



Northwood Presbyterian Church
2875 State Road 580
Clearwater, FL 33761

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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NORTHWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THE SESSION		
Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Cookie Roffey Louise Mylin Vickie Mills Mike O'Leary Will Parker	Cindy Huffman Dan Jeffre Jackie Koski Earle Lusk Susan Curry	Polly Brown Curtis Krueger Raymond Linville Keith Nadig Bailey Shields
Moderator: Chris Curvin Clerk: Ellen Stoup Treasurer: Lou Weislogel		
THE DEACONS		
Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Kim Blackmore Jay Basinger Eleanor Cicerechi Dennis Rasmussen	June Arnold Lyn Propst Murle Whitten	Claudia Alwood Dan Hyden Faye Mackie Sue Misciewicz

Nominating Committee
NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED Do you know of someone you would like to see serving as Elder or Deacon? The Nominating Committee will accept nominations for Church Officers now through November 9th. Remember to get the person's permission before nominating them. Nomination forms may be returned to the church office. Members of the nominating committee are Jackie Koski, Vicki Krueger, Vickie Mills, Vicki Parker, Ed Puschmann & Nancy Rodewald.

I have the permission of _____
to nominate them for the office of
Elder or Deacon (Please circle one)

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Northwood Presbyterian Church



The Window

Chartering Organization of Boy Scout Troop 413

October 2020
Volume 30, No. 9

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

Dear Members and Friends of Northwood,

All of us are continuing to deal with what are probably the most unusual months of our lives since March and now through the summer. The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season is already one for the record books. On August 24th schools in Pinellas County reopened along with our own Kids' Corner Preschool. Like the local schools are preschool enrollment is way down, (1/3 of what it usually is by this time in September). This continues to be an unprecedented time for everyone.

We are still required to wear face masks in stores and restaurants are limited in dining space. Visiting people in hospitals and rehabilitation centers is still restricted. Those of our church and community who are living in retirement facilities are continuing to deal with being locked down. The returning to normalcy, especially as a church, is taking much longer than we ever imagined. Since the middle of March our church staff and leaders have been consumed with how to adapt. We have tried to communicate every week in what we call a weekly update that is electronically mailed to everyone in our data base. If you are not receiving the weekly updates, which usually come out Thursday or Friday, please contact the church office so you can be added.

As I write these words, I will be meeting tomorrow night, Monday, September 21st, with our Commission for In-Person Worship. They continue to meet and pray and plan for when the risk is minimized for returning to public worship utilizing the best science and procedures. They have developed guidelines for a time in the future when the Session allows us to have 50 or less in worship. The Commission has plans for overflow rooms, if needed, in Rooms 4, 6, 8 and a second overflow space in Rooms 5, 7, 9 so that once we reach 50 people in the sanctuary pews, (socially distanced apart unless from the same household), others may go to these rooms to watch worship on our large screen TV's versus simply being turned away.

I do not know when the time to return to public worship will be, but with the good feedback we have received from the surveys many of you returned, we will be practicing an abundance of caution when we do. The surveys returned noted that the top three areas which are still very important to you are that: (1) the facilities be cleaned and sanitized; (2) That face masks be worn; and (3) Everyone practices social distancing. Even when the time comes that we announce we are beginning public worship again, we will always seek to offer the livestreaming of worship as we do now.

Finally, I am so thankful for your words of encouragement and support to all of us on the church staff. I feel everyday as if you are cheering and encouraging us to persevere and to keep the faith as we press forward and adapt. Your generous giving as a congregation has meant so much to the church in this time of uncertainty. In saying this, however, I need to note that this is the first time in years that I have not used the October newsletter to announce the details of our Stewardship Season. Stewardship begins mid-October and runs through November, November 8th, Dedication Sunday; a time to turn in pledge cards and make your giving plans known to the church for 2021.

We have much to be grateful for as a church. We also have much to do to prepare for returning to public worship and preparing a budget for the coming year.

My prayers, as well as, all those on our church staff go out to you for safety, health, and spiritual blessings. I would look forward to hearing from any of you: chriscurvin@northwoodpc.org

May the Lord be with you,

Chris Curvin

At-A-Glance

**This Month at
Northwood**

October 2020

Sunday, September 27:

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

Sunday, October 4:

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

Sunday, October 11:

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

Sunday, October 18:

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

Sunday, October 25:

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
Rosalie Bradford, Youth and Families
Chris Hurst, Business Administrator
Linda O'Leary, Bookkeeper
Emily Cantin, Director of Communications

Letter From the Pastor	1
At-A-Glance	2
Caring for our Church Family	3
News from the Mission Field	3
Christian Education	4
Children's Ministries	4
Youth Events	5
Around Northwood	6
Kids' Corner Preschool Update	7
Spotlight on Deacons Ministries	8

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



Dear Friends of Northwood,

On Monday, August 24th, on the first day of a new school year, Justine Davis, our Director of Children's Ministry and Schools, informed me that she had a wonderful job offer that she had accepted and that her last day with us would be Friday, September 4th.

The letter I share below from Justine is to both our Northwood church family and to those involved in our School's Ministry, (the Kids' Corner Preschool and Before and After Program). Justine has already shared widely the news of her leaving because of the timing with school just starting back. She sincerely wants you to know of her gratitude and enjoyment in sharing ministry with all of us. The feeling is mutual!

So that you know, we have already secured shared interim leadership for our school programs in two of our gifted and experienced existing teachers, Jody Hanson and Roxane Fineo. Just as we were led to someone like Justine, God will lead us to find a new school director and someone with a heart for our church's children's ministry.

We will miss Justine and her family, but we rejoice for her as she takes this new step of faith in her chosen career path. I invite you to take time to share your own appreciation to her with cards and letters, emails and phone calls during this COVID-19 time in which we are restricted from large gatherings to say goodbye more personally.

E. Chris Curvin
Senior Pastor, Northwood Presbyterian Church

Dear Families,

I have been the Children's Director at Northwood for the past 6 years. I have the honor of running programs such as: Vacation Bible School, King's Kids, children's Sunday School, Worship Prep Class and the famous Easter Egg Hunt. I also coordinated the nursery staff, and in the past, helped in membership and the procession for the Kirkin' O' the Tartan service.

One year ago, I accepted the additional position of Northwood's School Director. I have enjoyed all my positions at the church even during these unprecedented pandemic times. Of course, all of us had to figure out how to navigate the pandemic and the challenges the school faces during these unprecedented times.

I have been given a new job opportunity outside of Northwood that I feel God has led me to accept. It was not an easy decision. I will miss the families and especially the children very much. My last day is Sept 4th, 2020.

It has been a privilege to be a part of Northwood's programs and to be a part of so many children's lives. I am truly thankful for my time as the Children's Director.

In my role as Director of Schools, I want you to know that I am extremely proud of the teachers and counselors for making the decision to return to the Kids' Corner and NCC before and aftercare programs. I want to assure you that your decision to bring your children to Kids' Corner and NCC aftercare is a great choice. The teachers and counselors are amazing and love their jobs teaching your children.

It has been a privilege to be a part of Northwood's excellent programs that are Gold Seal Accredited as well as having the accreditation with NAEYC. I am truly thankful for my time as the Director and the opportunity to work with your family and children.

Blessings,
Justine Davis



Around Northwood

Caring for Our Church Family

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.

Peace and Global Witness Offering

On **October 4th**, we will collect the annual Peacemaking Offering. Eighty per cent of the offering will be divided between Bridging Freedom and Samaritan Village, both organizations fighting against the sex trafficking of women and providing victims safety, healing and hope. The PCUSA will receive 20% of the offering. Let us give generously for Jesus' sake!

Cedarkirk "A Weekend Apart" Retreat

We have postponed the All-Church retreat until next October as we will not be able to have any group activities together. However, Cedarkirk has "A Weekend Apart" as another option for your family! Bring your family to spend a weekend at Cedarkirk. Choose how many nights you want to stay, which building you want to stay in, and then your meal plan (either a la carte from our kitchen, or bring your own!). Your weekend will include a Cedarkirk activity per day, devotions and activities, and access to all outdoor spaces at Cedarkirk like the river, the field, the prayer garden and more! If you would like more details, visit the website at <https://cedarkirk.org/event/a-weekend-apart/>

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.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Beth-El

This summer, through this pandemic, You are a blessing to this community. Your gift of \$250 facilitates our ability to remain resilient and nimble to respond justly, effectively, and compassionately to the specific needs of our neighbors. Thank you for imparting hope through your love and courage!
Teresita Matos-Post, Executive Director

Metropolitan Ministries

Your generous gift of \$5,500 has already been put to work to help those in desperate need. Thank you for keeping Metropolitan Ministries in mind as we fight this pandemic and help hurting families together. With gratitude,
Tim Marks, President & CEO

RCS

I just wanted to send a note thanking you for your donation. It is only with the help of people like you that we are able to fulfill our mission. Thanks again!
Melinda Perry, Chief Operating Officer

Thornwell

Thank you for your donation of \$310 to the Sara Jo Cottage. Your generosity will provide help and healing to hurting families in communities across Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. Your kindness and generosity in helping Thornwell continue to serve children and families in this challenging season is greatly appreciated!

HEP

On behalf of the HEP staff and the 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 homeless and very low-income individuals and families who turn to HEP for assistance throughout the year.
Best Regards, Ashley Lowery, President & CEO

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.

Prayers and Christian sympathies to:

- Elza England and family upon the news of the death of Elza's father, Jim McGordy on August 18.
- The family of Nancy Johnson upon the news of her death on September 8.

Email Scam Alert

You may be aware that some of our members, and even our church staff, have received scam emails, that appear to be from Pastor Chris and others by email. The emails scams of financial help often come in the request for you to purchase gift cards. Our pastors do NOT send these emails. This email scam is also happening to pastors in other churches across the nation at this point. Please know that your pastors and the church staff will never solicit any funds in this manner. Simply forward the message of such a request to the church office so that we can collect them 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. Be aware of scams by email and phone calls!

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.

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.



Follow us
@CitylightNPC

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 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.

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. This month we will meet October 2nd. The new book will be "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.

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.

Presbyterian Women

Oct. 1st at 11:00am



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. This month we will meet on October 1st. Everyone is welcome! If you'd like more information or have any questions, please contact Patty Martin at bill.martin2@verizon.net.



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 the school 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! We currently have 5 virtual programs a week: Young Men & Women's Bible Studies, Sunday School, Virtual Youth Group Lessons on Wednesdays, Virtual Trivia, Game Nights and Virtual Faith Connection Chats. We have also done some small group beach days, park hangouts, slip n slide kickball, game/sporting events and kayaking days!

Going into the new school year, we have adjusted our schedule a little bit to better serve the needs of our youth and families. The Youth and Families Team is working on our Summer 2021 Trips as well as the 2021 Calendar. We are slowly integrating more in person events following our Safe Citylight Guidelines. We hope to resume our in person programming after the fall.

Unfortunately, the 2020 Fall Fusion Youth Retreat has been cancelled, however, we have rescheduled our Challenge to Change Mission Trip to 2021 Spring Break! The Mission trip will be from Sunday Afternoon, March 14th, to Wednesday evening, March 17th. A sign up will be available shortly!

We started our new College Group this past month via Zoom! 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 do, 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.

"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

