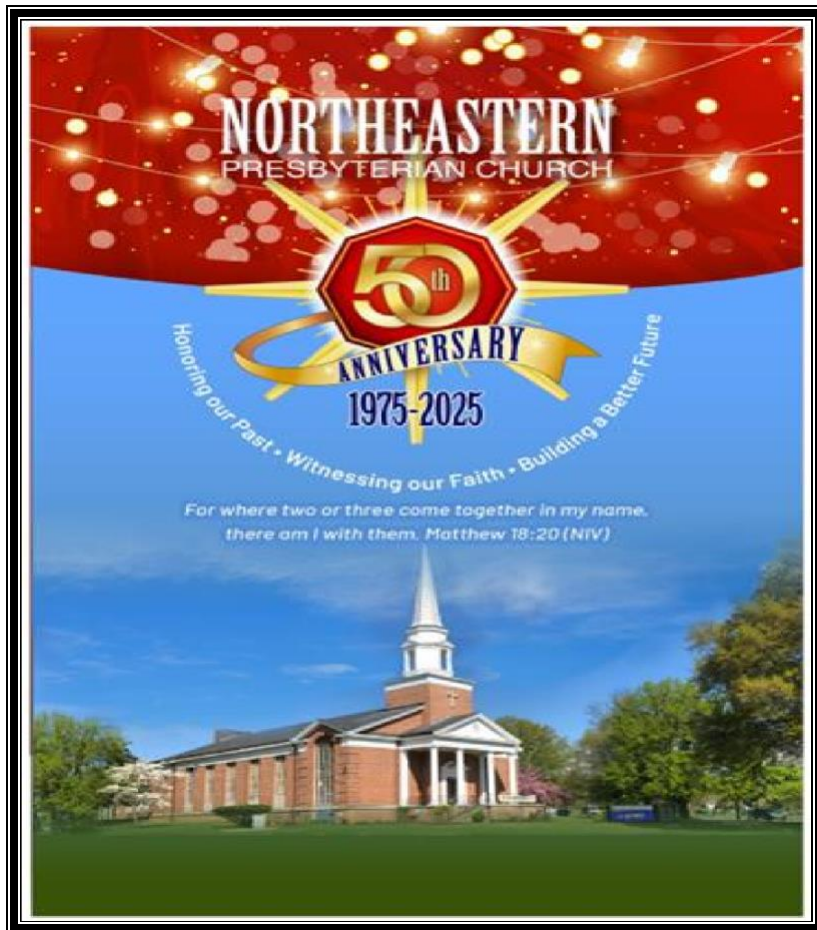




**“WHERE EVERYBODY IS SOMEBODY,
AND JESUS IS LORD”**

50th Anniversary Celebration

December 28, 2025 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-202-526-5790**

**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*

PRELUDE

+ INTROIT

The Celestial Choir

+ INVOCATION

+ CALL TO WORSHIP (from Luke 1)

ONE Praise be to the Lord!

From age unto age, God redeems God's people.

ALL God brought us a mighty long way!

God opens the Way with us!

ONE From generation to generation, God is faithful.

God redeems us from our enemies.

ALL God brought us a mighty long way!

God opens the Way with us!

ONE God's mercy was to our ancestors and is mercy to us.

ALL God brought us a mighty long way!

God opens the Way with us!

ONE By the tender mercy of our God,
the rising sun comes to us from heaven to
shine on those living in darkness,

and those in the shadow of death, to
guide our feet into the path of peace.

**ALL God brought us a mighty long way! God
opens the Way with us!**

+ OPENING HYMN #464 (Hymnal) "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

CALL TO PRAYER

Let us pray...

UNISON PRAYER (by Howard Thurman 1900-1981, adapted)

O Holy God, open unto us light for our
shadows,
 courage for our fears, hope for
our despair. {...*silent prayer...*} O loving God, open unto us
 wisdom for our confusion, forgiveness for our
sins, love for our hate. {...*silent prayer...*}
O God of peace, open unto us peace for our turmoil,
 joy for our sorrow, strength for our
weakness. {...*silent prayer...*} O generous God, open our
hearts
 to receive all your gifts. {...*silent prayer...*}

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Jeremiah 29:11)

One For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD,
plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to
give you hope and a future. In Jesus' redeeming
mercy, we declare: God is good, all the time! **All All the
time, God is good! Amen!**

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
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!**

+ CHURCH ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING

(unison, adapted from the African Heritage Hymnal)

Holy God, we praise you as we celebrate You and the years of Christian fellowship you have given us.

For such a time as this, you have called the church to be its best.

For those who laid the foundations: we give thanks.

For the rich inheritance of the church of Jesus Christ, we give thanks.

For those who make common cause with us, we give thanks. For the emergence of the Church, solidified by shared suffering and deliverance, we give thanks.

For the assurance of new opportunities to serve you better, We give thanks.

Upon us ever more, Jesus, to follow You boldly.

May your kingdom come and your will be done in splendid, perfected fellowship. Continue to guide us in the future, as you have in the past. Glory, alleluia, Amen.

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:

Ruth 1:14-18

And they lifted up their voice and wept again: and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law; but Ruth clave unto her. And she said, Behold, thy sister-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods: return thou after thy sister-in-law. And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me. When she saw that she was stedfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

SERMONIC SELECTION

The Celestial Choir

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 1:1-11

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked

stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON "Where Do We Go From Here"
Reverend Jimmy Hawkins

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 - # 563 (Hymnal) "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

WE GO FORTH AND SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

+ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

PRAYER ELDER

Elder Cynthia Gervais

Lectionary: Isaiah 63:7-9 and Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthews 2:13-33
Liturgist: Pastor Mark Greiner
Greeter: Deacon Bishetta Merritt



Welcoming Back to the Pulpit

The Rev. Jimmie Ray Hawkins serves as the Presbyterian Church (USA) Advocacy Director of the Washington Office of Public Witness and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (NYC).

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC); a Master of Arts in Christian Education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education

(Richmond, VA); and a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center/Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (Atlanta, GA).

He served as the pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Durham, NC, (1996 – 2016). Between 1992 - 1996, he served as the senior pastor of Grace Presbyterian, Holmes Memorial and Trinity Presbyterian Churches in Virginia (Peaks Presbytery).

He served on the national boards of Church World Service, the National Council of Churches, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and Union Presbyterian Seminary. He served as a trichair of the Washington Interreligious Staff Committee (WISC) and the Heads of Washington Office (HOWO). He chaired several interfaith /ecumenical and nonprofit boards: NC NAACP Executive Committee, Durham Congregations in Action, the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, the Religious Coalition for a NonViolent Durham, Housing for New Hope (homeless advocacy), End Poverty Now, and others.

His community ministry includes being a leader for the Moral Monday Movement in North Carolina and the Poor People's Campaign. He engaged in four actions of civil disobedience and has been active in justice advocacy throughout his ministry.

His book, *Unbroken and Unbowed*, was released by Westminster John Knox Press, in February 2022.

He is the son of Elsie L. and the late James P. Hawkins. He is married to Sheinita Hampton Hawkins and they have two children: Kaela Renee and James Hampton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS" has been rescheduled for January 4, 2026, immediately following worship.

Elders 1- year term

Nachee Miler
Williams Hymes

Deacons 3-year term

Karen Cooper Geathers
Thomas Midgette

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 15th.

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| • 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, January 4th, discussion on "SIN," Genesis 3:1-24; 6:5-8; Mark 7:14-23; Romans 1:18-32; 3:10-18; 1 John 1:5-2:6

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 Fourtnoy

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.

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 indepth 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

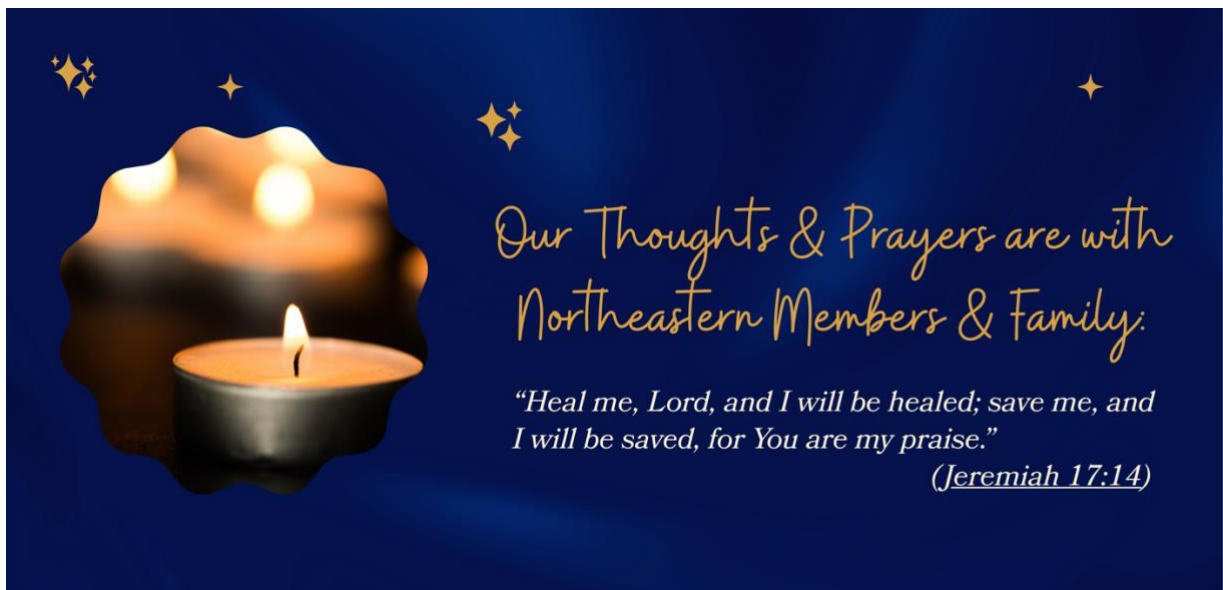
1. Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
3. Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners 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**



**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
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