

August 23, 2026

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters,
by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship.*
Romans 12:1



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!

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.

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 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 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

Sunday, August 30

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Children & Youth Sunday School
- 9:55 am: Parent Gathering
- 9:55 am: Summer Speaker Series
- 10:00 am: Summer Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies, & Community
- 5:00 pm: Kick Off Picnic

Single Worship Service

Sunday, September 6, 10:00 am

For Labor Day Weekend, we will worship together during one service.

Ice Cream Social

Sunday, September 6, 11:15 am

Upper Plaza

After the single worship service, we welcome our neighbors and friends to celebrate the Labor Day weekend outside together. Enjoy ice cream, lemonade, and fellowship!

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

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

Chris Tomlin

All the way my Savior leads me. Who have I to ask beside?

How could I doubt his tender mercy? Who through life has been my guide.

All the way my Savior leads me and cheers each winding path I tread.

And gives me grace for ev'ry trial; feeds me with the living Bread.

You lead me and keep me from falling. You carry me close to your heart.

And surely your goodness and mercy will follow me.

All the way my Savior leads me. O the fullness of his love!

O the sureness of his promise in the triumph of his blood.

When my spirit clothed immortal wings its flight to realms of day.

This my song through endless ages: Jesus led me all the way!

Jesus led me all the way! *Chorus (2x)*

...Will follow me...All the way my Savior leads me.

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Meek

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, in the sinfulness of our hearts,

we come to you in humility and repentance,

asking for your forgiveness and cleansing.

O Lord, in the simplicity of our hearts,

we offer ourselves to you in service and obedience,

and to be a sacrifice of perpetual praise.

From Thomas à Kempis

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:1-8
Pew Bible Page 922

Joy Eckert

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Meek

*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

A Living Sacrifice

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

Lead Me to the Cross

Brooke Ligertwood

Savior, I come, I quiet my soul,
remember redemption's hill where your blood was spilled, for my ransom.

And everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.

Lead me to the cross where your love poured out.

Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.

Rid me of myself, I belong to you.

Oh, lead me, lead me to the cross.

You were as I, tempted and tried, human.

The word became flesh, bore my sin and death, now you're risen.

And everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.

Lead me to the cross where your love poured out.

Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.

Rid me of myself, I belong to you.

Oh, lead me, lead me to the cross.

Lead me to your heart. (3x)

Lead me to the cross where your love poured out.

Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.

Rid me of myself, I belong to you.

Oh, lead me, lead me to the cross.

▲ 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!

Rev. Larsen

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Steve Fee

I'm singing freedom all my days now that I'm alive. *Chorus (2x)*

Dr. Hylton

NPC Band

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

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Sanctuary and Online

PRELUDE	Variations on This is My Father's World	Michael Burkhardt
CHIMES		Todd Fickley, organ

▲ HYMN 473 *verses 1-4* For the Beauty of the Earth *Dix*

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn 473, verse 5

For thy church that evermore lifeth holy hands above,
 Off'ring up on every shore her pure sacrifice of love,
 Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison* Rev. Meek

O Lord, in the sinfulness of our hearts,
we come to you in humility and repentance,
asking for your forgiveness and cleansing.

O Lord, in the simplicity of our hearts,
we offer ourselves to you in service and obedience,
and to be a sacrifice of perpetual praise.

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 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

Romans 12:1-8
Pew Bible Page 922

Jennie Chandra

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Rev. Meek

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

SERMON

A Living Sacrifice

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

RESPONSE

Morecambe

Choir

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art, and help me love you as I ought to love.

Congregation

By thy great mercies, come we now to give, ourselves to thee in Christ's own holy name;
A holy sacrifice, that we might live with hearts thine altar, and thy love the flame.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Lisa Larsen

OFFERTORY

With What Shall I Come Before the Lord?

John Ness Beck

With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, shall I come before him with yearling calves?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?

Shall I give him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

He has shown you this day. He has shown you what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness,

And to walk humbly, walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:6-8

▲ 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 435

We All Are One in Mission

Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein

Dr. Hylton

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Larsen

▲ POSTLUDE

Grand March

C. Hubert H. Parry
Mr. Fickley, organ

▲ Congregation standing, as able

*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.

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- **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

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.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 30

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Children & Youth
Sunday School
- **9:55 am:** Parent Gathering
- **9:55 am:** Summer Speaker Series
with Dr. Paul Miller
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship
- **12:15 pm:** Coffee, Cookies, & Community
- **5:00 pm:** All Church Kick Off Picnic

Sunday, September 6

- **10:00 am:** Single Worship Service
- **11:15 am:** Ice Cream Social

Sunday, September 13

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Children, Youth,
& Adult Sunday School
- **9:55 am:** New Member Class
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship

Fall 2026 Adult Discipleship Classes

For information about room numbers, dates, and more, check our website.

First Corinthians: R.V. Seep

The Prophet Isaiah: Craig Meek, Margaret Gardner, & Ginny Harrington

The Dangerous Act of Loving Your Neighbor: Ginny Beeson & Lewrene Glaser

Wrestling with Life & Faith (Ages: College - 30s): Kristin Franke

Parent Gathering

New Members Class: NPC Staff

The Art of Marriage: Judith Hylton & Friends

After the Revolution: Religion in the New Republic: Charles Hambrick-Stowe



**Called
to Care**

Deacons

Our deacons are ready to care for you. They will listen, pray, visit, and encourage you. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202-537-7540

Love one another.

John 13:34

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers Needed

Fall Food, Clothing, & Blood Drive

Saturday, September 19, 10:00 am

Stone Fellowship Hall

All are invited to serve our community by volunteering or collecting nonperishable food and gently used winter clothing for those in need and by helping respond to the national blood shortage. The Food & Clothing Drive will be held from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (drive-thru and drop-off), and the Red Cross Blood Drive will take place from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Sign up to volunteer on our [website](#), or for more information, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org).

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).

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:

Sudi and Grant Brooke
on the birth of their daughter.

We mourn:

the passing of Bruce MacLaury.

We pray for:

Unique Learning Center, a Christian ministry strengthening the educational and spiritual lives of children in the Shaw community of Washington, DC.

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 to the glory of God
by Tom and Carolyn Smith
in celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary on August 26.

“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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