



**NORTH PARK**  
**COVENANT CHURCH**

OCTOBER 27, 2024  
+ REFORMATION SUNDAY +

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PRELUDE

Come, All Christians, Be Committed  
arr. Mark Hayes  
Sam Parnin, Piano

CHORAL INTROIT

Revelation 19  
Jeffrey LaValley  
Children's Vocal Ensemble, Brian Ward, Director  
Hallelujah! Salvation and glory,  
honor and power unto the Lord our God.  
For the Lord, our God, is almighty.  
Yes, the Lord, our God, is omnipotent.  
The Lord, our God, He is wonderful!  
All praises be to the King of Kings  
and the Lord of Lords.  
He is wonderful!

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 464

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  
Stephon Owens, Trumpet  
Carol Olfelt, Trumpet

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Moment for Mission

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter  
Scott Applequist, for the Stewardship Committee

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.**

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

**God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.**

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
God speaks, and the earth melts.

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

Come, behold the works of the Lord!  
**God makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
God breaks the bow, shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.**

Be still, and know that the Lord is God!  
**God is exalted among the nations;  
God is exalted in the earth.**

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
**the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

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

\* PASSING THE PEACE

May the Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Old Testament Reading

New Testament Reading

\* Gospel Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Barbara Hunt, Reader

Amos 3:3-8

Acts 4:13-21

John 12:44-50

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM

Our Refuge and Strength

Eugene Butler

Chancel Choir, Brian Ward, Director

*Refrain:* God is our refuge and our strength!

A very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth be moved,  
though the mountains shake, though the waters roar and be troubled!

There is a river the streams whereof make glad the city of God,  
the holy place of the most high, the tabernacle of God.

God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved.

God will help her and right early, God is always near. *Refrain*

Be still and know that I am God,

I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in all the earth.

The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of all is here! *Refrain*

Amen and amen. Amen!

MESSAGE

Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter

PASTORAL PRAYER

\* CONGREGATIONAL SONG

Great Are You, Lord

David Leonard, Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan

2012 Open Hands Music (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC)

Integrity's Praise! Music (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Little Way Creative (Admin. by Integrity Music)

Led by Jon Boyd, Kristen Hunter, Anders Johnson,

Sam Parnin, Brian Ward, and Ryan Wendt

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

Dolcezza

Percy W. Whitlock

\* Doxology 48

\* Prayer of Dedication

\* CLOSING HYMN 579

The Church's One Foundation

\* RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

For all that God can do within us,  
for all that God can do without us,

**thanks be to God!**

For all in whom Christ lived before us,  
for all in whom Christ lives beside us,

**thanks be to God!**

For all the Spirit wants to bring us,  
for where the Spirit wants to send us,

**thanks be to God!**

The blessing of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—  
be with you and on your way together, now and forever.

**Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
arr. Sam Parnin

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

## WHY DO WE CELEBRATE THE REFORMATION?

On October 31, 1517, a 34-year-old German monk named Martin Luther nailed a document containing 95 theses, or propositions, to the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral.

In those theses, Luther attacked the prevailing understanding of his age that the Christian Church had the power, through the sacraments, to ensure a person's salvation. Luther also strongly challenged a related concept—that we are saved, or made right with God, by virtue of the things we do. Rather, Luther said, being in right relationship with God, or our salvation, comes about as a gift of God. It is grace. We do not earn this grace by our works or the things we do. Rather, being made right is God's free gift, or grace, given to whomever God chooses. Those who know and experience that sense of grace will then seek to live as they believe God intends them to. Trying to live a faithful life is the result of experiencing God's grace, and feeling oneself in right relationship with God is not a necessary precondition to experiencing God's love and grace.



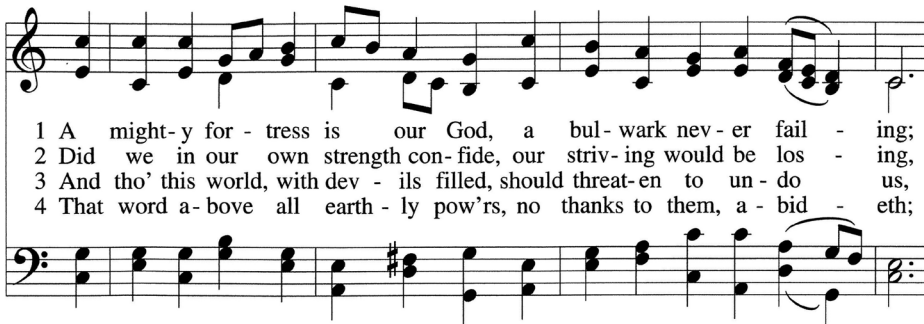
Luther's understanding quickly gained wide support and initiated what we now know as the Protestant Reformation. Other church leaders in Switzerland (Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin), Scotland (John Knox), and England (Thomas Cranmer) picked up Luther's ideas, modified some of them, and started other movements to reform the church. We are the inheritors of this tradition.

Luther's conviction about being saved by God's grace came from a sudden insight as he wrestled with a passage from Paul's Letter to the Romans. For Luther and other Reformation leaders, scripture was the primary means through which we hear God's Word. They did not believe the Bible is the literal Word of God, but they did believe that as we read scripture and wrestle with it, collectively in worship as well as in individual and group study, we can hear God's Word to us and for us.

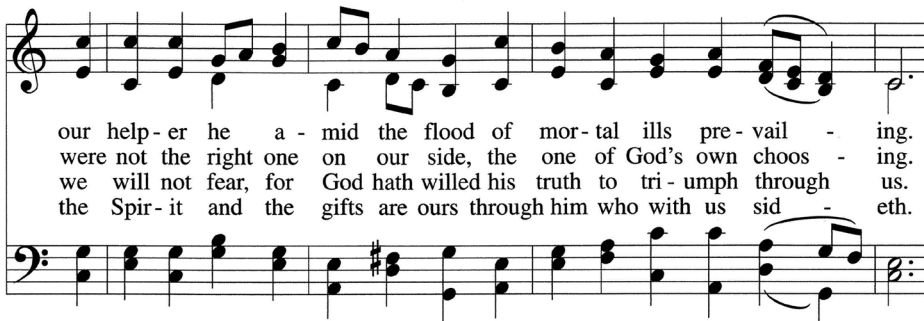
- adapted from online sources by Libby Piotrowski

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

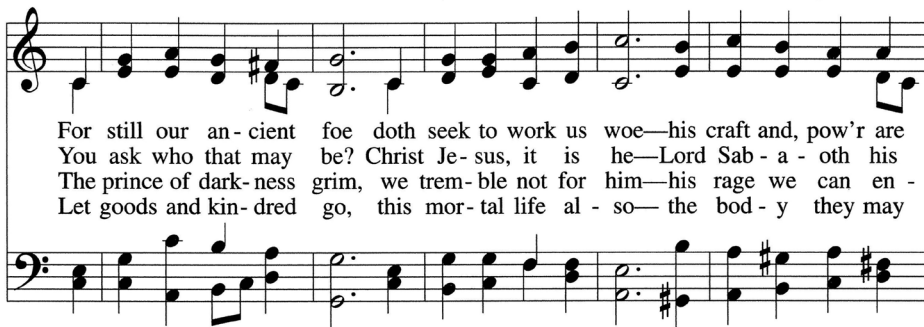
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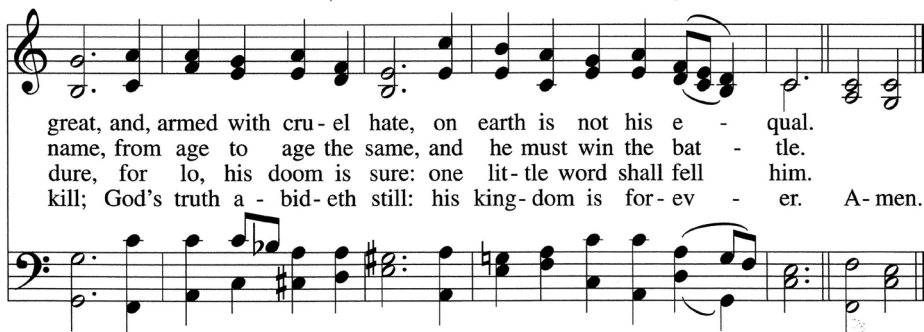
1 A might-y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er fail - ing;  
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,  
 3 And tho' this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un - do us,  
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs, no thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



our help - er he a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.  
 were not the right one on our side, the one of God's own choos - ing.  
 we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to tri - umph through us.  
 the Spir - it and the gifts are ours through him who with us sid - eth.



For still our an - cient foe doth seek to work us woe—his craft and, pow'r are  
 You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is he—Lord Sab - a - oth his  
 The prince of dark - ness grim, we trem - ble not for him—his rage we can en -  
 Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so—the bod - y they may



great, and, armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 name, from age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 dure, for lo, his doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 kill; God's truth a - bid - eth still: his king - dom is for - ev - er. A - men.


## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*

# Great Are You, Lord

Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan, and David Leonard




1. You give life, You are love. You bring light to the




5. dark - ness. You give hope, You re - store e - v'ry heart that is



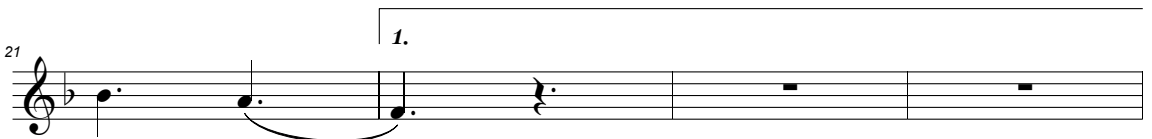
9. brok - en. Great are You, Lord.



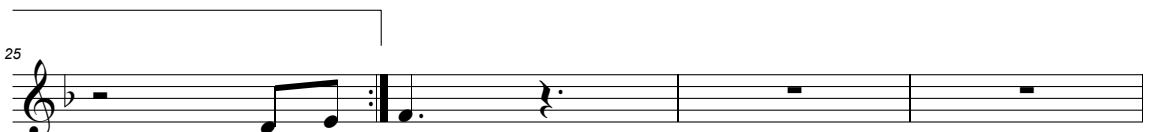
13. It's Your breath in our lungs so we pour out our praise, we



17. pour out our praise. It's Your breath in our lungs so we pour out our praise to You



21. 1. on - ly



25. You give



29



33



All the earth will shout Your praise; Our hearts will cry; these

37



bones will sing "Great are You Lord."

42



It's Your breath in our lungs so we pour out our praise, we

46



pour out our praise. It's Your breath in our lungs so we pour out our praise to You

50



on - ly. It's your breath in our lungs so we pour out our praise, we

54



pour out our praise. It's Your breath in our lungs so we pour out our praise to You

58



on - ly Great are You, Lord.

## Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 48

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.'

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him all crea-tures

here be-low; praise him a-bove ye heav'n-ly host;

praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

Yupik: *Nanrau mali Agayutvut, Nanrarlitgu pilimalriit  
Nanrarlitgu qilagmeInguut, Aata, qetunraq, Anerneqllu.*

Translation by Lucy Daniels and Wassilie Mute

Spanish: *A Dios el Padre celestial, al Hijo nuestro Redentor,  
y al eternal Consolador, uni dos todos alabad.*

Lingala: *E Njambe apesi bato nse, mpo mingi na Yosanjola,  
Na banje mpe tosambel, tata, Mwana, Molimo mpe.*

## The Church's One Foundation

1 The Church- 's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 We see her long di - vid - ed, by her - e - sy and sect;  
 4 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war,  
 5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.  
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
 yet she by God is guid - ed, one peo - ple, one e - lect;  
 she waits the con - su - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more:  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 her vig - il she is keep - ing her cry goes up, "How long?"  
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed;  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the dawn of song,  
 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest!  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee. A - men.

# *Welcome to North Park Covenant Church online!* *We're glad you're here.*

## *For your prayers this week:*

- **Diane Haglund**, diagnosed with breast cancer and in the process of setting up a surgery date
- **Charlotte Olfelt**, home again after a brief hospitalization for a respiratory virus
- **the Mohammed Amin family**, who we sponsored last summer, in need of affordable housing in the next few weeks, as the building they live in is being sold
- **Craig Johnson**, Pastor Libby's dad, hospitalized after a fall in which he fractured his pelvis
- **Christino Colon**, Steven Colon's father, in poor health
- **Dorothy Schmidt**, in search of a new apartment
- Dorothy Schmidt's nephews, **Jeff Kohn** and **David Schmidt**, anticipating difficult medical procedures
- **Brandon Baglayan**, Marti Hindaileh's godson, undergoing chemo and radiation

## **Welcome to North Park Covenant Church!**



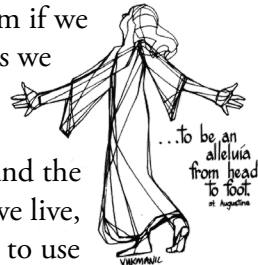
If you're new here today, we invite you to scan the QR code at the left to learn more about us and, perhaps, get a little more connected.

**Childcare is available** in the toddler room (lower level, off the hallway south of the parlors) for the full duration of 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.

**2024 Pastoral Review:** After worship today, NPCC's co-chairs, Susan Dawson and Nancy Ebner, will meet in the corner nursery off the south chapel with any who wish to comment on the performance of our co-pastors, Libby Piotrowski and Jeff Hunter. Your comments will be confidential and shared only with the pastors. Unable to come in person? Call Nancy (413-896-8875) or Susan (224-522-1274) before the end of the day today. Please, no emails or texts. Those who worship online may provide comments via email to [chair@npcovenant.org](mailto:chair@npcovenant.org) or by dropping off a sealed envelope at the church.

## Neighborhood Prayer in 2024

Scripture tells us that our Almighty God shoulders the weight of all of heaven and earth, and Jesus invites us to shoulder our own cross and follow him if we are to be his disciples. As we continue this year to use our whole bodies to pray for our neighbors and the communities in which we live, our focus for October is to use our shoulders in prayer. Let us, together, help our neighbors to shoulder the complexities and difficulties of life, holding them in prayer. And, as our nation journeys toward election day, may we shoulder the honestly beautiful and truthfully difficult parts of our country and our story and bring it all before our God, trusting the Creator with it all. We live in the City of Big Shoulders, after all.



*Anyone who won't shoulder his own cross and follow behind me can't be my disciple.*

*- Luke 14:27 (The Message)*

**Night of the Walking Taco Returns!** Need a little sustenance for trick-or-treating on Halloween night? Well, don your creepiest, coolest, or cleverest Halloween attire and make your way to the corner of Christiana and Berwyn between 5 and 7:30 pm. We'll be there with hot cocoa and walking tacos! And if you're willing and able to help us set up, serve, or clean up, please reach out to Pastor Libby or Pastor Jeff to let them know.

**Next Sunday, November 3, is All Saints' Sunday.** If you would like to bring a photo of a loved one to display at the front of the sanctuary on that day, please feel free to bring it to the church office by the end of the day on Friday, November 1, or come a little early on November 3 and set up your photo with the others.

**There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 10,** in the sanctuary following the church service. The agenda includes the following:

1. Vote on the pastoral search committee for our minister for community outreach.
2. Presentation of proposed by-law changes to be voted on as part of the annual meeting (Part 1) in January.
3. Encouragement and question answering around guidelines for proposals for the 10% tithe from the BWF contributions.

**You are invited to an open house** on Sunday, November 10, from 2-4 pm at the home of Karen Darelius (2708 W Balmoral Ave - Apt 1E). Come for fellowship, food, and fun!

**It's that time of year again!** Christmas greens are available for order through Sunday, November 10. The money raised will help support the youth ministries at NPCC. You can submit your order [via Realm](#) (you'll need to start the registration process to get to the page with the price listing) or the paper forms found in the narthex and parlors. They'll arrive at church for pick-up in the alley parking lot on Sunday, November 24. If you have any questions, [reach out to Jeanette!](#)

**We invite you to a New Member Class!** Have you been considering becoming a member of North Park Covenant Church? Do you have questions about the church and/or the Covenant denomination? Would you like to learn more without an obligation to join the church? We'd love to have you join us at our next New Member Class on Saturday, November 16, from 9 am to 1 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be included! Please let [Pastor Libby](#) or [Pastor Jeff](#) know of your interest, and we'll be in touch!

**Biking (and Walking) for Congo:** Five members of NPCC have participated in the Paul Carlson Partnership's Biking for Congo fundraising event this month. This annual event to support healthcare in DR Congo helps PCP raise funds to train healthcare workers, improve access to clean water, provide medicines and supplies, and care for those in need. Click on a person's name to support their efforts:

- [Wally Ebner](#)
- [Joline Paska](#)
- Wally Ebner and Grandsons' Team, [Spinning Wheels](#)
- [Sue Vandervoort](#)
- [Ann-Marie Olson Frisk](#)
- [Sara Wendt](#)

Check donations may be sent to Paul Carlson Partnership, 8303 W Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631.

## How will we be generous? Send us your suggestions!

When we began the Building with Faithfulness Campaign, we pledged that, as a church, we would tithe on the monies that came in, giving 10% to ministries or organizations outside of the church each year of the three-year campaign. We have now completed the first year of the campaign, and we have roughly \$65,000 dollars to give away.

This is a decision we promised we would make together as a church family and, while we have a pretty good idea for the mechanics of the vote, we need to establish a list of possible ministries and organizations on which to vote. We need your help with that! If you have a suggestion for where we may send this first year's tithe, please submit your suggestion, in writing, to Pastor Libby or Pastor Jeff by Sunday, December 1. We will collect these suggestions and share them with the congregation, voting on our collective decision at the congregational annual meeting on January 26.

Each submission should include the name of the organization or ministry, a brief explanation (5-8 sentences) of what the ministry is, why you feel it is worthy of receiving money, and the dollar amount suggested/needed. Board and committee chairs may also extend this invitation to leaders of organizations and ministries they work with and support. Each of the written submissions should also meet the following criteria:

1. The organization/ministry should be local and serve people locally.
2. The gift given should allow for building relationships with people.

What a delightful and complex decision we get to make together! How will we be generous with the gifts God has given us?

### Lectionary texts for Sunday, November 3:

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalm 24

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

## As Thanksgiving approaches, The Friendship Center has two upcoming events:

*Free Thanksgiving meal box distribution:* The Friendship Center will be giving away Thanksgiving meal boxes on Saturday, November 23, from 2-5 pm at their pantry (2711 W Lawrence Ave, Chicago, IL 60625). For more information, visit their [Facebook event page](#).

*Thanksgiving Day lunch:* The Friendship Center is partnering with St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church of Chicago to help spread the word about their free Thanksgiving lunch on Thursday, November 28, from 11 am - 1 pm at their parish (2727 W Winona St, Chicago, IL 60625). No tickets are required, and all are welcome. More information is available at their [Facebook event page](#).

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## The Church Calendar This Week

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

### *Monday, October 28*

- 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, October 29*

- 8 am Men's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 6 pm Cudahy Basketball (Gym)

### *Wednesday, October 30*

- 10 am Women's Bible Study (Hybrid/Large Conference Room)
- 6 pm Gather Dinner (Parlors)
- 6:30 pm Chancel Handbell Choir Rehearsal (Side Balcony, Sanctuary)  
Contemporary Music Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 7 pm Middle-school Youth Group (Youth Room near the Gym)
- 7:15 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

### *Thursday, October 31*

- 4:30 pm Uniting Voices Chicago Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 5 pm Night of the Walking Taco (Corner of Christiana and Berwyn)

### *Friday, November 1*

- 1 pm Prayer Gathering (South Chapel Prayer Corner)

### *Saturday, November 2*

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

### *Sunday, November 3 - All Saints' Sunday*

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

**North Park Covenant  
Church Staff**

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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, Director of Youth Ministry  
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

Joline Paska, Treasurer  
treasurer@npcovenant.org, ext. 505

Christian Schuetz, Custodian  
cschuetz@npcovenant.org

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

**North Park Church  
Cooperative Preschool**

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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/npccp

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**The Friendship Center**

2711 West Lawrence Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60625

Justin Block  
Executive Director  
justin@friendshipcenterchicago.org

(773) 907-6338  
info@friendshipcenterchicago.org  
www.friendshipcenterchicago.org

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**Missionaries We Support**

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Letha Kerl,  
Regional Co-coordinator for Europe

Peter and Anna Kim, Taiwan

James and Rachel Ventress, Alaska

Paul and Sheryl Noren, Congo

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo,  
Latin America

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**Welcome Statement**

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*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