



November 30, 2014

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LEADING PEOPLE TO BECOME
FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST
TOGETHER IN GOD'S WORLD

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

For nothing will be impossible with God.

*Mary said, "Here am I, the handmaiden of the Lord;
let it be with me according to your word."*

Luke 1:37-38a

Dr. David Renwick, *Senior Pastor* · Dr. Quinn Fox, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Donna Marsh, *Associate Pastor* · Rev. Evangeline Taylor, *Associate Pastor*
Parish Associates: Rev. Nancy T. Fox and Dr. Donald R. Wilson
Rev. Michael Denham, *Director of Music Ministries*
William Neil, *Organist* · Hilda Gore, *Contemporary Music Leader*
Ministry Directors: J. Theodore Anderson (Library & Older Adults),
Jill Meek (Children), Leslie Saum (Connections)
McLane Stone (Youth), and Sally Swanson (Serve)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

9:15 & 11 A.M.

Kindly turn off your cell phone and other electronic devices.

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

J.S. Bach

18 Leipzig Chorales, verse 1

William Neil, organ

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. David Renwick

9:15 a.m. Jill and Craig Meek

11 a.m. Leslie and Rick Saum

▲ HYMN 474

O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

Puer nobis nascitur

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

O God of the ages and ages to come,

make us watchful as we await the coming of your Son our Savior.

When he comes, may he not find us sleeping in sin,

but awake, and rejoicing in his praises.

Bring to light things hidden in darkness,

even the shadows of our hearts.

Forgive our sins, we pray. Then cleanse and renew us,

that we may walk in your light and glorify your name,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

In dulci jubilo

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice;

Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls us one and calls us all to gain the everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

HEARING GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Children may meet their Sunday School leaders in the Court of Flags:

9:15 a.m. *to join their peers in Sunday School in the school building. (grades K-5)*

11 a.m. *to go to the Worship for Life program in Church Room 106, then return after the sermon*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1, *selected verses*

9:15 a.m. Elder Rick Hawthorne

The Word of the Lord.

11 a.m. Elder Alease Johnson

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A New Call

Rev. Evangeline Taylor

Luke 1, *selected verses*

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

RESPONSE

Song of Zechariah

Kingsfold

Choir

Blest be the God of Israel who comes to set us free;
Who visits and redeems his own to grant us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise and bring his people peace.

Congregation

God from the line of David's house a Child of grace has giv'n;
A Savior comes among us here to raise us up to heav'n.
Before him goes the herald, fore-runner in the way,
The prophet of salvation: A call to God's new day.

from Michael Perry

▲ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

An Advent Affirmation

Rev. Donna Marsh

We believe in one God, whose almighty word brought forth the universe,
who speaks to us by his Spirit through what he has created
and through what has been written for us in Holy Scripture.

We believe that at the right moment in time,
God's Word became flesh in the life of Jesus of Nazareth,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.

We believe that the same angels who heralded Jesus' birth
also point us to the cross on which Jesus died, and to his empty tomb.
There the angel's message "He is risen!" heralded the glorious good news of
Christ's resurrection.

We believe that this same Jesus is alive to meet us every day,
and to offer us new and abundant life.

We rejoice in the knowledge that one day he will return to rule in righteousness,
to renew the earth, and to claim us as God's own.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Zion Hears the Watchman Calling

J.S. Bach

Zion hears the watchman calling,
with gladness all her heart entralling;
she eager wakes to greet the day.

from Cantata BWV 140, *Wachet auf*

See, her Lord from heav'n descending,
with grace and truth and pow'r unending,
her daystar dawns with brightest ray.

O come, thou blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son, Hosanna!

We follow there thy feast to share,
and taste the joys beyond compare.

from English text by John Rutter after German of Paul Nicolai

▲ ADVENT DOXOLOGY

Regent Square

Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit, ever Three and ever One:
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run.

▲ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

▲ HYMN

Song of Mary

Forest Green

My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me,
Who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny.
The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace
To those who seek their Maker's will in every time and place.
The arm of God is strong and just to scatter all the proud.
The tyrants tumble from their thrones and vanish like a cloud.
The hungry all are satisfied; the rich are sent away;
The poor of earth who suffer long will welcome God's new day.
The promise made in ages past at last has come to be,
For God has come in power to save, to set all people free.
Rememb'ring those who wait to see salvation's dawning day,
Our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.

Ruth Duck

▲ BENEDICTION AND CHORAL AMEN

▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

▲ POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

J.S. Bach

18 Leipzig Chorales, verse 3

▲ Congregation standing, as able

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and with thanksgiving in memory of Stephen S. Johnson by his devoted family, his wife Margaret, and their children Stephanie, Rebekah, and Courtney.

Consider honoring a loved with a floral arrangement during the Advent season. Donations by check may be made payable to "NPC Flower Fund." Envelopes for donations and dedication wording are at the information table.

Take flowers to brighten someone's day. Are you planning to visit someone who is ill or home-bound? Take along flowers to bring some cheer! Bud vases with fresh flowers may be found on the table outside of Elson Parlor.

Chapel prayers after worship: If you have a joy or concern on your heart, come to the chapel down the hall to the right as you exit the sanctuary. A pastor, elder or deacon, and Stephen Minister will be there to pray with you privately about your concerns and celebrations.

WELCOME, GUESTS!

We are so glad you are here today.

- **Welcome packets** and information on the church are available at the information table to the right as you exit the sanctuary, and at the entrances to the church building.
- Enjoy **coffee and cookies** downstairs in Stone Fellowship Hall after worship.
- Our **Connections Team**, wearing purple badges, are here to welcome you and answer questions.
- **Tours of the church** on Sundays or weekdays are available upon request. *Please call: 202.537.7529.*

TODAY

SOCKS, GLOVES, COATS & SWEATERS

Collection ends today

These four items ONLY have been requested by NPC's local mission partners to keep the homeless and families in need warm this winter. Please donate new and gently used men's (XL and larger), women's and children's:

- socks (new only)
- gloves
- sweaters
- coats

Be generous to others this holiday season! Items go to mission partners **Central Union Mission, Martha's Outfitters, and Friendship Place**. *Monetary donations may be made to NPC by designating a check with the memo line "Clothing Drive."*

CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE KIDS

Drop off donations today

Help NPC college students get through their finals by contributing to a care package! **You can bring in cookies (our goal is 1,000 homemade cookies total) or a monetary donation for coffee shop gift cards.** Please bring items in today to the refreshment table down the hall from the sanctuary (before or after worship), or to the Advent Workshop this evening.

UPDATE YOUR STUDENT'S ADDRESS

Parents, please make sure we have your student's current address. *Contact HNovak@NationalPres.org with addresses and updates.*

ADVENT WORKSHOP

4:30–6:30 p.m., Sanctuary & Stone Hall

Families with children, begin the Advent season with this ray of light: a kid-sized worship time (children's choirs sing!) followed by craft-making and a pizza dinner. Come to center on Jesus, connect with your church family, and create crafts for this Christmas or for years to come. *Please bring \$5 per person for pizza.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS, YOUTH, AND CHILDREN

9:30 – 10:30 a.m., see p. 8 for locations

YOUNG ADULTS

12:15 p.m., Church Room 110/111

"Across the Aisle" group for young adults (ages 22-35) gathers for lunch and conversation. *Contact: Under35@NationalPres.org.*

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS

Thanks to all who have shared their stewardship commitment cards. If you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider how you will support God's work in and through NPC in 2015.

Mail your commitment card to the church, submit it online (nationalpres.org/giving), or place it in the offering plate. *Commitment cards can be found on the information table or in the pews.*

THIS WEEK AND UPCOMING

MISSION GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY

Dec. 7 & 14, Stone Hall

Decide now to make this Christmas different! Did you know that Americans spend \$450 billion dollars on Christmas every year? Get your Christmas shopping done early, and make a difference for people who really need it! Mission Gifts for Christmas offers you an opportunity to give to 39 different charities in honor of a friend, family member, teacher, or coworker. *For more information and to shop online: nationalpres.org/mission-gifts*

NEW MISSION GIFTS CHILDREN'S MARKET

Make Christmas more about giving than getting for your children! Our new Mission Gifts Children's Market provides children the opportunity to give teachers, friends, or family a gift that helps others. Your child can see samples of four \$1 gifts that will help other children with various needs. Encourage your children to save or earn dollars now to use next Sunday!

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES

*Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10, 17
7–7:55 p.m., Chapel*

Advent Vespers begin this week for a time of mid-week worship during the busy Christmas season. Rev. Marsh, Rev. Taylor, and Dr. Fox will preach and communion will be served. *Complimentary childcare (age 5 and under) is available with RSVP to: childcare@NationalPres.org.*

COLLEGE FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m.

AU East Quad Building, Room 209

All college students are welcome for conversation, scripture study, and food on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. *Contact: McLane Stone, MStone@NationalPres.org.*

REAL MOMS COFFEE HOUSE

*Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9:30–11:30 a.m.
Church Room 107*

All moms are invited for a special talk with NPC contemporary music leader and recently certified Integrative Nutrition Health Coach, **Hilda Gore**, who will share her insights on faith and fitness as we continue our theme of Biblical Wellness. Join when you can for as long as you can. Coffee, (healthy!) snacks and free childcare are provided.

BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Dec. 5–7, Youth House driveway & lawn

Boy Scout Troop 1946 will be selling Christmas trees, wreaths, and garlands from 3–9 p.m. (Fri), 9 a.m.–9 p.m. (Sat), and 9 a.m.–6 p.m. (Sun). *They accept cash or checks only.*

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, Dec. 6, 8–9:30 a.m., Stone Hall

All men are invited for a hearty breakfast and great fellowship. NPC member Dr. John Gordon will share about his faith journey and how it has impacted his career as a specialist in fertility medicine. *To reserve your place contact: Men@NationalPres.org or 202.537.7527.*

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S GUILD LUNCHEON

*Saturday, Dec. 6, Stone Hall
12 p.m. (lunch), 1 p.m. (program)*

Thelma Leenhouts, a member of the NPC Chancel Choir and The City Choir of Washington, will present a program of Christmas music including songs, carols, and poems telling of Christ's birth and its meaning for our lives. *For lunch reservations (\$12), sign up in Stone Hall today or call [Joan Anderson, 202.362.7475](tel:202.362.7475).*

MUSIC AT NATIONAL

Sunday, December 7, 3 p.m.

Washington Bach Consort presents “Christmas for Our Time,” a program of new as well as familiar seasonal works performed by the Consort Chorus and organists Todd Fickley and J. Reilly Lewis. *Tickets and information: bachconsort.org*

Sunday, December 14, 4:30 p.m.

The City Choir of Washington brings “The Holly and The Ivy,” their traditional holiday concert featuring festive music for chorus, brass and organ. *Tickets and information: citychoir.org.*

These concerts tend to sell out, so consider ordering tickets early!

WEDNESDAY WOMEN

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 10:15 a.m.

Church Rooms 110/111 and 105

All women are invited for a special Christmas gathering with the MOMs group. We will begin together at 10:15 for fellowship and service projects followed by a Bible study about the Herod family from 11:15-12:15. Join us for this opportunity to get acquainted with other NPC women.

WHOLENESS AND HEALING SERVICE

Sunday, Dec. 14, 1:30 p.m., Chapel

All are invited to a service of Wholeness and Healing lead by Pastors, Deacons, and Stephen Ministers. Come experience Jesus’ healing touch at this beautiful and powerful chapel communion service. Communion will be served and anointing with oil will be available for those who wish to receive it.

U.S. ARMY CHORUS CONCERT

Monday, Dec. 15, 1 p.m., Sanctuary

Come and bring a friend to this free amazing concert of Christmas favorites (both sacred and secular)! All are invited to the Adult Fellowship Luncheon at noon in Stone Hall before the concert. *For lunch reservations (\$10), call 202.537.0800.*

EXPERT ADVICE FOR OLDER ADULTS

Lisa Rindner, MSW LGSW, is a trusted resource to our congregation, providing expert advice on practical and emotional matters of aging. *Free appointments available at NPC. Contact Lisa at 202.895.9440 or LRindner@iona.org*

NPC STRATEGIC PLAN

God is calling our community here at NPC to lead people to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ together in God’s world. Learn more about this vision by reading the plan, which is available at the information table and at nationalpres.org/strategic-plan *Questions or comments? strategicplan@nationalpres.org*

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT NPC

Be part of a great team serving Christ and the church! NPC is currently seeking an Administrative Assistant for Serve Ministries. This is a paid, 35 hour per week position reporting to Rev. Marsh. *The job description and instructions on how to apply can be found at www.nationalpres.org/jobs*

DECEMBER’S FOOD DONATION: CANNED TUNA

Please bring donations of canned tuna for mission partner Martha’s Table to the baskets outside of Stone Hall, or upstairs at the information table. *You can help gather food donations or pack and deliver food to Martha’s Table! Contact: Nancy Chapman Colb, nancy@nchapman.com.*

PRAYER MINISTRY

Please pray for:

Robert “Bob” Emery
John “Jack” Moran

*Confidential prayer requests:
nationalpres.org/prayer*

CLASSES AND GROUPS

ADULTS

LECTIONARY READINGS

Year 1

Nov. 30 - Dec. 7

Sunday

Psalms 24; 110
Isaiah 1:1-9
2 Peter 3:1-10
Matthew 25:1-13

Monday

Psalms 122; 67
Isaiah 1:10-20
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Luke 20:1-8

Tuesday

Psalms 33; 94
Isaiah 1:21-31
1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Luke 20:9-18

Wednesday

Psalms 50; 17
Isaiah 2:1-4
1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Luke 20:19-26

Thursday

Psalms 18:1-20; 62
Isaiah 2:5-22
1 Thessalonians 3:1-13
Luke 20:27-40

Friday

Psalms 102; 16
Isaiah 3:1-4:1
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Luke 20:41-21:4

Saturday

Psalms 90; 72
Isaiah 4:2-6
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Luke 21:5-19

Sunday

Psalms 24; 110
Isaiah 5:1-7
2 Peter 3:11-18
Luke 7:28-35

Sunday Classes, 9:30 a.m.

- Life in Progress: Seeking God Amidst Life's Complexities *School Room 236*
- Men's Sunday School Class *Agencies 101*
- Exploring John's Gospel: A Bible Study *Agencies 105*
- A Living Faith for Hostile Times: Guidance from the Apostle Paul *Church Room 5*
- The Church in the 20th Century *Church Room 110/111*
- Ephesians: Growing Up in Christ, Learning to be the Church *Elson Parlor*

Groups

- Across the Aisle (ages 22–35) **Sundays, 12:15 p.m.** *Church Room 110/111*
- Adult Fellowship Luncheon **3rd Monday of the month, Noon** *Stone Hall*
- Cub Scout Troop 1946, **Every other Tuesday, 6–7 p.m.** *MP Bldg. & Agencies Lower Level*
- "Real Moms" Coffeehouse **Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.** *Church Room 107*
- Wednesday Women **2nd Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.** *Church Room 110/111*
- Boy Scout Troop 1946, **Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.** *Agencies Lower Level*
- Afternoon T.E.A. Bible Study **2nd Wednesday of the month, 1:30–3 p.m.** *Elson Parlor*
- WomenConnect **3rd Wednesday of the month, 7–8:45 p.m.** *Elson Parlor*
- Community Bible Study **Thursdays, 7–9 p.m.** *Agencies 105*
- Men's Breakfast **1st Saturday of the month, 8 – 9:30 a.m.** *Stone Hall*
- B&P Women's Guild Luncheon **1st Saturday of the month, Noon** *Stone Hall*
- Saturday Morning Bible Study **Saturdays, 8:30 – 10 a.m.** *Satellite Library*
- Women in the Word Bible Study **Saturdays, 9:30–11 a.m.** *Church Room 105*
- GriefShare **Resumes in January, Sundays, 12:30 p.m.** *Culbertson Library*

YOUTH

Sunday School, 9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

- Middle School (6th & 7th grade) *MP Building; Multipurpose Room 101*
- Middle School (8th grade) *Agencies 102*
- High School (9th – 12th grade) *Youth House*

Youth Group, Sundays, 5–7:30 p.m.

- Middle School (6th–8th grade): **5–6 p.m.** *Youth House*
- NPC Youth dinner (*parents welcome!*): **5:45–6:45 p.m.** *Multi Purpose Room*
- High School (9th–12th grade): **6:30–7:30 p.m.** *Youth House*

CHILDREN

Preschool Sunday School, 9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Parents drop off children between 9:10-9:15 and pick up children in their classrooms at 10:30 a.m.

- 2-year olds: Church Room 8
- 3-year olds: School Room 104
- 4-year olds: School Room 106

Elementary Sunday School, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Children meet teachers in the school gym at 9:30 a.m., whether coming directly to Sunday School, or from worship after the Time for Children. Parents, pick up children in their classrooms at 10:30.

- Kindergarten: School Room 108
- 1st Grade: School Room 132
- 2nd Grade: School Room 200
- 3rd Grade: School Room 208
- 4th Grade: School Room 240
- 5th Grade: School Room 242

Children's Church, 11 a.m.

Children grades K-2 begin in worship, attend the children's church program, and return after the sermon.

- Crib Room: Babies 6 weeks – Crawling *Church Room 16*
- Walker Room: Toddlers and walkers up to 4 yrs. *Church Room 7*

MUSIC

- Chancel Choir **Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.** *Choir Room*
- Contemporary Music Team **Wednesdays 6:30 – 8 p.m.** *Chapel*
- Grace Chimes Handbells **Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.** *Church Room 110*
- Children's Choir (K–5th grade) **Sundays, 10:30-10:55 a.m.** *School Building*
- Youth Choir (6th grade +) **Sundays, 10:25-10:55 a.m.** *Multipurpose Room*

BOOKSTORE & LIBRARY **Sundays 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

- Culbertson Library (also: M-TH 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.) *Admin. Bldg., Second Floor*
- Satellite Library & Moehrle Bookstore *Adjacent to Stone Hall*

THE NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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