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**Sent with Prayer to...**

## **Your Giving Matters**

Even when we can't be together, your giving matters. We want to continue being the church in our community and to each and every one of you in the days ahead. Your continued faithfulness to the mission and ministry of Northwood through your giving is critical as the church's expenses do not stop. Please commit to maintain your regular schedule of giving throughout this time by mailing your gift or using one of the online platforms below for giving electronically:

1. Text NPCHURCH to 73256 and follow the prompts.
2. Visit [www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org) and click on the giving tab.
3. Click Give under the ChurchLife App menu options
4. Scan the QR code below with your smartphone's camera and click the link



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

*Northwood Presbyterian Church*



*The Window*

**Chartering Organization of Boy Scout Troop 413**

April 2020  
Volume 30, No. 4

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761  
727-796-8090 Main Office ~ 727-723-7679 Preschool, Before & After Care  
[www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org)

### **"It is Time to be Wise!"**

Dear Members and Friends of Northwood,

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, Northwood along with many other churches suspended all in-person worship. As of this writing on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, most public worship in our nation has been completely suspended in response to CDC guidelines. It is time for us to be faithful to our calling to love and care in an unprecedented way for the people and the communities we serve. As churches we do not want to contribute to spreading the virus. While the current estimated time for these measures is expected to be 8-10 weeks, we hope and pray that the time will be revised and we will be together sooner. It is clearly a time for patience and faith.

On the next page, you'll find in one place, all the information about worship and other programs at Northwood during this time. You'll also read about other ways we'll be meeting virtually and continuing to be the church. We will continue to offer worship through our website as well as through Facebook Live on our NPC Facebook Page. If you are unable to participate in worship through livestreaming at a particular time, remember that the services can be found and enjoyed anytime in the "Archives" under "Watch Livestream" on the church website. I say this especially because with the large number of churches now exclusively livestreaming services, providers are struggling to handle the volume.

Our Session held a virtual meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to consider and pray as your church leaders about how this is impacting all of us, our nation and world. So, while we cannot meet in large groups, I want to encourage you to be open to and to try these virtual platforms to connect with each other in the days ahead. Phone calls and emails and cards are always a great way to be in touch with others as well. We have an unprecedented time in which to learn how to be the church in new ways using technology and resources available to us and don't forget to pray.

It is true that we are facing challenges we've never faced before, but others who have gone before us have faced other challenges and with God's help have persevered. And, to any who would say to themselves or others that suspending worship for a few weeks or even months is going to "kill" the church, I offer these words sent by a young pastor -- *who's a week or two shy of the first anniversary of his ordination* -- to the congregation he serves (I have inserted our own church address and city instead of his):

"My friends, no matter what is going on in the world, we are still the church. The church is not just the building that sits on State Road 580 in Clearwater. The church is us! And as the church, we are still called to meet our friends and our neighbors with love and compassion and not suspicion. As the church, we are called to create spaces of both love and calm in the midst of what seems like turmoil. As the church, we are called to trust the Lord our God with our lives and our care."

May we all be so wise. It is time! Please know your pastors, church staff and officers are available and praying for you. Let us know of a difficulty or hardship you are facing because after all is said and done, we have each other.

You Pastor and Friend,  
Pastor Chris



# April 2020

## This Month at Northwood

### Sunday, March 29:

9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

### Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday

9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

### Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday

Service to be determined

### Friday, April 10: Good Friday

Service to be determined

### Sunday, April 12: Easter Sunday

9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

### Monday, April 13:

Office Closed

### Sunday, April 19:

9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

### Sunday, April 26:

9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

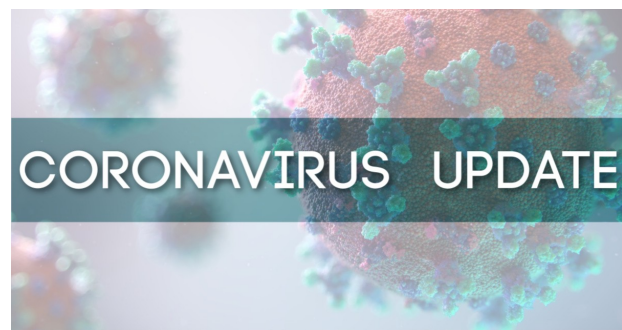
## The Window

Published monthly by Northwood Presbyterian Church

Edited by Emily Cantin

### Submissions:

If you have information that you would like to be considered for the newsletter, e-mail [communications@northwoodpc.org](mailto:communications@northwoodpc.org), or place it in Emily Cantin's box in the church office. The deadline is the 2nd Monday of the month.



There will be NO in-person worship throughout the month of March. We are following the current recommendations and guidelines from the CDC and the recommendations from the Presbytery. We will re-evaluate for the month of April and will keep you updated.

We are suspending all in-person groups, meetings, bible studies and activities including the WAY dinners through March. In the meantime, we are transitioning to virtual platforms such as Zoom (*see page 7*) and Microsoft Teams to connect with each other and keep up with regular group happenings. We have an unprecedented time in which to learn how to be the church in new ways using technology and resources available to us.

We will be livestreaming both our 9:30am contemporary Service and our 11:00am traditional service on our website at [northwoodpc.org](http://northwoodpc.org). From the homepage, click on "watch livestream." The services will also be live on the church facebook page.

If you have prayer requests that you would like lifted up during the 9:30 service, send requests online to [northwoodpc.org](http://northwoodpc.org) and click on "prayer request" under the "resources" tab. There is also a space to request prayers for our prayer chain ministry (virtual skinny sheet).

The church office is still open and we are answering emails and phone calls.

For up to date information on what's happening at Northwood, please check for emails and follow our facebook page and website regularly. This is our most effective and immediate way to communicate information.

Even when we can't be together, your giving matters. We want to continue being the church in our community and to each and every one of you in the days ahead. Your continued faithfulness to the mission and ministry of Northwood through your giving is critical as the church's expenses do not stop. Please commit to maintain your regular schedule of giving throughout this time by mailing your gift or using one of the online platforms referred to on the back panel of this newsletter.

### Staff members are available to answer any questions you might have regarding church related programs.

Chris Curvin, Pastor  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor  
Stephanie Carson, Music  
Tom Huffman, Music  
Justine Davis, Children and Preschool  
Rosalie Bradford, Youth and Families

# Around Northwood



## Annual Children's Music Festival 2020

On March 6th and 7th we had 8 of our children from our children's music ministry attend the 29th Annual Children's Choir Festival in Orlando. The children attended many different small groups including drumming, puppetry, drama, and sign language along with choir rehearsals in preparation for a concert performed on Saturday afternoon in singing praises to our Lord!



“Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation” —  
Psalm 95:1



## Join ZOOM and Be Ready to Get Together Virtually

At Northwood, nobody must tell us that the Church is the people. We are the body of Christ; His hands and feet! How can we be that in this time of social distancing and for some downright isolation? Well, this is the good news. While the time that we're in now has caught us off guard and blindsided us as families, friends, a nation and a church, we know that God was not caught off guard! He knew it was coming and He's provided many tools to help us keep being the Church in this tough time. Here's the hard part.....some of these tools are ones only a few of us have used or have never been out of the box. We're going to be asking you to try some new things with us and one of those is Zoom.

Zoom is a very simple but robust video conferencing platform that is free to use on any device with a camera (phone, tablet, laptop or desktop) and an internet connection. In the simplest of terms, it is like FaceTime for a group and you don't need an iPhone. The applications for using Zoom are endless for Bible Studies, Prayer Groups, Ministry Team Meetings, Fresh Brewed, Presbyterian Women, Sunday School Classes, Session and Deacons' Meetings, Youth Group and Children's Ministry meetups or activities. But, you do have to do a little prep work. The sooner we do this, the sooner we can plan to meet with each other virtually even though we can't be physically together.

Zoom asks for no personal information and does not include any advertising. Getting started is simple but you must download the app on any device that you plan to use. You can do this by going to [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) or finding the Zoom app in the App Store on your device. There is no charge. Simply enter your email address and create a password. Once you do that, you'll be ready to participate. Those who are organizing the "meeting" take the lead. They can schedule a meeting at a set time in the future or they can have a meeting "on the fly." In either case, they invite you to join via email, text or a Zoom notification.

Won't you get ready to meet with us? Checkout the excellent tutorials at [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) that explain how it all works. Download the app and create your account. Once you've done that, add Chris Hurst as one of your contacts, [hurst905@yahoo.com](mailto:hurst905@yahoo.com). You might have to watch one of the tutorials or even call the church office for a little help. Once you do that, we'll meet. I can't wait to see you!

Getting ourselves set up is going to be a process. We're all having to learn new ways of coping, aren't we? But with God's help and each other, we can get it done.






**Summer Music Workshop/Music Camp**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**  
 June 7-12, 2020  
 Music Camp and Workshop in Leesburg, FL  
 (rising 6th grade through adult)  
 For more information, contact Tom Huffman at  
 727-796-8090 or hufftom@aol.com



**Welcome to all our new Church Officers  
 who were installed and ordained on  
 Sunday, March 8th.**

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>DEACONS:</b> | <b>ELDERS:</b>     |
| (Class of 2022) | (Class of 2022)    |
| Claudia Alwood  | *Polly Brown       |
| *Dan Hyden      | Susan Curry (2021) |
| Faye Mackie     | *Curtis Krueger    |
| Sue Miskiewicz  | *Raymond Linville  |
|                 | Keith Nadig        |
|                 | Bailey Shields     |

\*those ordained



**Easter Lilies**

You may still order Easter lilies in memory or in honor of a loved one by dropping by the church office with a note attached to your payment indicating the person(s) you wish to honor. You may also mail in your check but be sure to include a note indicating the names of your loved ones and whether it is in memory or in honor. If you pay on line for the lilies, in order to be sure their names are included, you will need to send an email to [communications@northwoodpc.org](mailto:communications@northwoodpc.org) with the names of your loved ones and whether it is in memory or honor. The lilies will be put in the church sanctuary whether we are meeting at the church or if the service will be live streamed. Requests with payment are due **no later than Palm Sunday, April 5.**

**Stephen Ministry**

Northwood’s Stephen Ministry consists of church members who have been equipped with 50 hours of training to provide confidential, emotional, spiritual, one-to-one Christian care to individuals who are experiencing struggles in their lives. These difficult circumstances include loss of a loved one, loss of a job, illness, aging, spiritual crisis, loneliness or discouragement, as well as many other life challenges. A Stephen Minister is a caring, Christian friend who will walk beside a person who is hurting and listen, pray, support and encourage them. Typically, a Stephen Minister will meet faithfully with his or her care receiver for about an hour each week for as long as there is a need. To learn more about how you, a family member or a friend can benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Paul at 727-796-8090 or [paul@northwoodpc.org](mailto:paul@northwoodpc.org).

**Northwood Scholarship Application Time**

NPC members who are high school seniors, college/vocational students or grad students are encouraged to pick up guidelines/applications from Emily Cantin, online, or in the church office now. Applications must be received by June 1, 2020. Applicants need to be involved in the life of the church (either here or at college/Seminary). This scholarship can only be received twice. We give thanks to the Bakers, Gordons, Wrights and others whose generosity to Northwood was reflected in their last will and testament. Scholarship funds come from interest earned from the following: (1) The Fred and Kay Baker Scholarship Fund, (2) The Walter and Catherine Gordon Educational Endowment, (3) Clarence and Florence Wright Scholarship Fund, (4) Monies received from other sources.

**NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD**

**Beth-El**

Thank you for your generous donation of \$2000.00. It will go a long way to make a sustainable impact in the community. We are blessed to count on you as our partner as we move forward in this enterprise of love! It means the world to us!    Teresita Matos-Post, Executive Director

**RCS**

I would like to extend my gratitude on behalf of RCS Grace House Emergency Family shelter for the donation of toiletries for our program participants. Your continuing support of RCS has been such a blessing and it is through friends like you that make it possible to continue offering help and encouragement to our participants.  
 Mark Dufva, Executive Director

**Thank You**

On Saturday, February 15th, several Girl Scout troops in Pinellas County held their annual "World Thinking Day" in our Family Life Center. As their "Thank you" to Northwood, for hosting this event, each girl donated canned food items to Northwood's food pantry. The girls ended up donating 179 canned items. Thanks to all of you for your generous donation!!

**Prayer Ministry**

Bill Allen, Ken Andreassen, Carol Anderson, Julie Bryant, Sue GaVette, Shirley Gleason, Lyn Heider, Jeri Heycock, Fred Inkles, Jane Kaempfer, Joyce Klotz, Mildred Martin, Robin MacLennan, Charlotte McQuown, Norman Phillips, David Smith, Gene Snyder, Al & Ethel Holden, Bonnie Beyer, Don Drummond, Ruth White.

**Stephen Ministry Training**

**A ministry of love and compassion!** Stephen Ministry is a vital expression of the love and grace of Jesus to those who are going through tough times. Training to become a Stephen Minister will begin **Sept. 17th**. To learn more about this opportunity to provide emotional and spiritual care to people experiencing difficulties in their lives, please call Pastor Paul at 727-796-8090 or elder Jacki Koski at 727-726-5359.

**Memorial Gifts**

|                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b><u>In Memory of:</u></b> | <b><u>Given by:</u></b> |
| <i>Sara Kenfield</i>        | <i>Cynthia Lawrence</i> |
| <i>Jane Urban</i>           | <i>Lorrie Janusik</i>   |
| <i>Vittorio Torisi</i>      | <i>Mary Torrisi</i>     |
| <i>Sara Kenfield</i>        | <i>Jean Swintek</i>     |
| <b><u>In Honor of:</u></b>  | <b><u>Given by:</u></b> |
| <i>Virginia Cromwell</i>    | <i>Linda Ciokan</i>     |
| <i>Virginia Cromwell</i>    | <i>Jean Swintek</i>     |
| <i>Virginia Cromwell</i>    | <i>Sally Uhler</i>      |

**Prayers and Christian sympathies to:**

- The Family of Juanita Hickey upon the news of her death on February 23.
- Jack Alwood and Family upon the news of the death of Jack’s mother, Fran Lane Alwood on February 27.
- The Family of Willard “Buddy” Doyle upon the news of his death on March 9.
- Jack Mattson and Family on the news of the death of Jack’s mother, Claire Wilson on March 1.
- The Family of Jane Urban upon the news of her death on March 4.

**Thank You**

Thank you to the ladies who provided dinners for me after my hip replacement. Not only were the meals great but I also enjoyed meeting members who attended other services.    Sincerely, Pamela Peters

**Email Scam Alert**

You may be aware that some of our members have received scam emails in the past month, and once over a year ago, that appear to be from Pastor Chris. The emails request financial support in the form of gift cards. Our pastor does NOT send these emails although the email address is very similar to his. This email scam is also happening to pastors in other churches in our area. Please know that your pastors and the church staff will never solicit any funds in this manner. Simply forward the message to the church office so they can be collected for the police. It saddens us when anyone seeks to do harm but especially when they prey on the kindness and Christ-like hearts of our members.



# Christian Education

## TCI Class (Today's Christian Issues)

## Sunday Morning Bible Study

## Fresh Brewed Bible Study

## Presbyterian Women's Circles



Given the guidance from the Presbytery and public health officials, we have suspended all group gatherings, including Christian Education for children, youth and adults until further notice. We are exploring ways in which we can meet virtually. Please use our website for up to date information.

## Experiencing God Class

If you'd like to join the Experiencing God class virtually via Zoom at 10:30am on Sunday mornings, please contact Vicki Krueger at vickilee33@aol.com and she will send you the meeting details each week.

## *Spotlight on* Deacons' Ministries

## Compassionate Care Cards Ministry

When a member is ill or suffers a loss, a Deacon sends get well or sympathy card. Deacon Faye Mackie faithfully sends these cards of comfort. If you are aware of someone in need, please contact the Faye at brianand-fayept@tampabay.rr.com or call the church office at 727-331-0882.



## Prayer, Joys and Concerns

Each Sunday we will be worshiping online at both 9:30 & 11:00am. The Ignite contemporary service has a time of "prayers, joys and concerns" where people individually offer prayer requests. While worshiping via livestream we wanted to make that possible. If you have a "prayers, joys or concerns" request you would like lifted up at the 9:30am service, please go online to our homepage at [www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org) and click on "Prayer Request" under the "Resources" tab. Just remember that these prayer requests may be shared via livestream. If anything is private, do not submit it for sharing this way. We will share as many as the time permits.

*"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:6-7*

## Confirmation Retreat at Cedarkirk



## Children's Ministry



Given the guidance from the Presbytery and public health officials, we have suspended all group gatherings including all children's activities. King's Kids has been suspended until further notice and spring bash has been cancelled. I will reach out to your children during the weeks and I'm working on other ways I can still share the lessons from King's Kids and Sunday School with them. If you have any further questions please email at [childrensministry@northwoodpc.org](mailto:childrensministry@northwoodpc.org) or call at 727-796-8090.

## Vacation Bible School 2020—June 1st - 5th

All aboard!! Save the date!! Get ready for a fun adventure with Rocky Railway.

*Justine Davis, Director of Children's Ministry*  
[childrensministry@northwoodpc.org](mailto:childrensministry@northwoodpc.org)

## Kid's Corner Preschool Registration

Registration is currently open for the 2020-2021 school year! We have openings in our 2's, 3's, and VPK. Please share the news! If you are interested in a tour of the school, please contact Justine Davis at [schooldirector@northwoodpc.org](mailto:schooldirector@northwoodpc.org) or 727-723-7679 to set up an appointment

## Citylight Calendar

**Saturday, April 4th**, Confirmation Brunch - Cancelled

**Sunday, April 5th**, Confirmation Sunday - Postponed TBA

**Monday, April 6th**, VBS Youth Guide Interest Video in the weekly email! Rosalie and Justine are going to explain how VBS, and being a youth guide works!

**Saturday, April 25th**, Monthly mission to Feeding Tampa Bay 11:30 am - 5:30 pm

**Sunday, May 17th**, Graduation Sunday

Class of 2020 Seniors will be recognized in the 9:30 am service.

Spring youth Concert celebrating the class of 2020 at 3:00 pm, reception to follow. *Seniors are invited to share a bio for a senior booklet to be handed out at the church. All seniors should have received a letter. The weekly email also has the information in it.*

# Citylight

## What's Going on in Citylight

In early March, we went to Palm Garden Nursing home to join a small group in hymn singing and a devotion. We also went to Cedarkirk for the Confirmation Retreat. Our Confirmation retreat was filled with bonding, time in nature and time reflecting on God's call in our lives. We became so much closer as a faith family. Since then, youth ministry at Northwood has had to go "virtual" given the COVID-19 epidemic. However, we are still going strong. Youth lessons have been communicated via email, Zoom, Teams, Facebook, Instagram and even Tiktok....We are also in the midst of Confirmation Class 2020, continuing our lessons via email. Please pray for our eleven confirmands, teachers and mentors. Even though this spring season has been very different from our normal church culture, we are still united as one. As Church, Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Confirmation Youth Group, Game Night have gone virtual until further notice, we are hoping to re-schedule and pick up where we left off for events and activities that can't be held online! We are still preparing for our summer mission trip to Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry and our high school retreat to Montreat Conference Center. As of now, all of our summer events are still happening! Please pray for our ministry as we approach these summer trips. In the meantime, please pray for the safety and well being of our community and the impact COVID-19 will have on people physically, emotionally and financially. Let's be in communication during this tough time, supporting one another with love and prayer. I encourage you not to panic however find peace and be active in this time! You are a part of this community, and we need you! Please continue to participate in our virtual ministry; providing ideas, prayers and good spirits. As your Director of Youth & Families, my job is to always support you, especially during times like these. Please reach out with your prayers, needs and concerns. I will check in with you, pray with you, pray for you and keep you updated on the situation as things move forward.

*"Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many." -1 Corinthians 12:14*

With Love and Support,

Rosalie Bradford,  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries