

August 16, 2026

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.
Romans 11:29



Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors

Parish Associate
Music

Ministry Directors

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)

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!

Mini Coffee Hour

Today, 9:55 am

Garden Rooms

In lieu of Hands-On Summer, stop by the Garden Rooms for coffee, sweet treats, and fellowship. For additional info, contact Jill Meek (jmeek@nationalpres.org).

Youth & Children's Sunday School Begins

Sunday, August 30, 9:55 am

Sunday school for youth and children returns on Sunday, August 30 for another great year of growing in God's Word and fellowship. Parent Gathering will also re-start on August 30. For exact locations of each class, please check the children and youth newsletters.

Kick Off Picnic

Sunday, August 30, 5:00 pm

Stone Fellowship Hall

You're invited to say farewell to summer and kick off the Fall with your NPC church family at a picnic dinner! Please [RSVP](#) in advance, if possible. Contact Rev. Franke (kfranke@nationalpres.org) for more information.

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:



Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, August 16

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Summer Speaker Series
- 9:55 am: Mini Coffee Hour
- 10:00 am: Summer Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies, & Community

Sunday, August 23

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Summer Trip Reports
- 10:00 am: Summer Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies, & Community

Sign Up for Small Groups

Short-term small groups for the Fall will start on September 13! Each group will meet weekly until October 31 and discuss the sermons from Sunday mornings at NPC. We have groups available who will meet online and others who will meet in-person in the DMV area. If you're interested in joining us, please fill out the interest form on the [Small Groups page](#) of [NPC's website](#). For more information, contact Rev. Craig Meek (cmeek@nationalpres.org).

New Member Class

Beginning September 13

Interested in becoming a member? We invite you to attend our 5-part class to learn about the NPC community and the life of the church! These one-hour classes will be on Sundays at 9:45 am throughout the Fall. Please RSVP no later than August 28, by completing the [form](#) available on our [events page](#) or contacting Kemet Rakiatu (krakiatu@nationalpres.org) for more information.

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

Improvisations

Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Craig Meek

▲ OPENING SONG

Speak, O Lord

Keith and Kristyn Getty

Speak, O Lord as we come to you to receive the food of your holy word.

Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

Speak, O Lord and fulfill in us all your purposes, for your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience, holy reverence, true humility.

Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of your purity.

Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see, your majestic love and authority,

Words of power that can never fail; let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of your plans for us,
truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity.

And by grace we'll stand on your promises; and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.

Speak, O Lord till your church is built and the earth is filled with your glory.

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Meek

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Almighty God, your holiness demands the perfect and eternal sacrifice
of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, to cleanse us from all sin,
and to bridge our separation from you that sin brings.

Your gracious choice that we praise and worship you
presumes your desire to cleanse and redeem us.

Despite this, none of us will ever be expert worshippers.

We are all flawed. We are all "Plan B" people.

Over and over again, we need a new start, a reason to keep going,
answers that make sense.

We need forgiveness, comfort, sustenance, purpose, hope.

We need you to breathe new life back into our souls.

We need your mercy, Lord, so we come with empty hands,
seeking to be filled from the inexhaustible supply that is yours alone.

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 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

Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32
Pew Bible Pages 921 and 922

Iskah Singh

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Jill Meek
Director of Children's Ministries

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

SERMON

Mercy for All

Rev. Lisa Larsen

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. Kristin Franke

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

▲ OFFERING SONG

His Mercy Is More

Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?

Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum.

Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore.

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?

What Father, so tender, is calling us home?

He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord, his mercy is more,

Stronger than darkness, new every morn.

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

What riches of kindness he lavished on us.

His blood was the payment; his life was the cost.

We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more. *Chorus (2x)*

Our sins, they are many; his mercy is more.

▲ 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. Franke
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 Jesus Messiah Chris Tomlin
He became sin, who knew no sin that we might become his righteousness.
He humbled himself and carried the cross. Love so amazing! Love so amazing!
Jesus Messiah, Name above all names, Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.
The rescue for sinners, the ransom from heaven. Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.
His body, the bread, his blood the wine broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing! Love so amazing, yeah! *Chorus*
All our hope is in you! All our hope is in you!
All the glory to you, God, the light of the world! *Chorus*
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Rev. Larsen

▲ SENDING NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able
*Please come forward after worship for confidential prayer
with a member of our prayer team.*

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

NOTES

Sanctuary and Online

PRELUDE Trumpet Concerto in E Flat Major Franz Joseph Haydn
Andante Michael Harper, trumpet

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Craig Meek

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Rev. Meek

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison* Rev. Meek

We need your mercy, Lord, so we come with empty hands,
seeking to be filled from the inexhaustible supply that is yours alone.

And live alone by mercy.

Believe the good news of the Gospel. **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.**

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 Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32 Lee Barks
Pew Bible Pages 921 and 922

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Jill Meek
Director of Children's Ministries

*Rising 1st to 5th graders may exit with leaders for Children's Chapel.
Parents may take children Pre-K and under to the nursery.*

SERMON Mercy for All Rev. Lisa Larsen

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE Bradbury
Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS Rev. Kristin Franke

OFFERTORY My Song Shall Be Always Thy Mercy Felix Mendelssohn
My song shall be always thy mercy, singing thy praise, thou only, God. *Hymn of Praise, Op. 52*
My tongue shall declare the blessings hourly bestowed by thee.
I wander in night and thickest darkness, and mine enemies stand threat'ning around.
Yet called I upon the name of the Lord, and he redeemed me with watchful goodness. Psalm 89
Tess Ottinger, soprano, Luke Schmidt, tenor, and Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

▲ 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.

Rev. Franke

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.

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| ▲ HYMN 355 | Hear the Good News of Salvation | <i>Nettleton</i> |
| ▲ BENEDICTION | | Rev. Larsen |
| ▲ CHORAL RESPONSE | | <i>Aus tiefer Not</i> |
| | What though we wait the live-long night, and till the dawn appeareth,
Our hearts still trusteth in God's might: They doubteth not nor feareth:
So let all Israelites in heart, born of the Spirit, do their part,
And trust alone God's mercy. | Martin Luther |
| ▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST | | Rev. Franke |
| ▲ POSTLUDE | Water Music Suite
<i>Overture Alla Hornpipe in D Major</i> | George Frideric Handel
Mr. Harper, trumpet
Mr. Neil, organ |
| ▲ Congregation standing, as able | | |

We are joined today by Michael Harper, Associate Principal Trumpet of the National Symphony Orchestra, and by William Neil, organist of the NSO and former long-time organist of National Presbyterian Church.

*Please come forward after worship for confidential prayer
with a member of our prayer team.*

*Everyone is invited downstairs to Stone Fellowship Hall after worship
for Coffee, Cookies, and Community.*

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NOTES

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Summer Speaker Series
- **9:55 am:** Mini Coffee Hour
- **10:00 am:** Summer Choir Rehearsal
- **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 worship service. To maintain a safe environment, we have age guidelines for each room. Babies and crawlers are in Room 207. Strong walkers & 2-year-olds are in Room 230. 3-years-olds & 4-year-olds are in 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.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Summer Choir, 10:00 am

Summer Choir rehearses only on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am to sing for the 11:00 am service. Love to sing? We would love to welcome you! For more information contact the music office at dwulff@nationalpres.org.

Summer Speaker Series, 9:55 am

Throughout the Summer, NPC invites guest speakers from across the DMV area to discuss with us matters related to faith and practice in the present-day. Join us in Stone Fellowship Hall at 9:55 am and bring your questions!

Today: Jennifer Wiseman
Dark Matter and Bright Stars
August 23: Kristin Franke
Summer Trip/Events Report

August 30: Paul Miller
Natural Law and the Christian
Public Witness



The Deacons' Assistance Fund offers financial assistance to members of our church experiencing hardship. This fund is solely supported by the generosity of our congregation. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202-537-7540

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

Hebrews 13:16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food For Our Neighbors

The NPC Food Pantry cares for neighbors facing food insecurity affecting DC residents. Ongoing collections will support students at University of the District of Columbia and families at Central Union Mission. As you shop this week, consider picking up a few extra items to share and drop in the wooden bin just inside the main entrance from the parking lot. For suggested donations, visit the [NPC website](#).

Nominations for Church Officers

The Congregational Nominating Committee seeks your recommendations of persons to serve as Elders, Deacons, board members for the NPC Fund for Charitable Giving, and members of next year's Congregational Nominating Committee. Please visit nationalpres.org/nominate for more information about these positions and to submit recommendations. Paper recommendation forms are available in the narthex.

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, or email Rev. Kristin Franke (kfranke@nationalpres.org).

Communications Intern

NPC is looking for a college student interested in real-world communications experience, beyond the classroom. With a flexible schedule and a rate of \$20/hr, this student will work directly with the Communications Manager.

For more information and to apply, visit nationalpres.org/jobs, or email Sam Skolnick (sskolnick@nationalpres.org).

NOTES

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

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).
- 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

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, call our Finance Office at 202-537-7495, or email our Director of Finance and Administration at lskrine@nationalpres.org.



Prayers

We celebrate with:

Vaneese and Austin Walton
on the birth of their daughter.

We pray for:

Friendship Place, as they provide care for
people experiencing homelessness.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests
to the Care Office,
careoffice@nationalpres.org
202-537-7537.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given by Roz Mack
to the glory of God and in loving memory of His servant David Mack
on their 60th wedding anniversary.

“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 worshiping with children nearby, please welcome and encourage them as they grow in their faith.



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