

CENTENNIAL KICK OFF WORSHIP SERVICE

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025

"For the Lord is good, and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations."

Psalm 100:5



CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

Prelude	Pipe Organ Prelude
Praise & Worship	Eastern University Chapel Worship Team
Video	
Call To Worship	
Invocation	
Opening Hymn	
Welcome	Dr. Ronald A. Matthews President, Eastern University and Palmer Theological Seminary and College
Responsive Scripture I	Reading
Leader: Congregation: Leader: Congregation: All Together:	Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Acknowledgement/Recognition of Special Guest	
Greetings	
	The Honorable Lisa Borowski State Representative, District 168, Delaware County
Remembering Dr. Ton	y Campolo
Honoring Alumni in Ministry	
Selection	
Liturgical Dance	Legends Dance Company

CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

Remarks and Offering
Centennial Choir "We've Come This Far By Faith"
Introduction of Speakers
Music Selection
Speaker
SpeakerRev. Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, '03Empowered By the Spirit
Music Selection
Introduction of Speakers
Music Selection
Reprise "You Are Alpha & Omega"
Speaker
Speaker
Closing Remarks
Special Musical Selection
Benediction

Please join us for a reception in the Family Community Room following the service. Centennial mugs and shirts are available for purchase in the lobby.

SPEAKERS



REV. DR. J. WENDELL MAPSON, JR.

Reverend Dr. Jesse Wendell Mapson Jr, was born in West Palm Beach, Florida, and raised in Newark, New Jersey. The son of a Baptist minister, Reverend Mapson was baptized, licensed, and ordained by his father at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey.

Reverend Mapson received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia; a Master of Divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary (now Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School); and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Palmer Theological Seminary (formerly Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary). In 2002, Palmer

conferred upon him the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

While at Morehouse, Rev. Mapson came under the influence of Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy, Pastor of West Hunter St. Baptist Church in Atlanta, and associate to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and became a student pulpit assistant.

He is the author of the three books; *The Ministry of Music In The Black Church*, published by Judson Press, *Strange Fire: A Study of Worship and Liturgy in the African American Church* and *God of My Father: Sermons of a Father and Son*, a collection of both his and his father's sermons.

Reverend Mapson served as Pastor of the Union Baptist Church in Elizabeth, New Jersey from 1969 to 1987. In 1987, he was called to pastor the historic Monumental Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, organized in the year of our Lord 1826. Under his leadership, Monumental has reached unparalleled heights, as he seeks to make real the church motto, "The Church Where Jesus Christ is Central".

He has served in leadership positions in many organizations, including President of the Baptist Pastors' and Ministers' Conference of Philadelphia and Vicinity and vice-chairman of the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc. In 1994, he was inducted into the Morehouse College Board of Preachers. Currently, he teaches Introduction to Homiletics at Palmer Theological Seminary and a course in Music and Worship in the UTI program at United Lutheran Seminary of Philadelphia. He is also a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is married to Shirley D. Jones Mapson, and they are the parents of three sons: Keith, Brian and Jesse III, the grandparents of 12 and the great-grandparents of 12.



REV. JONATHAN WILSON-HARTGOVE

Rev. Jonathan Wilson-Hartgove is a preacher, author, and community cultivator. He currently serves as an assistant director at the Center for Public Theology and Public Policy at Yale Divinity School and as an Associate Minister at St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church. He is author, most recently, of *White Poverty* with Wiliam J. Barber, II.

SPEAKERS



REV. DR. ADALIA GUTIÉRREZ-LEE

Rev. Dr. Adalia Gutiérrez Lee is a 1992 graduate of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, now Palmer Theological Seminary, where she met her husband, Shellinger, while both were studying in the Master of Divinity program. She is a medical doctor and ordained minister. She worked as a medical missionary for International Ministries (IM/ ABCUSA) for twenty years, first in PROVADENIC (Vaccination and Community Health and Development Program), a rural ministry of the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua, and later at Deborah's House, a ministry of healing and hope for victims of domestic violence, sponsored by the Regional Baptist Convention of Baja California, Mexico. In April 2015, she began serving as

International Ministries' Area Director for Ibero-America and the Caribbean, to strengthen and coordinate the relationships between American Baptist missionaries and their counterparts across the continent. She and Ray, her husband of 35 years, are the proud parents of two adult children, Michelle and Melissa.



REV. DR. CATHERINE E. WILLIAMS

Dr. Williams joined the faculty at Lancaster Theological Seminary in 2017, after serving both the academy and the church. Her Princeton Theological Seminary PhD dissertation was on developing a distinctive, post-colonial homiletic rooted in the music of calypso for her birth place, the twin-island republic of Trinidad and Tobago. She has served as Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care at Princeton United Methodist Church. A graduate of Westminster Choir College of Rider University, she is an accomplished musician who has taught piano and voice. Her higher ed teaching experience includes work as a Graduate Instructor at Princeton Seminary, and as an Adjunct Professor at Palmer Theological Seminary, where

she earned her MDiv. Her research interests include the symbiotic relationship between preaching and sacred song, particularly in worshiping communities of color; deconstructing the colonialist hegemony of European and North-American approaches to preaching and worship; intentional, inter-cultural pedagogy as a learning strategy in worship and preaching classrooms; theorizing and affirming the preaching and worship practices of underrepresented communities of faith.

LEADERSHIP

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	Faculty Senate Moderator
Kelly Goddard	
Trevor S. Jackson	Vice President for Finance and Operation
Christine P. Mahan	Chief Of Staff and Vice President for Planning and Effectiveness
Eric McNelley	
Kenton Sparks	Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Caroline Tate	
Randolph W. Walters	Special Assistant to the President For Diversity, Equity, and Belonging

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Mr. Mark Seymour, MBA, '96 Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr, DMin, '00

Bishop Donald Hilliard, Jr, DMin, '79, P'04, P'06 Mr. Adam K. Shute '01

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Dr. Taek Lee, '24 Mark Wagner, P'21

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Mr. Malcolm Street

DEANS

Timothy J. Brown	
	College of Education and Behavioral Sciences
	College of Health and Sciences
Kimberlee A. Johnson	Palmer Theological Seminary and College
Christa Lee-Chuvala	College of Business and Leadership
Marilyn Marsh	Executive Dean, Esperanza College of EU
Brian A. Williams	Templeton Honors College

LEADERSHIP

Presidential History of Eastern University				
Seminary Presidents	Term	Presidential Status		
Charles T. Ball	1925-1926	1st President		
Austen J. de Blois	1926-1936	2nd President		
Gordon Palmer	1936-1948	3rd President		
Carl Morgan & Harvey Bartle	1948-1950	Co-Chairs Steering Committee		
Gilbert L. Guffin BD '35	1950-1961	4th President		
Thomas B. McDormand	1961-1967	5th President		
J. Lester Harnish BD '38	1968-1972	6th President		
Henry R. Osgood '32	1972-1973	Acting/Interim President		
Daniel E. Weiss	1973-1981	7th President		
Manfred Brauch	1981-1983	Acting President		
Robert A. Seiple	1983-1987	8th President (last to serve both schools)		
Robert Campbell BD '47	1987-1989	9th President		
Manfred Brauch	1989-1990	Acting President		
Manfred Brauch	1990-1997	10th President		
R. Scott Rodin	1997-1999	Acting President		
R. Scott Rodin	1999-2002	11th President		
Wallace C. Smith MDiv '74, DMin '79	2005-2010	12th President		

College/University Presidents	Term	Presidential Status
Gilbert L. Guffin BD '35	1952-1961	1st President
Thomas B. McDormand	1961-1967	2nd President
J. Lester Harnish BD '38	1968-1972	3rd President
Henry R. Osgood '32	1972-1973	Acting/Interim President
Daniel E. Weiss	1973-1981	4th President
Manfred Brauch	1981-1983	5th President
Robert A. Seiple	1983-1987	6th President
Roberta Hestenes	1987-1996	7th President
Harold Howard & John Schauss	1996-1997	Acting Co-Presidents
David R. Black	1997-2013	8th President (first to serve post 2004 merger)
Robert G. Duffett	2013-2018	9th President
Ronald A. Matthews	2018-present	10th President

HISTORY

History of Eastern University

One hundred years ago, on March 19, 1925, at 1:30 p.m. in the headquarters of the American Baptist Publication Society on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia, six Baptist ministers founded what was then called the Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

According to Gordon Baker, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Schenectady, NY at the time, and one of the six founders at that meeting ninety years ago that afternoon, the seminary was founded to provide Baptist churches with pastors who were both biblically informed and also culturally relevant.

In 1932, two years of liberal arts courses were incorporated into the seminary curriculum. In 1952, Eastern Baptist College was organized as a separate institution, offering a four-year degree in liberal arts, and was moved to the former Charles S. Walton estate in St. Davids, PA. Early in 1972, the legal name of the school was changed to Eastern College: A Baptist Institution.

Eastern Baptist College's new home, the former "Walmarthon" estate, had a rich history of its own. In 1910, Charles Walton, a wealthy leather-tanner and philanthropist from Philadelphia, set out to build himself an escape from the demands of life and work. By 1913, the construction of "Walmarthon" was finished, completing Charles Walton's country estate. Mr. Walton was an active member of the community, as well as an elder at his church. Following his passing in 1916, his son Charles Walton Jr. carried on his spiritual and philanthropic legacy and eventually sold Walmarthon and the entirety of the estate to Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1951.

The newly named Eastern Baptist College officially moved into its new home and held a Service of Dedication in the Walton Hall chapel on Saturday, September 13, 1952. Regular classes began at St. Davids on Monday, September 15, 1952. During that first fall semester on campus, 15 female students were housed in the original part of Doane Hall (then called Fairview Hall) and 32 men lived in Guffin Hall (then called Eagle Hall.)

Early on, the seminary established a certificate program and a correspondence program in order to provide education for those without proper qualifications to pursue a graduate theological degree. At that time, no student was denied admission. The correspondence program provided pastors and lay people affordable, convenient and quality theological training via mail. The first Eastern College graduate program (MBA) was approved in 1981 and launched in 1982.

Meanwhile, the St. Davids campus continued to expand with initiatives like the Bradstreet Observatory, which was completed in 1996 as the result of an eight-year fundraising effort. The Observatory consists of twin 14.5-foot diameter domes that house 16" diameter Meade LX200 Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes. This addition to Eastern's facilities opened up incredible opportunities for astronomical work and research done on Eastern's campus.

Because of its growing complexity and expansion into international venues, Eastern College was granted University status in December 2001. In 2003, the University was reunited with its mother institution, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Honoring the legacy of its longest-serving president, Gordon Palmer, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary was renamed Palmer Theological Seminary on July 1, 2005.

Meanwhile in North Philadelphia, Eastern's junior college, Esperanza, was beginning to arise. What started as a dream in 1996 between Reverend Luis Cortés, Jr. and president of Eastern University, Dr. David Black, became a reality with the founding of Nueva Esperanza Center for Higher Education (NECHE), a junior college reaching the Latino community in North Philadelphia. Led by Reverend Luis Cortés, Jr as NECHE's president, the college admitted and enrolled its first cohort of 28 students in 2000, and in 2005 it became Esperanza College of Eastern University.

Today, Eastern University offers undergraduate, graduate, professional, and seminary programs both online and on-campus at its vibrant locations in St. Davids and Philadelphia. Eastern's core values of faith, reason and justice are woven into all of its educational programs.

Today, Eastern offers over 130 undergraduate, graduate, and seminary programs, both online and on campus, and enrolls approximately 7,500 students across the world.

HISTORY

100 Years of Visionary History & Resiliency The Birth of Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary

On March 19, 1925, at two in the afternoon, six ministers gathered at 1701 Chestnut Street in Philadelphia to discuss their shared vision of Christ-centered, world-changing education. It all started with a \$26.00 investment.

The conviction of Revs. Charles T. Ball, Harry W. Barras, Groves W. Drew, Ralph L. Mayberry, John A. Hainer, and Gordon H. Baker laid the framework for what would become Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (EBTS) and later Eastern University. The religious landscape in the U.S. was in the midst of a seismic shift in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Darwinism, archaeological discoveries, and new approaches to Biblical scholarship sent rifts through Christianity in the States, prompting the founders of EBTS to create an academic institution that was "conservative, yet progressive," with the salvific work of Christ serving as the cornerstone, grounding them in an ever-changing culture.

The summer of 1925 was devoted to designing an educational philosophy and recruiting faculty. The Board of Trustees of this new seminary purchased a building on South Rittenhouse Square and recruited a staff of nine full-time faculty and six additional instructors, intentionally made up of both men and women. With a week before the start of classes, EBTS faced a critical challenge: it had no curriculum. The Seminary's first president, Rev. Charles Ball, tasked William W. Adams with creating one over the weekend of September 19.

A few days later on September 22, 1925, the Seminary welcomed its first students, who were separated into four schools: the School of Theology, the School of Religious Education, the School of Missions, and the School of Sacred Music. EBTS even welcomed Miss Edith Gardner, a female student, into the inaugural cohort. The curriculum, initially written entirely in longhand thanks to Adams' very productive weekend, was revised and adjusted over the first year to meet the needs of each of those schools. In May of that year, the Seminary celebrated its first 11 graduates.

The next several years brimmed with innovation and experimentation. In November of its first year, EBTS launched its initial foray into distance education. A correspondence program was created to provide both pastors and laypeople affordable, convenient, and robust

theological education all through the mail. By 1930, the Seminary's Correspondence Course received the endorsement of the Baptist State Convention of New York.

EBTS continued to grow. More property was purchased around Rittenhouse Square to accommodate resident students. Dr. Austen K. de Blois was voted in as the second seminary president in 1926. Dr. de Blois, a widely respected scholar, aimed to build an institution whose graduates were as intellectually equipped as those from more established or historic seminaries. He also developed EBTS's iconic library, saying, "I see no reason why, by patience and diligence, we should not gather a thoroughly representative Baptist library which will compare favorably with any in the world."

Over the decades, Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary continued to navigate societal and economic shifts. Under its third president, Dr. Gordon Palmer, the Seminary moved in 1940 from the city to Wynnewood, on Lancaster and City Avenues, where it would reside until 2012. Its commitment to providing theological training to those who normally would not be considered for graduate education led to the birth of Eastern Baptist College, now Eastern University.

In 2003, EBTS rejoined the University and was renamed Palmer Theological Seminary in 2005 after President Palmer.

The descriptor "conservative, yet progressive" persists and is exemplified in Palmer's mission, "The Whole Gospel for the Whole World through Whole Persons." Palmer's commitment to uplifting marginalized voices that began with female instructors later included faculty of color, such as Wallace Smith, Orlando Costas, and many others. The Openseminary program, online Master of Divinity and doctoral programs, the West Virginia location, and the Maestría en Estudios Teológicos en Linea all sojourn ahead on the trail blazed by the foundations established 100 years ago.

Through many transitions, some of which were not without heartache, Palmer Theological Seminary continues to innovate to provide robust theological and pastoral training to the diversity of Christ's Church across the world.

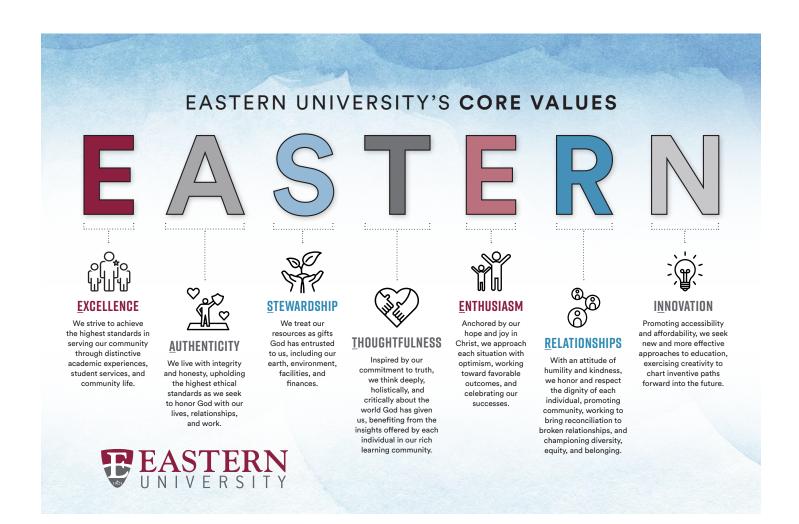
VISION, MISSION, CORE VALUES

VISION

As a community, Eastern University will Listen, Love, Learn, Lead.

MISSION

Eastern University is a diverse, Christ-centered community preparing graduates to impact the world through faith, reason, and justice.



OFFERING

Giving to Palmer Theological Seminary

Join Us in bringing

the Whole Gospel to the Whole World through Whole People.

For 100 years, Palmer Seminary has been a place where Church leaders are taught and formed as they prepare to take the whole gospel to the whole world as whole persons.

With your support, we can:

- Make quality theological education accessible and affordable for every person who wants it.
- Provide wellness support for alumni in ministry through our CARES Department.
- Bring renowned speakers and authors to share in public forums like Palmer's Science and Religion Symposium, Mitchell Lecture, and Costas Conference.
- Create new academic programs that equip students for vocations that advance human flourishing.

During our **Centennial Year**, we ask that you consider supporting one of our priority areas:

- **Scholarships**: The Palmer Seminary Endowed Scholarship Fund or other Seminary scholarship funds provide needed financial support for students.
- Palmer CARES: which provides holistic support for alumni in ministry and other Church leaders.
- **Restricted Gifts:** to support the creation of innovative educational offerings and special forums for the general public.

Make a Gift

Thank you for your support! We encourage you to consider a monthly recurring gift of \$19.25 in celebration of our founding year, a \$100 centennial gift, or whatever the Lord lays on your heart. You can select the program that resonates with you. These gifts provide ongoing support in a measured fashion. Any cash or undesignated gifts will go to the Palmer Endowment Scholarship fund or the Palmer Restricted Fund.

Please make checks payable to: Palmer Seminary

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American Baptist Home Mission Societies congratulates

Palmer Seminary of Eastern University

on 100 years of service to
God and the Church.

Continued blessings as you seek
to present the whole gospel,
to the whole world,
through whole persons.



Congratulations Eastern University

For a century, you have been a beacon of faith, knowledge, social justice, and excellence--providing a transformative Christian education that has empowered countless individuals to make a positive impact on the world.

We celebrate God's faithfulness with you.

Rev. Dr. William J. Shaw





THE HONOR & LEGACY OF 100 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to the Faculty, Administrators and Staff of *EASTERN UNIVERSITY* for your service and dedication to God and the academy.

Countless numbers of United Methodist clergy received their undergraduate and formal theological education from Eastern University and Palmer Seminary. We are so proud to celebrate with you!

"The Lord has done great things for you, and we are filled with joy". Psalm 126:3

The Southeast Region of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church



Rev. Evelyn Kent-ClarkSouth District Superintendent
ekentclark@epagnj.org



Rev. Dr. Andrew L. Foster, III East District Superintendent afoster3rd@epagnj.org

We Thank God FOR EASTERN'S 100 VEARS





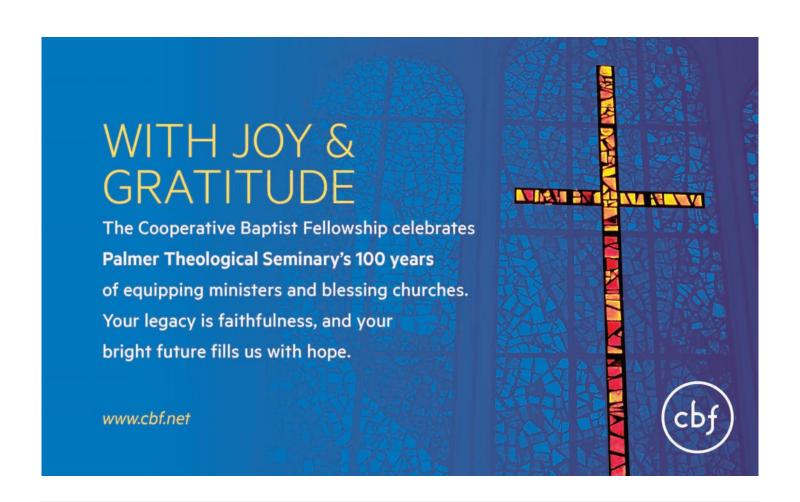
REV. DR. MALCOLM T. BYRD PASTOR & CEO

United Lutheran Seminary Congratuates Palmer Theological Seminary on 100 Years of Serving the Church and the Community



Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin (President) and Rev. Dr. Theresa Smallwood (Dean)





The Fellowship of
Women Clergy
congratulates
Eastern Univeristy
on its Centennial!
We also celebrate Palmer
Seminary for its service
to the many graduates
who lead churches in our
fellowship.





CONGRATULATIONS ON REACHING SUCH A REMARKABLE MILESTONE!

A century of dedication, growth, and success is indeed an incredible achievement. May the next hundred years bring even greater triumphs and continued success. Here's to 100 years of inspiring generations and making an eternal impact—to God Be the Glory!

Reverend Valerie Andrews, D.Mgt. Interim Executive Regional Minister Philadelphia Baptist Association

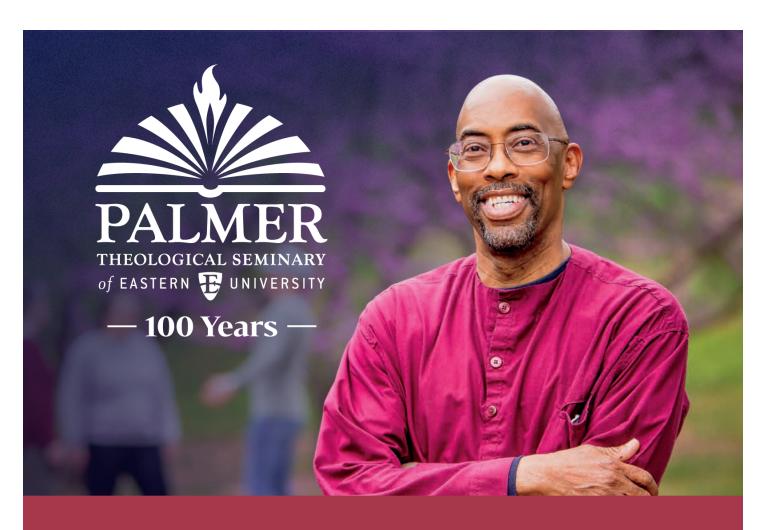


Congratulations Palmer Seminary & Eastern University on your Centennial Celebration.

May God continue to bless you.

From your partners & friends at Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers We're here for all your healthcare needs, head to toe.

Rev. Dr. Calenthia Dowdy,
Chief Faith & Community Engagement Officer
www.fight.org



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CENTENNIAL TEAMS & EVENTS

Centennial Teams & Captains

Centennial Co-Chairs: Luisa Wilsman, Christian Hicks, Kimberlee A. Johnson Advancement: Captain Natissa Kultan-Pfautz, Co-Captain Stacey Minyard

Alumni: Captain Rebecca Geddio, Co-Captain Alex Zysk **Events:** Captain Meggin Capers, Co-Captain Rebecca Geddio

Faculty & Staff: Captain Paula Hedderick, Co-Captain Jeanne Bundens

History: Captain Chelsea Post

Marketing: Captain Ally Rosario, Co-Captain Erin Ahlefeld Students: Captain Krista Duffy, Co-Captain Monica Jordan

Palmer Centennial Worship Service Planning Sub-Committee

Worship Service Captains: Marsha Brown Woodard, Co-Captain Deborah Watson

Committee and Team Leaders: David Applegate, Lori E. Banfield, Kim Brown, Rebecca Geddio, Mathew D. George, Bethanie Henderson, Tucker Hickey, Richelle D. Hines, Elisha Jennings, Kimberlee A. Johnson, Wesley Johnson, Amanda Kelly, Stacey Minyard, Heather Norcini, Williams Turner, Rebecca Walter, Sharon D. White, **Jared Williams**

Volunteers: Harven Auguste, Terra Banks, Lynn Bethea, Dan G. Edwards, Denise Henry, Amanda Kelly, Natissa Kultan-Pfautz, Kenesta Mack, Jamal Madison, Kevin Pope, Joanne Slawter, Salin Siripakarm, Erika Smith, Regina Marie Smith, Edward M Taylor, Wakaki Thompson, Sydney Tilley, Sharon D. White, James Williams, Alex Zysk

Upcoming Centennial Events

March 17	Centennial Campus Community Aerial Photo Op
March 18	Journey of Generosity
March 19	Founders Day Chapel & Fellowship Celebration
March 21	Centennial Gala
March 31	Alumni Chicago Life Together Gathering
April	SGA Fashion Show: A Walk Through Time
May 1	Student Centennial Celebration
May 20	West Virginia Centennial Graduation Dinner

October 16

West Virginia Centennial Celebration Dinner

Centennial Eastern Cup

Ongoing Events:

May 27

Memory Station - Picture Identification Project Life Together Series Centennial Faculty & Staff Seminary Series

Please visit our website for more information: eastern.edu/centennial

SPECIAL THANKS

With Gratitude: A Centennial Celebration Special Thanks

We offer our deepest appreciation to our generous **Sponsors**:

American Baptist Home Mission Societies – *Lead Sponsor* White Rock Baptist Church – *Lead Sponsor*

Eventide Investments Manfred T. Brauch

Fellowship of Women Clergy United Lutheran Seminary

Hope's Beacon Baptist Church and Forum Philly United Methodist Church SE Region

We extend our sincere gratitude to all of our **Supporters**:

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Philadelphia FIGHT
Philadelphia Baptist Association All centennial donors

A special thank you to our cherished alumni, whose legacy and continued engagement are the heart and soul of our institution, and to the inspirational **speakers** and **program participants** who made this service extraordinary.

We express our sincere gratitude to **Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller, Pastor of Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church,** Jerry Pendergrass, Chief of Operations, and the leadership and staff for your generous hospitality, faithful support, and gracious use of your beautiful church.

We are grateful for the beautiful and moving musical contributions of the **Eastern University Chapel Worship Team** and the **Centennial Choir**, which are under the brilliant direction of **Dr. Steven Ford.**

We recognize the ongoing efforts of the **Centennial Planning Committee Captains**, **team members**, **and volunteers** who are tirelessly preparing for the upcoming events during this centennial year. We eagerly anticipate celebrating with all of you as we continue to honor our rich history and embrace our promising future.

We sincerely thank the **Eastern University Leadership Team** for their support and guidance and our heartfelt appreciation to the **Advancement and Finance Departments** for their diligent stewardship.