

September 3, 2023



Welcome to
**NATIONAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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

*For what will it profit them
if they gain the whole world
but forfeit their life?
Or what will they give in return for their life?*
Matthew 16:26

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)

EVENTS AT NATIONAL

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!

Today, September 3

Special Labor Day Weekend Celebrations

- 10:00 am: Combined Worship Service
- Lemonade on the Lawn: As you return from the season of summer, we are excited to invite you to a delightful event to mark the end of one season and the beginning of another. Please join us for a refreshing and joy-filled “Lemonade on the Lawn” gathering on the Upper Plaza and Garden Terrace.

Reset Group Begins

Thursday, September 7, 2:00 pm

Ever need an afternoon reset? Starting September 7, please join us the first and third Thursday of the month at 2:00-3:00 pm in the NPC Parlor to study a Psalm and share reflections that draw us into God's presence, reframing our perspective before the day's next shift. You may sign up by visiting our [Small Groups webpage](#). Drop-ins are always welcome! Please reach out to Margaret Gardner, mgardner@nationalpres.org, with any questions.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, September 9, 8:00 am

All men are invited to join us in person on the first Saturday of every month for our men's breakfast. Leading the way in September is Senior Pastor Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr., who will be sharing his insights. The focus of his talk will be *Our Greatest Miracle*, delving into the message of 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. Please email Kristi Teems at kteems@nationalpres.org for more information or to RSVP.

Sunday, September 10

- Return to 8:45 & 11:00 am worship
- Fall kick-off of Sunday School for all ages (please see page 7)

Lessons from Nehemiah Sermon Series

Join us Sundays, September 10-October 29 for a new sermon series! 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.

2nd Sunday Sandwich Making

September 10 after 11:00 am Worship

Join us in Stone Fellowship Hall to make 400 sandwiches for Martha's Table. McKenna's Wagon delivers food to the hungry on the streets of DC every day of the year. This is a great event for the whole family!

Family Fall Picnic

September 10, 5:00 pm

Families are invited for a fun picnic to celebrate the beginning of our fall children's and youth semester! Whether you're new and just checking us out or eager to see friends both new and old, it will be a great time of fellowshiping, celebrating and hearing about our fantastic plans for the fall. Please visit our [Events webpage](#) to sign up.

Kids & Youth

Sunday, September 17

- 5:00 pm: Next Club 45 (4th & 5th graders)
- 6:30 pm: Next Youth Group

10:00 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

Carillon

Leo Sowerby
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lisa Larsen

▲ HYMN 145

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Marion

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

▲ CHORAL RESPONSE

Helmsley

Jesus comes with clouds descending; see the Lamb for sinners slain!

Thousand, thousand saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! The Son of Man returns to reign!

Charles Wesley

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Merciful God, in your gracious presence,
we confess to you our sins.

Although Christ is among us as our peace,
we are too often divided against ourselves,
as we cling to the values of a broken world,
seeking profit and pleasure in them and not in you;
as we harbor fears and jealousies
that set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation;
as we abuse your good gifts of intellect and imagination,
and turn them into tools of oppression.

Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, forgive and heal us.

Strengthen us to follow and serve you as agents of your reconciling love.

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

Rev. Larsen

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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 16:24-28

Elder Gerri Hall

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

SERMON

The Questions Jesus Asked

Dr. Quinn Fox

What Does It Profit?

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

RESPONSE

Galilee

Choir: Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;

Day by day his clear voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me."

Congregation: Jesus calls us: By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call;

Give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

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

OFFERTORY

To the Cross, Lord, Lead Us Singing

David Lantz

To the cross, Lord, lead us singing, to the cross where you have died;

Where your blood flows like a river, that we may be purified.

To the cross, Lord, lead us singing, singing with the hosts on high,

Calvary's anthem of redemption, ransomed sinners justified.

Holy, Holy! Worthy, Worthy! God's own Son has paid the price.

Holy, Holy! Worthy, Worthy! Sinless Lamb, the sacrifice.

Yours the victory at Calvary, suff'ring there to end the strife.

In your wounds we now find healing, in your fearful death, our life.

To the cross, Lord, lead us singing, singing to the Great I AM;

Calvary's anthem of redemption, songs of praise to Christ the Lamb.

▲ 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!

Dr. Hylton

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.

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ▲ HYMN 393 | Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said | <i>Bourbon</i> |
| ▲ BENEDICTION | | Dr. Fox |
| ▲ CHORAL AMEN | | |
| ▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST | | Dr. Hylton |
| ▲ POSTLUDE | Voluntary XI in D Major | G. F. Handel
Mr. Fickley, organ |
| ▲ Congregation standing, as able | | |

Please join us now for a refreshing and joy-filled “Lemonade on the Lawn” gathering on the Upper Plaza and Garden Terrace.

NOTES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week at a Glance

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

Today, September 3 (Labor Day Weekend)

- 10:00 am combined worship service
- Lemonade on the Lawn

Monday, September 4 (Labor Day)

- Church offices closed

Thursday, September 7

- 2:00 pm: *Reset* Group starts

Saturday, September 9

- 8:00 am: Men's breakfast

Sunday, September 10

- *Nehemiah* sermon series begins
- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages begins
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 12:00 pm: Sandwich Making
- 5:00 pm: Family Fall Kick-off Picnic

Mark Your Calendar & Check Your Closets!

Fall Food and Clothing Drive

Saturday, September 23, 9am-12pm

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](#). Drop-offs will be accepted starting Monday, September 11.

Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Saturday, September 23, In-person

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 joyfully invites you to the Service of Installation for Rev. Dr. Raymond I. Hylton, Sr. as Senior Pastor of National Presbyterian Church. Following the Service, there will be a reception in Stone Fellowship Hall.

A Note of Thanks from

Rev. Donna Marsh & Family

Friends, we are so grateful for the amazing send off you gave us last Sunday! We appreciated every hug, every memory, every note, and every gift. Until we can thank each of you personally, please know how much you have blessed us. You will remain in our hearts and in our prayers.

We love babies in worship!

- You are more than 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 melenhard@nationalpres.org.

OUR FALL SCHEDULE STARTS SEPT 10!

Starting next Sunday, our regular worship service and Sunday School schedules resume! 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 Starting September 10

Please find the adult classes offered this fall below. 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"*:** 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 Starting September 10

Please visit our [Youth webpage](#) online for more 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 Starting September 10

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

- Children ages 2-3 years have their Sunday School program 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 for all infants to walkers, up to age 4, from 8:30 am-noon.



**Called
to Care**

Newly separated? Recently divorced?

DivorceCare is a 13-week video and small group Christian-based program for those navigating the end of a marriage. The material focuses on practical tools for healing. Visit www.divorcecare.org to find a location currently offering this ministry.
careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540

*Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11*

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:

Students, teachers, parents and staff as a new school year begins.

We pray for:

McGilvary College as they develop leaders for ministry in churches, schools, and hospitals in Thailand and Southeast Asia.

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.

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.

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given with grateful hearts to the glory of God by Paul and Kathy Arveson in loving memory of Paul's mother, Margaret Arveson.



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