

April 7, 2024

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the
Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark
of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the
mark of the nails and my hand in his side,*

I will not believe.'

John 20:25



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!

**Join us for the next sermon series:
Questions Everyone Asks: Discovering
God, Purpose, and Truth**

**Invite friends to join us on Sundays
as we consider some of life's
big questions together.**

8:45 and 11:00 am services

- How do I deal with my doubts?
- Does God exist?
- Does life have a bigger purpose?
- Why does God allow pain and suffering?
- Is Christianity too narrow?
- Is Jesus really God?
- Is the Bible reliable?
- How can I know God personally?

**Christianity Explored
Four weeks starting May 19
Room 109**

Christianity Explored is for you, if you wouldn't call yourself a Christian, you're not sure what you believe or if you'd like to think more about the big questions of life. Join us for interesting discussion in a relaxed setting after the 11am service on May 19 and, if you're able, on May 26, June 2 and June 9. To find out more or sign up email christianityexplored@nationalpres.org or visit the [Events page](#) on the [NPC website](#).

**Men's Breakfast
Saturday, April 6, 8:00 am
Stone Fellowship Hall**

All men are invited to join us in-person on the first Saturday of every month for our men's breakfast. Our speaker will be Kerry Stoltzfus, presenting: "Reflections on Pastoral Ministry: The Power of Presence" Please email grow@nationalpres.org for more information or to RSVP.

**Women's Ministry Lunch
Saturday, April 6, 12:00 pm
Stone Fellowship Hall**

All women are invited to the Women's Ministry Lunch. This noon fellowship gathering will be a time of prayer and praise as we celebrate a year of growing deeper roots in Christ and commitment to one another. Please join us for delicious food and faith-filled conversation.

[Registration](#) is available on the NPC [Events page](#).

**Israel-Palestine: The Way Forward?!
An Evening Conversation
April 10, 7:00 p.m.
Stone Fellowship Hall**

Join us for an evening conversation between a Palestinian Christian and an Iraqi-born American Jew. **Rev. Prof. Mitri Raheb** is Founder and President of Dar al-Kalima University in Bethlehem. **Dr. Alon Ben-Meir** is a Senior Fellow of International Relations and Middle Eastern studies at New York University's Center for Global Affairs. Please let us know if you are coming by completing the [Registration Form](#). To watch online visit the [Events page](#) on the NPC website.

**Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class
Saturday, April 13, In-person**

Becoming a church member here at NPC can be a meaningful step forward in your spiritual journey. To inquire about membership or just learn more about Christian faith, please attend the one-day in-person Pathway of Christian Discipleship class. For more information, and to register by April 3, contact Kemet Rakiatu at krakiatu@nationalpres.org or 202.537.7578.

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 Freedom Brett Younker and Kristian Stanfill
Step out of the shadows, step out of the grave. Break into the wild and don't be afraid.

Pre-Chorus

Run into wide open spaces; grace is waiting for you.

Dance like the weight has been lifted; grace is waiting.

Chorus

Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom, there is freedom.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom, there is freedom.

Come out of the dark, just as you are, into the fullness of his love.

For the Spirit is here; let there be freedom. Let there be freedom!

Bring all of your burdens; bring all of your scars.

Come back to communion, come back to the start. *Pre-Chorus, Chorus*

Chains will fall, prisons shake at the sound of Jesus' name.

Lives made whole, hearts awake at the sound of Jesus' name. *Chorus*

- ▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord,

To be turned from you is to fall,

To be turned to you is to rise,

To stand in you is to abide forever.

Grant us in all our duties your help,

In all our perplexities your guidance,

In all our sins your forgiveness,

In all our dangers your protection,

In all our doubts and struggles your peace;

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

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.

Nettleton

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Nicene Creed Dr. Fox

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Fox

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-29
Please See Page 7

Virginia Herndon

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Kristin Franke
Director of Youth & Family 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

*Questions everyone asks:
How Do We Deal with Our Doubt?*

Rev. Lisa Larsen

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,
or place it in an offering plate as you exit the Sanctuary.*

▲ OFFERING SONG Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

Christ the sure and steady anchor in the fury of the storm,
when the winds of doubt blow through me and my sails have all been torn.
In the suff'ring, in the sorrow, when my sinking hopes are few,
I will hold fast to the anchor; it shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor while the tempest rages on,
when temptation claims the battle and it seems the night has won.
Deeper still, then goes the anchor, though I justly stand accused.
I will hold fast to the anchor; it shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor through the floods of unbelief.
Hopeless, somehow, O my soul, now lift your eyes to Calvary.
This my ballast of assurance see his love forever proved.
All my hope is in the anchor; it shall never be removed.

Christ the sure and steady anchor as we face the wave of death,
when these trials give way to glory, as we draw our final breath.
We will cross that great horizon, clouds behind, and life secured.
And the calm will be the better, for the storms that we endured.

Christ the shore of our salvation, ever faithful, ever true.
We will hold fast to the anchor; it shall never be removed.

▲ THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Dr. Hylton

Invitation to the Table

Words of Institution and Distribution

Music Meditation

Goodness of God

Jenn Johnson
sung by Elle Schmitt, soprano

PRAYER OF RESPONSE 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

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

Chris Tomlin

All the way my Savior leads me. Who have I to ask beside?

How could I doubt his tender mercy? Who through life has been my guide.

All the way my Savior leads me and cheers each winding path I tread.

And gives me grace for ev'ry trial; feeds me with the living Bread.

You lead me and keep me from falling, You carry me close to your heart.

And surely your goodness and mercy will follow me.

All the way my Savior leads me. O the fullness of his love!

O the sureness of his promise in the triumph of his blood.

When my spirit clothed immortal wings its flight to realms of day.

This my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way!

Jesus led me all the way! *Chorus*

...Will follow me...All the way my Savior leads me.

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Larsen

▲ SENDING

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE I Know That My Redeemer Liveth G.F. Handel
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Quinn Fox

HYMN 151 Crown Him with Many Crowns *Diademata*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE *O filii et filiae*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O sons and daughters, let us sing! The King of heav'n the glorious King,
O'er death and hell rose triumphing: Alleluia! Alleluia!
That night th' apostles met in fear; among them came the Lord most dear,
And said, "My peace be with you here." Alleluia! Alleluia!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord,
To be turned from you is to fall,
To be turned to you is to rise,
To stand in you is to abide forever.
Grant us in all our duties your help,
In all our perplexities your guidance,
In all our sins your forgiveness,
In all our dangers your protection,
In all our doubts and struggles your peace;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON Dr. Fox

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 Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Fox

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-29

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Kristin Franke
Director of Youth & Family 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.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

HYMN

Morecambe

Here, O our Lord, we see you face to face,
Here would we touch and handle things unseen,
Here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
And all our weariness upon you lean.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

OFFERTORY

Peace I Give to You

Craig Courtney

Peace I leave you. My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives, I give to you.
Let not your hearts be troubled and fear not. In this world you shall have tribulations.
Take heart! I have overcome the world!

with Jeanne Su, violin

▲ THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Dr. Hylton

Invitation to the Table
Words of Institution and Distribution
Music Meditation

Todd Fickley, organ

PRAYER OF RESPONSE 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 399

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

Dunlap's Creek

▲ BENEDICTION

Rev. Larsen

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Peace I give to you. My peace I give to you.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Hylton

▲ POSTLUDE

Voluntary for Full Organ

G.F. Handel
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

Spring 2024 Adult Sunday School

The spring Adult Sunday School classes have begun. 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, Jonathan Edwards, and Lewrene Glaser, Room 209
- **Paul's Epistle to the Romans:** R.V. Seep, Stone Fellowship Hall 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

Childcare

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

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).



**Called
to Care**

Newly separated? Recently divorced?

Divorcecare is a program for those navigating the end of a marriage. visit www.divorcecare.org or contact careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540

*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Great Day of Service

Saturday, May 18, 9:30 am-1:00 pm

You're invited to join us on the Great Day of Service, when friends and neighbors will join us to serve our city and those encountering food insecurity around the world. People of all ages are invited to help pack meal kits, tutor kids in reading and math, collect food and clothing, and build a Habitat house. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards at jedwards@nationalpres.org or 202-537-7505.



Vacation Bible School

Sign up today!

Join us for "Scuba" VBS, June 24-28 from 9:30am-12:30pm. Children age 4 to rising 5th grade are invited to explore the depths of God's love through Bible stories, music, crafts, games, service, and more. We also need adult volunteers to lead crews of campers or activity stations. To sign up or learn more, contact Jill Meek at jmeek@nationalpres.org.

NPC Small Groups

This Eastertide, continue to deepen your walk with Christ in a small group! NPC has weekly in-person and online groups that welcome new members. They include sermon series discussions and Bible studies. If you are interested in visiting any of these, please visit our [Small Groups webpage](#) to get connected.

The Saturday small group Bible study, which meets weekly at NPC at 8:30 a.m. in room 106, is just diving into the book of Isaiah. Join in!

Week at a Glance

Sunday, April 7

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 5:00 pm: Club 45
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Saturday, April 13

- 9:30 am: Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class

Sunday, April 14

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:00 pm: 2nd Sunday Sandwich making
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Youth Group Dinners

On Sunday nights, our youth group meets for dinner and fellowship. We're always grateful for those who would be willing to provide a simple meal and spend time in fellowship eating with us! For more details, contact Kristin Franke at kfranke@nationalpres.org.

Interested in International Affairs?

Are you interested in international affairs and the Lord's work overseas? NPC has three committees involved in international ministry: Building up the Global Church, Caring for the Vulnerable, and Proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior. If you would like to be part of this dynamic work, please contact Jonathan Edwards at jedwards@nationalpres.org or Stephanie Eshelman at eshelmansk@gmail.com. Each of these committees welcomes new members.

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 npcfaddirsearch@gmail.com.

Associate for Young Adult and Youth Ministries

NPC is searching for an Associate for Young Adult and Youth Ministries. The successful candidate will have an innovative spirit and relational heart for developing new, sustainable models of ministry to young professionals in our congregation, and supporting the existing youth ministry programming. To apply, please send a resume, cover letter, and a list of 3 references to kfranke@nationalpres.org.

Church Hospitality Coordinator

The Church Hospitality Coordinator plays a pivotal role in ensuring that all church events, from Sunday services to special occasions, are marked by a warm, welcoming atmosphere for fellowship. The ideal candidate will organize excellent hospitality services at church events, fostering a warm and nurturing environment for all who enter our doors. The Church Hospitality Coordinator is a full time position under the supervision of the Director of Facilities, and is not exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The anticipated work schedule is Saturday through Wednesday with some flexibility. Qualified applicants should send a resume to recruiting@nationalpres.org.

NOTES

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 Rance Cleaveland.

We pray for:

Ted and Joy Carr as they provide Christian leaders in Southern Africa with the spiritual and material resources needed to care for communities affected by poverty, HIV/AIDS, and a lack of trustworthy leaders.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office, careoffice@nationalpres.org
202.537.7540.

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 encouraged. Our ushers are happy to guide you to your preferred seating area.

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, cards are available in the narthex or you can 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 in loving memory of the life of Vivian Christy Sansoni, celebrating her 23rd birthday on April 16th, from her father, Brian Sansoni, and her family and friends, who love her and miss her dearly.



4101 NEBRASKA AVE. NW
WASHINGTON DC 20016
202.537.0800
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