

July 26, 2026

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*Nor height, nor depth, nor anything
else in all creation, will be able to
separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:39



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!

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dan McNerney

Today, 8:45 am & 11:00 am

Rev. Dan McNerney is visiting from Winnetka, IL, to preach during both services. He is the Executive Director of Encountering the Logos Ministry, a parachurch organization founded in 2022. He leads in-person Bible studies in the Chicago area, as well as online Bible studies, seminars, and retreats. Learn his story at encounterlogos.org/dans-story.

History & Archives Coffee Hour

Today, 12:15 pm

Stone Fellowship Hall

To celebrate the Booth stained glass windows' reinstallation, the History & Archives Committee will be hosting Coffee, Cookies, and Community! Stop in to learn about these important windows and the history of our church.

Youth Park Night

Tuesday, July 28, 7:00 pm

Turtle Park, 45th & Van Ness NW

All NPC youth are invited to Turtle Park on Tuesdays to play sports and games, and to hang out with youth staff. Bring a friend! For questions, contact Rev. Kristin Franke (kfranke@nationalpres.org).

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, July 26

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Summer Speaker Series
- 9:55 am: Hands-On Summer
- 10:00 am: Summer Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: History & Archives Coffee Hour
- 5:00 pm: Club 45

Tuesday, July 28

- 7:00 pm: Youth Park Night

Wednesday, July 29

- 7:00 pm: College Bible Study

Sunday, August 2

- 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
- 5:00 pm: Club 45
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

College Bible Study

Wednesday, July 29, 7:00 pm

Youth House

Looking to connect with your peers and learn more about the Bible? Check out our Summer Bible study for ages 17-22, dinner will be provided! For more information please contact Meghan Thompson (meghanmct123@gmail.com).

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:



8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

Improvisations

Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

▲ OPENING SONG Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love Matt Papa

Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love, too vast and astounding to tell,
forever existing in worlds above, now offered and given to all.

Oh, fountain of beauty eternal, the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
sufficient and endlessly generous, magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.

Creation is brimming with thankfulness, the mountains, exultant they stand,
the seasons rejoice in your faithfulness, all life is sustained by your hand.

You crown every meadow with color; you paint every shade in the sky.

Each day the dawn wakes as an encore of magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.

How great, how sure, his love endures forevermore.

Magnificent, marvelous, matchless love.

What grace that you entered our brokenness; you came in the fullness of time.

How far we had fallen from righteousness but not from the mercies of Christ.

Your cross is our door to redemption; your death is our fullness of life.

That day how, forgiveness flowed as a flood,
magnificent, marvelous, matchless love. *Chorus*

United in your resurrection, you lift us to infinite heights.

Could anything sever or take us from

magnificent, marvelous, matchless love. *Chorus (2x)*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Dr. Hylton

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O Lord, you have mercy on all. Take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of your Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore you, a heart to delight in you, a heart to follow and enjoy you, for Christ's sake.

St. Ambrose of Milan

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

Dr. Hylton

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

Dr. Hylton

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:26-39
Pew Bible Pages 919-920

Alex Beehler

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

Held in Unbreakable Love

Rev. Dan McNerney

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

Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone

Chris Tomlin

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found was blind but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

My chains are gone, I've been set free!

My God, my Savior, has ransomed me!

And like a flood, his mercy reigns unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures.

He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. *Chorus (2x)*

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.

But God who called me here below will be forever mine, will be forever mine.

You are forever mine.

▲ 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

Goodness of God

Jenn Johnson

I love you, Lord. Oh, your mercy never fails me.

All my days I've been held in your hands.

From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head,

I will sing of the goodness of God.

All my life you have been faithful.

All my life you have been so, so good.

With every breath that I am able I will sing of the goodness of God.

I love your voice. You have led me through the fire.

In darkest night, you are close like no other.

I've known you as a father, I've known you as a friend.

I have lived in the goodness of God. *Chorus*

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.

With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give you everything.

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. *Chorus*

I will sing of the goodness of God.

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. McNerney

▲ 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 Largo in G Major G.F. Handel
 from *Xerxes*

CHIMES William Neil, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

▲ HYMN 491 *verses 1-4* Stand Up and Bless the Lord Carlisle

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Dr. Hylton

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn 491, verse 5

Stand up and bless the Lord; the Lord your God adore;
Stand up and bless God's glorious name, henceforth forevermore.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison* Dr. Hylton

O Lord, you have mercy on all. Take away from me my sins, and mercifully kindle in me the fire of your Holy Spirit. Take away from me the heart of stone, and give me a heart of flesh, a heart to love and adore you, a heart to delight in you, a heart to follow and enjoy you, for Christ's sake.

St. Ambrose of Milan

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 Dr. Hylton

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 Dr. Hylton

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Romans 8:26-39 Elder Faith Burton

Pew Bible Pages 919-920

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

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

SERMON

Held in Unbreakable Love

Rev. Dan McNerney

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the Sanctuary.

HYMN 282

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

Wer nur den lieben Gott

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Craig Meek

OFFERTORY

God Thou Art Love

Craig Courtney

If I forget, yet God remembers. If these hands of mine cease from their clinging,

Yet the hands divine hold me so firmly I cannot fail.

And if sometimes I am too tired to call for him to help me,

Then he reads the prayer unspoken in my heart and lifts my care.

I dare not fear since certainly I know that I am in God's keeping,

Shielded so, from all that else would harm,

And in the hour of stern temptation, strengthened by his power.

I tread no path in life to him unknown; I lift no burden, bear no pain, alone;

My soul a calm, sure hiding place has found: The Everlasting Arms my life surround.

God, thou art love! I build my life on that.

I know thee who has kept my path, and made light for me in the darkness,

Tempering sorrow so that it reached me like a solemn joy.

It were too strange that I should doubt thy love.

Robert Browning

▲ 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

By Gracious Powers

O Perfect Love

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,

And confidently waiting, come what may,

We know that God is with us night and morning,

And never fails to greet us each new day.

Yet is this heart by its old foes tormented,

Still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;

O give our frightened souls the sure salvation

For which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.

Yet when again in this same world you give us
The joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
We shall remember all the days we lived through,
And our whole life shall then be yours alone.

Rev. McNerney

▲ CHORAL AMEN

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Meek

▲ POSTLUDE

Music for the Royal Fireworks
Overture and La Rejouissance

G.E. Handel

Mr. Neil, 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 for History & Archives Coffee Hour.

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

NOTES

[illegible]

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Summer Speaker Series
- **9:55 am:** Hands-On Summer
- **10:00 am:** Summer Choir Rehearsal
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship
- **12:15 pm:** History & Archives Coffee Hour

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 Rehearsal: 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.

Hands-On Summer: 9:55 am

This summer all are invited to participate in family-friendly hands-on Bible study and service together! We'll meet in the Garden Rooms from 9:55-10:45 am, and all ages can participate. Each week we'll start with Scripture that will lead us into our project.

Today: Journal-Making for all ages

Reflecting and responding to God's written Word

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 James Ziglar

Immigration - Past and Present

August 2: Tremper Longman

Biblical Reflection on Immigration

August 9: Francis Collins

The Road to Wisdom: on Truth, Science, Faith, and Trust

August 16: Jennifer Wiseman

Dark Matter and Bright Stars

August 23: Kristin Franke

Summer Trip/Events Report

August 30: Paul Miller

To be announced

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gratitude for Your Generosity

The Finance Council is reporting to Session that giving increased by 4% during the first half of 2026. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we are able to support the ministries and programs to help people become faithful followers of Jesus Christ together in God's world. Projects are also planned this year and next to better care for the campus God has entrusted to us.

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.

Food For Our Neighbors

The NPC Food Pantry supports neighbors facing high food insecurity in the DMV. Ongoing collections benefit students at the 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 place them in the wooden bin just inside the main entrance from the parking lot. For suggested donations, visit the [NPC website](https://nationalpres.org/npc).

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



Feeling anxious or burdened? Need to slow down?

Care Notes are inspirational booklets on various topics. Pick one up in the Welcome Center. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202-537-7540

He cares for you.

1 Peter 5:7b

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 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 today are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Elder Eugene (Gene) Martin by his wife, Joyce and their children remembering his July 30th birthday.

“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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