

September 10, 2023



Welcome to  
**NATIONAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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

*When I heard these words I sat down and wept,  
and mourned for days,  
fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*  
Nehemiah 1:4

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)

# WELCOME TO FALL!

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

Today, our regular worship service and Sunday School schedules resume! 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

Join us starting today through October 29 for a new sermon series! 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.

## 2nd Sunday Sandwich Making Today 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!

## Family Fall Picnic

### Agencies Parking Lot, Tonight, 5:00 pm

Families are invited for a fun picnic to celebrate the beginning of our fall children's and youth programs! Whether you're new and just checking us out or eager to see friends both new and old, it will be a great time of fellowshiping, celebrating and hearing about our fantastic plans for the fall. Please visit our [Events webpage](#) to sign up.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

## 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"*:** Dr. Quinn Fox, Garden Room A
- ***The Gospel of Luke*:** Margaret Gardner, Donna Duss, & Holly Novak, 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.

# 8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING Improvisations Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Quinn Fox

▲ OPENING SONG Jesus Messiah Chris Tomlin

He became sin, who knew no sin that we might become his righteousness.

He humbled himself and carried the cross. Love so amazing! Love so amazing!

**Chorus:** *Jesus Messiah, Name above all names, Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.*

*The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven. Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.*

His body, the bread, his blood the wine broken and poured out, all for love.

The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.

Love so amazing! Love so amazing, yeah! **Chorus**

All our hope is in you! All our hope is in you!

All the glory to you, God, the light of the world! **Chorus**

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, the house of my soul is narrow;

Enlarge it that you may enter in.

It is in ruins;

Please repair it.

It is displeasing to you;

I know and acknowledge this.

But to whom can I call for help

To clear and restore it, but you?

Cleanse me from my secret faults and sins, O Lord,

And spare your servant.

St. Augustine of Hippo

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

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

Dr. Fox

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Deacon Annette Burgart

The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capital, <sup>2</sup>one of my brothers, Hanani, came with certain men from Judah; and I asked them about the Jews that survived, those who had escaped the captivity, and about Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>They replied, 'The survivors there in the province who escaped captivity are in great trouble and shame; the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been destroyed by fire.' <sup>4</sup>When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup>I said, 'O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments; <sup>6</sup>let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for your servants the people of Israel, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my family have sinned. <sup>7</sup>We have offended you deeply, failing to keep the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances that you commanded your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup>Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, "If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples; <sup>9</sup>but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are under the farthest skies, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place at which I have chosen to establish my name." <sup>10</sup>They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great power and your strong hand. <sup>11</sup>O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man!' At the time, I was cupbearer to the king.

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

SERMON

Lessons from Nehemiah

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

*When People Pray*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

*Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.*

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Lisa Larsen

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



# 11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Tocatta in C Major, BWV 564

J. S. Bach

Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Quinn Fox

▲ HYMN

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

*Austrian Hymn*

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;  
He whose word cannot be broken formed thee for a blest abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.  
See the streams of living water, springing from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river ever flows thy thirst to assuage?  
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver, never fails from age to age.  
Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear  
For a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near,  
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,  
Safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.  
Savior, if of Zion's city I, through grace, a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity, I will glory in thy Name;  
Fading are all earthly pleasures, ev'ry boasted pomp and show;  
Kingdom joys and lasting treasure none but Zion's children know.

Based on John Newton

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Bright Canaan

Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

O who will come and go with me? I am bound for the land of Canaan.  
I'm bound fair Canaan's land to see, I am bound for the land of Canaan.  
*O Canaan, bright Canaan, I'm bound for the land of Canaan.*  
*O Canaan, it is my happy home; I am bound for the land of Canaan.*  
Our songs of praise shall fill the skies, I am bound for the land of Canaan;  
And higher still our joys shall rise, I am bound for the land of Canaan.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, the house of my soul is narrow;  
Enlarge it that you may enter in.  
It is in ruins;  
Please repair it.  
It is displeasing to you;  
I know and acknowledge this.  
But to whom can I call for help  
To clear and restore it, but you?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults and sins, O Lord,  
And spare your servant.

St. Augustine of Hippo

## SILENT CONFESSION AND CHORAL MEDITATION

Ken Medema

Lord, listen to your children prayin'; Lord, send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children prayin'; send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

## 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

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

Dr. Fox

*Children ages 5 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade will then be dismissed for Children's Chapel.*

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

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 1:1-11

Christina Vanderbloemen

The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capital, <sup>2</sup>one of my brothers, Hanani, came with certain men from Judah; and I asked them about the Jews that survived, those who had escaped the captivity, and about Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>They replied, 'The survivors there in the province who escaped captivity are in great trouble and shame; the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been destroyed by fire.' <sup>4</sup>When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven. <sup>5</sup>I said, 'O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments; <sup>6</sup>let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for your servants the people of Israel, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my family have sinned. <sup>7</sup>We have offended you deeply, failing to keep the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances that you commanded your servant Moses. <sup>8</sup>Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, "If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples; <sup>9</sup>but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are under the farthest skies, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place at which I have chosen to establish my name." <sup>10</sup>They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great power and your strong hand. <sup>11</sup>O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of your servant, and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man!' At the time, I was cupbearer to the king.

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

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

**CHORAL RESPONSE**                      **Hear My Prayer, O Lord**                      Antonín Dvořák  
 Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear unto my cry.                      *Biblical Songs, Op. 99, No. 6*  
 Thou art my refuge and my hope; thou art a tower against the foe.  
 Now I will bless thee daily, and lift my hands in prayer and adoration;  
 Yea, my lips shall praise thee all my life long.

*Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.*

**CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS**                      Rev. Lisa Larsen  
*Offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes, gifts and prayer cards as you exit.*

**OFFERTORY**                      **Jerusalem, Our Happy Home**                      Mark Shepperd  
 Jerusalem, our happy home, when shall we come to thee? Land of Rest  
 When shall our sorrows have an end? Thy joys when shall we see?  
 Thy gardens and thy gracious walks continually are green;  
 There grow such sweet and pleasant flow'rs as nowhere else are seen.  
 There trees forever bear more fruit and evermore do spring;  
 Within God's kingdom may we dwell, God's praises e'er to sing.  
 O Christ, do thou our souls prepare for that bright home of love  
 That we may see thee and adore with all thy saints above.  
 Jerusalem, our happy home, thy joys when shall we see?

▲ **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**  
 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 376**                      **Love Divine, All Love's Excelling**                      *Hyfrydol*

▲ **BENEDICTION**                      Dr. Hylton

▲ **CHORAL RESPONSE**  
*O Canaan, bright Canaan, I'm bound for the land of Canaan.*  
*O Canaan, it is my happy home; I am bound for the land of Canaan.*

▲ **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**                      Rev. Larsen

▲ **POSTLUDE**                      **Toccata on "Hyfrydol"**                      Craig Phillips  
 Mr. Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

# MORE EVENTS

## **Toddlers and Preschoolers Playdate**

**Saturday, September 16, 10:00 am**

Join us for some fun at Turtle Park, located at the corner of 45th and Van Ness Streets in Northwest DC. We'll meet up from 10:00-11:30 am. No RSVP necessary! Any questions, please contact Melanie Lenhard at [melenhard@nationalpres.org](mailto:melenhard@nationalpres.org) or 202.552.4252.

## **Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)**

**Sunday, September 17, 5:00 pm**

Calling all 4th & 5th graders! Come grow in faith and friendship through fun and games and exploring God's word. For more information contact [jmeek@nationalpres.org](mailto:jmeek@nationalpres.org).

## **Adult Fellowship Luncheon**

**Wednesday, September 20, 12:00 pm**

Please join us in Stone Hall for lunch and a presentation from Rev. Dr. Margaret Kibben, Chaplain, US House of Representatives. RSVP to Wray Muoio at [wmuoio@nationalpres.org](mailto:wmuoio@nationalpres.org) or 202.537.7540.

## **Fall Food and Clothing Drive**

**Saturday, September 23, 9am-12pm**

**Mark Your Calendar**

**& Check Your Closets!**

NPC's Fall Food and Clothing Drive is back! Join us to make a real difference in our city as we collect and organize nonperishable food and gently used winter clothing for those suffering from the realities of hunger, food insecurity, and the approaching cold weather. For more information, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards at [jedwards@nationalpres.org](mailto:jedwards@nationalpres.org) or visit the [Events webpage](#). Drop-offs will be accepted starting Monday, September 11.

## **Interested in NPC Membership?**

**Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class**

**Saturday, September 23, In-person**

Right now is an exciting time to learn about what God is doing here at NPC! To inquire about church membership or just learn more about Christian faith, come to this one-day class on September 23. For more info or to register by September 21, visit our [Events webpage](#) or contact Kemet Rakiatu at 202.537.7578 or [KRakiatu@NationalPres.org](mailto:KRakiatu@NationalPres.org).

## **Service of Installation**

**Sunday, September 24, 2:00 pm**

The National Capital Presbytery joyfully invites you to the Service of Installation for Rev. Dr. Raymond I. Hylton, Sr. as Senior Pastor of National Presbyterian Church. Following the service, there will be a reception in Stone Fellowship Hall.

## **Dinner, Drama, Discussion Returns!**

**Wednesdays starting September 27**

Please join us in Stone Fellowship Hall for six Wednesdays this fall, September 27 to November 1, for a fun and imaginative dive into Nehemiah using movie clips as our springboard. Please visit our [Events webpage](#) to sign up for meals and small groups.

- 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.

We offer both online or in-person small groups. Online groups will have the opportunity to view the Wednesday night program either live streamed or recorded for discussion in their small group study.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Week at a Glance

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

### Today, September 10

- *Nehemiah* sermon series begins
- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages begins
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:00 pm: Sandwich Making
- 5:00 pm: Family Fall Kick-off Picnic

### Saturday, September 16

- 10:00 am: Toddler and Preschooler Playdate

### Sunday, September 17

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Moldova prayer meeting
- 5:00 pm: Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)
- 6:30 pm: Youth group

## Mission Gifts for Christmas

### Nominations

This is the perfect opportunity to support God's work throughout the world. You're invited to nominate a missionary or organization for this year's Mission Gifts for Christmas using the online form September 6-24. Not sure what Mission Gifts is? Please visit [nationalpres.org/missiongifts](http://nationalpres.org/missiongifts) to read more or make a nomination!

### NPC Small Groups welcome newcomers!

Are you looking for a place to grow spiritually in community? NPC has regular online small groups and in-person Bible studies on weekdays, evenings and Saturdays. If you are interested in visiting one, please visit our [Small Groups webpage](#) to get connected.

### Video Team Volunteers

Do you have an interest in video mixing, video cameras or live streaming? If so, we would love to hear from you! Join our volunteer team to help bring the good news of the gospel into hundreds of homes each week. If you'd like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Bill McNett at [bmcnett@nationalpres.org](mailto:bmcnett@nationalpres.org).

## Living & Giving Generously in God's World: The NPC Fund for Charitable Giving can help!

Are you thinking about philanthropic strategies for planned giving? The NPC Fund is here to help you design or implement a Donor-Advised Fund or Charitable Trust structure to meet your giving goals. Please email [npcfund@nationalpres.org](mailto:npcfund@nationalpres.org) or contact Rick Hawthorne at 301.452.8269 or Jonathan Dickey at 443.722.4840 for more information. You may also visit our [Giving webpage](#).



# 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 easy online ways to connect with us:

- Click the Guestbook button our [Watch webpage](#) to sign our online guestbook.
- Visit the [bottom of our home webpage](#) 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:

- 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:

We pray for the beginning of NPC's program year. May God be glorified in all we do.

### We pray for:

Martha's Table, as they engage the DC community in developing sustainable solutions to poverty.

### How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office,  
[careoffice@nationalpres.org](mailto: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.

You can support the general ministry of National:

- Go to [nationalpres.org/giving](http://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](mailto:lskrine@nationalpres.org).

## Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given with grateful hearts to the glory of God by Donald and Marcia F. Bini in loving memory of their mothers, Hilda E. Bini and Ione S. Freeman, remembering their September birthdays.



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