



**Northwood Presbyterian Church**  
2875 State Road 580  
Clearwater, FL 33761

**A Stephen Ministry Congregation**

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## **2023 Wonderful Wednesdays Series**

**October 25 - November 15**

**Fall Program-**

***“Northwood in Mission & Ministry”***

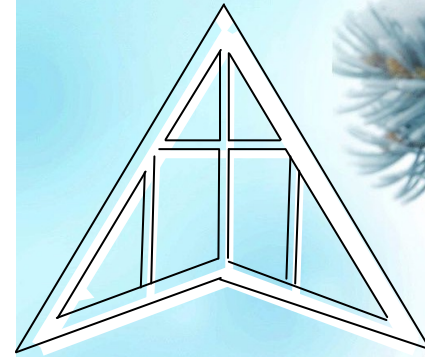
Our Wednesdays and You (W.A.Y.) meal gatherings are back! They provide a happy harvest of friendship and opportunity for the whole family. Reservation forms will be located in the church office or sign-up on the bulletin board in the church hallway. On the tables at each meal will be our 3-cents-a-meal jars which benefit the hungry locally and worldwide. Please remember to invite your friends, family and neighbors to join you. If you are a new member, visitor or first-time guest, your meal (with a reservation) is complimentary. For more information on any of our Wednesday programs contact the church office at (727) 796-8090. Come and get involved in a Wonderful Wednesday activity! It is a busy day at Northwood, filled with fellowship and friends. Here is some of what is going on each Wednesday.

- **Youth Handbells** in the Choir Room (4:45-5:30 P.M.)
- **Youth Group** in the Youth Room (following the dinner)
- **Chancel Choir** rehearsal 7:00-8:30 pm.



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*Northwood Presbyterian Church*



*The Window*

**Chartering Organization of  
Boy Scout Troop 413**

**November 2023**  
Volume 33, No. 11

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761  
727-796-8090 Main Office ~ 727-723-7679 Preschool, Before & After Care  
[www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org)

## **“Take My Life and Let it Be...” Stewardship Dedication Sunday is November 12th**

Dear Members and Friends of Northwood,

It is our belief that God calls us to practice generosity. Each Fall, and at other times of the year, we emphasize the importance of our financial giving to the church. Giving has always been a hallmark of the Christian commitment. Our stewardship theme to help us consider our giving for the coming year is based on the hymn, *“Take My Life and Let it Be.”*

This hymn is like an encyclopedia on giving as it reminds us to dedicate unto God our moments and days, hands and feet, voice and lips, silver and gold, intellect and will, heart and love. I have already begun to preach a series of stewardship sermons on this theme to help us prayerfully consider our financial commitment to Northwood for the coming year.

Our Stewardship Team prays that for 2024 you will take a step of faith by increasing your pledge/gift to the church. The wonderful things done in and through Northwood in the name of Jesus Christ are not accomplished without significant volunteer and financial commitments by so many of you.

As we plan a budget for the coming year, **we need everyone to consider turning in the enclosed pledge card for 2024 on Sunday, November 12th or soon thereafter.** Your pledge can be adjusted at any point by contacting the church office and speaking to Mark Fettke, Northwood’s Bookkeeper. Please remember that every pledge card helps us in our planning and budgeting for the coming year and always remember that every gift counts!

Finally, there are a growing number of people who give regularly to Northwood by utilizing our electronic online giving. When you make a gift using the online giving through the church’s website you will receive an electronic notice of your donation each week. All you have to do to take advantage of this method of giving is to go to the church website, [www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org), click on the tab “About Us” and choose the option entitled “Giving.” There are very good instructions to lead you through making a gift online once you get to the website page.

As we all plan our giving to Christ’s church for the coming year, let me say on behalf of our Session and Stewardship Team, thank you for your generosity. As each one of us considers increasing our giving in 2024, may our prayer be, “Oh Lord, take my life and let it be, consecrated in every way to Thee!”

Your Pastor and Friend,  
Chris Curvin



# At-A-Glance

## This Month at Northwood

### November 2023

**Wednesday, November 1:**  
6:00 P.M.– 6:40 P.M. W.A.Y Dinner

**Sunday, November 5:**  
**All Saint's Day/ Blanket Sunday**  
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

**Wednesday, November 8:**  
6:00 P.M.– 6:40 P.M. W.A.Y Dinner

**Sunday, November 12:**  
**Dedication Sunday**  
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

**Wednesday, November 15:**  
6:00 P.M.– 6:40 P.M. W.A.Y Dinner

**Friday, November 17:**  
Family Movie Night in the FLC

**Sunday, November 19:**  
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service  
10:00 A.M. Discovering Northwood Presentation  
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

**Thursday & Friday, November 23-24:**  
The church office will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving

**Sunday, November 26:**  
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

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## The Window

Published monthly by Northwood Presbyterian Church, Edited by Emily Cantin

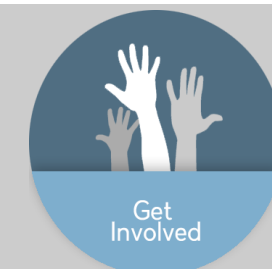
### Submissions:

If you have information that you would like to be considered for the newsletter, e-mail [communications@northwoodpc.org](mailto: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



## Welcome New Members!



Sharon & Ken Carder  
11:00 Worship Service  
Transfer of Letter,  
First UMC, St. Petersburg



Pat Gorman  
11:00 Worship Service  
Transfer of Letter,  
Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola



Elaine & Charlie Rumpel  
11:00 Worship Service  
Re-Affirmation of Faith



Barbara Smith  
11:00 Worship Service  
Transfer of Letter,  
Presbyterian Church of Palm Harbor



Emily & John Sutphin  
11:00 Worship Service  
Transfer of Letter,  
Rolling Hills Presb., Overland Park, KS.



Charlie & Mike Wood  
11:00 Worship Service  
Re-Affirmation of Faith



### Advent Wreath Lighting

It's time once again to start thinking about Advent and what we will do to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Has it become a family tradition for you to light the candles on the Advent wreath at Northwood? Do you have a group of friends who would like to participate? Never done it before? That's ok! We'll spend time with you showing you what to do and provide you with the accompanying scripture several days in advance so you can practice reading it. Two or more people needed for each worship service during Advent. Don't delay: Advent begins December 3 this year! You can reach Linda Feller at 727-385-5629 or [bikin-gringer@gmail.com](mailto:bikin-gringer@gmail.com) to secure your spot.

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### Angel Tree

It's that time of year when we have the opportunity to help our adopted families with Christmas! Again this year, we will have "angels" on our Christmas tree in the narthex so that you can choose a gift to provide for a family in need. This year we are working with families from the Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry and HEP. Sunday, **November 26th** there will be angels on the tree with general items that are helpful to the families. Dates of when all gifts will need to be returned to the church will coordinated with Beth-El and HEP.



## Nominating Committee

NOMINATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED. Do you know of someone you would like to see serving as Elder or Deacon or the 2024 nominating committee? The Nominating Committee will accept nominations for Church Officers now through November 5. Remember to get the person's permission before nominating them. Nomination forms may be returned to the church office.

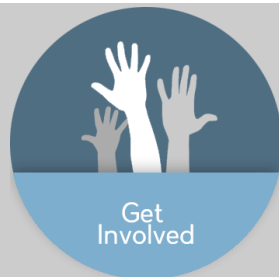
I have the permission of

\_\_\_\_\_ to nominate him/her for the office of Elder or Deacon or Nominating Committee 2024

(Please circle one)

Nominating Committee: Kim Blackmore, Rachele Cox, Susan Gajentan, Dennis Rasmussen





# Around Northwood



# Caring for Our Church Family

## Stephen Ministry

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.

## Auditions:

### Praise and Worship Singers/Musicians!

Calling all teens and adults with musical gifts and a passion for Christ! We are looking for a few singers and musicians to join our Voices in Praise (VIP) band that leads worship at our 9am Ignite Services! The band practices on Thursday nights. If you are interested in auditioning, or know someone who may be, e-mail Taryn Lumia at [taryn@northwoodpc.org](mailto:taryn@northwoodpc.org) for more info!

## Halloween Candy for Music Ministry

If you have leftover Halloween candy or find some good BOGO deals, the music ministry will gladly accept your donations. We use the candy as incentives in our children's choirs. Thank you for your generosity! Questions? Contact Stephanie Carson, 727-796-8090.



## 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, November 14th 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](mailto:curtis.krueger@gmail.com) or [david@primeimagesinc.com](mailto:david@primeimagesinc.com).



## Blanket Sunday— November 5th

Blanket Sunday is November 5, 2023. Please consider donating new and gently used blankets to the migrant workers' families at Beth El. Every year we collect blankets and money donations for these families who live in such poor and challenging conditions. They use the blankets for more than warmth. They use them as room dividers and other means of privacy. Thank you in advance for your generous contributions to such a worthwhile cause. Please call Pastor Paul @ 727-796- 8090 if you have any questions.



## Fun! Friends! Friday! The Ren Crew

The Ren Crew is a group of adventure-some, young at heart 50+ adults that enjoy sharing fun with friends, old and new. We meet the second Friday of the month (September – May). We gather at the church from 10:30 to 11:45 for presentations and conversations that are entertaining, educational, and inspiring. Following the presentation, the group enjoys going to a different restaurant each month. Back by popular demand the theme for this year is "Windows to the World." Listed below is an exciting slate of programs for the fall of 2023.

**November 10th**—Mike and Linda O'Leary: "Into the Promised Land: Israel, Jordan and Egypt"

**December 8th**—Jack and Claudia Alwood: "Eye on Hawaii: Volcanos to Beaches to Hula"

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 email at [paul@northwoodpc.org](mailto:paul@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. We're excited to announce that Rosalie Pareja 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.



## NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

### Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network

Thank you so much for your contribution in the amount of \$200 to the Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network, Inc. in response to Hurricane Idalia. Your generous donation helps us continue our mission to support Florida presbyteries, churches and communities through this time of response and recovery. May God bless you!

Yours in Partnership, Kathy Broyard

## 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



## Music Ministry's Annual Garage Sale

Our annual Music Ministry Garage Sale is just around the corner. The sale will take place on January 11, 12 and 13, 2024. Your donations and the donations you request from family and friends is so important to the success of the sale. Drop-offs will begin on December 27, 2023 so please hold those items just a little longer. Your generosity continues to amaze us and the Music Program benefits greatly. More information will be coming about the drop-off times and pick-up opportunities in December's publications. We need more help this year if you are interested in working before, during and after the sale. Contact Susan Curry (727) 709-8237 or e-mail [susankcurry@verizon.net](mailto:susankcurry@verizon.net) if you can help or if you have any questions.



## 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.



## 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. 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](http://www.northwoodpc.org) and click on the giving tab.
3. Click "Give" under the *ChurchLife app* menu options.

## Thank You!

Thank You Presbyterian Women for the toiletries and baby diapers collected to go to The Haven Domestic Violence Shelter in Clearwater.







### Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women Unified Circle has resumed its monthly meetings. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month with our next meeting on November 14th at 10:00am in rooms 4-8. 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](mailto:bill.martin2@verizon.net) or Sue Miskiewicz at [susan.miskiewicz@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.miskiewicz@yahoo.com).

### Bible Takeaways

The adult Sunday School/Bible Study class, led by Claudia Alwood, has resumed and will meet every Sunday morning at 10:00am in room 5. We will be comparing the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life, the Synoptic Gospels and John. All are welcome! Bring your Bible.

### Fresh Brewed

Fresh Brewed has resumed its monthly meetings. We meet on the first Friday of the month with our next meeting on November 3rd at 10:30am in rooms 5&7. We are starting a new book, *"Prayer, Does It Make a Difference?"* by Phillip Yancey. If you need a book or have any questions, please contact Louise Mylin at [LVNM1@hotmail.com](mailto:LVNM1@hotmail.com) or 727-787-9868.

### The Project Group



We have new members and new projects that we are working on during our meetings and at home. 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 (**November 28th**) at 10:00am in room 13. We make little dresses for Haiti, lap robes, walker bags, and stuffed teddy bears. New members are always welcome. Contact Marti Huff 727-503-3783 or Evelyn Towns 727-785-3743 with any questions.

### 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 the pastors know and contact the church office if you are interested or have any questions as we are in transition just now with our Director of Children Ministry staff position.

## Spotlight on Deacons' Ministries

### 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 between 12:15-12:30 on Sunday in the kitchen, or in the church office during office hours.

### What's Going on in Citylight

The holidays are here! This fall has been packed with our 4 weekly programs: Church, Sunday School, Youth Group on Wednesdays, and Friday Game Night! We are fortunate to have such an awesome Citylight community. Being together in worship is our most important time together so I hope to see you in worship with me on Sunday! We have so much going on this Thanksgiving and Christmas season, see below for important dates and information.

RECAP - Our All Church Retreat was October 20-22. It was so much fun and we are grateful for the youth, families, college students, and church members who participated. It was a fun weekend of camp activities, community building, and time in nature.

### UPCOMING -

- **MOVIE NIGHT & COSMIC BOWLING** - On Friday, November 17th we will have a Christmas Movie night at the church from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm then head to Maple Lanes for Cosmic Bowling! Pizza will be provided for dinner. Pick up at Maple Lanes at 12:00 pm. \$20 per student.
- **YOUTH AND FAMILIES FRIENDSGIVING** - During Thanksgiving Break all youth, college, families, and church friends of Citylight are welcome to Gather after church at 12:00 pm on Sunday, November 19th for a potluck, games, and fellowship! Sign up to bring a dish.
- **THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE** - Volunteer at Metropolitan Ministries Monday, November 20th, 10:15 am - 3:00 pm. This is open to all youth, college, families, and adult volunteers of Citylight. Sign up in our weekly email before space runs out. We will volunteer again on December 22nd from 10:15 am - 3:00 pm.
- **COLLEGE NIGHT** - Our college students are invited to join us at Topgolf St. Petersburg, on Tuesday, November 21st from 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm. \$20 per student.
- **RING, SING, AND MINGLE** - December 10 at 4:00 pm - This year we are having our Ring, Single, and Mingle followed by a cookie reception! This is an all-church event and is so much fun. We hope to see you there.
- **CHRISTMAS PARTY** - We will have our Annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 22nd in place of game night. 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm. There will be plenty of games, prizes, food, and a white elephant gift exchange. Youth, College, and Families are welcome.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE** - We will have a Christmas Eve Service geared towards families at 4:30 pm - we are looking for youth and college students to participate! If interested, please reach out via email or cell.

**SAVE THE DATE** - 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. Stay tuned for the sign-up!

Confirmation Class of 2024 - Confirmation is back! We have some youth group members interested in being confirmed, so we will have our Confirmation Classes on February 4th, 18th, 25th, March 3rd, and March 17th from 10:05 am to 11:30 am. This will be followed by a meeting with the church session in March (date TBA), as well as Graduation on Palm Sunday, March 24th during the Contemporary Service and followed by a light reception.

**SPRING BREAK** - We will offer a Mission Trip March 8-10 at Cedarkirk and a backyard mission-style week of spring events the 11th - 15th. Stay tuned.

**MONTREAT JUNE 1-8** - We are headed back to our third year at the Montreat Youth & College Conference. This is open to incoming 9th graders - college students. Stay tuned for more details!

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."* - Matthew 22:37

**Rosalie Pareja,**  
Director of Youth & Family Ministries