

September 13, 2026

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*So my heavenly Father will also do to
every one of you, if you do not forgive
your brother or sister from your heart.*

Matthew 18:35



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!

Sunday School for Adults Begins

Today, 9:55 am

Have a wonderful start of the semester! For more details, see page 9 or visit our [website](#).

2nd Sunday Sandwich Making

Today, 12:15 pm

Stone Fellowship Hall

All are invited to make hundreds of sandwiches for Martha's Table, a nonprofit that works alongside its neighbors to support those in need. This is a great event for the whole family!

Military Ministry Meeting

Today, 12:15 pm

Garden Rooms

Our speaker will be Rev. Dennis Hysom, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies (PFC). Lunch will be served and all are invited.

Club 45

Today, 5:00 pm

Youth House

Rising 4th & 5th graders, Club 45 is just for you! Come grow in faith and friendship through fun games, Bible study, and more. For more information, contact Jill Meek (jmeek@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, September 13

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for All Ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Sandwich Making
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies, & Community
- 12:15 pm: Military Ministry Meeting
- 5:00 pm: Club 45
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Saturday, September 19

- 10:00 am: Food, Clothing & Blood Drive
- 10:00 am: Playground Playdate

Sunday, September 20

- 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

Youth Group

Today, 6:30 pm

Youth House

Bring a friend to youth group for dinner, Bible study, and games. 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).

Fall Food, Clothing, & Blood Drive

Saturday, September 19, 10:00 am

Stone Fellowship Hall

All are invited to serve our community by volunteering or donating nonperishables and gently used clothing. 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).

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

1,000 Tongues

Matt Maher and Chris Tomlin

We are a sea of voices, we are an ocean of your praise gathered under one name.

We are a tide that's rising and we cannot be contained, gathered under one name.

O for a thousand tongues to sing the glories of our Lord God Almighty.

O to sing the Savior's praise, a triumph of his grace.

You are worthy, you are worthy, God.

We have found our anthem at the cross where sin was slain; gathered under one name.

Where ev'ry chain is broken and ev'ry sorrow swept away; gathered under one name.

O for a thousand tongues to sing the glories of our Lord God Almighty.

O to sing the Savior's praise, a triumph of his grace.

You are worthy, you are worthy, God.

With all heaven sing, and all earth below: One Holy King, one highest throne! (2x)

O for a thousand tongues to sing the glories of our Lord God Almighty.

O to sing the Savior's praise, a triumph of his grace.

You are worthy, you are worthy, God. Repeat

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Franke

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Almighty God,

out of your great love for the world,

you reconciled earth to heaven through your only-begotten Son.

Yet, by the darkness of our sins, we turn aside from brotherly love.

Forgive us, Lord. Shine forth from our souls your own kindness.

Help us embrace our friends in you—forgiving also our enemies—

even as you forgive us for your Son's sake.

6th Century Spanish Prayer

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. Franke

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. Franke

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:21-35
Pew Bible Page 800

Cassandra Morris

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

Forgiving in a Complicated World

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

Jesus Paid It All

Elvina Hall

I hear the Savior say, thy strength indeed is small.

Child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all.

'Cause Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe.

Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.

Lord now indeed I find, thy power and thine alone,

can change the leper's spots and melt the heart of stone.

'Cause Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe.

Sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.

He washed it white as snow!

O praise the one who paid my debt

and raised this life up from the dead. (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!

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

At the Cross

Chris Tomlin

There's a place where mercy reigns and never dies.

There's a place where streams of grace flow deep and wide.

Where all the love I've ever found comes like a flood, comes flowing down!

At the cross, at the cross, I surrender my life!

I'm in awe of you. I'm in awe of you!

Where your love ran red and my sin washed white,

I owe all to you. I owe all to you, Jesus!

There's a place where sin and shame are powerless.

Where my heart has peace with God and forgiveness.

Where all the love I've ever found comes like a flood, comes flowing down! *Chorus*

Here, my hope is found. Here, on holy ground. Here, I bow down! Here, I bow down!

Here, arms open wide. Here, you saved my life! Here, I bow down! Here I bow! *Chorus*

I owe all to you. I owe all to you, Jesus!

▲ 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 a member of our prayer team.*

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

NOTES

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Lux Aeterna
Enigma Variations

Edward Elgar
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Kristin Franke

▲ HYMN 461 *verses 1-3*

God Is Here!

Abbott's Leigh

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Franke

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Abbott's Leigh

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,

Keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.

Help us here to be your people: As forgiven to forgive.

We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe! Fred Pratt Green, alt.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Rev. Franke

Almighty God,

out of your great love for the world,

you reconciled earth to heaven through your only-begotten Son.

Yet, by the darkness of our sins, we turn aside from brotherly love.

Forgive us, Lord. Shine forth from our souls your own kindness.

Help us embrace our friends in you—forgiving also our enemies—

even as you forgive us for your Son's sake. 6th Century Spanish Prayer

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. Franke

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

Matthew 18:21-35
Pew Bible Page 800

Eric Young

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

Forgiving in a Complicated World

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE

William Billings

When Jesus wept, the falling tear
In mercy flowed beyond all bound;
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear
Seized all the guilty world around.

New England Psalm Singer, 1770

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Craig Meek

OFFERTORY

Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace

John Rutter

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me bring love; where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy;
And all for thy mercy's sake.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
Seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Francis of Assisi

▲ 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. 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.

▲ HYMN

Forgive Our Sins, As We Forgive

Tallis' Ordinal

"Forgive our sins, as we forgive," you taught us, Lord, to pray;

But you alone can grant us peace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart

That broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew:

What trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our soul, and bid resentment cease.

Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

▲ CHORAL AMEN

John Rutter

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Meek

▲ POSTLUDE

Elegy

George Thalben-Ball
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:** Sunday School for All Ages
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship
- **12:15 pm:** Sandwich Making
- **12:15 pm:** Coffee, Cookies, & Community
- **12:15 pm:** Military Ministry Meeting
- **5:00 pm:** Club 45
- **6:30 pm:** Youth Group

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-year-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.

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.

Fall 2026 Adult Discipleship Classes Beginning Today

For more information, check our [website](#).

First Corinthians (Chapel): R.V. Seep

The Book of Isaiah (Garden Rooms B & C): Craig Meek, Margaret Gardner, & Ginny Harrington

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

Parent Gathering (Jones Hall in the Education Building)

New Members Class (Elson Parlor): NPC Staff

The Art of Marriage (Room 109): Judith Hylton & Jennifer and David Schottke

The Dangerous Act of Loving One's Neighbor (Starting Sept. 27): Ginny Beeson & Lewrene Glaser

After the Revolution: Religion in the New Republic (Starting Nov.1): Charles Hambrick-Stowe



**Called
to Care**

Newly Separated? Recently Divorced?

Divorcecare is a program for those navigating the end of a marriage. Visit www.divorcecare.org or contact careoffice@nationalpres.org /202-537-7540

*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Middle School Fall Retreat

September 25-27

Breakaway Retreat

Feeling adventurous? We invite all middle school youth to join us for a weekend away for fun, faith, and fellowship!

Register by September 18. For more information, contact Rev. Kristin Franke (kfranke@nationalpres.org).

Mission Gifts for Christmas

Nominations Open Until September 27

This is an opportunity for our church family to celebrate God's grace by financially supporting organizations and missionaries serving locally and around the world. Nominate and represent a 501(c)(3) organization or a missionary affiliated with a 501(c)(3) to be featured in our December Mission Gifts for Christmas event and catalog. For more information, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org).

Chancel Choir

Love to sing? The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm and Sunday mornings at 10:15 am to sing for the 11:00 am service. We would love to welcome you! For more information contact the music office (202-537-7553 or dwulff@nationalpres.org).

Nepal Disaster Relief

In response to the devastating flooding in Nepal, Serve Council approved a \$5,000 donation from our Disaster Relief Fund to World Vision, to provide emergency assistance, food, shelter, and spiritual care to individuals and families. If you would like to help, make a donation by scanning the QR code below or writing a check with "Nepal Disaster Relief" in the memo line. Every gift helps provide hope and practical assistance. Thank you for your generosity and continued prayers.



The Military Ministry would love to proactively support members of the military. If you are currently on active duty, or have a family member on active duty, or in one of the service academies, please contact Ginny Beeson (202-537-7540 or careoffice@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 mourn:

The passing of George Dalley and Dick Tingley.

We pray for:

Dustin and Sherri Ellington as they train pastors to proclaim the gospel in Lebanon.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office, careoffice@nationalpres.org

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given with grateful hearts to the glory of God by Donald and Marcia F. Bini in loving memory of their mothers, Hilda E. Bini and Ione S. Freeman, remembering their September birthdays.

The flowers in the Narthex are given to the glory of God in memory of the September 11, 2001 events.

Founding of the National Presbyterian School

The National Presbyterian Church began construction on Nebraska Avenue in 1967. NPC intentionally selected the land in part because it was the optimal campus and location in which to house a school. The Church committee previously given the charge by the Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Edward L.R. Elson to found a “small day school” as a mission of the church began implementation in earnest. Dr. Elson had selected Shirley Fowler, a Church Trustee, as the Chairwoman of that committee. The Committee was given \$5000 to ready the school to be housed in the former Gould Cottage of the Hillcrest Children's Home. These initial funds were supplemented by NPC members Shirley and Howland Fowler as well as Harry and Louise Pinckernell together with many months of volunteer labor by those four making the school ready for the first fall term. Eleanor Elson Heginbotham led the search leading to hiring Patricia Cunningham for the position then known as Director. What resulted from that committee's discernment, exploration, and hard work was the founding of National Presbyterian School, which opened its doors for the first time on September 17, 1969, ten days after the first worship service at this new location.

From the time of its initial enrollment of 36 students ages 3, 4, and 5, to its current enrollment of 300 students now extending through 6th Grade, the School has flourished, shaping the lives of thousands of children and serving an essential part in the Church's outreach to the greater community. In addition, the School created the National Presbyterian Child Care Center (NPCCC) in 2007 to serve infants and toddlers.

The School is uniquely devoted to the foundational decade of childhood to launch lives of purpose and compassion. While both NPC and NPS have their own distinct missions suited to their roles as Church and School respectively, they are unified in their mission to welcome and care for people as children of God, create exemplary citizens, and serve the surrounding and greater Washington community. This mission plays out in many ways, from shared community service projects to joint worship services and celebrations.

Prepared by the NPC History & Archives Ministry, in conjunction with the National Presbyterian School

