

September 27, 2026

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*"Which of the two did the will of his father?"
They said, "The first." Jesus said to them,
"Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and
the prostitutes are going into
the kingdom of God ahead of you."
Matthew 21:31*



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!

Mission Gifts for Christmas

Today is the Last Day to Nominate

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](#).

Men's Breakfast

Join us October 3rd at 8:00 am for a hearty meal, great fellowship, and an engaging conversation in Stone Fellowship Hall.

Club 45

Sunday, October 4, 5:00 pm

Youth House

4th & 5th graders, Club 45 is just for you! Come grow in faith and friendship through fun games, Bible study and more. For more details, 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 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

Saturday, October 3

- 8:00 am: Men's Breakfast
- 8:30 am: Habitat for Humanity

Sunday, October 4

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

Youth Group

Sunday, October 4, 6:30 pm

Youth House

Bring a friend to youth group for dinner, Bible study, and games. Youth Group meets on Sunday evenings, beginning with dinner together in the Multipurpose Building. 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).

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 O the Deep, Deep Love Bob Kauflin and Samuel Trevor Francis

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me;
Underneath me, all around me is the current of your love;
Leading onward, leading homeward to your glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love; all I need and trust is the deep, deep love of Jesus.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread his praise from shore to shore;
How he came to pay our ransom through the saving cross he bore;
How he watches o'er his loved ones, those he died to make his own;
How for them he's interceding, pleading now before the throne. *Chorus (2x)*

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, far surpassing all the rest;
It's an ocean full of blessing in the midst of ev'ry test;
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, mighty Savior, precious friend;
You will bring us home to glory, where your love will never end. *Chorus (2x)*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Meek

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Gracious and merciful God, we come before you in repentance and contrition.

Forgive our sins, O Lord, and cleanse us.

Give us patience in adversity, strength in weakness,
and comfort in trouble and distress.

Help us in true obedience to give over our own will to you in all things,
according to the example of your beloved Son.

Then give us a willing and cheerful mind, that we may gladly bear all things for your sake.

Miles Coverdale

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Meek

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 21:23-32
Pew Bible Pages 802-803

Daniel Stid

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

Obedying 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. 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

Take My Life

Chris Tomlin

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use ev'ry power as you choose.

Here am I, all of me. Take my life, it's all for thee.

Here am I, all of me. Take my life, it's all for thee.

Take my will and make it thine, it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at your feet its treasure store.

Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee. *Chorus*

▲ 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

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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

Kristian Stanfill

The gates are open wide; we worship you.

The cross has overcome; we worship you.

Shout hosanna, Jesus, he saves!

Shout hosanna, he rose from the grave!

Come and lift him up, hosanna!

Now let the lost be found, forgiven. Death could not hold him down; he's risen.

So let the saints cry out, we worship you. We worship you! *Chorus*

The same power that rolled the stone away, the same power alive in us today,

King Jesus, we call upon your name, no other name. (2x) *Chorus* (2x)

Come and lift him up hosanna! (2x)

Dr. Hylton

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

Prelude in B major

Camille Saint-Saëns

CHIMES

Todd Fickley, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Craig Meek

▲ HYMN 223 *verses 1-5* O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

Stuttgart

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Rev. Meek

▲ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn 223, verse 6

Bless your Maker, all you creatures,
Ever under God's control,
All throughout God's vast dominion
Bless the Lord of all, my soul!

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Rev. Meek

Gracious and merciful God, we come before you in repentance and contrition.

Forgive our sins, O Lord, and cleanse us.

Give us patience in adversity, strength in weakness,
and comfort in trouble and distress.

Help us in true obedience to give over our own will to you in all things,
according to the example of your beloved Son.

Then give us a willing and cheerful mind, that we may gladly bear all things for your sake.

Miles Coverdale

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

Matthew 21:23-32
Pew Bible Pages 802-803

Karin Strydom

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.
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SERMON

Obedying 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

Call to Remembrance

Richard Farrant

Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercy and thy lovingkindness
Which have been ever of old.

O remember not the sins and offenses of my youth,
But according to thy mercy think thou on me, O Lord, for thy goodness.

From Psalm 25

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Rev. Lisa Larsen

OFFERTORY

Search Me, O God

Heather Sorenson

A Psalm of Humility

Search me, O God, and know my heart. See if there be any wickedness in me.

Is there strife? Is there pride? A transgression that is hidden from my eyes?

Search me, O God, and know my heart. And lead me in the path eternal,

Lead me to life everlasting, eternal.

Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me. Know me. Search my heart. Psalm 139:23-24
With Danielle Cho, cello

▲ 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

Trust and Obey

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord in the light of God's Word,

What a glory is shed on our way!

While we do the Lord's will, God abides with us still,

And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain

Trust and obey, for there's no other way

To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

When in fellowship sweet as we sit at his feet,
Or we walk by his side in the way;
What he says we will do, where he sends we will go—
Free from fear: Only trust and obey. *Refrain*

Dr. Hylton

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me. Know me. Search my heart.

Rev. Larsen

Toccata in D minor

▲ Congregation standing, as able

Everyone is invited downstairs to Stone Fellowship Hall after worship for Coffee, Cookies, and Community.

NOTES

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

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 and 2-year-olds are in Room 230. 3-year-olds and 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](#).

20s/30s (Garden Room A)

First Corinthians (Chapel)

Parent Gathering (Jones Hall in the Education Building)

The Art of Marriage (Room 109)

The Book of Isaiah (Garden Rooms B & C)

The Dangerous Act of Loving One's Neighbor (Room 209)

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



**Called
to Care**

May we pray for you?

If you would like to request prayer or feel called to join our prayer team, contact careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202-537-7540

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
Philippians 4:6

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Middle School Fall Retreat

We thank you for your prayers, as our youth travel home today from their weekend at Breakaway Retreat! And we look forward to hearing about their wonderful experiences!

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).

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).

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

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. Christian author and teacher, Melissa Overmyer, will speak on the shape of God's love among us. Register on our [website](#) or for more information, email women@nationalpres.org.

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).

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:

John Wagner as he works through Young Life to spread the Gospel to teens in New York and in cities across the globe.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office, careoffice@nationalpres.org 202-537-7537.

Today's Flowers
are given to the glory of God.

“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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