



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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 15, 2026 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>.

Pastor At Church Wednesday Mornings 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 (Father Daniel Berrigan; anti-war activist)

“If you’re going to spend your life resisting death, you learn to live life to the full. If you want to be hopeful, you have to do hopeful things.” *(as quoted by John Dear)*

PRELUDE

+ INTROIT

+ INVOCATION

+ CALL TO WORSHIP (Dr. Emilie Townes in honor of Toni Morrison)

All **to be called beloved**
 is to be called by God
 to be called by the shining moments
 be called deep within deep

One to be called beloved
 is more than one plus infinity
 more than the million breaths of loving
 than the sounds of tomorrow's horizon

All **to be called beloved**
 is the marvelous yes
 to God's what if
 the radical shifting of growth
 mundane agency of active faith

One to be called beloved
is to ask the question
what would it mean, what would it look like
if we actually believed
that we are washed in God's grace

**All to be called beloved
is to answer the question
we are not dipped, we are not sprinkled
we are not immersed
we are washed in the grace of God**

+ OPENING HYMN - #8 (SOZ)

"AT THE CROSS"

CALL TO RECONCILIATION (from Romans 8)

If God is for us, who can be against us? Since God did not spare the Only Begotten but gave Christ up for the sake of us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that God will freely give us everything. In confidence, let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God, this is a hard time. The focus of Lent is on the pain and suffering of Jesus and our own need for repentance. It is a time of gathering shadows. But we would rather skip this part and go straight to Easter. We would rather ignore the suffering—in you and in the world—and avoid the hard work of true self-examination. Forgive us for wanting this to be bright and painless and easy, when we know that Jesus did not take the easy way, but chose the path of the Cross. Teach us the true meaning of repentance, so that we use this Lenten season to humbly seek a clean heart and a renewed spirit. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (from Romans 8)

Who will bring any charge against God's chosen ones? Since God is the one who justifies, who has the power to condemn? Only Christ Jesus, who died, or rather, who was raised, and sits at the right hand of God, who now intercedes for us.

**All In Christ, God forgives us and welcomes us home.
Thanks be to God!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Mrs. Ruby Webb

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Iona Community)

One Light looked down and saw darkness.

All **"I will go there," said Light.**

One Love looked down and saw hatred,

All **"I will go there," said Love.**

One Peace looked down and saw war.

All **"I will go there," said Peace.**

One So the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace,
the God of Love came down and walks beside us.
The Peace of Christ be with you.

ALL And also with you.

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

ANTHEM SELECTION

TIME WITH CHILDREN

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!**

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER (unison, W.E.B. DuBois, attributed)

Lord of the springtime, Father of flower, field and fruit, smile on us in these earnest days when the work is heavy and the toil wearisome; lift up our hearts, O God, to the things worthwhile—sunshine and night, the dripping rain, the song of the birds, books and music, and the voices of our friends. Lift up our hearts to thee and grant us Thy peace. Amen.

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST GOSPEL READING

Luke 9:22-26

“The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.” Then Jesus said to them all, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

SERMONIC SELECTION

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor Greiner

THE SECOND GOSPEL READING

Luke 23:26-32

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were

beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us'; and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON "Pick Up Your Cross and Follow Me"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in Unison)

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SEEKING A CHURCH HOME?

+ CLOSING HYMN #371 (Hymnal) "Lift High the Cross"

WE GO FORTH AND SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

+ BENEDICTION "DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?"

by Jorge Mario Bergoglio

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
Fast from anger and be filled with patience
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
Fast from worries and have trust in God.
Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
Fast from pressures and be prayerful
Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
Fast from selfishness and be Compassionate.
Fast from grudges and be reconciled
Fast from words; be silent and listen

POSTLUDE

PRAYER ELDER

Elder Cynthia Gervais

Lectionary: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13 and Psalm 23; Ephesians Roman 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Liturgist: Deacon Glen Grier

Greeter: Deacon Bishetta Merritt

IMAGE IN WORSHIP: The image in worship today is by Aaron Douglas (1927), titled "The Crucifixion".

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/aaron-douglas/the-crucifixion-1927>

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 2025-2026 Lessons is “Enduring Beliefs of the Christian Faith.” You are cordially invited to join us next Sunday, March 22nd, discussion on “All Are One In Christ,” Ruth 1:1-18; John 4:5-10; Acts 10:1-11:18; Romans 1:14; Galatians 3:28-29. Please dial **(267) 807-9601 Passcode 828-160-800** to participate in the lively conversations with church members.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT: Spring is here, and that means the Easter Bunny is on the way to Northeastern Presbyterian Church! We’re excited to announce our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, happening on Saturday, April 4th, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. This festive event promises something for everyone—children can look forward to a variety of fun activities, including crafts, egg dyeing, cupcake decorating, and, of course, the much-anticipated hunt for special eggs with prizes.

To make this celebration a success, we’re reaching out for your support. We would greatly appreciate donations of wrapped candy, plastic eggs, special gifts for the golden egg hunters, and any other Easter-themed items you’d like to contribute. Monetary donations are also welcome and will help us create a memorable experience for all.

Please deliver your donations to the church by March 29th. If you have any questions or need more details, Jennifer Allen is available to assist you.

Don’t forget to invite your family, friends, and neighbors—everyone is welcome to join in the fun! We’re looking forward to a joyful gathering and a wonderful time for all.

“EXPECTING RESURRECTION” theme to prepare for Easter. Please meditate on Matthew 28:1-15; on Easter Sunday, we’ll ask you, “What does Resurrection mean to you.”

GET INVOLVED, PCUSA OFFICE OF PUBLIC WITNESS.

Sign up here for alerts to faithfully raise our voices in key state and national actions <https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/PCUSA/home>

HARRIET TUBMAN TOUR (PLUS BIRDING!)

Cost: \$65

Date: April 23, 2026 Thursday, 2-6 pm

Place: Cambridge, MD

Info: <https://delmarvabirding.com/birding-tubman-2026/>

Register at dmbirds@gmail.com (put April 23 Tubman tour in subject line) Register ASAP as the tour fills quickly.

<https://delmarvabirding.com/store/thurs-apr-23-birding-tubman-byway/>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LITERARY CLUB **Book selections for 2025**

LITERARY CLUB - Please join us via Zoom at 1:30 pm every first Sunday for the book discussion of the month.

April 5th ---- **Kin**, by Tayari Jones

May 3rd --- **Harlem Rhapsody**, by Victoria Christopher Murray

June 7th --- **Rootless: a Novel**, by Krystle Zara Appiah

July 5th ---- **Uncommon favor: Basketball, North Philly...**, by Dawn Staley

August 2nd --- **I Hope You Find What You're Looking For**, by Bsrat Mezghebe

September 6th --- **Let Us March On: a Novel**, by Shara Moon

PER CAPITA OFFERING On March 29th a "minute for Mission" will be given by Elder Nachee Miller.

Northeastern members connect with our entire Presbyterian Denomination through the annual Per Capita offering. This offering supports the much-needed governance and administration of the church both locally and nationally. **Please give your \$51.28 offering by Easter.** (Northeastern must pay that amount for every member on our rolls, so your annual offering truly supports our shared ministry.)

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 the names of people who should be added to the sick-and-shut-in list or if you have updates on anyone listed.

THE NEPC JAZZ CAFE returns this year on Sunday, April 26, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Last year's combo, Joshua Jenkins and Friends, are back again to thrill us with their extraordinary musical talents. Tickets will be going on sale March 22nd. The price of a ticket is \$30.00. Food will be served and the "Mock Bar" will be open. Tell your family and friends about the great time that you had last year and not to miss this year's event. We look forward to seeing you on April 26th.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Please join us via Zoom at 11:00AM Eastern Time for Tuesday Morning Bible Study. We will have in-depth and exciting discussions as we learn more about people in the Bible called by God. Call the church office for the Zoom meeting information.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: On Sunday, March 29, 2026, NEPC will celebrate Women's History Month by displaying photos of women who have made an impact in their lives.

Please submit a picture along with one or two sentences sharing why this woman has been meaningful to you. Let us honor and celebrate the women who have shaped our faith, families, and community.

Submission deadline: March 22, 2026.

ZOOM MEETING ID: The **ZOOM MEETING ID** for our worship services is: Meeting ID: **876 1357 9552**; Passcode: **295504**

THE PASSING OF DR. CLARENCE WADE: Clarence Wade, a long-time member of Northeastern Presbyterian Church died March 11, 2026. Funeral arrangements are pending.

NORTHEASTERN'S "TOP FOUR GOALS"

results of the 2024 Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Survey

1. Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
3. Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.
4. Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.

THE MEN'S COUNCIL AT SARGENT MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN

CHURCH is excited to announce the historic 74th Annual Men's Communion Breakfast, taking place on Sunday, March 22nd, 2026, from 7:00 AM to 9:30 AM in Hewlett Fellowship Hall.

Starting in 1952 and every year since, the men of Sargent and the greater National Capitol Region have come together to praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, advance the causes of family, freedom, equality, personal responsibility and education.

For the last several years, our breakfast theme has centered around opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics with an emphasis on satellite and space technology.

Today's demand for young professionals knowledgeable in artificial intelligence, satellites and space technology is growing at light speed.

To respond to this high demand, the Men's Council asked Mr. Donald Frank, Chief Operating Officer of Vantage Systems Inc., to be our guest speaker. Donald Frank is a part of a team of pioneers providing engineering services for spaceflight projects.

This historic event promises inspiration and fellowship and is open to all men. Please reach out and invite the men and boys in your family, neighborhood, church, schools and workplace.

Young boys and students of all ages, currently enrolled in school, can attend for free. All other men, we ask a small donation of \$10 to cover expenses.

You can pay by check, cash or the following Apps:
Zelle, Venmo, PayPal, or Cash App

GOD Bless you! We look forward to seeing all of you at the 74th Men's
Communion Breakfast.
-Victor Samuel



NORTHEASTERN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Per Capita
Offering
by
Easter

Please give your \$51.28
offering by Easter



CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

WE INVITE **DC RESIDENTS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA + THE CAREGIVERS** WHO SUPPORT THEM TO COME TELL YOUR STORY.

HOSTED BY **THE DAP PROJECT** AND FACILITATED BY **DEMENTIA CARE EXPERTS** FROM **GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**, THESE SESSIONS ARE PART OF A CITYWIDE EFFORT TO HONOR MEMORY, CELEBRATE IDENTITY, AND ELEVATE THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY DEMENTIA.

WORKSHOP TIMES WORKSHOP DATES + LOCATIONS

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

WARD 7

WARD 5

WARD 3

MARCH 21

MARCH 28

APRIL 4

THE RESIDENCES
OF BENNING
ROAD
1650
KENILWORTH
AVENUE NE
WASHINGTON,
DC 20019

MICHIGAN PARK
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD
1600 TAYLOR ST
NE
WASHINGTON,
DC 20017
DC 20015

CHEVY CHASE
DC
CONNECTICUT
LIBRARY
5625
AVE NW
WASHINGTON,



FOOD PROVIDED

DEMENTIA STORIES DC

TO REGISTER, PLEASE EMAIL:

DEMENTIASTORIESDC@GMAIL.COM

SPACE IS LIMITED.

WHAT TO EXPECT

EACH **TWO-HOUR WORKSHOP** (10:30 AM–12:30 PM) WILL INCLUDE: A

- GUIDED CREATIVE MEMORY EXERCISE LED BY A TRAINED FACILITATOR
- A SUPPORTIVE SPACE FOR RESIDENTS AND CAREGIVERS
- PROFESSIONAL PORTRAITS OF PARTICIPANTS
- AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR FAMILY'S STORY

PARTICIPANTS SHOULD ATTEND WITH A CAREGIVER SO WE CAN COLLECT BOTH STORIES AND PHOTOGRAPHS. SELECTED PORTRAITS AND STORIES WILL BE FEATURED IN A PUBLIC ART EXHIBIT IN JUNE IN CELEBRATION OF ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH. THE WORKSHOPS WILL BE FACILITATED BY **CHRISTINA PRATHER, MD**, CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF THE **GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY (GWU) INSTITUTE FOR BRAIN HEALTH & DEMENTIA**, AND **LESLIE FREEMAN DAVIDSON, PHD**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL RESEARCH AND LEADERSHIP AT THE GWU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES.

ABOUT DEMENTIA STORIES DC

DEMENTIA STORIES DC IS AN **ARTS-BASED STORYTELLING INITIATIVE** PRODUCED BY THE DAP PROJECT.

- **RAISES AWARENESS** OF DEMENTIA IN WASHINGTON, DC
- CENTERS THE **LIVED EXPERIENCES** OF RESIDENTS AND CAREGIVERS
- HIGHLIGHTS THAT **16.8% OF DC SENIORS** ARE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S OR ANOTHER DEMENTIA
- INSPIRES MORE **EQUITABLE CARE AND HOUSING SOLUTIONS** THROUGH ART AND DIALOGUE

DEMENTIA STORIES DC WILL DEBUT AT THE DC HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY'S HEADQUARTERS IN JUNE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN CELEBRATION OF ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH.



THE DAP PROJECT IS A CREATIVE PLATFORM THAT USES ART, STORYTELLING, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TO ELEVATE UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES AND SPARK MEANINGFUL SOCIAL DIALOGUE. THROUGH EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS, IT CREATES SPACES WHERE LIVED EXPERIENCE IS CENTERED AND CULTURE BECOMES A CATALYST FOR CHANGE.

VISIT
[HTTPS://WWW.THEDAPROJECT.COM/](https://www.thedaproject.com/)
FOR MORE.




NORTHEASTERN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**EASTER
EGG HUNT!**
2026



Saturday, April 4th
1PM-3PM

2112 Varnum Street, NE
Washington, DC | 20018
202.526.1730

Meet the Easter Bunny | Face Painting | Games and Prizes!

For more information, contact www.nepc-dc.org



The Worship and Music Committee will be taking orders for Easter Lilies beginning March 8th through March 29th. The cost of the Lilies will be approximately \$8.00 to \$12.00 (The final price will be determined later). Lilies will be available for pick-up immediately following worship service on April 5th. Please fill-out the information below and return it to the church office mailbox located in the Breezeway or e-mail it to admin@nepc-dc.org.

----- **Easter Lilies**

In MEMORIAM/HONOR OF:



2026

Jazz Cafe

Sponsored by the Capital Improvement Committee

with Guest Artists: Joshua "Josh" Jenkins and Friends



Joshua "Josh" Jenkins



Emerson Borg



Tyson Femister



Kevin Kearney

Sunday, April 26, 2026 | 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

\$30

NORTHEASTERN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2112 Varnum Street, NE
Washington, DC | 20018

202.526.1730 | www.nepc-dc.org



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Listing Agreement update for March 15, 2026

WHAT DECISION DID THE SESSION MAKE?

Session is listing the property for sale or lease to receive offers up to June 1, 2026.

WHY LIST THE PROPERTY FOR SALE OR LEASE?

We want to have enough income to remain on this site as a congregation.

IS THE PRESBYTERY SELLING THE NORTHEASTERN CHURCH BUILDING?

No.

DOES A "LISTING AGREEMENT" REQUIRE US TO LEASE OR SELL THE BUILDING)?

No. Session will evaluate if there is any good offer. Any offer would require congregational approval.

WILL THE CONGREGATION VOTE IF THERE'S A LONG-TERM LEASE OR SALE?

Yes.

WILL OUR BUILDINGS BE CHANGED?

We do not know yet how our building may be repaired or replaced.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Session will receive offers for sale or lease up to June 1.

Session will engage the congregation in conversation around possible leases or sales.

If there is a good offer, the congregation will vote. Presbytery would have to approve a sale or any lease (in excess of 5 years).

WHERE CAN WE SEE THE ONLINE LISTING FOR OUR PROPERTY?

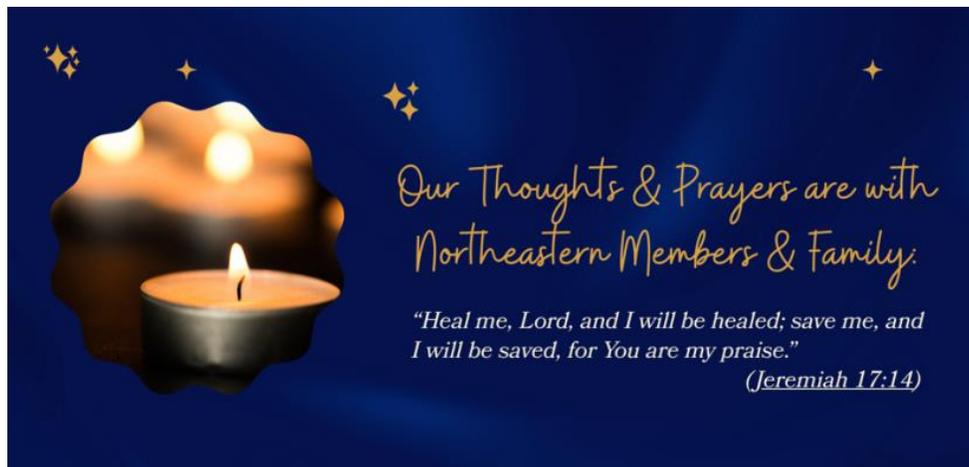
https://www.foundrycommercial.com/properties/?_property_type=religious-and-educational&_market=dc

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**



THOUGHTS & PRAYERS ARE WITH NORTHEASTERN MEMBERS & FAMILY:



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
Administrative Assistant
Sexton
Assistant Sexton

All the people of the Church
Pastor Mark Greiner
Dr. Laddie Bell
Mr. Joshua Jenkins
Ms. Jennifer Allen
Ms. Kathy Cuff
Mr. Randall Timbers
Mr. Kyler Spencer

Ministries of Session

Budget & Fiscal
Buildings & Grounds

Christian Education
Interpretation & Stewardship
Personnel

Worship & Music
Technology Committee

Nominating

Clerk of Session
President of Corporation
Social Concerns & Outreach

Foundry Task Force

Elders

Pamela Gessesse
James Haggins, Chair,
Nachee Miller, Co-chair
Jennifer Allen
William Hymes, Jr., Chair
Charles Barber, Chair
James Haggins, Co-chair
Angela Hemphill
Nachee Miller, Chair
Deacon Katrin Jones, Co-chair
Cherie Becton, Chair
Angela Hemphill, Co-chair
Valerie McCray (non-Session member)
Charles Barber
William Hymes, Jr., Chair
Patricia Young, Co-chair
James Haggins

DEACONS

Karen Cooper, Vice Moderator
Glen Grier, Moderator
Valencia Hawkins
Bishetta Merritt
Thomas Midgette
Amanda Sargent
Penny Thomas- Corresponding Secretary
Randall Timbers
Charles Webb-Treasurer

SENIOR USHERS

1st, 4th Shirley Wilson – President, Wilhelmina Davis, Brenda, Kuznof, Mary Allen, Ruby Webb
3rd, 5th Glynis Higgs, Pamela Gessesse, and Jordan Gessesse, Stephanie White

JUNIOR USHERS

2nd, Pamela Gessesse, Jordan Gessesse, Ava Kennedy, Cecil Nixon, Chidera Uduma,
Priya Young