

September 8, 2024

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*You see that faith was active along with his works,
and faith was brought to completion by the works.*
James 2:22



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!

Wake up to Wonder

Special Speaker: Karen Wright Marsh
Stone Fellowship Hall, 9:45 am

Today, Sept. 8

Why chase wonder? If wonder is simply blissed-out happiness, who can pursue it while neighbors suffer, personal relationships break down, health fails, jobs dissolve? Karen Wright Marsh, author of *Wake Up to Wonder: 22 Invitations to Amazement in the Everyday*, offers that the experience of wonder is one of God's greatest gifts to each one of us.

Karen serves as executive director of Theological Horizons at the University of Virginia.

2nd Sunday Sandwich Making

Today, Sept. 8 after 11:00 am Worship

Join us in Stone Fellowship Hall to make 400 sandwiches for Martha's Table. McKenna's Wagon delivers food to the hungry on the streets of DC every day of the year. This is a great event for the whole family!

Military Ministry Meeting

Today, Sept. 8 after 11:00 am Worship
Garden Rooms

Our speaker will be Dr. Ray Hylton. Lunch will be served and all are invited to attend. Hope to see you there!

Family Kickoff Picnic

Today, Sept. 8, 5:00 pm

Families are invited to join us for a BBQ dinner and lawn games to celebrate the beginning of our fall semester with children's and youth ministries! We will meet in Stone Hall for dinner, and we'll have games set up indoors and outdoors. Main dishes will be provided, but you are welcome to sign up to bring salads, desserts, or drinks. Visit the [website](#) to [signup](#), or contact Kristin Franke at kfranke@nationalpres.org.

Playground Playdate

Saturday, Sept. 14, 10:00 am

Turtle Park - 45th & Van Ness NW

Join other families for some fun at Turtle Park. Kids can play and adults can get to know each other better. We look forward to seeing you! For more information contact Melanie Lenhard at mlenhardnationalpres.org.

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, September 8

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:45 am: Wake up to Wonder
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: 2nd Sunday Sandwich Making
- 12:15 pm: Military Ministry Meeting
- 5:00 pm: Family Kickoff Picnic

Saturday, September 14

- 10:00 am: Playground Playdate

Sunday, September 15

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: History and Archives Meeting
- 5:00 pm: Club 45
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Wednesday, September 18

- 7:00 pm Young Professionals
Ice Cream Social

Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)

Sunday, Sept. 15, 5:00 pm

Calling all 4th and 5th graders! Invite your friends and join us for fun, faith, and fellowship. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jill Meek at jmeek@nationalpres.org or check our [Events page](#) for more information and meeting dates.

Youth Group

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 15, 6:30 pm

All 6th-12th graders are invited to youth group on Sunday evenings for a casual meal, Bible study, and games together! If you'd like to contribute a meal to our youth program, please contact Kristin Franke at kfranke@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 Shout Hosanna Kristian Stanfill

To the King of glory and light, all praises; to the only giver of life, our Maker.

The gates are open wide; we worship you.

Come see what love has done, amazing. He bought us with his blood, our Savior.

The cross has overcome; we worship you.

Shout hosanna, Jesus, he saves!

Shout hosanna, he rose from the grave!

Come and lift him up, hosanna!

Now let the lost be found, forgiven. Death could not hold him down; he's risen.

So let the saints cry out, we worship you. We worship you! **Chorus**

The same power that rolled the stone away, the same power alive in us today,

King Jesus, we call upon your name, no other name. **(2x) Chorus (2x)**

Come and lift him up hosanna! **(2x)**

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Larsen

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Most gracious and merciful God,

we confess to you and to one another

that we have entered your presence with countless prayers,

but with hearts closed to your grace.

We have lifted our hands to you in praise,

but still walk in the ways of evil.

We have rehearsed your commandments and your promises,

but fail to see your face in the needs of our neighbor.

Lord, forgive our lack of faith, we pray, and pardon our unjust acts.

Heal us of our sinful duplicity and dissembling ways.

By the power of your Spirit, nurture in us both inward and outward holiness.

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 Rev. Larsen
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

James 1:17-27
Pew Bible Pages 980-981

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

Balanced Faith

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. Kerry Stoltzfus

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

- ▲ OFFERING SONG What A Beautiful Name Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood
You were the Word at the beginning; One with God the Lord Most High,
Your hidden glory in creation, now revealed in you our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is, what a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus Christ, my King.

What a beautiful Name it is, nothing compares to this.

What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

You didn't want heaven without us so, Jesus, you brought heaven down.
My sin was great, your love was greater; What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is, what a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus Christ, my King.

What a wonderful Name it is, nothing compares to this.

What a wonderful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

What a powerful Name it is, what a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus Christ, my King.

What a powerful Name it is, nothing can stand against.

What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus.

What a powerful Name it is, the Name of Jesus. (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 Dr. Stoltzfus
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

Cantabile in B Major

César Franck
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN 263 *verses 1-3* Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

St. Denio

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn 263, verse 4

Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Most gracious and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another
that we have entered your presence with countless prayers,
but with hearts closed to your grace.
We have lifted our hands to you in praise,
but still walk in the ways of evil.
We have rehearsed your commandments and your promises,
but fail to see your face in the needs of our neighbor.
Lord, forgive our lack of faith, we pray, and pardon our unjust acts.
Heal us of our sinful duplicity and dissembling ways.
By the power of your Spirit nurture, in us both inward and outward holiness.

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Larsen

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

Rev. Larsen

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.

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE

James 1:17-27
Pew Bible Pages 980-981

Elder Laurie 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

Balanced Faith

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Inward Light

Save us from the soothing sin of the empty worship deed
And the pious, babbling din of the claimed but un-lived creed.
Let our actions, Lord, express what our tongues and lips profess.

Thomas H. Troeger, alt.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

OFFERTORY

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Eric Dewar & Dan Forrest

I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my life is Jesus.

*In him there is no darkness at all; the night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God; shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.
I’m looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Kathleen Thomerson
with Phil Sargeant, oboe and Christine Lightner, cello

▲ 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 LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Stoltzfus

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 a.m. until the close of the 11:00 a.m. 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 age 2-pre-K should utilize the Toddler Room.

Beginning Today, September 8

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.

Parent Gathering

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. Periodically, pastors and staff join for topical conversations about contemporary parenting.

Beginning September 15

Fall 2024 Adult Sunday School

The fall Adult Sunday School classes begin September 15. For class descriptions and more information please visit our [Adult Classes webpage](#).

- ***The Spirit of Our Politics***
Facilitators: Ginny Beeson and Nancy Fox
We will read and discuss Michael Wear's book, along with associated articles and readings.
- ***The Gospel of Mark - A Study***
Facilitators: Donna Duss, Margaret Gardner, and others
We will discuss Jesus' life and teachings as presented in the Gospel of Mark using N.T. Wright's Bible Study guide, *Mark for Everyone*.
- ***The Early Church: The First Three Centuries***
R.V. Seep
Join us for a comprehensive survey of the first three centuries of the Christian movement and its impact on the future shape of the church.
- ***The Journey of Discipleship: Building Your Life in Christ***
Dr. Quinn Fox
This course, a biblical exploration of a life with Christ at the center, also fulfills the requirement for becoming a member of NPC.

Nominations for Church Officers

The Congregational Nominating Committee asks for your help in selecting Elders, Deacons, and board members for the Fund for Charitable Giving and next year's Congregational Nominating Committee. Please click [here](#) or visit nationalpres.org/nominate for more information or to submit recommendations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NPC Small Groups - Get Connected!

Are you looking for a place to grow spiritually in community? Fall is a great time to join one of our in-person or online Small Groups.

NPC has regular **online** small groups Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, including mixed and Women's Bible study. NPC's weekly **in-person** groups include Wednesdays and a Saturday AM Bible Study, which is currently exploring Isaiah. To try an online or in-person group, please visit our Small Group [webpage](#) and [fill out a form](#) to get connected, or reach out to Margaret Gardner with questions at mgardner@nationalpres.org.

We will also be offering **short-term** small groups starting at the end of September. Registration information coming soon!

Mission Gifts for Christmas Nominations Sept. 8 - Sept. 23

This is the perfect opportunity to support God's work throughout the world. You're invited to nominate a missionary or organization for this year's Mission Gifts for Christmas using the [online form](#). Not sure what Mission Gifts is? Please visit our Events [webpage](#) to read more or make a nomination.

The Life of Discipleship at NPC Sunday, Sept. 15, 12:15 pm Garden Rooms

Interested in nurturing a culture of discipleship at NPC? Join us for a conversation on discipleship next Sunday. We will highlight spiritual growth opportunities, and envision new ways to deepen our walk with God in community. A light lunch will be provided. If you have any questions or to RSVP, please contact Margaret Gardner at mgardner@nationalpres.org.

Young Professionals Ice Cream Social Wednesday, Sept. 18, 7:00 pm

Yellow House - 4010 Van Ness St NW
Calling all young professionals! You're invited to say farewell to summer with one last ice cream social! Bring a friend, and bring a favorite topping or other dish to share. For questions and to RSVP, please email Kristin Franke at kfranke@nationalpres.org.

Community Food, Clothing, and Blood Drive Saturday, Sept. 21, 10 am-3 pm

Join us to make a difference in our community as we partner with Central Union Mission and Red Cross to collect and organize nonperishable food and gently used winter clothing for those suffering from the realities of hunger, food insecurity, and the approaching cold weather and respond to the national blood bank shortage. Click the [link here](#) or contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards at jedwards@nationalpres.org.

Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Saturday, Sept. 28

We want to walk with you on your journey of faith. To inquire about church membership or just learn more about Christian faith, come to this one-day class. For more info or to [register](#) by September 18, visit our [Events webpage](#) or contact Kemet Rakiatu at 202.537.7578 or krakiatu@nationalpres.org.

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.

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:



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 Marieta Love.

We pray for:

Martha's Table, as they engage the DC community in developing sustainable solutions to poverty.

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 are given with grateful hearts to the glory of God by Donald and Marcia F. Bini in loving memory of their Mothers, Hilda E. Bini and Ione S. Freeman, remembering their September birthdays.



Stephen Ministry

Our Stephen ministers will listen and pray with you weekly. 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



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