

August 17, 2025

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*Now it is evident that no one is reckoned
as righteous before God by the law,
for "the one who is righteous will live by faith."
Galatians 3:11*



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)
Kevin Rose
(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!

Our Summer Schedule

Today during the Sunday School hour there are two wonderful ways to engage: Family Fellowship Coffee Hour in the Garden Rooms, and our Summer Speaker Series in Stone Fellowship Hall, which will offer invaluable insights about living faithfully in challenging times. Sunday School for children and adults begins in September. Check out page 9 for more information.

Job Loss & Uncertainty Prayer Gathering

**Today, August 17, 12:15 pm
Room 109**

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

Care, Prayer, Dare Event Single Service Sunday, August 31, 10:00 am Ongoing 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](#).

Then, on August 31, **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).

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, August 17

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:45 am: Summer Speaker Series
- 9:55 am: Family Fellowship Coffee Hour
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies & Community
- 12:15 pm: Job Loss & Uncertainty Prayer Gathering

Tuesday, August 19

- 7:00 pm: College Bible Study

Sunday, August 24

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

Ministry Reports

Sunday, August 24, 9:45 am Stone Hall

Next week 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.

Serve Our City:

Habitat for Humanity Build

Saturday, August 23, 8:30 am-3:00 pm
NPC is partnering with Habitat DC/NOVA for a special build day in Northeast DC. No building experience is needed—just a willing heart and helping hands! This is a great opportunity to serve and support local families in need of safe, affordable housing. For more details or to volunteer, contact Jonathan Edwards, Serve Director (jedwards@nationalpres.org). Spots are limited, so sign up soon!

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

Improvisations

Kevin Rose, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

▲ OPENING SONG

All Because of Jesus

Steve Fee

Giver of every breath I breathe, Author of all eternity,

Giver of every perfect thing, to you be the glory.

Maker of heaven and of earth, no one can comprehend your worth.

King over all the universe, to you be the glory.

And I'm alive because I'm alive in you.

It's all because of Jesus I'm alive.

*It's all because the blood of Jesus Christ
that covers me and raised this dead one's life.*

It's all because of Jesus I'm alive. Repeat verse, pre-chorus, & chorus

Every sunrise sings your grace, the universe cries out your praise.

I'm singing freedom all my days now that I'm alive. **Chorus (2x)**

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dr. Stoltzfus

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in faith; strengthen me.

I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent,
that my love may go out to my neighbor.

I am resistant in will; bend me and move me to repentance and obedience.

I do not have a strong and firm faith.

At times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.

Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

Based on Martin Luther

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. Stoltzfus
- 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

Dr. Quinn Fox

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 3:1-14
Pew Bible Page 946

Shanwai Lin
Children's Ministry Intern

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Fox

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

SERMON

Faith: Knowing and Becoming One with God
through Faith in Christ

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. Fox

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

▲ OFFERING SONG

Lord, I Need You

Christy Nockels

Lord, I come. I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest,
And without you, I fall apart. You're the one that guides my heart.

*Lord, I need you, O I need you. Every hour I need you.
My one Defense, my Righteousness, O God, how I need you.*

Where sin runs deep, your grace is more. Where grace is found, is where you are.
And where you are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.
And where you are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me. *Chorus*

So teach my song to rise to you, when temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you. Jesus, you're my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you. Jesus, you're my hope and stay. *Chorus (2x)*

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

▲ 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. Fox

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

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)*

▲ 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

Finlandia

Jean Sibelius
Jonathan Rajaseelan, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

▲ HYMN 457
verses 1-4

I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art

Toulon

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dr. Stoltzfus

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn 457, verse 5

Our hope is in no other save in thee; our faith is built upon thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
that in thy strength we evermore endure.

CONFESSION OF SIN in unison

Dr. Stoltzfus

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled. My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in faith; strengthen me.

I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent,
that my love may go out to my neighbor.

I am resistant in will; bend me and move me to repentance and obedience.

I do not have a strong and firm faith.

At times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.

Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

Based on Martin Luther

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

Dr. Stoltzfus

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

Galatians 3:1-14
Pew Bible Page 946

Dr. Robert Betz

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Fox

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

SERMON

Faith: Knowing and Becoming One with God
through Faith in Christ

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Sola fide

When far from God, and lost in sin, I took God's book and looked within;
I found a gift from heaven's throne, a righteousness from God made known.
All merit, boasting set aside, by faith alone I'm justified;
Before the throne I take my place, and rest in God's amazing grace.

James Montgomery Boice

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Fox

OFFERTORY

And Can It Be?

Dan Forrest

And can it be, and can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?

And can it be that I should gain and interest in the Savior's blood
Died he for me who caused his pain? For me who him to death pursued?

Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God shouldst die for me?

He left his Father's throne above, so free, so infinite his grace;
Emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless race;
Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my God, it found out me.

And can it be? And can it be? Amazing love, how can it be?

No condemnation now I dread, Jesus and all in him is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine.
Bold I approach th' eternal throne, and claim the crown through Christ my own.
Amazing love, how can it be that thou my God shouldst die for me?

Amazing love! Amazing love!

Charles Wesley

▲ 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. Fox

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

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;

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

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;

'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

John Newton

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

▲ CHORAL AMEN

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Fox

▲ POSTLUDE

Prelude, Fugue, and Chaconne in C, BuxWV 137

Dietrich Buxtehude

Mr. Rajaseelan, 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
- **9:45 am:** Summer Speaker Series
- **9:55 am:** Family Fellowship Coffee Hour
- **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.

Family Fellowship Coffee Hour

Today, August 17 at 9:55 am in between worship services, there will be a Family Fellowship Coffee Hour in the Garden Rooms in place of Hands-On Summer. Come for coffee, cookies, fun, and fellowship!

Summer Speaker Series - Living Faithfully in Challenging Times

Each Sunday this summer, we'll welcome a special guest speaker on a topic of contemporary concern or perennial meaning for faithful Christians to consider. We will meet in Stone Fellowship Hall from 9:45-10:45 am.

Today, August 17: Nicole Bibbins Sedeca, Fellow, George W. Bush Institute
Faith and Foreign Policy

With an increasingly complex global landscape, there is significant debate about the role of the United States and its foreign policy. We will explore the current global challenges, the United States' foreign policy and how it has evolved, and what it means for the Christian community.

August 24

Summer 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.

This is the last week of our Summer Schedule. Thanks for all who attended our Summer Speaker Series, Hands-On Summer, and Family Fellowship Coffee Hour!

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.

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.

Plenary with Int'l Justice Mission

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 modern slavery, human trafficking, and exploitation. 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.

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.

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, click here or contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org).

Join Our Welcome Team!

Up Front or Behind the Scenes – Serve on the NPC Welcome Team! You are invited to be part of the vital team that not only greets and connects, but also does important behind the scenes work in ministry. 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).

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



**Called
to Care**

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

Isaiah 1:17

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:

those who are lonely.

We pray for:

Evangelical Theological Seminary as they train pastors and lay people in biblical and theological studies in Croatia.

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 by David and Roz Mack to the glory of God and in gratitude for His blessings.

“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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