



Northwood Presbyterian Church
 2875 State Road 580
 Clearwater, FL 33761
 A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Spotlight on Deacons' Ministries

Hurricane Season 2020

The Hurricane Ministry of our church's Board of Deacons assists members in need of temporary housing during hurricanes or severe tropical storms. If you are in need of emergency housing during or after a storm – or if you are able to share your home with members-in-need – please contact Eleanor Cicerchi at ecicerchi@gmail.com or 607-382-1781. You may also contact the Rev. Paul Means at 727-796-8090 or communications@northwoodpc.org.

When calling to ask for emergency housing, please provide your **name, best contact information, number of people needing accommodation, the number and type of pets you have, and any special needs.**

If emailing to offer housing, please use the subject "Hurricane Volunteer" and include your name, address, phone number, email address, number of people you can accommodate and whether you have pets or can accept them. If you know your evacuation zone, please include that.

Note that the Pinellas County Department of Health maintains a **special needs evacuation database** of people who are mobility or otherwise impaired and may need assistance during a hurricane. Local fire/rescue departments call people on that list before an emergency and assist with evacuation. To put your name or that of a family member on the list, call 727-784-8668.

This year, because of the pandemic, the Pinellas County Office of Emergency Management will have more than 100 emergency shelters in North Pinellas, instead of the usual four. Your local fire/rescue department can help you find a shelter if that is needed.

Finally, the best advice for all of us is to be prepared. One helpful resource is baynews9.com. Click on "Weather, then "Hurricane Center," to find weather advisories, maps of evacuation zones and routes, and checklists for your family and pets.

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The Window

Chartering Organization of Boy Scout Troop 413

September 2020
 Volume 30, No. 8

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761
 727-796-8090 Main Office ~ 727-723-7679 Preschool, Before & After Care
www.northwoodpc.org

Northwood Presbyterian Church—Survey Questionnaire

Please complete the survey and return to the church office or complete electronically at <http://northwoodpc.org/resources/forms/>

- Are you planning to return to in-person worship services?
 Yes
 No
- When will you return to in-person worship services?
 A). When they start.
 B). As soon as I feel that the risk is minimized.
 C). I'm reluctant because of compromising health concerns.
 D). Not until a vaccine is available and I am vaccinated.
- How many family members will accompany you when you return?
 Adults ____
 Children ____
- How important are the following factors/changes in determining when you return?

Factors/Changes	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Wearing face masks			
Availability of hand sanitizer			
Maintaining social distancing			
No handshaking or hugs			
Limited singing			
Removal of Bibles and Hymnals			
Facilities sanitation			
New procedure for Communion			
New way of receiving offering			

- Will you continue to attend the virtual Livestreaming services if you don't return to in-person services?
 Yes
 No
- If you don't mind, please indicate your age group.
 Under 18
 18-29
 30-49
 50-69
 70+
- Please share your concerns, suggestions and comments in the space below. Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

At-A-Glance

This Month at Northwood

September 2020

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

Sunday, September 6:
9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

Church office will be closed Monday, September 7 in observance of Labor Day

Sunday, September 13:
9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

Sunday, September 20:
9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

Sunday, September 27:
9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

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
Chris Hurst, Business Administrator
Linda O'Leary, Bookkeeper
Emily Cantin, Director of Communications

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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, or place it in Emily Cantin's box in the church office. The deadline is the 3rd Monday of the month.

Around Northwood



Guidelines for Returning to Public Worship

The following guidelines, in careful coordination with PCUSA guidelines, government authorities, and medical experts, are recommended for implementation to resume Sunday in-person worship. Early stage participation is recommended specifically for healthy individuals with no underlying conditions. Vulnerable persons, as defined by the CDC, are encouraged to stay home. Opening is not recommended unless there is a 14-day reduction in the prevalence of COVID-19 as measured by such factors as: the number of new cases in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties; the percentage of positive test results in those counties; and other factors that the Session determines to be relevant.

- Hold a contemporary service at 9 am and a traditional service at 11 am.
- Limit the number of people allowed in the sanctuary for worship to 50.
- Have a plan in place for overflow seating in the Christian Education Building if the sanctuary attendance reaches 50.
- Document all persons present at each service so contact tracing can be done if someone attending tests positive for COVID-19 following the service.
- Continue online livestream worship for a 9 am contemporary and one traditional service at 11 am for those who choose to remain home until the risk is less or there is a vaccine.
- Greeters will open the East and South exterior building doors before services begin and close them after services start. Discourage use of other entry doors.
- Ushers will open the sanctuary doors before and after the services to minimize public contact of building surfaces.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be located near entrances. Provide signage to promote public use to clean hands before and after services.
- Bulletins will be placed on tables along with hand sanitizer near sanctuary double door entrances. Printable bulletins that can be brought to services will be available online.
- Promote and encourage physical distancing for worshipers via signage, announcements, and publications to avoid congregating in the building hallways before and after services.
- No passing of the peace. Handshakes and hugs should be avoided for now.
- No coffee, food, or fellowship time.
- No childcare or nursery will be provided. Children are welcome to worship together with their family.
- Face mask or cloth face coverings are required to be worn inside the building at all times. Those leading the service will wear a face mask when they are not speaking or singing. Disposable face masks will be available to those that request them.
- The Usher team will communicate and guide worshipers to maintain physical distancing when sitting for services in the sanctuary. Two different colored tapes will be placed on the ends of alternating pews in the sanctuary. Each service will use a specific color for seating so no pew will be used twice for seating on any particular Sunday.
- Bibles, hymnals, paper and pencils will be removed from the pews. No attendance forms will need to be completed. Will encourage worshipers to bring their Bibles from home.
- The congregation will be asked to abstain from singing and may hum softly through their mask.
- On Communion Sundays, individual pre-packaged kits will be utilized. Instructions for use will scroll on the overhead screen before service. Waste baskets will be available near the sanctuary exits to collect used items following the service.
- Offering plates/boxes will be placed near each of the sanctuary double doors to collect offerings.
- After conclusion of the service, Ushers will assist in directing worshipers to leave the sanctuary and church building maintaining physical distancing.
- Communicate that any congregating should take place outside the church building away from entrances following services, continuing to maintain physical distancing.
- The sanctuary and common touch areas in the building will be sanitized between services.

Beth-El Shoe Drive

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic the annual August shoe drive for the Beth-El migrant farm workers is going to take place differently this year. The executive director at Beth-El has requested that in order to keep everyone safe, only monetary donations will be accepted. Beth-El will order the shoes directly from Amazon and then distribute them to the migrant farm workers. If you are giving online, please follow the prompts and select Beth-El Mission. Checks should be sent to the church earmarked for the shoe drive as donations will be accepted through September 6th. Thank you Northwood for your continued generosity!!



Important Calendar Information



Many meetings have gone to an online platform. However, if your team/committee wishes to meet in person (with physical distance and masks), please check the church calendar online at www.northwoodpc.org to be sure your event/meeting is still listed. Many meeting spaces have been expanded to meet physical distance requirements and a room previously reserved might have been reassigned to a group that has made a new request for in person meeting space.

Food Pantry Thank You!

The Northwood Food Pantry had quite a surprise when the East Lake Middle School National Honor Society contacted the church and asked if they could donate food that they had collected as a community service project. The donation amounted to over 1000 items and it was the largest donation that our pantry had ever received. The pantry would like to thank the sponsor of the honor society, Robin Benoit for coordinating this food drive and many thanks to all the honor society students for your outstanding work of collecting all these food items. Northwood Presbyterian Church and our community are extremely grateful!!



NPC Youth and Families Thank You!!

We are so grateful for all of the donations, letters of encouragement, and prayers for our 2020 Giving Wall Fundraiser of \$5,200.00 which was for our summer trips! Since our summer didn't play out as we hoped, with the COVID-19 virus limitations, these funds will be moved to next summer's trip expenses and scholarship fund. Our mission is to support and transform youth into lifelong disciples of Christ through the Fruits of the Spirit, relationships, theological education, and service. Thank you for your generous support!

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 and click on the giving tab.
3. Click "Give" under the *ChurchLife* app menu options.



All-Church Retreat Registration is OPEN!

Cedarkirk All-Church Retreat will be October 23-25, 2020. We're taking deposits to hold rooms, so register early to get the best choice. Cedarkirk is being very lenient - any cancellations due to COVID-19 will be fully refunded. To register, either pick up a form in the church office during business hours 9:00am-1:00pm Mon.-Thurs. or print a copy at <http://northwoodpc.org/fellowship/all-church-retreat/> Come enjoy the great outdoors! Questions, contact Jeanne Stephen at Jeanneestephen@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Beth-El

Northwood Presbyterian Church, you are a healing spark of hope for this community! Thank you for your generous gift of \$1600 for scholarship and food assistance that will ensure that more families have access to produce, bread, dairy and meat during this pandemic. May God bless you!
Teresita Matos-Post, Executive Director

Metropolitan Ministries

I would like to personally thank everyone at Northwood Presbyterian for your timely and extremely appreciated gift of \$4000, and for your incredible support during this critical time. Currently, the need is great and your donations have been put to immediate use. It's times like these that show you the very best of what our community is made of!
Patrick Davis, Sr. Manager of Corporate Partnerships

RCS

Thank you for your generous gift of \$193.20 to benefit the RCS Home Mission. As you know, there is an incredible need for our services, and now more than ever because of the COVID-19 crisis. We appreciate your ongoing support and hope that you know you are valued and highly regarded.
Kirk Ray Smith, President & CEO

Habitat for Humanity

Thank you for your generous gift of \$320 to continue helping families achieve their dream of homeownership. Thanks to donors like you, we are able to continue building safe, affordable homes for hard working members of our community.
Mike Sutton, President & CEO

The Outreach Foundation

We would like to thank you for your gift of \$250 in helping build the capacity of the global church. Your gift designation will be honored and funds sent quickly to regions of the world in great need. The Outreach Foundation values you as a friend and a donor!
Rob Weingartner, Exec. Dir.

Special Offerings

Thank you for your Special Offerings gift of \$250 for One Great Hour of Sharing. Your congregation's giving, when combined with that of others, will share the love of Christ with those in need. Thank you.
Bryce Wiebe, Director

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of:

*Nancy Ericson
Mimi Judd
Nancy Ericson
Bill & Marian Justice*

Given by:

*Art & Jeanette Holloway
Bill & Patty Martin
Bill & Patty Martin
Bill & Patty Martin*

In Honor of:

*Michael Cromwell,
Barbara Moler &
Elaine Cornillaud*

Given by:

Anonymous

Prayer Ministry

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

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.

Cedarkirk Women's Retreat--Save the Date

Something to look forward to! Save the date for the Cedarkirk Women's Retreat held on February 19-21, 2021.

Christian Education



Follow us
@CitylightNPC

Prayer, Joys and Concerns

Each Sunday we will be worshipping 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 worshipping 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 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.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women are using a Bible study called “*Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayer and Lament*” by P. Lynn Miller. This is a 9-month study on reclaiming the practice of lament through Biblical study. Study books are available for purchase. The study will be available through livestreaming on the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 AM and will be led by Pastor Curvin. Everyone is welcome! If you’d like more information or have any questions, please contact Patty Martin at bill.martin2@verizon.net.

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.

Wednesday Bible Study

A study of the Book of Matthew begins August 26th, every Wednesday at 7:00pm through Zoom. The study guide being used is *The Immersion Bible Study: Matthew* by J. Ellsworth Kalas. If you’d like to join the Wednesday Bible Study or need a study book, please email Cindy Huffman at lu-cindy1@aol.com and she will forward you the Zoom link. All are welcome!

Fresh Brewed

Fresh Brewed will start a new book on Friday September 4th at 10:30am. The new book will be “Deeply Rooted; Knowing Self, Growing in God” by Christopher Marcie.

The current plan is to meet through Zoom. Please contact Louise Mylin for a Zoom code and if you have any questions (727) 787-9868.

Virtual Brown Bag Bible Study on Livestream and Facebook Live

This study meets on Thursdays at noon through livestream and Facebook live. Pastor Paul will continue a study on the thought-provoking Book of Job. This Old Testament book wrestles with the ongoing, unchanging human realities of deep suffering and sorrow and overwhelming pain and loss. “It is the story of one man who held on to his life in God with a faith that survived the torments of utter loss and expanded into new realms of wonder and delight.” Join us as we seek, by God’s grace, to grow in faith, hope and love in the midst of life’s unpredictable and varied circumstances.

Children’s Ministry

- Children’s Ministry is sending out personal notes to the children of Northwood so watch for your note in the mail. If you want to receive a note for your child or grandchild contact Justine Davis at childrensministry@northwoodpc.org.
- Please be sure to check out and “like” the Children’s Ministry Facebook group. Each week we will have a children’s Bible lesson posted along with other activities. https://www.facebook.com/groups/633579497423839/?source_id=263480270372443



Kids’ 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 727-723-7679 or schooldirector@northwoodpc.org or to set up an appointment.



What’s Going on in Citylight

We never thought that we would be starting out the 2020 school year in the midst of a global pandemic. Despite the circumstances, Citylight still managed to have a good summer and take advantage of this time to grow in relationships and in our faith. We’ve continued our virtual meetings, and small group in-person events! From serving in a mobile food pantry to having a family hang out at Philippe Park, we have found ways to connect with one another while remaining safe.

We currently have 5 virtual programs a week: Sunday School, Young Men & Women’s Bible Studies every Tuesday & Thursday, Virtual Youth Group Lessons on Wednesdays, Virtual Trivia, Game, Movie Nights, and Virtual Faith Connection Chats. We have also done some small group beach days, game/sporting events, and kayaking days.

We recently surveyed the Youth & Families in reference to the pandemic about the various feelings of hosting small group in-person events and remaining virtual during the fall semester. The results revealed that the majority of Citylight agrees to continue to practice social distancing with the virtual schedule and various in-person outdoor events. We still hope to go on our Youth retreat at Cedarkirk on November 13-15, 2020! The sign up will be available soon. We also have our Annual All Church Retreat Cedarkirk October 23-25 and hope to see a lot of the youth and families there. If you are college-age with a family unable to attend and would like to attend the church retreat, please contact me! I am hoping to provide sleeping arrangements for all college-age NPC church members that would like to come along!

On that note, we are starting our new NPC College Group this September! We will build this program off a virtual platform but hope to connect in person during the Holidays.

We have so many high school graduates this year and are devoted to providing a space for them to remain connected to their church during and after this new transition in their lives. Let’s keep our class of 2020 in our prayers as they start this new adventure in this unexpected way.

Even though our 2020 school year has started differently than we ever expected, do not lose hope! We can continue to focus on relationship building, using the virtual tools we are so lucky to have. We can also take advantage of this time to reach out to people we have not had the chance to, and take advantage of the time we have with our families. Try to see the silver lining, and try to hear how God is speaking to you specifically during this time.

I have officially been with Northwood for a whole year now, and I am so blessed to be a part of this community through thick and thin. This year has been filled with so many fun, meaningful, pivotal, and discerning moments with the youth. We have a great bunch and need to continue our all-including and all-loving message to this community. I have loved working with our Youth & Family Ministries team and we are always looking for devoted church members to help serve on this amazing team. We are still meeting via Zoom and are incredibly devoted to this ministry! Stay tuned for an amazing 2021!

Please continue to pray for the safety and well being of our community, and the impact COVID-19 has had on people physically, emotionally, and financially. 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.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” -Philippians 4:6-7



Rosalie Bradford,
Director of Youth & Family Ministries

