

September 17, 2023



Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

The gracious hand of my God was upon me.
Nehemiah 2:8

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastors

Parish Associates

Music

Ministry Directors

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.
Dr. Quinn Fox
Rev. Lisa Larsen
Dr. Nancy Fox
Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus
Dr. Michael Denham (Director)
Todd Fickley (Organist)
Joanna Zorack-Greene
(Contemporary Music Leader)
Jonathan Edwards (Serve)
Kristin Franke (Youth & Families)
Jill Meek (Children)
Leslie Saum (Connections)

WELCOME TO FALL!

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!

Lessons from Nehemiah Sermon Series

You are invited to journey through Nehemiah with us Sundays through October 29! With its 13 chapters, the book of Nehemiah is one of the liveliest pieces of writing in the Hebrew Bible. Together with the book of Ezra, Nehemiah chronicles the arduous journey of God's people emerging from Babylonian exile to reclaim their spiritual heritage in Jerusalem-Palestine.

Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)

Today at 5:00 pm

Calling all 4th & 5th graders! Come grow in faith and friendship through fun and games and exploring God's word. For more information contact jmeek@nationalpres.org.

Adult Fellowship Luncheon

Wednesday, September 20, 12:00 pm

Please join us in Stone Hall for lunch and a presentation from Rev. Dr. Margaret Kibben, Chaplain, US House of Representatives. RSVP to Wray Muoio at wmuoio@nationalpres.org or 202.537.7540.

Fall Food and Clothing Drive

Saturday, September 23, 9am-12pm

Donations Now Accepted!

NPC's Fall Food and Clothing Drive is back! Join us to make a real difference in our city as we collect and organize nonperishable food and gently used winter clothing for those suffering from the realities of hunger, food insecurity, and the approaching cold weather. For more information, contact Serve Director Jonathan Edwards at jedwards@nationalpres.org or visit the [Events webpage](#). Donations are now being accepted in the Administrative Building, 9-5, Monday-Friday, and in the bins in the main church building on Sundays.

Interested in NPC Membership?

**Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class
This Saturday, September 23**

Right now is an exciting time to learn about what God is doing here at NPC! To inquire about church membership or just learn more about Christian faith, come to this one-day class on September 23. For more info or to register by September 21, visit our [Events webpage](#) or contact Kemet Rakiatu at 202.537.7578 or krakiatu@nationalpres.org.

Service of Installation

Sunday, September 24, 2:00 pm

The National Capital Presbytery is delighted to invite you to the Service of Installation for Rev. Dr. Raymond I. Hylton, Sr. as Senior Pastor of National Presbyterian Church. This will be a joyful ceremony honoring this historic occasion in Dr. Hylton's life and the life of National Presbyterian Church, including a message given by Rev. Allan Poole and a Choral Response led by his wife, Judith Hylton. Following the Service, there will be a reception in Stone Fellowship Hall.

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING

Improvisations

Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

▲ OPENING SONG

Across the Lands

Getty & Townend

You're the Word of God the Father, from before the world began;
Ev'ry star and ev'ry planet has been fashioned by your hand.
All creation holds together by the power of your voice:
Let the skies declare your glory, let the land and seas rejoice!

Chorus

*You're the Author of creation, you're the Lord of ev'ryone;
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

Yet you left the gaze of angels, came to seek and save the lost,
And exchanged the joy of heaven for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry, with a word you stilled the sea.
Yet how silently you suffered that the guilty may go free. Chorus

With a shout you rose victorious, wresting victory from the grave,
And ascended into heaven leading captives in your wake.
Now you stand before the Father interceding for your own.
From each tribe and tongue and nation you are leading sinners home.

Chorus (2x)

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.
My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
Hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.
He will redeem us from all our iniquities.

from Psalm 130

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

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Kyle Putnam

Associate for Youth Ministries

*Children ages 5 to 5th grade will then be dismissed for Children's Chapel.
Parents may take children age 4 and under to the nursery.*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PATHWAY

Dr. Quinn Fox

SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 2:1-8

Elder Mercedes Condry

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was served to him, I carried the wine and gave it to the king. Now, I had never been sad in his presence before. ²So the king said to me, 'Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart.' Then I was very much afraid. ³I said to the king, 'May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors' graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?' ⁴Then the king said to me, 'What do you request?' So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵Then I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, so that I may rebuild it.' ⁶The king said to me (the queen also was sitting beside him), 'How long will you be gone, and when will you return?' So it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a date. ⁷Then I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may grant me passage until I arrive in Judah; ⁸and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, directing him to give me timber to make beams for the gates of the temple fortress, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.' And the king granted me what I asked, for the gracious hand of my God was upon me.

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

SERMON

Lessons from Nehemiah
Putting Prayer into Action

Rev. Lisa Larsen

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. Fox

Offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes, gifts and prayer cards as you exit.

▲ OFFERING SONG

O the Deep, Deep Love

Kauflin & 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.

Chorus

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)**

▲ 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 THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Fox

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

Trust in You

Lauren Daigle

Letting go of every single dream, I lay each one down at your feet.

Every moment of my wondering never changes what you see.

I've tried to win this war, I confess. My hands are weary, I need your rest.

Mighty warrior, King of the fight, no matter what I face you're by my side.

Chorus

When you don't move the mountains I'm needing you to move,
when you don't part the waters I wish I could walk through,
when you don't give the answers as I cry out to you:

I will trust, I will trust, I will trust in you!

Truth is you know what tomorrow brings. There's not a day ahead you have not seen.

So in all things be my life and breath. I want what you want, Lord, and nothing less!

Chorus Bridge

You are my strength and comfort. You are my steady hand.

You are my firm foundation, the Rock on which I stand.

Your ways are always higher. Your plans are always good.

▲ BENEDICTION AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Rev. Larsen

▲ SENDING

NPC Band

▲ Congregation standing, as able

11:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Adagio from Sonata No. 1

Felix Mendelssohn
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Kerry Stoltzfus

▲ HYMN 489

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

Unser Herrscher

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Felix Mendelssohn

Almighty Father, hear our prayer, and bless us as we wait upon thee.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

Hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love and great power to redeem.

He will redeem us from all our iniquities.

from Psalm 130

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

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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Kyle Putnam
Associate for Youth Ministries

*Children ages 5 to 5th grade will then be dismissed for Children's Chapel.
Parents may take children age 4 and under to the nursery.*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PATHWAY

Dr. Quinn Fox

SCRIPTURE

Nehemiah 2:1-8

Wanda Martinson

In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was served to him, I carried the wine and gave it to the king. Now, I had never been sad in his presence before. ²So the king said to me, 'Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This can only be sadness of the heart.' Then I was very much afraid. ³I said to the king, 'May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my ancestors' graves, lies waste, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?' ⁴Then the king said to me, 'What do you request?' So I prayed to the God of heaven. ⁵Then I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor with you, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, so that I may rebuild it.' ⁶The king said to me (the queen also was sitting beside him), 'How long will you be gone, and when will you return?' So it pleased the king to send me, and I set him a date. ⁷Then I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, let letters be given me to the governors of the province Beyond the River, that they may grant me passage until I arrive in Judah; ⁸and a letter to Asaph, the keeper of the king's forest, directing him to give me timber to make beams for the gates of the temple fortress, and for the wall of the city, and for the house that I shall occupy.' And the king granted me what I asked, for the gracious hand of my God was upon me.

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

SERMON

Lessons from Nehemiah
Putting Prayer into Action

Rev. Lisa Larsen

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

CHORAL RESPONSE

Inward Light

When we bend upon the knee, clasp our hands, or bow the head,
Let our spoken, public pleas be directly, simply said,
Free of tangled words that mask what our souls would plainly ask.
Save us from the soothing sin of the void religious deed
And the pious, babbling din of the claimed but unliv'd creed.
Let our actions, Lord, express what our tongues and lips profess.

Thomas H. Troeger

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Fox

Offering plates are at the back of the sanctuary to receive your tithes, gifts and prayer cards as you exit.

OFFERTORY

I Waited for the Lord

Felix Mendelssohn

I waited for the Lord, he inclined unto me, he heard my complaint.
O blessed are they that hope and trust in the Lord.

with Tess Ottinger and Joanna Zorack-Greene, sopranos

▲ 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 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.

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| ▲ HYMN 282 | If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee | <i>Wer nur den lieben Gott</i> |
| ▲ BENEDICTION | | Rev. Larsen |
| ▲ CHORAL RESPONSE | | <i>Ellers</i> |
| | Savior, again to thy dear name we raise with one accord our parting hymn of praise.
We stand to bless to bless thee ere our worship cease;
and now departing, wait thy word of peace. | |
| ▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST | | Dr. Fox |
| ▲ POSTLUDE | Allegro Maestoso from Sonata No. 4 | Felix Mendelssohn
Mr. Fickley, organ |
| ▲ Congregation standing, as able | | |

MORE EVENTS

Dinner, Drama, Discussion Returns!

Wednesdays starting September 27

You are invited to join us in Stone Fellowship Hall for six Wednesdays this fall, September 27 to November 1, for a fun and imaginative dive into Nehemiah using movie clips as our springboard. Please visit our [Events webpage](#) to sign up for meals and small groups.

- 6:30 pm: Light supper and fellowship.
- 7:00-8:00 pm: Film clips and interactive teaching on Nehemiah's lessons for Christian life, tied to our fall sermon series.
- 8:00-8:30 pm: Small group table conversation to explore scripture themes more deeply.

We offer both online or in-person small groups. Online groups will have the opportunity to view the Wednesday night program either live streamed or recorded for discussion in their small group study.

Mission Gifts for Christmas

Nominations

This is the perfect opportunity to support God's work throughout the world. You're invited to nominate a missionary or organization for this year's Mission Gifts for Christmas using the online form September 6-24. Not sure what Mission Gifts is? Please visit nationalpres.org/missiongifts to read more or make a nomination!

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, September 17

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:15 pm: Moldova prayer meeting in Room #109
- 5:00 pm: Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)
- 6:30 pm: Youth group

Thursday, September 21

- 12:00 pm: Lunch Bunch small group restarts
- 2:00 pm: Reset group - Psalms study

Saturday, September 23

- 9:00 am: Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class

Sunday, September 24

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 2:00 pm: Installation Service for Dr. Raymond I Hylton, Sr., Senior Pastor
- 6:30 pm: Youth group

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Group Dinners

Interested in supporting NPC's youth as they grow spiritually by feeding them physically? [Sign up here](#) or email kputnam@nationalpres.org to provide a simple dinner for a youth group night, and get a chance to meet the youth in a casual setting!

Change of Contact Info?

If you've had a change of address or other contact information such as email or phone number, please let us know by emailing us at info@nationalpres.org or updating your profile in our online directory. Click "[My NPC](#)" at the top of our website to create or edit your profile.

Community Health Note

Masks are optional at our services, with the exception of the balcony and the lectern-side transept (at the front on your right), where masks are required. Our ushers are happy to guide you to your preferred seating area.

Gift Bibles for You!

We have Bibles in the narthex for you or anyone who does not have a Bible of their own. Please pick one up today as our gift to you!

We love babies in worship!

- You are always welcome to keep your baby with you in the sanctuary.
- Childcare in the crib nursery and toddler room (2nd floor, main church) is available all morning every Sunday.
- The nursing room for nursing mothers is also available in Room #206 (2nd floor, main church building).

To learn more about opportunities for fellowship with other young families, please email Melanie Lenhard at mlenhard@nationalpres.org.

Session Report

At its August meeting, Session heard a detailed report on who makes up NPC's community, and how it has evolved since the pandemic, from Leslie Saum, Director of Connections Ministry. Dr. Hylton suggested that the way to grow the church today is to invite people into meaningful relationships here. As Session expressed their love, memories, and appreciation for Rev. Donna Marsh, she graciously provided Session with her detailed observations of NPC's past and future challenges.

Covenant of Closure: The Clerk is required to remind the congregation that, now that Rev. Donna Marsh is serving the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of River Forest, Illinois, she is no longer our pastor. The NPC congregation will not seek out her pastoral care.



**Called
to Care**

The Deacons' Assistance Fund offers short term, confidential financial assistance to members of our church experiencing hardship. This fund is solely supported by the generosity of our congregation. If you would like to make a donation, or know of someone in our church who needs support, contact Rev. Larsen. careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Our worship services are in the Sanctuary and online on our [Watch](#) webpage.

- **8:45 am:** Contemporary Worship
- **9:55 am:** Sunday School for all ages
- **11:00 am:** Traditional Worship

Adult Classes

For complete class descriptions as well as the Zoom link for R.V. Seep's class, please visit our [Adult Classes webpage](#).

- **Tim Keller's *Generous Justice*:** Peggy Lewis and Lewrene Glaser, Room #109
- ***Walking with God in Mission for Our Changing World*:** Nancy Fox, Room #209
- ***The Story Behind "The Story:" God's Plan of Redemption Through History*:** Dr. Quinn Fox, Garden Room A
- ***The Gospel of Luke*:** Margaret Gardner, Donna Duss, & Holly Novak, Garden Room C
- ***Romans*:** R.V. Seep, Chapel and online
- **Parent Gathering:** Kristin Franke and Parent facilitators, Jones Hall in the Education Building
- **Young Professionals Gathering:** Young Adult and Staff facilitators, NPC Parlor

Youth Sunday School

Visit our [Youth webpage](#) for information about Sunday School and other youth events. Youth grades 6-12, please come to the Multipurpose Building for Sunday School. We'll meet there briefly then split to smaller groups by age.

Children's Sunday School

Visit our [Children's webpage](#) to read about our Children's Ministry.

- Children ages 2-3 years have Sunday School in the Toddler Room in the main church building.
- Children age 4 through 5th grade meet for Sunday School in the Education Building (National Presbyterian School).

Childcare

The Nursery rooms are available 8:30 am-noon for infants to walkers, up to age 4.

NOTES

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THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!

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! Here are some easy online ways to connect with us:

- Click the Guestbook button our [Watch webpage](#) to sign our online guestbook.
- Visit the [bottom of our home webpage](#) at nationalpres.org to sign up for our e-newsletter.
- Follow us on social media!
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

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.

Prayers

We pray for:

Peace and patience to those waiting on God to answer prayer.

We pray for:

Little Lights Urban Ministries as they provide ministry and services to children and families living in poverty in DC housing projects.

How may we pray for you?

Please submit prayer requests to the Care Office,
careoffice@nationalpres.org
202.537.7540.

Your Giving and Commitments Make a Difference

Thank you! Because of your financial generosity, National continues to bear powerful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ.

You can support the general ministry of National:

- Go to nationalpres.org/giving
- Text "NPC" to 833.414.9444
- Scan the QR code below:



Want to support the Capital Building Campaign? Please visit our [Giving webpage](#).

For help or questions about giving, please contact our Finance Office at 202.537.7495 or email our Director of Finance and Administration, Leah Skrine at lskrine@nationalpres.org.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given with a grateful heart to the glory of God by Sara Grosvenor in honor of her mother, Anne Revis Grosvenor, and in remembrance of her delight in the autumn season.



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