



Northwood Presbyterian Church
2875 State Road 580
Clearwater, FL 33761

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

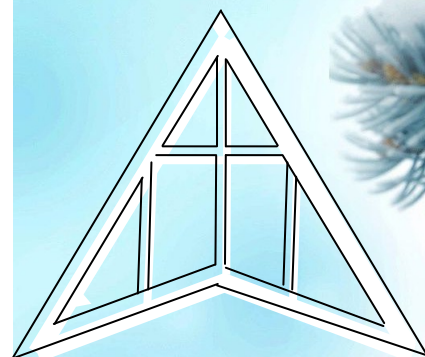
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A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Northwood Presbyterian Church



The Window

Chartering Organization of
Boy Scout Troop 413

December 2023
Volume 33, No. 12

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

*We hope you will join us and
invite friends and family to all the
special events and services we have planned!*

Friday, December 1

Celtic Christmas Concert
Gemma Briggs on Bagpipes, Irish Whistle and other
Celtic Instruments & Songs

Sunday, December 3rd

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service

Sunday, December 10

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service
4:00 PM Ring, Sing & Mingle
Handbell Concert and Carol Sing

Sunday, December 17

One worship Service—10:00 AM Christmas Cantata:
“Darkness Into Light” by Mary McDonald
Choir and Instruments

Sunday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

10:00 AM One Morning Worship Service
4:30 PM Contemporary Candlelight Service
7:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service
with Choirs & Carols

Sunday, December 31st

9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service

**“Angel Tree”
Gifts to Go to Beth-El and
the Homeless Empowerment Program (HEP)**

Our church’s beloved Christmas gift-giving traditions will be re-
turning November 19 through December 3, followed by the place-
ment of the familiar gold-and-white Crismons ornaments on the
tree in the narthex through the Christmas season.

HEP provides shelter and support services such as dental and
wellness care, as well as assistance with accessing social services,
to unhoused families and individuals, including veterans. This
year HEP has suggested that church members consider providing
the following gifts -- new items, unwrapped:

- Toys, clothing, or shoes for children and adults
- Gift cards (\$20-\$50 value) to Walmart, Target, Amazon or Publix
- Family outing gifts such as passes to movie theaters, the zoo or aquarium.

The Angel Tree in the narthex is decorated with handmade paper
houses, each of which names a gift item. Choose one of the
houses and bring the gift and the house back to the church by De-
cember 3, placing both under the tree. Along with the HEP houses
the tree will be decorated with handmade angels, on which a gift
item for a farmworker or child served by Beth-El has been named.
Just select one or more “angels” and bring the gift to the church
by Sunday, December 10. A Presbyterian ministry, Beth-El pro-
vides hunger relief, education, healthcare, and spiritual growth
opportunities to migrant workers and permanent residents.

Generations of Northwood members and visitors have
helped make the Christmases of indigent people in
our community a little happier through gifts placed
under the Angel Trees. If you have questions, please
call Pastor Paul Means at 727-796-8090.



**Ring, Sing
& Mingle**

**Sunday, December 10, 2023
4:00pm in the Sanctuary**

.....
Northwood’s three handbell choirs will
present a variety of Christmas Music
with Carol singing.

Cookie Reception to follow!

**Cookies for
Ring, Sing & Mingle**

One of the highlights of the
Ring, Sing & Mingle event is
all the homemade cookies!
If you’d like to volunteer to
make something, please
bring your baked goods to
the kitchen on the morning or
afternoon of December 10th
labeled Ring, Sing, Mingle.
If you’d like to volunteer to
assist with the reception,
please email at
stephanie@northwoodpc.org

At-A-Glance

This Month at Northwood

December 2023

Friday, December 1:
Celtic Christmas Concert
 7:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 3:
1st Sunday of Advent
 9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
 11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Sunday, December 10:
Second Sunday of Advent
 9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
 11:00 A.M. Traditional Service
 4:00 P.M. Ring, Sing & Mingle

Sunday, December 17:
3rd Sunday of Advent
 10:00 A.M. One Worship Service & Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve
4th Sunday of Advent
 10:00 A.M. One Worship Service
 4:30 P.M. Contemporary Candlelight Service
 7:00 P.M. Traditional Candlelight Service

Monday and Tuesday, December 25-26:
 The church office will be closed in observance of Christmas.

Sunday, December 31:
 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, 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



Poinsettias

Do you have someone you'd like to honor or remember with a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas? For just \$10, you can make that happen. Place your check designated "Poinsettia" and the completed sign-up form from Sunday's friendship sheet (through December 17th) in the giving station or drop off in the church office during regular office hours. If paying online, or do not have a bulletin insert to include with your check, be sure to send an email to communications@northwoodpc.org with the names of your loved ones and whether it is in memory or honor.

The Christmas Joy Special Offering

Sunday, December 17th, we will receive the annual Christmas Joy Offering. Your gifts make a difference in providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and in opportunities for deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related ethnic colleges and schools. Your generous support of the Christmas Joy Offering will make a difference in shining the One True Light of Christ's love.

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 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.

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 bikingringer@gmail.com to secure your spot.

2023 Contributions

Giving intended for 2023 must be received in the church office by noon on Friday, December 29 or postmarked no later than December 31, 2023. Contributions which are processed electronically through your bank's online bill pay or via our website must be initiated much earlier (probably no later than December 22) so that the transaction will fully process and qualify for deduction in 2023.

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.



Around Northwood



Caring for Our Church Family



with Choir & Instruments by Mary McDonald


One Worship Service
Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 10:00am

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.” The final program for 2023 will be on December 8th, at 10:30 a.m., featuring Rachalle Cox presenting, “The Breathtaking Beauty of Norway and Iceland: The Land of Fire and Ice.” 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

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, December 12th 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.



On Sunday, November 5th we celebrated All Saints Sunday. We remembered all those who have lost loved ones and friends that we may, without fear, trust those who are dear to us to God’s never-failing love. *The following names are from the membership roll of Northwood:*
November 1, 2022—October 31, 2023


Suzanne Rimmler (11/20/22)	Sue GaVette (1/20/23)
Marge Vander Slik (11/25/22)	JoAnn Bruno (2/20/23)
Robert Stone (11/29/22)	Lloyd Kimball (3/7/23)
Linda Diamond (12/16/22)	Jane Sumwalt (4/23/23)
Marie Elliot (12/16/22)	Robert Adams(6/18/23)
Art Callan (12/20/22)	Carl Corrello (7/13/23)
Pat Callan (1/5/23)	Bill Lewis (7/18/23)
Helene Zalay (1/6/23)	
Jeri Heycock (1/11/23)	

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



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.

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.

Prayers and Christian Sympathies to:

- The Flaherty Family upon the news of the death of Mary Duffey on November 17.
- The Puschmann Family upon the news of the death of Ed Puschmann on November 17.

Beth-El Blanket—Thank You!

The Presbyterian Women, the NPC Mission Team and the Beth-El farm workers ministry thank you for your wonderful response of giving blankets and suitcases to migrant workers who have recently come to Florida. Through your generous giving 190 blankets, 3 sets of sheets, 7 pillows were collected. Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus in this way!




Thank You!

This year again, Linda and David Feller donated over 300 canned goods for the Northwood Food Pantry. This donation came at a critical time as volunteers were having to shop weekly to help keep the shelves stocked. We are so grateful for Linda and David's most generous support to the pantry. The Pantry sends our heartfelt Thanks!!

The Northwood Food Pantry received another large donation of canned food items on Sunday, November 12th. Our beloved Jeanette and Art Holloway brought in a shopping cart loaded with so many items that the pantry gives out to those that come to the church for help. Many thanks for this wonderful gift!!

Music Ministry’s Annual Garage Sale



Only a few weeks left to get your closets, extra rooms and garages cleared out and ready for delivery or pick-up for the 2024 Garage Sale. The sale will take place on January 11, 12 and 13, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We are only successful in raising funds for the Music Ministry with your generosity! Please invite your family, neighbors and friends to donate and to come to the sale. Cards are available in the narthex to hand out or post. Social media is a great way to get the message out. All items are welcome – clothes, jewelry, furniture, household, linens, fine collectibles, holiday, books, tools, outdoor, etc. Please no older tvs or entertainment centers. Collections at the church will begin on December 27, 2023 and continue through January 9, 2024. Donation pick-ups will occur the weekend of January 6 and 7, 2024. Volunteers are still needed to help with set-up, sorting, cashiering, security, and clean-up. Please call or e-mail if you can help or need a donation pick-up – Susan Curry (727) 709-8237 or susankcurry@verizon.net

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.





Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women, Sisters in Christ, meets monthly on the second Tuesday of the month with our next meeting on December 12th at 10:00am in rooms 5 & 7 with a Christmas Brunch to follow! 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.



For the November Presbyterian Women's meeting, the ladies were asked to bring in food donations in support of HEP (Homeless Empowerment Program). We collected many items! It took three carts to carry out all the food donations this month. We feel so thankful that we are able to help others and we're looking forward to our Christmas Brunch on December 12 after our lesson and meeting.

Fresh Brewed

Fresh Brewed meets on the first Friday of the month with our next meeting on December 1st 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 LVNM1@hotmail.com or 727-787-9868.

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.

Nursery & Sunday School for Children

Infants and toddlers ages 3 and under are provided care in our nursery during the entire Worship Service. 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.



Our Christmas Program will be held on Friday, December 21st at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary and all are invited. The program will include performances by the two-year-old, three-year old and VPK classes. The children will be dismissed directly after the program and there will be refreshments for all to enjoy. The staff at Kids' Corner Preschool wishes you all a Blessed Christmas & Happy Healthy New Year! Please feel free to call or email Roxane Fineo in the office with any questions or concerns. 727-723-7679 or schooldirector@northwoodpc.org.

What's Going on in Citylight

Christmas is right around the corner. 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. We have so much going on this 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.

YOUTH AND FAMILIES FRIENDSGIVING - During Thanksgiving Break, the youth & college families and church friends of Citylight gathered after church on Sunday, November 19th for a potluck, games, and fellowship! It was a great time.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE - We volunteered at Metropolitan Ministries Monday, November 20th, where we helped provide over a thousand groceries to people in need.

COLLEGE NIGHT - Our college students gathered at Topgolf St. Petersburg, on Tuesday, November 21st. It's always a great time when our college students get together.

UPCOMING -

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 FOOD DRIVE - We volunteer at Metropolitan Ministries on December 22nd from 10:15 am - 3:00 pm. Sign up in our weekly email.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - We will have our Annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 22nd in replace 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.

ROCK THE UNIVERSE - 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. 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 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

