



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

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The Window
Northwood Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

November 16, 2015
Volume 25, No. 10

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



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

9:30 A.M.

The Ignite Service will have a special Christmas music and video presentation called, "Our Coming Savior".

4:00 P.M.

Our annual Christmas Handbell Concert and Carol sing is a festive celebration to get you in the holiday spirit, as well as a great outreach to invite your family and friends.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Our annual Christmas Cantata, "Appalachian Christmas" will be presented in both traditional services. (8:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.)

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 P.M.

A joyous family service with carols and candlelight. The main feature is a new musical production by the children, "An Unplugged Christmas". It also features prelude music of 20 minutes by Northwood's children and youth.

7:30 P.M.

A Festive Carol Service with choirs, bells and instruments with the traditional lighting of the candles and a Christmas message by Pastor Chris Curvin.

11:00 P.M.

Christmas Eve Carol and Communion Service. A quieter more intimate service with a communion meditation by Pastor Chris Curvin and music from various ensembles and soloists.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

10:00 A.M.

A service for the whole church family in the form of a Lessons and Carols Service. This will be our only service this Sunday.

Welcome New Members!

We recognize the following new members of Northwood Presbyterian Church who attended our September and November Discovering Northwood Classes!



Gloria Whitfield



Nancy & Robert Holleman



Don & Polly Hamilton
(Affiliate of Northwood)



Roxie & Bob Swartz



Jane Winne



Robert Walker
(Husband of member, Becky Sharp.)



Gail Rothrock



Sandy & Larry Ingram



Eve Walker



Matt and Julie
McCutcheon



Linda Johnson



Jim Baker



Anna Colon



Glenda Bell-Golec & Tom Golec

At-A-Glance

November 16, 2015

This Month at Northwood

Sunday, November 22:
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Tuesday, November 24:
7:00 P.M. Community Thanksgiving Service at Northwood

Church office will be closed on November 26 & 27 as we give thanks with our families.

Sunday, November 29:
First Sunday of Advent
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Sunday, December 6:
Second Sunday of Advent
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Sunday, December 13:
Third Sunday of Advent
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service
4:00 P.M. Ring, Sing & Mingle

Sunday, December 20:
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Thursday, December 24:
4:30 P.M. Family Service & Pageant
7:30 P.M. Traditional Service
11:00 P.M. Communion Service

Church office closes Noon on December 24th and will reopen on Tuesday, December 29th.

Sunday, December 27:
10:00 A.M. One Service Today

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The Window

Published monthly by Northwood Presbyterian Church
Edited by Tracy Donovan

Submissions:

If you have information that you would like to be considered for the newsletter, e-mail communications@northwoodpc.org, or place it in Tracy Donovan's box in the church office. The deadline is the 2nd Monday of the month.

E-News:

If you are interested in receiving the bi-weekly Monitor via our e-news system, please send an email with your name and request to communications@northwoodpc.org.



Get involved this Christmas Season!



Isaiah's Inn

It's that time of year when we have the opportunity to help Isaiah's Inn with Christmas! On Sunday, November 22nd, we will have "angels" on our Christmas tree in the lobby so that you can choose a gift to provide for a family in need. (Gifts should cost \$15-\$20.) Please make sure you sign out the angel in the church library before taking it home. Gifts should not be wrapped and should be returned to the Christmas tree area by Sunday, December 6th.

Beth-El Angel Tree

Northwood will be supporting the Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry in Hillsborough County again this year. The gift requests will be on multi-colored angels on the Christmas tree starting November 22. Gifts range from \$1.00 up. Please bring unwrapped gifts and place under the tree by December 13th. For information contact Evelyn Towns 727-785-3743.



Do you have someone you would like to honor or remember with a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas? For just \$9, you can do so. Place your check, designated "Poinsettia", and the completed sign-up form from Sunday's friendship sheet (through December 13th) in the offering plate or drop off in the church office during regular office hours.



Lighting the Advent wreath during the weeks prior to Christmas is a great way for us to keep Christ at the center of Christmas, and for parents to teach their children our Christian tradition of preparing for the Christ child.

Would you like to take part in what has become a meaningful Northwood tradition? 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.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call Linda Feller on her cell at (727) 385-5629 or email her at lpf1967@yahoo.com.

Christian Education

Bailey Shields, Christian Education Team Chair

CHILDREN'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Kids & Youth Wanted

Do you play a Musical Instrument? Kids and youth (1st grade through 12th grade), come play your instrument on Christmas Eve...your gift to the Lord! If you have a sacred song to play during our pre-service concert at 4:10 PM, please contact Justine Ruisz.

Drop N' Shop

Parents, December 5, 2015 you can drop your kids off from 9:00-12:00 at the church and then go Christmas shopping or have some much needed

time without the kids. There will be limited space so make sure to sign up early. The cost is \$10.00 a child with a max of

\$30.00 a family. This is for children ages birth - 5th grades. Money collected is going into a Cedarkirk camp scholarship fund for ages 1st grade - 12th grade. Sign up on the children's bulletin board across from the kitchen window.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

8:15 AM Children's Christian Education

3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (15/16 School Year), Room 3.
Join us in the multi-age Sunday School worship class after the Children's Message.

9:30 AM Children's Christian Education

3 Yr. Olds-VPK (15/16 School Year), Room 3.

Kindergarten- 2nd Grades, Room 8

Students will start and stay in their classroom for the Sunday school hour.

3rd- 4th Grades, Room 8

Students are welcome to start in the classroom for Sunday school or they can gather in the beginning of the worship service with the 5th graders. After the Prayers and Concerns, they will join their class in room 8 with Mr. Bill Sutton.

5th Grade, Room 12

Students gather to worship at the beginning of the service with their teachers, in the front Sanctuary rows, closest to the band. After the Prayers of Joys & Concerns, they will move to room 12.

11:00 AM Children's Christian Education

3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (15/16 School Year), Room 3.
Join us in room 3 for a time of worship or you may remain in service with your parents.

9:30 AM Middle & High School Christian Education

Middle and High Sunday School will be in the Youth Room on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays. On the 1st Sunday we will meet in the Ignite service to enjoy worship and communion together.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Serendipity Class- Sundays at 9:30 AM

Will meet in rooms 13 and 15. Led by Bob Meier and Jeanette Hol-loway.

TCI Class- Sundays at 9:30 AM

(Today's Christian Issues)

Will meet in rooms 9 and 11. As always, we will have coffee and cookies.

Experiencing God Class- Sundays at 11:00 AM

Will meet in room 15 led by Vicki Krueger.

Children's Ministry

Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry



Train children in THE RIGHT WAY, and when old, they WILL NOT STRAY. Proverbs 22:6, NIV

King's Kids

We will be taking a break
November 25-January 6, 2016 and will
resume on January 13th.

This is a mid-week program to help build friendships in a Christian environment and strengthen faith, bringing children closer to God. The program includes rotations through Bible lessons, music/choir, guided activities (crafts, organized games) & free playtime. The success of this ministry is based on our volunteer teachers and assistants. We ask parents to volunteer monthly to help sustain this wonderful program held on Wednesdays, 4:00-5:45, for children ages 3 through 5th grade.

Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry
Childrensministry@northwoodpc.org (727)796-8090/ Cell- (727)641-8140

Youth & Young Adults

Troy Harris, Director of Youth & Young Adults

Youth Events

Friday, November 20th

NO GAME NIGHT

Sunday, November 22nd

NO YOUTH GROUP

Friday, November 27th

Game Night 7:00-10:00 pm

Sunday, November 29th

Youth Group 5:00-6:30 pm

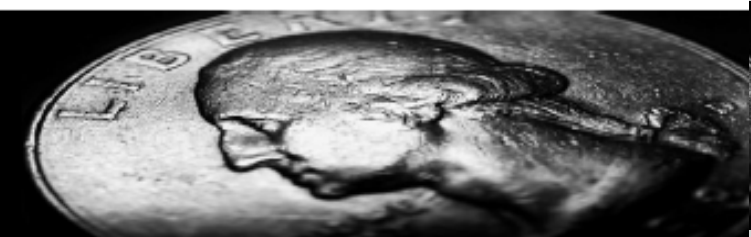
Sunday, December 13th

Youth Christmas Party 6:00-7:30 pm

We will have pizza, drinks and a "White Elephant Gift Exchange". Please bring a wrapped gift of \$5.00 value for the exchange.

Troy Harris, Director of Youth & Young Adults
troyharris1962@yahoo.com, (727)366-7762

Financial Matters



2015 Pledge Giving

If you are behind on your 2015 pledge, please catch up as soon as possible before the end of the year. The operating budget is based on your faithful giving and church expenses do not stop. Thank you for your faithfulness. If you have any ques-

tions about your giving, please call the church office at 796-8090 and speak to Linda O'Leary.

Building Renovation Pledge Update

For the latest update on the Building Renovation Pledge, see the weekly Bulletin!

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 for 2015 is \$25.00 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.

Get Involved

Fun! Friends! Friday! The Ren Crew

The Ren Crew is a group that delights in sharing fun with friends, old and new, on the second Friday of the month (September – May). We gather at the church from 10:30 to 11:30 for presentations and conversations that are entertaining, educational and inspiring. Following the presentation, the group enjoys going to a different restaurant each month.

December 11

Associate Music Director and Organist, Tom Huffman, sharing Christmas Carols through the Ages.

For more information, contact Pastor Paul Means at 727-796-8090 or paul@northwoodpc.org.

Spotlight on Deacons' Ministries

The Deacons' Meal Ministry serves the church by providing meals to those experiencing loss, hardship, or difficult circumstances as well as to families with newborn babies. We are currently in need of volunteers to prepare and deliver an occasional meal. Please consider volunteering in this important ministry. To sign up or learn more about it, please contact:

Sue Miskiewicz at 799-6767 or susan.miskiewicz@yahoo.com

Community Thanksgiving Service



Northwood Presbyterian Church will be the host church for this year's annual Community Thanksgiving Service on November 24 at 7:00pm. Northwood, along with Heritage United Methodist Church, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and North Bay Community Church will gather together for a joyful service of thanksgiving, celebrating God's goodness and grace. Following the service there will be a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Christian Education Building. A nursery will be available for children ages 6 weeks through 2nd Grade. Come join us as we give thanks to Almighty God, celebrating God's goodness and grace.

Ring, Sing & Mingle

Our annual Christmas Handbell concert and Carol Sing is on December 13 at 4:00. This is a festive celebration that will get you in the holiday spirit as well as a great outreach in which to invite your friends. Five bell groups will be playing and many carols and songs will be sung. There is a yummy reception following the event, and this year we are asking you to please help us by contributing some homemade baked goods or appetizers to help feed the many folks who enjoy this fellowship. Please contact our coordinator Bailey Shields (813-514-5772) if you are able to help. Get it on your calendar now!!

Ring, Sing & Mingle



Yard Sale

It's almost here! Our annual Yard Sale will be held January 15 and 16, 2016 and we need your generous donations. Please start saving your items so that this year's sale benefitting the Music Program is the best ever. If you have any questions, please call Carol Rathmell (813) 317-9227 or Susan Curry (727) 709-8237.

Cedarkirk Women's Retreat—January 22-24

Join the women of Northwood for an amazing weekend of fellowship, games, crafts and canoeing. Enjoy the great outdoors while staying in air-conditioned lodges. Info can be found on the bulletin board directly across from the kitchen. Sign up TODAY!

Caring for Our Church Family

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of:

Betty Smith
Betty Smith
Betty Smith
Lora Drummond
Helen Bassett
Helen Bassett

Given by:

Barbara Schlerf
Linda Ciokan
June Colville
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Lansverk
Naomi Circle
Jean Swintek

Prayer Ministry

Ken Andreassen; Burt & Dottie Benziger; Larry Comillaud; Doris Croasmun; Shirley Gleason; Hugh Gott; Howard Green; Fred Inkles; Rees Heycock; Lou Hortobagyi; Kelly Jordan; Jane Kaempfer; Diane Luke; Lois Marsh; Mildred Martin; Robin MacLennan; Curtis McLeod; Helen Meier; Norman Phillips; Marian Rather; David Smith; Charline Snow; Gene Snyder; Lucille Talbot; Al & Ethel Holden; Alice Beck

Please keep the following who are serving in the military in your prayers. Addresses have been included should you wish to send cards of support.

Erik Desilets
342 Birdie Ct.
Alamogordo, NM 88310-7710

Benjamin Cernansky
11311 Pocket Brook Drive
Tampa, FL 33635-1507

Eric Gajentan
2520 Atlantic Palms Lane, Apt. 624
North Charleston, SC 29406

Our Sympathies and Prayers

- Sam and Barbara Musgrave upon the news of the death of Barbara's brother, Bill Crowell.
- Carol Rathmell and her family upon the news of the death of her grandson, Drew Carathanasis.
- Ed Bunch and his family upon the news of the death of his father.



News From the Mission Field

Naomi Circle

The Northwood Presbyterian Food Pantry would like to thank the Naomi Circle for your generous donations of food items. This donation comes at a critical time, as we have already given out over 260 bags of food this year to local low income families that come to the church office seeking help. Thank you again for thinking of those that are less fortunate, as this was a true blessing.

Girl Scout Troop

The Northwood Food Pantry would like to thank our Girl Scout Troop for their generous donation of over 100 cans of food to the Northwood food pantry. This was a wonderful surprise and a great project that will definitely help those in our community that are hungry and come to the church for help.

Blankets for Beth-El

Thank you to Northwood for participating in our Blanket Sunday. Among the generous donations were over 200 blankets, 11 pairs of shoes, 18 suitcases, 2 sets of sheets, 6 t-shirts and one bag of crosses. Thank you for giving to those in need.

For Haiti with Love

We thank our friends at Northwood Presbyterian. You are a vital part of the Lord's work and we so appreciate you.

Clearwater Free Clinic

Your donation of medicine bottles enables the continuation of Clinic services with the availability of medications, medical supplies, equipment and other program costs. We are truly grateful for your support.

RCS

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250 to RCS. Your commitment to helping people right here in Pinellas County is sincerely appreciated. Your gift will be used to feed hungry people, help families facing homelessness return to self-sufficiency and empower the survivors of domestic violence.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Through donations such as yours we are able to assist the local Hispanic farm working community. Thank you for your generous \$250 donation.

Helping People Help Themselves

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors at HEP, we gratefully acknowledge your gift of \$250. Thank you for making our mission possible. Once again, thank you so much for your generosity and friendship. Your caring support of HEP will make a great difference in the lives of thousands of homeless individuals, families, and veterans in our community.

Clearwater Free Clinic

What a pleasure it is to thank you for your donation of \$250 to the Clearwater Free Clinic's Annual Fund. Because of donors like you, the Clinic's doors have remained open for 37 years, and we are able to provide comprehensive medical care to uninsured families of mid and upper-Pinellas County.