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

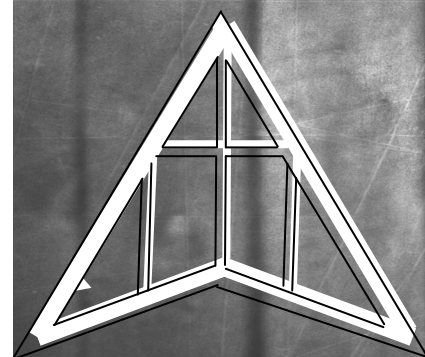
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**Sent with Prayer to...**

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

*Northwood Presbyterian Church*



*The Window*

Chartering Organization of Boy Scout Troop 413

January 2021  
Volume 31, No. 1

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)

*“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.” (Matthew 2: 10-11a)*

Dear Members and Friends of Northwood!

On Christmas Eve I used the illustration in the sermon of one of the verses, “O Come All Ye Faithful” which tells of the long journey of the wise men to worship Jesus. In it I asked the question, “Why were the wise men considered wise?” I tried to answer that question by emphasizing their determination and commitment to the long journey that it took for them to find Jesus so that they could worship him. It was not a simple weekend trip for them. It was a long, difficult journey across desert lands and it required considerable time to be able to worship Him as they followed that guiding star. They likely made many sacrifices that we cannot even imagine.

The journey of these wise travelers reminds me often of our creative journey during this pandemic we and other churches have made in meeting in small gatherings, wearing masks, social distancing while mutual longing to come together and worship! I fully share your frustrations and those of many other pastors and churches of not returning to in-person worship just now.

The conditions to return to in person worship set by the Session have not been met as of yet, (14 consecutive days of a downward cases of infection with less than approximately a 5% positivity rate). The commission established by our Session monitors the rates in multiple counties where our members reside.

Thank you for your continued letters, emails and phone calls of support for what we are able to do now. This has been encouraging to me and to all our church staff.

I close by asking you to go online and read the letter from Patrice Hatley, the Coach and Coordinator of our Presbytery of Tampa Bay. I have provided a [LINK](#) in the online version of this Window Newsletter so you can read her full [letter](#) of her sharing news of the current situation for our sister churches. It is a good state of the church report and Patrice writes it to us as a love letter!

Let us continue on our journey as we follow the star to be able to gather and worship Him!

Your Pastor and Friend,  
Chris Curvin

## **Northwood Food Pantry**

The food pantry is a vital mission of Northwood Presbyterian Church. We help serve the community by distributing bags of food to those families and individuals that come to the church seeking help. This mission is supported by YOU, the congregation, with your donations of non-perishable food items and monetary gifts. With your help, we can continue to support this very worth while mission.

### **Food Pantry items needed:**

Canned Meat  
Pasta Sauce  
Beef Stew  
Chili  
Beef Ravioli  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly  
Tuna  
Soup  
Canned Vegetables  
Canned Fruit





# At-A-Glance

## This Month at Northwood

### January 2021

**Thursday, December 24:**  
7:30 P.M. Online Traditional Service

**Sunday, December 27:**  
9:00 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

**Sunday, January 3:**  
9:00 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

**Saturday, January 10:**  
9:00 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

**Sunday, January 17:**  
9:00 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

**Sunday, January 24:**  
9:00 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service  
10:00 A.M. Discovering Northwood Class

**Sunday, January 31:**  
9:00 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

**Giving envelopes are available for pick-up in the church hallway for those who use them.**

**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  
Rosalie Bradford, Youth and Families  
Laura Garcia, Director of Schools  
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](mailto:communications@northwoodpc.org), or place it in Emily Cantin's box in the church office. The deadline is the 3rd Monday of the month.



# Financial Matters



## 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.

## Pledge Cards for 2021

Thank you for your faithful response to God's call to give freely and wholeheartedly to support the ministry and mission of Northwood Presbyterian Church in 2020. If you have already submitted a pledge card for the coming year, thank you! If you have yet to do so, please do so as soon as possible as pledge cards are available in the Church Office and in the Narthex. Thank you again for all God has done in and through your giving back to Him at Northwood Presbyterian in 2020. We look forward to the work God is preparing for us in 2021.



## Per-Capita Apportionment

Every church shares in the administrative costs of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) through the annual per capita assessment. Northwood's per-capita assessment is \$30.98 per every active member and confirmed youth (communicant member). Please consider paying this administrative cost above and beyond your annual pledge/offering. You can contribute to the per-capita apportionment at any time during the year. To do so just write "per-capita" on the memo line of your check or mark an envelope accordingly. Thank you for your gift.

## Have you considered the benefits of directing your IRA distribution to your church?

A Qualified Charitable Distribution permits annual direct transfers to a qualified charity totaling up to \$100,000 of tax-deferred IRA savings. (Funds that have been distributed from the IRA to the IRA owner and are then contributed to charity don't qualify.) QCDs offer advantages over taking a taxable IRA distribution and then contributing the proceeds of that distribution to a charity. That's because taxable IRA distributions must be included in adjusted gross income. As a result:

- Income taxes on Social Security benefits can increase.
- Adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations on annual charitable deductions can defeat current deduction of the charitable contribution of IRA distribution proceeds (carryovers to a limited number of future taxyears is available).
- AGI limitations trimming itemized deductions can apply.
- Medicare insurance premiums can increase. QCDs avoid those results. These types of distributions have now been made permanent under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016. If you'd like to make a gift to Northwood in this way, please speak to Chris Hurst in the church office.

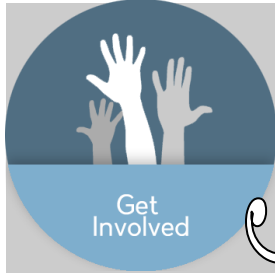
## 2020 Contributions

Giving intended for 2020 must be received in the church office by noon on Thursday, December 31 or postmarked no later than December 31, 2020. Contributions which are processed electronically through your bank's online bill pay or via our website must be initiated much earlier (probably no later than December 26) so that the transaction will fully process and qualify for deduction in 2020.

## Special \$300 Tax Deduction

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, includes a temporary special \$300 deduction designed for people who choose to take the standard deduction. This deduction lowers both adjusted gross income and taxable income for those making donations to organizations like Northwood and translates into tax savings for the donor. Be sure to consult your tax preparer to see how this new deduction might benefit you.





# Around Northwood

## Beth-El Drop-n-Drive UPDATE

On Saturday, December 12th, Northwood's Mission and Outreach Committee members held a "drop and drive" event at the church for the annual Beth-El Angel Tree project. The response from Northwood's congregation was overwhelming as the "sleighs" that came through the parking lot were loaded with paper goods, diapers, wipes, canned goods, socks, jackets, and more than \$600.00 in gift cards and monetary donations. Thank you Northwood members for your continued generosity!!!



## One Service Christmas Eve – 7:30 Livestreaming Only

Northwood will offer one Thursday evening, Christmas Eve Service which will be live streamed at 7:30 PM on the church's website and Facebook page. Pre-service music by the children will begin at 7:20 PM. Large gatherings and in-person worship continues to be suspended until further notice to protect our most vulnerable members and their families during the current high rate of transmission of COVID-19. Please join us for our many virtual programs.

## Garage Sale Postponed

Seeking to plan and offer large events with numerous volunteers needed continues to be a challenge in the current virus climate so we have decided to postpone the garage sale for a later date in 2021. Please save your stuff!! Thank

## Annual Report Deadline

Annual Report deadline to the Session, Committees, Pastors & Staff is Wednesday, January 6th by noon. Please submit your electronic copy to [communications@northwoodpc.org](mailto:communications@northwoodpc.org). There are copies of last year's annual report in the church office if needed. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thanks!

## Prayer Chain Ministry

The Prayer Chain is a vital ministry that uses the power of multiple people praying at once for the urgent needs of the body here at Northwood Presbyterian Church.

If you have a prayer request you would like lifted up through our prayer chain ministry, you can submit it through our website at <http://northwoodpc.org/resources/prayer-request/>. Prayer requests may also be given to the church office or Deacon, Sue Miskiewicz at 727-799-6767 or [susan.Miskiewicz@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.Miskiewicz@yahoo.com)

## Cedarkirk Women's Retreat—Feb. 19-21



Come join the women of Northwood for an amazing weekend of fellowship at our annual retreat at Cedarkirk. We're happy to announce that Debra Musgrave Cox will be our speaker! Debra will lead us in examining the idea of "Something Beautiful" by enjoyment of creation, relationships and restoration of our spirits. Registration is now open and forms are available in the church office or by email. Payment may be made online or by dropping off a check at the office (please earmark NPC WR). Cancellations due to COVID will be fully refundable.

# Caring for Our Church Family

## NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

### Bridging Freedom

Thank you so much for your donation of \$82. The blessings of your continued support is immeasurable and we're so grateful to you! God Bless You!

### Thornwell

Thank you for your contribution of \$250.00. Because of your kindness, we can provide safe homes for neglected children, family support and in-home therapy for families, education for students working toward graduation, and so much more! Thank You!! Sincerely, The Rev. Elliot M. Smith

### Bay Area Pregnancy Center

You are truly making a difference in our community! We so appreciate the gift of handmade masks during your drive through event. You continue to help with our food pantry and have extended an invitation to yours when needed. Your monthly support is such a blessing and has helped serve over 900 mothers and their families. Marsha Rimer, Executive Director

### Beth-El

You have been an open door of hope to many families in our community whose lives have been turned upside down by this pandemic. It is because of your gift of \$1000 that we are able to be the answer of hope to many families in our community. Teresita Matos-Post, Exec. Director

### Clearwater Free Clinic

On behalf of the Clearwater Free Clinic and the patients we serve, I want to sincerely thank you for your generous donation of \$250 supporting our mission. Because of your kindness, more families will have access to critical health care. You have made a difference in their lives! Jeannie Shapiro, CEO

### Prayers and Christian sympathies to:

- Loisanne Bilka and family upon the news of the death of her husband Bill Bilka on December 4.
- Toby Shugart and family upon the news of the death of Toby's grandson Chase Shugart on December 11th.

### Thank You!

The Northwood Food Pantry extends a huge "Thank You" to the scouts for their enormous donation of food during these challenging times as so many families in our own community are going hungry. This collection of food will provide meals to so many people during this season of giving. Thank you again for helping those that are less fortunate.

## Memorial Gifts

### In Memory of:

Nancy Johnson  
Pat Cheek  
Nancy Johnson  
Nancy Johnson  
John George  
Jan Hewlett  
Bill Bilka  
Bill Bilka  
Bill Blika

### Given by:

Art & Jeanette Holloway  
Art & Jeanette Holloway  
Marilyn Bulkema  
Darrough & Linda Diamond  
Janet George  
Janet Till  
Harry & Lyla Healey  
Tracy Schoppe  
Art & Jeanette Holloway

### Prayer Ministry

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

### Prayer, Joys and Concerns

Each Sunday we will be worshipping online at both 9:00 & 11:00am. The Ignite contemporary service has a time of "prayers, joys and concerns" where people individually offer prayer requests. If you have "prayers, joys or concerns" that you would like lifted up at the 9:00am 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.

### Congratulats to

### Kathleen O'Leary and Andrew Gorodetsky

on their wedding which was held on Saturday, December 19 at the historic 1910 Bed and Breakfast Inn in Tarpon Springs. The marriage ceremony, officiated by Pastor Paul, was held outside under a beautiful, blue Florida sky as family and friends gathered to celebrate the love God has gifted to this wonderful couple. We pray God's grace and blessings upon this precious couple.



# Christian Education

## Virtual Brown Bag Bible Study on Livestream and Facebook Live

This study meets on Thursdays at noon through livestream and Facebook live. There will be NO Brown Bag study Thursday, December 24 and the following Thursday, December 31 in observance of Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. We will resume Thursday, January 7th as Pastor Paul concludes the study using Timothy Keller's book, *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ*. Beginning January 14th, we will begin a study of the New Testament letter written by the apostle Paul to the Galatians. Join us as we study God's word seeking by God's grace to grow in faith, hope and love.

## 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](mailto:vickilee33@aol.com) and she will send you the meeting details each week.

## Wednesday Bible Study

A study of the Book of Matthew meets 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 [lucindy1@aol.com](mailto:lucindy1@aol.com) and she will forward you the Zoom link. All are welcome!

## Fresh Brewed

Fresh Brewed will meet on the first Friday of every month at 10:30am via Zoom. The next time we meet will be February 5th. The book we are using is "Deeply Rooted; Knowing Self, Growing in God" by Christopher Marcie. Please contact Louise Mylin for a Zoom code and if you have any questions (727) 787-9868.

## Presbyterian Women

### Next Livestreaming is Jan 7th—11:00am



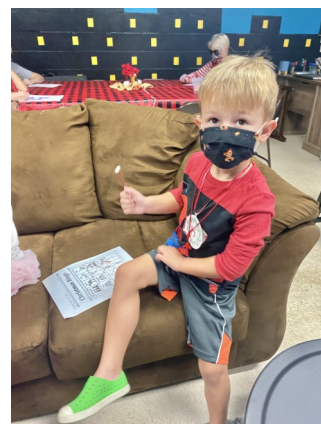
The Presbyterian Women study, *"Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayer and Lament"* by P. Lynn Miller, is a 9-month study on reclaiming the practice of lament. Study books are available. The study is available through livestreaming on the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 AM and will be led by Pastor Curvin. If you'd like more information or have any questions, please contact Patty Martin at [bill.martin2@verizon.net](mailto:bill.martin2@verizon.net).

## Children's Ministry



Thank you to everyone that participated in our Drop n Shop Event! We had so much fun playing Christmas games, learning about God and spending time in nature. We are currently offering children's handbells every Tuesday from 4:20 pm - 5:00 pm in the sanctuary with Miss Stephanie (mask required). If you are on Facebook, please join our Children's Ministry Facebook where we post devotions, updates and lessons for your little ones! As we navigate Children's Ministry in the time of COVID, we plan to into the new year with some more blended outdoor children events and hope to get King's Kids running again in a safe fashion. Please reach out to us, we miss you and would love to hear from you!

-Rosalie Bradford, Director of Youth & Families, & on behalf of the Christian Education Committee



Follow us  
@CitylightNPC

## What's Going on in Citylight

Goodbye, 2020! We are headed into the new year...Though 2020 didn't pan out the way we initially imagined it would, Citylight has made the best of it. Citylight has continued to stay active and offer a blend of virtual and in-person youth programs! We currently have 4 programs a week: Young Men & Women's Bible Studies, Sunday School and Youth Group Outdoors on Wednesdays. We have also done some outdoor movie nights, mission trips to Metropolitan Ministries, small group beach days, park hangouts, slip n slide kickball, game/sporting events and kayaking days. We had a great time hosting Drop n Shop, serving at Metropolitan Ministries and enjoying our Youth & Families Christmas Party. Thank you to all that came out!

We started our new College Group in September via Zoom and had our first in-person event during Christmas Break! We have so many high school graduates this year and we 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 navigate through this new adventure in this unexpected way.

We will be taking a small group of students to Cedarkirk from Sunday afternoon March 14th to Wednesday evening March 17th. We are having a Mini-Mission at Cedarkirk the week of Spring Break! Our Mini Mission will be filled with a variety of mission projects at Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry like working in the food pantry, working outside on light construction projects, gardening and other various facility projects. At Cedarkirk there will be classic camp activities, group building activities, Bible studies and sessions on social justice. There are only a few spots left. The sign up is available in the Youth & Families Email.

As COVID cases continue to rise, Citylight is doing its best to keep our community safe. Please continue to follow our Safe Citylight Guidelines that are in our Weekly Emails and on our social media pages. Though socially distant, 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. 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.

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way." - 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Rosalie Bradford,  
Director of Youth & Family Ministries

