



Northwood Presbyterian Church
2875 State Road 580
Clearwater, FL 33761

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Sent with Prayer to...

Ring, Sing & Mingle

Sunday, December 12, 2021
at 4:00pm, Sanctuary

All of our handbell choirs will be ringing.
There will be great music, carols & more.

Cookie Reception to follow!

There will be an opportunity
for a freewill offering.

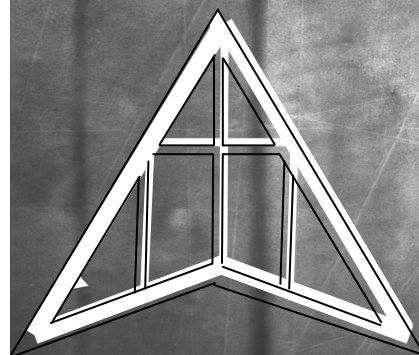
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Cookies for Ring, Sing & Mingle

One of the highlights of the Ring, Sing & Mingle event is all the homemade cookies! If you'd like to volunteer to make something, please bring your baked goods to the kitchen on the morning or afternoon of December 11th labeled Ring, Sing, Mingle. If you'd like to volunteer to assist with the reception, please email at stephanie@northwoodpc.org

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Northwood Presbyterian Church



The Window

Chartering Organization of Boy Scout Troop 413

December 2021
Volume 31, No. 10

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

How to get involved this Advent Season!



We hope you will join us and invite friends and family to all the special services we have planned!



Sunday, December 12

4:00 PM Ring, Sing & Mingle
Handbell Concert and Carol Sing

Sunday, December 19

One worship Service—10:00 AM Christmas Cantata:
“Canticle of Joy” by Joseph Martin
Choir and Instruments

Friday, December 24th

4:30 PM Family Candlelight Service

7:30 PM Traditional Candlelight Service
with Choirs & Carols

Sunday, December 26

10:00 AM One Morning Worship Service

Sunday, January 2

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service

Beth-El Angel Tree

It's that time of year when we have the opportunity to help our adopted families with Christmas! Again this year, we will have “angels” on our Christmas tree in the narthex starting November 21st so that you can choose a gift to provide for a family in need. This year we are working with families from the Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry. The following Sunday, November 28th there will angels on the tree with general items that are helpful to the farmworker families. All gifts will need to be returned to the church by Thursday, December 2nd.



Poinsettia Orders



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. Place your check designated “Poinsettia” and the completed sign-up form from Sunday's friendship sheet (through December 12) in the giving station or drop off in the church office during regular office hours. If paying online, be sure to send an email to communications@northwoodpc.org with the names of your loved ones and whether it is given in memory or honor.

Lighting the Advent Wreath



Lighting the candles of the Advent wreath is a great way for us to keep Christ at the center of Christmas and for parents to teach their children the true meaning of Christmas. Have you ever had the honor of lighting an Advent candle or reading a short passage during the season of wonder? This is your chance! The Worship Team is looking for volunteers again this year for the four Sundays of Advent as well as Christmas Eve. Please contact Linda Feller at 727-385-5629 or bikingringer@gmail.com to reserve your spot.

At-A-Glance

December 2021

This Month at Northwood

Thursday, November 25:
Office will be closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 28:
1st Sunday of Advent (Hope)
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Sunday, December 5:
2nd Sunday of Advent (Love)
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Sunday, December 12:
3rd Sunday of Advent (Joy)
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service
4:00 P.M. Ring, Sing & Mingle

Sunday, December 19:
4th Sunday of Advent (Peace)
10:00 A.M. One Worship Service
Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 24:
Christmas Eve
4:30 P.M. Contemporary Service
7:30 P.M. Traditional Service

Sunday, December 26:
10:00 A.M. One Worship Service

Sunday, January 2:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. 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
Rosalie Bradford, Youth and Families
Chris Hurst, Business Administrator
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.

Guidelines for In-Person Worship

Wearing a mask for worship remains optional for those who have been vaccinated and the Commission encourages everyone to make an informed decision based upon current guidelines as established by the CDC and the Florida Department of Health. Northwood's in-person worship practices and precautions are also available for review on the church website.

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

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 tax years 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 contact the church office.

The Christmas Joy Special Offering

Sunday, December 19th, 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.

Pledge Cards for 2022

Thank you for your faithful answer 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. Pledge cards are available in the narthex and the church office. Thank you again for all God has done in and through your giving back to Him at Northwood Presbyterian in 2021. We look forward to the work God is preparing for us in 2022.

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.

Special \$300 Tax Deduction for 2021

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, includes a temporary special \$300 deduction (\$600 for married couples filing jointly) 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.

2021 Contributions

Giving intended for 2021 must be received in the church office by noon on Friday, December 31 or postmarked no later than December 31, 2021. 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 24) so that the transaction will fully process and qualify for deduction in 2021.

Around Northwood



Caring for Our Church Family



Music Ministry's Annual Garage Sale

It does seem like we just did the annual Garage Sale but we really want to get back on track for the sale to take place in January each year.

Our 2022 Garage Sale will take place on January 14 and 15, 2022. Your donations and the donations you request from family and friends are so important to the success of the sale. Your generosity continues to amaze us and the Music Program benefits greatly.

More information will be coming about the drop-off times and pick-up opportunities. We will need larger plastic bags and dry cleaner type wire hangers. We do have plenty of regular size grocery bags.

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, fine collectibles, holiday, books, tools, outdoor, etc.

We also need more help this year as some of our faithful workers will not be able to be with us. Contact Susan Curry (727) 709-8237 or e-mail susankcurry@verizon.net if you can help or if you have any questions.

Thank you, Stephanie Carson (Director of Music Ministries), Susan Curry (Chair)

On Sunday, November 7th 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, 2020—October 31, 2021

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pat Cheek—11/07/20 | Joe Shore—06/04/21 |
| Bill Bilka—12/04/20 | Alice Russell—06/06/21 |
| Betty Beattie—12/19/20 | Prescott Seckel—06/08/21 |
| Joe Zeigler—12/26/20 | David Glaser—06/20/21 |
| Bob Rath—01/06/21 | Stephen Lawrence—07/01/21 |
| Glenna Stevens—02/20/21 | Mark O'Leary—08/06/21 |
| Becky Walker Sharp 02/23/21 | Virginia Cromwell—08/09/21 |
| Lyn Heider—03/21/21 | Roy Jackson—08/11/21 |
| Charlotte McQuown—03/29/21 | Dick Casper—08/29/21 |
| Terry McNay—04/26/21 | Pete Judd—09/09/21 |
| Brad Hanway—06/01/21 | Al Holden—10/06/21 |



The Presbyterian Women, 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 141 blankets, 12 jackets, 7 hats, 3 pillows along with \$190. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus in this way!

Flower Ministry

The flowers that are placed in the sanctuary are assembled into smaller arrangements to be distributed to those in the hospital or in need of encouragement. The congregation is welcome to take one of these vases of flowers if needed. Vases can be picked up in the church office during business hours, Monday-Thursday 8:30-3:00pm. Deacon Murle Whitten faithfully arranges the flowers weekly.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Beth-El

Thank you for shining your light bright in our direction! Your support of \$50 is your way of walking alongside the over 15,000 farmworkers in our area. Your kindness affirms their sacred worth and gives us all hope.

Be well, Teresita Matos-Post, Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity

Thank you for your generous gift of \$640 to continue to help families achieve their dream of homeownership. Thanks to donors like you, we are able to continue building safe, affordable homes for hardworking members of our community.

Sincerely, Mike Sutton, President & CEO

HEP

We would like to personally thank you for the generous gift of personal hygiene items and supplies for our clients. Because of you, HEP is able to continue to provide necessary support services to the rising number of men, women, children and veterans who turn to us for help each day.

Kind Regards, Ashley Lowery, President & CEO

Villa International

Thank you for your very generous donation of \$300. We are so grateful for your support! Thank you for helping us provide a warm "home away from home" for so many international researchers and doctors working to improve health around the world.

Sincerely, Camille Gaffron, Executive Director

Presbyterian Home for Children

Thank you for your ongoing support to help continue to provide a special place of healing and a path of hope at the Presbyterian Home for Children. Thank you for all you do to share the love for at risk and homeless children entrusted to our care.

Blessings, Doug Marshall, President/CEO

Prayer Ministry

Ken Andreassen, Carol Anderson, Julie Bryant, Bonnie Beyer, Darrough Diamond, Linda Diamond, Don Drummond, Sue GaVette, Shirley Gleason, Jeri Heycock, Ethel Holden, Fred & Joanne Inkles, Lloyd Kimball, Joyce Klotz, Mildred Martin, Robin MacLennan, Norman Phillips, David Smith, Gene Snyder, Marge Vander Slik.

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of:

Bill Marshall
Bill Marshall
Joe Shore
Bob Moler
Charlotte McQuown
Virginia Cromwell

Given by:

Eleanor Cicerchi
Dorothy Rivers
June Arnold
Eleanor Cicerchi
Loisanne Bilka
Loisanne Bilka



The Northwood Food Pantry would again like to thank Linda and David Feller for their most generous donation of over 100 cans of ham, chicken, tuna, spam stew and ravioli. The pantry always runs short of canned meats and this donation will truly help fill the many bags of food that are given out during the holiday season. Thank you again for this tremendous contribution!!

The Northwood Food Pantry wishes to thank the scouts for the enormous donation of hundreds of canned goods that they brought to the church this past week. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, these food items will help those that come to the church for help. The recent sermon reminds us that it is better to give than to receive and this outpouring from our scouts shows that giving is well and alive in our own community. Thanks to Spencer Briggs for coordinating this outstanding donation.

Prayers for our Military Families



If you have an immediate family member in the military that you would like added to our prayer list, please contact the church office, 727-796-8090.

Medicine Bottles

If you have medicine bottles you'd like to drop off at the church to be recycled, please be sure that the bottles are prescription medicine bottles, clean and without labels. Please no vitamin bottles.



Blood Drive

December 19th from 9:30am-12:00pm the blood mobile will be located in the Northwood parking lot. All donors will receive a wellness check up including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening.

Women's Retreat-Save the Date!

Cedarkirk Women's retreat will be **March 4-6, 2022!** Any questions, please contact Jeanneestephen@gmail.com



Follow us
@CitylightNPC

Virtual Brown Bag Bible Study on Livestream and Facebook Live

The Brown Bag Bible Study is back and livestreaming. Thursdays at noon, Pastor Paul will continue the study of **The Book of Acts**. This New Testament document is the sequel to the Gospel of Luke, both of which were written by Luke, a Gentile physician. Acts provides us with an invaluable bridge between the four gospels and the 22 New Testament letters. It gives us a window into understanding the early Christian church – the dynamic birth of the church, the intense persecution of the church, the explosive growth of the church and the transformative impact of the Gospel of Jesus Christ on a variety of cultures. The early church in Acts offers inspiration, guidance and examples for us today in being a church and Christians who are faithful to Jesus Christ in the 21st century. Join as we seek to grow in faith, hope and love!



Presbyterian Women



The Presbyterian Women unified circle will meet the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00am in rooms 4-8. This month we will meet December 13. We are studying a 9 month Bible study entitled *What my Grandmothers Taught Me* by Meryll Blair. Chris Curvin will be teaching each lesson via Livestream and our circle will have a follow-up discussion of the lesson. The fourth lesson will be Thursday, December 2nd at 11:00am livestreamed or in-person in the sanctuary. If you'd like a book, or more information regarding the multiple activities that Presbyterian Women engage in, please contact Patty Martin at bill.martin2@verizon.net or Sue Miskiewicz at susan.miskiewicz@yahoo.com.

Experiencing God Class

Experiencing God Class has started! The Experiencing God class offers you a place to connect with other believers in the study of God's word and how it applies to our daily lives. Join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. We will be meeting online using Zoom. Email Vicki Krueger at vickilee33@aol.com for the link and for any technical help or questions.

Fresh Brewed

Fresh Brewed will meet Friday, December 3rd at 10:30am in rooms 5 & 7 of the Christian Education building. The book we are studying is *From Daughters to Disciples* by Lynn Japinga. If you need a book, please contact Marti Huff at marti.huff.np@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please contact Louise Mylin at (727) 787-9868 or LVNM1@hotmail.com.



Children's Sunday School for age 3 to 5th grade is held weekly during the 11:00am church service in classroom 16. We will be learning about young people who served God in the Old and New Testaments. We look forward to working with your children. Please contact the church office or send an email to childrensministry@northwoodpc.org if you have any questions. We hope you will join us on Sundays!

***There will be NO Children's Sunday School on December 19th & 26th

What's Going on in Citylight

Citylight is full of activity, energy and faith formation! We have made it through the fall and are excited for the Christmas season. In November, we continued our "normal" youth and families schedule with 3 programs a week: Sunday School, Youth Group on Wednesdays and Friday Game Night! We offered plenty of mission projects and special events to be a part of like our sunset beach devotion, cooking for Feeding the Fosters, Football Games, Fishing, Friendsgiving, Metropolitan Ministries, a Tampa Bay Lightning Game and our Annual Retreat to Cedarkirk! After adjusting to the school, work and extracurricular activities that the fall brings, we are ready to have some fun during our Christmas break. There are a lot of holiday dates to get excited for and Spring Semester and Summer plans are rolling! Rock the Universe 1/28 - 1/30 Sign up is open in our weekly email; grab your spot today!

Look at the schedule below to check out our upcoming dates.

We are ready for Summer 2022! We are headed to Montreat, NC for the Annual Montreat Youth Conference! Sign up is now open! This conference is open to entering 9th graders through 12th completed as well as college freshman and sophomores. Sign up by contacting Rosalie, \$100 check made out to NPC with memo "Montreat" to lock in your spot. Visit the link below or in our weekly email to learn more about our trip:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QfNPiyVSqNx8WFwgEyNmcnPCZjC2f7RuP6w6CCtoII/edit?usp=sharing>

Our College Group is getting bigger! We welcome our newest graduates and currently have about 10 college students in our group. We have met regularly online and plan to meet quarterly in person. Our college group has been volunteering with our youth program and is invited to join us for our Montreat trip this June! Our Youth and Families team is devoted to providing a space for our young adults to remain connected to their church during and after this new transition in their lives.

Please continue to follow our Safe Citylight Guidelines that are in our Weekly Emails and on our social media pages. Even though life is seeming to feel "normal" again, we need to continue to do our part in keeping our community safe. Please continue to take personal ownership and do your part. 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 ministry, providing ideas, prayers and good spirits. Invite friends, reach out to people you haven't heard from in awhile and remember that you are loved! 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.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." - Matthew 22:37

Rosalie Bradford, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

FALL 2021 DATES

11/22 - METROPOLITAN MIN. VOLUNTEERING AM SHIFT

WINTER 2021 DATES

12/12 - RING SING & MINGLE & CHRISTMAS PARTY

12/18 - 1/4 - CHRISTMAS BREAK

12/22 - METROPOLITAN MINISTRY VOLUNTEERING AM SHIFT

12/29 - CHRISTMAS BREAK LOCK-IN

SPRING 2022 DATES

1/28 - 1/30 - ROCK THE UNIVERSE

2/20 - 4/17 - CONFIRMATION CLASS

2/13 - GALENTINE'S DAY & DUDES DAY

3/13 - 3/16 SPRING BREAK MISSION

4/10 - PALM SUNDAY

4/17 - EASTER SUNDAY

SUMMER 2022 DATES

MONTREAT - 6/4 - 6/11

MUSIC CAMP - 6/12 - 6/17

BACKYARD MISSION - 7/11 - 7/15

YOUTH WEEK - 7/30 - 8/5

