

February 9, 2025
National Presbyterian School Sunday

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to
him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'
He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'
The reply came, 'I am Jesus,
whom you are persecuting.'
Acts 9:4-5*



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!

National Presbyterian School Sunday

We are glad to celebrate that the National Presbyterian School is a mission of National Presbyterian Church. This morning we welcome members of the NPS community as they help to lead our morning worship.

2nd Sunday Sandwich Making

Today, February 9 at 12:15 pm

All are invited to Stone Fellowship Hall to make 400 sandwiches for Martha's Table, a community-led nonprofit that works alongside its neighbors to support those in need. These sandwiches will be delivered to people experiencing hunger on the streets of Washington, D.C. This is a great event for the whole family!

Mission Briefing: Evangelical Theological Seminary of Croatia

**Today, February 9 at 12:30 pm
Garden Rooms**

The Evangelical Theological Seminary (ETS) of Croatia is a long-time Mission Partner of National Presbyterian Church. You are invited to the Garden Rooms following the 11:00 service for lunch and to meet ETS's dynamic new President, Dr. Dalibor Kraljik. Dr. Kraljik will provide an overview of the work of the seminary, as well as his exciting vision for ETS' future, its impact for Christ on Croatia and the region, and how NPC can be involved.

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, February 9

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: 2nd Sunday Sandwich Making
- 12:30 pm: Mission Briefing
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Wednesday, February 12

- 7:00 pm: Young Professionals Bible Study

Sunday, February 16

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Adult Sunday School
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship with Officer Installation
- 12:30 pm: Dominican Republic Mission Trip Meeting

DR Mission Trip Informational Meeting Sunday, February 16 at 12:30 pm Room 209

Are you interested in going on a short-term mission trip in 2025? You are invited to a lunch and information session. NPC will participate in an Intergenerational Mission trip to the Dominican Republic, July 12-18. Our team will serve alongside our mission partner, Foundation for Peace, a Christian nonprofit dedicated to working hand in hand on health, education and community initiatives in the Dominican Republic. For more information, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org).

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 This Is Amazing Grace Phil Wickham

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness, whose love is mighty and so much stronger?

The King of glory, the King above all kings.

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder and leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?

The King of glory, the King above all kings.

*This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love, that you would take my place,
that you would bear my cross. You would lay down your life,
that I would be set free. Jesus, I sing for...all that you've done for me.*

Who brings our chaos back into order, who makes the orphan a son and daughter?

The King of glory, the King of glory.

Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?

The King of glory, the King above all kings. *Chorus*

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave. (3x)

Worthy, worthy, worthy! *Chorus*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Larsen

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Our Father in heaven,

thank you for leading us into your light.

We bless you for sending your Son our Savior to call us from death to life.

We acknowledge that we were dead in sin before his call,

but have been made alive in him.

Yet we confess that old habits are hard to throw off,

and that sin and sinful patterns remain in our lives.

Forgive us, O Lord.

Guard us against this enemy within.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

help us live daily the new life to which Christ calls us.

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.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PATHWAY

Rev. Larsen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9:1-9 (*Pew Bible Page 893*)

Scott Herndon

Chair, National Presbyterian School Board

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Todd Sutton

Chaplain, National Presbyterian School

*Kindergarten to 5th graders may exit with leaders for Children's Chapel.
Parents may take children Pre-K and under to the nursery.*

SERMON

Saul: From Darkness to Light

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Quinn Fox

*You may bring your gift forward during the offering song,
or place it in an offering plate as you exit the Sanctuary.*

▲ 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 LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Fox

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

His Mercy Is More

Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?

Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum.

Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?

What Father, so tender, is calling us home?

He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord, his mercy is more,

Stronger than darkness, new every morn.

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

What riches of kindness he lavished on us.

His blood was the payment; his life was the cost.

We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more. *Chorus (2x)*

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Hylton

▲ SENDING

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

A Second Light

David Ashley White
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN 462

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Ratisbon

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Larsen

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

God Is Light

Eric Thiman

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Rev. Larsen

Our Father in heaven,

thank you for leading us into your light.

We bless you for sending your Son our Savior to call us from death to life.

We acknowledge that we were dead in sin before his call,

but have been made alive in him.

Yet we confess that old habits are hard to throw off,

and that sin and sinful patterns remain in our lives.

Forgive us, O Lord.

Guard us against this enemy within.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

help us live daily the new life to which Christ calls us.

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen, amen.

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

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.

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CHORAL RESPONSE

Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;

Place in my hand the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see;

Open my eyes, illumine me, Savior divine.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Quinn Fox

OFFERTORY

Let Light Shine Out of Darkness

John A. Behnke

Let light shine out of darkness!

What we proclaim is not our own, but Jesus Christ.

Let light shine out of darkness!

Let light shine in us, O Lord, through Jesus Christ.

National Presbyterian School Chorus

Anne Hancock, *Director*

▲ DOXOLOGY

Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Fox

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.

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

Childcare

Childcare is available 8:30 am until the close of the 11:00 am service. The Nursery (Room 207), the Early Walker Room (Room 231), and the Toddler Room (Room 230) are located on the second floor of the main church building. Infants - crawling should go to the Nursery, walkers under 2 (as of September 30) should go to the Early Walker Room, and those ages 2-pre-K should utilize the Toddler Room.

Children's Sunday School

Visit our [Children's webpage](#) to learn 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).

Youth Sunday School

Visit our [Youth webpage](#) for information about Sunday School, youth group, and other special events.

- Youth Sunday School, for grades 6-12, meets in the Multipurpose Building for fellowship, worship, and small group Bible studies.

Adult Sunday School

Visit our [Adult Classes webpage](#) for class descriptions and more information.

Beginning Today!

- ***The Council of Nicaea and Its Creed after 1700 years***

**Quinn Fox
Chapel and Online**

We will explore the historical and theological significance of the Nicene Creed, examining its key statements about the Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) as articulated in the creed that resulted from the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD (1700 years ago).

- ***The Dangerous Act of Loving God and Neighbor***

**Nancy Fox, Ginny Beeson
Room 209**

Using Dr. Mark Labberton's book *The Dangerous Act of Worship* and other resources, we will look at the inseparable connection of Christian worship and Jesus' call into his work of justice.

- ***Parent Gathering***

Jones Hall, Education Building

- ***Ephesians and Philippians***

R. V. Seep

Garden Room A

In Philippians the apostle Paul finds joy while in prison, taunted by his critics, wanting necessities, and separated from those he loved. Amid dire circumstances, Paul pens a letter radiating joy. Ephesians gives us a birds-eye view of key themes in Christian reflection and living—God, the world, Jesus, the church, salvation, Christian behavior, marriage and family, and spiritual warfare.

- ***The Gospel According to Mark***

**Margaret Gardner, Donna Duss
Garden Room C**

Mark's gospel describes the life of Jesus with a pathos and urgency that underline its momentous implications for all humanity. Mark challenges us to fully follow Jesus now and into eternity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Small Groups

March 5-April 16 - Sign up now!

Interested in growing in discipleship in community with others? Join a short-term small group discussion of our Lenten sermon series on Spiritual Medicine from the Psalms. In-person and online groups will explore insights from the Psalms of who God is and how God responds to our spiritual needs with healing. Please visit [NPC's Event page](#) to [register](#) for a group by February 23.

VBS Campers & Volunteers:

Sign Up Today!

Vacation Bible School is June 23-27 from 9:30 am-12:30 pm, for children age 4 to rising 5th grade. Register your campers today for a week of Bible stories, music, crafts, games, service, and more! We also need adult volunteers to serve as crew leaders and station leaders. Come point kids to Jesus, their "True North" as we explore what it means to trust Jesus in a wild world! Contact: Jill Meek (jmeek@nationalpres.org).

Call for Singers!

A GERMAN REQUIEM

JOHANNES BRAHMS

English Translation by

Robert Shaw

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FESTIVAL CHOIR & ORCHESTRA

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 5 pm

Reserve your place in the Festival Choir!

Call for 150 Singers / All Are Welcome / Experienced Singers Preferred
Beautiful New Scholarly Performance Edition Features both German and English
Nominal Cost of \$20

Rehearsals for this musical masterpiece begin 10 am on Saturday, March 1.

Rehearsal Schedule

Preliminary Saturday Rehearsals 10 am-2 pm

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5

Performance Weekend Rehearsals

Friday, April 11 from 7 pm-10 pm

Saturday, April 12 from 10 am-2 pm

Go to www.nationalpres.org/brahms to immediately sign up.

Or call the NPC Music Office at 202-537-7553.



**Called
to Care**

Deacons

Our deacons are ready to care for you. They will listen, pray, visit, and encourage you. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540

Love one another.

John 13:34

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!

Newcomers and long-timers:

Let us know you are here!

Whether in the Sanctuary or worshipping online - we want to know you and care for you:

- Please sign the guestbook in the pews or online on our [Watch](#) webpage.

Ways to Connect:

- Sign up for our e-newsletter on our website or info@nationalpres.org.
- Contact our Connections Ministry to get a conversation started: lisaum@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:

those who are disheartened.

We pray for:

Our missionaries in the Middle East as they serve large numbers of displaced people.

How may we pray for you?

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

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by John and Robyn Soldner in loving memory of John's parents Wilbert and Helen Soldner.

Your Giving Makes a Difference

To make a gift:

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



Your Commitments Help Us Plan

We ask that you prayerfully consider your commitment to supporting the ministries of NPC in 2025. In this season of reflection and renewal, may you seek God's guidance as you make your resolutions for the coming year. Let us join together in faith, trusting that God will lead us in our efforts to serve Him and others with grace and generosity.

- Ask an usher for a card
- Scan the QR code below:



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.

Per Capita

The National Capital Presbytery has set the per capita rate at \$50.15 per person, which is the amount NPC pays for each active member in our congregation. You may scan the QR Code below to give.



Heritage Brief

AN INAUGURAL BAPTISM

Most Americans do not know that President Dwight D. Eisenhower joined The National Presbyterian Church on February 1, 1953 by profession of faith and baptism, making him the first and only U.S. President to be baptized while in office. His wife Mamie, a life-long Presbyterian, transferred her membership at the same time. Because Eisenhower's deeply religious parents belonged to a Mennonite-related group that believed baptism should happen when the believer was mature enough in faith to know its significance, and because his life when he left the home did not lead toward any particular denomination, he had never been baptized.

His devout faith, nurtured by daily Bible readings in his parents' home and amplified by his need for God's guidance through the war years, and later in his leadership of Columbia University, is evident throughout his life in public and private ways. Yet it was not until the task of leading the nation fell on his shoulders, and he moved to Washington, that he decided to join a church. The decision to join The National Presbyterian Church was influenced by a variety of factors: several military friends who were members commended the church, including the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Edward L.R. Elson, whom Eisenhower knew from his years as an Army Chaplain, as well as people like former-Congresswoman Clare Booth Luce and the Rev. Billy Graham. Also, the Eisenhowers' son John had been a member of the Boy Scout troop sponsored by the church, when Eisenhower was deployed in Washington earlier. The church's liturgy, music, preaching, and the assurance that there would not be any kind of political pressure from the pastor led to the following remarkable scene, as handed down mainly from the oral history of Dr. Elson, pastor from 1946-1973 (Elson subsequently served as Chaplain of the U.S. Senate for 13 years).

Dr. Elson and the President agreed that the baptism should not take place until after he had taken the oath of office, lest there be any appearance of currying favor. Ten days after the inauguration, on Sunday morning, February 1, the President and Mrs. Eisenhower met with the Session. Mrs. Eisenhower re-affirmed her faith: "Do you re-affirm your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and in dependence upon his grace, do you promise to live a Christian life?" She answered "I do" in what the pastor noted was "an earnest and sincere spirit." And affirming the same question, the President knelt at the *prie dieu* (the kneeling bench currently in our own Chapel of the Presidents), and was baptized by his pastor, who prayed that the Holy Spirit "strengthen this thy servant. . . and daily increase in him thy manifold gifts of grace, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge," and more. Thus began a relationship with this church that lasted beyond the death of the President to the death of Mrs. Eisenhower and into the history books.

Prepared by the NPC History & Archives Ministry



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