



February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

Exodus 3:5

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors

Parish Associate
Music

Ministry Directors

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
Rev. Lisa Larsen
Rev. Craig Meek
Kristin Franke
Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus
Dr. Michael Denham (Director)
Todd Fickley (Organist)
Joanna Zorack-Greene
(Contemporary Music Leader)
Jonathan Edwards (Serve)
Jill Meek (Children)
Carol Han (Connections)

TODAY AT NPC

New Member Recognition

Today is New Member Recognition Sunday! In addition to welcoming our newest members into the church family during worship, we invite everyone to wear your name tags and come meet them at a reception after the 11:00 am service in Stone Fellowship Hall.

New Members

Betty Bursey	Chevy Chase, MD	Bruce Ghrist	Bethesda, MD
Jennie Chandra	Bethesda, MD	Wade Griggs	Washington, DC
Ravi Chandra	Bethesda, MD	Valerie Mallett	Washington, DC
Alyson Flynn	McLean, VA	Kellen Moore	Washington, DC
Zach Flynn	McLean, VA	Benjamin Novak	North Bethesda, MD
Stephanie Folarin	Washington, DC	Wei Shen	Bethesda, MD
Ian Geary	Washington, DC	Carter Simpson	Washington, DC
Susan Geary	Washington, DC		

If you are interested in membership here at National or just learning more about the Christian faith, please attend the next Pathway of Christian Discipleship class on April 25. For more information, please contact Kemet Rakiatu (krakiatu@nationalpres.org or 202-537-7578).

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!

College Student Luncheon

Sunday, March 1, 12:15 pm

Parlor

All college students are invited to bring a friend and enjoy lunch after 11:00 am worship. Come get to know NPC better, and help us get to know you better! No RSVP necessary. Please contact Kristin Franke (kfranke@nationalpres.org) with any questions.

Spring Women's Ministry Retreat

Saturday, March 7, 9:00 am

Stone Fellowship Hall

You are invited to a beautifully paced day of rest, renewal, and rich connection as we gather around this year's theme, *Loved Beyond Measure*, an exploration of God's faithful, fulfilling love for us. Our retreat speaker, Elizabeth Fitch, brings a warm, grounded presence shaped by a life that has woven together small-town roots and big-city experience. We'll enjoy great music, a delicious lunch, and the gift of unhurried time together. Visit the [Events page](#) to [register](#) and for more information.

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, February 22

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: New Member Reception
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Sunday, March 1

- 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: Mission Trip Meeting
- 5:00 pm: Club 45
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

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

Exodus 3:1-6
Pew Bible Page 44

Deacon Jeanne Su

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Larsen

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

SERMON

Encountering God More Deeply
The God Who Draws Near

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

Reckless Love

Cory Asbury

Before I spoke a word, you were singing over me.

You have been so, so good to me.

Before I took a breath, you breathed your life in me.

You have been so, so kind to me.

O the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God.

O it chases me down, fights 'til I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine.

I couldn't earn it. I don't deserve it. Still, you give yourself away.

O the overwhelming, never-ending reckless, love of God.

When I was your foe, still your love fought for me.

You have been so, so good to me.

When I felt no worth, you paid it all for me.

You have been so, so kind to me. Chorus

▲ 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!

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Choralvorspiel and Fugue
on "O Traurigkeit, O Herzeleid"

Johannes Brahms
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
The Ancient of eternal days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heav'n confessed—
We bow before the Holy Name forever blest.

God by his name has sworn, on this we can depend,
And as on eagles' wings upborne to heav'n ascend.
There we shall see Christ's face; God's pow'r we shall adore,
And sing the wonders of God's grace forevermore.

God has eternal life implanted in the soul;
God's love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Larsen

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Triumphant hosts on high give thanks to God and sing,
And "Holy, holy, holy" cry, "Almighty King!"
Hail Abraham's God and ours! One mighty hymn we raise.
All pow'r and majesty be yours, and endless praise!

Thomas Olivers

CONFESSiON OF SIN *in unison*

Rev. Larsen

Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
you made heaven and earth, you rule supreme over all.

You are the true, the only God; there is no god above you.
It is your will that we should come to know you.

In your infinite mercy you have drawn near to us,
seeking to save the lost, yearning to restore all to
right relationship with you.

Yet our sin stands as a barrier between us and you,
between your holiness and our deep need of forgiveness.
Cleanse us, we pray, that through the work of your Holy Spirit
we may know you more fully, and worship you more truly.

Based on Irenaeus of Lyons

SILENT CONFESSiON AND KYRIE *sung first by the choir, then the congregation*

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

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

Exodus 3:1-6

Ed Blanton

Pew Bible Page 44

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Larsen

*Kindergarten to 5th graders may exit with leaders for Children's Chapel.
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SERMON

*Encountering God More Deeply
The God Who Draws Near*

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Maryton

O God, your love's undying flame was seen in desert bush ablaze,
When Moses learned your secret Name: the Lord of past and future days.
Lord, we would learn what you require, and burn for you with living fire.

Basil E. Bridge

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

OFFERTORY

Draw Near, O God

Paul Tschesnokoff

Draw near, O God. O God, draw near—O Lord God Almighty.
We praise thee above, O Lord, holy Lord. Alleluia.

Salvation Is Created

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

Dr. Hylton

Exchange of Vows

Prayer *in unison*

God of love, we rejoice to receive these newest brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. May they discover your grace in Jesus Christ, through membership in this church family. May your love hold them, your truth guide them, your joy delight them.

Gracious God, touch us all again this day with your grace of belonging. Give us new lives for old, new spirits, new faith, and new commitment in place of all that has grown tired or stale in our lives.

We have heard your call and are made new by your Spirit. So may we rise and go from here to discover whatever awaits us, in joy and in trust, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

▲ 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 THE 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 525

Here I Am, Lord

Here I Am

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

▲ CHORAL ALLELUIA

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Stoltzfus

▲ POSTLUDE

My Jesus Calls To Me
Op. 122, No. 1

Johannes Brahms
Mr. Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

*Please come forward after worship for confidential prayer
with one of our Deacons or Stephen Ministers.*

*Everyone is invited downstairs to Stone Fellowship Hall after worship
for a reception to meet and welcome our new members.*

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

NOTES

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Sunday School For All Ages
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship
- **12:15 pm:** New Member Reception

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

- **Church in Late Antiquity**, R.V. Seep (*Chapel & Online*)
- **Discovering the Gospel of John**, Margaret Gardner (*Garden Room C*)
- **Financial Peace University**, Megan Schmoll & Leah Skrine (*Garden Room A*)
- **The Listening Life**, Ginny Beeson & Lewrene Glaser (*Room 209*)
- **Parent Gathering** (*Jones Hall, National Presbyterian School*)

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



Feeling anxious or burdened? Need to slow down?

Care Notes are inspirational booklets on various topics. Pick one up in the Welcome Center. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202-537-7540

*He cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7b*

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Serve Summit:

Come Learn. Come Connect. Come Serve.

Sunday, March 8, 12:30 pm

Garden Room C

All are welcome and invited to enjoy a delicious meal and learn about the many transformational mission partnerships and service opportunities that National Presbyterian Church is engaged in—locally, nationally, and around the world. Discover meaningful ways you can become involved and make a difference as we celebrate the impact of the Serve Ministry and explore the exciting work God is doing throughout our community.

Last Chance to Sign Up:

Romania Mission Trip

June 5-14

Interested in joining a mission trip to Romania June 5–14, 2026? NPC will partner with the Smiles Foundation Outreach Team to care for vulnerable communities. The deadline to sign up is today. For additional details, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org).

Call for Singers

*National Presbyterian Church
Festival Choir and Orchestra Concert*

Palm Sunday

5 PM March 29, 2026

Music of Felix Mendelssohn

"As The Hart Pants," Op. 42, No. 1

"Hymn of Praise," Op. 52

Rehearsal Schedule

Preliminary Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm
February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21

Performance Weekend

Friday, March 27, 7 pm to 10 pm

Saturday, March 28, 10 am to 2 pm

Sunday, March 29, 3:30 pm

Call Pre-Register Online

or Call the Music Office at 202-537-7553

Ordination of Associate Pastor

Kristin Franke

Sunday, March 15, 3:00 pm

Sanctuary

The National Capital Presbytery joyfully invites you to the Service of Ordination for Kristin Franke as Associate Pastor for Next Generation Formation at the National Presbyterian Church. The church nursery will be open for infants-PreK. Following the Service, there will be a reception in Stone Fellowship Hall.

Legacy Giving. Do you need some friendly advice about estate planning? Have you been thinking about a legacy gift to NPC but are not quite sure how to start? The NPC Fund for Charitable Giving has been helping congregants for 20 years with this. Reach out to former Clerk and this year's President of the Fund, John Gregg (npcclerk@gmail.com).

Call for Praise Band

Do you play drums, guitar, bass, another instrument or sing? Our Contemporary Worship Band is looking for volunteer musicians to join our rotating roster. Participation does not need to be weekly and is Sunday mornings only. You are welcome to "try it out" if interested. If you love music and are interested in serving through worship, we'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to our fabulous band leader Joanna Zorack-Greene (jzorackgreene@nationalpres.org) for

Associate for Youth Ministries

NPC is hiring an Associate for Youth

Ministries. The ideal candidate has a heart for reaching middle school and high school youth with the Good News of Jesus Christ. This position will be responsible for all aspects of weekly youth programs and special events, as well as maintaining the relational outreach and connection aspect of the Youth Ministry. For more information and to apply, visit

nationalpres.org/jobs.

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, our community, and our world. Scan the QR code to learn more about the opportunities below.



- View upcoming community service opportunities on our [Events](#) page or contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org).
- Want to help on Sundays? Visit our [Serve at Church](#) page or contact Carol Han (chan@nationalpres.org).
- If you're interested in photography, we would love to utilize your skills to capture photos on Sundays. Contact communications@nationalpres.org.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the Glory of God by Joanna Lam in loving memory of her grandmother Wee Siew Kim and her mother Judy Lam, remembering their birthdays in February and March.

Your Giving Makes a Difference

Because of your generosity and faithfulness last year, our church was able to balance the budget and continue fulfilling the mission God entrusted to us. We are deeply grateful for the trust you place in us and for your partnership in God's work. We give thanks for you and for all that was accomplished together in 2025.

To give now scan the QR code or text "NPC" to 833-414-9444. For other ways to give go to [nationalpres.org/giving](#), call our Finance Office at 202-537-7495, or email our Director of Finance and Administration at lskrine@nationalpres.org.



Prayers

We pray for:
those seeking employment.

We pray for:
NPC's youth, for God's encouragement and guidance as they grow, and for boldness to share the good news of Jesus.

How may we pray for you?
Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office,
careoffice@nationalpres.org
202-537-7540.

Per Capita

The National Capital Presbytery has set the per capita rate at \$48.56 per person, which is the amount NPC pays for each active member in our congregation. You may scan the QR Code below if you would like to contribute toward this cost.



Heritage Brief

FREDERICK DOUGLASS ADDRESS AT OUR CHURCH IN 1866

On Tuesday evening, February 13, 1866, probably the best-known and most-significant event of the 19th Century to occur at our church (then the First Presbyterian Church of Washington) took place: a speech delivered from our pulpit by the renowned abolitionist, orator, and writer, Frederick Douglass. This charity fundraising-event was approved and endorsed by our long-time pastor Dr. Byron Sunderland and the Session at the request of a local charity which supported indigent black women and children who had been freed from slavery beginning with emancipation in the District of Columbia four years earlier. Because of Mr. Douglass's race, no other white organization or church in town was willing to allow him to speak in its facility, but Sunderland—long an outspoken abolitionist himself—and the elders at First Church approved the request as being fully appropriate for a Christian church.

On the very day that our church approved this use of the sanctuary for a week hence, a sizeable, highly publicized, and contentious meeting occurred at the White House between a Douglass-led group and President Andrew Johnson over the group's demand for black civil rights and equality before the law. This was immediately followed by strong, public criticism of the President by Douglass over the shoddy way the group had been treated. In response to Douglass's criticism, a significant number of church members and pew holders, including some lay leaders, proceeded to oppose Douglass's use of our pulpit, feeling that he had been rude to the President, even as many others remained supportive of his upcoming address. This internal argument grew quite heated and very public during the week leading up to the speech, but the event was held as scheduled and was a great success. A crowd of about 1,000, including many dignitaries, heard the two-hour address. (The subject: "The Assassination and Its Lessons"—on the killing of President Lincoln in the city just ten months earlier.)

Unfortunately, the internal conflict at the church became even more public after the event, drawing both praise and condemnation in newspapers as far away as San Francisco. Eventually about a third of the congregation left First Presbyterian because of this event of great charity held there. Years later Dr. Sunderland said he was amazed the church survived the occasion—though gradually it grew again. The strong Biblical position on racial generosity taken by Dr. Sunderland and the Session in 1866 continues at NPC today.

Prepared by the NPC History & Archives Ministry



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