

April 26, 2026  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to  
**NATIONAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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

*But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to  
turn back from following you! Where you go,  
I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people  
shall be my people, and your God my God.*

Ruth 1:16

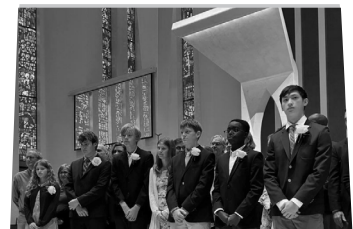
Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastors

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)

Parish Associate  
Music

Ministry Directors

Jonathan Edwards (Serve)  
Jill Meek (Children)  
Carol Han (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)!

## Week at a Glance

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

### Sunday, April 26

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

### Saturday, May 2

- 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast
- 12:00 pm Women's Ministry Spring Brunch

### Sunday, May 3

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies, & Community
- 5:00 pm Club 45
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

## Mission Briefing - Steve Quakenbush

**Today, 12:15 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.

## Youth Group

**Today, 6:30 pm**

### Youth House

Bring a friend to youth group for dinner, Bible study, and games. Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings, beginning with dinner together in the Multipurpose Building. Parents and NPC members are invited to sign up to bring an easy meal to share. For more details, contact Rev. Kristin Franke ([kfranke@nationalpres.org](mailto:kfranke@nationalpres.org)).

## Men's Breakfast

**Saturday, May 2, 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. Our speaker will be Charles Williams, the City Director for Young Life in Washington, DC. Come join us for a hearty breakfast, an engaging speaker, great fellowship and inspiring conversation. Email [grow@nationalpres.org](mailto:grow@nationalpres.org) for more information.

## Women's Ministry 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. Check our [Events page](#) for more information.

## Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)

**Sunday, May 3 at 5:00 pm**

Calling all 4th and 5th graders! Join us for the final Club 45 of the school year. If you are interested in attending, please contact [jmeek@nationalpres.org](mailto:jmeek@nationalpres.org) or check our [Events page](#) for more information.

# 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 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name *Coronation*  
All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall.  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!  
Ye chosen seed of Israel's race ye ransomed from the fall,  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!  
Let ev'ry kindred ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball,  
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.  
To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!  
O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all!

- ▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Larsen

### CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Lord God, great, eternal, and wonderful in glory,  
you keep your covenant and promises to those who love you.

You are the Life of all, the Help of those who flee to you,  
the Hope of those who cry to you.

Cleanse us from our sins, secret and open,  
and from every thought displeasing to you.

Cleanse our bodies and our souls, our minds and our consciences,  
that with a pure heart, a clear soul, steadfast love, and calm hope,  
we may approach you confidently and fearlessly through Christ our Lord.

From the Liturgy of St. Basil

### 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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Larsen

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Ruth 1:16-18  
*Pew Bible Page 210*

Deacon Jason Hafemeister

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

*Flourishing Together*  
*A Biblical Journey through Marriage and Relationships*  
Love in the Hard Places

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

I Will Follow

Chris Tomlin, Reuben Morgan

Where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. When you move I'll move, I will follow.

All your ways are good, all your ways are sure: I will trust in you alone.

Higher than my sight, high above my life: I will trust in you alone.

*Where you go I'll go, where you stay I'll stay, when you move I'll move: I will follow you!  
Whom you love I'll love, how you serve I'll serve, if this life I lose, I will follow you!*

Yeah, I will follow you—yeah!

Light into the world, light into my life: I will live for you alone.

You're the one I seek knowing I will find all I need in you alone—in you alone! *Chorus*

Yeah, I will follow you— yeah!

In you there's life everlasting. In you there's freedom for my soul.

In you there's joy, unending joy! And I will follow! *Chorus (2x)*

Yeah, I will follow you, yeah! (3x)

▲ 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!*



# 11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE Pavane Robert Elmore  
CHIMES from *Rhythmic Suite* Todd Fickley, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN 209 My Song Forever Shall Record *St. Petersburg*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Larsen

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE *Herr Jesu Christ*

I will give thanks with my whole heart, before the world my praise express;

I will bow down before your throne and praise your love and faithfulness. Psalm 138

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison* Rev. Larsen

Lord God, great, eternal, and wonderful in glory,  
you keep your covenant and promises to those who love you.

You are the Life of all, the Help of those who flee to you,  
the Hope of those who cry to you.

Cleanse us from our sins, secret and open,  
and from every thought displeasing to you.

Cleanse our bodies and our souls, our minds and our consciences,  
that with a pure heart, a clear soul, steadfast love, and calm hope,  
we may approach you confidently and fearlessly through Christ our Lord.

From the Liturgy of St. Basil

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON Rev. Larsen

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

Ruth 1:16-18  
*Pew Bible Page 210*

Steve Quakenbush  
NPC Mission Partner

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

*Flourishing Together*  
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Love in the Hard Places

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE AND CALL

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

CHORAL RESPONSE

Set Me as a Seal

René Clausen

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.

Song of Solomon 8:6

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

OFFERTORY

Whither Thou Goest

Flor Peeters

Whither thou goest, there will I go also, and where thou dwellest, I too will dwell.

Thy people be my people, thy God be mine.

Where thou diest, I too will die; and where they lay thee, there will I be lain;

And nought but death shall part thee from me.

Whither thou goest, there will I go also, and where thou dwellest, there will I dwell.

Whither thou goest, I will also go. With thee will I go.

From Ruth 1:16-17

Sheri Jackson, soprano

▲ 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.



# 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. 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.

# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **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 ([chan@nationalpres.org](mailto:chan@nationalpres.org)).

## **Youth Mission Trip Car Wash**

**Sunday, May 17, 9:45 am - 1:00 pm**

Get your car washed and support our high school youth who will be travelling to the Dominican Republic in July to serve with our partner Foundation for Peace! Come to the youth house driveway (near the Van Ness St. NW entrance) continuing until after the second worship service.

## **Young Adult Cookout**

**Sunday, May 24, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm**

Kickoff the summer with a young adult cookout after worship on Sunday, May 24! Bring a friend and a side or dessert to share. RSVP to Rev. Kristin Franke ([kfranke@nationalpres.org](mailto:kfranke@nationalpres.org)), or just show up!

## **Join Our Team!**

### **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](http://nationalpres.org/jobs), or email Kristin Franke ([kfranke@nationalpres.org](mailto:kfranke@nationalpres.org)).

## **Today's Flowers**

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Eleanor and Adolph Keyser, who found joy in their walk with the Lord and delight in the beauty of Spring, by their family Laurie, Russ, Russell, and Matthew & Madeline Brunner.



## **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

**Called  
to Care**

*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

# 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 Jonathan Edwards ([jedwards@nationalpres.org](mailto:jedwards@nationalpres.org)).
- Want to help on Sundays? Visit our [Serve at Church](#) page or contact Carol Han ([chan@nationalpres.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](https://nationalpres.org/giving), call our Finance Office at 202-537-7495, or email our Director of Finance and Administration at [lskrine@nationalpres.org](mailto:lskrine@nationalpres.org).



## Prayers

### We rejoice with:

Emily & Soren Rose  
on the birth of their son.

### We pray for:

Steve and Janice Quakenbush in their work with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

### How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office,  
[careoffice@nationalpres.org](mailto: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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