

April 19, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter

Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*A gentle tongue is a tree of life,
but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.*

Proverbs 15:4

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
Rev. Lisa Larsen
Rev. Craig Meek
Rev. 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)

Parish Associate
Music

Ministry Directors



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!

2nd Grade Milestone: The Apostles' Creed

Today, during 11:00 am worship, our 2nd graders lead us in reciting the Apostles' Creed. As a part of Sunday School, each grade, Kindergarten through 5th, learns a "Milestone in Worship," an element of our worship liturgy. Milestones help children to participate in worship and develop a language of faith.

Strategic Plan Presentation Today, 12:15 pm

Sanctuary

Easter is a season of new beginnings, and we have one to celebrate together. Today, following the 11:00 am service, we invite the entire congregation to an All-Church Meeting where the Strategic Planning Team will share NPC's newly Session-approved Strategic Plan. This plan was prayerfully developed with your input, building on the past decade of momentum God has bestowed upon us. Join us afterwards in Stone Hall to celebrate our shared calling to worship, discipleship, care, and service in the years ahead. We can't wait to celebrate what God has in store for NPC!

Thank You for a Successful Great Day of Service!

We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated in the *Great Day of Service* on April 18. Because of your incredible generosity and dedication, we packed 20,000 meals for those facing food insecurity around the world. We also collected multiple pallets of food, clothing, and diapers for our local community, renovated a home with Habitat for Humanity, welcomed refugee families, and served many guest at Central Union Men's Shelter. Your compassion and hard work have made a real difference. Thank you!

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, April 19

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm Strategic Plan Presentation
- 12:30 pm: Coffee, Cookies, & Community
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Saturday, April 25

- 9:00 am: Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class

Sunday, April 26

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

Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am

Want to dig deeper on discipleship with pastors and leaders? Or are you considering church membership as a next step on your journey of faith? We invite you to attend our one-day membership class. Come learn more about NPC and the Christian faith. Meet new friends, and enjoy food and fellowship. For more info or to register by April 20, visit our [Events](#) page or contact Kemet Rakiatu (krakiatu@nationalpres.org or 202-537-7578).

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 (chan@nationalpres.org).

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING Improvisations Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Kristin Franke

▲ OPENING SONG Come, People of the Risen King Keith and Kristyn Getty

Come, people of the Risen King, who delight to bring him praise!

Come, all, and tune your hearts to sing to the Morning Star of grace!

From the shifting shadows of the earth, we will lift our eyes to him,
where steady arms of mercy reach, to gather children in.

Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!

One heart, one voice! O, church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun and those weeping through the night.

Come, those who tell of battles won and those struggling in the fight.

For his perfect love will never change and his mercies never cease,
but follow us through all our days with the certain hope of peace. *Chorus*

Come, young and old from every land—men and women of the faith.

Come, those with full or empty hands, find the riches of his grace!

Over all the world his people sing, shore to shore we hear them call
the truth that cries through every age: Our God is all in all! *Chorus (2x)*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Franke

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father,

and with it we curse those who have been made in the image of God.

From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.

This ought not to be.

Does a spring pour forth from the same source both fresh and salt water?

Can a fig tree yield olives, or a grapevine figs?

Almighty God, in whom there is no darkness at all,

guard us against such duplicitous and sinful speech, and forgive us, we pray.

Then set a watch, O Lord, upon our tongues,

that we may never speak the cruel word which is untrue;

or being true is not the whole truth;

or being wholly true, is merciless;

for the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

From the Apostle James and Eric Milner-White and George Wallace Briggs

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
 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, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PATHWAY

Rev. Franke
 Elder Bryce Pippert

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 15:1-7
Pew Bible Page 521

Elder Glenn Schmitt

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Franke

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

SERMON

Flourishing Together
A Biblical Journey through Marriage and Relationships
 Building a Relationship with Kind Words

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

If We're Honest

Francesca Battistelli

Truth is harder than a lie. The dark seems safer than the light.
 And everyone has a heart that loves to hide.

I'm a mess and so are you. We've built walls nobody can get through.
 Yeah, it may be hard but the best thing we could ever do, ever do.

*Bring your brokenness and I'll bring mine. 'Cause love can heal what hurt divides.
 And mercy's waiting on the other side,
 if we're honest (ooh ooh), if we're honest (ooh ooh).*

Don't pretend to be something that you're not, living life afraid of getting caught.

There is freedom found when we lay our secrets down at the cross, at the cross. *Chorus*
If we're honest.

▲ **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 Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

Pat Barrett

It all comes down to this, what you require of me.

Love my neighbor as myself and you above all things.

Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly, with you God.

In all things, in all ways, walk humbly, with you God.

It all comes down to this, to be your hands and feet.

Good news to all the world; the truth will set us free. *Chorus*

It's beauty for ashes, it's mourning to dancing,

it's closer and closer, the Kingdom of heaven. (2x)

Years from now we'll see the fruit our hands have sown.

Faith just like a seed the only way it grows. *Chorus*

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Hylton

▲ SENDING

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

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

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

NOTES

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE Gloria François Couperin
from Mass for the Convents Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Kristin Franke

▲ HYMN 491 Stand Up and Bless the Lord Carlisle

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Franke

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE Kurt Kaiser
My mouth shall speak the name of the Lord, my mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord.
Now let all flesh praise God's holy name forever.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison* Rev. Franke

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father,
and with it we curse those who have been made in the image of God.
From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.
This ought not to be.

Does a spring pour forth from the same source both fresh and salt water?

Can a fig tree yield olives, or a grapevine figs?

Almighty God, in whom there is no darkness at all,

guard us against such duplicitous and sinful speech, and forgive us, we pray.

Then set a watch, O Lord, upon our tongues,

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or being true is not the whole truth;

or being wholly true, is merciless;

for the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.

From the Apostle James and Eric Milner-White and George Wallace Briggs

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON Rev. Franke

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 Led by NPC 2nd Graders

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

Proverbs 15:1-7
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Dr. Robert Betz

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

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CHORAL RESPONSE

Salvation

Lord, who may dwell within your house or on your holy hill?
Those who do good and speak the truth, whose lives are blameless still;
Who have no guile upon their tongues nor harm their neighbor's life,
But honor those who fear the Lord and turn away from strife.

Christopher Webber

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Craig Meek

OFFERTORY

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.
For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

F. S. Pierpoint

▲ 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.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Sunday School For All Ages
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship
- **12:15 pm:** Strategic Plan Presentation
- **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. 3s and 4s 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.



**Called
to Care**

Overwhelmed and not sure where to turn?

Rev. Lisa Larsen is available to meet with you to think through difficult situations. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202-537-7540

*Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission Briefing - Steve Quakenbush **Sunday, April 26, 12:30 pm** **Garden Rooms**

Come celebrate as Steve Quakenbush retires after more than 40 years of faithful mission work. Steve and his wife, Janice, have faithfully served in global ministry - especially in the Philippines - helping language communities access Scripture in meaningful ways. Enjoy lunch as Steve reflects on four decades of ministry and shares how his sending church, National Presbyterian Church, has been part of this mission.

Women's Ministry 2026 Spring Brunch **Saturday, May 2, 12:00 pm** **Stone Fellowship Hall**

Join us for a warm and welcoming early afternoon centered on our theme, Loved Beyond Measure. This spring, we will explore Experiencing the Love of God in Everyday Life through personal reflections from women in our own NPC family. Enjoy a delicious brunch, beautiful music, and meaningful conversation.

EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS

Thank you to all who contributed toward the beautiful Easter floral displays throughout the church. All of the potted Easter flowers – Easter lilies, daffodils, pink and blue hyacinths, hellebores – will be planted on the NPC campus to be enjoyed for years to come.

- Gretchen Asmuth in memory of Katharine and Marjorie Wystrach
- John and Sally Cox in honor of Leslie Saum
- Karen Hardee in memory of her husband Rance Cleaveland
- Caroline Jackson in memory of Ellie Heginbotham and Jay Gingles Wicks
- Martina Lydon in memory of her parents
- Adelaida Owen in memory of her husband W. M. Owen and loved ones
- Janice Sessing in memory of loved ones
- Mitchell Shivers
- Linda Smith in memory of Douglas H. Smith
- Margaret Smith in memory of her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith and Mr. and Mrs. William Johnston
- Jeanne Su, in memory of her father Yu Ming Su
- Nora Szeto
- Dr. Scott A Wilson in memory of his parents Dr. Lynette Wilson and Donald A. Wilson

Join Our Team!

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.

Ministry Internship Hub

This fall, NPC is running a Ministry Internship Hub, and hiring 4-6 ministry interns in a variety of areas. These internships are open to any college-aged students interested in serving part time at NPC, and exploring conversations about leadership and spiritual development. Primary hours of work will be Sunday mornings, with an additional group supervision meeting to be scheduled during the week.

For more information and to apply, visit nationalpres.org/jobs, or email Rev. Kristin Franke (kfranke@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, 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.

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 2026.

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 mourn:

the passing of Pieter Bottelier.

We pray for:

Keith Patman as he ministers to French speaking African countries with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

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 to the glory of God by Walter Hampton in loving memory of Debbie Hampton.

“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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