

March 9, 2025
First Sunday of Lent

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity; I said,
'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord',
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.*

Psalm 32:5



Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors

Parish Associates

Music

Ministry Directors

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
Rev. Lisa Larsen
Dr. Nancy Fox
Rev. Lisa Larsen
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!

Our Journey of Discipleship together!

We are all on a journey of faith to grow closer to Christ—through worship, prayer, scripture, and service. NPC has many resources available to support you on your journey. Please visit nationalpres.org/discipleship or contact Connections Ministry at lsaum@nationalpres.org or 202-537-7494.

2nd Sunday Sandwich Making Today, March 9 at 12:15 pm

All are invited to Stone Fellowship Hall to make hundreds of 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!

Adult Service Project and Luncheon Thursday, March 20, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm Stone Fellowship Hall

The Lenten season is upon us! Come and enjoy a time of fellowship as we engage in a variety of projects to help prepare for Easter and serve one of our local Mission Partners, Friendship Place. For more information, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org).

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, March 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
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Wednesday, March 12

- 7:00 pm: Young Professionals Bible Study

Sunday, March 16

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship

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).

HOLY WEEK & EASTER EVENTS

For more information about all of our Lenten and Easter events, please visit our [Easter page](#), accessible on the home page of our website.

Palm Sunday April 13

- Worship: 8:45 & 11:00 am
- Concert: Brahms *Requiem*, 5:00 pm

Maundy Thursday April 17

- Hands-on Prayer Stations: 3:00-7:00 pm
- Worship with Communion: 7:00 pm

Good Friday April 18

- Hands-on Prayer Stations: 3:00-7:00 pm
- Meditations & Music on the Seven Last Words of Christ: 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday April 20

- Worship: 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 am
- Easter Egg Hunt:
after 8:30 & 10:00 am worship

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

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

Rev. Larsen

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

God of love,

in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done,

we have sinned in ignorance, weakness, and through our own deliberate fault.

We therefore turn in sorrow to you, and humbly repent.

Forgive us, and renew our lives, for the sake of Jesus Christ our only Lord and Savior.

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Larsen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 32
Pew Bible Page 400

Dr. Michael Denham

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Kristin Franke
 Director of Youth & Family Ministry

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

SERMON

Prescriptions for Wounded Souls
 Confession Is Good for the Soul

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

Rev. Craig Meek

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

▲ OFFERING SONG

Trust In You

Lauren Daigle

Letting go of every single dream, I lay each one down at your feet.
 Every moment of my wondering never changes what you see.

I've tried to win this war, I confess. My hands are weary, I need your rest.
 Mighty warrior, King of the fight, no matter what I face you're by my side.

*When you don't move the mountains I'm needing you to move,
 when you don't part the waters I wish I could walk through,
 when you don't give the answers as I cry out to you:
 I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in you!*

Truth is, you know what tomorrow brings. There's not a day ahead you have not seen.
 So in all things be my life and breath. I want what you want, Lord, and nothing less! *Chorus*

You are my strength and comfort. You are my steady hand.
 You are my firm foundation, the Rock on which I stand.

Your ways are always higher. Your plans are always good.
 There's not a place where I'll go you've not already stood! *Chorus (2x)*

▲ 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

Rev. Meek

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

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.

My one Defense, my Righteousness, O God, how I need you!

▲ 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 Choral Prelude and Fugue on "O Traurigkeit" Johannes Brahms
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Larsen

- ▲ HYMN Our Song Forever Shall Record *Winchester*
Our song forever shall record the tender mercies of the Lord;
God's faithfulness will we proclaim that ev'ry age may know his name.
We sing of mercies that endure, forever builded, ever sure.
Of faithfulness that never dies, established changeless in the skies.
Behold God's truth and grace displayed for us in faithful cov'nant made:
A bow in heav'n to e'er reveal an everlasting sign and seal.
God's faithful promise shall endure in lasting cov'nant strong, secure;
Perpetual, certain, permanent, established o'er the firmament.

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Larsen

- ▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Winchester New*
Almighty God, your lofty throne has mercy for its cornerstone,
And shining bright before your face are truth and love and boundless grace.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison* Rev. Larsen
God of love,
in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done,
we have sinned in ignorance, weakness, and through our own deliberate fault.
We therefore turn in sorrow to you, and humbly repent.
Forgive us, and renew our lives, for the sake of Jesus Christ our only Lord and Savior.

SILENT CONFESSION AND KYRIE *sung first by the choir, then the congregation*
Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Larsen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 32
Pew Bible Page 400

Elder Gerri Hall

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Kristin Franke
 Director of Youth & Family Ministry

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

SERMON

Prescriptions for Wounded Souls
 Confession Is Good for the Soul

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

RESPONSE

You Are My Hiding Place

Michael Ledner

*You are my hiding place, you always fill my heart with songs of deliverance; Psalm 32:7
 Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you.*

I will trust in you; let the weak say, "I am strong in the strength of the Lord."

Congregation Repeat Refrain

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Craig Meek

OFFERTORY

Blessed Is the One

Craig Courtney

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,
 blessed is the one whose sins are covered,
 The one to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
 in whose spirit is no guile.
 You are my hiding place. You will preserve me from trouble,
 surrounding me with songs of deliverance.
 When mighty waters rise they will not reach me.
 Blessed is the one, O Lord.

Psalm 32

Rev. Larsen and Elder Glenn Schmitt

Karen Hardee
 Ginny Harrington
 Casandra Morris
 Linda Shannon-Miller

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.

Rev. Meek

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.

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

Dr. Hylton

Craig Courtney

Blessed is the one O Lord.

Rev. Meek

Johannes Brahms
Mr. Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

*Everyone is invited downstairs to Stone Fellowship Hall, after worship,
for Coffee, Cookies, and Community.*

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

NOTES

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.

- ***The Council of Nicaea and Its Creed after 1700 years***
Quinn Fox
Chapel and Online
We are exploring the historical and theological significance of the Nicene Creed, examining its key statements about the Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).
- ***The Dangerous Act of Loving God and Neighbor***
Nancy Fox, Ginny Beeson
Room 209
We are looking at the inseparable connection of Christian worship and Jesus' call into his work of justice.
- ***Parent Gathering***
Jones Hall, Education Building
All parents of youth and children are invited to stop by Jones Hall in the Education building for coffee, fellowship, and small group Bible studies that correspond with the children's and youth classes.

- ***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.
- ***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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Our Easter Welcome Team

Easter is just around the corner and we are looking for friendly volunteers to serve as a warm and welcoming presence on this joyful day! As we welcome hundreds of regulars and newcomers to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we want to ensure that everyone feels welcomed and valued. Whether you are greeting attendees at the door, directing them to seating, or assisting with other needs, your service is crucial to making our Easter celebration a success. To join our Easter Welcome Team, please visit our [Serve at Church page](#) or [click here](#). You can also contact Leslie Saum (lsaum@nationalpres.org) directly at 202.537.7494 for more information.

Financial Report through December 31, 2024

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Faith Giving	\$3,567,000	\$3,260,000
Facility Use Income	\$871,000	\$831,000
Other Income	<u>\$921,000</u>	<u>\$931,000</u>
Total Income	\$5,359,000	\$5,022,000
Total Expenses	<u>-\$4,809,000</u>	<u>-\$5,075,000</u>
Net Income/(Deficit)	\$550,000	(\$53,000)

To God be the glory! NPC's 2024 financial position is strong. Your spirit of generosity enabled NPC to:

- Finish 2024 with a 10% budget surplus, the highest surplus on record.
- NPC began 2024 with a budget deficit, but our congregation responded with a 15% increase in annual giving.
- Prudent management lead to expenses that were 5% below budget.
- NPC completed the first major successful capital campaign since moving to Nebraska Avenue, including paying off all construction debt.
- Surplus funds will be invested to sustain and grow our ministries under the guidance of the Finance Council and the Session.
- Detailed financial reports are available in the Narthex racks outside the sanctuary.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who receive special training to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation who are experiencing grief, loneliness, divorce, hospitalization, disability, job loss, and many other life difficulties.

careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540

*Learn to do good; seek justice; rescue the oppressed;
defend the orphan; plead for the widow.*

Isaiah 1:17



**Called
to Care**

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.

Your Giving Makes 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.

To support the general ministry of National:

- Go to nationalpres.org/giving
- Text "NPC" to 833.414.9444
- 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.

Prayers

We mourn:

the passing of Paul Kellerman.

We pray for:

John Wagner as he works through Young Life to spread the Gospel to teens in New York and in cities across the globe.

How may we pray for you?

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

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are dedicated to the loving memory of
Alfred S. Perry,
remembering his March 8th birthday.

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
for a 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.



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WWW.NATIONALPRES.ORG



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