

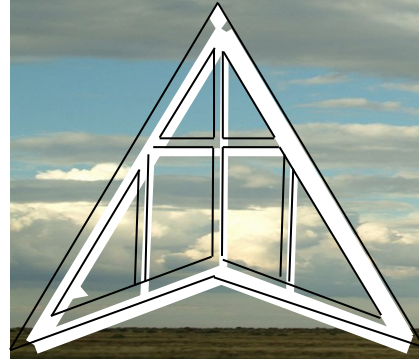
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Sent with Prayer to...

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

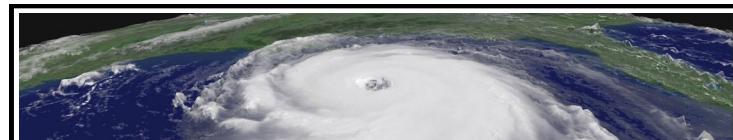
Northwood Presbyterian Church
 Organized February 19, 1978




Chartering Organization of
 Boy Scout Troop 413

August 2026
 Volume 36, No. 7

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



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 Deacon Karen Gipson at kgipson99@yahoo.com, 727-791-7871, 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. 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 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



Vacation Bible School-Thank You!

Thanks for joining us for Snowball Mountain! Our team of volunteers, made up of the NPC Youth team and adults, spent countless hours prepping for the week and hosted an amazing, fun, detailed and wholesome Vacation Bible School this year. We also collected 150 cans of food to help stock our food pantry! Our closing ceremony was filled with parents and friends to celebrate such a great week. We are so grateful for our leaders, volunteers and attendees!



At-A-Glance

This Month at Northwood

August 2026

Sunday, August 2:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

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

Sunday, August 16:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Monday, August 17:
1st Day of Preschool

Sunday, August 23:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Monday, August 24:
7:00 P.M. Session Meeting

Sunday, August 30:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

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.

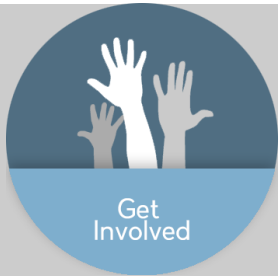
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Church Staff Contact Information

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
- Stephanie Carson, Traditional Music x2009
- David Furr, Organist, dmfurr35679@gmail.com
- Taryn Lumia, Contemporary Music, taryn@northwoodpc.org
- Jarrett Mattson, Interim Youth Team Leader jzmattson1@gmail.com
- Emily Cantin, Dir. of Communications x2001
- Sandy Kallin, Bookkeeper x2005
- Roxane Fineo, Business Administrator x2003
- Dianna Burpee, Director of Schools x2010
- Drew Milano, Sound & Tech, worship@northwoodpc.org
- Aidan Murray, Facilities/Maintenance x2002

Around Northwood



A Special Celebration!

On **September 27, 2026** Northwood will honor Stephanie Carson's dedication and service to our music programs for 30 years! There will be special programming and a reception between and after services. We'd like to include all who've enjoyed and benefited from her talent and love of music over the years. Please spread the word.

Campus Maintenance Update

Several maintenance and improvement projects are underway at Northwood Presbyterian Church as we continue to care for our campus and its facilities.

The condenser coil for the gym's air conditioning unit has been replaced to help ensure reliable cooling and improve the system's overall performance. Tree trimming has also been completed throughout the campus to maintain the health and appearance of our landscaping and prepare for the upcoming hurricane season.

We are currently waiting for the City of Clearwater to issue a permit before moving forward with the removal of three dead trees. In addition, we are obtaining estimates to paint the columns, beams, and bollards at the front entrance, as well as to seal the pavers. These improvements will help preserve the appearance and extend the longevity of these highly visible areas of our campus.

Thank you for your patience as these projects move forward. We remain committed to maintaining a safe, welcoming, and beautiful campus for our congregation and visitors. If there are any questions, you can contact our Business Administrator, Roxane Fineo at rfineo@northwoodpc.org or 727-796-8090 x2003.



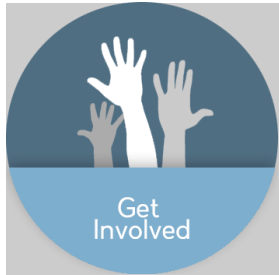
Welcome Dianna Burpee, Director of Schools

Dianna joined Northwood Presbyterian Church as their Preschool Director in May of 2026. Dianna is a native Floridian having been born and raised in St. Petersburg Florida her entire life until she recently moved to the Largo area the end of 2024.

Dianna began her career in the Early Child Care field as a part time Before and After care staff member / fulltime two's teacher in the summer of 1989. This was to only be a summer job until she found something else she wished to pursue. Little did she know, this summer job would be the beginning of her lifelong career working with young children! Throughout her years of working with preschool age children, she received her FCCPC, as well as her Director's Credential. She has taught children as young as 3 months all the way through VPK, and though she loves all age groups, the two year olds will forever be her favorite age group! Although her passion for working with children continued to grow as time went by, she felt the calling for being a Director. Though this was not an easy choice, as it took her from being in a classroom daily, to being in an office and away from the children, it was, however, a chance to grow even further in the Early Child Care field and one she has truly enjoyed.

When she is not busy in her office, you can find her reading stories to children in the classrooms, playing with the children on the playground or simply just making children smile by sharing a kind word with them or a hug.

Outside of work, Dianna loves spending time with her two little dogs, Daisy and Walter, as well as her two birds (Quinny and Freckles). She also enjoys family gatherings, BBQ's, game nights, throwing darts and live music venues. Getting lost in a good book, baking and going to garage sales are also a few of her favorite things to do.



Around Northwood

Congratulations to Scholarship Recipients

SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship team met in June 2026. Congratulations to the following students who were awarded scholarships: First time applicants: Brianna Adkisson, Isaac Jeffre & Riley Nigels

Second time applicant: Hannah Gipson

Riley Nigels was selected as the Clarence and Florence Wright Scholarship recipient. Funds Provided by: Fred and Kay Baker Scholarship, Walter and Catherine Gordon Scholarship, Clarence and Florence Wright Scholarship, monies received from other sources.

Northwood Photo Group—August 11



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, August 11th 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.

Jane Sutton Book Club—August 17

The Jane Sutton Book Club will be August 24th. The group meets the 4th Monday of the month at 10:00am, however, this month we will meet on the 17th. Our book selection is Sycamore Row by John Grisham. We are a small group of readers who would welcome more voices as we discuss stories, characters and how they relate to our lives. We usually read contemporary fiction. Please join us for stimulating conversation and informal fellowship! If you are interested in joining, please contact Eleanor Cicerchi by email at ecicerchi@gmail.com or by phone 727-337-3813.



The Project Group— August 25

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 August 25th. 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.

Beth-El Shoe Sunday—August 30th

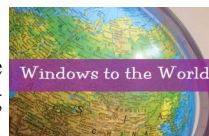


On Sunday, August 31st, Northwood is inviting everyone to participate in Beth-El Shoe Sunday by bringing new or gently used shoes for the children, youth and adults of the Beth-El Farm Workers Mission in Wimauma, FL.

Beginning August 2nd, there will be tubs in the church hallway to drop off your shoes. Beth-El is in need of tennis shoes, sandals, flip-flops, and men's work boots, sizes 6 to 11 for men, 5-7 1/2 for women, and all sizes for children. Along with the shoes, we are also collecting socks, backpacks, and lightweight jackets. You can also go online to Northwood's website to make a donation to Beth-El. Our goal this year is to be able to distribute at least 400 pairs of shoes to the families in the Beth-El community. Thank you in advance for participating in Beth-El Shoe Sunday!

Fun! Friends! Friday! The Ren Crew

The Ren Crew Friday Fellowship will be taking a break over the summer giving everyone an opportunity to be out there, traveling and accumulating pictures and stories to share. We will meet again in the Fall on Friday, September 11th at 10:30, starting off our new season with Morocco! Happy traveling! For information or questions, you may contact Earle Lusk at 727-510-7373 or etlusk01@aol.com.



Cedarkirk Womens Retreat—January 8-10



Leave your worries (and your chores!) behind! Join the ladies of Northwood for a spirit-filled weekend of fellowship, games, crafts, and canoeing. We're excited to announce that Debra Musgrave Cox will once again be joining us as our speaker! You won't want to miss this amazing weekend! Reservation forms are available at the church office. Please save the date for Cedarkirk Women's Retreat on your calendar! The retreat will be held on Jan. 8-10, 2027.

Garage Sale 2027— Save the Date!

The Annual Music Ministry Garage Sale will be held January 14, 15 & 16, 2027.



Caring for Our Church Family

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of:

Butch Janusik
Ken Janusik

Given by:

Lorrie Janusik
Sally Uhler

Prayer Ministry

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

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.

Prayers and Christian Sympathies to:

- Renee & Jeff Voss and Family upon the news of the death of their daughter, Katherine Voss on July 20.

Prayer Chain Ministry

The prayer chain is a vital ministry that uses the power of multiple people praying at once for the urgent needs of the body here at Northwood Presbyterian Church. During the worship service, the attendance form may be completed, which has an area on the back for prayer concerns. These prayer requests are given to Deacon Sue Miskiewicz, and then she sends the request out to the prayer chain volunteers. It is our joy and privilege to pray for you!

On May 20th the Briar Creek community contributed an absolutely enormous load of food. We are so grateful for this monthly donation as now with school out for the summer, the children will not be getting their normal school provided meals. This donation will really help provide so many meals to those that are arriving at our doors each day. Thanks again from the Northwood Pantry!!



Northwood's Food Pantry was overwhelmed with the huge "Mountain" of food items that were donated by the generous Snowball Mountain Challenge Vacation Bible School children. Thank you for helping feed those families that are going hungry in our own neighborhood.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Thornwell

Thank you for your gift of \$250.00. You are changing lives! Your generosity will provide hope and healing to hurting families in communities across Florida. We provide safe homes for neglected children, family support and in-home therapy for families, education for students working toward graduation, and so much more. Thank You!

Sincerely, Elizabeth Milhous, VP for Mission Advancement

Outreach Foundation

Thank you for your gift of \$250.00 to the Outreach Foundation. Your investment and trust are important to us. We have been known for our focus on sharing the Good News. Every project we partner with is directly involved in sharing the Gospel in word and deed. We thank you for enabling the Kingdom work to be done. Yours in Christ Jesus, Rev. Dr. Mark Mueller

HEP (Homeless Empowerment Program)

There are not enough words to express how deeply grateful we are for your recent gift of \$250.00 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

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Thank you for gift of \$250.00. Through our Step Up for Success program, your donation helps young people learn in ways that respect their lives and experiences, while also building leadership and stronger community bonds. Thank you for helping Beth-El grow in ways that are both rooted and meaningful. Blessings, Dr. Teresita Matos-Post, Executive Director

Clearwater Free Clinic

We are grateful for your kind donation of \$250.00 to the CFC. Your contribution plays a vital role in helping us provide compassionate, comprehensive care to our medically underserved neighbors. On behalf of our dedicated staff, volunteers, board of directors and most importantly—our patients, thank you. Your support truly makes a difference!

HOPE Villages of America

On behalf of HOPE Villages of America, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your generous donation of \$250.00. Your support helps us continue creating safety, providing food, and restoring hope for individuals and families across our community. Your support plays a vital role in helping us build a stronger, more compassionate community for all. Sincerely, Nick DiCeglie, President & CEO

Christian Education



Presbyterian Women Potluck Luncheon & Baby Shower

Thank you to those who came out and celebrated with the Presbyterian Women! It was a great time of fellowship, enjoying yummy food and recognition. The Presbyterian Women's Sisters in Christ Circle are taking a break over the summer and will resume meetings on Tuesday, August 11th at 10:00 am. We will begin a new 9 month study, *"United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians"* by Rhonda Mawhood Lee on September 8th. Study books will be available in early August and can be purchased for \$5.00. 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

Fresh Brewed

Fresh Brewed meets on the first Friday of the month at 10:30am in rooms 5&7. **We will plan to resume back September 4th and will have a potluck salad lunch.** Our book study is "Life Lessons from Ephesians" by Max Lucado. If you have any questions or need a book, please contact Louise Mylin at LVNM1@hotmail.com or 727-787-9868.

Bible Takeaways

Led by Emily Sutphin & Earle Lusk, this adult Education Class/Bible Study meets every Sunday morning at 10:00am in room 8. We will meet again in September with a new study topic; stay tuned! All are welcome! 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. If you have any questions, please contact Rachelle Cox at rachellecox1@gmail.com.

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?

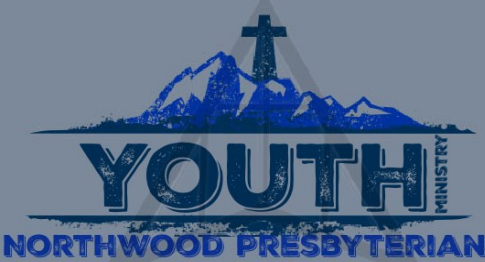
Your Stephen Minister has received over 50 hours of training, enabling them to walk with you during troubling challenges. They are a Northwood, Christian lay person ready to provide confidential, one-on-one attention. They will listen, support, encourage, and pray with you during regular meetings as 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 our Pastor or Jackie Koski at 727-726-5359.

Choir News – Handbells Ringers Needed

Some of you have inquired, "Where is the choir?" It has been our practice at NPC to give the Chancel Choir a break in the summer and showcase many of our choir members' voices singing solos on Sunday mornings. As you have heard, there is great talent, and hearts for God, among our choir family, offering their gifts in worship. We look forward to returning to choir at the beginning of September with our first rehearsal of the season starting Wednesday, September 2nd from 7:00-8:30pm and hope some of you will join us!

Handbell Ringers needed!! Do you read rhythms? If so, then you can ring handbells! Our beginner/intermediate group is in need of some ringers and I will train you! Please call Stephanie 727-458-9749. Stephanie Carson, Director of Music



Youth Ministry

The youth, which includes middle school, high school and college age students, will meet on Wednesday evenings for Youth Group 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 Jarrett Mattson at jzmattson1@gmail.com or 727-366-4200.**



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 kickball.

Kids' Corner Preschool & Before/After School Care Program

Registration is underway for the 2026-2027 school year. If you are planning to register your child and need an enrollment packet, please stop by the office, or reach out to your child's teacher. If you need assistance in applying for a VPK Certificate of Eligibility, feel free to call the office. Please submit your completed paperwork as soon as possible. **If you are interested in registration or have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dianna Burpee at schooldirector@northwoodpc.org or 727-723-7679.**



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

