

October 29, 2023
Reformation Sunday

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God,
and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen',
lifting up their hands.
Then they bowed their heads
and worshipped the Lord
with their faces to the ground.
Nehemiah 8:6*



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!

New Member Recognition at 11:00 am Service with Reception Following

Today is New Member Connections Sunday! In addition to welcoming our newest members into the church family, we invite everyone to wear your name tags, come meet them and enjoy a lovely reception after the 11:00 am service down in Stone Fellowship Hall.

- Katie Adams, Washington, DC
- Will Adams, Washington, DC
- Francis Brooke, Arlington, VA
- Kaitlyn Brooke, Arlington, VA
- Fred Cogswell, Ellicott City, MD
- Wayne Everett, Bethesda, MD
- Rebecca Griffiths, Washington, DC*
- Casandra Harper Morris, Washington, DC
- Jeff Honea, Washington, DC
- Kathy Hughes, Washington, DC
- Alan Kim, Bethesda, MD
- Kelsey Morris, Washington, DC
- Julie Pascu, Bethesda, MD
- Tamar Ruth, Silver Spring, MD
- Aaron Stubblefield, Arlington, VA
- Emily Stubblefield, Arlington, VA
- Josh White, Washington, DC

* *Baptism*

If you are interested in membership here at National or just learning more, please attend the next Pathway of Christian Discipleship class online on January 20 and 27th. For more information, visit our [Events page](#) or contact Kemet Rakiatu at krakiatu@nationalpres.org or 202.537.7578.

Kindergarten Milestone: The Doxology

Today during 8:45 am worship, our Kindergarteners lead us in singing The Doxology. As a part of Sunday School, each grade, Kindergarten through 5th, learns a "Milestone in Worship," an element of our worship liturgy. Milestones help children to participate in worship and develop a language of faith.

Dinner, Drama, Discussion Wednesday, November 1, Final Week

You are invited to join us in Stone Fellowship Hall on Wednesday as we wrap up our 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.

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 Dr. Pete James, Senior Pastor at Vienna Presbyterian Church until his recent retirement. Please email Kristi Teems at kteems@nationalpres.org for more information or to RSVP.

Reminder of Daylight Saving Time

Sunday, November 5

Daylight Saving Time ends this coming Sunday, November 5. Don't forget to fall back!

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 Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ OPENING SONG King of My Heart John Mark McMillan

Let the King of my heart be the mountain where I run, the fountain I drink from!
Oh, he is my song! Let the King of my heart be the shadow where I hide,
the ransom for my life. Oh, he is my song!

You are good, good! Oh! (4x)

Let the King of my heart be the wind inside my sails, the anchor in the waves.
Oh, he is my song! Let the King of my heart be the fire inside my veins,
the echo of my days! Oh, he is my song!

You are good, good! Oh! (4x)

You're never gonna let, never gonna let me down! (4x)

You are good, good! Oh! (4x)

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are too often a people divided against ourselves. We cling to values of a broken world. The profits and pleasures we pursue, and the fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts and turn them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive and heal us. Set us free to serve in your world as ambassadors of your reconciling love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 Rev. Larsen

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.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PATHWAY

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8 Elder David Schauer

¹All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel.

²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Rev. Larsen

*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.*

SERMON Lessons from Nehemiah Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
To God be the Glory

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. Quinn Fox

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

SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8
Please see page 4.

Dr. Robert Betz

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Larsen

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SERMON

Lessons from Nehemiah
To God be the Glory

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

RESPONSE *sung first by choir, then the congregation*

Spiritual

Let us bless God together on our knees. Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Quinn Fox

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

OFFERTORY

Within These Walls

Stephen Caracciolo

Within these walls, the sound of praises, radiant alleluias rise.

Ceaseless prayer and hymn ascending, sweet as incense to the skies.

Holy, holy, holy God, all glory!

Saints on earth and saints above join to bless the Lord of love.

Within these walls, a faith confessing, joyous alleluias rise.

Songs of hope and revelation, God's own word and sign inspire.

Holy, holy, holy God, all glory!

Saints on earth and saints above join to bless the Lord of love.

Within these walls, yet far beyond all, wondrous alleluias rise.

Word and song and all creation praise the Son of God Most High!

Holy, holy, holy God, all glory!

Saints on earth and saints above join to bless the Lord of love.

▲ DOXOLOGY

Old Hundred

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.

RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

Affirmation of Commitment

Baptism

Rebecca Griffiths

Prayer *in unison*

**God of love, we rejoice to receive these newest brothers and sisters in
the Body of Christ. May they discover your grace in Jesus Christ,
through membership in this church family.**

May your love hold them, your truth guide them, your joy delight them.

Gracious God, touch us all again this day with your grace of belonging.

**Give us new lives for old, new spirits, new faith, and new commitment
in place of all that has grown tired or stale in our lives.**

We have heard your call and are made new by your Spirit.

**So may we rise and go from here to discover whatever awaits us,
in joy and in trust. To the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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 *God's Abundance and Our Generosity*.

Scripture: *And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.* 2 Corinthians 9:8-10

Application: God's abundance is the source of our generosity. When we trust in God's provision and sow generously, God multiplies our efforts and increases the harvest of righteousness in our lives.

Paul continues the imagery of a farmer sowing seed which results in an abundant harvest. He reminds the Corinthians that God supplies all the resources they need to produce a bountiful harvest. When we trust in God's provision for our lives and obediently sow our resources into God's work, God not only ensures we have enough for our needs but also multiplies our seed for sowing. This multiplication results in a richer harvest of righteousness, reflecting the spiritual growth and transformation that generosity brings about in our lives.

As we consider these verses, reflect on the

trustworthiness of God's abundant provision. Our acts of generosity are not only reliant on our finite resources but on God's boundless abundance. Imagine his delight when his children joyfully share what he has given! By trusting in his provision and sowing generously into his work, we open ourselves to experience a deeper level of spiritual growth and righteousness.

Questions for Reflection: Being generous requires a heart that loves the Lord above all else. How does recognizing God as the source of abundance impact your view of giving? In what areas of your life can you sow more generously, trusting in God's provision?

Action Steps: This week write down the blessings from God you notice each day. Be sure to offer thanksgiving for those gifts. Spend time in prayer asking God to identify areas where you can increase your generosity, both within and outside the church. What concrete steps can you take to do so this week?

Prayer: *Gracious God, thank you for your generous blessings in my life. Continue to work in my heart to show me how I can learn to trust in your provision in all areas of my life, and then share out of that abundance. 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 Begin This Saturday Reserve your place in the Festival Choir!

Rehearsals start Saturday, November 4 at 10:00 am, registration begins at 9:30 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. For more information and to sign up, please visit our [Events webpage](#) or call the NPC Music Office at 202.537.7553.

2nd Sunday Sandwich Making November 12 after 11:00 am Worship

Join us in Stone Fellowship 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!

Military Ministry Meeting Sunday, November 12, 12:15 pm Garden Rooms and Online

All are invited to the Military Ministry meeting and lunch! Our speaker will be Mr. Bernie Lubran, who is an expert on the "Ritchie Boys," a group of about 20,000 American soldiers who trained in intelligence-gathering collections and analysis at Camp Ritchie during World War II. Please see our [Events page](#) for the Zoom link.

Reset Small Group Schedule Change

The Reset gathering will be taking a hiatus for the month of November and will be re-gathering on Thursday, December 7 at 2:00 pm.

Week at a Glance

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

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

Wednesday, November 1

- 6:30 pm: Dinner, Drama, Discussion

Friday-Sunday, November 3-5

- Middle School fall retreat

Saturday, November 4

- 8:00 am: Men's breakfast
- 9:30 am: Messiah rehearsals begin

Sunday, November 5 Communion of Saints

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:30 pm: Service of Remembrance
- 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

Today we wrap up our journey through Nehemiah! 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

Experiencing the challenges and opportunities of aging?

NPC is blessed to have a partnership with the non-profit organization IONA Senior Services and a geriatric social worker who is available to help our church family. Preliminary consultations are free of charge. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540

*Let us work for the good of all
and especially for those of the family of faith. Galatians 6:10*

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:

Courage to put our faith into action.

We pray for:

Friendship Place, as they provide care for people experiencing homelessness.

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 to the glory of God by Carole S. Kinney and family in loving memory of her parents, Dorothy and Charles Steadman, especially remembering her mother's October 29th birthday.



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