



**“WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY,
AND JESUS IS LORD”**

Christ the King / Prince of Peace Sunday

November 26, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Northeastern Presbyterian Church

2112 Varnum Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018

Telephone: (202) 526-1730 Fax: (202) 526-5900

Email: admin@nepc-dc.org; Website: <http://nepc-dc.org>.

Direct office-202-526-1730

Pastor At Church Wednesday Afternoons and by Appointment

Pastor Mark Greiner Email: pastormfg@gmail.com Cell 301.310.5600



Welcome to Northeastern Presbyterian Church

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN PRAISE AND PRAYER

+ Please stand if able

Quote of the Day (for silent reflection)

“None of us alone can save the nation or world. But each of us can make a positive difference if we commit ourselves to do so.”

Cornel West (Princeton 1994) commenting on Race Matters

PRELUDE

+ INTROIT

The Celestial Choir

+ INVOCATION

+ CALL TO WORSHIP (Jesus, the Prince of Peace)

One: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. *Colossians 3:15*

All: **We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.** *Romans 5:1*

One: Jesus said: These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world. *John 16:33*

All: **We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

One: Jesus said: Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. *John 14:27*

All: **We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

One: So, then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up Of one another. *Romans 14:19*

All: **We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

The prophet Isaiah praises God saying, “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.” So let us pray with bold confidence:

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

One: O God, you create children to be free; you are our God, and we are Your people!

All: **We hear your voice in the cries of the poor, the hungry, the imprisoned, and the broken, for you made yourself one with those who cry out for food, freedom, justice and peace.**

One: O God, Our Sustainer, search our hearts and reveal to us the ways that we contribute to injustice, self-destruction and bondage.
(Silent prayer)

All: **God, give us courage to find the true path of your way, ready to give ourselves as living offerings for your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.**
(Silent Prayer)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God knows us, loves us and seeks us out.
Jesus shares in our humanity: Jesus frees us.
Rejoice in God’s will for us: live and love God as
God’s free people.

ALL: Thanks be to God, Amen!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

PAUSING IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST

PASSING THE PEACE

(Unmuted devices and turn on cameras to greet one another in love)

One: May the peace of Christ be with you!
Many: And also, with you! Peace be with you!

TIME WITH CHILDREN

ANTHEM SELECTION

The Celestial Choir

THE OFFERING

Use your bank's online bill-paying options
Mail your check to the church
2112 Varnum St., NE
Washington, DC 20018

Go to nepc-dc.org
Click on Donate or Cash App at the bottom of the page

+ THE DOXOLOGY

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!

+ **THANKSGIVING PRAYER** (In Unison, by St. Richard of Chichester)

Dearest Lord Jesus, savior, and friend, three things I pray:
To see thee more clearly, to love thee more dearly, to follow thee more
nearly, day by day, Amen.

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

SERMONIC SELECTION

The Celestial Choir

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor Greiner

A HEBREW BIBLE READING

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

The Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

DISCUSSION SERMON (See back page of bulletin for PCUSA letter)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness, A Statement of Lament for Israel and Palestine (October, 202)

As people of faith, we turn to the practice of lament that guides our prayers and leads us to action. We join our voice with the Psalmist, "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!" (Psalm 130:1) May God hear the voices of those in Israel and Palestine experiencing unprecedented suffering and escalating violence. May the cries of our partners and care for humanity lead us from prayer to action.

We cry aloud for the devastation that has occurred and the fear of what might be.

We lament the lost lives of civilians, sojourners, military personnel, journalists, and aid workers.

ALL For the injured, kidnapped, and refugees we pray.

We cry aloud for those whose homes have been destroyed and those who have been forced to leave their homes for safer ground.

ALL We lament the impact of war on families who become fractured or separated. Political leaders declare war, civilians pay the price.

We cry aloud for those who feel forgotten, helpless, abandoned, and trapped within their own land.

ALL We are saddened by a delay in a peace agreement between Israel and its neighbors.

We decry the withholding of food, water, electricity, and medical supplies for people already devastated by isolation and embargo.

We decry the actions of Hamas on Israeli citizens and the violent retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people.

We decry our own nation's involvement in the region to provide peace and stability, but instead causes increased militarism and division.

ALL For world powers to eagerly enforce peace between Israel and its neighbors, we pray.

In our lament we confess that we have not listened to our partners first nor the people of Israel and Palestine. We have leaned into our settler-colonial ways believing that we held solutions for other peoples and lands. We have trusted military might when God calls us toward diplomacy and peaceful protest. We confess that we are all too often egocentric putting ourselves, our families, and our nation's needs before those of Palestinian people and Israeli peace and human rights organizations. In our lament we pause to pray and move to more just actions.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in Unison)

Our Father which 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. ¹And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

+ CLOSING HYMN -(#138 SOZ)

"Study War No More "

WE GO FORTH AND SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

+ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (Philippians 4:6-7)

Be anxious for nothing,
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension,
will guard your hearts and your minds
in Christ Jesus.

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP

PRAYER ELDER THIS WEEK

Lectionary: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 100; Complementary: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 and Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthews 25:31-46

Liturgist: Elder Cynthia Gervais

Greeter: Deacon Bishetta Merritt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS – The Northeastern Church Adult Sunday School Class convenes Sundays at 9:00 a.m. via conference call. The focus for Winter 2023 Lessons is “Faith That Pleases God.” You are cordially invited to join in on the December 3rd discussion “The Faith of Ruth.” Ruth 1; 4:13-22. Please dial **(267) 807-9601**; **Passcode 828-160-800** to participate in the lively conversations with church members.

ADVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS: This Advent season, each of you is cordially invited to bring a Christmas ornament to hang on our sanctuary Christmas tree. If you have a favorite ornament or one with special meaning, please bring it in and hang it on the Northeastern family Christmas tree. You may begin bringing in the ornaments on the first Sunday in Advent, which is December 3rd.

ALSO, if you are interested in being an Advent candlelighter or reader on one of the four Sundays in Advent, contact Elder Pam Gessesse or the church office by November 26.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE BULLETIN: **ALL** announcements must be in the church office no later than Wednesday by 12 noon. Thanking you in advance.

CONGREGATION MEETING: There will be a congregational meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, December 10 for the purpose of electing church officers.

FACILITIES-USE: As the holidays approach, please be mindful that Members of NEPC and their immediate family, such as parents, children, husbands or wives are responsible for ½ the cost of the facility schedule flat rate package or hourly fees for events other than funeral/memorial services.

LITERARY BOOK CLUB - The Literary Club invites you to join our 1:30 pm Zoom discussions of the following titles.

Dec. 3rd – *Krik Krak*, by Edwidge Danticat
and on

Jan. 7th, 2024 – *Family Lore*; a novel, by Elizabeth Acevedo, et al

NOMINEES FOR CLASS 2026

Nominees for Elder

Class of 2026

Jennifer Allen
Angela Hemphill

Nominees for Deacons

Charles Webb

Nominees for 2024 Nominating Committee

Carol Fleming
Felicia Lightfoot
Gloria Harris
Thomas Midgette
Antoinette Spriggs

Nominees for Trustees

Class of 2026

Loretta Bowers
Ernest Harris
James Williams
Patricia Young

PER CAPITA FOR 2023 is \$47.13.

REMEMBER THE SICK AND SHUT IN: The list printed in the bulletin will be updated each week to reflect additions and deletions. Reach out to our sick and shut in a safe way that lets them know they are in our hearts, minds, and prayers. Please contact the church office if you know names of persons who should be added to the sick-and-shut-in list or if you have updates on anyone listed.

RSVP FOR WIN'S FUNDRAISER: We're thrilled to invite you to our upcoming Annual Fundraiser on December 5, from 7-9 PM, at the Radcliffe Room in The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1313 New York Ave NW, Washington, DC, 20005.

For your convenience, we are working on securing private parking located directly to the left of the church's main entrance. In the coming weeks, we'll share more details about parking and additional arrangements. To secure your spot to the event, RSVP using the following link: [**https://bit.ly/WINfundraiser2023**](https://bit.ly/WINfundraiser2023)

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday Morning Bible Study sessions will be via Zoom at 11:00AM Eastern Time. Please join us for an interesting discussion. The Zoom meeting information is in the E-mail to the congregation, or you can call the church office or Ruby Webb for the Zoom ID and Passcode.

WINTER DRIVE FOR THE HOMELESS FAMILIES: In the past Northeastern (under the Social Concerns and Peace-Making Committee) has had Drives for the Homeless in DC particularly the men shelters. This season we would like to do a Drive for the Homeless Families specifically the women and children. The Virginia Williams Family Resource Center under the DC Dept. of Human Resources works closely with a few of their lower barrier sites for women and what they need are **Socks, Hats, Gloves and Scarfs -- especially for children and women.** You may bring your items to the Northeastern Jamison Lounge where there will be a box for your donations. If you would rather donate money and have us go do the shopping for you then we can do that. The Drive will run through November 30, 2023.

ZOOM MEETING ID: The **ZOOM MEETING ID** for our worship services is: Meeting ID: **884 3297 8279**; Passcode: **379224**

Pastor Greiner, Transformational Stated Supply Pastor

Session has hired Pastor Greiner for a 1-year contract (renewable for 2024) to

- Preach and Lead Worship
- Provide Pastoral Care
- Lead a mission study for NEPC
 - to discern next steps in ministry
 - to define next steps in pastoral leadership
 - to deepen connections within the congregation and neighborhood.
- Facilitate a review of the byways.
- Coordinate a revision of staff job descriptions.

THANK YOU

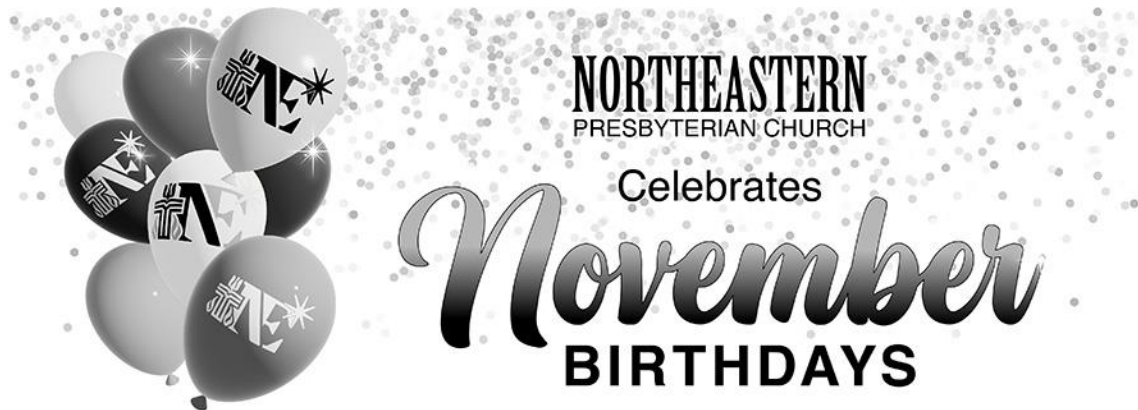
To the Northeastern Presbyterian Church family, the Harris and Thomas families would like to express their deepest gratitude to you all for your unyielding support, cards, and prayers during the loss of our dearest Mozella Harris. You have been impactful and instrumental during this difficult time. Thank you so much and God bless you all.

NORTHEASTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

As we rely on God's guidance, the vision of Northeastern Presbyterian Church is to fulfill the command of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to promote Christian faith and practice through evangelism, outreach, compassion and fellowship to our congregation and the wider community.

We commit to:

- **Worship**
- **Witness**
- **Learn**
- **Grow**
- **Nurture**
- **Serve**



OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS ARE WITH NORTHEASTERN MEMBERS & FAMILY:



REMEMBER OUR SICK & SHUT-IN

*"Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me, and I will be saved, for You are my praise."
(Jeremiah 17:14)*

STAFF

Ministers

Pastor (Stated Supply)
Director, Chancel Choir/Organist
Director, Pianist, Celestial Choir
Director, Pianist, Youth/Cherub Choir
Treasurer
Administrative Assistant
Sexton
Security

All the people of the church

Pastor Mark Greiner
Dr. Laddie Bell

Ms. Jennifer Allen
Mrs. Iris Burnell
Ms. Kathy Cuff
Mr. Randall Timbers

MINISTRIES OF SESSION

Buildings & Grounds
Budget & Finance
Christian Education
Evangelism and Outreach
Interpretation & Stewardship
Personnel
Social Concerns & Peace-Making
Technology Committee
Worship & Music
Clerk of Session
Nominating

ELDERS

Pamela Gessesse, Clarence Shaw, III
Clara Berryhill
Angela Hemphill
Shawn Thomas, Michele Peters
Dr. Cherie Becton
Cynthia Gervais
Michele Peters
Shawn Thomas
Pam Gessesse, Angela Hemphill
Valerie McCray
Clara Berryhill

DEACONS

Valencia Hawkins
Katrin Jones, Moderator
Brenda Kuznof
Bishetta Merritt, Vice Moderator
Blossom Roach
Amanda Sargent
Charles Webb

TRUSTEES

Loretta Bowers
Frank Enty
William Hymes, Jr.
Nachee Miller
Theodore Powell
James Williams
Patricia Young
Ernest Harris, President

SENIOR USHERS

1st, 4th Shirley Wilson – President, Wilhelmina Davis, Brenda, Kuznof, Mary Allen, Ruby Webb
2nd, 3rd, 5th Glynis Pegram-Higgs, Pam Gessesse, Jordan Gessesse

Acting Stated Clerk condemns violence between Israel and Hamas Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - October 13, 2023

Deuteronomy 5:17 "You shall not kill."

The devastation and loss of life in both Israel and the Gaza Strip in the last few days has been horrific. No words can describe the anguish and suffering of the people directly impacted by and caught up in the violence of these attacks. As we watch the recently declared war unfold, our hearts break for all whose loved ones have died, are wounded, missing, displaced, or taken hostage.

Horrific actions committed by Hamas and the violent response by Israel have exacerbated deep wounds, inflicting physical and emotional pain and suffering. We acknowledge that the people of Palestine and Hamas are not one in the same, and we stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine and Israel who seek peace. Hamas does not. We condemn the violence that has taken place in recent days, and we grieve the decades of oppression that have led to this violence. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) stands firm in its support of Palestinians and their right to live free in their land, without occupation, aggression, and bloodshed. We support and protect Israel's right to exist as a free and sovereign nation. In the Confession of 67, the church states:

9.45 b: The church, in its own life, is called to practice the forgiveness of enemies and to commend to the nations as practical politics the search for cooperation and peace.

9.46 c: The reconciliation of humankind through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God's good creation.

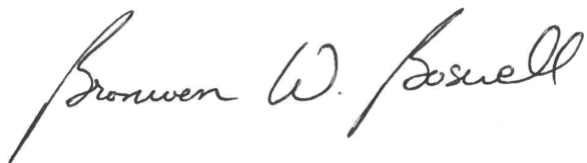
Hamas has caused significant damage and destruction to Israeli towns. Israeli bombings are leveling entire neighborhoods in Gaza, leaving survivors with a lack of shelter, adequate food, water, and necessities. Hospitals are losing power, putting the health of the injured, newborns, and others at risk.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) urges the Israeli government to honor the Palestinian people with the same freedom they offer their own citizens and continue to do so amid this crisis. We also urge Hamas to release the hostages and refrain from additional violence. Regardless of our differences and strong views on matters of human rights, bombing innocent people, killing, and kidnapping children are never acceptable.

We urge all leaders to immediately put an end to the bloodshed, release those who are captured and held hostage, end the fighting, and open humanitarian

corridors to get medical attention to everyone who is in need. We recognize that this is a very difficult and painful matter that generates strong emotions and reactions. Earlier this week, the Office of the Stated Clerk issued a call for prayer as an immediate response to the tragedy. Since then, we have been thoughtful and prayerful in discerning what to say and have worked with our colleagues who are closest to this unfolding crisis. The prayer has been taken down with this new response. The PC(USA) Office of Public Witness has also issued a Statement of Lament for Israel and Palestine.

If you are able to support crisis response and recovery efforts in the Middle East, please donate to account DR000081.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bronwen W. Boswell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Rev. Bronwen Boswell
Acting Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
<https://www.pcusa.org/news/2023/10/13/acting-stated-clrk-condemns-violence-israel-palest/>