

October 22, 2023



Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

Now there was a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish kin. For there were those who said, 'With our sons and our daughters, we are many; we must get grain, so that we may eat and stay alive.' There were also those who said, 'We are having to pledge our fields, our vineyards, and our houses in order to get grain during the famine.'

Nehemiah 5:1-3

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors

Parish Associates

Music

Ministry Directors

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
Dr. Quinn Fox
Rev. Lisa Larsen
Dr. Nancy Fox
Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus
Dr. Michael Denham (Director)
Todd Fickley (Organist)
Joanna Zorack-Greene
(Contemporary Music Leader)
Jonathan Edwards (Serve)
Kristin Franke (Youth & Families)
Jill Meek (Children)
Leslie Saum (Connections)

EVENTS AT NATIONAL

For more information about all our events, please visit the [Events page](#) on our website at nationalpres.org. Questions? Email us at info@nationalpres.org!

Congregational Meeting **Today Following 11:00 am Service** **In-person in the Sanctuary**

The Session has called a congregational meeting for today, October 22, following the 11:00 am worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to hear a report from the Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) and to vote on nominees for the office of elder, deacon and the board of the NPC Fund for Charitable Giving.

Usher and Welcome Team **Interest Meeting**

Today, October 22 at 12:30 pm

Find out how you can have a part in this important ministry! We will have a brief gathering today at 12:30 pm in the Parlor to share new ways for you to join the team. Stop by! Or you may contact Leslie Saum directly at lsaum@nationalpres.org, 202.537.7494. You can also visit our [Serve at Church](#) webpage for more information or to sign up.

Dinner, Drama, Discussion **Wednesday, October 25**

You are invited to join us in Stone Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays this fall, through November 1, for a fun and imaginative dive into Nehemiah using movie clips as our springboard for discussion.

- 6:30 pm: Light supper and fellowship
- 7:00-8:00 pm: Film clips and interactive teaching on Nehemiah's lessons for Christian life, tied to our fall sermon series
- 8:00-8:30 pm: Small group table conversation to explore scripture themes more deeply

Please visit our [Events webpage](#) to sign up for meals.

Family Pumpkin Carving Party **Friday, October 27, 7:00 pm**

Families are invited to come carve pumpkins in Stone Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own carving tools. Pumpkins will be provided. Paint and paint brushes will be provided for children who want to paint a pumpkin instead. Please visit our [Events webpage](#) to RSVP and reserve your pumpkin!

Bridge Closures for Sunday, October 29

Sunday, October 29, the Marine Corps Marathon will take place all morning. The 14th Street and Key Bridges will be closed between Virginia and Washington, DC during this time so please plan your drive to church accordingly.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, November 4, 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 November speaker will be Pete James, former pastor of Vienna Presbyterian Church. Please email Kristi Teems at kteems@nationalpres.org for more information or to RSVP.

Service of Remembrance

November 5 at 12:30 pm, Chapel

All are invited to this worship service in which we remember those who have passed away in the previous year. Anyone who has lost a loved one may find peace and comfort in attending. The Columbarium will be open following the service.

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING Improvisations Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Quinn Fox

▲ OPENING SONG Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah *Cwm Rhonda*

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy pow'rful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and ever more, feed me now and ever more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fiery cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong Deliverer strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield. Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask for your mercy.

We have not loved you with a pure heart.

We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you.

In your lovingkindness, have mercy on us, O God.

In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

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 Apostles' Creed Dr. Fox

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. Todd Sutton
Chaplain, National Presbyterian School

*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, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PATHWAY

Dr. Fox

SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 5:1-13

Malcom Lester

Head, National Presbyterian School

¹Now there was a great outcry of the people and of their wives against their Jewish kin. ²For there were those who said, 'With our sons and our daughters, we are many; we must get grain, so that we may eat and stay alive. ³There were also those who said, 'We are having to pledge our fields, our vineyards, and our houses in order to get grain during the famine.' ⁴And there were those who said, 'We are having to borrow money on our fields and vineyards to pay the king's tax. ⁵Now our flesh is the same as that of our kindred; our children are the same as their children; and yet we are forcing our sons and daughters to be slaves, and some of our daughters have been oppressed; we are powerless, and our fields and vineyards now belong to others.'

⁶I was very angry when I heard their outcry and these complaints. ⁷After thinking it over, I brought charges against the nobles and the officials; I said to them, 'You are all taking interest from your own people.' And I called a great assembly to deal with them, ⁸and said to them, 'As far as we were able, we have bought back our Jewish kindred who had been sold to other nations; but now you are selling your own kin, who must then be bought back by us!' They were silent, and could not find a word to say. ⁹So I said, 'The thing that you are doing is not good. Should you not walk in the fear of our God, to prevent the taunts of the nations our enemies? ¹⁰Moreover, I and my brothers and my servants are lending them money and grain. Let us stop this taking of interest. ¹¹Restore to them, this very day, their fields, their vineyards, their olive orchards, and their houses, and the interest on money, grain, wine, and oil that you have been exacting from them.' ¹²Then they said, 'We will restore everything and demand nothing more from them. We will do as you say.' And I called the priests, and made them take an oath to do as they had promised. ¹³I also shook out the fold of my garment and said, 'So may God shake out everyone from house and from property who does not perform this promise. Thus may they be shaken out and emptied.' And all the assembly said, 'Amen,' and praised the Lord. And the people did as they had promised.

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

SERMON

Lessons from Nehemiah
Compassion and Community

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

Offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes, gifts and prayer cards as you exit.

- ▲ OFFERING SONG Mighty to Save Hillsong Worship
 Everyone needs compassion, love that's never failing. Let mercy fall on me.
 Everyone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Savior, the Hope of nations!
Savior, he can move the mountains! My God is mighty to save.
He is mighty to save. Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave!
 So take me as you find me, all my fears and failures. Fill my life again.
 I give my life to follow, everything I believe in.
 Now I surrender. Yes, I surrender!
Savior, he can move the mountains! My God is mighty to save.
He is mighty to save. Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave!
 Shine your light and let the whole world see we're singing for the glory
 of the risen King! (2x)
Savior, he can move the mountains! My God is mighty to save.
He is mighty to save. Forever, Author of salvation,
He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave!
 My Savior, you can move the mountains. You are mighty to save!
 You are mighty to save! Forever, Author of Salvation,
 You rose and conquered the grave. Yes, you conquered the grave!
 You are mighty to save!

- ▲ 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 AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Dr. Stoltzfus
 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 Holy Spirit Keith and Kristyn Getty
 Holy Spirit, living Breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul.
 Let the presence of the risen Lord come renew my heart and make me whole.
 Cause your word to come alive in me; give me faith for what I cannot see,
 Give me passion for your purity; Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.
 Holy Spirit, come abide within, may your joy be seen in all I do.
 Love enough to cover ev'ry sin, in each thought and deed and attitude.
 Kindness to the greatest and the least, gentleness that sows the path of peace.
 Turn my strivings into works of grace; Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.
 Holy Spirit, from creation's birth giving life to all that God has made.
 Show your power once again on earth, cause your church to hunger for your ways.
 Let the fragrance of our pray'rs arise; lead us on the road of sacrifice,
 That in unity the face of Christ may be clear for all the world to see.

- ▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Dr. Hylton

- ▲ SENDING NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Partita on "Slane"

Charles Callahan
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Quinn Fox

▲ HYMN 261

God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us

O quanta qualia

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

John Yarrington

Seek the Lord while he may be found. Call upon him while he is near.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you.

We humbly confess our sins and ask for your mercy.

We have not loved you with a pure heart.

We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you.

In your lovingkindness, have mercy on us, O God.

In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin.

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

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

Dr. Fox

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. Todd Sutton
Chaplain, National Presbyterian School

*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, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PATHWAY

Dr. Fox

SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 5:1-13

Malcom Lester

Please see page 4. Head, National Presbyterian School

SERMON

Lessons from Nehemiah
Compassion and Community

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

RESPONSE

Erhalt uns, Herr

Choir

O Reconciler, we have come in humble faith to care for friends.

How can we fail to be restored, when reached by love that never ends.

Congregation

Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your community may find

The wholeness that, enriching us, shall reach the whole of humankind.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

Offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes, gifts and prayer cards as you exit.

OFFERTORY

Live a Life of Love

Mark Patterson

Be kind to one another, be compassionate and forgiving. Be children of light and children of faith. Strive to follow all of God's ways; and just as Christ gave himself for us, let us learn to live a life of love. Teach us, Lord, how to be more caring as we serve you each day. Teach us, Lord, how to speak with kindness. Lead us Lord as we live our faith. Stir in us a loving spirit; guide us with your grace. Let joy and kindness be our light, shining with the peace of Christ, as we learn how to live a life of love. Help us become more caring, Lord. Help us show more kindness, Lord. Help us live a life of love.

National Presbyterian School Chorus

Anne Hancock, Director

▲ 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!

GRATEFUL HEARTS: GENEROSITY DEVOTIONAL

Grateful Hearts, Alive in Christ, for the Sake of God's World

We hope you'll be enriched by this 3-week devotional as you prayerfully consider your generosity and commitment to NPC in 2024. May God speak to us through His word and fill our hearts with gratitude and grace. This week, our focus is *Sowing Generously in Love*.

Scripture: *The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

Application: Paul encourages the Corinthians to sow their resources generously, not out of compulsion, but with a joyful heart. Our giving is an opportunity to express our love for God and our commitment to God's work.

Paul uses an agricultural metaphor to emphasize the principle of sowing and reaping. He suggests that just as a farmer who scatters seed sparingly can expect a modest harvest, one who sows generously can anticipate an abundant yield. Paul extends this analogy to our giving, highlighting the spiritual truth that generosity generates blessings.

Paul also stresses that our giving comes from a thoughtful, intentional decision rather than an external pressure. We give joyfully and with enthusiasm out of a heart moved by the love of God.

As we contemplate these verses, consider the deep spiritual significance of your giving. It's an opportunity to sow into

God's kingdom with a heart full of joy and commitment. It's an act of love for God. It's a declaration of trust in His promise of abundant blessings. Today, prayerfully reflect on your own generosity, striving to give joyfully, not because you have to, but because you want to partake in God's work and experience the overflowing blessings that result from cheerful generosity.

Questions for Reflection: Begin to move with a caring heart and allow God to meet you along the way. What are some examples of when your heart was moved by God's love? What motivates your giving? Is it out of obligation or a joyful response to God's love? How can you cultivate a cheerful and willing heart in your giving?

Action Steps: Spend time in prayer this week asking God to show you how he has been faithful to you. How can those blessings transform your heart for giving? What is one way you can give of your time, talent or treasure this week? What does God want you to know about your giving habits and motivations?

Prayer: *Merciful God, thank you for your great love for me, for us. Help me to see your loving hand upon my life. Please work in my heart so my attitude toward giving is motivated by joy and love for you. In Jesus' name, amen.*



2024 Stewardship

Grateful Hearts, Alive in Christ, for the Sake of God's World

Will you help NPC generously share Christ's love within and beyond our walls in 2024? Today we ask you to prayerfully consider how you can support the ministries at National in the coming year. Sunday, November 12, is our Dedication Sunday. Please visit our webpage at nationalpres.org/gratefulgiving2024 or scan the QR code if you're ready to make your commitment. If you would like help with the details of your plan to give, please contact our Finance Office at 202.537.7495 or email Leah Skrine at lskrine@nationalpres.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Messiah Rehearsals Beginning Soon Reserve your place in the Festival Choir!

Rehearsals start Saturday, November 4 at 10:00 am. *Prepare Him Room: Our Coming Savior in Handel's Messiah* will be presented by National Presbyterian Church Festival Choir & Orchestra on Sunday, December 10, at 5:00 pm.

- Saturday Rehearsals: 10:00 am–1:00 pm, November 4, 11, 18 and December 2
- Performance Weekend Rehearsals: Friday, December 8, 7:00-10:00 pm and Saturday, December 9, 10:00 am–2:00 pm

To sign up, please visit our [Events webpage](#) or call the NPC Music Office at 202.537.7553.

National Presbyterian School Welcomes Applicants from NPC!

Applications from NPC families receive special consideration. NPC applications for Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 are due November 20; Kindergarten and older are due January 12. For more information visit www.nps-dc.org or contact Director of Enrollment Robin Baker at rbaker@nps-dc.org or 202.537.7569.

Week at a Glance

For information about all of these events, please see the [Events webpage](#) on our website.

Sunday, October 22

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:00 pm: Congregational Meeting
- 12:30 pm: Usher & Welcome Team interest meeting
- 6:30 pm: Youth group

Wednesday, October 25

- 6:30 pm: Dinner, Drama, Discussion

Friday, October 27

- 7:00 pm: Family Pumpkin Carving Party

Sunday, October 29 - bridge closures due to USMC Marathon

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: New Member Reception
- 6:30 pm: Youth group

Executive Assistant Job Opening

The National Presbyterian Church is searching for an Executive Assistant to provide administrative support to the church's Senior Pastor. The successful candidate will have excellent organizational skills, be a strong communicator and self-starter. Day-to-day responsibilities include managing the Pastor's schedule and correspondence, coordinating Church meetings, partnering with church committees and providing administrative support. The position will serve as the primary interface and receptionist for the Senior Pastor to the congregation, staff, and public. The position is full-time and includes comprehensive benefits. Occasional weekend work may be needed to support church functions. Qualified applicants should send a resume to lskrine@nationalpres.org.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

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

Lessons from Nehemiah Sermon Series

Journey through Nehemiah with us Sundays through October 29! With its 13 chapters, the book of Nehemiah is one of the liveliest pieces of writing in the Hebrew Bible. Together with the book of Ezra, Nehemiah chronicles the arduous journey of God's people emerging from Babylonian exile to reclaim their spiritual heritage in Jerusalem-Palestine.

Adult Classes

For complete class descriptions as well as the Zoom link for R.V. Seep's class, please visit our [Adult Classes webpage](#).

- **Tim Keller's *Generous Justice*:** Peggy Lewis and Lewrene Glaser, Room #109
- ***Walking with God in Mission for Our Changing World*:** Nancy Fox, Room #209
- ***The Story Behind "The Story: God's Plan of Redemption Through History"*:** Dr. Quinn Fox, Garden Room A
- ***The Gospel of Luke*:** Margaret Gardner, Donna Duss, & others, Garden Room C
- ***Romans*:** R.V. Seep, Chapel and online
- **Parent Gathering:** Kristin Franke and Parent facilitators, Jones Hall in the Education Building
- **Young Professionals Gathering:** Young Adult and Staff facilitators, NPC Parlor

Youth Sunday School

Visit our [Youth webpage](#) for 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

Visit our [Children's webpage](#) to read about our Children's Ministry.

- Children ages 2-3 years have Sunday School in the Toddler Room in the main church building.
- Children age 4 through 5th grade meet for Sunday School in the Education Building (National Presbyterian School).

Childcare

The Nursery rooms are available 8:30 am-noon for infants to walkers, up to age 4.



**Called
to Care**

Prayer Cards: How can we pray for you?

We believe in lifting each other up in prayer in times of need. Our prayer cards are a way to share your prayer requests with us. You'll find these small cards in the guestbooks in the pews. You can drop cards in the offering plates or place them in the prayer box in the Welcome Center.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

New to National? Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for being here 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 other easy ways to connect with us:

- Sign the guestbook in the pews or online on our [Watch webpage](#).
- Sign up for our e-newsletter on our website or email info@nationalpres.org.

Children and Youth E-newsletters

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

- Visit our [Children's webpage](#) for kids up to 5th grade.
- Visit our [Youth webpage](#) for kids in middle and high school.

Prayers

We pray for:

God's word to resonate in our hearts.

We pray for:

Evangelical Theological Seminary as they train pastors and lay people in biblical and theological studies in Croatia.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office,
careoffice@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 Jesus Christ at this critical time.

You can support the general ministry of National:

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



Want to support the Capital Building Campaign? Please visit our [Giving webpage](#).

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.

Community Health Note

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.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Kristin Forsberg Green in loving memory of her father, Franklin S. Forsberg who was born on October 21st and her mother, Ann Rountree Forsberg who joined him in heaven on October 21st.



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