



Area Church Elects New Senior Pastor with Ties to DMV

With much faith, hope, and an abundance of enthusiasm, Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church (GPC) announces that it has called the Reverend Joshua Henry Narcisse to become its next senior pastor and head of staff. A native of Queens, NY, and minister of the Word and Sacrament in Memphis, TN, Rev. Narcisse also served as the Spiritual Care Director at Church Health, a faith-based healthcare non-profit, which aids the working uninsured.

Rev. Narcisse introduced himself to the GPC community during services on September 14, 2025, preaching to a full congregation that turned out to greet him.

He will be installed as pastor and begin preaching on Sunday, November 2, 2025, All Saints Day, in the church's calendar.

Rev. Narcisse is no stranger to our area, having earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in both History and Political Science from Howard University. He earned his master's at Yale Divinity School, where he also received the Linda LeSourd Lader prize, awarded to one who shows promise in the Reformed tradition of leadership. Pastor Joshua, as he refers to himself, has served as chair of the Mission and Social Witness Committee of the Presbytery of the Mid-South, president of the Downtown Churches Association of Memphis, delegate of the PCUSA's Churches Uniting in Christ, member of the Vision 2020 Committee of the General Assembly of PCUSA, and board member of the Memphis Youth Symphony Program. Rev. Narcisse has taught courses in Black Religion and Liberation Theologies, and he's been the co-host of "The Mystic," a monthly discussion forum on topics of spirituality, faith, and meaning. In addition, he has authored a 5-week devotional entitled "Songs for the Meantime" and has written for the *Daily Memphian*.

"There is so much good work God is inviting us into—from the broadening of our worship experiences, to fully reflect the rich diversity we bring into the sanctuary, to the harnessing of GPC's digital footprint to better tell the story of what God is up to through ministry, and the opportunity to build the next iteration of an intentionally intercultural and intergenerational community of faith that glorifies God," says Pastor

Joshua. “I cannot wait to see how the Spirit leads us into the ‘new thing’ that springs up before us.” Indeed, Rev. Narcisse sees his new position as a return to a part of the country that gave him so much in life, love, and learning. “My hope is that this next GPC chapter shows up as Christ’s hands and feet in central Montgomery County, as a congregation that worships with joy, passion, curiosity, and devotion, and that our neighboring schools, businesses, public institutions, and nonprofits might consider us their spiritual home and co-laborer in ministry.”

GPC offers Sunday School to children and adults as well as youth and college-age ministries, programs for retired and older congregation members, a summer Vacation Bible School, and a thriving music ministry that has recently undertaken the renovation of the church’s pipe organ and refurbishment of its handbells. GPC is called by God to be a global, caring community of faith, centered in Jesus Christ, training people to share His life everywhere we go. Its priorities include worshipping the Lord, engaging neighbors in central Montgomery County, and equipping each generation for Christian discipleship.

GPC belongs to the National Capital Presbytery and celebrates the gifts of all who wish to worship, regardless of race, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Anchored in the core beliefs of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)—Reformed, Protestant, and Christian—GPC organizes leadership in groups made up of ministers, elected congregation members, and lay volunteers. Find more information at pcusa.org and visit gpchurch.org to learn about worship services, music, and various ministries of Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church.

Worship services are held at 9:30 and at 11:00 a.m. at 610 South Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg. A livestream of the 11:00 service can be found at www.gpchurch.org on YouTube.