



Lessons and Carols

December 21, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Northeastern Presbyterian Church
2112 Varnum Street, NE, Washington, DC 20018
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Email: admin@nepc-dc.org; Website: <http://nepc-dc.org>.
Direct office-202-526-5790

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

INTROIT

The Chancel Choir

INVOCATION

+ The Lighting of the Love Candle (from Isaiah 40:3-5)

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord;

All: Make a path for our God in the desert.

Leader: Every valley shall be exalted;

All: Every mountain and hill be laid low.

Leader: The crooked places shall be straightened.

All: Rough places shall become plain.

Leader: The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

All: All people shall see it together.

Leader: This is the promise of the Lord: God's promise shall be fulfilled.

All: May the light of Christ's love shine through us all.

+ ADVENT HYMN OF ILLUMINATION

(#9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, adapted)

*O Come, Wis-dom: Emmanuel,
By Beauty's birth in Spirit and earth
To us the Word of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS

PASSING THE PEACE

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

Leader: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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

***GLORIA** (To the tune of Angels We Have Heard on High #23)

*Come and worship, peaceably
Christ whose advent we do sing
Jesus reigns so mercifully
Light and life to all Christ brings
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

AN ADVENT PRAYER (unison)

Babe of Bethlehem, Christ of the Cross, Lord of the Resurrection, be born anew in us. Plant in us an eager expectation of your second coming. Deepen our "no" to the ways of the world. Grant us fearlessness in being different from the world. Deepen our "yes" to being your disciples, through Jesus our friend and Savior, Amen.

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

"Service of Lessons and Carols"

Solo "Gesu Bambino" – Shawnee Ball

FIRST LESSON Genesis 1:1-5 Elder Cynthia Gervais
The creation of the world.

#293 - "This Is My Father's World" Choir and Congregation

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7 Elder Cynthia Gervais
The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in distress.

**#38 - "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (vs. 3&4) Choir and
Congregation**

THIRD LESSON Micah 5:2 Deacon Jordan Gessesse
But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

#43 - "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Choir and Congregation

FOURTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38 Deacon Jordan Gessesse
*The angel Gabriel Announces to Mary that she will give birth to God's
promised Son whose kingdom will never end.*

Choir The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

**Solo "And His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful"
Monica Johnson**

FIFTH LESSON **Luke 2:1-7** **Elder Pamela Gessesse**
In an age of empire, Jesus is born.

Choir **"O Holy Night"**
"Go Tell It On the Mountain"

SIXTH LESSON **Luke 2:8-20** **Elder Pamela Gessesse**
The shepherds go to see Jesus, lying in a manger.

#56 "The First Noel" (verse 1) Choir and Congregation

SEVENTH LESSON **Matthew 2:1-11** **Deacon Penny Thomas**
The magi follow a star to find the child Jesus.

Choir **"We Three Kings"**
"Rise Up, Shepherd"

EIGHTH LESSON **John 1:1-14** **Deacon Penny Thomas**

#60 - "Silent Night" Choir and Congregation

NINTH LESSON **Revelation 21:1-4** **Elder Angela Hemphill**
The promise of a new heaven and earth.

#41 - "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Choir and Congregation

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION (CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING)

We rejoice with the angels who said, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people." We dedicate these gifts to bring good news to the poor: to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, so that the oppress may go free. Come quickly, Lord Jesus, Amen.

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.

WE GO FORTH AND SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Hallelujah Chorus
from Handel's "Messiah"

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP

Lectionary: Isaiah 7:10-16 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7;
Matthews 1:18-25

Liturgist: **Deacon Glen Grier**

Greeter: **Elder Valerie McCray**



Christmas Poinsettia In Memory of:

Pastor Mark Greiner

Iris Burnell

Tracy Vinson Burnell

Mack Burnell

Shirley Logan

Shawnee Ball

Lillian Berry

Thomas Midgette

Dr. Robert B. and Mrs. Mim Greiner

James and Tommie M. Harris (Parents)

Leory and Jewel Vinson (Parents)

Edmond and Ruth Burnell (Parents)

Dr. William J.J. Logan (Husband)

William "Bill" Ball (Husband)

Family Members

Family Members

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: For the 6 pm online zoom Christmas Eve service, please bring a candle for the singing of Silent Night.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held Sunday, January 25, 2026, after the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Ministry leaders, only use the format template for all reports please.

Annual Reports were due to Kathy Cuff, Office Administrator (admin@nepc-dc.org) by December 15, 2025.

Ministry Reports ~ Chairs or Co-Chairs to submit reports.

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| • Pastor Report | Pastor Mark Greiner |
| • Clerk of Session Report | Valerie McCray |
| • Budget & Fiscal | Pamela Gessesse |
| • Buildings & Grounds | Charles Barber |
| • Christian Education | Jennifer Allen |
| • Interpretation & Stewardship | Cherie Becton |
| • Personnel | Charles Barber/Co-chair: James Haggins |
| • Worship & Music | Angela Hemphill |
| • Technology Committee | Shawn Thomas |
| • Nominating | Angela Hemphill |
| • President of Corporation | Charles Barber |
| • Social Concerns & Outreach | Shawn Thomas/ Co-chair Patricia Young |
| • Foundry Task Force | James Haggins |
| • 50 th Anniversary Committee | Glynis Pegram-Higgs |

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 2025 Lessons is “Judah, from Isaiah to Exile.” You are cordially invited to join us next Sunday, December 28th, discussion on “The Holy Spirit,” Loel 2:28-29; Luke 11:9-13; John 3:5-8; 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15; Acts 2:1-21, 32-33; Romans 8:1-17, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13; Ephesians 1:13-14; 3:14-21; 4:1-6, 30. Please dial **(267) 807-9601 Passcode 828-160-800** to participate in the lively conversations with church members.

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>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LITERARY CLUB
Book selections for 2025

Literary Club - Please join us via Zoom at 1:30 pm for the following book discussions.

January 4th, 2026 -- Truths We Hold: an American Journey, by Kamala Harris

February 1st, 2026 -- Worthy, by Jada Pinkett Smith

March 1st ---The Wilderness, by Angela Fourtney

April 5th ----- Overground Railroad: the Green book and the Roots of Black Travel In America, by Candacy Taylor

THE OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR THE YEAR 2026 are available in the Narthex. Please pick them up at your convenience.

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.

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.

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

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.

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**



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

December 21 Fourth Sunday in Advent

- Lessons and Carols Worship
- Christmas Joy Offering

December 24 Christmas Eve Service, 5 pm zoom

- Christmas in African American Poetry

December 27 50th Anniversary Gala, noon to 4 pm

December 28 50th Anniversary Worship

- The Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, PCUSA Office of Public Witness preaching

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Light 1 st candle Pray for Hope in your life and the World	1 Write down 3 things you hope for and place them in a "Hope Jar."	2 Read Isaiah 9:2-7 and reflect on what it means to wait for light.	3 Call or Visit someone who might need encouragement.	4. Create or decorate an Advent Wreath at home.	5 Do a secret act of kindness for someone today.	6 Send a Homebound person a card of Hope.
7 Light 2 nd candle for Peace . Pray for peace in your heart, home, and the world.	8 Write a note of peace or forgiveness to someone.	9 Spend 10 minutes in silence or meditation.	10 Read Luke 2:8- 14 about the angels announcing peace.	11 Pray for areas in the world experiencing conflict.	12 Make peace with someone you've been distant from.	13 Listen to peaceful Christmas music and reflect on Christ's gift of calm.
14 Light 3 rd candle for Joy . Thank God for reasons to rejoice	15 Write or text a message of joy in Christ.	16 Read Philippians 4:4- 7. What brings you Joy in Christ?	17 Bake cookies or a treat to share with a neighbor or friend.	18 Sing your favorite Christmas carol out loud.	19 Share joyful memories from past Christmases with your family.	20 Go outside and enjoy God Creation – find joy in simple things.
21 Light 4 th for Love . Pray for love to fill your home.	22 Read John 3:16 and reflect on God's greatest gift.	23 Show love. Give someone a big hug.	24 Attend or stream a Christmas Eve service. Light a candle and give thanks for Emmanuel – God with us.	25 <i>Merry Christmas!</i> Read Luke 2:1- 20. Rejoice and celebrate Jesus' Birth! Share love, laughter and light today.	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Advent Calendar 2025



Our 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
Charles Barber
Jennifer Allen
Cherie Becton
Charles Barber/Co-chair: James Haggins
Angela Hemphill
Shawn Thomas
Angela Hemphill
Valerie McCray
Charles Barber
Shawn Thomas/ Co-chair Patricia Young
James Haggins

DEACONS

Glen Grier
Valencia Hawkins
Katrin Jones, Moderator
Brenda Kuznof
Bishetta Merritt, Vice Moderator
Blossom Roach
Amanda Sargent
Penny Thomas
Randall Timbers
Charles Webb

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

Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Luke 1:26-35, 38 The Birth of Jesus Foretold

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Luke 2:1-7 The Birth of Jesus

2In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:8-20

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" 15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Matthew 2:1-11 The Visit of the Wise Men

2In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.'