



**Northwood Presbyterian Church**  
2875 State Road 580  
Clearwater, FL 33761

**A Stephen Ministry Congregation**

**DO NOT DELAY  
TIME VALUE DATA  
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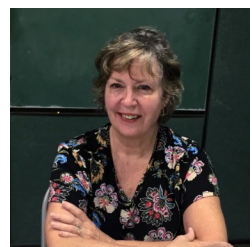


## Welcome New Members!

Please welcome our new members that joined us for our November Discovering Northwood Class!



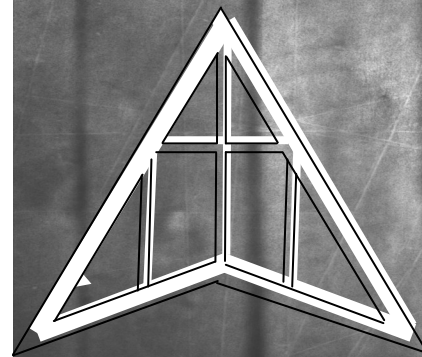
9:00  
Kristen & Rob Bonnier  
(James)  
*Reaffirmation of Faith*



9:00  
Ellen Williamsom  
*Transfer of Letter,  
Christ Presbyterian Church,  
Largo*

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

*Northwood Presbyterian Church*



# The Window

Chartering Organization of Boy Scout Troop 413

December 2020  
Volume 30, No. 11

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)



### Christmas Worship Service Plans



**Thursday, December 24th – 5:00 PM**

5:00 PM Outdoor Christmas Eve Service

(Held on the south side of the campus. A simple outdoor service will be led from the Family Life Center Portico. Bring your own lawn chair, masks and stay 6 feet apart please).

**Thursday, December 24th - 7:30 – LIVESTREAMING ONLY**

**Sunday, December 27th – LIVESTREAMING ONLY**

9:00 Ignite Contemporary and 11:00 AM Traditional

**Sunday, January 3rd - LIVESTREAMING ONLY**

9:00 Ignite Contemporary and 11:00 AM Traditional  
First worship services of 2021 celebrating the Lord's Supper

**OFFERING FOR THE HELPING HAND FUND**

The Helping Hands Fund – The Christmas Eve Offering is received once a year and is used for the Helping Hands Fund. Gifts given to this special fund are used to help those in our community with significant needs who come to our church office during the year. If giving online, look for “helping hands” in the drop down menu when designating your gift. Thank you for making this designated gift anytime in December in the spirit of Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:31-46.



**January 8 & 9**

**8:00 A.M.– 2:00 P.M.**

Our annual Garage Sale to benefit our Music Ministry is still a go at this moment in time. It is scheduled for January 8 and 9, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Our Committee Chairs and a lot of our trusted garage sale workers have weighed in with suggestions on how to set-up the sale in a way that it provides more social distancing space. We have discussed holding some of the sale outdoors. We are also considering one entrance and one exit to the sale. We’ve talked about limiting the number of people allowed in the Family Life Center at any given time. Of course, face masks would be required and we would have hand sanitizing stations available. We continue to discuss ways that will provide a healthy, safe environment for the sale.

In the meantime, your donations and the donations you request from family and friends are so important to the success of the sale. Your generosity amazes us.

As always, we cannot accept older electronics, tvs, entertainment centers or furniture that is not in ‘new’ condition. Everything else is most welcome – clothes, jewelry, furniture, household, linens, toys, fine collectibles, holiday, books, tools, outdoor, etc.

More information on collection dates and times will be provided in December and we will let you know if any of the plans change. We will be able to pick up items upon request.

Please call Susan Curry (Chair) with any questions (727) 709-8237.

# At-A-Glance

## This Month at Northwood

**Sunday, December 6:**  
9:00 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

**Sunday, December 6:**  
2:00-5:00 P.M. Drop & Shop

**Saturday, December 12:**  
10:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.  
Angel Tree Drop n' Drive

**Sunday, December 13:**  
9:00 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

**Sunday, December 20:**  
9:00 A.M. Online IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

**Thursday, December 24:**  
**Christmas Eve Outdoor Service**  
5:00 P.M. Parking Lot Service  
7:30 P.M. Online Traditional Service

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

The church office will be closed December 24 & 25. It will reopen Monday, December 28.

**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.



# Around Northwood



### 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 2021. 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. 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.

### The Christmas Joy Special Offering

Sunday, December 20th, we will receive the annual Christmas Joy Offering. Your gifts make a difference in providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and in opportunities for deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related ethnic colleges and schools. Your generous support of the Christmas Joy Offering will make a difference in shining the One True Light of Christ's love.

### Volunteer Opportunity

Meals on Wheels has received a grant that will allow them to serve all remaining 500 clients on their waiting list through 2020. As a result, Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers who might have a couple of hours each week to help with the tremendous increase in meals that need to be delivered. If you would like to consider volunteering, please contact Pastor Paul at [paul@northwoodpc.org](mailto:paul@northwoodpc.org) or 727-796-8090.

On Sunday, November 1 we celebrated All Saints Sunday. We remembered all those who have lost loved ones and friends that we may, without fear, trust those who are dear to us to God's never-failing love. *The following names are from the membership roll of Northwood—November 1, 2019—October 31, 2020*

Bill Marshall—11/11/19	Nancy Ericson—6/21/20
Fred Drew—12/06/19	Pat Jackson—7/10/20
Sharon Helms—12/14/19	James McGordy—8/18/20
Juanita Hickey—2/23/20	Nancy Johnson—9/08/20
Jane Urban—3/04/20	Don Morrison—9/15/20
Mimi Judd—4/30/20	Phyllis Donnelly—9/20/20
Jane Kaempfer—5/10/20	Don Gutermann—10/20/20



### Member Survey Update

Dear Members,

Following the suspension of in-person worship services in March of this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Session appointed a Commission comprising eight (8) Elders and Pastor Curvin to plan for resuming in-person worship. The Session also approved a set of policy guidelines which would provide the framework within which the planning would take place. The Commission decided to include in its activities a member survey with the objective of keeping our members engaged with the Church and also to encourage your participation and input in the planning process. The Commission prepared a brief survey questionnaire which was circulated electronically on the Church's website with printable copies available online and hard copies available in the September 2020 issue of "The Window." We appreciate so much your participation and responsiveness to this survey which resulted in the receipt of more than 100 responses with very relevant suggestions and comments, many of which are being incorporated in the Commission's planning.

After analysis of these responses, the resulting data indicated that 95% of our members plan to return to church although not all will come at the very start of in-person worship mainly due to health challenges and the unavailability of an effective vaccine. Further, a large majority of our members expressed appreciation and support for the measures which are being put in place to make returning to church as safe as possible. These include mandatory use of face masks, hand sanitizing and social distancing among others.

We appreciate your many expressions of support and encouragement for the Pastors, other Officers and the Church in general, for providing ongoing services such as live streaming of our worship services. We know that many of you are anxious to return to in-person worship with the interaction and fellowship to which we have grown accustomed. We all share that longing and look forward to the time when we can all get together. Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts and concerns with us and in the meantime, let us all be prayerful for one another and for God's guidance in all that we do.

God bless you and your families,

Polly Brown  
(Elder on behalf of the Commission for In-Person Worship)

# Around Northwood



# Caring for Our Church Family

## Lighting the Advent Wreath

Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks prior to Christmas is a great way for us to keep Christ at the center of our Christmas preparations. How would you like to take part in this meaningful Northwood tradition? Here are a couple of ideas:



1. The Worship Team is looking for two or more friends or family members to light the candles of the Advent wreath during each worship service of Advent. You will have the option of attending in person or pre-recording your portion of the service. This year's display will provide for social distancing and masks will be required.

2. Those watching the service by live streaming are encouraged to prepare a wreath at home to light during the appropriate time in worship. Inexpensive wreaths are available from a number of merchants, or better yet, get crafty and make your own! If you are interested in volunteering for option 1, please call Linda Feller at 727-385-5629 (cell) or email her at [bikingringer@gmail.com](mailto:bikingringer@gmail.com).

## Beth-El Angel Tree "Drop & Drive" Event

On Saturday, December 12th, for this year's Angel Tree Outreach, the Mission and Outreach Ministry members will be accepting donations from the list below for the Beth-El farm workers. The Mission and Outreach members will be masked and ready to accept your donations from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the church. All CDC protocols will be in place and there will be no need to exit your vehicle as this will be another "drop and drive" event. Donations can be dropped off at the church prior to this event from 9:00 to 1:00 Monday through Thursday prior to December 12th. If you would prefer to give on line, please follow the prompts and select Beth-El Mission. Thank you Northwood for your continued generosity.

### Beth-El Wish List

Paper towels, Toilet paper, Wipes, Napkins, Long sleeve shirts, Beanies/caps, Bandanas, Head coverings, Fannie packs, Working gloves, Socks, Baby Items such as Diapers sizes 4 & 5 and Baby wipes, Gift Cards \$20.00 or more Wal-Mart, Publix, Wa-Wa, Gas Cards.

## NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

### Thornwell

Thank you for your contribution of \$120.00. 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

### Habitat for Humanity

Thank you for your generous gift of \$320.00 to continue helping families achieve their dream of homeownership. Thanks to donors like you, Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas and West Pasco Counties are able to continue building safe, affordable homes for hard working members of our community. Sincerely, Mike Sutton, President & CEO

### Presbytery Mission Engagement & Support

On behalf of the Mission Agency, thank you for your generous and faithful support of \$250.00. Thank you for your dedication and partnership in furthering God's mission around the world. You are a valued partner.

Yours in Christ, Sy Hughes, Mission Engagement Advisor

### Prayers and Christian sympathies to:

- The Pelham family upon the news of the death of Hallie's mother, Pat Cheek on November 7 and Dave's Father, Henry Frank on November 18.
- Barbara Backus and family upon the news of the death of her mother Althea Bishop on November 5.
- Barbara Jordon upon the news of the death of her brother John Wiggers on November 15.

### Thank You!

The NPC Mission Team and the Beth-El farm workers ministry thank you for your wonderful response of giving blankets and jackets to migrant workers who have recently come to Florida. Through your generous giving 122 blankets, 54 jackets, along with \$475 in donations have been sent to Beth-El. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus in this way!

### 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.

## Memorial Gifts

### In Memory of:

Nancy Johnson  
Edna Bechtold  
Phyllis Donnelly  
Nancy Johnson

### Given by:

Rich & Candy Spoenlein  
Bonnie Kissling  
Nancy Donnelly  
Jane Sutton Book Club

## 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.

## 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.

## 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](http://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.

## Christmas Poinsettias



Do you have someone you'd like to honor or remember with a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas? For just \$9 you can make that happen. You can mail or drop off a check to the church office with a note designating "in honor of" or "in memory of" and their name(s). If you pay on line for the poinsettias, 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 their memory or honor. The deadline for ordering poinsettias is December 13. The poinsettias will be put in the church sanctuary whether we are meeting at the church or if the service is live streamed.

## Carenotes Ministry

Are you struggling to cope with grief or chronic illness? Are you overwhelmed with the challenges of care giving? CareNotes offer strength, help and healing for those who are hurting and provide a wealth of emotional, health, grief and eldercare support and information. CareNotes are also available for teens and children addressing such topics as bullying, social media safety and forgiveness. You will also find greeting cards if needed. These free resources are found in the racks in the narthex. They are supplied by the Deacons and refreshed by Deacon Faye Mackie.

## Drop-n-Shop

Drop-n-Shop gives parents the opportunity to drop their children off at the church for a few hours of fun while they can go get stuff done! Given our new way of living, this event will require a mask at all times and an updated 2019-2020 medical/consent form completed. We will have a blend of safe and socially distant indoor & outdoor activities! It's going to be like a mini day of Vacation Bible School. Kids will be in small groups with an adult counselor and a couple of youth elves! There will be games, craft projects, snack time, and Bible time! To better ensure the safety of our community we are limiting this event to 30 preschool and elementary-aged children and we will have the nursery available for our little ones. The deadline to sign up is December 10th. For more details and sign up, follow the link below that is also located on our social media pages & weekly email updates, or email Rosalie, our Director of Youth & Families at [bradfordrosalic@gmail.com](mailto:bradfordrosalic@gmail.com)



# Christian Education



Follow us @CitylightNPC

## 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 a “prayers, joys or concerns” request 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.

## 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. This month we will meet December 4th. 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 Dec. 3rd—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).



## 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 the study on the major themes of Advent. To guide us in our study, we will be using Timothy Keller's book, *Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ*. Join us as we reflect on what it means to welcome anew the Christ Child into our hearts, and as a result what it means to live as a dearly beloved child of God.



## Welcome Laura Garcia, Schools Director



Laura has been in childcare since she was 17 and still in high school. She is both well known for her love for children and early childhood education and her support and nurturing of teachers. She began as a teacher of 2 year-olds and then started a family daycare out of her home. She has served as Assistant Director of Ivy Prep, where she also went to school, and her career continued directing non-profit schools. She has led schools in St. Petersburg at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Grace Lutheran Church, as well as Operation Par in Pinellas Park most recently. Laura is glad to be with us as our Director with the Northwood Kids’ Corner family! Welcome Laura! We are glad you are with us!

To learn more about Laura and a full bio, visit our website <http://northwoodpc.org/im-new/staff/>

## What’s Going on in Citylight

We are wrapping up our fall semester and heading into the new year! We have a very unique collection of Citylight experiences from the fall semester and we can admit that this year has not been what we thought it would be. Despite the circumstances, we have managed to form some amazing and unforgettable memories together, have grown in our relationships and in our faith. We are still running our virtual programs: Young Men & Women’s Bible Studies, Sunday School, College Bible Study & Confirmation Bible Study. We have also done some outdoor movie nights, small group beach days, park hangouts, slip n slide kickball, game/sporting events, and kayaking days! October and November were loaded with outdoor youth events like our Youth & Families Park Hangout, Outdoor Movie Night, & Mission Trip to Metropolitan Ministries! We have some opportunities for December as well. We are having an Outdoor Youth & Families Christmas Party, Sunday December 20th at 3:00 pm. See sign up details in our weekly email. NPC is also hosting an outdoor in-person Christmas Eve Worship and we need your help! I am looking for some youth and parents that would like to help set up and take down for our Christmas Eve Service. Please contact me if you would like to help!

As we finish up this fall semester, we are going to transition into normalizing Citynight on Wednesdays again and having some form of a Friday game night/event twice a month, to go along with our virtual schedule. Youth are welcome to come to Outdoor Citynight every Wednesday, from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm. We have adjusted our schedule a little bit to better serve the needs of our youth and families.

We started our new College Group this semester 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 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.

Sign up for our Challenge to Change Mission Trip 2021 during Spring Break! The Mission trip will be from Sunday afternoon March 14th, to Wednesday evening March 17th. The sign up is available in the Youth & Families Email.

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. 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