

April 21, 2024

Welcome to  
**NATIONAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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

*Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of  
vanities! All is vanity. What do people gain from  
all the toil at which they toil under the sun?  
Ecclesiastes 1:2-3*



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](http://nationalpres.org). Questions? Email us at [info@nationalpres.org](mailto:info@nationalpres.org)!

**Join us for our 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**

- 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**

If you wouldn't call yourself a Christian or you're not sure what you believe, Christianity Explored is for you. Please join us for interesting discussion in a relaxed setting. To find out more or sign up email [christianityexplored@nationalpres.org](mailto:christianityexplored@nationalpres.org) or visit the [Events page](#) on the [NPC website](#).

## **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 come together 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, or work with Habitat for Humanity. Everyone is welcome. To sign up now, please visit the [Registration Form](#) or go to the [Events Page](#) for more information.

## **Men's Breakfast**

**Saturday, May 4 at 8:00 am**

Men are invited to join us in-person at NPC in Stone Fellowship Hall on the first Saturday of every month for our men's breakfast. Our speaker for May will be Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr. Please email [grow@nationalpres.org](mailto:grow@nationalpres.org) for more information.

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

**Sunday, May 5 at 5:00 pm**

Calling all 4th & 5th graders—Club 45 is just for you! At Club 45, we grow in faith and friendship. Come hang out, play games, and have some devotional time. It is also a great place to invite friends! Club 45 meets once per month, on Sundays, 5:00-6:15 pm at the Youth House. If you are interested in attending, please contact [jmeek@nationalpres.org](mailto:jmeek@nationalpres.org) or check our [Events page](#) for more information and meeting dates.

## **Week at a Glance**

**Sunday, April 21**

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

**Sunday, April 28**

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

# 8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

---

## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING Improvisations Matthew Hill, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

▲ OPENING SONG O How Good It Is Keith and Kristyn Getty

O how good it is when the family of God  
dwell together in spirit, in faith and unity;  
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love  
are the fruit of his presence here among us.

*So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,  
and with one heart we'll live out his word  
til the whole world sees the Redeemer has come,  
for he dwells in the presence of his people.*

O how good it is on this journey we share  
to rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn.  
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace,  
when we offer the blessing of belonging. *Chorus*

O how good it is to embrace his command  
to prefer one another, forgive as he forgives.  
When we live as one we all share in the love  
of the Son with the Father and the Spirit. *Chorus*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Bring us, O Lord, at our last awakening into our heavenly home.  
Forgive our sins and cleanse us unto that glorious day.

May we at last enter that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be  
No darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light,  
No noise nor silence, but one equal music,  
No fears nor hopes, but one equal inheritance,  
No ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity:  
Forever in the presence of your glory, forever in the embrace of your love.

John Donne

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                      Dr. Hylton
- 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 MOMENT

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE                      Ecclesiastes 1:1-11                      Virginia Herndon

- <sup>1</sup>The words of the Teacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.  
<sup>2</sup>Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.  
<sup>3</sup>What do people gain from all the toil at which they toil under the sun?  
<sup>4</sup>A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.  
<sup>5</sup>The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hurries to the place where it rises.  
<sup>6</sup>The wind blows to the south, and goes round to the north;  
    round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.  
<sup>7</sup>All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full;  
    to the place where the streams flow, there they continue to flow.  
<sup>8</sup>All things are wearisome; more than one can express;  
    the eye is not satisfied with seeing, or the ear filled with hearing.  
<sup>9</sup>What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done;  
    there is nothing new under the sun.  
<sup>10</sup>Is there a thing of which it is said, 'See, this is new'?  
    It has already been, in the ages before us.  
<sup>11</sup>The people of long ago are not remembered, nor will there be any remembrance  
    of people yet to come by those who come after them.

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES                      Dr. Hylton

*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.*

SERMON                      *Questions Everyone Asks:*                      Dr. Quinn Fox  
    Does Life Have a Bigger Purpose?

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

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





WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

Elder Gerri Hall

<sup>1</sup>The words of the Teacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

<sup>3</sup>What do people gain from all the toil at which they toil under the sun?

<sup>4</sup>A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.

<sup>5</sup>The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hurries to the place where it rises.

<sup>6</sup>The wind blows to the south, and goes round to the north;

round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.

<sup>7</sup>All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full;

to the place where the streams flow, there they continue to flow.

<sup>8</sup>All things are wearisome; more than one can express;

the eye is not satisfied with seeing, or the ear filled with hearing.

<sup>9</sup>What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done;

there is nothing new under the sun.

<sup>10</sup>Is there a thing of which it is said, ‘See, this is new’?

It has already been, in the ages before us.

<sup>11</sup>The people of long ago are not remembered, nor will there be any remembrance

of people yet to come by those who come after them.

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Hylton

*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.*

SERMON

*Questions Everyone Asks:*

Dr. Quinn Fox

*Does Life Have a Bigger Purpose?*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE AND CALL

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

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Love Unknown*

Hands of the world stretch out your mystery to touch, in longing to believe a truth beyond our reach,

To sing in joy, to cry in grief, to know your meaning for our life.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Lisa Larsen

OFFERTORY

Lord, Make Me to Know My End

Simon Sargon

Lord, make me to know my end, and the measure of my days, how short-lived I am.

For man, his days are like the grass. He blooms as the bloom in the field.

A wind passes over: It is gone. The place thereof knows of it no more.

Lord, make me to know my end. Lord, O Lord, make me to know my end.

*Psalms 39:5-6 and 103:15-16*

▲ 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.





# 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, 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

## 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**

### May we pray for you?

If you would like prayer or feel called to join our prayer team, contact [careoffice@nationalpres.org](mailto:careoffice@nationalpres.org) / 202.537.7540.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*  
Phil 4:6

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Youth Mission Trip Car Wash**

**Sunday, May 19, 9:45 am -1:00 pm**

Get your car washed and support our high school youth who will be travelling to the Dominican Republic in July to serve with our partner Foundation for Peace! Come to the youth house driveway (near the Van Ness St. NW entrance) beginning at 9:45 am, and continuing until after the second worship service.

## **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](mailto:jmeek@nationalpres.org).

## **You can make a difference!**

You are invited to make a dramatic impact here at church on Sunday mornings – join the fantastic Welcome Team! We have opportunities for Greeters, Ushers and Connection Hosts – just bring your smiling face and heart for sharing God's love. Sign up by completing the [Registration Form](#). For more information visit the [Events Page](#) or contact Leslie Saum via [lsaum@nationalpres.org](mailto:lsaum@nationalpres.org) or 202-537-7494.

## **Thank you for your Generosity!**

At Central Union Mission's recent Gala celebrating its 140th Anniversary, NPC received the "Church on a Mission Award" for more than 30 years of partnership. Thank you for generously giving your time, talents, and resources to enable our mission partner to help those experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in our city.

## **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 see 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!

## **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](mailto:jedwards@nationalpres.org) or Stephanie Eshelman at [eshelmansk@gmail.com](mailto:eshelmansk@gmail.com). Each of these committees welcomes new members.



# 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](mailto: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 celebrate with:

Francis and Kaitlyn Brooke  
on the birth of their son.

### We pray for:

Young Lives, as they present  
the gospel to teenage parents,  
and help them grow in their faith.

### 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 at this critical time.

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:



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](mailto:lskrine@nationalpres.org).

## Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Narthex  
are given to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Beverly Elson Gray  
by her sister Eleanor Elson Heginbotham.

The flowers in the Sanctuary  
are given by Nicole Gibson  
in memory of a beloved mother,  
Gloria Perez Gibson,  
in celebration of her  
eternal rest with her Lord.



4101 NEBRASKA AVE. NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20016  
202.537.0800  
[WWW.NATIONALPRES.ORG](http://WWW.NATIONALPRES.ORG)



[/NATIONALPRES](https://www.facebook.com/NATIONALPRES)  
[@NATIONALPRES](https://www.instagram.com/NATIONALPRES)