

August 24, 2025

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*If a brother or sister is naked and lacks
daily food and one of you says to them,
"Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,"
and yet you do not supply their bodily needs,
what is the good of that?*

James 2:15-16



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 & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!

Ministry Reports

Today, August 24, 9:45 am

Stone Hall

During the Sunday School hour we will have our annual Ministry Reports! Come hear all that our faithful God has been doing through Vacation Bible School, the Middle and High School Youth Trips, and Serve Council's trip to Ghana with International Justice Mission (IJM).

Care, Prayer, Dare Event

Single Service Sunday,

August 31, 10:00 am

Diaper Collection

- **Care:** Donate diapers for our mission partner Young Lives.
- **Prayer:** Come together in prayerful worship at 10:00 am.
- **Dare:** Take the Care Challenge! Commit to share a simple act of Christian love in the coming week.

Labor Day Sunday is our fun Care, Prayer, Dare hands-on event! Our Care collection this year is diapers for our mission partner Young Lives. Diapers of any size can be brought to church bins anytime. You can also contribute to the diaper drive online on our [Events page](#).

Next Sunday, join us for hands-on activities, ICE CREAM, cookies, and community after the 10:00 am service outside on the upper plaza. For more information, contact Leslie Saum (202-537-7494 or lsaum@nationalpres.org).

Plenary with International Justice Mission (IJM)

Sunday, September 7, 9:55 am

Stone Fellowship Hall

You are invited to a powerful and eye-opening plenary session with Jordan Gustafson, Head of Mobilization for International Justice Mission (IJM)—a global organization working to end human trafficking. Come hear how IJM is partnering with local communities around the world to rescue victims, hold perpetrators accountable, and strengthen justice systems to protect the vulnerable.

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, August 24

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:45 am: Ministry Reports
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies & Community

Sunday, August 31

- 10:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 11:00 am: Care, Prayer, Dare Event

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, September 6, 8:00 am

Stone Fellowship Hall

Men are invited to join us in-person at NPC on the first Saturday of every month for our men's breakfast. Email grow@nationalpres.org for more information.

International Justice Mission

Ghana Trip Report & Luncheon

Sunday, September 7, 12:30 pm

Parlor

You are invited for a special luncheon and trip report highlighting the work International Justice Mission (IJM) is doing in Ghana to combat child labor. Members of Serve Council will share reflections on their recent trip and how the experience has shaped their faith and discipleship.

Children & Youth Fall Kickoff Picnic

Sunday, September 7, 5:00 pm

Stone Fellowship Hall

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! Whether you're new and just checking us out, or looking forward to reconnecting with friends after the summer, come along to kickoff the new year together. Main dishes will be provided, but you are welcome to sign up to bring salads, desserts, or drinks.

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 All Creatures of Our God and King arr. David Crowder

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing:

O praise him, Alleluia!

Thou, burning sun with golden beam, thou, silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise him, O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou, rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along,

O praise him, Alleluia!

Thou, rising moon in praise rejoice! Ye lights of evening, find a voice!

O praise him, O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless! And worship him in humbleness.

O praise him, Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit—Three in One!

O praise him, O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O Alleluia! Alleluia! (3x) O Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Larsen

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, though you were rich, yet for our sakes you became poor.

You have promised that whatever is done for the least of your children,
you will receive as done to you.

Forgive our sinful inattention to those around us.

In your mercy forgive our sins of self-centeredness and pride.

Help us look beyond our own needs to help meet the needs of others.

Help us remember that our neighbor is our very great concern
because our neighbor is your very great concern.

Extend through us the blessings of your kingdom to our neighbors and the world.

Based on St. Augustine

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 2:14-22 Leslie Dawkins
Pew Bible Page 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 Religion: Loving God and Neighbor 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 Oceans Joel Houston

You call me out upon the waters, the great unknown where feet may fail,
And there I find you in the mystery; in oceans deep, my faith will stand.

*And I will call upon your name and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in your embrace
for I am yours and you are mine.*

Your grace abounds in deepest waters, your sovereign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
you've never failed and you won't start now.

*So I will call upon your name and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in your embrace
for I am yours and you are mine.*

Spirit, lead me where my trust is without borders;
let me walk upon the waters wherever you would call me.
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander
and my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Savior. (2x)

*And I will call upon your name and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in your embrace
for I am yours and you are mine.*

▲ 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

1,000 Tongues

Matt Maher and Chris Tomlin

We are a sea of voices, we are an ocean of your praise gathered under one name.

We are a tide that's rising and we cannot be contained, gathered under one name.

O for a thousand tongues to sing the glories of our Lord God Almighty.

O to sing the Savior's praise, a triumph of his grace.

You are worthy, you are worthy, God.

We have found our anthem at the cross where sin was slain; gathered under one name.

Where ev'ry chain is broken and ev'ry sorrow swept away; gathered under one name.

O for a thousand tongues to sing the glories of our Lord God Almighty.

O to sing the Savior's praise, a triumph of his grace.

You are worthy, you are worthy, God.

With all heaven sing, and all earth below: One Holy King, one highest throne! (2x)

O for a thousand tongues to sing the glories of our Lord God Almighty.

O to sing the Savior's praise, a triumph of his grace.

You are worthy, you are worthy, God. Repeat

▲ 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

Nimrod (from Enigma Variations)

Edward Elgar
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN

O Praise God's Gracious Power

Marion

O praise God's gracious power that tumbles walls of fear,
And gathers in one house of faith all strangers far and near:

Refrain: We praise you, Christ, your cross has made us one!

O praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
A living temple built on Christ, our rock and cornerstone: *Refrain*

O praise persistent truth that opens fisted minds,
And eases from their anxious clutch the prejudice that blinds: *Refrain*

O praise the living Christ with faith's bright, tuneful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world, and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

Thomas H. Troeger

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Larsen

CHORAL RESPONSE Come, Ye that Love the Lord

Alice Parker
Albion

Come, ye that love the Lord, and let your love be known;
Join in a song of sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.

The sorrows of the mind be banished from this place;
Religion never was designed to make our pleasure less.

Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;
But children of the heav'nly King may speak their joys abroad.

Isaac Watts

CONFESSION OF SIN in unison

Rev. Larsen

O Lord, though you were rich, yet for our sakes you became poor.
You have promised that whatever is done for the least of your children,
you will receive as done to you.

Forgive our sinful inattention to those around us.

In your mercy forgive our sins of self-centeredness and pride.
Help us look beyond our own needs to help meet the needs of others.

Help us remember that our neighbor is our very great concern
because our neighbor is your very great concern.

Extend through us the blessings of your kingdom to our neighbors and the world.

Based on St. Augustine

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 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 2:14-22 Wanda Martinson
Pew Bible Page 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 Religion: Loving God and Neighbor Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE *King's Weston*
 If our hearts are lifted where devotion soars high above this hungry, suff'ring world of ours,
 Lest our songs should dull us to forget its needs, forge our heartfelt worship into holy deeds.
 Fred Pratt Green, alt.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS Rev. Craig Meek

OFFERTORY Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace Howard Helvey
 Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 Where there is injury. Let there be pardon;
 Where there is doubt, let me sow faith;
 Where there is anguish, let there be hope;
 Where there is darkness, let there be light;
 Where there is sadness, let there be joy.
 O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
 To be consoled, as to console;
 To be understood, as to understand;
 To be loved, as to love.
 For it is in giving that we receive;
 It is in pard'ning that we are pardoned;
 And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen. Based on Francis of Assisi

- ▲ 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

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.
- ▲ HYMN

Help Us, O Lord, to Learn

St. Thomas

Help us, O Lord to learn the truths your Word imparts:
To study that your laws may be inscribed upon our hearts.
Help us, O Lord, to live the faith that we proclaim,
That all our thoughts and words and deeds may glorify your name.
Help us, O Lord to teach the beauty of your ways,
That yearning friends may find our Christ, and sing aloud his praise.

W. W. Reid, alt.
- ▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton
- ▲ CHORAL AMEN

Howard Helvey
- ▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Meek
- ▲ POSTLUDE

Rigaudon

André Campra
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

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Summer Ministry Reports
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship
- **12:15 pm:** Coffee, Cookies, & Community

Childcare

Childcare is available 8:30 am until the close of the 11:00 am service. The Nursery (Room 207) and the Toddler Room (Room 230) are located on the second floor of the main church building. Infants - crawling should go to the Nursery and those who are walking - pre-K 4 should utilize the Toddler Room.

Library Hours: 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Our NPC Library, located on the second floor, is open from 9:00 am-1:00 pm on Sundays. Stop in to say hi! We've got books for all ages and ministries to enrich your faith journey and further our mission of leading people to become faithful followers of Jesus together in God's world.

Summer Ministry Reports

During the Sunday School hour we will have our annual Ministry Reports! Come hear all that our faithful God has been doing this summer through Vacation Bible School and on the Middle and High School Youth Trips.

Children and Youth Sunday School will begin on September 7. Adult Sunday School will begin on September 14 - stay tuned for more information about our class offerings!

Upcoming Schedule:

- August 24: Ministry Reports during Sunday School hour
- August 31: **Single Service at 10:00 am** - Care, Prayer, Dare Event
- September 7: Sunday School begins for Youth, Children, and Parent Gathering
- September 7: Special Mission Plenary with International Justice Mission
- September 14: Adult Sunday School Fall session begins

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Small Groups Registration Open Register by Wednesday, September 10

Small group Bible studies will explore the challenges of trusting God's healing power in our lives. Together we will learn how to step into deeper service, intercessory prayer, and hope in Jesus. Please register [on our website](#) by September 10 to be placed in an in-person or Zoom group.

Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Saturday, September 27, 9:00 am

Register by September 17

Becoming a church member here at National can be a meaningful step forward in your spiritual journey. To inquire about membership or just learn more about Christian faith, please attend the membership class on September 27. For more information or to register by September 17, visit our [website](#) or contact Kemet Rakiatu (202-537-7578 or KRakiatu@NationalPres.org).

Middle School Fall Retreat September 26-28

Register by September 19

All middle school youth are invited for a weekend away, growing in faith in Christ and fellowship with fellow NPC youth friends at the Breakaway Retreat. We're also in need of adults who would like to be chaperones for the weekend! For more information, to register, or to volunteer, please visit our [Events page](#) or contact Kristin Franke (kfranke@nationalpres.org).

Fall Community Blood, Food, & Clothing Drive

Saturday, September 20, 10:00 am-3:00 pm

Come make a difference in our community as we partner with Central Union Mission and the 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 national blood bank shortage. For more details, visit our [Events page](#) or contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org).

Serve on the NPC Welcome Team - Up Front or Behind the Scenes!

You are invited to be part of the vital team that not only greets and connects with folks on Sundays, but does important work behind the scenes to care for and connect our NPC family. Please visit our [Serve at Church](#) page and sign up today! You may also contact Leslie Saum (202-537-7494 or lsaum@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 the Connections Ministry (202-537-7494 or lsaum@nationalpres.org).

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Claude and Betty Bennett and in celebration of their lifelong dedication to spreading Christ's message of love and redemption around the world, and celebrating what would have been their 67th anniversary on August 29th.

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God by Lalla and Diego Marquez in honor of Lalla's parents, David and Currie Renwick, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on August 23.

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!

Scan this QR code to learn more about NPC & get connected:



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.

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.

Get Connected Through Service!

Want to share in faith and fellowship through service? No matter your age, skills, or ability, you can use your gifts to serve our church and our community.

- View upcoming community service opportunities on our [Events](#) page or contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org).
- Want to serve at church? Visit our [Serve at Church](#) page or contact Leslie Saum (202-537-7494 or lsaum@nationalpres.org).
- If you're interested in photography, we would love to utilize your skills to capture photos of our NPC family on Sundays. Contact Caroline Etgen (cetgen@nationalpres.org).

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 (lskrine@nationalpres.org).

Prayers

We pray for:

our faithful witness to our community.

We pray for:

Friendship Place, as they provide care for people experiencing homelessness.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office, careoffice@nationalpres.org
202-537-7540.

“Let the little children come to me...” – Matthew 19:14

NPC loves children in worship! Kids learn how to worship God and what it means to be loved and accepted in God's family. As adults, we are blessed with the opportunity to honor our baptismal vows and support the spiritual growth of our youngest disciples as we worship alongside them. If you are worshipping with children nearby, please welcome and encourage them as they grow in their faith.



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