

September 20, 2026

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*Am I not allowed to do what I choose with
what belongs to me? Or are you envious
because I am generous?*
Matthew 20:15



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 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).

Middle School Fall Retreat

September 25-27

Breakaway Retreat

We invite all middle school youth to join us for a weekend away for fun, faith, and fellowship! 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, visit our [website](#).

The Military Ministry would love to proactively support members of the military. If you are currently on active duty, 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).

Week at a Glance

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

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

Friday, September 25 - Sunday, September 27

- Middle School Fall Retreat

Sunday, September 27

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for All Ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Coffee, Cookies, & Community

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).

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

Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ OPENING SONG

You Are My Vision

Rend Collective

You are my vision, O King of my heart. Nothing else satisfies—only you, Lord!

You are my best thought, by day or by night.

Waking or sleeping, your presence my light!

You are my wisdom. You are my true word. I ever with you and you with me, Lord!

You're my great Father and I'm your true son!

You dwell inside me together we're one.

You are my battle-shield, sword for the fight. You are my dignity. You're my delight!

You're my soul's shelter and you're my high tower.

Come raise me heavenward, O Power of my power!

I don't want riches or vain empty praise. You're my inheritance, now and always!

You and you only, the first in my heart.

High King of heaven, my treasure you are!

High King of heaven, when victory's won, may I reach heaven's joy,

O bright heaven's Son!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all!

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Larsen

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O God, our heavenly Father, who so loved the world that you gave your only Son to die upon the cross, forgive our persistent sins of insular self-service and selfishness. Pour your love into our hearts, we humbly beseech you, that we may see the array of human needs before us, and that, loving you above all things, we may give up ourselves to your service; for the sake of him who loves us and gave himself for us, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

From John R. W. Stott

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. Larsen

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. Larsen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 20:1-16
Pew Bible Page 801

Kelsey Morris

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Melanie Lenhard
Associate 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

Serving 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

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

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

▲ OFFERING SONG

Gratitude

Brandon Lake

All my words fall short, I got nothing new.
How could I express all my gratitude?

I could sing these songs as I often do,
but every song must end and you never do.

*So I throw up my hands and praise you again and again.
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah, hallelujah.*

*And I know it's not much but I've nothing else fit for a king,
except for a heart singing: hallelujah, hallelujah!*

I've got one response, I've got just one move:
with my arms stretched wide I will worship you.

Come on my soul, O don't you get shy on me.
Lift up your song, 'cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs.
Get up and praise the Lord! (2x) Chorus (2x)

▲ 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

Dr. Stoltzfus

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

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 Chorale Prelude on "Lobe den Herren," BWV 650

CHIMES

J. S. Bach
Todd Fickley, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN

Give Praise to the Lord

Laudate Dominum

Give praise to the Lord, and sing a new song,
Amid all the saints God's praises belong;
A song to your maker and ruler now raise,
All children of Zion, rejoice and give praise.

With timbrel and harp and joyful acclaim,
With gladness and mirth, we raise your great name;
For now in your people good pleasure you seek,
With robes of salvation you cover the meek.

In glory exult, all saints of the Lord;
With songs in the night high praises accord;
Go forth in God's service and strong in God's might
To herald God's justice and serve in delight.

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Larsen

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Laudate Dominum

For this is God's word: The saints shall not fail,
But over the earth God's rule shall prevail;
All kingdoms and nations in God's coming day
Shall give God all glory, and praise God for aye.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Rev. Larsen

O God, our heavenly Father, who so loved the world that you gave your only Son to die upon the cross, forgive our persistent sins of insular self-service and selfishness. Pour your love into our hearts, we humbly beseech you, that we may see the array of human needs before us, and that, loving you above all things, we may give up ourselves to your service; for the sake of him who loves us and gave himself for us, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

From John R. W. Stott

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. Larsen
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. Larsen

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE Matthew 20:1-16 Elder Gerri Hall
Pew Bible Page 801

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Melanie Lenhard
Associate 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 Serving 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 Shepherd's Pipes

With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,
In service of your kingdom here, in love of neighbors, too.
O God you gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son;
Help us to share your gracious gift until life's work is done.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

OFFERTORY A Vineyard Grows K. Lee Scott

Amid the world's bleak wilderness
A vineyard grows with promise green,
The planting of the Lord himself,
The planting of the Lord.
His love selected this terrain,
His vine with love he planted here
To bear the choicest fruit for him,
The choicest fruit for him.
We are his branches, chosen, dear;
And though we feel the dresser's knife,
We are the objects of his care,
The objects of his care.

From him we draw the juice of life,
For him supply his winery
With fruit from which true joys derive,
From which true joys derive.
Vine, keep what I was meant to be:
Your branch, with your rich life in me.

Jaroslav J. Vajdai

▲ 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

Dr. Stoltzfus

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 357

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

Maryton

▲ BENEDICTION

Dr. Hylton

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

K. Lee Scott

Vine, keep what I was meant to be: Your branch, with your rich life in me.

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Dr. Stoltzfus

▲ POSTLUDE

The Rejoicing

G. F. Handel
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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- **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

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

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

First Corinthians (Chapel)

New Members Class (Elson Parlor)

Parent Gathering (Jones Hall in the Education Building)

The Art of Marriage (Room 109)

The Book of Isaiah (Garden Rooms B & C)

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

The Dangerous Act of Loving One's Neighbor (Starting Sept. 27)

After the Revolution: Religion in the New Republic (Starting Nov.1)



**Called
to Care**

Overwhelmed and not sure where to turn?

Rev. Lisa Larsen is available to meet with you to think through difficult situations. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202-537-7540

*Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You for Participating in the Fall Food & Clothing Drive and Blood Drive!

Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers and participants who generously gave their time, energy, and resources to make the drives a success. We collected several pallets of food and clothing to be distributed to families and individuals in need at Central Union Mission's DC and Northern Virginia facilities. In addition, we collected 45 units of blood for the Red Cross. Your compassion and commitment were truly inspiring as we came together to love our neighbors and serve our community.

Serve Our City - Habitat for Humanity Saturday, October 3, 8:30 am Off Campus

You are invited to join the next Habitat for [Humanity DC/NOVA Build](#) as we come together to help provide affordable housing for low-income families and individuals. This is a great opportunity to serve alongside others, build relationships, and make a lasting impact by providing a home. Spots are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more info or to reserve your spot, email Jonathan Edwards (jedwards@nationalpres.org).

Thank You for Helping with Disaster Relief

Thank you for your continued generosity and faithful giving. NPC has been able to provide thousands of dollars in disaster relief to communities in Nepal, Venezuela and Gary, Indiana. Your support allows us to respond when disaster strikes, extending care and assistance to people facing tremendous hardship both around the world and in our own communities. Thank you for faithfully helping NPC be a church that responds with compassion, generosity, and action.

Women's Ministry Fall Brunch Saturday, October 24, 12:00 pm Stone Fellowship Hall

Save the date! The fall brunch is always a special time to gather around the table to enjoy a delicious meal, catch up with friends, reflect on our faith, and enjoy the gift of being together. Our speaker will be Melissa Overmyer, author and Christian leader. See you there!

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 pray for:

Steve and Janice Quakenbush in their work with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

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 and in memory of Bruce MacLaury for his many years of dedication to NPC.

“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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