FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Northeast Presbyterian is a community of believers who connect people to God and each other through Christ by gathering, growing, and going. We celebrate through worship as we share life together. In God’s Spirit, we live out God’s Word and seek to disciple and grow mature believers. Our hearts are committed to reflecting Christ’s love to our neighbors while sharing the gospel locally and globally.

We invite you to explore the following pages, discovering Northeast Presbyterian’s 40-year history, built on the trustworthy foundations of God’s inerrant Word, faithful servant-leadership, and a Body of believers who ardently seek and follow Christ. We understand our fundamental weakness in light of God’s perfect strength, trusting Him to accomplish His great kingdom purposes through our frail human framework.

Our committee is prayerfully expectant for the next season of our church. We are humbly grateful for the opportunity to serve our church in this holy calling to reveal the next Senior Pastor of NEPC.

Please read and review windows into NEPC through our overviews and snapshots. Any questions may be directed to Dr. Charles McGowan. If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity, you may submit materials confidentially to cmcgowan@mcgowansearch.com. We are praying as you consider whether the Lord may be calling you to Northeast Presbyterian Church as our next Senior Pastor.
NEPC – MEMBERSHIP and BUDGET INFO

- 713 Family Units
- 1,358 Members
- 600 Weekly Attendance
- 240 Covenant Children

AGE RANGE BREAKDOWN
44% Male 56% Female

BUDGET ALLOCATION
$ 2,375,000

- Missions and Outreach 20%
- Operations 30%
- Adult Ministries 18%
- Worship 21%
- Next Generation Ministries 11%

5 Ordained Pastors
15 Elders
37 Deacons
30 Staff
Northeast Presbyterian Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a denomination whose identifying statement is “Faithful to the Scriptures, True to the Reformed Faith, and Obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.” We believe those doctrines are formally expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith together with its Larger and Shorter Catechisms. We believe in the following:

- The authority and truth of Scripture as God’s holy and inerrant Word
- The deity, substitutionary death and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ
- The future return of Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords
- The immediate opportunity to receive the gift of eternal life through repentance of sins and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- The gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit to all believers
NEPC – OUR HISTORY

• September 23, 1979 – First worship service in Wildewood School gymnasium (now St. John Neumann School) in Northeast Columbia.

• July 20, 1980 – Congregation calls organizing Pastor George Crow to be permanent pastor.

• September 25, 1983 – First worship service on the Polo Road campus (current Auditorium).

• Summer 1984 – First Vacation Bible School

• December 3, 1989 – “God Made It Grow” capital campaign culminates with first worship in new Sanctuary.

• September 2002 – First contemporary service begins and becomes Sunday afternoon 423 Service.

• September 2003 – Beginning of Hispanic Ministry

• September 2004 – Special 25th Anniversary worship services and festivities.

• January 8, 2006 – Dedication of new “Chapter Three” facilities with the addition of the Grand Hall and Education Building.

• September 2009 – Special 30th Anniversary Celebration.

• September 2010 – REACH contemporary service begins in Grand Hall and Blythewood Presbyterian Church plant begins under Pastor Rhett Sanders.

• August 2016 – Legacy of Faith Campaign launched to upgrade existing Sanctuary.

• September 2016 – Dedication of renovated Sanctuary accommodating all services.
NEPC – OUR CAMPUS

• Our Sanctuary, built in 1989 and renovated in 2016, accommodates 900+ worshippers with state of the art audio and visual capabilities.

• Our Grand Hall has a 300 seating capacity (240 when seated at tables).

• Total facility square footage is 74,442 which is used to serve daily our congregation and our community.

• We are located on 8 acres, on the northeast side of the city of Columbia, the capital of South Carolina. We also own an undeveloped adjoining property of approximately five acres.
NEPC – OUR VISION and VALUES

OUR VISION
Northeast Presbyterian connects people to God and each other through Christ by gathering, growing, and going.

OUR VALUES

GATHERING
• Celebrating God In Worship
• Sharing Life Together

GROWING
• Learning and Living Out God’s Word
• Multiplying Mature Disciples of Christ

GOING
• Reflecting Christ’s Love to Our Neighbors and Community
• Promoting the Gospel of Christ Locally and Globally
GATHERING

• Celebrating God in Worship
• Sharing Life Together

SUNDAY WORSHIP:
• Traditional 10:00 Worship Service – Led by choir, organ, piano, orchestra and handbells.
• Contemporary 11:15 Worship Service – Led by praise band.

NEPC MUSIC:

Traditional
• Chancel Choir – Weekly Rehearsal, Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
• Celebration Orchestra – Monthly rehearsal, Sunday 1:00-3:00 p.m. (play monthly and for special services)
• Joyful Bells – Weekly rehearsal, Wednesday 6:00-7:10 p.m. (play monthly)
• Small Groups – Singing and Instrumental Ensembles for special services
• Seasonal and Special Occasion Worship Services
• Northeast Arts Academy – Promoting excellence in the arts with qualified Christian-led studios.

Contemporary
• REACH Band – Thursday Rehearsal, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Kids’ Choir
• Wednesday, 5:45-6:30 p.m. (sing monthly usually in both services)

PRAYER:
• Kingdom Prayer: James 1:5 Weekly Corporate Prayer Time – Sundays in the Grand Hall, 11:00 a.m. Seeking God’s wisdom
• JOY Prayer Telephone Line, “On Bended Knee”
• Corporate Prayer – 8:00 a.m. each Sunday in the Prayer Room

SAVORY SUNDAYS:
• Periodic informal meal sharing church family fellowship in the Grand Hall.
GROWING

• Reflecting Christ’s Love to Our Neighbors and Community
• Promoting the Gospel of Christ Locally and Globally

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF NEPC:

Sunday Worship:
• Traditional 10:00 Worship Service – Averaging 400+ in attendance led by choir, organ, piano, orchestra and handbells.
• Contemporary 11:15 Worship Service – Averaging 200 in attendance led by praise band.

Sunday School Ministries:
• J.O.Y. – Room C-301: Lecture-style; Ages 55+; 8:45 a.m.
• THRIVE – Grand Hall: Discussion-based; All ages; 10:00 a.m.
• Sisters in Christ – Room C-302 (Women’s Ministry) Sundays, 11:15 a.m. for women.
• Good News – Room C-203: Lecture-style; Ages 55+; Topical; 11:15 a.m.
• GRACE – Grand Hall: Discussion-based; All Ages; 11:15 a.m.
• Fellowship/Harvest – Room C-301: Discussion-based; All Ages; 11:15 a.m.
• Friendship – C-201: Books of Bible/Topics Vary; 11:15 a.m.
• NEPC Kids – Preschool and Elementary (both hours)
• Combined Middle School and High School (both hours)

Wednesday Nights (during school year):
• Our mid-week evening gathering includes a relaxing family-friendly meal and classes/activities and music groups for various ages.
• Dinner is served from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in the Grand Hall. Reservations are not needed.
• Variety of Classes – Pastor and Lay Teachers: Usually two class offerings – Books of the Bible and varied topics
• Joyful Bells – Advanced handbell choir 6:00-7:10 p.m.
• Chancel Choir Rehearsal – 7:30-9:00 p.m.
• NEPC Kids: nursery ministries (infants through 2) and interactive teaching experience for Preschool and elementary age
• Kids’ Choir: Kindergarten-5th graders learn about and engage in worship, develop music-making skills, and sing monthly in Sunday morning worship services
MEN’S MINISTRY:
- Morning and Evening Bible Studies
- One Year Discipleship Intensive Groups
- Annual Retreat and Special Events
- M2 Meet & Meat – Quarterly Monday Evenings

WOMEN’S MINISTRY:

Bible Study
- Focus – NEPC’s signature in-depth Bible study. Thursdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- Focus Children’s Program – Nursery and special children’s program available for mothers attending Focus Bible study
- T.N.T. (Thursday Nights Together) – Small group setting, Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Discipleship
- Anchor Discipleship – Life-on-life small groups centered on practical application of biblical womanhood and living for God’s glory. Once a month evenings, and at the church on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Fellowship and Service
- Julie Vanderpool Quilters – Hands and hearts who sew, share, and send quilts to those in need. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.
- Fit for Him Ladies Exercise Class – Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 p.m.
- Ladies Freedom Project – Benefiting women of Africa. Making hygiene products together. Meets 1st Tuesday of each month, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Circles – Small group opportunities for fellowship, spiritual enrichment and service. Meets 2nd week of the month.
  Daughters of the King – Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.
  Circle of Faith – Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.
  Gleaners – Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.

Prayer
- Prayer Team – Faithful prayer warriors who lift up NEPC women and Women’s Ministry needs during their personal prayer time.
- Mothers’ Heart Prayer Group – Moms who meet to pray and support each other as mothers and grandmothers. Every other Thursday, 11:45-1:00 p.m.

Special Events
- Simply Still – Women gathering for set apart time to prepare hearts and minds for the Advent season. Second Sunday in November, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- Selah Day – Annual January Saturday morning set aside for devoted individual prayer time, allowing women to begin the year grounded in God’s Word and prayer, ending with shared lunch and fellowship.
- Spring Retreat – A Friday evening and Saturday typically in February or March
- Spring Tea – Saturday in April
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

The Gathering
• Wednesday Middle School and Sunday High School weekly large group/small group experience designed to connect students to God and each other through fun, fellowship, and focused teaching

Small Groups
• Gender and age specific groups for students to connect with God and each other through prayer, accountability, and care. Meets weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters

Communicants Class
• Yearly class for students interested in learning more about becoming communing members of NEPC and their faith. Meets concurrently with Sunday school classes.

Special Events
• Cedar Cliff – Annual overnight fall retreat for students and adult leadership team and volunteers that includes teaching, small group time, worship, and fellowship

• The Bridge – Runs concurrently with Vacation Bible School for rising middle school students and provides an introduction to student ministries.

OTHER COMMUNITY GROWING

Vacation Bible School
• We offer four different experiences during the VBS week based on children’s ages. Preschool, Elementary, Xtreme, and The Bridge. Investing in the next generation as they become ignited for Christ!

Community Groups
• Life-on-life groups meeting twice a month in homes, sharing common ground, reading and studying together, growing deeper in Christian relationships.

Intersect Podcast
• Where Church Meets Culture - Join Pastor Josh Desch and his wife Betsy for thoughtful conversation, goofy news stories, and lots of laughs while exploring current relevant topics.
GOING

• Reflecting Christ’s Love to Our Neighbors and Community
• Promoting the Gospel of Christ Locally and Globally

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

It is our desire to obey Christ’s Great Commission to “go and make disciples of all nations.” Our focus is to bring people to Christ here and around the world as our Lord leads us.

We offer opportunities to advance the spiritual growth of our members, by providing ways to equip, encourage, and engage them in missions and outreach service opportunities.

Mission to Columbia, South Carolina, and the US

• Supporting Local Ministries
  • Pro-Life and Family Ministries
  • In-House Ministries
  • Mercy Ministries
  • Children and Youth Ministries

• Supporting Church Plants
• Short Term Mission Trips (Locally)

Mission to the World

• Supporting Missionaries Overseas (Focus Areas)
  • Central America & Mexico
  • Africa & Middle East
  • Europe (France; England)
  • Far East (Taiwan; Thailand)

• Supporting Global Support Staff
• Short Term Mission Trips (Globally)

For detailed information for missionaries and ministries, visit our website: https://nepresbyterian.org/missions-and-outreach/

Student Ministries:

• Souper Bowl of Caring: Annual student-led service event during which students collect items for a local elementary school’s food pantry, raise funds through a soup kitchen meal, collect financial donations and serve at Transitions Homeless Center.
• Student Mission Trips: High School students travel and serve with local organizations across the country, Recent missions in Washington, D.C. and Chattanooga, TN.
Columbia is a vibrant and growing community of 133,114 people. Home to the State Capital and located in the Midlands, Columbia is a destination-city teeming with local attractions, sights, sounds, good eats and family fun! An hour and a half from Greenville in the Upstate, and two hours from Charleston in the Low-country, Columbia is a South Carolina treasure.

COLUMBIA AT A GLANCE
• Assorted Family Attractions – columbia chamber.com
• Fort Jackson – jackson.armylive.dodlive.mil
• Fort Jackson National Cemetery – cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftjackson.asp
• Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Gardens and Sea Lion Landing – riverbanks.org
• South Carolina State Museum – scmuseum.org
• EdVenture Children’s Museum – edventure.org
• Columbia Museum of Art – columbiamuseum.org
• South Carolina Military Museum – scmilitarymuseum.org
• Soda City Market – sodacitysc.com

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES
• University of South Carolina
• Columbia College
• Columbia International University
• Midlands Tech
• Allen University
• Benedict College

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
• University of South Carolina Athletics – gamecocksonline.com
  • Williams Brice Stadium – Football
  • Colonial Life Arena – Men’s and Women’s Basketball
  • Founders Park – Baseball
• Koger Center for the Arts – kogercenterforthearts.com
• Township Auditorium – thetownship.org
• Town Theatre – towntheatre.com
• Columbia Fireflies – milb.com/columbia

THE GREAT OUTDOORS AND RECREATION
• Sesquicentennial State Park – southcarolinaparks.com/sesqui
• Saluda Shoals Park – icrc.net/parks/Saluda-shoals-park
• Columbia Canal and Riverfront Park – scgreatoutdoors.com/park-riverfront.html
• West Columbia Riverwalk – scgreatoutdoors.com/park-westcolumbiariverwalk.html
• Lake Murray/Lake Murray Visitor Center – lakemurrayfun.com
• Congaree National Park – nps.gov/cong/index.htm
• Lake Wateree – southcarolinaparks.com/lake-wateree

HISTORIC SITES
• The South Carolina State House – southcarolinaparks.com/education-and-history/state-house
• Governor’s Mansion – scgovernorsmansion.org
• South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum – crr.sc.gov
• McKissick Museum – sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/mckissick_museum
• Tours of Historic Homes (Robert Mills, Hampton Preston, and Woodrow Wilson Family Home) – historiccolumbia.org/tours/house-tours – site specific home