



NEW MEMBER

Handbook





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Welcome!

I am so glad you are here. Whether you are searching for a spiritual home or taking the next step in your faith journey, we welcome you with open arms.

At NPC, we are a community rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ, dedicated to worshiping God, growing together in grace, and serving our neighbors near and far. When you join this church family, you are not merely stepping into a building; you are stepping into a vibrant, intergenerational fellowship where every story matters, faith is nurtured, and God's love is put into action.

This new member class is designed to help you discover who we are, explore how your unique gifts fit into our shared ministry, and connect deeply with others. We are thrilled to walk alongside you as we discern where God is calling us together.

In Christ,



Ray Hylton

Senior Pastor
National Presbyterian Church



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Our Mission

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

Our Vision

We desire to be a congregation faithfully anchored in relationship with the true and triune God revealed through Scripture. We aim to be a congregation:

- Where worship, prayer, and the enjoyment of God is foundational to all that we do;
- Where we welcome neighbors into our congregation and worship, and we live out the calling to love our neighbors as ourselves;
- Where we invest in teaching and learning with others to deepen our understanding of the God revealed in Scripture;
- Where we are humbly able to share our burdens and encourage each other in God's transcendent and abundant grace, leading to deeper relationships;
- Where we do not shy away from the challenges and pain in our world, but we use our resources for God's purposes, including serving those in need; and
- Where we are grateful for the blessings bestowed on us by preceding generations as they pursued and fulfilled God's work through our church, and where we continue to be faithful stewards preserving and building the church for generations to come.

How We're Organized

Worship

Connect to God's grace through our eternal vocation as believers

Grow

Grow in discipleship at all ages through Scripture study in small groups, Christian education classes, and personal devotions

Care

Know, love, and care for one another as brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ

Serve

Give our time, talent, and treasure to God's ministries within the church and missions outside of the church

Invitation to Membership

All members of NPC respond to the following vows:

1. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
2. Who is your Lord and Savior?
3. Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?
4. Will you be a faithful member of this congregation, sharing in its worship and ministry through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Worship

Read Luke 15:11-32.

The parable of the lost sons (the younger and elder) is a narrative mirror for NPC's first two baptismal/membership vows, showing that *turning and naming* are organic responses to God's posture toward us.

The younger son had to turn away from the “distant country” of reckless living, while the older son had to turn away from his resentment and pride at the doorstep of the party. As you prepare to join NPC, which brother's heart do you find yourself needing to turn from more often right now—the rebel or the moralist?

When the father restored his son, he didn't make him a hired servant; he gave him a ring and sandals, restoring his authority and responsibility in the estate. Declaring Jesus as “Lord” means we operate under His authority. What is one specific area of your everyday life (e.g., your calendar, your career, your relationships) that you are actively trying to bring under the Lordship of Christ?

Grow

A disciple is someone who follows and learns from their master or teacher. They listen to the master’s teachings and learn the master’s way of life. In the Gospel stories, Jesus’ followers journey alongside him for approximately three years, listening to his teachings and witnessing his life-giving miracles. But as Jesus approaches his betrayal and death, he tells his friends that they can no longer follow where he is going.

Read John 14:1-11 and consider the following questions.

How would you describe the mood of the disciples? Of what are they afraid? And why?

Focus on how Jesus responds to Philip in verse 9. How do his words help us understand what it means to follow Jesus as a disciple?

What are some practices or actions we can take in the present-day to continue following Jesus by faith and learning to imitate his life-giving ways?

Care and Serve

Read Mark 2:1-23.

The story of friends lowering a paralyzed man through a roof is one of faith, but also about caring and serving. At NPC, we believe that care starts with prayer.

Think about your prayer life. How does it get expressed?

What do you think your gifts are? How have these gifts served you in the past?

What interests you about serving at NPC?

How We Worship



No matter where you are in your journey—exploring faith, searching for community, or growing closer to God—you have a home here. We typically hold two worship services on Sundays:

8:45 am: Contemporary Service

11:00 am: Traditional Service

We hold a joint service at 10:00 am several times a year, so please check our website for information on schedule changes.

Children & Worship

We love kids in worship! We provide worship bags for children to pick up and return just outside the Sanctuary. During worship, children are invited to the front for a children's message, after which children in grades K-5 have the option to attend Children's Chapel. We also offer childcare for children in pre-K 4 and younger. More information can be found here: <https://nationalpres.org/welcome/>.

Choir & Praise Band

Music is at the heart of worship at NPC. At the 8:45 am service, our praise band brings contemporary worship songs and traditional hymns to life. At the 11:00 am service, a full choir, organ, and instrumental music accompany classic hymns. If you'd like to lend your voice or talent to the choir or praise band, let us know here: <https://nationalpres.org/connect/music/>.

Ushers & Greeters

Ushers and Greeters roll out the welcome mat for everyone who walks through NPC's doors. We're always looking for volunteers who want to help support Sunday services and foster a welcoming environment. More info: <https://nationalpres.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/267/responses/new>.



Scripture Readers

If you're interested in serving NPC by reading Scripture during service, here's how you can let us know: <https://nationalpres.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/262/responses/new>.

Flower Ministry

Our flower ministry brings the art of floral design into worship, reminding us of the beauty of God's creation and drawing people together in community and friendship. If you're interested, learn more here: <https://nationalpres.org/connect/serve/at-church/flower/> or contact: npcflowers@nationalpres.org.



How We Grow



Small Groups

CONTACT

Rev. Craig Meek, Associate Pastor for Adult Discipleship

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Whether you are exploring the possibility of a small group or have been in a group before, we invite you to discover how Christian community can be life-giving and life-changing. Small groups are a welcoming and caring environment that allow relationships to deepen, the Bible to be shared, and lives to be transformed. We have small groups meeting in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia region, as well as specific groups dedicated to parents, women, men, older adults, young professionals, and more. Find out about NPC's small groups here: <https://nationalpres.org/connect/small-groups/>.

Children

CONTACTS

Jill Meek, Director of Children's Ministry

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Kids of all ages have opportunities to grow in faith by hearing God's word, worshiping God, serving others, and connecting with their church family. We partner with parents to help children (infants through 5th grade) build a foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. More information about NPC's children's programs—including nursery and Children's Chapel—can be found here: <https://nationalpres.org/connect/children/>.



Youth

CONTACT

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We partner with parents to equip our 6th-12th grade students to become faithful, lifelong followers of Jesus Christ, together in God's world. We have a dedicated team of volunteer teachers who lead each class and help youth connect the teachings of our Christian creeds and Scriptures with their own lives. We also host retreats, youth group meetings, Confirmation classes, and other events. More information on our youth activities can be found here:

<https://nationalpres.org/connect/youth/>.

College & Young Professionals

CONTACT

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Whether you're in college or a few years into your career, we'd love to be your church home in Washington, DC. NPC offers small groups and social events for college students and young professionals in the community.

Ways We Care

CONTACTS

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PRAYER | The Care Office receives prayer requests through calls, emails, and pew prayer cards. The Care and Joy list is updated and emailed weekly to congregants who wish to pray for our NPC family. Our Prayer Team lifts up confidential prayer requests and offers in-person prayers after Sunday services.



DEACONS & STEPHEN MINISTERS | Deacons are elected servant leaders who are ready to care for you with calls, cards, prayers, visits, and meals. Stephen Ministers—who are trained to provide confidential, one-on-one Christin care—will listen and pray weekly with those experiencing challenging times.



MILITARY MINISTRY | This ministry provides fellowship opportunities to our NPC members who are affiliated with the military.



OLDER ADULTS | NPC partners with the non-profit organization, IONA, which supports people as they experience the challenges and opportunities of aging.



FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES | We help plan and hold services for grieving families.



GRIEF SUPPORT | We host workshops and multi-week groups that offer the bereaved an opportunity to gather for encouragement and healing.

How We Serve



CONTACT

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Each of us has unique gifts that can enrich the lives of others, and serving is a beautiful way to uncover your God-given purpose. We encourage you to join us in making a positive impact through service, whether it be within our church, in the local community, or on an international scale.

Here are some of the ways you can serve at NPC:

- Children and Youth Ministry Leaders
- Choir
- Flower Ministry
- Greeting and Ushering
- Missions
- Prayer Team
- Sandwich Making
- Scripture Reading

Here are the organizations we partner with to serve our DC community:

- [Central Union Mission](#) (housing, food, medical services)
- [Friendship Place](#) (housing, job placement, medical services)
- [Habitat for Humanity DC/NOVA](#) (housing)
- [Little Lights](#) (education and mentoring)
- [Martha's Table](#) (food, education)
- [Unique Learning Center](#) (education and mentoring)
- [Young Lives](#) (young moms, mentorship)

NPC also partners with the following organizations to engage with our brothers and sisters around the world:

- [Bethlehem Bible College](#) (Palestine)
- [European Christian Mission](#) (Eastern and Western Europe)
- [Evangelical Theological Seminary](#) (Croatia)
- [Forman Christian College](#) (Pakistan)
- [Foundation for Peace](#) (Dominican Republic, Haiti, Kenya)
- [International Justice Mission](#) (Global)
- [McGillvary College of Divinity](#) (Thailand)
- [University Divitia Gratiae](#) (Moldova)
- [ProVision International](#) (Southern Africa)

More information on our mission partners and the missions we support can be found here: <https://nationalpres.org/connect/serve/international/>.



Stewardship

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Christian stewardship begins with a simple truth: Everything we have is a gift from God. Our time, abilities, relationships, opportunities, and resources are entrusted to us, and following Jesus means learning to use these gifts faithfully and generously.

In the Presbyterian tradition, stewardship is a central practice of Christian discipleship — a grateful response to God’s love. As followers of Christ, we seek to honor him in how we use everything we’ve been given.

At NPC, stewardship is about far more than financial giving. We invite every member to prayerfully consider how God is calling them to offer their time, skills, and resources as a spiritual practice that shapes our hearts to follow Christ’s example. Generosity teaches us to trust God, loosens the hold our possessions can have on us, and turns our attention toward God’s kingdom and the needs of others.

Each year, members are invited to make a prayerful commitment. On Stewardship Sunday, we carry our commitment cards forward and place them on the altar—a shared act that helps each of us practice intentional generosity, and helps NPC faithfully and responsibly plan our ministry for the year ahead.

In the end, stewardship isn’t about a number. It’s about asking a faithful question: How is God calling me to use what He has entrusted to me for His purposes?



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