



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

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

February 22, 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](mailto:admin@nepc-dc.org); Website: <http://nepc-dc.org>.

Pastor At Church Wednesday Mornings and by Appointment  
Pastor Mark Greiner Email: [pastormfg@gmail.com](mailto:pastormfg@gmail.com) Cell 301.310.5600

***Welcome to Northeastern Presbyterian Church***



You are my  
hiding place;  
you will protect  
me from trouble  
and surround me  
with songs of deliverance.

- Psalm 32:7

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE IN PRAISE AND PRAYER**

**+ *Please stand if able***

**PRELUDE**

**+ INTROIT**

**The Celestial Choir**

**+ INVOCATION**

**+ CALL TO WORSHIP (PSALM 32)**

ONE: Happy are those whose sins are forgiven.

**MANY: Happy are those whose sins are cast away.**

ONE: Rejoice in the Lord! Be glad!

**MANY: Sing out! Shout for joy!**

ONE: Rejoice in the Lord!

**MANY: Rejoice! Amen!**

**+ OPENING HYMN #356 (Hymnal) "Come Thou Fount of Every  
Blessing"**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON PRAYER)**

**We keep silent before you, Lord—we are afraid to confront our transgressions; we are terrified to face the reality of our sin; we feel as if the weight of the world were upon our shoulders; we no longer recognize ourselves or what we have become as we keep our failings and fears inside. Help us admit our sins and accept our imperfections.**

**Why is that simple act so difficult for us? Why do we hesitate, knowing that you stand ready to wash away our guilt? You are the sanctuary where distress cannot reach us. In your steadfast love, forgive us. In your healing caress, cleanse us. In your Holy Spirit, restore us. In the name of our Savior, we pray. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

One: When distress and anxiety surround us like an angry flood, our pleas are heard. The Lord hears the prayers of a faithful heart. God has become our hiding place, our refuge from trouble. No harm can touch us here. The Lord wraps us in the arms of salvation. Shouts of deliverance enfold us.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS**

### **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!**

### **ANTHEM SELECTION**

**The Celestial Choir**

### **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](http://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 PRAYER)**

Take these, our gifts, as we offer them today, O God. Use them for your glory and kin-dom's expansion. May these gifts go toward freeing the captives, feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely, and healing the world. As Christ's body, use us too, in service to repairing the breached, broken places in our community. Amen.

## **WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD**

### **THE FIRST READING      Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7**

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So, when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

## **SERMONIC SELECTION**

**The Celestial Choir**

## **THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Elder Gervais**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us so that the words we are about to hear will become the Word of God for us this day. Help us to listen to what the Spirit is saying to the church.

## **THE SECOND READING    Matthew 4: 1-11**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

    'One does not live by bread alone,  
        but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

    'He will command his angels concerning you,'  
        and 'On their hands they will bear you up,  
        so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said

to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON      "Prone to Wonder...."      Elder Cynthia Gervais**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - From A Brief Statement of Faith**

**In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of people long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,  
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks  
and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

**With believers in every time and place,  
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death  
can separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**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 #398 (Hymnal)      "There's a Sweet Sweet Spirit"**

### **WE GO FORTH AND SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR**

#### **+ BENEDICTION**

Grace abounds! Stand strong and know that God is with you in your weaknesses. And remember that love overcomes all things. Now to the one who is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

#### **POSTLUDE**

#### **FELLOWSHIP**

**Lectionary:** Genesis 2:15-17 and Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11,  
**Liturgist:** **Elder Angela Hemphill**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE ANNUAL CORPORATION MEETING** immediately be held March 1<sup>st</sup> following worship service.

**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 1<sup>st</sup>, discussion on “Recognizing Our Debt to Others,” Nehemiah 4:15-23; Mark 12:28-34; Romans 15:1-7; Philippians 2:1-8; Colossians 3:12; 4:1; James 2:14-17. Please dial **(267) 807-9601 Passcode 828-160-800** to participate in the lively conversations with church members.

**“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.voterve.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.

March 1st----- Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America, by Candacy Taylor

**PER CAPITA** for 2026 is \$51.28

**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.

**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 [dmvbirds@gmail.com](mailto:dmvbirds@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/>



**The Worship and Music Committee will be taking orders for Easter Lilies beginning March 8<sup>th</sup> through March 29<sup>th</sup>. 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 5<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:admin@nepc-dc.org).**

----- **Easter Lilies**

**In MEMORIAM/HONOR OF:**

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## NORTHEASTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

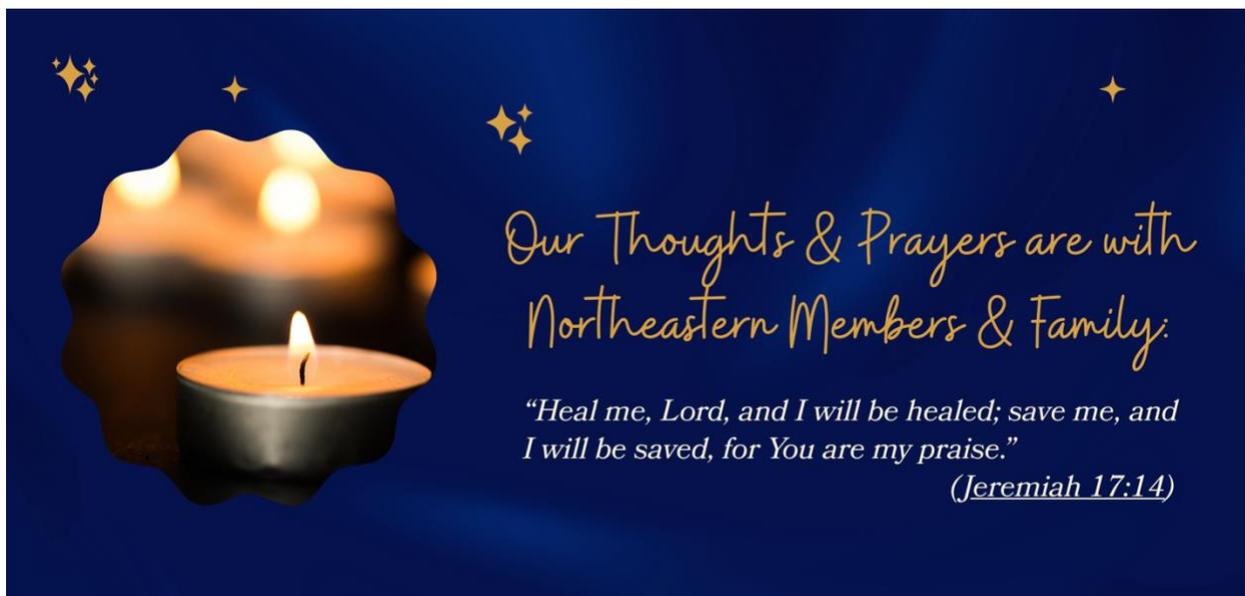
As we rely on God's guidance, the vision of Northeastern Presbyterian Church is to fulfill the command of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to promote Christian faith and practice through evangelism, outreach, compassion and fellowship to our congregation and the wider community.

### We commit to:

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



**THOUGHTS & PRAYERS ARE WITH NORTHEASTERN MEMBERS & FAMILY:**



## **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**

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

## **JUNIOR USHERS**

2<sup>nd</sup>, Pamela Gessesse, Jordan Gessesse, Ava Kennedy, Cecil Nixon, Chidera Uduma, Priya Young