

September 22, 2024

Welcome to NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

*But the wisdom from above is first pure,
then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,
full of mercy and good fruits, without a
trace of partiality or hypocrisy.*

James 3:17



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!

Youth Group

Today, Sept. 22, 6:30 pm

All 6th-12th graders are invited to youth group on Sunday evenings for a casual meal, Bible study, and games together! If you'd like to contribute a meal to our youth program, please contact Kristin Franke at kfranke@nationalpres.org.

Mission Gifts for Christmas Nominations Sept. 8 - Sept. 23

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](#). Not sure what Mission Gifts is? Please visit our Events [webpage](#) to read more or make a nomination.

Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class Saturday, Sept. 28

We want to walk with you on your journey of faith. To inquire about church membership or just learn more about Christian faith, come to this one-day class. For more info or to [register](#) by September 24, visit our [Events webpage](#) or contact Kemet Rakiatu at 202.537.7578 or krakiatu@nationalpres.org.

Church Directory Photos at Coffee Hour Next Sunday, Sept. 29

Stone Fellowship Hall

We will have a photo booth set up in Stone Fellowship Hall to take photos of members and friends of NPC for our password-protected, online congregational directory. Come downstairs before or after 11:00 am worship, Enjoy coffee, cookies, and community, and have your picture taken! Email Leslie Saum at lsaum@nationalpres.org for more information.

Week at a Glance

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

Sunday, September 22

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 6:30 pm: Youth Group

Friday, September 27

- Middle School Fall Retreat 2024

Saturday, September 28

- 9:00 am: Pathway of Christian Discipleship Class

Sunday, September 29

- 8:45 am: Contemporary Worship
- 9:55 am: Sunday School for all ages
- 11:00 am: Traditional Worship
- 6:30 pm: High School Hangout

Short-term Small Groups

Beginning Sept. 30 - Sign up now!

Interested in deepening your walk with God? Join a short-term small group discussion of our upcoming sermon series - First Things First: Prioritizing God. In-person and online small groups will explore Bible teachings on the challenges and joys of placing God first in our lives. Visit the events page on the NPC website to [register](#) for a group by September 25.

Women's Ministry Lunch

Saturday, October 5, at 12:00 pm

Stone Fellowship Hall

All women are invited to NPC's Fall Women's Ministry Lunch. Christian writer and ministry leader Susan Yates will speak about "Trusting God in Transitions." Please join us for delicious food and faith-filled conversation, and bring a friend! Visit Women's Ministry or the events page on the NPC website to register."

Nominations for Church Officers

The Congregational Nominating Committee asks for your help in selecting Elders, Deacons, and board members for the Fund for Charitable Giving and next year's Congregational Nominating Committee. Please visit nationalpres.org/nominate for more information or to submit recommendations.

8:45 AM WORSHIP

Sanctuary and Online

WE ENTER GOD'S PRESENCE

GATHERING Improvisations Joanna Zorack-Greene, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr.

- ▲ OPENING SONG Lead Me to the Cross Brooke Ligertwood
Savior, I come, I quiet my soul, remember
redemption's hill where your blood was spilled, for my ransom.

Pre-Chorus

And everything I once held dear, I count it all as loss.

Chorus

Lead me to the cross where your love poured out.

Bring me to my knees, Lord, I lay me down.

Rid me of myself, I belong to you.

Oh, lead me....lead me to the cross.

You were as I, tempted and tried, human.

The word became flesh, bore my sin and death, now you're risen. ***Pre-Chorus, Chorus***

Lead me to your heart. (3x) ***Chorus***

- ▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION Dr. Hylton

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Lord, we have sinned,

without remembering how much you love us.

You see us more clearly than we see ourselves,

and you know how indifferent we can be to your Word.

Forgive this and all our sins.

Guard us against such willful shortsightedness.

Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ,

so that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened.

Help us to know him, and the hope to which you have called us:

The riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

and the immeasurable greatness of his power at work in us.

Based on Ephesians 1:17-19

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 Dr. Hylton
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

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

- SCRIPTURE James 3:13-4:3, 7-8 Elder Lynne Gochnour
 Pew Bible Page 982

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

- A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES Dr. Hylton
*Kindergarten to 5th graders may exit with leaders for Children's Chapel.
Parents may take children Pre-K and under to the nursery.*

- SERMON How to Live Your Best Life 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. Quinn Fox

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

- ▲ OFFERING SONG Lord, I Need You Christy Nockels
Lord, I come. I confess. Bowing here, I find my rest,
And without you, I fall apart. You're the one that guides my heart.
*Lord, I need you, O I need you. Every hour I need you.
My one Defense, my Righteousness, O God, how I need you.*
Where sin runs deep, your grace is more. Where grace is found, is where you are.
And where you are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me.
And where you are, Lord, I am free. Holiness is Christ in me. **Chorus**
So teach my song to rise to you, when temptation comes my way.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you. Jesus, you're my hope and stay.
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you. Jesus, you're my hope and stay. **Chorus (2x)**
My one Defense, my Righteousness, O God, how I need you!

- ▲ 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. Fox

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.

Brett Younker and Kristian Stanfill

Break into the wild and don't be afraid.

Run into wide open spaces; grace is waiting for you.

Dance like the weight has been lifted; grace is waiting.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom, there is freedom.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom, there is freedom.

Come out of the dark, just as you are, into the fullness of his love.

For the Spirit is here; let there be freedom; Let there be freedom!

Bring all of your burdens; bring all of your scars.

Come back to communion, come back to the start. *Pre-Chorus, Chorus*

Chains will fall, prisons shake at the sound of Jesus' name.

Lives made whole, hearts awake at the sound of Jesus' name. *Chorus*

Rev. Larsen

NPC Band

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 "Down Ampney" Herbert Sumsion
Todd Fickley, organ

CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP Dr. Ray Hylton. Sr.

▲ HYMN 420 verses 1-4 God of Grace and God of Glory *Cwm Rhondda*

▲ PRAYER OF ADORATION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn 420, verse 5

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
Serving thee whom we adore.

CONFESSION OF SIN *in unison*

Lord, we have sinned,
without remembering how much you love us.
You see us more clearly than we see ourselves,
and you know how indifferent we can be to your Word.
Forgive this and all our sins.
Guard us against such willful shortsightedness.
Give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Christ,
so that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened.
Help us to know him, and the hope to which you have called us:
The riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
and the immeasurable greatness of his power at work in us.

Based on Ephesians 1:17-19

SILENT CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON Dr. Hylton

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 Dr. Hylton

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

SCRIPTURE

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8
Pew Bible Page 982

Dr. Robert Betz

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

A TIME FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Dr. Hylton

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptismal Questions

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. In embracing this covenant, God claims us as his own, as we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

Baptism

Leighton Ina Kim

Daughter of Lauren Lee Favreau Kim and Alan Hongjin Kim

Prayer of Response

*Kindergarten to 5th graders may exit with leaders for Children's Chapel.
Parents may take children Pre-K and under to the nursery.*

SERMON

How to Live Your Best Life

Rev. Lisa Larsen

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND CALL

Children return to join their parents in the sanctuary.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Jacob

Eternal light, shine in my heart; eternal hope, lift up my eyes;

Eternal power, be my support, eternal wisdom, make me wise;

Until by your most costly grace, invited by your holy Word,

At last I come before your face to know you, my eternal Lord.

Alcuin of York, alt

CALL FOR OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Dr. Quinn Fox

OFFERTORY

To Know Thee

Hank Beebe

To know thee is the goal my heart has set, to know thee is its greatest prize,

To know thee, though I feel that we have met on dark roads where sadness lies.

To know thee when the storms of life increase, and I have no sheltered landing;

To know thee in a time of quiet peace that passes my understanding;

To know thee is to know the truth, the truth that will set me free.

I know not where my growing faith will lead, or how I may react in word and deed;

I do know that I have a crying need to know thee.

To know thee is to know what I should pray, to know thee is a prayer complete.

To know thee is to finally find my way with thy bright lamp unto my feet.

To know thee is at first to know thy name, and speak it as one confessing,

And finding that the mention of thy name re-echoes as a blessing.

To know thee is to know my deepest self; to know thee uncovers me.

I know of fame and fortune far and wide, I know of the rewards that they provide;

I know that I would cast them all aside to know thee, to know thee.

Based on Wisdom of Solomon 15:3

- ▲ 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. 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.
- ▲ HYMN *Forest Green*
 Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds
 Eternal God, whose power upholds both flower and flaming star,
 To whom there is no here nor there, no time, no near nor far,
 No alien race, no foreign shore, no child unsought, unknown:
 O send us forth, apostles true, to all who are thine own!
 O God of truth, whom faithful seek, and reverent souls adore,
 Who lightest every earnest mind of every clime and shore;
 Dispel the gloom of error's night, of ignorance and fear,
 Until true wisdom from above shall make life's pathway clear.
 O God of love, whose Spirit moves within the human breast,
 Whom love, and love alone, can know, in whom our hearts find rest;
 Help us to know thy gracious reign till sin and sorrow cease,
 And kindness dwells within our hearts in righteousness and peace.
H. H. Tweedy, alt
- ▲ BENEDICTION Rev. Larsen
- ▲ CHORAL AMEN
- ▲ PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Dr. Fox
- ▲ POSTLUDE Thaxted
Gustav Holst
Mr. Fickley, organ
- ▲ Congregation standing, as able

*Please join us in Stone Fellowship Hall for
 Coffee, Cookies, and Community after the worship.*

Songs used by permission: CCLI #100655 and #17315

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

All 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

Childcare

Childcare is available 8:30 a.m. until the close of the 11:00 a.m. service. The Nursery (Room 207), the Early Walker Room (Room 231) and the Toddler Room (Room 230) are located on the second floor of the main church building. Infants - crawling should go to the Nursery, walkers under 2 as of September 30 should go to the Early Walker Room, and those age 2-pre-K should utilize the Toddler Room.

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 Room 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.

Adult Sunday School

Visit our [Adult Classes webpage](#) for class descriptions and more information.

- ***The Spirit of Our Politics***
Facilitators: Ginny Beeson and Nancy Fox
Garden Rooms A & B
We will read and discuss Michael Wear's book, along with associated articles and readings.
- ***The Gospel of Mark - A Study***
Facilitators: Donna Duss, Margaret Gardner, and others
Garden Room C
We will discuss Jesus' life and teachings as presented in the Gospel of Mark using N.T. Wright's Bible Study guide, *Mark for Everyone*.
- ***The Early Church: The First Three Centuries***
R.V. Seep
Chapel and [Online](#)
Join us for a comprehensive survey of the first three centuries of the Christian movement and its impact on the future shape of the church.

- ***The Journey of Discipleship: Building Your Life in Christ***
Dr. Quinn Fox
Room 209
This course, a biblical exploration of a life with Christ at the center, also fulfills the requirement for becoming a member of NPC.
- ***Parent Gathering***
Jones Hall, Education Building
All parents of youth and children are invited to stop by Jones Hall in the Education building for coffee, fellowship, and small group Bible studies that correspond with the children's and youth classes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, Oct. 5 at 8:00 am

Men are invited to join us in-person at NPC in Stone Fellowship Hall on the first Saturday of every month for our men's breakfast. Our speaker this month will be Gregg Gochmour and the topic will be "What About Hope?". Please email grow@nationalpres.org for more information.

Friends of the History & Archives Ministry Luncheon, Saturday, Oct. 12

Stone Fellowship Hall

The NPC History and Archives Ministry will resume our Annual Meeting Luncheon on Saturday, October 12, 2024 in Stone Fellowship Hall. The featured speaker will be our pastor, Dr. Ray Hylton, Sr. He will share about his life and ministry. We'll enjoy an elegant meal together prior to hearing from Dr. Hylton. To register for the luncheon, or for further information, please see the [Events webpage](#) on the [NPC website](#), email grow@nationalpres.org or call 202-537-0800. A donation of \$30 is requested to cover the cost of the food.

2nd Sunday Sandwich Making

Sunday, Oct. 13, 12:15 pm

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!

NPC Praise Night!

Sunday, Oct. 13, 5:00 pm

Let's gather together at 5:00 pm on Sunday, October 13 for a special presentation by our own NPC Praise Band. Come and bring your family and friends for songs of faith, along with fun, fellowship, and pizza!

Playground Playdate

Saturday, Oct. 19, 10:00 am

Turtle Park - 45th & Van Ness NW

Join other families for some fun at Turtle Park. Kids can play and adults can get to know each other better. We look forward to seeing you! For more information contact Melanie Lenhard at mlenhard@nationalpres.org.

JOIN OUR NPC TEAM!

Communications Support Contractor

NPC is seeking a creative and detail-oriented contractor to support the Communications Office and the NPC brand. Tasks include content creation using Canva or Adobe CC; social media scheduling and management; and event photography. Additional possible tasks include livestream moderation and in-house printing. Qualified applicants should send a resume to pcarder@nationalpres.org.

Video Team Volunteers Needed!

Do you have an interest in video mixing, video cameras or live streaming? If so, we would love to hear from you! Join our volunteer team to help bring the good news of the gospel into hundreds of homes each week. If you'd like to volunteer or have questions, please contact Bill McNett at bmcnett@nationalpres.org, for more information. No experience is required.



**Called
to Care**

Are you grieving the loss of a loved one?

Griefshare is a 13-week program for those who are grieving.

Visit www.griefshare.org or contact careoffice@nationalpres.org / 202.537.7540

Praise be to the god and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Corinthians 1:3

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 other easy ways to connect with us:

- Sign the guestbook in the pews or online on our [Watch webpage](#).
- Sign up for our e-newsletter on our website or info@nationalpres.org.

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.

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 at this critical time.

You can support the general ministry of National:

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



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.

Prayers

We mourn:

the passing of Lee Prina.

We pray for:

Little Lights Urban Ministries
as they provide tutoring, friendship,
holistic ministry and services
to children and families living
in under served DC communities.

How may we pray for you?

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

Today's Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary
are given to the glory of God
by John Cox in honor of Sally
and their 33rd wedding anniversary.

The flowers in the Narthex
are given to the glory of God
as a baptismal dedication:

One Lord, one faith, one baptism
Ephesians 4:5

“O God of Living Water,
We come to You
On the day of this child's baptism
In celebration of Your promise,
In communion with Your people.

May this water and this child
Act as a visual reminder
That Leighton Ina belongs to You,
Be her ever-present fount
Of refreshment and renewal.”



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