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Kids' Corner Preschool & Before/After School Care Program

The 2026 – 2027 school year is officially underway, with our Before and After School Program beginning on August 11th under the care of Brianna Naples as our Head Counselor and her wonderful groups of co-workers/counselors. Ms. Brianna is joined by Ari Valenzuela-Garcia, Chelsea French, and Brianna Alli (filling in as a sub / as needed staff). Currently we have 21 children enrolled in our program which continues to provide a safe and valuable service to the working parents in our community.



Our amazing and awesome Preschool Program began on August 17th with two VPK classrooms, one three year old classroom and our two year old classroom! Currently we have 25 children enrolled under the loving care of our amazing staff “The Dream Team”!

Last year’s VPK State of Florida assessment scores were again designated as “Excellent”.

Ms. Brianna Naples will also be helping on the preschool side this year taking over as our Tuesday – Thursday 3-Day three year old’s teacher! We are looking for to a fun filled, safe and amazing year of learning and growing together!

Ms. Dianna Burpee - Director



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Organized February 19, 1978



The Window

Chartering Organization of
Boy Scout Troop 413

September 2026
Volume 36, No. 8

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!

Do you love to sing? Have you sung in a choir in high school or college? There is nothing quite like singing with a community of believers, whose purpose is to raise their voices singing praises to our Lord! It is a way to plug into a small group and get involved at church. We are a choir family who loves to welcome new members into our fold with open arms. We rehearse every Wednesday starting at 7:00pm.

Beginning Sept 2nd, we will have a welcome (back) to choir reception at 6:15. The kitchen crew prepares strawberry shortcake and other goodies and we would love for you to join us! Following the reception is choir rehearsal at 7:00. We will sing in worship beginning September 6th. Please consider joining us! We need all voice parts! If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Carson at Stephanie@northwoodpc.org.

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.

Save the Dates!

Ring, Sing & Mingle— Our annual Christmas Handbell Concert, Carol Sing and Reception, December 6th at 4:00pm.

Christmas Cantata— One Worship Service, December 13th at 10:00am

At-A-Glance

This Month at Northwood

September 2026

Sunday, September 6:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Monday, September 7:
Labor Day, Office Closed

Sunday, September 13:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Sunday, September 20:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
9:45 A.M. Discovering Northwood Presentation
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Sunday, September 27:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

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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
youthdirector@northwoodpc.org
- 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

The Window

Published monthly by Northwood Presbyterian Church, Edited by Emily Cantin

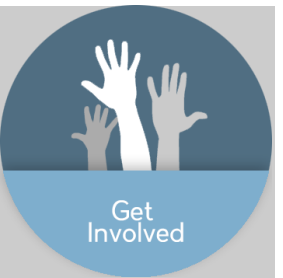
Submissions:

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



Campus Maintenance Update



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

The trees across campus have been trimmed, and two of the three dead trees have been removed. We are currently working with the Department of Transportation to arrange a lane closure on State Road 580 so the remaining tree, located near our Church sign, can be removed safely.

Peter Jurbala, our handyman, has sealed the new pavers and is putting the finishing coat of paint on the columns, beams, and bollard in the front entryway.

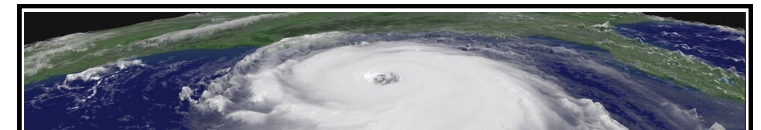
Stanley Steemer recently cleaned the carpets in the Choir Room, Narthex, multipurpose rooms 4,5,6,7, & 8, and the front area adjacent to the Communion Table in the Sanctuary.

Our upcoming projects include repairs and service to the air conditioning system in the Choir Room, touching up the paint in the preschool classrooms and church offices, and making sure our irrigation system will properly accommodate the new trees being planted in the coming months.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as these projects move forward. We remain committed to maintaining a safe, welcoming, and beautiful campus.

Fellowship Groups Sign-up And Kick-Off Covered Dish Dinner September 22

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. **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 22nd at 5:30pm 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.



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 bjspoerl@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>.

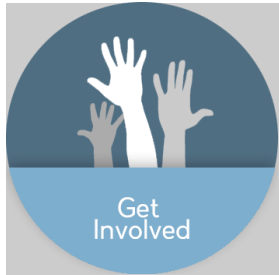
This guide has valuable information for Pinellas County

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/>.

Spotlight on Deacons' Ministries

Care Cards/Notes Ministry

Are you struggling to cope with grief or chronic illness? Are you overwhelmed with the challenges of care giving? *CareNotes* offer strength, help and healing for those who are hurting and provide a wealth of emotional, health, grief and eldercare support and information. *CareNotes* are also available for teens and children addressing such topics as bullying, social media safety and forgiveness. You will also find greeting cards if needed. These free resources are found in the racks in the narthex. They are supplied by the Deacons and refreshed by Jody Beattie.



Around Northwood

Blood Drive—Sept. 6

Sunday, September 6th from 9:30am-12:00pm, the blood mobile will be located in the Northwood parking lot. All donors will receive a \$20eGift card, a One Blood T-shirt and a wellness check up including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening.



Northwood Photo Group—September 8



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, September 8th 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.

Ladies Game Night—September 11

Come and join the fun and fellowship at Northwood Presbyterian Church. Open to all ladies who enjoy playing board games in the company of others! No RSVP required. We will meet in rooms 5 & 7 on Friday, September 11th at 7:00pm. Bring your favorite deck of cards or board game along with a beverage and a snack to share. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Zieres at carol-zieres@gmail.com.

The Project Group— September 22

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 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.

Jane Sutton Book Club—September 28

The Jane Sutton Book Club will be September 28th. The group meets the 4th Monday of the month at 10:00am. Our book selection is Family of Spies by *Christine Kuehn*. 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.



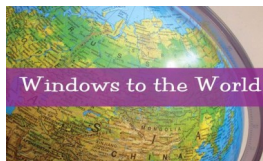
Shoes for Beth-El—Thank You!



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, a very large number of shoes were donated, along with a many of pairs of socks and backpacks. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus with others in this way!

Fun! Friends! Friday! The Ren Crew

The Ren Crew Friday Fellowship will meet on **Friday, September 11th 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", **Emily and John Sutphin will provide the program about their travels in Morocco and northern Africa**. Following the program, we will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. All are welcome! Join us, after having had a summer break, and treat yourself to Fun! and Friends! Contact Earle Lusk at or etlusk01@aol.com or 727-786-4535 for more information.



Garage Sale 2027— Save the Date!

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



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!



Caring for Our Church Family

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of:

*Kat Voss
Kat Voss*

Given by:

*Kimberly & Clark Greenleaf
Jeanette & Art Holloway*

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:

- Mark Smiech and Family upon the news of the death of his wife, Mary Smiech on July 26.
- Judy Churchsmith and Family upon the news of the death of her husband, Fred Churchsmith on August 4.

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!

Flower Arrangements

The flowers that are placed in the sanctuary are assembled into smaller arrangements to be distributed to those who are ill or in need of encouragement. The congregation is welcome to take one of these arrangements if needed. They can be picked up in the church office weekdays between 9am-3pm.

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Westchester Gardens

Thank you so much for your generous donation of wheelchair bags for our residents! These bags provide a special reminder that our community is supported by caring people like the Northwood Project Group. Sincerely, The Activities Department

Gulfview Nursing Center

This is a heartfelt thank you for the lovely, hand-made lap blankets and walker bags. The residents will be kept warm and can carry their phones and personal items with them as they move around. Your kindness is greatly appreciated! Sincerely, Gulfview Nursing Physical Therapy Dept.

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



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.

Christian Education

Presbyterian Women



The Presbyterian Women's Sisters in Christ Circle will meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am. This month our circle will meet on September 8th. We will begin our new 9 month study, *"United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians"* by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. Study books will be available and can be purchased for \$7.00. 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

PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

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 on Sunday mornings at 10:00am in room 8. They have made the 'revelation' that the new study will be the book of Revelation when classes begin on **September 6th**. To prepare, those interested are asked to read the entire book, before the class starts. Please join us as we look at this challenging and, yet, hopeful final book of the New Testament. All are welcome!

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

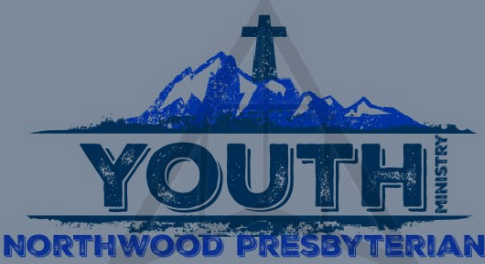
How many of us take pause when the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty or when we receive the phone call we hoped we would never get? The list of possibilities is endless. But are you aware that there is a Stephen Minister at Northwood who is ready to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

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



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 youthdirector@northwoodpc.org 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.

