

May 17, 2026  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Ascension  
New Member Sunday

Welcome to  
**NATIONAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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

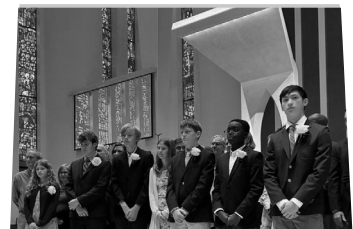
*Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.*  
Ephesians 5:21

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



# 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

Lelia Barks	Alexandria, VA	Richard Lohr*	Washington, DC
Geovanny Canizalez	Montgomery Village, MD	Rajendra Nathala	Bethesda, MD
Natalie Canizalez	Montgomery Village, MD	Charles Nierlich	Washington, DC
Maya Chandra	Bethesda, MD	Meredith Potter	Washington, DC
Eswaran Jeyarajah	Bethesda, MD	Elise Wu	Bethesda, MD
Patricia Kowalski	Washington, DC		<i>*Baptism</i>

### New Members - Joined Recently; Recognized Today

Eilish Barnes	Washington, DC	Ian Geary	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 September 26. For more information, please contact Kemet Rakiatu ([krakiatu@nationalpres.org](mailto: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](http://nationalpres.org). Questions? Email us at [info@nationalpres.org](mailto:info@nationalpres.org)!

### Youth Mission Trip Car Wash

**Today, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Get your car washed and support our high school youth who will be traveling 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.

### College Summer Cookout

**Thursday, May 21, 6:00 pm**

Calling all college students here for the summer! Join for a summer cookout together, and get (re)connected to NPC for the summer. For questions, contact Rev. Kristin Franke ([kfranke@nationalpres.org](mailto:kfranke@nationalpres.org)).

### Week at a Glance

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

#### Sunday, May 17

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:30 am: Youth Mission Trip Car Wash
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for All Ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: New Member Reception
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

#### Thursday, May 21

- 6:00 pm: College Summer Cookout

#### Sunday, May 24

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies, & Community
- 12:15 pm: Military Ministry Meeting
- 12:30 pm: Young Adult Cookout

# 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. Craig Meek

▲ OPENING SONG Your Love Awakens Me Phil Wickham

There were walls between us. By the cross you came and broke them down.

You broke them down. And there were chains around us.

By your grace we are no longer bound, no longer bound.

You called me out of the grave. You called me into the light.

You called my name and then my heart came alive!

*Your love is greater! Your love is stronger!*

*Your love awakens, awakens, awakens, me! (2x)*

Feel the darkness shaking, all the dead are coming back to life!

I'm back to life. Hear the song awaken!

All creation singing we're alive, 'cause you're alive!

You called me out of the grave. You called me into the light.

You called my name and then my heart came alive!

*Your love is greater! Your love is stronger!*

*Your love awakens, awakens, awakens, me! (2x)*

And what a love we've found! Death can't hold us down.

We shout it out! We're alive 'cause you're alive! (3x)

*Your love is greater! Your love is stronger!*

*Your love awakens, awakens, awakens, me! (2x)*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Meek

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Grant us, O Lord, grace to follow you wherever you go.

In leading us, guide us to true repentance and forgiveness of our many sins.

In daily duties to which you then call us, shape our wills to simple obedience.

Under pain or provocation, give us patience.

In the frustrations of human interaction,

make us truthful, humble, and kind.

In greater acts of duty, should you call us to them,

uplift us to sacrifice and courage.

That in all things, both small and great, we may be imitators of your dear Son,

even Jesus Christ our Lord.

From Christina Rossetti

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. Meek

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:21-33  
*Pew Bible Page 952*

Elder Pat Zhou

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Melanie Lenhard  
Associate Director for 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*  
*Imitating Christ in Marriage*

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. Lisa Larsen

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

- ▲ OFFERING SONG                      Build My Life                      Matt Redman  
Worthy of every song we could ever sing. Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring.  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe. We live for you!  
Jesus, the name above every other name. Jesus, the only one that could ever save.  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe. We live for you! We live for you!  
*Holy, there is no one like you! There is none beside you.*  
*Open up my eyes in wonder! And show me who you are.*  
*And fill me with your heart and lead me in your love to those around me.*  
I will build my life upon your love. It is a firm foundation.  
I will put my trust in you alone and I will not be shaken. (2x) Chorus (2x)



# 11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

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## WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Rhosymedre

R. V. Williams

CHIMES

Todd Fickley, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Craig Meek

▲ HYMN 376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Hyfrydol*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Meek

RESPONSE

*St. Leonards*

**Choir**

May the Spirit fill and guide us with God's wisdom from above:  
True disciples known to others only by our love.

**Congregation**

May the strength of God empower us, confident each day to be  
Faithful servants fully clothed in Christ's humility.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Rev. Meek

Grant us, O Lord, grace to follow you wherever you go.

In leading us, guide us to true repentance and forgiveness of our many sins.

In daily duties to which you then call us, shape our wills to simple obedience.

Under pain or provocation, give us patience.

In the frustrations of human interaction,  
make us truthful, humble, and kind.

In greater acts of duty, should you call us to them,  
uplift us to sacrifice and courage.

That in all things, both small and great, we may be imitators of your dear Son,  
even Jesus Christ our Lord.

From Christina Rossetti

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Meek

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. Meek

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. Meek

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:21-33  
*Pew Bible Page 952*

Jan Youell

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Melanie Lenhard  
Associate Director for Children's Ministry

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

*Flourishing Together*  
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Imitating Christ in Marriage

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

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

CHORAL RESPONSE

*Bridegroom*

Love is humble, sacrificial, love is tender, true, and kind;  
Love is gracious, ever patient, generous of heart and mind:  
May love be ours, O Lord.

Timothy Dudley-Smith

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Lisa Larsen

OFFERTORY

Be Filled with the Spirit

Craig Courtney

Be filled with the Spirit.

*From Three Sacred Canticles*

Speak to one another with psalms. Speak to one another with spiritual songs.

Sing and make melody in your heart to the Lord.

Be filled with the Spirit,

Giving thanks to God, giving thanks in all things,  
giving thanks in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Ephesians 5:18-20  
With Edna Huang, clarinet

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

Dr. Hylton

Exchange of Vows

Baptism

Richard Lohr

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 LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Larsen  
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 Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here St. Catherine  
Great God, your love has called us here, as we by love for love were made,  
Your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.  
We come with open heart and mind your call to hear, your love to find.  
Great God, in Christ you call our name, and then receive us as your own,  
Not through some merit, right, or claim, but by your gracious love alone.  
We strain to see your mercy seat, and find you kneeling at our feet.  
Great God, in Christ you set us free, your life to live, your joy to share.  
Give us your Spirit's liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair  
And offer all that faith can do while you are making all things new.  
Brian Wren, alt.

▲ BENEDICTION Dr. Hylton

▲ CHORAL AMEN Craig Courtney

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Rev. Larsen

▲ POSTLUDE Hyfrydol R. V. Williams  
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 Coffee, Cookies, and Community.*

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

## NOTES

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# 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 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*)
- **The Listening Life**, Ginny Beeson & Lewrene Glaser (*Room 209*)
- **Parent Gathering** (*Jones Hall, National Presbyterian School*)

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



### Prayer Cards

May we pray for you? Prayer cards are in the guestbook and may be left in the collection plate or the prayer box in the Welcome Center.

[careoffice@nationalpres.org](mailto:careoffice@nationalpres.org) / 202-537-7540

*Call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.*

Jeremiah 29:12

# EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Military Ministry Meeting**

**Sunday, May 24, 12:15 pm**

### **Stone Fellowship Hall**

In honor of Memorial Day, our own Colonel Glenn Schmitt will give a presentation on the meaning/importance of Memorial Day and past military heroes at National Presbyterian Church. Lunch will be served, and all are welcome! For more information, visit our [Events page](#).

## **Young Adult Cookout**

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

Kick off 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!

## **Summer Choir**

**Beginning Sunday, June 21 at 10:00 am**

Love to sing? Summer Choir rehearses only on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am to sing for the 11:00 am service. Beginning Sunday, June 21, 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).

## **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)).

## **Visit Our Library!**

Come by the gorgeous library for books for all ages! Visit us on Level 2 of the Main Church, and chat with our new volunteer librarians. Questions about the library can be addressed to [npclibrary@nationalpres.org](mailto:npclibrary@nationalpres.org).

## **Hearing Assistance**

NPC has a great system for hearing assistance in any location in the sanctuary. Small hearing assistance packs are available in the racks just outside of the Sanctuary, along with instructions for use.

## **My NPC**

Looking for our online directory? Click “[My NPC](#)” at the top of our website to connect! My NPC is a secure, password-protected website for our NPC family where you can find our directory, upload your photo, locate groups, view your giving and more!

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

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 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 pray for:

International Justice Mission as they fight for protection and restitution for victims of human rights crimes and for transformation of broken justice systems throughout the world.

### 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 to the glory of God and in loving memory of Edmund E. Pendleton, Jr. by his family.

*“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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