



**Northwood Presbyterian Church**  
2875 State Road 580

**A Stephen Ministry Congregation**

**DO NOT DELAY  
TIME VALUE DATA  
EXPEDITE!!!**

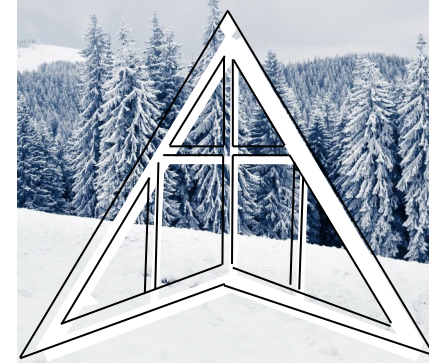
NON-PROFIT  
ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 8088  
TAMPA FL

**Sent with Prayer to...**

**A Stephen Ministry Congregation**

**Northwood Presbyterian Church**

Organized February 19, 1978





*The Window*

**Chartering Organization of  
Boy Scout Troop 413**

December 2024  
Volume 34, 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)

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

**Sunday, December 1**

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

**Sunday, December 8**

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 15**

10:00 AM One Morning Worship Service  
Christmas Cantata with Choir & Instruments

**Sunday, December 22**

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

**Tuesday, December 24th**

4:30 PM Family Candlelight Service  
7:00 PM Traditional Candlelight Service w/Choir  
(Childcare will be offered at the 4:30pm service only)

**Sunday, December 29**

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

**Sermon Series: "Unexpected Presents"**

During the month of December and the Sundays leading up to the celebration of Christ's birth, known as Advent season, our Pastor, Chris Curvin, will be offering a series of sermons entitled, "Unexpected Presents." These sermons focus on Christmas as the celebration of the mysterious, yet real presence of God who came into a world that was neither safe nor secure. Into the darkness of our world we celebrate the coming of an unexpected presence. The prophet Isaiah promises that into our lives comes a great light! (Isaiah 9:2-7). Regardless of what presents you hope to find under your Christmas tree this year through these sermons and the songs we sing in worship, we hope you will remember that into the darkness and misery of our world, **God with us** is the true and very real unexpected presence we receive at Christmas.



**Angel Tree**

Our church's beloved Christmas gift-giving traditions will be returning November 24 through December 15, followed by the placement of the familiar gold-and-white Chrismon ornaments on the tree in the narthex through the Christmas season.

The Angel Tree in the narthex is decorated with handmade paper houses for HEP which 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. Each house names a gift item. Choose one of the houses and bring the gift and the house back to the church, placing both under the tree by December 8.

Along with the HEP houses, on December 8, the tree will be decorated with handmade angels, on which a gift item for a farm-worker 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 15. A Presbyterian ministry, Beth-El provides hunger relief, education, healthcare, and spiritual growth opportunities to migrant workers and permanent residents. If you have questions, please call Pastor Paul Means at 727-796-8090.



**Ring, Sing & Mingle**

**Sunday, December 8, 2024  
at 4:00pm, Sanctuary**

- \*Featuring our 3 Handbell Choirs
- \*Singing of Christmas Songs & Carols
- \*Cookie Reception to Follow

There will be an opportunity for  
a freewill offering.

Northwood Presbyterian Church  
2875 State Road 580  
Clearwater, FL 33761

**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 8th labeled Ring, Sing, Mingle. If you'd like to volunteer to assist with the reception, please email at [stephanie@northwoodpc.org](mailto:stephanie@northwoodpc.org)

# At-A-Glance

## This Month at Northwood

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

**Sunday, December 8:  
2nd Sunday of Advent**  
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service  
4:00 P.M. Ring, Sing & Mingle

**Sunday, December 15:  
3rd Sunday of Advent**  
10:00 A.M. One Worship Service & Christmas Cantata

**Sunday, December 22:  
4th Sunday of Advent**  
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service  
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

**Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve**  
4:30 P.M. Contemporary Candlelight Service  
7:00 P.M. Traditional Candlelight Service

**Wednesday & Thursday, December 25 & 26:**  
The church office will be closed in observance of Christmas.

**Sunday, December 29:**  
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

# December 2024

Christmas Season Events & Angel Tree	1
At-A-Glance	2
Caring for our Church Family	3
News from the Mission Field	3
Christian Education	4
Youth Ministry	5
Around Northwood	6
Around Northwood	7
Ring, Sing & Mingle	8

## The Window

Published monthly by Northwood Presbyterian Church, Edited by Emily Cantin

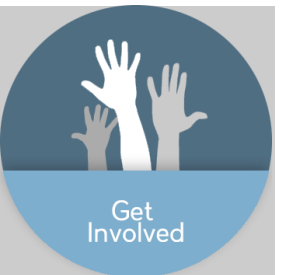
### Submissions:

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



### 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 2025 Garage Sale. The sale will take place on January 16, 17 and 18, 2025 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, 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](mailto:susankcurry@verizon.net)

### Pledge Cards for 2025

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 2024. 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 2024. We look forward to the work God is preparing for us in 2025.



### 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 today's friendship sheet (through December 15) in the giving station or drop off in the church office during regular office hours. If paying online, be sure to send an email to [communications@northwoodpc.org](mailto: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 15th, 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.

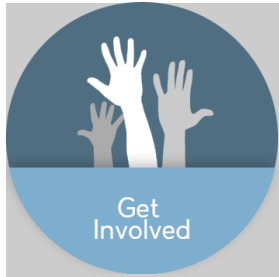
### 2024 Contributions

Giving intended for 2024 must be received in the church office by noon on Monday, December 30 or postmarked no later than December 31, 2024. 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 26) so that the transaction will fully process and qualify for deduction in 2024.

### 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.



# Around Northwood



## 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 210 blankets, 25 cases of water and a very large quantity of food were donated! Thank you for sharing the love of Jesus in this way!



## 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 10th 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](mailto:curtis.krueger@gmail.com) or [david@primeimagesinc.com](mailto:david@primeimagesinc.com).

## 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     | Peanut Butter     |
| Pasta Sauce     | Jelly             |
| Beef Stew       | Tuna              |
| Chili           | Soup              |
| Beef Ravioli    | Canned Vegetables |
| Spaghetti Sauce | Canned Fruit      |



## Fun! Friends! Friday! The Ren Crew

The Ren Crew Friday Fellowship will meet on Friday, December 13th at 10:30 in rooms 9 & 11. 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," Mike and Linda O'Leary will provide the program "Ancient Mediterranean Treasures." Following the program, we will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. 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).



## NPC Garden Club—Dec. 14, 9am-12pm

Calling all friends, fellow Christians and green thumb enthusiasts! Saturday, December 14th, from 9:00am-12:00pm, Northwood will be hosting our next landscaping clean-up and fertilization day to help maintain our beautiful campus. Please bring working gloves, any tools you prefer working with, and a diligent spirit. Please contact Ritchie and Leslie Henley at [leslicanne1968@icloud.com](mailto:leslicanne1968@icloud.com) with any questions.

## NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

### Thornwell

Thank you for your contribution of \$500 to Thornwell. 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 so much more and we can't thank you enough!

Sincerely, Elizabeth Milhous, VP for Mission Advancement

### Clearwater Free Clinic

On behalf of the staff, volunteers, board and patients, we thank you sincerely and are grateful for your kind donation of \$500 to the Clearwater Free Clinic. Your gift will directly impact the lives of the uninsured, medically underprivileged people we are committed to serving.

Yours in Health, Anthony Degina, CEO

### HEP (Homeless Empowerment Program)

There are not enough words to express how deeply grateful we are of your recent gift of \$500 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

### Foundation for International Missions

Dear Friends, thank you for your generous gift of \$500 given in support of our mission at the New Hope Clinic in Rural Honduras. This is a thoughtful and generous way to support this mission which depends on all of us for its continuation. Each gift makes it possible for Dr. Davila and his staff to provide life-saving medical care to those who would otherwise have no access. We are so grateful to share this mission with you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely, Frances M. Mikuta, Assistant Treasurer



The Northwood Food Pantry had a nice surprise on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> as Joan Davis from Briar Creek brought over an SUV loaded with cases of food. Besides all the food, there were monetary donations which totaled over \$150.00. Thank you Joan for spearheading this massive collection of food items as Northwood is grateful and so blessed that you donated to our pantry.

The Northwood Food Pantry would like to extend a HUGE THANKS to Linda and David Feller for their generous donation of hundreds of canned goods that will help fill our pantry shelves. Each year Linda and David donate cases of food to our pantry and we are blessed again to have such an enormous outpouring of care for those that come to our church for help. Thank you!

## Memorial Gifts

### In Memory of:

Loisanne Bilka  
Loisanne Bilka

### Given by:

Lyla Healey  
Donna & Ray Guterman

## 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.

## Prayer Ministry

Roger Adkisson, Elaine Beattie, Carol Anderson, Julie Bryant, Fred Inkles, Phillip Mackie, Mildred Martin, Robin MacLennan, Norman Phillips, David Smith, Gene Snyder.

## Prayers and Christian Sympathies to:

- The McMullen Family upon the news of the death of his Emily McMullen, on November 24.
- Martha Tobiassen and Family upon the news of the death of her husband, Ken, on November 24.
- Wylla (Bunny) Bitner and Family upon the news of the death of Bunny's husband, Bill, on November 24.



On Sunday, November 3rd 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, 2023—October 31, 2024

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ed Puschmann (11/17/23)    | Darrough Diamond (4/26/24) |
| Mary Duffey (11/17/23)     | Lauren Preston (5/19/24)   |
| Barbara Schlerf (12/25/23) | Kay Ferguson (5/14/24)     |
| Shirley Gleason (1/16/24)  | Kerry Elwood (5/22/24)     |
| Donald Faulkner (2/16/24)  | Raymond Linville (6/2/24)  |
| Violet Lawrence (4/21/24)  | Loisanne Bilka (9/1/24)    |
| Don Hamilton Jr. (4/25/24) |                            |

# Christian Education



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women's Sisters in Christ Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 10th at 10:00am in room 5 of the Education Building. Our 9 month study books, "Let Justice Roll Down" are available for purchase for \$5.00. For more information about how you can be involved, contact Patty Martin or Sue Miskiewicz. After our lesson there will be a potluck lunch. We hope to see you there! 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.



Bags of canned goods filled the trunk of this car! Presbyterian Women collected these in November for the Homeless Empowerment Program. Our December charity is Clothes for Kids.

## 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 December 6th. 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 meets every Sunday morning at 10:00am in room 5. All are welcome! Bring your Bible. The class is studying 1 Corinthians. Please join us!

## Cedarkirk Women's Retreat— January 10-12, 2025

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! **DEPOSITS ARE DUE NOW!** Registration forms are available on the poster across from the kitchen. If you have any questions, contact Jeanne at jeanneestephen@gmail.com.



## 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.

## Kids' Corner Preschool & Before/After School Care Program

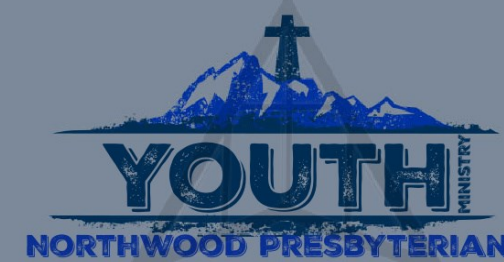


Our Christmas Program will be held on Wednesday, December 19th at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary and all are invited. The program will include performances by the two-year-old, three-year old and VPK classes. The children will be dismissed directly after the program and there will be refreshments for all to enjoy. The staff at Kids' Corner Preschool wishes you all a Blessed Christmas & Happy Healthy New Year!

**If you are interested in registration or have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Roxane Fineo at schooldirector@northwoodpc.org or 727-723-7679.**

## Worship/Communion

Due to our very limited participation with the gluten-free (GF) communion kits, along with concerns expressed re: taste and texture and lack of ease to use (sometimes even resulting in spillage), the Worship Committee will phase out the use of the kits as the current supply expires year end. Should the need for a gluten-free option grow and/or product offerings hopefully improve, we can and will certainly reconsider their use. In the meantime, please feel free to bring your bread of choice as you are welcomed to and encouraged to participate in communion during the worship service.



## 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.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Youth Room  
Sunday @ 10-11 AM  
After Contemporary Service

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

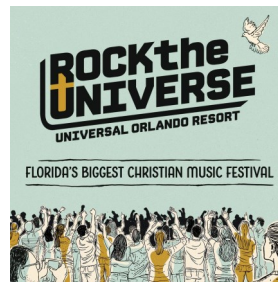
The youth Sunday School meets every Sunday morning at 10:00am in the youth room. During this time, we will discuss the scripture and message and incorporate worship elements like music into our hour.



**CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE** - We volunteer at Metropolitan Ministries on December 23rd from 10:15 am - 3:00 pm. Sign up in our weekly email.



**CHRISTMAS PARTY** - We will have our Annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8th from 7:00pm following the Ring, Sing and Mingle. There will be plenty of games, prizes, food, and a white elephant gift exchange. Youth, College, and Families are welcome.



**ROCK THE UNIVERSE** - Save the date! January 24-25. All youth and college students are invited to join in on this amazing weekend of fun and faith! This trip will include a hotel stay for two nights and a 2-day park pass. Stay tuned for a sign-up and cost information in our Youth & Families weekly email.

GAME NIGHT

Youth Room  
Fridays  
7-10PM

BRING YOUR FRIENDS

**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.