



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

**THANKSGIVING SUNDAY**

November 19, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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*

PRELUDE

**+** INTROIT

The Chancel Choir

**+** INVOCATION

**+** **NATIVE AMERICAN THANKSGIVING** (from Sue Ellen Herne, Mohawk Nation)

ONE Thank you, Creator of the universe,  
for the people gathered around us today.

**ALL We give thanks for the things of the earth  
that gives us the means of life.**

ONE Thank you for the plants and animals that we use as food and  
medicine.

**ALL Thank you for the natural world,  
in which we find the means to be clothed and housed.**

ONE Thank you, Lord, for the ability to use these gifts of Creation.

**ALL Help us to see our place among these gifts,  
not to squander them or think of them as means for selfish gain.**

ONE May we respect the life of all you have made.

**ALL May our spirits be strengthened by using only what we need,  
and may we use our strength to help those who need us. Amen.**

**+** **THANKSGIVING HYMN #554 (Hymnal)**

**“Let All Things Now Living”**

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION** (James 5:13, 14, 16)

Is anyone among you suffering? Then pray. Is anyone cheerful?

Sing praises! Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed.

The prayer of a righteous person accomplishes much...

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

God of all blessings, You abundantly provide for Your people's every need. In our hearts, Jesus, we fear Your blessing is not sufficient. Some of us are afraid that we might suffer want, so we accumulate far more than we need. Some of us are afraid to follow where You lead, so we hold back. Some of us are tempted by possessions or power, and so invest in what can never truly satisfy. For some of us, time is an enemy, rather than a gift from You. Jesus, forgive us. Release us from our fears and doubts, and fill us with the Holy Spirit.

**SILENT PRAYER**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

There is more love in Jesus than there is sin in us.

Rejoice! In Christ, we are forgiven!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

(Please warmly honor social distance.)

*(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 Chancel Choir

## WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

SERMONIC SELECTION

The Chancel Choir

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor Greiner

**THANKSGIVING PSALM - Psalm 107**

**O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those God redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**Let them thank the LORD for God's steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind.**

For God satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry God fills with good things. Some sat in darkness and in gloom, prisoners in misery and in irons, for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High.

Their hearts were bowed down with hard labor; they fell down, with no one to help. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and God saved them from their distress; God brought them out of darkness and gloom and broke their bonds asunder.

**Let them thank the LORD for God's steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind.**

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and God saved them from their distress; God sent out God's word and healed them and delivered them from destruction.

**Let them thank the LORD for God's steadfast love, for God's wonderful works to humankind.**

Let them extol God in the congregation of the people, and praise God in the assembly of the elders. And their God lets the hungry live, and they establish a town to live in; they sow fields, and plant vineyards, and get a fruitful yield.

**Let those who are wise give heed to these things and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.**

The Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

**“Deliverance and Thanksgiving”**

**✦ Hymn #369 (Hymnal)**

**“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”**

*You are all invited to bring your pledge cards forward while singing,  
and then return to your seats.*

**✦ Litany of Thanksgiving for our Offerings and Pledge Cards**

**One** Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being,  
**All** **Hear our prayer.**  
**One** For this place where we gather to worship, grow, and serve,  
**All** **Thank you, God of Grace.**  
**One** For these people, and for deacons, elders, trustees and pastors who  
have loved us and shown us how to be ministers in our daily lives,  
**All** **Thank you, Empowering God.**  
**One** For your Spirit which fills us anew each time we gather and receive  
the bread and the cup,  
**All** **Thank you, Holy God.**  
**One** For all who have been received as your children here,  
cleansed by the waters of baptism, and raised to new and  
eternal life with Christ,  
**All** **Thank you, Merciful God.**  
**One** For disciples young and old who have been nurtured here in faith.  
**All** **Thank you, Generous God.**  
**One** For all the saints who have stood among us and are now home with  
you, whose memory still enlivens our faith and emboldens our  
witness,  
**All** **Thank you Jesus, Lord of Life.**  
**One** For the ministries of worship and music, mission and property,  
education and fellowship,  
  
**All** **Receive our gratitude, Holy God. In Jesus Christ, you have freed**

**us. You have freed us to live with generous gratitude. You have freed us to encourage one another. You have freed us to serve our community with the love you give us. You have freed us to live in the world with hope, because we are more than victorious through Christ Jesus who loves us. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Thanks be to God. Amen!**

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](http://nepc-dc.org)  
Click on Donate or Cash App at the bottom of the page

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### 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. And 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 -#299 (Hymnal)

"Amen, Amen"

### WE GO FORTH AND SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

### ✦ BENEDICTION (From Saint Patrick's Breastplate)

Christ be with you, Christ before you, Christ behind you, Christ in us, Christ beneath us, Christ above us, Christ on your right, Christ on your left, Christ where we lie, Christ where we sit, Christ where we arise, Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of you, Christ in every eye that sees us, Christ in every ear that hears you. Salvation is of the Lord, Salvation is of the Christ, may your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us. Go in peace to serve the Lord and all you meet. And the blessing of the Three in One God, keep you in eternal life. Amen.

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP

PRAYER ELDER THIS WEEK

Elder Cynthia Gervais

**Lectionary:** Judges 4:1-7 and Psalm 123; Complementary: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 and Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11), 12; 1Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthews 25:14-30  
**Liturgist:** Elder Michele Peters  
**Greeter:** Elder Janell Walker

## **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 Fall 2023 Lessons is “God’s Law Is Love.” You are cordially invited to join in on the November 26<sup>th</sup> discussion “Liberty, Not License.” 1 Corinthians 8; 10:23-11:1. 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 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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.

**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. 3<sup>rd</sup> – *Krik Krak*, by Edwidge Danticat  
and on

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

**NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** invites you to its Fall Bazaar on Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 9 am to 3 pm. There will be a large variety of items, a silent auction, and a wonderful opportunity for fellowship. We look forward to seeing you.

**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>

**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.

**THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE NEEDS LITURGISTS:** The Committee is waiting to hear from you. We need volunteers. We need you. Email Elder Pamela Gessesse at [pamelahagans818@yahoo.com](mailto:pamelahagans818@yahoo.com) or Elder Angela Hemphill at [rnahemp@yahoo.com](mailto:rnahemp@yahoo.com). Thank you in advance for stepping up.

**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.

## 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**



NORTHEASTERN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Celebrates

*November*  
**BIRTHDAYS**



## 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)*



"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

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

## DISCUSSION LETTER FOR WORSHIP NOVEMBER 26

For “Christ the King Sunday” next week, please attend to share your prayer reflection on this Bible passage and the letter below.

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. **Isaiah 9:6**

### **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.

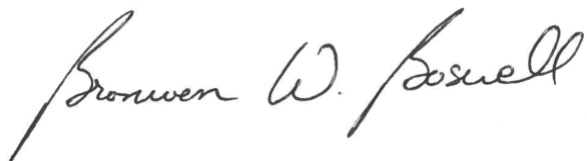
9.46 c: The reconciliation of humankind through Jesus Christ makes it plain that enslaving poverty in a world of abundance is an intolerable violation of God’s good creation.

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/>