



First Sunday *of* Advent

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

November 30, 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

Mrs. Thelma Jones

+ INVOCATION

**Advent 1 - The Lighting of the Hope Candle: Elder Pamela and son
Jordan Gessesse**

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
"Advent" means coming. We are preparing for the days when:
The nations shall beat their spears into pruning hooks.
Nations shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

People: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

One May the joy of the advent season with its message of
mighty hope be with you all!

All And also with you!

One We begin Advent by celebrating the expectation that the
Christ who came, who comes again to be with us in every
age and every place, and who will come again in a glorious
finality to consummate the healing work which he began at
Bethlehem.

**All He shall judge between nations,
 and arbitrate between many races;
 they shall beat the swords into ploughshares
 and their spears into pruning hooks;
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 neither shall they learn war any more.**

**+ OPENING HYMN #2 Hymnal "Come Thou Long Expected
 Jesus"**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

**Dear Father, I trust in Your power to heal and restore. I pray that
You guide us towards mutual forgiveness and understanding. Let
Your love fill our hearts, pushing out pride and anger. May this
reconciliation serve as a testament to Your grace and mercy.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God, who sent gifts of the Holy Spirit to those first saints,
We know you continue to send gifts to us,
Even though we do not claim them.
We confess that we have not always opened our gifts.
We have often chosen to keep them packed away or buried.
Move us, by your Spirit, to pick up our presents, that you so freely
give, to open them and to spend them lavishly
On the stewardship of your world.
We confess to you how often our thoughts and motives are
confused, both individually and when we are together as your
people, and that this confusion has often blinded us
To your interest in our lives.
Break in on our confusion, and astonish us anew, O God!
Our prayer is that you will claim us again
And silence within us our desire
To always have words for every occasion,
That we might hear the whisper of the wings of your Spirit dove.
In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we pray.
Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Therefore, beloved, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

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!**

ANTHEM SELECTION

Mrs. Thelma Jones

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 Navigate, 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

Generous Father, thank you that all things were created through you and for you, you are before all things, and in you, all things exist. The Bible says that we should bring our tithes and offerings into your storehouse and that you will respond by opening the windows of heaven and sending down blessing upon blessing. Accept the gifts we place before you now. May the peace of God reign in our lives, the love of God surround us, the Spirit of God empower us and the joy of God uphold us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

THE FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 19: 16-25

¹⁶ On that day the Egyptians will be like women and tremble with fear before the hand that the Lord of hosts raises against them. ¹⁷ And the land of Judah will become a terror to the Egyptians; everyone to whom it is mentioned will fear because of the plan that the Lord of hosts is planning against them. Egypt, Assyria, and Israel Blessed.

¹⁸ On that day there will be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the Lord of hosts. One of these will be called the City of the Sun.

¹⁹ On that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt and a pillar to the Lord at its border. ²⁰ It will be a sign and a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt; when they cry to the Lord because of oppressors, he will send them a savior and will defend and deliver them. ²¹ The Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know the Lord on that day and will serve with sacrifice and offerings, and they will make vows to the Lord and perform them. ²² The Lord will strike Egypt, striking but healing, so that they will return to the Lord, and he will listen to their supplications and heal them.

²³ On that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians.

²⁴ On that day Israel will be the third party with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, ²⁵ whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people and Assyria the work of my hands and Israel my heritage."

SERMONIC SELECTION

Mrs. Thelma Jones

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 22: 8-18

⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill [a](#) his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸ and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

**TESTIMONIES William Hymes, Jr., Elders Glynis Pegram-Higgs,
Charles Barber**

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 - #8 (Hymnal) "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye
Mighty Gates"**

WE GO FORTH AND SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

+ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Lectionary: Isaiah 2:1-5 and Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthews 24:36- Liturgist: Elder Angela Hemphill Greeter: Deacon Blossom Roach
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ANGEL TREE SEASON is upon us, and our elves are getting an early start! We have received lists from LaSalle-Backus, Brookland, Bunker Hill, Thomas Stone, and Chance Academy schools.

To participate, please see Jennifer after the service to sign up for an angel. You can sign-up online through Sign-up Genius.

If you'd prefer, you can also donate money, and our elves will do the shopping for you. Please remember to note "Angel Tree" in the memo.

Let's work together to make this holiday special for those in need. For any questions, please reach out to Jennifer Allen, Katrin Jones, Denise Hodges, or Pam Gessesse.

"THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS" will be held immediately after worship on December 14, 2025."

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 are 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
- 50th 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 7th, discussion on "The Holy Scriptures," Ezekiel 47:1-12. Please dial **(267) 807-9601 Passcode 828-160-800** to participate in the lively conversations with church members.

CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY: Don't forget to wear your Christmas Sweater on December 7th.

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.

December 7th -- Happy Land, by Dolen Perkins-Valdez

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

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



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)*

DEADLINE FOR TICKETS TO GALA IS DECEMBER 14, 2025.

Gala Tickets are available now and can be purchased Monday thru Friday, 10:00a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in the church office, and on Sundays following worship service. We'd love to see everyone there, so purchase your ticket(s) today.



TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW

NORTHEASTERN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

50th ANNIVERSARY

Gala

CELEBRATION

Attire: After-five DJ - Pure Ivory (Tom Ivory)

Saturday December 27, 2025
12:00 noon · 4:00 p.m.
\$65 adults \$50 Kids 5-11

Martin's Crosswinds
7400 Greenway Center Dr
Greenbelt, MD 20770


NORTHEASTERN
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
50th
ANNIVERSARY
1975-2025

To purchase tickets:
Call the NEPC church office at 202.526.1730



Seasonal Flower:
Christmas Poinsettia

Name: _____

Number of Flowers: _____

**Name(s) In Which Flowers are to be placed
IN MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF**

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

November 30 First Sunday in Advent

December 7 Second Sunday in Advent

- Christmas Sweater Sunday
- Angel Gifts tree gifts due

December 14 Third Sunday in Advent

- Congregational Meeting for the Election of Officers
- Poinsettia Purchase forms due
- Angel Tree Gifts Dedication

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

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