



NORTH PARK
COVENANT CHURCH

APRIL 12, 2026
+ THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER +

APRIL 12, 2026
+ THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER +

PRELUDE

All Things Bright and Beautiful
Sandra Eithun
Brian Ward, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Hunter and Libby Piotrowski



INTROIT

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
Hymnal Selection 491
Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

* CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 16

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; the Lord holds my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

I have a goodly heritage.

I keep the Lord always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;

in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

* OPENING HYMN 247

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

* INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER 887 (Using *sims*)

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Easter Season Acts Reading

New Testament Reading

* Gospel Reading

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Paul Wargaski, Reader

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

ANTHEM

Credo (I Believe in God)
from Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*
Kristen Hunter, Mezzo-soprano

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,
suffer'd under Pontius Pilate,
crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.

On the third day, He arose.

He ascended to Heaven, from death he was set free.
Now He sits at the right hand, and He's waitin' for you and me.

He will judge all the world.
He will judge you and me.

I believe in the Holy Spirit
and the Holy catholic church.
I believe, Lord, in one baptism
for the remission of sin and rebirth.
I believe in the resurrection
and the communion of saints in this world.
I believe when my life is over
I'm going home just to live with my God.

I believe in God and in the Holy Ghost.
I believe in God.

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

MESSAGE

Jeff Hunter

* THE APOSTLES' CREED 878

* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Agnus Dei
Michael W. Smith
Led by Chris Hickey, Anders Johnson,
Samantha Johnson, Sam Parnin, and Brian Ward

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.*

Offertory

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain
arr. Mary McDonald
Sam Parnin, Organ
He Lives!

* Sung Response 253, verse 3

* Prayer of Dedication

* CLOSING SONG

Jesus
Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Joyful Ring
Barbara B. Kinyon

Chancel Handbell Choir, Linnea Olfelt, Director

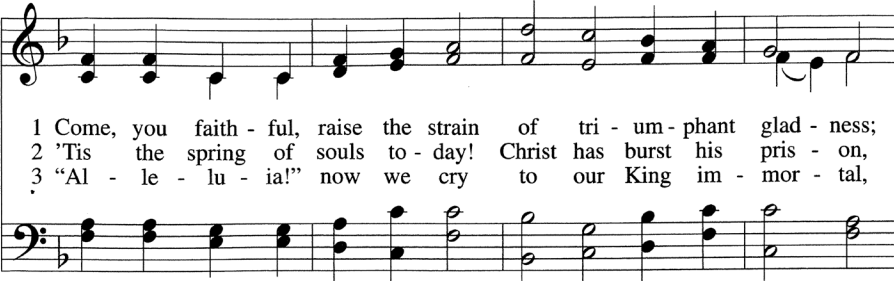
*Please remain seated for the postlude, pausing as the light of Christ is carried out
and imagining how you might carry that light into the world this week.*

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

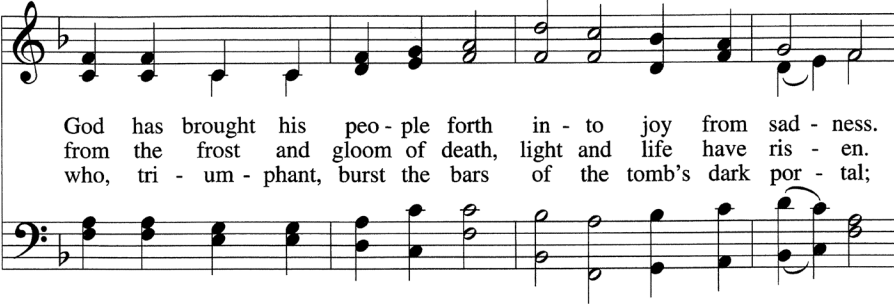
Prayer is offered in the south chapel after the service.

*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.*


247 Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
 2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day! Christ has burst his pris - on,
 3 "Al - le - lu - ia!" now we cry to our King im - mor - tal,



God has brought his peo - ple forth in - to joy from sad - ness.
 from the frost and gloom of death, light and life have ris - en.
 who, tri - um - phant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



Now re - jice, Je - ru - sa - lem, and with true af - fec - tion
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing;
 "Al - le - lu - ia!" with the Son, God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



wel - come in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
 wel - come now the light of Christ, give him praise un - dy - ing.
 "Al - le - lu - ia!" yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

887

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in 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.

Traditional

THE APOSTLES' CREED

This creed is called the Apostles' Creed not because it was produced by the apostles themselves, but because it contains a brief summary of their teachings. In its present form, it is dated not later than the fourth century.

878

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 Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hades*;
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 Spirit;
the holy Christian[†] Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Traditional

* some versions read "hell" †literally "catholic," or "universal"

Agnus Dei

Michael W. Smith

1990 Sony/ATV Milene Music (Admin. by Sony/ATV Music Publishing)

A - lle - lu - ia, -

6

lu - ia for our Lord God Al-migh- ty reigns

11

A - lle - lu - ia Ho -

17

ly Ho - ly are You

21

Lord God - al - migh - ty Wor - thy is the

25

Lamb Wor - thy is the Lamb for You are Ho -

29

Lamb A - men.

He Lives

1 I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day;
 2 In all the world a - round me I see his lov - ing care,
 3 Re - joice, re - joice, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing

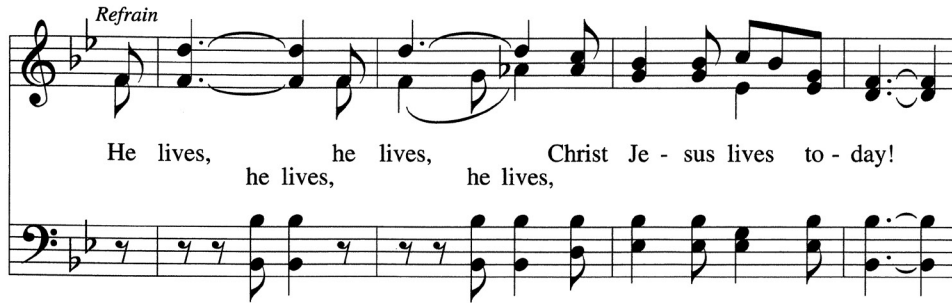
I know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er some may say;
 and though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair;
 e - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!

I see his hand of mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer,
 I know that he is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast,
 The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find,

and just the time I need him he's al - ways near.
 the day of his ap - pear - ing will come at last.
 none oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.

EASTER: RESURRECTION

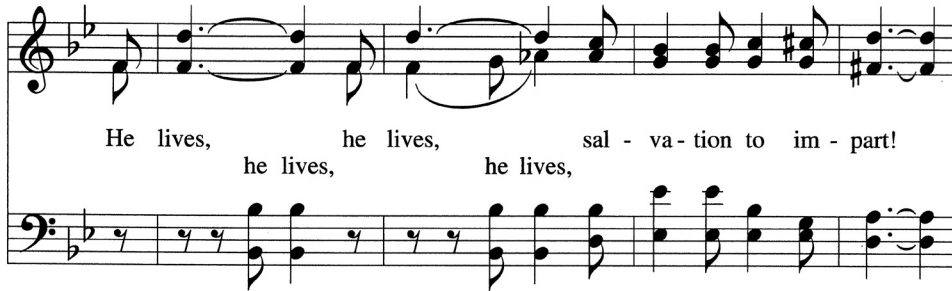
Refrain



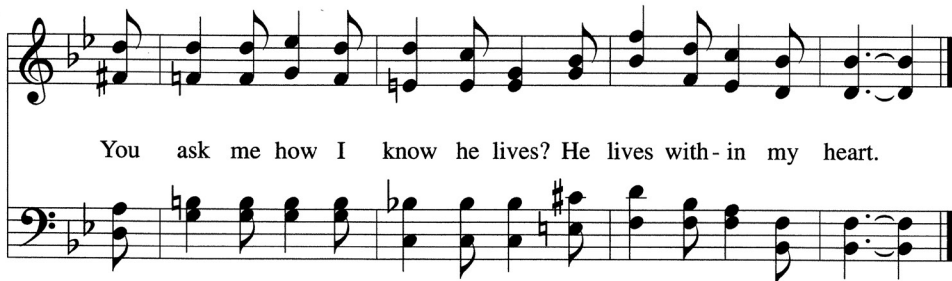
He lives, he lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day!
he lives, he lives,



He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way.



He lives, he lives, he lives, sal - va - tion to im - part!
he lives, he lives,



You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with - in my heart.

Jesus

Chris Tomlin

2016 Capitol CMG Paragon (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
S. D. G. Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
sixsteps Songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)
Worship Together Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing)



There is a truth ol-der than the a - ges. There is a pro-mise of things yet to
There is a light that o verhelmsthe dark-ness. There is a king-dom that for-e-ver
There is a name I call in times of trou-ble. There is a song that com-forts in the



come. There is one born of our sal - va - tion. Je - sus
reigns. There is free-dom from the chains that bind us
night. There is a voice that calms the storm that ra - ges



Je - sus Je - sus Who walks on the wa-ters, who
Je - sus Je - sus You walk on the wa-ters, You



speaks to the sea, who stands in the fi-re be - side me He roars like a li-on, He
speak to the sea. You stand in the fi-re be - side me You roar like a li-on. You



bled as the lamb, He car-ries my heal-ing in his hands. Je - sus
bled as the lamb. You car-ry my heal-ing in Your hands. Je - sus



Mes - si - ah, my Sa-rior, there is pow-er in Your name. You're my rock and my re-



deem-er there is pow-er in your name. Me - name. In your name.

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 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 for more details.

You're invited to come together for refugees! Please join with other supporters of Exodus World Service for their Celebration of Hope on Thursday evening, April 16, at Drury Lane. At this annual benefit, our friends at Exodus World Service will share local refugees' stories of fleeing war and persecution—and building new lives with the help of Exodus volunteers. You'll learn about current challenges affecting resettled refugees—and those left behind in camps overseas. You'll have an opportunity to partner financially and bring hope to refugees when they need it most. [Register here](#) to reserve your seat. Contact Sarah Hillabrant at yoopergirl@hey.com with questions.

Save the Date! Linnea Olfelt and Ben Holda invite you to share in their joy as they are married in our sanctuary on Saturday, April 18. The ceremony will begin at 1 pm, followed by a light reception in the parlors. All are invited!

A memorial service for Lee Horten, who passed away on December 10, 2025, will be held on Saturday, April 18, at 2 pm at Covenant Living of Northbrook (2625 Techny Rd., Northbrook). Donations may be sent to the North Park University Chemistry Scholarship Fund (3225 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, IL 60625). All are invited to attend this celebration of life and to bear witness to the resurrection.

Upcoming Town Hall and Congregational Meeting: The second half of the Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 26, following the morning service. The agenda includes voting on the ballot for board and committee membership, church executive leadership, and church representatives to the conference and denominational annual meetings, a request for funds for needed sewer work, a proposal for the possible use of Employee Retention Credit funds, the bylaw change presented in January, and a proposal for the purchase of a new fire alarm system for the church.

There will be a Town Hall next Sunday, April 19, following the church service to discuss these agenda items. A light lunch will be provided. As a reminder, a town hall is designed for conversation and Q&A. There is no voting.

**Lectionary texts for
Sunday, April 19:**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Film Screening & Book Discussion: The documentary *Ben Between Africa and Holly Berkley Fletcher's book *The Missionary Kids** open a powerful dialogue about growing up between cultures, the legacy of missionary movements, and the search for belonging. Join us on April 25, at 6:30 pm for a special screening, followed by an engaging discussion with Berkley Fletcher. For more information or to purchase tickets, please [click here](#).

April is Poetry Month, and the North Park Readers have chosen to read *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein and *A Child's Garden of Verses* by Robert Louis Stevenson. We will meet on Tuesday, April 28, at 2 pm at Jan Olson's apartment in Northbrook. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Arkema at helen.arkema@gmail.com.

Church Library News: April is National Poetry Month which celebrates poets' integral role in our culture. Collections of poetry, as well as books about poetry, are on display. There is also a display board with poems from our congregation. The display board will also be available for viewing in the parlors during Gather through the end of April.

Join us for a wedding shower! On Saturday, May 16, all* are invited to a wedding shower for Sofie Piotrowski and Simon Peterson. The shower will take place in the church parlors at 1 pm. You can [view Sofie and Simon's registry here](#).

* Guys can come, too—keep Joel and Kurt company!

Did you know we have a weekly prayer group? On Friday afternoons at 1 pm, a small group gets together in the home of Sandy Edstrom to pray. The present group would love to welcome some additional prayer partners! If you're interested, please reach out to Sandy at artsaned@gmail.com, and she can answer any questions you may have.

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! [Click here](#) to put your name down for a Sunday or two—thank you!

for your prayers this week

- **Community prayer:** Apartment buildings and houses surround NPCC, and this month, we call to mind and pray for all the families and individuals who live in them.
- **Kensey Colon**, anticipating surgery on April 16 to remove two masses on her ovaries
- **Betty Boyd**, Jon's mother, now on hospice care
- **Sara Gortner**, Ann Boyd's mother, now on hospice care
- **Eileen Thorpe**, home again after some time at Swedish for some much-needed TLC
- **Barb and John Goode**, now that John is home from rehab and they adjust to life with in-home caregivers
- **Craig Johnson**, Pastor Libby's dad, in the midst of chemo
- Zeynab's daughter, **Soofia**, seeing movement on a decision regarding her release from the detention center she has been in for the past many months
- **Sandy Edstrom**, still struggling with sciatica pain
- **Tami Losey**, Marti Hindaileh's sister, whose biopsy was benign, but whose doctors still can't pinpoint the source of the pain she's experiencing
- **Ann Marie Strom**, undergoing infusions for melanoma
- **Darlene Johnson**, recovering from a badly broken wrist
- 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
- **Anna and Peter Kim**, missionaries in Taiwan, request prayer for Peter, as he continues to work twice a week as a counselor in training; for wisdom and help to know how best to provide Eva a good future in the midst of her special needs; and for their children, as they look for summer jobs

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.

The Church Calendar This Week

The calendar is available at www.npcovenant.org/calendar and is updated as changes occur.

Monday, April 13

- 9:15 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 10:30 am Staff Meeting (Staff Conference Room)
- 3:45 pm Von Steuben Boys' Basketball Practice (Gym)
- 4 pm Tutoring (Parlors)
- 6:30 pm Geezerball (Gym)
- 7:30 pm Centering Prayer (Staff Conference Room)

Tuesday, April 14

- 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, April 15

- 10 am Wednesday Women's Bible Study (Edstrom Home)
- 3:45 pm Von Steuben Boys' Basketball Practice (Gym)
- 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, April 16

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Friday, April 17

- 1 pm Prayer Group Gathering (Edstrom Home)
- 4:30 pm Olfelt/Holda Wedding Rehearsal Dinner (Sanctuary, Parlors)

Saturday, April 18

- 8 am Geezerball (Gym)
- 10:15 am Cudahy Basketball (Gym)
- 1 pm Olfelt/Holda Wedding Ceremony (Sanctuary)
- 2 pm Olfelt/Holda Wedding Reception (Parlors)
Horten Memorial Service (Covenant Living, 2625 Techny Rd, Northbrook)

Sunday, April 19

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)
12 pm	Youth Choir Rehearsal (Junior Chapel)
12:30 pm	Town Hall (Parlors)
1:30 pm	Vida Plena Covenant Church Worship Service (Parlors)
7 pm	AA Meeting (Parlors)
	High-school Youth Group (Attic Youth Room)

ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE
APRIL 26 CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING - PART II

1. Vote on nominees for boards, committees, and delegates
2. Vote on bylaw changes presented in January
3. Vote to fund bathroom remodel with Employee Retention Credit (ERC) funding
4. Vote on funds for fire alarm system update
5. Introduce the possibility of Immigrant Connection legal center
6. Receive proposed bylaw change for Mutual Ministry Committee
7. Vote to approve expense to clean out and repair two sewer drains
8. Information and decisions concerning estate gift from Gunnel Brunsell

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION FOR THE APRIL 19 TOWN HALL

1. Fire alarm system cost and information
2. Bathroom remodel and ERC funding
3. Immigrant Connection legal center
4. Additional topics as desired

BALLOT FOR APRIL 26, 2026

Board of Christian Formation (3 years)

1. Mark Schukas
- 2.
3. Martha Berg (1 year)

Board of Community Concern (3 years)

1. Joel Olfelt
2. Bonnie Pfeiffelman

Board of Deacons (3 years)

1. Ann Boyd
2. Mary Chase-Ziolek
- 3.
4. Bill Faude (1 year)

Board of Trustees (3 years)

1. Helen Arkema
2. Gaius Berg
3. Mike Polzin

Human Resources Committee

- 1.

* * *

Delegates, Central Conference Annual Meeting: Princeton, IL

1. Cheryl Borgeson
2. Les Carlstrom
3. Michael Shawn Sanders

Delegates, ECC Annual Meeting: Scottsdale, AZ

1. Martha Berg
2. Michael Shawn Sanders
- 3.

**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