

September 21, 2025

# Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*But he said to me,  
"My grace is sufficient for you,  
for power is made perfect in weakness."  
So I will boast all the more gladly  
of my weaknesses,  
so that the power of Christ  
may dwell in me.  
2 Corinthians 12:9*



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

## **Thank You for Participating in the Fall Food, Clothing, and Blood Drive**

Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers and participants who generously gave their time, energy, and resources to make yesterday's Food, Clothing, and Blood Drive a success. Your generous food and clothing donations will go right into the hands of families and individuals in need at Central Union Mission's DC and Northern Virginia facilities, and your blood donations for the Red Cross will help save lives. Your compassion was inspiring as we came together to love our neighbors and serve our community.

## **Job Loss & Uncertainty Prayer Gathering Today, September 21, 12:15 pm Room 109**

Your Deacons will host a prayer gathering for those struggling with job loss and uncertainty. Come for prayer and support.

## **Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Saturday, September 27, 9:00 am Register by Tomorrow, September 22**

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 22, visit our [website](#) or contact Kemet Rakiatu (202-537-7578 or [krakiatu@nationalpres.org](mailto:krakiatu@nationalpres.org)).

## **Meet Your Deacons!**

### **Sunday, September 28, 12:15 pm Stone Fellowship Hall**

Deacons are servant leaders who care for the congregation. They listen to your concerns, pray with you, visit when you are ill, support you through difficult times, and help you connect with other church members. Come to Stone Fellowship Hall to enjoy cookies and meet the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia Deacons.

## **Week at a Glance**

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

### **Sunday, September 21**

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies, & Community
- 12:15 pm: Job Loss & Uncertainty Prayer Gathering
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

### **Friday - Sunday, September 26-28**

- Middle School Fall Retreat

### **Saturday, September 27**

- 9:00 am: Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class

### **Sunday, September 28**

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Meet Your Deacons
- 12:30 pm: Legacy Giving ABCs

## **Legacy Giving ABCs: Unlock the Power of Long-Term Generosity!**

### **Sunday, September 28, 12:30 pm Garden Rooms**

Are your long-term financial plans as generous as your heart? Join us for an informative session on Estate Planning, Planned Giving, and the relevant impacts of the recent tax law changes. Whether you need a will, are thinking about legacy giving, or wondering how recent tax changes benefit your charitable giving, this event is full of practical tips and insights. Lunch will be provided. Questions? Visit our [Events](#) page.

# 8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

Improvisations

Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lisa Larsen

### ▲ OPENING SONG

How Firm a Foundation

*Foundation*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can be said than to you God hath said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?  
"Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed,  
for I am thy God, I will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."  
"When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flames shall not hurt thee, I only design  
thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine."  
"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!"

### ▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Larsen

#### CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Out of the deep do we call unto you, O Lord.  
Lord, hear our voice!  
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of our supplications!  
If you, O Lord, should mark our iniquities, Lord, who could stand?  
But with you is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.  
We wait for the Lord, our souls wait, and in his word is our hope.  
Our souls wait for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,  
More than those who watch for the morning.  
Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord is steadfast love,  
And great power to redeem.  
It is the Lord who redeems us from all our iniquities.

Psalms 130

#### 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                      2 Corinthians 12:1-10                      Virginia Herndon  
*Pew Bible Pages 943-944*

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES                      Jill Meek  
Director of Children's 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                      Unanswered Prayer, Unshaken Faith                      Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.  
*Prayer, Compassion, and the Healing Power of Christ*

## 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                      Battle Belongs                      Brian Johnson and Phil Wickham

When all I see is the battle, you see my victory.

When all I see is a mountain, you see a mountain moved.

And as I walk through the shadow, your love surrounds me.

There's nothing to fear now, for I am safe with you.

*So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees, with my hands lifted high.*

*O God, the battle belongs to you!*

*And every fear I lay at your feet. I'll sing through the night.*

*O God, the battle belongs to you.*

And if you are for me, who can be against me?

For Jesus, there's nothing impossible for you.

When all I see are the ashes, you see the beauty.

When all I see is a cross, God, you see the empty tomb. *Chorus*

O God, the battle belongs to you.

*Lasst uns erfreuen*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

## Dr. Stoltzfus

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Chris Tomlin

I once was lost but now I'm found was blind but now I see.

How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

*My chains are gone, I've been set free!*

*My God, my Savior, has ransomed me!*

*And like a flood, his mercy reigns unending love, amazing grace.*

He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. *Chorus (2x)*

But God who called me here below will be forever mine, will be forever mine.

You are forever mine.

## Dr. Hylton

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

# NOTES

# 11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Prelude on Psalm 34:6

Herbert Howells  
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN 487 *verses 1-3*

When Morning Gilds the Skies

*Lauda Domini*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Larsen

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn 487, verse 4

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine: May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this thèternal song through all the ages long: May Jesus Christ be praised!

CONFESSION OF SIN in unison

Rev. Larsen

Out of the deep do we call unto you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of our supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark our iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But with you is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.

We wait for the Lord, our souls wait, and in his word is our hope.

Our souls wait for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,

More than those who watch for the morning.

Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord is steadfast love,

And great power to redeem.

It is the Lord who redeems us from all our iniquities.

Psalm 130

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 12:1-10  
*Pew Bible Pages 943-944*

Deborah Cole

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Jill Meek  
Director of Children's 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

Unanswered Prayer, Unshaken Faith  
*Prayer, Compassion, and the Healing Power of Christ*

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

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

CHORAL RESPONSE

*The Lord speaks purest truth, like silver seven times refined.*  
Psalm 12:6

Alice Parker  
Foundation

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply.  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

OFFERTORY

If Thou but Trust in God

*Wer nur den lieben Gott*

*Soloist*

If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hopeful heart through all thy ways,  
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee, to bear thee through the coming days.  
Who trusts in God's unchanging love builds on the rock that nought can move.

*Choir*

Only be still, and wait God's leisure in cheerful hope, with heart content  
To take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure and all-discerning love hath sent.  
No doubt our inmost wants are clear to One who holds us always dear.

*Congregation*

Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine own part faithfully:  
Trust the rich promises of grace, so shall they be fulfilled in thee.  
God never yet forsook at need the soul secured by trust indeed.

Georg Neumark, 1657  
With Ethan Zorack-Greene, bass-baritone

▲ 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.

▲ HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

*Foundation*

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,

Is laid for your faith in God's excellent Word!

What more can be said than to you God hath said,

To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,

For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;

I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,

Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go,

The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;

For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,

And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress."

"The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,

I will not, I will not desert to its foes;

That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,

I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

*Morecambe*

Teach us to know that thou art always nigh; teach us the struggles of the soul to bear.

To check the rising doubt, the faithless sigh; teach us the patience of unanswered prayer.

George Croly, 1854, alt.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Stoltzfus

▲ POSTLUDE

Toccata on How Firm a Foundation

Craig Phillips

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



# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Sunday School For All Ages
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship
- **12:15 pm:** Coffee, Cookies, & Community

## Childcare

Childcare is available on the second floor of the main church building from 8:30 am until the close of the 11:00 am service. To maintain a safe environment, we have new age guidelines for each room, using the child's age as of September 30, 2025. Babies - 17 months are in Room 207. Early Toddlers (18 months - 2 years old) are in Room 230. 3's and 4's are in the Toddler Room (Room 231).

## 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.

## 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 Rooms 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:

- **Galatians and James**, R.V. Seep (*Chapel & Online*)
- **Discovering the Gospel of John**, Margaret Gardner & Quinn Fox (*Garden Room C*)
- **Uncommon Ground: Living Faithfully in a World of Difference**, Ginny Beeson, Lewrene Glaser, Nancy Fox (*Room 209*)
- **Parent Gathering** (*Jones Hall, National Presbyterian School*)

Visit our [website](#) for descriptions and more information.



**Called  
to Care**

### May we pray for you?

If you would like to request 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.*

Philippians 4:6

## Chapel Hallway Construction - No anticipated impact on Sunday activities

Construction has begun on the hallway outside the Chapel in the main church building to repair a leak in the ceiling. This work will include asbestos abatement. Construction will likely not affect Sunday activities; it will occur during the week. We have selected a licensed asbestos abatement contractor to perform this work in accordance with health and safety regulations. More information:

[Chapel Hallway Construction Webpage.](#)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Chancel Choir**

Love to sing? The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm and Sunday mornings at 10:15 am to sing for the 11:00 am service. We would love to welcome you! For more information contact the music office at 202-537-7553 or [dwulff@nationalpres.org](mailto:dwulff@nationalpres.org).

## **New Small Group for Mothers**

Interested in joining a mom's small group? We are in the process of forming regional groups for mothers to come together for Bible study and fellowship. Visit our [Small Groups webpage](#) to fill out our registration form and help get these groups started!

## **Nominate Organizations for Mission Gifts for Christmas September 7-28**

Mission Gifts for Christmas is a meaningful way for our church to share Christ's love and generosity during the Christmas season. Each year, members of our congregation are invited to nominate a 501(c)(3) organization or a missionary affiliated with a 501(c)(3) to be featured in our Mission Gifts for Christmas Catalog and displayed in Stone Hall during December. Nominations are open from September 7–28. Visit our [Events](#) page to learn more and nominate an organization.

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

## **Women's Ministry Fall Brunch**

**Saturday, October 18, 12:00 pm**

**Register by Monday, October 13**

All women are invited to the Fall Brunch. Our speaker will be Christian writer and mentor Connally Gilliam on "Living the Unexpected Life," as we continue to pursue this year's theme of exchanging perfectionism for God's peace and presence. Please join us for inspiration, fellowship, delicious food, and a bit of fun. Visit our [Events page](#) to register by October 13.

## **Reflecting on Christian Patriotism: A Reformed Perspective**

**Saturday, October 4, 8:45 am**

**Stone Fellowship Hall**

This event co-hosted by the Reformed Institute and NPC with special guest speaker Dr. Mark Valeri will explore the relationship between Christianity and patriotism. For more information visit our [Events](#) page or contact Dr. Quinn Fox ([qfox@nationalpres.org](mailto:qfox@nationalpres.org)).

## **Plenary: How to Celebrate the 250th Anniversary of America's Founding Sunday, October 5, 9:55 am**

**Stone Fellowship Hall**

Special guest speaker Dr. Mark Valeri will probe different perspectives already coming into focus, from celebration of high ideals to critique of social inequalities in early America. He also will bring biblical texts to bear on our approach to America's creation. For more information visit our [Events](#) page or contact Dr. Quinn Fox ([qfox@nationalpres.org](mailto:qfox@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](http://nationalpres.org/discipleship) or contact the Connections Ministry (202-537-7494 or [lsaum@nationalpres.org](mailto:lsaum@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!

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:lskrine@nationalpres.org)).

## Prayers

### We mourn:

the passing of Bill Morton  
and Nan Muntzing.

### We pray for:

Little Lights Urban Ministries as they provide tutoring, friendship, holistic ministry and services to children and families living in underserved communities in DC.

### How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office,  
[careoffice@nationalpres.org](mailto:careoffice@nationalpres.org)  
202-537-7540.

## Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given with grateful hearts to the glory of God with deep heartfelt appreciation to the Chancel Choir for its musical contribution to our Sunday morning service.

*“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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