



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

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Sent with Prayer to...

Northwood Food Pantry

The Northwood Presbyterian Food Pantry is a mission that is supported totally by monetary gifts and donated non-perishable food from the congregation. Dedicated volunteers purchase food and also fill bags that are then given out to those less fortunate residents who come to the church for help.

The need in our own community is overwhelming. Northwood depends on the generous support from all of us in order to sustain this ever growing demand. Please help us continue this important mission by donating whatever you can and as a caring congregation we together can feed the multitudes as Christ did. Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry and mission of Northwood Presbyterian Church.

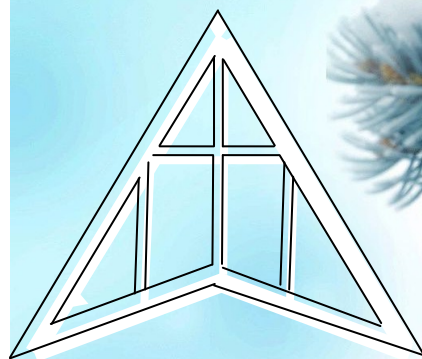
Food Pantry items needed:

Canned Meat, Pasta Sauce, Beef Stew, Chili, Beef Ravioli, Spaghetti Sauce, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Tuna, Soup, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit



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Northwood Presbyterian Church



The Window

Chartering Organization of
 Boy Scout Troop 413

January 2024
 Volume 34, No. 1

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

Music Ministry's Annual Garage Sale 2024

January 11, 12 & 13
8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.



The Music Ministry's Annual Garage Sale is just around the corner - January 11, 12 and 13, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. You are what will make it successful this year. Your generous donations along with those of your family, friends and neighbors amaze us every year and allow the annual miracle (as Pastor Chris calls it) to be so successful.

All donations are welcome – clothes, jewelry, furniture, household, linens, fine collectibles, electronics, holiday, books, tools, outdoor items, etc. Please no older tvs, or entertainment centers.

Collections at the church will begin on December 27, 2023 and continue through January 9, 2024. The hours are 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Special hours can be arranged. Pick-ups can also be arranged. Call Susan Curry (727) 709-8237 or susankcurry@verizon.net if you have questions or need pick-up help.

Cards are available in the narthex to hand out and post in your clubhouses. Your social media is an excellent way to advertise the sale.

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

At-A-Glance

This Month at Northwood

January 2024

Monday, January 1:
Office Closed for New Years Day

Sunday, January 7:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

January 11, 12, & 13:
Garage Sale 8:00am- 2:00pm

Sunday, January 14:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Sunday, January 21:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
10:00 A.M. Discovering Northwood Presentation
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

January 26-28:
Cedarkirk Women's Retreat

Sunday, January 28:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service
Annual Meeting Following the Traditional Service

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The Window

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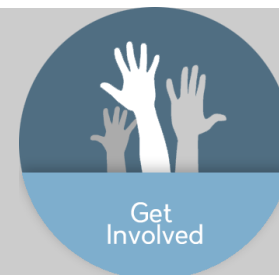
Submissions:

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.

Church Office Hours

We will be open Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 3:00pm. All staff members continue to be available via email or phone regardless of the office schedule.

Around Northwood



Ring Sing & Mingle

Ring, Sing and Mingle is a highlight on the church calendar. Our three talented bell choirs performed with carol singing and an opportunity for audience participation. It was a fun time to mingle with friends and family and play games. There was a photo backdrop added for family photo ops. Many hands are involved in making this event a success. The team is thankful for all who helped. If you missed Ring, Sing and Mingle this year be sure to join us next year.



Staff members are available to answer any questions you might have regarding church related programs.

Chris Curvin, Pastor x2007
Paul Means, Associate Pastor x2006
Stephanie Carson, Music x2009
David Furr, Organist
Rosalie Pareja, Youth and Families x2008
Emily Cantin, Dir. of Communications x2001
Jennifer McManus, Children's Ministry x2002
Mark Fettke, Bookkeeper x2005
Roxane Fineo, Director of Schools x2010



Around Northwood



Annual Report Deadline

Annual Report deadline to the Session, Committees, Pastors & Staff is Monday, January 7th by noon. Please submit your electronic copy to communications@northwoodpc.org. There are copies of last year's annual report in the church office if needed. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thanks!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars for the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28th. The Meeting starts at 12:00 pm in the Sanctuary. 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.

The Project Group

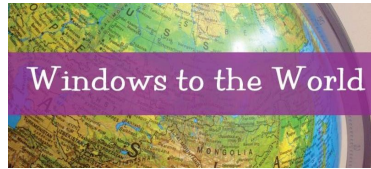
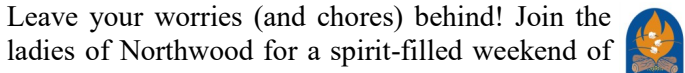
If you sew, knit, crochet or craft with a mission purpose (e.g. make greeting cards), you are invited! The project group meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 10:00am in room 13. We will meet January 22nd. We make little dresses for Haiti, lap robes, walker bags, and stuffed teddy bears. The latter go to the ER at Countryside. New members are always welcome. Contact Marti Huff 727-503-3783 or Evelyn Towns 727-785-3743 with any questions.

Kirkin' O' the Tartan

On February 18th, we will have two exceptional worship services of celebration at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. featuring Dunedin High School Pipers and Drummers. There will be music for the pipe and drum along with hymns and anthems of our Scottish heritage. If you would like the honor of carrying a tartan in procession at one of the services, contact Mickey Stewart at walkeyla@outlook.com or the church office (727)796-8090 communications@northwoodpc.org

Cedarkirk WOMENS Retreat—

Save the Date! January 26-28, 2024
Leave your worries (and chores) behind! Join the ladies of Northwood for a spirit-filled weekend of fellowship, games, crafts and canoeing. You won't want to miss this amazing weekend! Reservation forms are available at the church office.



Fun! Friends! Friday! The Ren Crew

The Ren Crew Friday Fellowship will meet on Friday, January 19th at 10:30 in rooms 11 & 13. We are a group of adventure-some, young at heart adults who enjoy sharing fun with friends, old and new. In keeping with the theme "Windows to the World," Jack and Claudia Alwood will provide the program "HAWAII: You Had Me at Aloha." Following the program, we will enjoy lunch at Bonefish Grill restaurant. All are welcome! Transportation is gladly provided for those needing a ride. Join us and treat yourself to a Friday filled with fun and friends! For more information, you may contact Pastor Paul Means at 727-796- 8090 or paul@northwoodpc.org.

Sing with Composer Lloyd Larson— Rehearsals Begin January 10



On Sunday, March 2, church music composer Lloyd Larson will be presenting a concert with our choir in the afternoon and will be present in each worship service that morning. His resume is impressive. His compositions and arrangements include well over 1,500 published works and he is in great demand as a clinician. He is also an excellent pianist, performer, director and has a heart for church music. We will gain a lot both musically and spiritually as we work with him. **Beginning Wednesday evening, January 10**, the choir will start rehearsing his music in the first part of choir rehearsal, 7-7:40. We would love you to be a part of that and have a large choir for Lloyd Larson to prepare. Please consider joining us and let me know – I will save you a spot!



Northwood Photo Group

Would you like to start taking better pictures, and use photography as a way of exploring God's beauty? Please join us for the regular monthly meeting of the Northwood Photo Group on Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00pm in rooms 5-7. All are invited whether you're a beginner or an expert. If you have any questions, contact curtis.krueger@gmail.com or david@primeimagesinc.com.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Samaritan Village

On behalf of the staff, board of directors and residents at Samaritan Village, thank you for your generous support of our ministry. We are incredibly grateful for your partnership in our mission to help women find freedom from the bondage of sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Danielle Pierson, Executive Director

Bridging Freedom

Thank you so much for your gift of 583.20 to Bridging Freedom! Your support is much appreciated as it has helped us to provide services for the girls to begin their healing journey. Thank you for all that you do! Laura Hamilton, President

HEP (Homeless Empowerment Program)

There are not enough words to express how grateful we are for your recent gift of \$500 to support the critical services we provide to the homeless men, women, children and families in our community. Your dedication to helping people help themselves has had an incredible impact on our community! Ashley Lowery, President & CEO

Grief Recovery and God's Grace

Beginning Wednesday, January 10th and continuing through Wednesday, February 14th, Pastor Paul will lead a six-week educational seminar and support group for persons who are experiencing grief due to the death of a loved one or for those who are facing grief from other types of significant loss in their life. The time of the seminar is from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.. This is not a group therapy program, so while active participation is encouraged, it is not required. For more information, please contact Pastor Paul at 727-796-8090 or paul@northwoodpc.org.



Discovering Northwood Presentation

A Discovering Northwood Presentation will be held Sunday, **January 21st at 10:00am in Room 4** for those wishing to learn more about Northwood and consider church membership. Please know you are welcome to attend if you have been visiting us in person or online in worship.

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of:
Mary Duffey

Given by:
Patty & Bill Martin

Prayer Ministry

Roger Adkisson, Carol Anderson, Julie Bryant, Kenneth Collins, Darrough Diamond, Kay Ferguson, Shirley Gleason, Fred Inkles, Phillip Mackie, Mildred Martin, Robin MacLennan, Norman Phillips, David Smith, Gene Snyder.

Memorial Gifts

If you wish to make a gift to the church in honor or in memory of someone, please be sure to attach the blue Memorial Gift form to your contribution. Completing the form ensures that we have all the information necessary to properly direct the gift and acknowledge it to both you and the recipient. Forms are located near the memorial book in the Narthex or in the Church Office. Thank you for your assistance.

Pledge Cards for 2024

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 2023. If you have already submitted a pledge card for the coming 2024 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 2023. We look forward to the work God is preparing for us in 2024.

Your Giving Matters

For in-person worship, the offering plates will not be passed, however, offering boxes are located in the narthex. For those worshipping online, your giving matters too. Please commit to maintain your regular schedule of giving 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.



Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women, Sisters in Christ, meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month with our next meeting on January 9th at 10:00am in rooms 5 & 7. We are studying *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts*, by Olive Mahabir. Books are available for purchase in the office. The cost is \$5. Please plan to join us! If you have any questions, please contact Patty Martin at bill.martin2@verizon.net or Sue Miskiewicz at susan.miskiewicz@yahoo.com.



The Presbyterian Women Sisters in Christ Circle held their monthly meeting and bible study on December 12. Circle members "filled the trunk" with donated food items for Metropolitan Ministries as their monthly charitable contribution. After the meeting, the ladies enjoyed a pot luck luncheon. Thanks to the Ring, Sing and Mingle committee for allowing us to use their beautiful decorations and also the picture background. We are so blessed.

Fresh Brewed

Fresh Brewed meets on the first Friday of the month with our next meeting on January 5th at 10:30am in rooms 5&7. We are reading the book, *"Prayer, Does It Make a Difference?"* by Phillip Yancey. If you need a book or have any questions, please contact Louise Mylin at LVNMI@hotmail.com or 727-787-9868.

Bible Takeaways

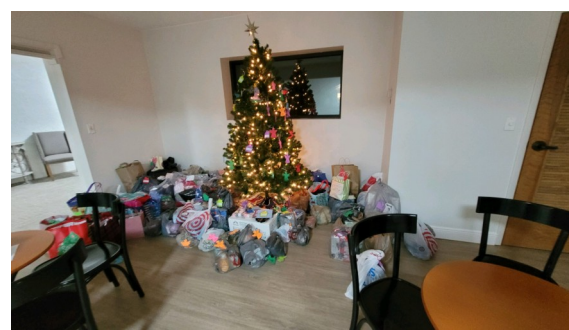
The adult Sunday School/Bible Study will take a break December 17th-31st. We will resume on January 7th at 10:00am in room 5. We will study the healing of the women with the flow of blood and the raising of Jairus' daughter in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and John. All are welcome! Bring your Bible.

Nursery & Sunday School for Children

Infants and toddlers ages 3 and under are provided care in our nursery during the entire Worship Service, and/or if you have children ages 4 years old—5th grade that would like to attend Sunday School, please let Jennifer McManus know, who is serving as our Acting Director of Children's Ministry. You may contact Jennifer at childrensministry@northwoodpc.org or say "hello" to her when you see her on Sunday morning!



Thank you to our Northwood Church Family for all your generous donations through our Angel Tree to support the Homeless Empowerment program and Beth-El.



What's Going on in Citylight

After a wonderful holiday season, we are headed into the new year! From Ring, Sing, and Mingle, our Youth & Families Christmas Party, College Night, Christmas oriented activities at City Night and Game Night, serving at Metropolitan Ministries, and capping it with our Christmas services where some of our youth and college will participate - it's safe to say the Holy Spirit is moving! We are back to our 4 weekly programs: Church, Sunday School, Youth Group on Wednesdays, and Friday Game Night.

Upcoming Events

Rock the Universe January 26-28 - Open to all youth and college students. The cost is \$150 per student which covers dinner on Friday night, a hotel stay for two nights, and a 2-day park pass. Sign up in our weekly email.

Confirmation Class of 2024 - If there are youth grades 7-12 interested in being confirmed, we will have our Confirmation Classes in February and March, followed by a meeting with the church session in March (date TBA). Confirmation Graduation on Palm Sunday will be March 24th during the Contemporary Service followed by a light reception.

Recap of 2023

The year of 2023 was a great year for our student ministry program here at Northwood Presbyterian Church. I am so blessed to have been a part of and to have led this ministry alongside my Youth and Families Team. I wanted to share some of our highlights of 2023 in this newsletter to shout some praises to our wonderful program. Citylight is not only the future of this church, it is a very active and thriving part of the church right now! Our student ministry program has students in over 12 different schools and colleges and our new students in the last year have found NPC through their friends inviting them to Citylight programs. We have created an inclusive, safe, loving, nurturing, and exciting Christian community for youth and families to be a part of.

Spring Break Mission 2023 - Dan Jeffre and I took students to Cedarkirk for 4 days to work on various mission projects at Beth El Farmworkers Ministry. We cooked some of our meals over the fire, went canoeing, and participated in mission minded devotionals every night. This was our 3rd year.

Montreat, Summer of 2023 - The mountains called, and we went! Dan Jeffre, my husband Andy Pareja and I took our group of 16 college and high school students to Montreat Conference Center for their Annual Montreat Youth Conference. This was our second year participating. We had a wonderful time participating in all of the worship events, retreat activities and spending time together in our mountain home. We came back as one big family.

Backyard Mission Week, Summer of 2023 - In relation to the Pandemic in 2020 we decided not to plan an overnight mission week for the summer. We created a "Backyard Mission Week" and it worked so well, we have continued to host it every summer, 4 years running. The 2023 Backyard mission was a week full of mission work at church, Feeding Tampa Bay, Reach Organization, Local First Responders, and MacDill Air Force Base. Everyday we offered a different type of mission, along with team building, fun youth events and prep for VBS! This program works really well because students who normally couldn't take off a whole week are able to attend when they can. This is also a great outreach for our program, bringing in new students every time.

Vacation Bible School, Summer of 2023 - The Youth and I helped host a very successful VBS in July. We helped lead so many fun activities, games, crafts, and programs. We had a great team and are very thankful for our adult volunteers and leaders that helped make this happen.

All Church Retreat, Fall of 2023 - We returned to Cedarkirk for our Annual All Church Retreat for the 2nd year. My husband and I brought middle school, high school and college students to attend individually alongside church members. We participated in camp activities and even helped lead worship with Rev. Jack Alwood on Sunday. There was an amazing energy that came from our weekend that we carried into the holidays.

Aside from programs, mission work and events, my personal favorite part of the job has been relational ministry. Building relationships with our youth and families is such an important part of this ministry. The programs, events, mission work and relationships that have been built on our faith foundation is what makes this program thrive. When my time at NPC began, I came in with a mission to "Connect children, youth and families with one another to grow in faith and express God through their spiritual gifts, thriving in the community." I can confidently say that I feel our mission is being played out. I thank you all for being a part of and supporting this ministry.



With Grace and Gratitude,
Rosalie Pareja, Director of Youth & Family Ministries