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

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Sent with Prayer to...

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.

Food Pantry items needed:

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



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Northwood Presbyterian Church



The Window

Chartering Organization of Boy Scout Troop 413

February 2021
Volume 31, No. 2

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

Kirkin' o' the Tartan

Northwood Presbyterian Church
Sunday, February 21, 2021
Livestreamed

Kirkin' o'the Tartans will be celebrated again this year on the third Sunday in February. This, now annual tradition here, will feature music for the bagpipes and representative tartans of Scottish clans as well as hymns and music of our Scottish heritage.

The service, although a modern invention, reminds us that in 1745, Scottish clansmen were forbidden by the British Crown to wear the tartan, and to play the bagpipes, and to acknowledge in any way their traditional clans. This prompted the stubborn Scots to secretly carry with them a piece of their tartans in their pockets as they went to church (kirk). On an appointed Sunday, the minister would slip into the service a blessing or "kirkin" for the tartans and clans which the tartans represented.

Our Kirkin' will be a celebration of the Scottish reformers as well as all those who have gone before us in the faith.

At-A-Glance

This Month at Northwood

February 2021

Sunday, February 7:
9:00 A.M. Online IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

Sunday, February 14:
Scout Sunday
9:00 A.M. Online IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

Friday-Sunday, February 19-21:
Cedarkirk Women's Retreat

Sunday, February 21:
Kirkin' o'the Tartan
9:00 A.M. Online IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

Sunday, February 28:
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

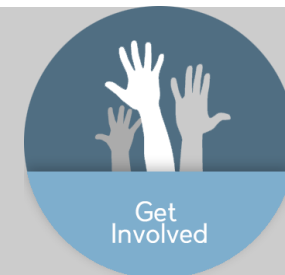
Published monthly by Northwood Presbyterian Church
Edited by Emily Cantin

Submissions:

If you have information that you would like to be considered for the newsletter, e-mail communications@northwoodpc.org, or place it in Emily Cantin's box in the church office. The deadline is the 3rd Monday of the month.



Around Northwood



Pledge Cards and Recurring Online Transactions

Since the pandemic, many more of you are using the church's online portal to process your giving. We are thankful for this technology, your willingness to use it and your faithfulness in giving. Relative to that, several people have called the church office to ask if they still needed to complete a pledge card if they already had a recurring gift set up online. The answer is "Yes!" Pledge cards guide the creation of the church budget and the physical card is documentation, if you will, of your prayerful commitment and financial response to God for the year. If you need a pledge card, you may call the church office to have one mailed to you or you are welcome to stop by the church to pick one up. If you aren't using online giving and you are interested, you'll find a giving link on our website's home page or you can text NPCHURCH to 73256 on your smartphone for the link.

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.

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.

Scout Sunday-February 14th

Did you know that your church hosts close to 150 scouts and their families involved in scouting, as a part of Northwood's commitment to our community?

On Sunday, February 14th Northwood will celebrate Scouting in a minute for mission and have 2-3 scouts participate in the live streaming of our 9:00 and 11:00 AM worship services. We invite all the scouts to watch us on either Northwood's website www.northwoodpc.org or facebook page www.facebook.com/npc.clearwater. We look forward to Scout Sunday next year, (after the pandemic!), in hopes of seeing all our scouts in full uniform and return to our tradition of a scrumptious pancake breakfast! We hope you will "tune in" to live streaming on Sunday, February 14th, as we lift up before God in worship the impact of scouting in our community.

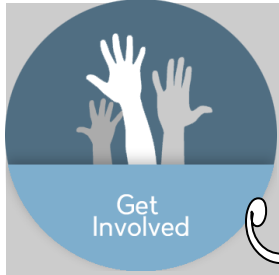


Annual Congregational Meeting to be Rescheduled

The Session has postponed the January 31st Annual Meeting of the Congregation, (which was set to take place automatically annually on the last Sunday in January by our Church By-Laws), and will reschedule it in the near future utilizing a computer online platform for video conferencing. The new date and information on how to attend and vote online will be provided for members of Northwood well in advance of the rescheduled meeting. The business of the meeting will be limited to electing new officers, (elders and deacons), and to vote on the *Terms of Call* for our pastors as required by The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

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

Kids' Corner Preschool & Northwood Child Care

Covid-19 has been an odd time for all preschool centers but Kids' Corner Preschool & Northwood Child Care are doing well. We are starting to get registration ready for next year already.

I was hired as Director in October and have worked in childcare all my adult life. I have hired 2 new staff members, one two-year-old teacher and the other for afterschool care with Carissa who stepped down from being the two-year-old teacher because of school commitments.

The teachers have started a fundraising program called Artsonia. This program is the world's largest collection of student art published by teachers and students from around the world. Parents and families can view the art online, leave comments and order keepsakes featuring the artwork of which we get a percentage.

I have been blessed with a wonderful staff including new hires in the past few months. I love to hear the laughing and happiness that comes from every classroom.

Laura Garcia,
Director



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



Northwood Photo Group

The Photo Group has been meeting remotely on the second Tuesday of every month via Zoom since the pandemic, and will have its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00pm. If you are interested in "attending" our monthly discussion on photography, please contact david@primeimagesinc.com or curtis.krueger@gmail.com and we'll send you the Zoom link for the meeting.

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 you! Stephanie Carson and Susan Curry



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

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of:

Bill Bilka
Bill Bilka
Bill Bilka
Bill Bilka
Ted Holcomb
Joe Zeigler
Bill Bilka
Betty Beattie
Bill Bilka
Bill Bilka
Brian McNay
Bill Bilka
Nancy Johnson
Bill Bilka

Given by:

David & Suzanne Hamilton
Les Cook
Gorman Family
Phyllis, Sharon & Charles Bates
Jack & Claudia Alwood
Bill & Patty Martin
Bill & Patty Martin
Bill & Patty Martin
Suzanne Gilmore
Gulf Beaches Presb. Church
Terrance & Wilai McNay
Barbara Moler
Mary Ellen Zeigler
Mary Ellen Zeigler

In Honor of:

Susan Curry
Kathleen & Andrew
Gorodetsky

Given by:

David & Suzanne Hamilton
Mike & Linda O'Leary

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

HEP

On behalf of the HEP staff and Board of Directors, we graciously acknowledge your generous quarterly gift of \$250 in support of HEP programs. Your donation will help change the lives of the homeless and very low-income individuals and families who turn to HEP for assistance throughout the year.

Best Regards, Ashley Lowery

Foundation for International Missions

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250 given in support of our mission at the New Hope Clinic in rural Honduras. This is a generous and thoughtful way to support this mission which depends on all of us for its continuation.

Sincerely, Frances M. Mikuta

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 \$525 that we are able to be the answer of hope to many families in our community. Teresita Matos-Post, Exec. Director

RCS

Thank you for your gift of \$1,250.00 to benefit the Hope Mission of Hope Villages of America, formerly RCS Pinellas. Because of you, we can continue providing hope restoration with dignity to those in need through innovative programs and services. Please extend our appreciation to the entire congregation. 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, Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas & West Pasco counties is able to continue building safe, affordable homes for hard working members of our community. Sincerely, Mike Sutton, President & CEO

Prayers and Christian sympathies to:

- Jody Beattie and family upon the news of the death of her mother Betty Beattie on December 19.
- Mary Ellen Zeigler and family upon the news of the death of her husband Joe Zeigler on December 26.
- Kay Rath and family upon the news of the death of her husband Bob Rath on January 6.
- Matt Ruley (former church employee) and family upon the news of the death of his wife Suzanne Ruley on Jan. 14.
- Mary Bunch upon the news of the death of her sister Roseanne White on January 6.

Prayer Ministry

Bill Allen, Ken Andreassen, Carol Anderson, Julie Bryant, Bonnie Beyer, Virginia Cromwell, Darrough Diamond, Linda Diamond, Don Drummond, Sue GaVette, Shirley Gleason, 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 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.

Christian Education

Virtual Brown Bag Bible Study on Livestream and Facebook Live

This study meets on Thursdays at noon through livestream and Facebook live. On January 14th, we began 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 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 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 Feb 4th—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.

PW News: Life Membership Award



Women of today have a voice in the P.C.(USA) but it was not always so. Two hundred years ago women had no role outside the home. But despite the restrictions, Presbyterian Women gained respect through their support of missionaries in the field. Their concerns were expressed with practical donations that were sorely needed and appreciated. First viewed as a Missionary Society in the turbulent 19th and early 20th centuries, they emerged as leaders and took their places of leadership alongside the men and our denomination is stronger for it.

The national organization of Presbyterian Women recognizes those who embody the qualities expressed in the PW Purpose with the awarding of a Lifetime Membership. In the past this has been conferred upon one or two persons [at Northwood Presbyterian]. However, since 2020 has been such an unusually challenging time, the committee chooses to honor, not one or two, but many for their voluntary service to Northwood and the community. It is done quietly, often behind the scenes without recognition or praise. They are the "Unsung Heroines" we honor today.

These women have worked in our office, cooked and delivered countless meals, volunteered in our schools, readied the sanctuary, managed our food pantry, cleaned the kitchen and sanctuary, chaperoned our youth and children, served as elders and deacons, worked as ushers and greeters, led Bible studies, chaired committees, folded and stuffed our publications, participated in choirs and handbell groups, collected for and ministered to the needy, etc.

Their innumerable hours in keeping our church a vibrant and beautiful place, especially during the pandemic, often go unnoticed and unpraised. Yet without each "heroine" there would be no Northwood as we all know and love it. These volunteers contribute both individually and collectively, and do their work quietly and wholly for the Glory of God.

Presbyterian Women are proud to recognize and celebrate these Unsung Heroines who are truly role models to be emulated.



Follow us
@CitylightNPC

What's Going on in Citylight

Hello February! We have almost hit our "Covid-Anniversary." We never thought that we would be in the midst of this pandemic for an entire year and then some. However, here we are. We are fortunate to have a safe and healthy youth group that has continued to adapt and overcome the challenges brought to us by Covid-19. 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, game and sporting events. We had a great time during the holidays hosting Drop n Shop, serving at Metropolitan Ministries and enjoying our Youth & Families Christmas Party. We took a special event break during January to help slow the spread of Covid-19 post holiday season and plan the remainder of 2021!

For February, in addition to our normal schedule, we will celebrate our 2nd annual "Galentine's Day". Our Citylight young women are invited to come together Friday afternoon, February 12th, from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Philippe Park, Shelter #7. Please bring an individually prepared snack or dessert to share and invite a friend! The sign up is in our weekly email. If you would like to help decorate and set up, send me a message! We will also be preparing for our Spring Break Mission, read below for details regarding our introductory meeting. We are collecting canned food for Beth-El for all of February—up to our mission trip. Please bring non-perishable items to the youth group with you so that we can bring them on our mission trip!

Our college group meets via Zoom for now, with in person opportunities every break. We plan to get together this summer a few times for mission and fellowship. 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. 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. Sign up is closed. **We will have an introductory meeting for all attendees Sunday afternoon, February 28th, from 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm inside of the youth room, mask required. Please bring a parent to sign all required forms.**

Plans are in the making for a Summer 2021 Mission Trip that will be unlike any others. It will be a local based mission week and will not require an overnight stay. We are having a "Backyard Mission Trip." Each day we will take part in a mission opportunity in partnership with local organizations. Missions will include outdoor service work, food pantry work, ministry to the elderly, food to the homeless and much more! We will spend our mornings to early afternoons working on a mission project then we will come back to the church for fellowship and faith connection. Stay tuned for more details!

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 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 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