



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

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-202-526-5790

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**

#### **PRELUDE**

#### **INTROIT**

#### **INVOCATION**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 139 and Jeremiah 18)**

**One** Like clay on a wheel  
**All** **God forms us: shaping us, molding us, creating us.**  
**One** And like moldable clay,  
**All** **God continues to shape us.**  
**One** Let us worship God.

#### **OPENING HYMN - #388 (Hymnal) "O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

In the very beginning, God made us in God's own image. And yet, in the most common of human actions, we stray from God's pure intentions for us. Let us return to our Lord, acknowledging our mistakes both individually and as a community.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Creator God, you know us better than anyone else. You formed us in your own image. And yet, we sometimes stray from the gift you've given us. We keep people at a distance, letting systemic and personal barriers get in the way of relationships. Forgive us, Lord. Let us hear your call to change and do better. Empower us to ask for forgiveness from those whom we have wronged. Help us to think of you and those around us.

#### **SILENT PRAYER**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Friends, the good news is this: God is not done with us. Our Creator is still forming and shaping us, forgiving us, and allowing us to grow. Hear the Good News of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**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 Chancel 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](https://nepc-dc.org)

Click on Donate or Cash App at the bottom of the page

### **DOXOLOGY**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)**

**We give because we have been given so much. Lord, take these gifts and use them to faithfully transform others. Allow your work to be continued in the world where it is most needed. Amen.**

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

### **THE PSALM READING**     Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.  
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
I try to count them-they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end-I am still with you.

### **SERMONIC SELECTION**

**The Chancel Choir**

### **THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**Elder Gervais**

### **THE GOSPEL READING** Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot

be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

### ***Silent Reflection on the Word***

**SERMON      "Did He Just Say That!?"      Elder Cynthia Gervais**

### **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. And 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 MUSIC - #391 (Hymnal)**

**"Take My Life"**

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

### **BENEDICTION**

Sisters and Brothers, our challenge as we leave here is this: reflect the love of God to both neighbor and stranger. Love those around you. It's that easy; it's that hard.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God the Creator, God the Redeemer, and God the Sustainer be with you now and forevermore. Amen.

## **FELLOWSHIP**

<p><b>Lectionary:</b> Semicontinuous: Jeremiah 18:1-11 and Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Complementary: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and Psalm 1; Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14:25-33</p> <p><b>Liturgist:</b> Elder Herbert Dixon</p> <p><b>Greeter:</b> Mrs. Gloria Harris</p>
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## **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 2025 Lessons is "Judah, from Isaiah to Exile." You are cordially invited to join us next Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> discussion on "Hezekiah Leads the People Back to God," 2 Chronicles 30:1-27. Please dial **(267) 807-9601 Passcode 828-160-800** to participate in the lively conversations with church members.

**A GATHERING FOR ALL:** The American Five" at Ford's Theatre, Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm. NEPC fellowship, a play on Dr. King's inner circle. **Attend the play plus enjoying dinner together after.** Please buy tickets directly, on the balcony.

<https://fords.org/performance/the-american-five/>

If you are interested, please RSVP to Denise Hodges (ddesigns1984@hotmail.com), Pamela Gessesse (pamelahagans818@yahoo.com) or the church office (202-526-1730 or admin@nepc-dc.org), no later than September 21<sup>st</sup> so they can get an accurate count for the dinner reservations. Thanking you in advance.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE** is also looking for volunteers to do the Children's Sermon. You can pick any Sunday. If you need a sermon or help, please see Jennifer, Cynthia, Glen or Pastor Mark. We want everyone to have an opportunity to participate and share with our children. Please see Jennifer if you are interested. The children will love it!!!

**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>

**NORTHEASTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LITERARY CLUB**  
**Book selections for 2025**

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

September 7th -- Just As I Am, by Cicely Tyson

October 5th -- By Her Own Design: a Novel of Ann Lowe..., by Piper Huguley

November 2nd -- Purple Hibiscus, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

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

**PER CAPITA FOR 2025** is \$50.15.

**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.

**STATED CLERK AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOINS OTHER NATIONAL FAITH LEADERS IN PUBLIC SUPPORT OF SANCTUARY MOVEMENT**

The Rev. Jihyun Oh says PC(USA) recommits to compassion, accompaniment, safety and full dignity for migrant and immigrant siblings.

Full statement here: <https://pcusa.org/news-storytelling/news/stated-clerk-and-executive-director-joins-other-national-faith-leaders-public-support-sanctuary>

**NEPC SOUVENIR BOOKLET** – Summer is an appropriate time to request advertisements or patron listings from family, friends, and businesses for inclusion in the 50th anniversary booklet. Remittance sheets are available in the 50th anniversary box located in the breezeway. The submission deadline is October 15, 2025, but early submissions of paperwork and payment are accepted. Individuals with business contacts may provide their information to a committee member for outreach purposes. The aim is to compile a comprehensive and successful booklet. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Allen, Denise Hodges or Ruby Webb or send an email to [souvenirjournalteam@groups.outlook.com](mailto:souvenirjournalteam@groups.outlook.com)

**NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>** during worship service there will be a Healing service and we will Celebrate Holy Communion.

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:** The Tuesday Morning Bible Study group will be in recess until October 2025. Thank you, Ruby Webb.

**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**

Northeastern Presbyterian Church  
Social Concerns & Outreach Committee

# COMMUNITY DAY

## (Health Fair & Food Giveaway)

Saturday, September 27, 2025  
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

- Games
- Jazzercise
- Mental Health
- Cooking Demonstration
- Dementia, and Alzheimer's information
- CPR  
...and More



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[www.nepc.dc.org](http://www.nepc.dc.org)



## 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)*

NORTHEASTERN  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Celebrates*

*September*  
**Birthdays**

## **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**

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