just read the New Testament, please click here.

Club 45 (4th & 5th graders) Friday, January 6 at 7:00 pm

Calling all 4th and 5th graders! Invite your friends and join us for fun, faith, and fellowship. If you are interested in attending, please contact jmeek@nationalpres.org or check our Events page for more information and meeting dates.

Men's Breakfast Saturday, January 7, 8:00 am

All men are invited to join us in person on the first Saturday of every month for our men's breakfast. Our January speaker is Elder Bill Bennett, who will be discussing A Brief Overview of Our Neighbor, the District of Columbia. Please email Kristi Teems at kteems@nationalpres.org for more information.

2nd Sunday Sandwich Making January 8 after 11:00 am Worship

Join us in Stone Hall to make 400 sandwiches for Martha's Table. McKenna's Wagon delivers food to the hungry on the streets of DC every day of the year. This is a great event for the whole family!

Weather Announcements

If weather is looking dicey, please be sure to check the home page of our website for a banner announcement of any cancellations or closures. We also have a link to Weather Announcements at the bottom of our home page.

Laser Tag with Camp Ligonier Sunday, January 8

Our ministry partners from Ligonier Camp and Conference Center will join us for worship and Parent Gathering to share about their ministry. Then all children and youth are invited for laser tag in the evening!

- 5:00 pm: Children's Laser Tag
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group Laser Tag

Plan now to join a mission trip in July!

Mark your calendar! Join us on July 8th-14th for an intergenerational mission trip as we serve alongside our partner Foundation for Peace in the Dominican Republic. More details coming soon!

Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Saturdays, January 21 & 28, online

Becoming a church member here at National can be a meaningful step forward in your spiritual journey. To inquire about membership or just learn more about Christian faith, please attend the two-day online Pathway of Christian Discipleship classes on January 21 & 28. Please click here for more information or contact Kemet Rakiatu to register by January 11th at KRakiatu@NationalPres.org or 202.537.7578.

NPC Job Opportunities

- Children's Ministry Summer Intern
- Youth Ministry Summer Intern
- AV Engineer (Part time, contract)
- AV Assistant (Part time, contract) For more information or to apply, please click here or visit our Jobs page online.

Invite Your Friends in the New Year!

Did you know that one in three people say that they are likely to come to a worship service if invited? Invite them personally or <u>click here</u> to see a few easy ways to invite others online.

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

Welcome! Masks are optional at our services, with the exception of the balcony and the lectern-side transept (at the front on your right), where masks are required.

Our ushers are happy to guide you to your preferred seating area.

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude Gesù bambino Pietro Yon

William Neil, Organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN 66 verses 1-4 We Three Kings of Orient Are Three Kings of Orient

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Congregational Response

Hymn 66, verse 5

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;

Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

CONFESSION OF SIN in unison

O God, you do not change with the changing years,

but we are creatures of time.

As we look back on the road we have traveled,

we thank you for your faithful mercies along the way.

Where the road has been dark, you have not failed us, though we have often failed you.

Forgive us, we pray, these failures and all our sins.

You are both our guide and goal, our strength and stay.

In this New Year help us walk with you,

for you alone can bring us to our journey's end in peace.

Leslie Weatherhead

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

▲ RESPONSE OF PRAISE

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, amen.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;

the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A Time for Children of All Ages

Rev. Donna Marsh

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Larsen

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-11 Deacon Jennifer Schottke

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON Into the Unknown Rev. Donna Marsh

Matthew 2:12-17

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Slane

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
nought be all else to me, save that thou art—
Thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Ancient Irish Poem

There are offering plates at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes and gifts as you exit.

OFFERTORY

Thou Didst Leave Thy Holy Dwelling

Hector Berlioz

Thou didst leave thy holy dwelling for humble crib and stable bare; Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share; L'Enfance du Christ, Op. 25

"Flight into Egypt"

Love Incarnate, Love Incarnate, gift of God's all-loving care.

Blessed Jesus, thee we follow, with humble love and holy fear.

In the way that lies before us we trust that thou will'st hold us dear.

Love Incarnate, Love Incarnate, we would to thy heart draw near.

Savior, thou, beyond all measure, are filled with grace and mercy mild;

Word of God and heav'nly Treasure thou, Prince of Peace and Holy Child!

E'er go with us, e'er protect us; guide us safely through the wild.

Dr. Michael Denham

▲ Doxology

Old Hundredth

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

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Larsen

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 63

As with Gladness Men of Old

Dix

BENEDICTION

Rev. Marsh

▲ Passing the Peace of Christ

Rev. Larsen

Postlude

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Keith Chapman

Mr. Neil, Organ

Congregation standing, as able

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Today, January 1, New Years Day

We have a single worship service at 11:00 am. Childcare is provided for ages up to 4 years.

Sundays at National

Next weekend, January 8, our Sundays will return to our regular schedule. Our worship services are in the Sanctuary and online on our <u>Watch</u> page.

• **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship

• 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am: Traditional Worship

January 8, 15 and 22 Adult Sunday School Classes

During January, our Adult Sunday School offers unique opportunities to grow in faith. To read more, please see the description on the next page. You may also <u>click here</u> or visit our Adult Classes page online.

January 29 Special Adult Sunday School Gathering

On January 29, all adults will meet in Stone Fellowship Hall for our large group gathering, *How to Be a Patriotic Christian* with Richard Mouw. On February 5, the spring Adult Sunday School class semester will begin.

Youth Sunday School Resumes January 8

Please <u>click here</u> or visit our <u>Youth page</u> online for more information about Sunday School and other youth events. Youth grades 6-12, please come to the Multipurpose Building for Sunday School. We'll meet there briefly then split to smaller groups by age.

Children's Sunday School Resumes January 8

Please click here or visit our Children's page online to read about our Children's Ministry.

- The Nursery rooms are available for all infants to walkers, up to age 4, 8:30 am-noon, including during the Sunday School hour.
- Children ages 2-3 years have their Sunday school program in the Toddler Room in the main church building.
- Classes for age 4 through 5th grade are held in the Education Building (National Presbyterian School).

This Coming Week at a Glance

For information about all of these events, please see our **Events page** online.

Sunday, January 1, New Years Day

• 11:00 am: Traditional Worship

Monday, January 2

• NPC offices closed for holiday

Friday, January 6

• 7:00 pm: Club 45 (4th & 5th graders

Saturday, January 7

8:00 am: Men's breakfast

Sunday, January 8 - Communion

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: 2nd Sunday Sandwich Making
- 5:00 pm: Children's laser tag
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group laser tag

JANUARY ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

The Book of Psalms: A Mirror of Our Soul Teacher: Tremper Longman

Location: Chapel and online

Zoom: click here or visit our Classes page
The book of Psalms is one of the most
beloved parts of the Old Testament and
over a three week period we will learn
how to interpret this book in order to
benefit from its theological, spiritual, and
life-giving influence. In particular, we will
look at examples of hymns of joy, laments,
thanksgivings, and songs of confidence.
Tremper Longman is a Distinguished
Scholar and Professor of Biblical Studies
emeritus at Westmont College and author
of over thirty books.

Christianity, Science and Social Development Teacher: David Siegrist Location: Garden Room C

Research has shown that the teachings of Christianity and science are compatible. We will discuss and contrast technical conditions that date back to the beginning of the world, conditions which help to enable increasing material prosperity and Christian doctrine, with its emphasis on the individual. **David Siegrist** is a longtime Presbyterian with a PhD in Biodefense from George Mason University.

Encountering God in Creation and Creativity Teachers: Beverly Tam & Margaret Gardner

Location: Stone Fellowship Hall
Building on Scripture and Creation
theology, each week will include
discussion of God's presence in the natural
world and a creative response to God
through floral artistic practice. This is a
hands-on class with all material
provided, an opportunity to reflect upon
God's handiwork and respond to it
creatively. Beverly Tam is former Chair
and Lead Instructor for NPC's Flower
Ministry. Margaret Gardner is NPC
Ministry Assoc. for Small Groups and
Adult Discipleship.

Intro to Bioethics with Considerations for Christians Teacher: Patrick Zhou Location: Garden Rooms A & B

This discussion-oriented class will offer a brief introduction to a helpful bioethical framework, a review of important historical cases, and a consideration of contemporary issues. **Patrick Zhou,** a member of NPC, works as an operations research analyst at the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Parent Gathering

Facilitators: Kristin Franke and others Location: Jones Hall, Education Building Join parents of similar ages and stages for fellowship and reflection on the Sunday School lesson your children are learning. Once a month we will be joined by one of our pastors for conversation. Jones Hall is located in the National Presbyterian School Building, across from the covered driveway entrance to the main sanctuary building. Kristin Franke is NPC's Director of Youth and Family Ministries.

January 29 Large Group Gathering

How to Be a Patriotic Christian

Teacher: Richard Mouw Location: Stone Hall & online Zoom: visit our Classes page Some see loyalty to America as central to faith and identity. Others are skeptical that our nation warrants such devotion. But Mouw seeks to navigate between Christian nationalism and cynicism about country to avoid the perils of both idolatry and disengagement. Copies of his book, How to Be a Patriotic Christian; Love of Country as Love of Neighbor, are available for sale at NPC by arrangement with Kristi Teems at kteems@nationalpres.org. Richard John Mouw is President Emeritus and Senior Professor of Faith and Public Life at Fuller Theological Seminary and has

authored over 20 books.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

New to National? Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for being with us today! Please stop by the Welcome Center just outside the sanctuary. We would love to meet you and we have a gift for you! Here are some easy online ways to connect with us:

- <u>Click here</u> to sign our online guestbook.
- <u>Click here</u> or visit our Home page at nationalpres.org to sign up for our e-newsletter.
- Follow us on social media!
 <u>Facebook</u> | <u>Instagram</u> | <u>YouTube</u>

Children and Youth E-newsletters

If you have little ones or youth in your household and would like to receive our updates, please:

- <u>Click here</u> or visit our Children's page for kids up to 5th grade.
- <u>Click here</u> or visit our Youth page for kids in middle and high school.

Prayers

We are praying that we would reflect God's grace to those around us, and be vessels of God's love to our world in 2023.

We pray for:

Young Lives DC, as they present the gospel to young mothers and help them grow in faith.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to Wray Muoio in the Care Office, wmuoio@nationalpres.org

202.537.7540

Your Giving and Commitments Make a Difference

Thank you! Because of your financial generosity, National continues to bear powerful witness to the Good News of Iesus Christ at this critical time.

You can support the general ministry of National:

- Go to national pres.org/giving
- Text "NPC" to 833.414.9444
- Scan the QR code below:



If you haven't yet made your 2023 commitment, please visit <u>nationalpres.</u> <u>org/gratefulgiving2023</u> or scan the QR code below to make your commitment online.



Want to support the Capital Building Campaign? Please click <u>here</u>.

For help or questions about giving, please contact our Finance Office at 202.537.7495 or email our Director of Finance and Administration, Leah Skrine at lskrine@nationalpres.org.



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