

January 28, 2024

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it.*

Psalm 24:1



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!

Week at a Glance

Sunday, January 28

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

Saturday, February 3

- 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast
- 11:00 am: Women's Ministry Brunch

Sunday, February 4

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for children and youth
- 9:55 am: Living Generously: An Overview of NPC's Finances
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 5:00 pm: Club 45
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Fifth Grade Milestone:

Prayer of Confession

Today during 8:45 am worship our fifth graders lead us in the Prayer of Confession. 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.

Adult Sunday School

Large Group Meeting

Today, January 28 at 9:55 am

Come to [Stone Fellowship Hall](#), as Dr. Mark Labberton presents *The Dangerous Act of Following Jesus*. We will reflect on and discuss the implications of how living as though the gospel is actually true is dangerous to the self-curated life we are constantly invited to indulge. This danger is God's redeeming gift that plays across time, geography, and culture with hope.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 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. Dr. Michael Denham will be our speaker for February and the topic is "The Song in My Heart".

Please email Kristi Teems at kteems@nationalpres.org for more information.

Women's Ministry Brunch

Saturday, February 3 at 11:00 a.m.

All women are invited to the Women's Ministry Brunch on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 11:00 AM in Stone Hall. Our guest speaker is writer, spiritual director, and oft-time leader of women's retreats, Elizabeth Fitch, who will guide us in discussion of how to grow more rooted in Christ. Please join us for delicious food, faith-filled conversation, and fellowship! Registration is available on the NPC website. Email Margaret Gardner at mgardner@nationalpres.org with any questions.

Living Generously: An Overview of NPC's Finances

Sunday February 4, 9:55 am

Come to Stone Hall for a presentation on the state of NPC's financials and the outlook for 2024. In gratitude for our congregation's commitments, members of the Finance team will discuss not just the numbers but also the impact our collective generosity is making in God's world.

Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)

Sunday, February 4 at 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.

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 All Creatures of our God and King arr. David Crowder

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing:

O praise him, alleluia!

Thou, burning sun with golden beam, thou, silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise him, O praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou, rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along,

O praise him, alleluia!

Thou, rising moon in praise rejoice! Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

O praise him, O praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless! And worship him in humbleness.

O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit--three in One!

O praise him, O praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O alleluia, alleluia! (3x) O alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Led by NPC 5th Graders

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength,
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,

amend what we are, and direct what we shall be,

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 24:1-10

¹The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

²for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

³Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?

⁴Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to
what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

⁵They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

⁶Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may
come in.

⁸Who is the King of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may
come in.

¹⁰Who is this King of glory?

The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rev. Lisa Larsen

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

Emily Anne Rose

Daughter of Emily Anne Rose and Soren Jacob Rose

Prayer of Response

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

*Essential Practices
of Christian Discipleship
Worship: A Way of Life in the World*

Dr. Mark Labberton

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. Ray Hylton, Sr.

You may bring your gift forward during the offering song.

▲ OFFERING 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! **Chorus**

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

▲ 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. Hylton

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 Because He Lives Matt Maher

I believe in the Son. I believe in the Risen One.

I believe I overcome by the power of his blood.

Amen, amen! I'm alive, I'm alive because he lives! Amen, amen!

Let my song join the one that never ends because he lives!

I was dead in the grave. I was covered in sin and shame.

I heard mercy call my name. He rolled the stone away! **Chorus**

Because he lives I can face tomorrow!

Because he lives every fear is gone.

I know he holds my life, my future in his hand. **Chorus (2x)**

▲ BENEDICTION Dr. Labberton

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Dr. Hylton

▲ SENDING NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

Sanctuary and Online

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 24:1-10

Deacon Lydia Griggsby

- ¹The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;
²for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.
³Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place?
⁴Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.
⁵They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation.
⁶Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
⁷Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.
⁸Who is the King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.
⁹Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.
¹⁶Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Melanie Lenhard

Associate Director for Children's Ministry

*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

*Essential Practices
of Christian Discipleship*
Worship: A Way of Life in the World

Dr. Mark Labberton

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Pleading Savior

As we worship, grant us vision, till your love's redeeming light,
In its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving, your abundant life to share.

Albert F. Bayly

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

OFFERTORY

The Heav'ns Declare

Ludwig van Beethoven

The heav'ns declare the glory of God, resounding thus his praise forthtell.
The earth bears his praises, extol him the seas. Take heed, and hear their clarion call!
Who bears the innumerable stars in the heavens? Who leads the sun forth from its tent?
In radiant glory, majestic in splendor, God rules the heav'ns and firmament.
The earth is God's and all that is in it, the world and all that dwell therein.
For he has established its ancient foundations upon the oceans and the seas.
God reigns eternally robed in praises, with righteousness and sure decree.
He sits in heaven, enthroned in splendor, the mighty King of Glory he.

from Psalms 19 and 24

- ▲ 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 Dr. Hylton
 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 *Thaxted*
 O God Beyond All Praising
 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today,
 And sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
 For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
 At blessing without number and mercies without end;
 We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word,
 We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
 Now hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
 That we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
 And whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
 We will triumph through our sorrows and rise to praise you still:
 To marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
 And make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.
- ▲ BENEDICTION Dr. Labberton
- ▲ CHORAL RESPONSE
 Hallelujah, Amen!
- ▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Dr. Hylton
- ▲ POSTLUDE Fugue in G minor, K. 401 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
 Todd Fickley, organ
- ▲ Congregation standing, as able

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

All 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

February 4 - NPC Community Meeting

All are warmly invited by the Session and Finance Committee to attend an Overview of the NPC Finances at 9:55am next week. We will share the approved 2024 budget, the impacts of your generosity, challenges we are working to overcome, and an update on our efforts to pay off the debt!

There will be no Adult Sunday School classes between the first and second services to accommodate this meeting. There will be childcare and classes for our children and youth. Refreshments will be served!

Winter 2024 Adult Sunday School

On February 11, the winter Adult Sunday School class semester will begin. For class descriptions and more information please visit our [Adult Classes webpage](#).

- **Alpha Marriage Course:**
Couple Facilitators, Garden Room A
- **The Border and Beyond: Migration and Immigration in the Mission of God:** Nancy Fox and Jonathan Edwards, Room 209
- **Paul's Epistle to the Romans:**
R.V. Seep, Chapel and online
- **God's Plan of Redemption Through History:** Dr. Quinn Fox, Parlor
- **Exploring Luke's Gospel:** Margaret Gardner, Donna Duss and others, Garden Room C
- **Parent Gathering:** Kristin Franke and others, Jones Hall

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 until noon for infants to walkers, up to age 4.



**Called
to Care**

The Deacons' Assistance Fund offers financial assistance to members of our church experiencing hardship. This fund is solely supported by the generosity of our congregation.

Contact Rev. Larsen. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Duane Barney Service Award - John Gregg

This week our Session awarded the Duane Barney Award to John Gregg as he retires from his role as Clerk of Session after serving in this capacity for 13 years. The Duane Barney Award recognizes extraordinary accomplishments by a lay leader who has demonstrated exemplary leadership. Since joining NPC almost 40 years ago, John has served in far more volunteer and elected positions than can be captured. He has led by example and shown a deep commitment to the well-being and growth of NPC. John personifies the servant leader that the Duane Barney Award is intended to recognize.

Military Ministry Meeting Sunday, February 18, 12:15 pm Garden Rooms

Our speaker will be our very own SSG Ethan Greene, accomplished singer, member of The US Army Chorus and the NPC Choir. Lunch will be served and all are invited!

Come and hear about the work God is doing in Romania!

For over 30 years, The Smiles Foundation has cared for vulnerable communities in western Romania. Join us on Sunday, February 18, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 109 to hear from Kevin Hoy, the Founder and Executive Director of Smiles, and learn more about our intergenerational mission trip to Romania in August. Lunch will be served. For more information, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards at jedwards@nationalpres.org.

Bible Reading Guides for 2024

Go deeper into God's Word with convenient Bible reading guides. You can pick up a printed version in the Welcome Center or download your copy from our Resources page. There are full-Bible and New Testament only versions to choose from.

Women's Bible Study

We meet every Saturday from September to June except for holiday weekends. We meet the first and fourth Saturday via Zoom and the third Saturday in person in Room 209. This is a group that studies the Bible in an interactive way. Everyone is encouraged to participate. This Bible Study has been meeting for over 15 years but welcomes new members every week. The women consider themselves "sisters in Christ" and pray for each other and support each other in times of personal needs.

Per Capita Assessment

The National Capital Presbytery has set the per capita rate at \$48.56 per person, this is the amount that NPC must pay for each active member in our congregation. Please scan the QR code below to give.



JOIN OUR NPC TEAM!

Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor

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 npcfadirssearch@gmail.com.

NPC Communications Director

The National Presbyterian Church is searching for a Communications Director to provide internal and external messaging about the life and ministry of NPC using a variety of communication tools including bulletins, website, mailings, email blasts, publications, signage, exhibits, podcasts, and social media. Reporting to the Senior Pastor, the Communications Director will develop and implement an overall communications strategy aligned with the Church's mission and vision. The successful candidate will be creative, analytical, well versed in social media and today's communication tools, and have excellent attention to detail and strong writing and graphic design skills. The Communications Director must be able to manage multiple tasks simultaneously, effectively manage deadlines, collaborate with pastors, staff, and congregants and work independently. The position is based at the National Presbyterian Church campus located in upper Northwest Washington, DC. The position is full-time and includes comprehensive benefits. Qualified applicants should send a resume to npcfacdirsearch@gmail.com.

NOTES

[illegible]

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 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 mourn:

the passing of Lee MacVaugh.

We pray for:

Foundation For Peace, a Christian ministry dedicated to forging connections between the US and materially impoverished areas of the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Kenya.

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:



If you haven't made your 2024 commitment, please scan the QR code below to make your commitment online.



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 by Paul and Juliette Raffensperger in memory of their parents:
Dale and Violette Moore
and Stanley and Elsie Raffensperger.

Community Health Note

Masks are optional at our services, with the exception of 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.



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