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Kids' Corner Preschool & Before/After School Care Program

The 2025-2026 school year officially began on August 11th, with our Before/After School Care Program ready for the opening of public schools. Brianna Naples has returned and assumed the role of Head Counselor. She is joined by Brianna Alli, Ari Valenzuela-Garcia, and Chelsea French. Our Before/After School Care Program continues to provide a safe and valuable service to the working parents in our community.



The preschool opened on August 18th with an enrollment of 33 children. We welcomed back our staff of dedicated teachers, along with Barbara Plock, who will be assisting in our Toddler class. Based on our students' assessment scores from last year, Kids' Corner's VPK Program was designated "Excellent" by the State of Florida. We are looking forward to a safe and fun-filled year of learning and play!



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Organized February 19, 1978



The Window

Chartering Organization of
Boy Scout Troop 413

September 2025
Volume 35, No. 7

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



Chancel Choir Starts Back!

We are excited to have our traditional Chancel Choir back this fall! If you have gifts of singing or have ever wanted to try singing in the choir, we welcome you. We sing all styles, both easy and challenging, all to the glory of God! We rehearse every Wednesday starting at 7:00pm.

Our first rehearsal will be Wednesday, August 27th and we will meet at 6:15 for our annual Strawberries & Cream Reception and will begin singing at 7pm. We meet in the Choir loft in the sanctuary.

We would love to see some new faces in our choir. Singing is good for your soul. Come belong to a community within our small group and make friends with the same purpose and goals while singing praises to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Carson at Stephanie@northwoodpc.org.

Handbell Ringers Needed

As we are looking to start back up with rehearsals, we have a number of ringer spots to fill. If you read music, we can plug you into either our intermediate or advanced bell groups. It is rewarding and a lot of fun! We rehearse on Sundays at 10:00 AM (between services) or 12:15 PM (after the 11:00 service). Please call Stephanie Carson 727-458-9749. Come and join our bell families!

Save the Dates!

Ring, Sing & Mingle- Our annual Christmas Handbell Concert, Carol Sing and Reception, December 7th at 4:00pm.

Christmas Cantata- One Worship Service, December 14th at 10:00am

Composer Weekend—Sunday, March 22, 2026 Northwood choir will participate in a Composer Weekend with Joseph Martin. We are very excited that composer Joseph Martin will be joining us in 2026 for our Composer Weekend. Ten years ago, in 2016, he was the first composer to work with our Chancel Choir and give a concert. It is fitting that 10 years later he returns. He is not only in demand as a composer of numerous sacred compositions and over 50 cantatas, but also as a concert pianist. We will have our new piano by then, and he will make it sing! He will work with our choir on Saturday, participate in worship Sunday morning and present a concert with the choir that afternoon.



At-A-Glance

This Month at Northwood

September 2025

Monday, September 1:
Labor Day– church Office Closed

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

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

Sunday, September 21:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
9:45 A.M. Discovering Northwood Presentation
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Sunday, September 28: Gifts of Women
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Church Staff Contact Information

Staff members are available to answer any questions you might have regarding church related programs through our office phone system. Provided below are the phone extension numbers for most of our staff who are full-time. If you don't see a phone extension we provide an email contact for you. If you call the church office when the lines are busy or the office is closed, you will be prompted to use the Dial By Name Directory **OR** the staff member's extension number to leave a message. The church number is still 796-8090.

- Chris Curvin, Pastor x2007
- Paul Means, Associate Pastor x2006
- Stephanie Carson, Traditional Music x2009
- David Furr, Organist
dmfurr35679@gmail.com
- Taryn Lumia, Contemporary Music
taryn@northwoodpc.org
- Dylan Cantin, Assistant Dir. Youth & Families
youthdirector@northwoodpc.org x2008
- Emily Cantin, Dir. of Communications x2001
- Mark Fettke, Bookkeeper x2005
- Roxane Fineo, Director of Schools x2010
- Drew Milano, Sound & Tech,
worship@northwoodpc.org

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The Window

Published monthly by
Northwood Presbyterian
Church, Edited by Emily Cantin

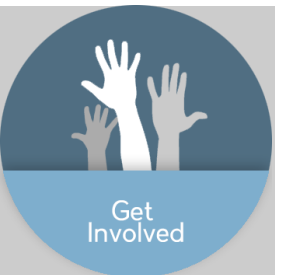
Submissions:

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.

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



Stephen Ministry: A Christian Presence of Love and Care

How many of us take pause when the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty or when we receive the phone call we hoped we would never get? The list of possibilities is endless. But are you aware that there is a Stephen Minister at Northwood who is ready to help you face these tough times?

Your Stephen Minister has received over 50 hours of training, enabling them to walk with you during troubling challenges. They are a Northwood, Christian lay person ready to provide confidential, one-on-one attention. They will listen, support, encourage, and pray with you during regular meetings as long as there is a need.

If you—or someone you know—could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, or if you have questions about Stephen Ministry, please contact either of our Pastors or Jackie Koski at 727-726-5359.

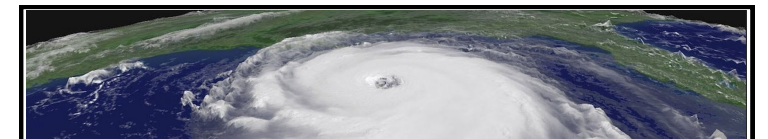
Per-Capita Apportionment

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 \$35.61 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!

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. 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 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



Hurricane Ministry

The Hurricane Ministry of our church's Board of Deacons assists members in need of temporary housing during or after hurricanes or severe tropical storms. If you are able to share your home with members-in-need, please contact Betty Spoerl at bjspoorl@outlook.com or the church office at 727-796-8090. If emailing, please use the subject "Hurricane Volunteer." Please include your name, address, phone number, email address, number of people you can accommodate, and whether you have pets.

With hurricane season approaching, we are all encouraged to prepare for a possible storm. A source for weather advisories is:

<https://www.baynews9.com/fl/tampa/weather>.

This guide has valuable information for Pinellas County
<http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/>.

Northwood Food Pantry

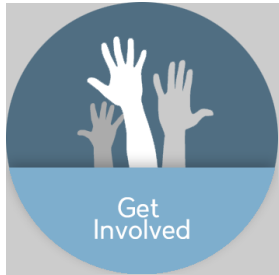


The Northwood Presbyterian Food Pantry is a mission that is supported totally by monetary gifts and donated non-perishable food from the congregation. Dedicated volunteers purchase food and also fill bags that are then given out to those less fortunate residents that come to the church for help.

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



Around Northwood

Fellowship Groups Sign-up And Kick-Off Covered Dish Dinner September 18

A new season of Fellowship Groups is coming soon! Groups of 6,7 or 8 will meet monthly for lunch or dinner in homes or in a restaurant beginning in October. **Please indicate your interest by signing up on the information sheet on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.** All group members and interested people are invited to a covered dish dinner on Thursday, September 18th at 5:00pm in rooms 5&7. New members are invited to join us as well! If you have any questions, please contact Emily Sutphin at 913-687-9063 or Emily.sutphin@gmail.com.

Northwood Photo Group—Sept. 9



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, Sept. 9th at 7:00pm in rooms 11 & 13. 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.

NPC Garden Club—Sept. 20

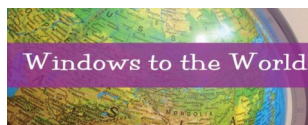
Calling all friends, fellow Christians and green thumb enthusiasts! Saturday, Sept. 20th, from 9:00am-12:00pm, Northwood will be hosting our next landscaping clean-up and fertilization day to help maintain our beautiful campus. Please contact Leslie Henley at leslianne1968@icloud.com with any questions.



Email Scam Alert

Some of our members and church staff have once again received fraudulent emails that appear to be from Pastor Chris. These email scams usually say that the pastor does not have time to talk by phone and wants to talk to you by email only. They always end up asking for you to discreetly purchase gift cards to assist the pastor in helping others.

Our pastors will never solicit you for gift cards and do NOT send these emails. Our pastors love to talk to you anytime but you do not need to call them to let them know you have received another suspicious email. The best way to deal with this is for you to block the sender and/or forward the email to the church office so that we can collect them for the police. It saddens us when anyone seeks to do harm and prey on the Christian kindness of our members. Be aware of such scams and do not respond to them!



Fun! Friends! Friday! Ren Crew— September 12

The Ren Crew Friday Fellowship will meet on Friday, September 12th at 10:30 in the sanctuary. We are a group of adventuresome, young at heart adults who enjoy sharing fun with friends, old and new. In keeping with the theme "Windows to the World," Pastor Paul Means will provide the program "Through the Lens of Wonder: Alaska's Untamed Beauty from Seward Highway to the Wild Bears of Katmai National Park." Following the program, we will enjoy lunch at Bonefish Grill. All are welcome! Join us and treat yourself to a Friday filled with fun and friends! For more information, you may contact Pastor Paul Means at or paul@northwoodpc.org, or 727-796-8090

Shoes for Beth-El —Thank You!

Many thanks to the Northwood church family from the Beth-El farm worker's ministry and Northwood's Mission Team. Through your generous participation in Beth-El Shoe Sunday, 300 pairs of shoes were donated, along with a number of pairs of socks, backpacks and lots of clothing. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with others in this way!

The Project Group— Sept. 21

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 September 21st. 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.



Jane Sutton Book Club—Sept. 22



The Jane Sutton Book Club will meet September 22nd. The group meets the 4th Monday of the month at 10:00am in room 13 of the Christian Education building. If you are interested in joining or for more information, please contact the church office at 727-796-8090.

Caring for Our Church Family

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of:

Ray Spigarelli
Ken Tobiassen
Pete Towns
Pete Towns
Bill Lewis
Loisanne & Bill Bilka
Leah Langenheim
Pete Towns

Given by:

Pam & Ward Johanssen
Pam & Ward Johanssen
Jean Swintek
Jeanette & Art Holloway
Pam & Ward Johanssen
Pam & Ward Johanssen
Mary Torrisi
Jeanette & Art Holloway

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

HEP (Homeless Empowerment Program)

There are not enough words for us to express how deeply grateful we are for your recent gift of \$250 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. Best Regards, Ashley Lowery, President & CEO

Clearwater Free Clinic

We are grateful for your kind donation of \$250 to the Clearwater Free Clinic. Your gift will directly impact the lives of the uninsured, medically underprivileged people who we are committed to serving. We work to build healthy communities by keeping those who are working employed and by helping the unemployed improve their health in order to find work. We thank you sincerely. Yours In Health, Anthony Degina, CEO

Beth-El

Thank you for your support and gift of \$477.20, which creates real opportunities for farm working families and children who are preparing to return to school this fall. Through your generosity, you are giving children the freedom to learn, grow and succeed by ensuring they have access to the tools and resources they need to thrive in school. With your help, they will walk into the classroom and feel confident, equipped, and ready to shine. With Gratitude, Matthew Shick, Executive Director

Thornwell

Thank you for your recent donation of \$250. We are so grateful for your generosity and hearts for children & families. 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! Sincerely, Elizabeth Milhouse, VP for Mission Advancement



A huge thanks goes out to all those Vacation Bible School children who so kindly donated over 100 food items to the Northwood Food Pantry. The pantry always runs short of food during the summer months so this generous donation will help feed so many families that come to our church doors for help. Thank you!

The Northwood Food Panty is so grateful to the Briar Creek Community for their monthly donation of food. This donation has also included monetary gifts which has been a blessing for the pantry volunteers that go out to purchase food. Thank you Joan Davis for coordinating and delivering all these canned goods each month.

Prayers and Christian Sympathies to:

- Jim Warren upon the news of the death of his mother, Joan Warren on August 2.
- Pam Means upon the news of the death of her father, Jim Lofton on August 21st.
- Eleanor Cicerchi upon the news of the death of Fred Heider on August 24.

Prayer Ministry

Roger Adkisson, Julie Bryant, Jeannette Holloway, Fred In-kles, Phillip Mackie, Mildred Martin, Robin MacLennan, Dave Pelham, Norman Roffey, David Smith, Ellen Stoup.

Memorial Gifts

If you wish to make a gift to the church in honor or in memory of someone, please be sure to attach a 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.

Home Communion

If you or someone you know is unable to attend church, either short-term or long-term, to receive communion, Northwood's Home Communion Ministry Team would be happy to bring Home Communion to you. We want everyone to know that the church cares and we are glad to provide this connection of love and care through the sacrament of Holy Communion with Jesus. No preparation on your part is needed, we bring everything. We visit homes, rehab centers, hospitals, etc. For more information or an appointment, please contact Jackie Koski at Jackie.koski2014@gmail.com.

Christian Education



Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women's Sisters in Christ Circle will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting will take place September 9th at 10:00am in rooms 5&7. We will begin a new 9 month study, *"Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ"* by Rhashell D. Hunter. Study books are available at the meeting and can be purchased for \$7.00. We are delighted that several ladies joined our circle planning meeting in August; there is always room for more! For more information about how you can be involved, contact Patty Martin at bill.martin2@verizon.net or Sue Miskiewicz at susan.miskiewicz@yahoo.com.

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Fresh Brewed

Fresh Brewed meets on the first Friday of the month at 10:30am in rooms 5&7. Our next meeting will take place September 5th. This meeting we will have a salad lunch. We will finish the video from *Seamless* and vote on a new book. If you have any questions, please contact Louise Mylin at LVNM1@hotmail.com or 727-787-9868.

Bible Takeaways

After the Summer Break, this adult Sunday School/Bible Study group will look forward to seeing everyone in class on Sunday, September 7th at 10:00am, sharp in room 8. A very familiar scripture, **The Lord's Prayer**, has been selected for our first study of the season. Each of us should benefit from many instructional blessings and discoveries the Spirit will share from the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray. Please join us!

Nursery

The Nursery is available for childcare during both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Services. Our staff are screened and trained to provide safe, caring and entertaining supervision to your little ones while you attend Worship.

Cedarkirk Women's Retreat– January 10-12, 2026

Join the women of Northwood for a spirit revitalizing weekend of fellowship, games, crafts, canoeing, and leisurely walks in the woods. Enjoy the great outdoors while staying in air-conditioned lodges. You won't want to miss this amazing weekend! Registration forms are available on the poster outside the library. If you have any questions, contact Jeanne at jeanneestephen@gmail.com

Church Office Closed September 1

The church office will be closed Monday, September 1st in observance of Labor Day. We will re-open Tuesday, September 2nd at 8:30 am.

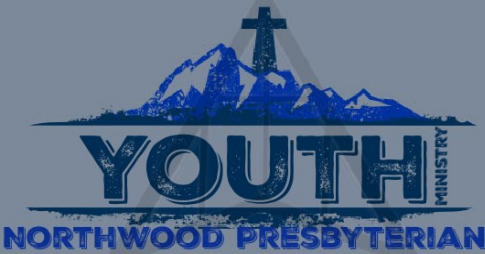
Church Upkeep

Please help us to maintain our building by not putting tape or adhesive on chalkboards, windows and doors.

Flower Ministry

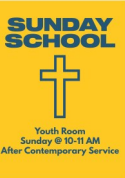


Hello Church Family, My name is Randy Ball and I am the deacon overseeing the Flower Ministry of our Church. Currently we have vacancies/openings for three of the four weeks of the month, for someone who might enjoy breaking down the two urns of flowers in our sanctuary into several smaller vases. These then become available for our pastoral care visits and are also available to members to share as an outreach, to those who would be blessed by them. If interested see me after the traditional service or leave a contact in my box in the church office. Thanks!



Youth Ministry

Every Sunday morning, the youth, which includes middle school, high school and college age students, will meet for Sunday School at 10:00am in the youth room. Wednesday evenings we will have Youth Group meet at 6 pm in the youth room. Game night will meet on Fridays from 7pm-10pm in the youth room/FLC. **If you have any questions, please contact Dylan Cantin at youthdirector@northwoodpc.org or 727-796-8090 x2008.**



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The youth Sunday School meets every Sunday morning at 10am in the youth room. During this time, we will discuss the scripture and message and incorporate worship elements like music into our hour.



WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group meets every Wednesday at 6pm in the youth room. There will be a lesson, group discussion, music and food.



GAME NIGHT - We meet on Fridays from 7pm-10pm in the youth room/FLC to play a variety of games such as board games, video games and sports activities including pickleball, basketball and kick-ball.

