

MARCH 8, 2026  
+ THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT +

MARCH 8, 2026  
+ THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT +

PRELUDE

Prelude on Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed  
Hymnal Selection 217, arr. Healey Willan  
Sam Parnin, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter



CHORAL INTROIT

Worthy Is Christ  
Hymnal Selection 323  
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

\* OPENING HYMN 693

Fill the Earth with Music

\* CALL TO WORSHIP 826, with Sung Response 2

from Psalm 95

\* UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

from the *Book of Common Prayer*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Dear Church, if we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Know that you are justified in Christ and are being sanctified by the Spirit to the Glory of God.

\* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

The Kingdom Is Yours  
Aaron Keyes, Brittney Spencer, Dee Wilson, Micah Massey  
Led by Andrew Berg, Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,  
Robert Johnson, Sam Parnin, and Brian Ward

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Lisa and Scott Applequist, Readers

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

New Testament Reading

Romans 5:1-11

\* Gospel Reading

John 4:1-42

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

Libby Piotrowski

CHORAL ANTHEM

Out of the Deep  
from *Requiem*  
John Rutter  
Jon Boyd, Saxophone

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord:  
Lord, hear my voice.

O let thine ears consider well the voice of my complaint.

If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss:  
O Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee: therefore shalt thou be fear'd.

I look for the Lord:  
my soul doth wait for him, and in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeeth unto the Lord:  
before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the Lord. In the Lord there is mercy:  
and with him is plenteous redemption.  
And he shall redeem Israel from all his sins.

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord:  
Lord, hear my voice.

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

PASTORAL PRAYER

## GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

*The Trustees will come around at this time to receive physical offerings.*

*Giving online at any time is also an option at [www.npcovenant.org/give](http://www.npcovenant.org/give).*

Offertory

Offertory on “Kedron”

arr. Lani Smith

Brian Ward, Organ

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

\* Sung Response 225, verse 3

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* CLOSING HYMN 215

Christ Jesus Knew a Wilderness

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The God of Abraham Praise

Hymnal Selection 37, arr. Michael Burkhardt

*Please remain seated for the postlude, pausing as the light of Christ is carried out  
and imagining how you might carry that light into the world this week.*

*\* Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

*Prayer is offered in the south chapel after the service.*

*In addition, if you have prayer requests to be shared confidentially with the pastors,  
there is a prayer box located in the narthex, as well as slips of paper and a pen  
in the box's drawer for your use.*

## Fill the Earth with Music

1 Fill the earth with mu - sic, sound a - loud his praise. Give to  
 2 Ring, you bells, with glad - ness! Sing, you choirs, with joy! Take to  
 3 In your loft - y an - thems, by your hymns of peace, give the

all your wit - ness: "Je - sus Christ will save!" Psalms and hymns and  
 heart your mis - sion; all your tunes em - ploy. With your hearts u -  
 Prince of good - ness his own right - ful place. Raise the cross of

heart - songs in you rich - ly dwell, cen - tered on the Sav - ior,  
 nit - ed, all with com - mon voice, each in your own lan - guage,  
 Je - sus, lift it high a - bove; that the world may find their

Christ who does things well.  
 in your Lord re - joice! Fill the earth with mu - sic, sound a -  
 Christ, the Lord of love.

loud his praise. Give to all your wit - ness: "Je - sus Christ will save!"

RESPONSE 1

Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice, give thanks and sing!  
Re-joice, re-joice, re-joice,

RESPONSE 2

Come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the  
Rock who saves us. Come, let us sing; come, let us sing;  
come, let us sing to the Lord!

ALL <sup>1</sup>O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
**let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**  
<sup>2</sup>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

RESPONSE 1 OR 2

ALL <sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God,  
**and a great King above all gods.**  
<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
**the heights of the mountains are his also.**  
<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it,  
**and the dry land, which his hands have formed.**  
<sup>6</sup>O come, let us worship and bow down,  
**let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**  
<sup>7</sup>For he is our God,  
**and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

RESPONSE 1 OR 2

L O that today you would listen to his voice!  
<sup>8</sup>Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
 as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

*Continued on next page*

<sup>9</sup>when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof,  
though they had seen my work.

<sup>10</sup>For forty years I loathed that generation and said,  
“They are a people whose hearts go astray  
and they do not regard my ways.”

<sup>12</sup>Therefore in my anger I swore, “They shall not enter my rest.”

# The Kingdom Is Yours

Aaron Keyes, Brittney Spencer, Micah Massey, Terrell Wilson

10000 Fathers (Admin. by Integrity Music)  
BSpencer Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)  
Common Hymnal Digital (Admin. by Integrity Music)  
Common Hymnal Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)  
The Wilson Songbook Publishing (Admin. by Integrity Music)



Bles - sed are the ones who do not bur - y  
Bles - sed are the woun - ded ones in mour - - ning,  
Bles - sed are the ones who walk in kind - ness  
Bles - sed are the ones who fight for jus - tice



all the bro - ken pie - ces of their heart.  
brave e - nough to show the Lord their scars.  
e - ven in the face of great a - buse.  
long - ing for the com - ing day of peace.



Bles - sed are the tears of all the wear - y,  
Bles - sed are the hurts that are not hid - den  
Bles - sed are the deeds that go un - no - ticed  
Bles - sed is the soul that thirsts for right - teous - ness,



pour - ing like a sky of fall - ing stars.  
o - pen to the heal - ing touch of God.  
serv - ing with un - guar - ded gra - ti - tude.  
wel - com - ing the last, the lost, the least.

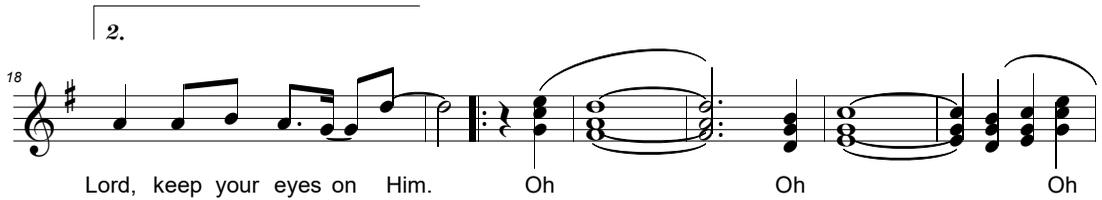


The King - dom is yours      The King - dom is yours.      Hold on a lit - tle



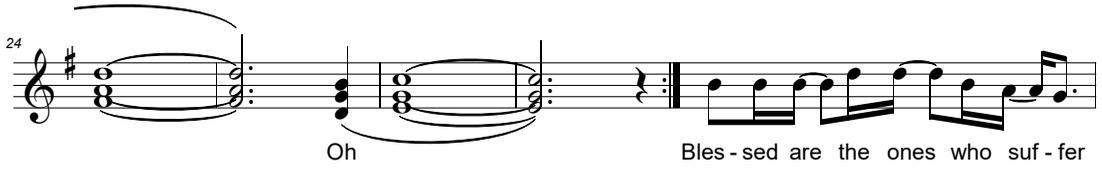
more, this is not the end.      Hope is in the Lord, keep your eyes on Him.

2.



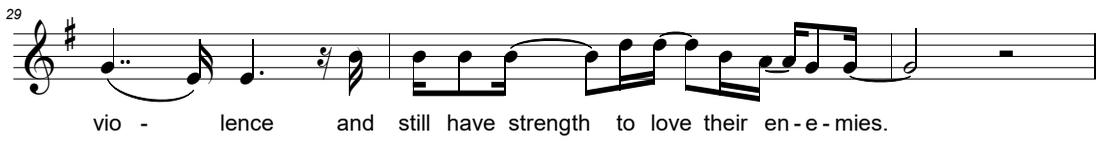
18 Lord, keep your eyes on Him. Oh Oh Oh

Detailed description: This musical staff contains measures 18 through 23. It begins with a first ending bracket labeled '2.' above measures 18 and 19. The melody starts on a G4 note and moves stepwise up to a B4 note. The accompaniment consists of chords: G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, and G4-B4-D5. The lyrics are 'Lord, keep your eyes on Him. Oh Oh Oh'.



24 Oh Bles-sed are the ones who suf-fer

Detailed description: This musical staff contains measures 24 through 28. The melody starts on a G4 note and moves stepwise up to a B4 note. The accompaniment consists of chords: G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, and G4-B4-D5. The lyrics are 'Oh Bles-sed are the ones who suf-fer'.



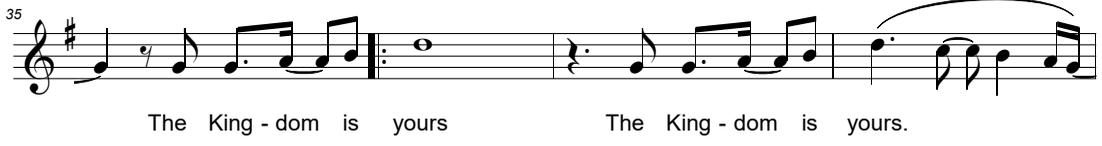
29 vio - lence and still have strength to love their en - e - mies.

Detailed description: This musical staff contains measures 29 through 31. The melody starts on a G4 note and moves stepwise up to a B4 note. The accompaniment consists of chords: G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, and G4-B4-D5. The lyrics are 'vio - lence and still have strength to love their en - e - mies.'



32 Bles-sed is the faith of those who per-se-vere, though they fall, they'll ne-ver know de-feat.

Detailed description: This musical staff contains measures 32 through 34. The melody starts on a G4 note and moves stepwise up to a B4 note. The accompaniment consists of chords: G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, and G4-B4-D5. The lyrics are 'Bles-sed is the faith of those who per-se-vere, though they fall, they'll ne-ver know de-feat.'



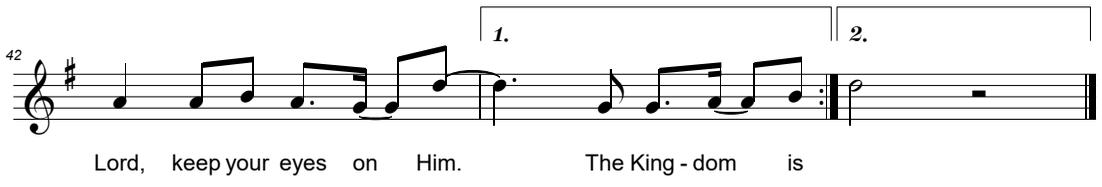
35 The King - dom is yours The King - dom is yours.

Detailed description: This musical staff contains measures 35 through 38. The melody starts on a G4 note and moves stepwise up to a B4 note. The accompaniment consists of chords: G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, and G4-B4-D5. The lyrics are 'The King - dom is yours The King - dom is yours.'



39 Hold on a lit - tle more, this is not the end. Hope is in the

Detailed description: This musical staff contains measures 39 through 41. The melody starts on a G4 note and moves stepwise up to a B4 note. The accompaniment consists of chords: G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, and G4-B4-D5. The lyrics are 'Hold on a lit - tle more, this is not the end. Hope is in the'.



42 Lord, keep your eyes on Him. The King - dom is

1. 2.

Detailed description: This musical staff contains measures 42 and 43. It begins with a first ending bracket labeled '1.' above measure 42 and '2.' above measure 43. The melody starts on a G4 note and moves stepwise up to a B4 note. The accompaniment consists of chords: G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, G4-B4-D5, and G4-B4-D5. The lyrics are 'Lord, keep your eyes on Him. The King - dom is'.

## Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, ob - ject of the Spir - it's love,  
 2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, breath - ing no re - pent - ant vow,  
 3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent love for you;

foun - tain in life's des - ert drear - y, Sav - ior from the world a - bove:  
 though we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, see your thorn - en - cir - cled brow?  
 may our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be - hold your cross a - new;

of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed, gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall!  
 Yet your sin - less death has brought us life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest;  
 till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side,

Yet, up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, you have borne the pain of all.  
 on - ly what your grace has taught us calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.  
 grav - en in our hearts for - ev - er, dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied. A - men.

## Christ Jesus Knew a Wilderness

215

1 Christ Je - sus knew a wil - der - ness of noon-day  
 2 Christ Je - sus knew un - cer - tain - ty. Would all for-  
 3 Christ Je - sus knew an up - per room, an ol - ive  
 4 Christ Je - sus, in our wil - der - ness, you are our

heat and night - time cold, of doubts and hun - gers,  
 sake, de - ny, be - tray? Would crowds that fol - lowed  
 grove, a judg - ment hall, a skull - like hill, a  
 bread, our drink, our light. Your death and ris - ing

new and old, temp - ta - tion wait - ing to take hold.  
 turn a - way? Would powers of e - vil hold their sway?  
 drink of gall, an air - less tomb, be - reft of all.  
 set things right. Your pres - ence puts our fears to flight.

# *Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!*

## *We're glad you're here.*

If you're new here today, we invite you to email the co-pastors at [copastors@npcovenant.org](mailto:copastors@npcovenant.org) to learn more about us and, perhaps, get a little more connected.

**Childcare is available** in the toddler room (lower level, off the hallway south of the parlors) during the worship service for any wee ones ages 0 through 5 needing a place to wiggle and play. We always happily welcome children in the service but recognize that sometimes parents need a break so they can focus on worship.

**If giving digitally is** more your style, this handy QR code will take you directly to our online giving portal. It's a great pathway to one of the most powerful and sustainable ways to support NPCC. In the portal, you can make an account, set up recurring gifts, and even include a little extra to offset processing fees. However you give, know that we are deeply grateful for your generosity and doing all we can to equip this church family to live for God's glory and neighbors' good.



**Vida Plena, a Spanish-speaking Covenant church plant** that meets here, invites you to worship every Sunday at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Pastor Dany Flores at 872-357-9080.

**Members and friends are invited** to be a part of a Saturday-morning trash brigade, working to clean up an area of our community inspired by this month's community prayer. Please reach out to Janette and Roderick Smith at [rjonberber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rjonberber@sbcglobal.net) for more details.

**An Invitation to Journey through Lent Together:** In addition to our regular Sunday morning worship services at 10:30, we will gather for a series of contemplative Lenten worship services each Sunday in Lent beginning at 6 pm. The 45-minute services will take place in the south chapel on February 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, and March 22. Join us for a time of quiet prayer, music, singing, and communion.

**Brief Congregational Meeting March 15:** On Sunday, March 15, we will hold a brief congregational meeting following worship to vote on the Building with Faithfulness tithe monies from this past year. We will remain in the sanctuary for this meeting, and then those who have registered for the Corned Beef and Cabbage Lunch may make their way to the parlors.

**The Corned Beef and Cabbage Lunch Returns!** Join us on Sunday, March 15, following worship and a brief congregational meeting, for a Corned Beef and Cabbage Lunch in the parlors. RSVPs are required by the end of the day tomorrow, Monday, March 9, at [tinyurl.com/2026-corned-beef-rsvp](https://tinyurl.com/2026-corned-beef-rsvp).

**Join Us for a Wedding Shower!** On Saturday, March 21, all are invited to a wedding shower for Linnea Olfelt and Ben Holda. The shower will begin at 10 am, and Linnea and Ben are registered at Crate & Barrel, IKEA, and Target. We hope you'll be able to join us!

**Review Time for Our Co-pastors:** Have a compliment, comment, or concern about our co-pastors' performance? After church on March 8 and 15, co-chairs Susan Dawson and Nancy Ebner will be in the corner nursery off the south chapel for confidential conversation.

**Perspectives on Immigration and the Church:** On Saturday, March 21, at 10 am, Central Conference Superintendent Danny Martinez will speak on this topic at the Covenant Church of Schaumburg (301 N. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg). All are invited to attend.

**Join us for a virtual prayer vigil** on Saturday, March 28. Between the hours of 7 am and 7 pm, you are invited to sign up for a half-hour time slot (or more) to pray for our church, our city, our nation, and our world. Prayer materials will be shared with those who sign up. Please sign up, please go to [tinyurl.com/2026-03-prayer-vigil-signup](https://tinyurl.com/2026-03-prayer-vigil-signup)

**Lectionary texts for  
Sunday, March 15:**

1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

**Mental Health First Aid Training March 28:** Join us for Mental Health First Aid Training! During this course, we will meet with a certified instructor and learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns. We will also learn strategies for helping

someone in crisis and non-crisis situations, where to turn for help, and earn an MHFA certificate. Lunch will be provided! [Register here](#) by March 22.

**Represent North Park Covenant Church!** We can send three delegates each to two ECC gatherings:  
- **Celebration 2026**, the Central Conference Annual Meeting, to be held May 1-2 at Evangelical Covenant Church in Princeton, IL, and  
- **Gather 2026**, the ECC's Annual Meeting, which will be held in Scottsdale, AZ, June 25-27.  
If you're interested, please contact one of the co-pastors or co-chairs, Susan Dawson or Nancy Ebner.

**We are looking to fill** a regular, paid childcare position in our Sunday morning toddler room. This position is in coordination with the Christian Formation Board and pays \$20 per hour, for two hours each Sunday (the average need is two Sundays per month). If you love being with children, sharing Jesus' love, and are interested in this position, please reach out to Pastor Libby for more information.

**Are you looking for a way to serve at NPCC?** We always welcome people who are willing to hang out with the littlest in our community or help serve refreshments after the worship service! Go to [tinyurl.com/sun-volunteers](https://tinyurl.com/sun-volunteers) to put your name down for a Sunday or two—thank you!

*Permission to print and podcast/stream the music in this service partially obtained from CCLI with license #2875232.  
Permission to print and podcast/stream the music in this service partially obtained from One License with license #A-730954.  
Permission to reprint and stream hymns copyrighted by Covenant Publications obtained from the Evangelical Covenant Church.  
All rights reserved.*

## *for your prayers this week*

- **Community prayer:** People struggling with their mental health
- **We lament the violent destruction of life** happening in the Middle East, and we pray for real and abiding peace in the land.
- **Phil Johnson**, Lisa Applequist's dad, recuperating after a fall and subsequent hip-replacement surgery
- Janice Kelly and family, mourning the passing of her niece, **Andrea Feijoo**
- Pastor Libby's dad, **Craig Johnson**, home again after a brief hospitalization for pneumonia
- **Ryan Wendt**, as he recovers from a bout of Influenza A
- **John Goode**, at Alden Northshore for rehab
- **Ann Marie Strom**, diagnosed with a melanoma and undergoing chemo
- **Paul Wargaski**, anticipating the start of cardiac rehab
- **K and A Simmons**, for whom we've received an anonymous request for prayer
- **Tami Losey**, Marti Hindaileh's sister, awaiting results from a biopsy
- **Eileen Thorpe**, home again after a time at Brandel Care Center for rehab
- **family and friends of Jack Lundbom**, a child of this church who passed away on February 17 at the age of 86
- **Darlene Johnson**, recovering from a badly broken wrist
- Pastor Libby's four-year-old nephew, **Mo Johnson-Collins**, being monitored for a few months related to two benign masses on his liver
- Joline and Steve Paska's friend **Maggie**, diagnosed with stage 3 endometrial cancer
- **Melanie Jones**, for strength to live with chronic pain
- **Steve Brown**, who has been dealing with pancreatic cancer
- **Zeynab and her two sons**, awaiting word about their asylum case; and for Zeynab's daughter, **Soofia**, who remains in a detention center in California
- **Silas**, 12-year old son of Rachel and James Ventress, diagnosed with a degenerative bone disease
- **Mercedes**, nine-year-old daughter of Rachel and James Ventress, diagnosed with a form of epilepsy

## The Church Calendar This Week

---

*The calendar is available at [www.npcovenant.org/calendar](http://www.npcovenant.org/calendar) and is updated as changes occur.*

---

### *Monday, March 9*

- 9:15 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
- 4 pm Tutoring (Parlors)
- 6:30 pm Geezerball (Gym)
- 7:30 pm Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

### *Tuesday, March 10*

- 8 am Men's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 5 pm Board of Community Concern Meeting (via Zoom)
- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 7 pm Board of Christian Formation Meeting (Hybrid/Parlors)
- Board of Deacons Meeting (Hybrid/Staff Conference Room)
- Board of Trustees Meeting (Large Conference Room)

### *Wednesday, March 11*

- 10 am Wednesday Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)
- 6 pm Gather Dinner (Parlors)
- 6:30 pm Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Side Balcony, Sanctuary)
- Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 7 pm Knit or Not (Coffee Lounge)
- Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room near the Gym)
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

### *Thursday, March 12*

- 4:30 pm Mather Wrestling Team End-of-Season Party (Parlors)
- Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### *Friday, March 13*

- 1 pm Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)

### *Saturday, March 14*

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10:15 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

*Sunday, March 15 - The Fourth Sunday in Lent*

- 9 am Confirmation (Staff Conference Room)
- 9:15 am Adult Formation (Parlors)  
Art Journaling (Art Room)  
Sunday School for Preschool - 6th Grade (Junior Chapel)
- 10:30 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 11:45 am Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
- 12 pm Corned Beef & Cabbage Lunch (Parlors)
- 1:30 pm Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)
- 7 pm AA Meeting (Parlors)  
High-school Youth Group (Attic Youth Room)

## **North Park Covenant Church Staff**

---

Jeff Hunter, Co-pastor  
jhunter@npcovenant.org  
ext. 525

Libby Piotrowski, Co-pastor  
lp Piotrowski@npcovenant.org  
ext. 515

*To reach both Jeff and Libby, please use  
copastors@npcovenant.org or ext. 510.*

Jeanette Mottl, Pastor for Community Connection,  
with a Focus on Youth and College Students  
jmottl@npcovenant.org

Brian Ward, Music Ministry Coordinator/  
Chancel Choir Director  
bward@npcovenant.org

Sam Parnin, Organist  
sparnin@npcovenant.org

Linnea Olfelt, Chancel Handbell Choir Director  
loolfelt@npcovenant.org

Christian Schuetz, Custodian  
cschuetz@npcovenant.org

Ann-Marie Olson, Church Administrator  
aolson@npcovenant.org, ext. 500

## **North Park Church Cooperative Preschool**

---

Becky Edwards,  
Administrative Director

Lyndsey Wellner,  
Head Teacher/Educational Director

Jennifer Glazier,  
Assistant Teacher

(773) 463-0055, ext. 520  
preschool@npcovenant.org  
www.npcovenant.org/npcpp

## **The Friendship Center**

---

Nadia Jiménez,  
Executive Director  
2711 West Lawrence Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60625  
(773) 907-6338

info@friendshipcenterchicago.org  
www.friendshipcenterchicago.org

## **Missionaries We Support**

---

Peter and Anna Kim, Taiwan

Paul and Sheryl Noren, Congo

Chris Peterson, Regional Coordinator for Europe

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo,

Regional Coordinators for Latin America

James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

## **Welcome Statement**

---

*We welcome all people to begin or deepen their relationship with Christ through worship and study. We invite all believers to fully participate in the life and ministry of our church as members, leaders, and lay staff. We celebrate the gifts and presence of diverse Christians among us—whether those differences be race, ethnicity, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, or socioeconomic status. We are blessed by our diversity and are unified in Christ.*

5250 NORTH CHRISTIANA AVENUE • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625  
NPCC@NPCOVENANT.ORG • (773) 463-0055 • WWW.NPCOVENANT.ORG