

THANK YOU from the Music Ministry

Such a busy season, but a joyful one for me. I am grateful. The bell ringers, the choir singers, the praise band, the children and youth, all preparing music announcing the birth of our Savior. Everyone volunteering of their time, week after week, with joy in their hearts to lift voices in song. Many, many thanks to all of you. Special thanks to Tom Huffman for his leadership and collaboration. To Mark Johnston, who makes things run seamlessly with his technical leadership and team. Special thanks to Linda Feller for being the project manager in the choir room renovation. Her leadership was perfect and we now have a flexible space allowing all cantata members to actually warm up with room for chairs for all. To Melanie Brown and her organization skills with filing and so much more (never-ending). To Tracey Birch for her amazing assistance with the children's music. Volunteers make this ministry possible. What giving people! Looking forward to a blessed musical 2017!

-Stephanie Carson, Director of Music

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by



Steve & Dawn Winder

The Gift of Jesus

Sally Matthews

For Laura & Paul Schofer



Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the "2017 Flower Reservation Chart" on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. Thank you to those providing flowers each week in Honor/In Memory of someone or an anniversary/birthday!

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO....

Sunday, December 25th: Jane Urban, Bob Swartz, Bill Bitner, Bobbi Hunt, Patty Martin, Jesus Christ
Monday, December 26th: Jim Warren
Tuesday, December 27th: Barbara Stone, Sally Uhler
Wednesday, December 28th: Charlotte McQuown, Emma Heycock
Thursday, December 29st: Carolyn Voytko, Joyce Worley, Sarah Worley
Friday, December 30th: Doug Winder, Kaleb Adkisson
Saturday, December 31st: Mark Johnston, Nancy Turner

If you see someone whose birthday is listed and you haven't seen them in church recently, give them a call!

FAITHFULLY SERVING NORTHWOOD CHURCH TODAY

GREETERS:

Scott & Don Morrison
Ed Puschmann

Ushers & Greeters



USHERS:

Louise & Bill Mylin
Dave & Cynthia Lawrence

VAN DRIVER: Jane Winne

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S UPCOMING EVENTS

King's Kids Returns

King's Kids is on a break for the holidays until Wednesday, Jan 25th.

ADULT UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Schedule

Three services (8:15, 9:30 & 11:00) resume on Sunday, January 1. The church office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 26 & 27 and Friday & Monday, December 30 & January 2.

Financial Peace University

Approximately 76% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, regardless of their income. "Broke" has become the new normal in our nation, but this doesn't have to be true for you. Taking control of your money starts with a plan, and *Financial Peace University* is that plan!

Financial Peace University is financial expert Dave Ramsey's nine-week money class. You'll learn practical ways to pay off debt, overcome your fear of budgeting, and create a savings plan to replace retirement worries with financial peace. The class starts **January 15, 2017** at 6:30 and is a nine-week course. The cost \$93 per individual or couple for the materials. We can order as a group or you can get the materials directly from daveramsey.com. Please email Michael Turner at MBTurnerDC@aol.com to sign up or ask any questions. Looking forward to seeing you there in January!!!

Annual Garage Sale

January 13 & 14 8:00 A.M. -2:00 P.M.

We are accepting donations of furniture, jewelry, kitchen items, clothes, shoes, toys, holiday items, tools, collectibles, linens, books and outdoor items. Please no old TVs or large entertainment centers. We would love to have a plant area if anyone out there has a green thumb and would like to donate plants. Plastic bags and hangers are also needed. Please ask your family and neighbors if they have any items they would like to donate.

Our drop-off will begin in Room 14:

- **Saturday, December 31st**, 9:00 A.M.- Noon
- **Sunday, January 1**, 8:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.
- **Monday, January 2 – Saturday, January 7**, 10:00 A.M.– 7:00 P.M.
- **Sunday, January 8**, 8:00 A.M.- 6:00 P.M.
- **Monday, January 9 – Thursday, January 12**, 10:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M.

We will be able to pick up items that you would like to donate by calling Susan Curry (727) 709-8237.

Cedarkirk Women's Retreat – January 20-22

Last chance to join the women of Northwood for an amazing weekend of fellowship, games, crafts, and canoeing, while staying in air-conditioned lodges. Don't miss a great time with some awesome women! You know you want to! Put in your deposit now!

Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck Lunch

January 29th at Noon

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 29th. It's the Annual Congregational Meeting and Church-wide Potluck. The meeting starts at 12:00 pm and the potluck lunch will follow. At the meeting we will hear reports from the Session, the Deacons and their Ministry Teams. We will also be electing new officers, as the Officer Nominating Committee brings its nominations. Look for luncheon sign-up in upcoming bulletins & on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

Welcome To Northwood Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Church

December 25, 2016



Ministers: All Members of the Church

E. Chris Curvin, Pastor
Paul Means, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Mission

Northwood Presbyterian Church

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761
(727) 796-8090 Fax (727) 797-8276
www.northwoodpc.org



Like us on Facebook!
[facebook.com/npc.clearwater](https://www.facebook.com/npc.clearwater)

Order for the Public Worship of God
December 25, 2016
Christmas Day
10:00 AM Worship Service

WE GATHER

*(Let the congregation be silent, and in prayer as the music begins.
Please silence electronic devices.)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNARY “Joy to the World” Joseph M. Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Paul Means, Associate Pastor

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** *(Please complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET”, and pass it toward the center aisle.)*

***CAROL MEDLEY**

#132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

#128 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

#113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

WE CONFESS

CHORAL CALL TO CONFESSION

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Unison)*

Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself, but often we
find it hard to take notice; We are caught up with our own gifts, given
and received. Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your
gift of love. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
(Continue in silence.) ... Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(Responsive)*

One: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

One: God is at work in us even now, bringing Good News to the world
through us.

All: **Let us glorify and praise God for all we have received in Jesus
Christ. Amen.**

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:8-20 (KJV)

ANTHEM “And the Stars Sang” Joseph M. Martin
From *Morning Star*
Michele White, Soprano

OUR MINISTRY WITH THE CHILDREN

*(Children will sit with their families during the entire service as there is no Children’s
Worship today.)*

WE SHARE

CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING “Breath of Heaven” arr. Lloyd Larson
Heather Wood, Clarinet; Robert Wood, Oboe

***DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION** THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

***CAROL #143** “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;
You, who sang creation’s story, now proclaim Messiah’s birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

TWO STORIES FOR CHRISTMAS

“The Secret of the Gifts”

by Paul Flucke
Garry Justice, Storyteller
(all singing the carols, seated)

#144 “In the Bleak Midwinter” CRANHAM

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

#145 “What Child Is This?” GREENSLEEVES

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

#147 “The First Nowell” THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay tending their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

They lookèd up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *(Refrain)*

And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a King was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *(Refrain)*

Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *(Refrain)*

“Trouble at the Inn”

by Dina Donohue
Anna Hamilton, Storyteller

#121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv’n;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

WE UNITE IN PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

***CLOSING CAROL #134** “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Joy to the World” David Cherwien

*(The closing voluntary is the final act of worship. If you must leave before the end of the
service, please respect those who are listening and leave quietly.)*

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
Tom Huffman, Organist and Associate Music Director

**Congregation will stand. If standing is difficult for you, feel free to remain seated.*