

November 27, 2022
First Sunday in Advent

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*In a little while
the world will no longer see me,
but you will see me;
because I live, you also will live.*
John 14:19

Transitional Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors

Rev. Allan Poole
Rev. Donna Marsh
Dr. Quinn Fox
Rev. Lisa Larsen

Parish Associates

Dr. Nancy Fox
Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus
Dr. Michael Denham (Director)
Todd Fickley (Organist)
Joanna Zorack-Greene
(Contemporary Music Leader)

Music

Jonathan Edwards (Serve)
Kristin Franke (Youth & Families)
Jill Meek (Children)
Leslie Saum (Connections)

Ministry Directors



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent Devotional View Online or Download

You're invited to an Advent pilgrimage to the manger! We are excited to offer you an Advent devotional guide entitled *The Promised One*. Please [click here](#) or visit our home page to view online or download the devotional. Starting November 27, we'll engage in a visual and spiritual feast that includes daily readings from Scripture, a brief meditation, and a couple of short questions for reflection. Let's pray that when that Birthday arrives, we will find ourselves expectant, eager, and joyful at his coming.

Thankful for You on Thanksgiving!

Thanks to all who donated and helped with our food collection on Thanksgiving Day. Your generosity will feed hungry people through Central Union Mission.

Advent Family Night

Tonight, November 27, 5:00 pm

Start the Advent season on a fun, family-friendly, and faith-centered note! Join us for this much-loved annual event. We'll begin with a short time of worship, then make crafts you can enjoy all season, and have dinner together.

Decatur House Tour

Friday, December 2 at 12:00 pm

The Older Adult Ministry has arranged with the White House Historical Association a tour of the historic Stephen Decatur House on Lafayette Square during the Association's annual Holiday Book Festival. For more information or reservations, please [click here](#) or visit our [Events page](#).

Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)

Friday, December 2 at 7pm

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, December 3, 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 December speaker will be Ken Rathje. Please email Kristi Teems at kteems@nationalpres.org for more information.

Care Packages for Troops

Saturday, December 3, 10:00 am-noon

Our Military Ministry will collect items for Christmas care packages to be sent to troops overseas. For many it may be the only package they receive. Please [click here](#), visit our Events page online or visit our Welcome Center for more information and the list of items for donation. If you'd like to drop off early, we'll collect items in the boxes in the Welcome Center and by the Main Entrance on the 1st floor today.

Navy Sea Chanters Concert &

Adult Fellowship Luncheon

December 5, 11:30 & 1:00 pm

On Monday, December 5, our Adult Fellowship luncheon will take place at 11:30 am in Stone Fellowship Hall. Then at 1:00 pm, we will move to the Sanctuary to hear a live concert by the US Navy Sea Chanters. This dynamic performance will also be broadcast online on our [Watch page](#). To make a lunch reservation, please call 202.537.7584 or email janderson@nationalpres.org.

8:45 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

GATHERING Improvisations Joanna Zorack-Greene, keyboard

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Donna Marsh

- ▲ OPENING SONG O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *Veni Emmanuel*
O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.
O come, o come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Chorus: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. **Chorus**
O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace. **Chorus (2x)**

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

As we bow in worship before you, O Lord, turn the key to my heart's door.
I am too often ungrateful and disobedient, and it has gathered rust.
Forgive me when in sin I turn from you and do not hear you knocking.
Lord Jesus, oil the hinges of my heart's door,
that it may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.

Prayer from the church in New Guinea

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

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

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Nettleton

Glory be to God the Father, glory also to the Son, glory to the Holy Spirit,
Ever Three and ever One;
As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be;
Alleluia and thanksgiving, now and through eternity.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

An Advent Affirmation

We believe in one God, whose almighty word brought forth the universe,
who speaks to us by his Spirit through what he has created
and through what has been written for us in Holy Scripture.
We believe that at the right moment in time,

God's Word became flesh in the life of Jesus of Nazareth,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.

We believe that this good news of great joy which heralded Jesus' birth
also points us to the cross on which Jesus died, and to his empty tomb.

There the angel's message "He is risen!"
heralded the glorious good news of Christ's resurrection.

We believe that this same Jesus is alive to meet us every day,
and to offer us new and abundant life.

We rejoice in the knowledge that he will one day return to rule in righteousness,
to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Quinn Fox

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. In embracing this covenant, God claims us as his own, as we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

Baptismal Questions

Baptism Ty Van Wormmeester and Leigh Hop Wormmeester

Son and Daughter of Michelle Nguyen Wormmeester and Justin Thomas Wormmeester

Children ages 5 to 5th grade will then be dismissed for Children's Chapel.

Parents may take children age 4 and under to the nursery.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Marsh

SCRIPTURE

John 14:1-11

Patrick Zhou

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Allan Poole

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Fox

Offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes and gifts.

OFFERING SONG

A Baby Will Come

Bill Wolf

The kings of this world, have torn it apart, but we can take heart, a baby will come.

To the hungry and meek, to those who grieve, to the broken, in need, a baby will come.

We have known pain, we've felt death's sting. God, help us believe, this baby will come.

The angel appeared, said, "Do not fear, for peace is here. A baby will come."

The advent of life, let hope arise! We've our King and Christ, the Baby will come.

We've waited so long, God, for your mighty arm.

May our doubts ever calm, for the Baby will come.

The proud will be low, the humble will know they're valued and loved,
for the Baby will come.

Cause the kings of this world, won't have the last word.

That, God, is yours, for the Baby will come.

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

▲ DOXOLOGY

Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Dr. Fox

THE 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.

▲ CLOSING SONG

How a Rose E'er Blooming

Es ist ein Ros'

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming, From tender stem hath sprung!

Of Jesse's lineage coming, As seers of old have sung.

It came, a blossom bright, Amid the cold of winter,

When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind:

With Mary we behold it, The Virgin Mother kind.

To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior,

When half-spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender, With sweetness fills the air,

Dispel in glorious splendor, The darkness everywhere.

True man, yet very God, From sin and death now save us,

And share our every load.

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Poole

▲ SENDING

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

There the angel's message "He is risen!"
heralded the glorious good news of Christ's resurrection.
We believe that this same Jesus is alive to meet us every day,
and to offer us new and abundant life.
We rejoice in the knowledge that he will one day return to rule in righteousness,
to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Quinn Fox

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. In embracing this covenant, God claims us as his own, as we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

Baptismal Questions

Baptism Oliver Geoffrey Flick and Sadie Eva Flick

Son and Daughter of Christina Leigh Cervieri and Lawrence Geoffrey Flick

*Children ages 5 to 5th grade will then be dismissed for Children's Chapel.
Parents may take children age 4 and under to the nursery.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Marsh

SCRIPTURE

John 14:1-11

Deacon Jane Crumpler

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Rev. Allan Poole

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CHORAL RESPONSE

Jefferson

Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.

Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within.

Seeds of promise, deeply planted, Child to spring from Jesse's stem!

Like the soil beneath the frost line, hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Mary Louise Bringle

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

OFFERTORY

A Spotless Rose

Ethan McGrath

A spotless Rose is blowing, sprung from a tender root,
 Of ancient seers' foreshowing, of Jesse's promised fruit;
 Its fairest bud unfolds to light
 Amid the cold of winter, and in the dark midnight.
 The Rose which I am singing, whereof Isaiah said,
 Is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest Maid;
 For through our God's great love and might
 The blessed babe she bare us in a cold winter's night. Alleluia!

16th century German carol
 translated by Catherine Winkworth

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

▲ ADVENT DOXOLOGY

Regent Square

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
 Laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one;
 One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Dr. Fox

THE 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.

▲ HYMN

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

Puer nobis nascitur

O splendor of God's glory bright, from light eternal bringing light;
 Thou light of life, light's living spring, true day all days illumining.
 O prophet of the Lord Most High, thine advent here is drawing nigh;
 Revealing God the Father's love has come to us from heav'n above.
 O Lord, with each returning morn thine image to our hearts is born;
 O may we ever clearly see our Savior and our God in thee.

Ambrose of Milan (1, 3)
 Michael Denham (2)

▲ BENEDICTION

Rev. Poole

▲ CHORAL ALLELUIA

Ethan McGrath

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Fox

▲ POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"

Andrew Carter
 Todd Fickley, Organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

CHRISTMAS AT NATIONAL

Celebrate Christmas with National! For more information about your many wonderful opportunities to celebrate the birth of our Savior with NPC, please [click here](#) or visit nationalpres.org/Christmas. All of our worship services are both in-person in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch page](#).

Advent Devotional

See page 2 or [click here](#) to join us in our Advent devotional!

Advent Vespers (Evening Worship)

Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 pm

Join us for a prayerful evening Advent worship service in-person in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch page](#).

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree

Angel Tree provides Christmas gifts for the children of incarcerated parents. This is how it works. You select a child from our list (link coming soon), buy and wrap a gift or gifts, and bring them to Stone Hall by December 11. Our volunteers will deliver the gifts the week before Christmas. The gifts express the hope of Christmas to families with loved ones in prison.

Handel's Messiah

Sunday, December 11, 5:00 pm

The National Presbyterian Church Festival Choir and Orchestra presents *King of Kings and Lord of Lords: Our Coming Savior in Handel's Messiah*. In the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch page](#) at 5:00 pm, on Sunday, December 11. All are welcome and no tickets are necessary!

Mission Gifts for Christmas

Sundays, December 11 & 18

Shop online December 1-31

Mission Gifts for Christmas enables you to give meaningful gifts instead of giving another "thing," by supporting God's work locally and internationally. It takes many of us to host this special occasion. Sign up to serve [here](#).



What Child Is This? Welcoming Jesus as Prophet, Priest and King

Advent is the season in the Christian year when we are especially attentive to the meaning of the Incarnation, understood through an encounter with the One who fulfilled the roles first revealed in our Old Testament of prophet, priest, and king. It is also a season in which we attend to our own preparedness to receive him as Lord. Worship with us at 8:45 and 11:00 am on the Sundays before Christmas, including a service of lessons and carols on December 18.

Christmas Eve

5:00 pm: Family Nativity Service

Our children, youth and adults will bring to life the nativity story with song and scripture. This is a family-friendly service that your kids will love!

8:00 & 10:00 pm

Traditional Candlelight Services

The message, prayers and beautiful music of these traditional Christmas Eve services will inspire you and fill you with hope.

Sundays, December 25 & January 1

We will have a single worship service at 11:00 am both Sundays. Childcare will be provided for ages up to 4 years. Our regular worship schedule and Sunday School for all ages will resume on January 8.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Coming Week at a Glance

For information about all of these events, please see our [Events page](#) online.

Today, November 27

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 5:00 pm: Advent Family Night

Friday, December 2

- 12:00 pm: Decatur House Tour for Adult Fellowship
- 7:00 pm: Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)

Saturday, December 3

- 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast
- 9:45 am: Messiah Rehearsal
- 10:00 am: Care Packages for Troops
Military Ministry Drop-off

Sunday, December 4

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Youth Group Dinners

Interested in supporting NPC's youth as they grow spiritually by feeding them physically? [Sign up here](#) to provide a simple dinner for a youth group night, and get a chance to meet the youth in a casual setting! Parents are also welcome to stay after dinner for a Youth Parent Discussion Group for conversations about faith and family.

Job Opportunities with National Presbyterian Church

- 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.

Thank You from the Renwicks

Recently retired senior pastor Dr. Renwick and his wife Currie are doing well, and send their thanks to the NPC family for a wonderful send off. [Click here](#) to read a letter from them with their thanks, updates, and some great photos.

Senior Pastor Search Update

Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to meet with and interview candidates in person. As the PNC seeks to discern God's call to the next Senior Pastor of NPC, prayer is an important part of the process. The PNC invites you to pray with and for them, and the final candidates, so that, together they will sense God's will for our church. You can check their webpage by clicking [here](#).

Deacons

Did you know we have servant leaders who want to care for you? Our Deacons are ready to listen to your concerns, pray with you, visit you when you are ill and support you through a difficult time. Please email Lisa Larsen at LLarsen@nationalpres.org or call the Care office at 202-537-7540 for more information.

Session Report October 24 Meeting

At its October meeting, the Session voted to recommend Director of Youth and Family Ministry Kristin Franke to Presbytery's Commission on Preparation for Ministry for advancement to candidacy for ordination, a long process on which she embarked two years ago. It agreed to create a Family Ministries Committee under Grow Council to support a robust and comprehensive family ministry program at NPC. Session also discussed a presentation on how NPC has funded its budget increasingly from sources other than Faith Giving, and related systemic challenges to a sustainable budget in the future.

SUNDAYS AT NATIONAL

Our worship services are in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch](#) page.

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Sunday School for all ages
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship

Adult Sunday School Classes

Please [click here](#) or visit our [Adults Classes page](#) online to read the full description and for the online link.

Class Title	Teacher(s)/Facilitator(s)	Location
<i>Hebrews—Looking to Jesus; Going On To Maturity</i>	R.V. Seep	Chapel, In-person and online available
<i>Talking about Race: Gospel Hope for Hard Conversations</i>	Peggy Lewis, Nancy Fox, Lewrene Glaser	Room #209
<i>Matthew: The Promised Messiah Has Come</i>	Donna Duss, Margaret Gardner and others	Garden Room C
<i>Parent Gathering</i>	Kristin Franke and others	Jones Hall in the Education Building

Youth Sunday School

Please [click here](#) or visit our [Youth page](#) 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

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).

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:

- [Click here](#) to sign our online guestbook.
- [Click here](#) or visit our Home page at nationalpres.org to sign up for our e-newsletter.
- Follow us on social media!
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

Children and Youth E-newsletters

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

- [Click here](#) or visit our Children's page for kids up to 5th grade.
- [Click here](#) or visit our Youth page for kids in middle and high school.

Prayers

We grieve the death of:
Gideon Schaeffer.

We pray for:
Forman Christian College in Lahore, Pakistan, as they live out the motto,
"By love, serve one another."

How may we pray for you?
Please submit prayer requests to the NPC Care Office,
llarsen@nationalpres.org
202.537.7537

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 Jesus Christ at this critical time.

Let's finish 2022 strong! You can support the general ministry of National:

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



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



Want to support the Capital Building Campaign? Please click [here](#).

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.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in memory of Mr. Carl Joseph Gilbert Anderson by his son,
Mr. J. Theodore Anderson.



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