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Kids' Corner Preschool & Before/After School Care Program

September was such a fun filled month with the children learning all about family pets, farms, things that grow on a farm, farm animals. Some of the classes talked about the many different types of animals you may have as a family pet, and some classes counted how many friends have dogs, cats, fish, birds as pets. They also learned all about Johnny Appleseed!

The children will enjoy picking pumpkins at our 5th Annual Kids' Corner Pumpkin Patch. On Wednesday, October 14th, each class will visit our pumpkin patch during their scheduled playground time to search for well-hidden pumpkins. They will also enjoy outdoor story time. Every child will go home with a small pumpkin.

On October 21st Mike's Carnivores (plants) will visit our school to share a presentation of their wonderful plants with our classes!



Our Halloween Parade will take place on Friday, October 30th, at 9:30am.

Chipotle Fundraiser!



Mark your calendars, spread the word, and let's come together for a fun night of food and community! We are excited to invite you to our Chipotle Fundraiser on **Wednesday, October 13th, located at 2537 Countryside Blvd, Clearwater. The event will run from 4:00—8:00pm.** Simply let the cashier know you want to participate for the Kids Corner Spirit Night. You can also order online for pick-up, using the promo code **D6GDBBM** on the Chipotle app or website. The funds raised will be used for special events and activities for the children!

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Organized February 19, 1978



The Window

Chartering Organization of
Boy Scout Troop 413

October 2026
Volume 36, No. 9

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

Meet Our New Interim Associate Pastor

Greetings Northwood Community, my name is Rev. Bob Scott, and I am excited to be starting as your new Interim Associate Minister!

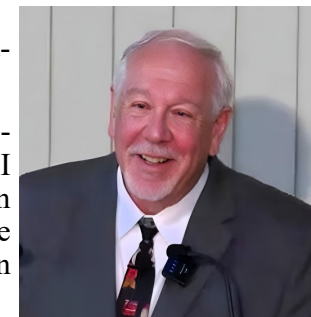
Let me share a bit about myself: I'm a Midwesterner at heart, growing up in Southern Illinois, though I have now lived in Florida longer than anywhere else. My wife, Linley, and I graduated high school together, and began dating when I went to work at the Presbyterian Church where she and her family attended! We have now been married 42 years, and are the proud parents to four wonderful adult children: our oldest Andrew and his wife Mollie live in Denver, and our son Grayson and daughter Emma both live in the Clearwater area.

I have been a PCUSA minister for almost 40 years, and in that time I have had the honor of serving in five churches, each unique and special: Martin, TN; Pekin, IL; Palatka, FL; I was at Peace Memorial here in Clearwater for over 10 years; and for the past 2-plus years I have served as the Transitional Minister at Fort King Presbyterian Church in Ocala, FL.

My wife Linley is a hospital social worker at the nearby Countryside Hospital. Nothing makes us happier than to travel, usually to see – or with -- the family! When we're home, we read a lot, and are known to binge the latest Netflix series, though we do enjoy the occasional dinner out with friends, a day at the beach, or just walking in the neighborhood...oh, and my blessed saint of a wife puts up with my baseball addiction (*Go Cardinals! And Go Rays!*)!

Starting November 1st we are both looking forward to meeting all of you, and becoming a part of the Northwood Family of Faith!

-Pastor Bob



WAY Dinners Are Back! Save the Dates!



WAY Dinners are **October 28, November 4, 11 & 18**. The dinner begins at 6:00pm. Reservation forms will be located on the bulletin board outside of the kitchen first week in October. See reservation form for more information. Don't forget to invite a friend. 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 Group** in the Youth Room (following the dinner)
- **Chancel Choir** rehearsal 7:00-8:30 pm.

At-A-Glance

This Month at Northwood

October 2026

Sunday, October 4:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

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

Tuesday, October 13:
Pre-School Chipotle Fundraiser 4:00-8:00 P.M.

Sunday, October 18:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Sunday, October 25:
9:00 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Wednesday, October 28:
6:00 P.M. WAY Dinner

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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

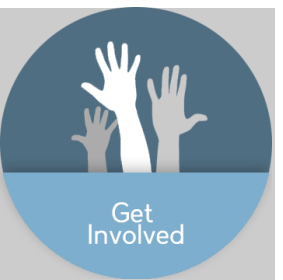
Published monthly by
Northwood Presbyterian
Church, Edited by Emily Cantin

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



Welcome New Members

We welcome these new members who attended our September 20 Discovering Northwood



Diane Dewaters
11:00am Worship



Dan Hughes
9:00am Worship



Holly Hunt
9:00am Worship



Trish Northrup
9:00am Worship



Carole Van Nahl
11:00am Worship

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! Reservation forms are available at the church office. Please reserve your spot NOW! The retreat will be held on Jan. 8-10, 2027.

Peace & Global Witness Offering— Oct 4

Sunday, October 4th, we will receive the annual Peacemaking Offering. Eighty percent of the offering will be divided between Bridging Freedom and Samaritan Village, both organizations fighting against the sex trafficking of women and providing victims safety, healing and hope. The PCUSA will receive 20% of the offering. Let us give generously for Jesus' sake!



Nominating Committee

NOMINATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED. Do you know of someone you would like to see serving as Elder, Deacon or on the Nominating Committee for 2027? The current Nominating Committee will accept nominations for Church Officers now through November 1. **Remember to get the person's permission before nominating them.** Nomination forms may be returned to the church office.

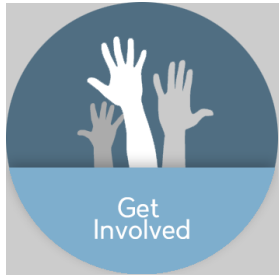
I have the permission of

to nominate him/her for the office of

Elder or Deacon or Nominating Committee 2027

(Please circle one)

2026 Nominating Committee: Tim Beaver, Louise Mylin, Cookie Roffey, Todd Adkisson, Vicki Parker, Kay Scheuerman



Around Northwood

Tour the Northwood Campus—October 11

New to Northwood Presbyterian Church? Not sure where things are located? Haven't found rooms 1, 2, or 3 yet? Wondering about the history of Northwood? You can find out. Meet Elder, Dee Rivers, in the gathering area outside the kitchen for a 20 minute tour of the building October 11th at 10am immediately after the 9am service and again at noon, immediately after the 11am service.

Northwood Photo Group—October 13



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, October 13th 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—October 16

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, October 16th 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—October 27

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 October 27th. 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—October 26

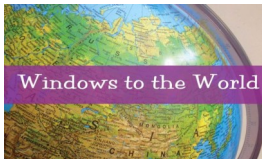
The Jane Sutton Book Club will be October 26th. The group meets the 4th Monday of the month at 10:00am. Our book selection is The Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish. We are a small group of readers who would welcome more voices as we discuss stories, characters and how they relate to our lives. We usually 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 727-337-3183.



Fun! Friends! Friday!

The Ren Crew

The Ren Crew Friday Fellowship will meet on **Friday, October 9th 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", **Cynthia & David Lawrence will present "Postcards for Tuscany."** 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.



SING THE CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Who: Anyone who would like to join the choir to sing our Christmas Cantata. (You do need to be able to read choir music, but we will happily seat you near a strong singer, if needed).

What: Northwood's Christmas Cantata, "O Holy Night – A Celebration of the Prince of Peace", with chamber orchestra.

Songs: "O Holy Night", "Gesu Bambino", "How Great Our Joy", "Little Drummer Boy", "Do You Hear What I Hear", "Candlelight Carol", "All Is Well", "Children, Go Where I Send Thee", "Every Valley"

When: Special Cantata Sing-thru, Saturday, October 3 from 10-11:30. Rehearsals will be every Wednesday from 6:45-7:40 beginning October 7th. Dress Rehearsal, Saturday morning December 12. Performance, Sunday morning December 13.

Why: All raising our voices together to sing of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. There is no Sunday morning commitment. You will meet new people and sing wonderful music!

Contact: Stephanie Carson stephanie@northwoodpc.org; 727-458-9749

Garage Sale 2027– Save the Date!

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

Boy Scouts Troop 413 Wreath Sale

Scout Troop 413 is selling Christmas wreaths to help fund their Scouting activities. If you are interested and able to support their efforts, please visit <https://omt.sffwa.com/minisite/troop413> or contact their coordinator at 727-510-5701. Merry Christmas!



Caring for Our Church Family

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of:
Fred Churchsmith
Sarah Birch

Given by:
Jeanette & Art Holloway
Nancy Turner

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Clearwater Free Clinic

Thank you for your support at the Clearwater Free Clinic. Your generosity helps ensure our patients receive the care they need, and we are so grateful for you.

With Heartfelt Thanks, Your Friends at the Free Clinic

Foundation for International Missions

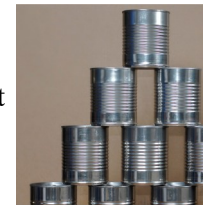
I want to thank you for your continuing financial support of FFIM. It is so important to the mission of our New Hope Clinic in Honduras. In addition to your generous financial support, I ask that you support us with your prayers. God has guided this mission from the beginning, and we continue to seek and discern his Holy Spirit. Blessings, Rick Smith, Director of Development

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



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 \$40.76 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!

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.

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!



Many thanks again this month to the Briar Creek community for the huge donation of food and monetary gifts that you have so generously provided for our food pantry here at Northwood Presbyterian church. To date we have given out over 200 bags of food to families that have come to the church for help. The need is overwhelming in our own community and with your donations each month, we are able to provide food to those seeking assistance. Thank you, Joan Davis, for spearheading this great effort!

Prayers for our Military Families



If you have an immediate family member in the military that you would like added to our prayer list, please contact the church office, 727-796-8090.

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 October 13th. We will continue in our 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



The Sisters in Christ PW Circle met on September 8th for Bible study, fellowship and giving. This month's donations were items for Clothes to Kids. In October, we will be collecting for The Haven. All church women are welcome to attend.

Fresh Brewed

Fresh Brewed meets on the first Friday of the month at 10:30am in rooms 5&7. **We will meet October 2nd.** 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 **Thursday Mornings at 10:30am** for study and instruction on our study of Revelation. We will meet on **Sunday mornings at 10:00am** in room 8 for discussion of our Revelation study. 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.

Home Communion

If you or someone you know is unable to attend church, either short-term or long-term to receive communion, Northwood's Home Communion Ministry Team would be happy to bring Communion to you. The Home Communion ministry, made up of both active and resting Elders and Deacons, have become involved in this important ministry of care and compassion to Northwood members who are homebound and unable to attend church. No preparation on your part is needed, we bring everything. We visit homes, rehab centers, hospitals, etc. For more information, please contact Jackie Koski at 727-726-5359.

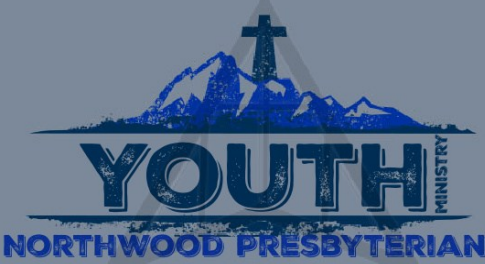
Home Communion Ministers: Randy Ball, Elaine Cornillaud, Rachelle Cox, Mike Elza, Jackie Koski, Earle Lusk, Dee Rivers and Sandy Seckel.

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.

Spotlight on **Deacons' Ministries**

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 Karen Gipson at kgipson99@yahoo.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/>.

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.

Transportation Ministry

This ministry provides transportation for the 11:00am service. It is for members and friends who are unable to drive themselves to church. **Volunteer drivers are always welcome.** If you need the service of this ministry, please call the church office by noon on Thursdays.