



Northwood Presbyterian Church
 2875 State Road 580
 Clearwater, FL 33761
 A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Your Giving Matters

Even when we can't be together, your giving matters. We want to continue being the church in our community and to each and every one of you in the days ahead. 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 throughout this time 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
4. Scan the QR code below with your smartphone's camera and click the link



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Northwood Presbyterian Church



The Window

Chartering Organization of Boy Scout Troop 413

May 2020
 Volume 30, No. 5

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

Good News from Northwood!

Chris Curvin asked me (Chris Hurst) if I would be willing to update you regarding the current situation here at church from my perspective. Since the news is good, even in the midst of a global pandemic, I was happy for the assignment.

We want to start by saying a resounding thank you for your faithful giving and generosity. We have been so encouraged by those of you who have sent your tithes/offerings in the mail, given electronically through the website/text (some for the very first time) or by visiting the Church Office. Even though we began to feel the impact of COVID 19 on our ability to meet, worship and pray together during the month of March, your giving remained faithful and strong. The March financial reports indicate that it was as if nothing had happened at all! I'm also happy to tell you that even though we have lost some tuition revenue from the closure of the Kids' Corner and the Before/After School programs, your giving so far during the month of April is sustaining us.

Your financial support remains critical in our ability to be the church even though we can't be together. We always monitor our budget monthly and just as at any other time, it will be adjusted based on giving, if necessary. We understand that many of us may have already or will experience job loss, changes in financial position and possibly ill health. As we have always been, Northwood intends to be here for the hurting. Therefore, if you are able to maintain your regular giving or make an over and above gift out of God's provision for you, we pray that you will. But, if you need help, please call the Church Office and make your needs known.

We are taking steps to care for others and be good stewards of all that God has provided over time and in this time. Northwood has approximately 25 to 30 employees on staff. Many of these are part time teachers or counselors in our school programs which are now closed. We are pleased to tell you that we will be able to continue paying school staff members through the end of the school year in mid-May. Your past faithfulness, the program's 2019 success and funding for the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten from the State of Florida have made this possible. The teachers are remaining in contact with their students, providing weekly packets of worksheets/activities and providing story time videos. The NPC Food Pantry is stocked and remains open for you, if needed, and for those who are food insecure in our community. Additionally, the Mission and Outreach Ministry Team is exploring ways the pantry will continue to operate if stocking it becomes more difficult in the days ahead. If you or someone you know needs food, please call the Church Office. We are not requiring any paperwork during this time and groceries are placed on the bench outside the office for pick up. If you wish to support the pantry financially or with food donations, everything will be put to good use and we thank those who have been intentional in doing so particularly these last few weeks.

Other than the sanctuary and office space, our church campus is not in use. Our monthly cleaning contract has been modified for the unused areas and will resume when we reopen. Those areas still in use are being thoroughly cleaned at a reduced cost to the church with special attention being given to all touch points for the safety and well-being of those who come to the church. Thermostats have been set a little higher, lights are off in unused areas and funds are not being used for any service or supply that is not necessary during this time. We anticipate that thankfully we will see a reduction in many of our overhead expenses.

Our pastors, staff members, deacons and shepherds are reaching out by phone, email and written notes to stay connected with you during what we know is challenging for all of us and isolating for so many. Prayer requests can be submitted at our website and through the link in our weekly email update. We have been praying for you and if you have a specific request, we want to know. There are many ways to share your needs and concerns, please join us in working to stay connected with each other. Call the person you've missed seeing in worship. It will probably make your day and theirs. If you have a mobile device, now is a great

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This Month at Northwood

Sunday, May 3:

9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

Sunday, May 10:

9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

Sunday, May 17: Graduate Recognition

9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

Sunday, May 24:

9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

Sunday, May 31: Pentecost

9:30 A.M. Online IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Online Traditional Service

Staff members are available to answer any questions you might have regarding church related programs.

Chris Curvin, Pastor
Paul Means, Associate Pastor
Stephanie Carson, Music
Tom Huffman, Music
Justine Davis, Children and Preschool
Rosalie Bradford, Youth and Families

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.

time to download the Church Life App for access to the electronic church directory. If you need help doing that, call the office. If you'd rather, we can provide an electronic or paper copy of current directory information.

As a reminder, the church office remains open with modifications to our hours and staffing model for the health and safety of all. For the time being, we will be open Monday-Thursday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. and closed on Friday. Our staff will be alternating their days in the office and working from home on the others. The afternoon and Friday hours will be reserved for staff members who need/want to further limit their contact with others during this time. All staff members continue to be available via email or phone regardless of the office schedule.

We are all learning new things in this environment. On a weekly basis, we review the quality/content/appearance of our livestreamed worship services. Facebook has been added as an additional platform and other ways of making the services available online are being explored. As I said, we're learning new things. Equipment was acquired that makes it possible to display the words of hymns and prayers over the video feed to make your participation at home easier and more meaningful. A printer friendly version of the Sunday bulletin has been added to our website. As mentioned before, prayers may be submitted electronically as well. We hope all these efforts have helped you feel more at ease with online worship even though we don't want you to get too comfortable. We miss you! We also appreciate your patience through our missteps. We are kept going by those who, in spite of it all, have reached out to let us know that our efforts have ministered to you in these hard days. Your notes, messages and calls mean so much to us as a staff. Thank you.

If you don't have children at home, you might be somewhat removed from the special challenges facing parents and children right now. As a part of Northwood, you can be proud of the ways in which the Youth Ministry has found to stay connected and relevant in the lives of our middle and high school students and their families in this unusual time. Multiple Bible studies, Sunday School and even game nights (can you imagine?) have continued without interruption via online video meetings. There was even a quite challenging Facebook Easter egg hunt. We know virtual anything isn't the same as being together in person however God is using this ministry to build strong connections between these students/families and their church that we trust will be remembered as His tender care during a difficult time.

We're in an odd season, to say the least. But seasons do change and this one will too. By the time you read this, we may have already learned of new guidelines and protocols. Pastor Chris leads us each week in a video staff meeting so we can work together and share ideas about the latest changes even though we haven't all been in the office at one time in several weeks. We hope that you can tell from Sunday worship, the communication you receive in various ways from the church and the good news I've been able to share here, that we are working well together though apart. Please know that your church staff misses you and that we are praying for you. We are praying for relief from the restrictions as well as God's wisdom and guidance for how to move forward safely. Know that we are planning for our reunion. We are longing for that glorious day when we again worship and fellowship to God's glory and in person. We hope that you will pray for us too and that God will be with you until we meet again!



The Kitchen Krew Reaches Out to Help People in Need During the Pandemic

On a recent Friday, the irrepressible Michael Cromwell, one of the key leaders of the Kitchen Krew, burst through the back door of the church, dressed in a mask and gloves and carrying a box filled with so much food it nearly obscured the top of his face. He was ready to cook in an almost empty church that, due to the pandemic, no longer has in-person services or meetings. Soon Kitchen Krew members Barbara Moler and Elaine Cornillaud joined him in cooking nearly three dozen meals that would be delivered to shut-ins and others in need, all the while taking precautions to ensure their safety and that of others.

What was happening is no mystery to people who have seen Michael joyfully cooking and serving meals for W.A.Y Dinners and so many other church gatherings. "With all that is going on, I wanted to do something to help, and I love to cook," relates Michael, a former Director of Catering at the sprawling Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort in Palm Harbor. "I thought of the church members and others who are shut-in and decided I could make dinners for them and recruit others to help deliver the meals. Michael asked Pastor Chris if he could use the church kitchen and food on hand to take on this project. Chris readily agreed. "I immediately called friends Elaine and Barb, who happen to be members of the Kitchen Krew," recalls Michael. "They not only wanted to deliver meals but to help cook them, as well."

As the project took shape, Michael arranged to partner with the First Presbyterian Church of Safety Harbor. Both churches have helped to identify shut-ins and others who are ill or debilitated. Three members of the Safety Harbor church are joining the three Kitchen Krew members in delivering the cooked meals to recipients' doors. Michael first used up left-over food from recent W.A.Y Dinners: two pies in the freezer (plus another he purchased), puddings in the refrigerator that he used to make banana puddings, etc. Soon the left-over food ran out and he was purchasing ingredients. When a church member heard about the initiative and made a large donation, the project shifted to the Kitchen Krew mission, with all gifts going through the Kitchen Krew Fund. As of Easter, the team of three was cooking 32 meals twice a week. When delivering the cooked meals, which just need to be re-heated, safety and compassion are joined. "We arrive at a place, call with a greeting, leave the meal on the doorstep, ring the doorbell and drive away."

When asked to be interviewed for this article, Michael at first demurred. "I really don't want publicity," he insisted. But when asked to consider that stories of Christian generosity can inspire others, he relented. Pastor Paul, whose sermon on Maundy Thursday focused on the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet, agreed that the Kitchen Krew's current project is one more example of "the ministry that the Gospel of Jesus calls us to."

—Eleanor Cicerchi





Around Northwood

All Church Retreat & Women's Retreat Save the Dates!



Something to look forward to! Please save these Cedarkirk dates on your calendar! The All-Church Retreat will be held on Oct. 23-25, 2020 and the Women's Retreat will be held on Feb. 19-21, 2021.

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.

The need in our own community is overwhelming now during this Covid-19 pandemic. 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



Virtual Brown Bag Bible Study on Livestream and Facebook Live

On Thursdays at noon, Pastor Paul is leading a four week Bible study through May 7th, exploring Romans chapter 8, one of the greatest chapters in all the Bible. This chapter has been and continues to be a source of great strength and comfort to Christians in every time and place. From beginning to end, it reminds us that nothing can separate the children of God from His love. Join us as we seek to grow in faith, hope and love. If you have any questions, contact Paul Means at paul@northwoodpc.org

Garage Sale Update

Thank you again to all of you who donated and spent so much time helping with the most successful Garage Sale we have had to-date. The tally as of the end of March, 2020 is a little over \$18,000. Amazing! There are still a couple of unique items like a stamp collection, china and antique toy truck, etc. that are waiting for the right buyers.

Many of you might be home right now cleaning out closets and garages. I know some people are moving (and will be missed terribly) and have items to donate. If you can't store some of these items until the first part of November when storage will be available and open to all, then call me (Susan Curry) and I will try to find temporary storage. We might be able to help with moving the items as soon as the order to stay at home is lifted.

The Annual Music Ministry Garage Sale is scheduled for January 8 and 9, 2021.

The Music Ministry would appreciate your contributions and they do qualify as charitable tax write-offs.

Northwood Scholarship Application Time

NPC members who are high school seniors, college/vocational students or grad students are encouraged to pick up guidelines/applications from Emily Cantin, online, or in the church office now. Applications must be received by June 1, 2020. Applicants need to be involved in the life of the church (either here or at college/Seminary). This scholarship can only be received twice. We give thanks to the Bakers, Gordons, Wrights and others whose generosity to Northwood was reflected in their last will and testament. Scholarship funds come from interest earned from the following: (1) The Fred and Kay Baker Scholarship Fund, (2) The Walter and Catherine Gordon Educational Endowment, (3) Clarence and Florence Wright Scholarship Fund, (4) Monies received from other sources.



Caring for Our Church Family

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Foundation for International Missions

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250 given in support of our mission at the New Hope Clinic in Honduras. Each gift makes it possible to provide life-saving medical care to those who would otherwise have no access. Frances M. Mikuta, Assistant Treasurer

Thornwell

Thank you for your contribution of \$60 designated to the Sara Jo Cottage. Your kindness helps to provide safe and loving homes for children who have been abused, neglected and abandoned. THANK YOU!

The Rev. Elliot M. Smith, President

Habitat for Humanity

—Thank you for your generous gift of \$320 to continue helping families achieve their dream of homeownership. Thanks to donors like you, we are able to continue building safe, affordable homes for hard working members of our community.

Nancy Ridenour, Exec. VP & Chief Strategy Officer

—Thank you so much for the food donation to nourish our painters and our folks at the food pantry in St. Pete. You all are a blessing to us! Sincerely, Pam Ora

HEP

On behalf of the HEP staff and Board of Directors, we graciously acknowledge your generous gift of \$250. Your donation will help change the lives of homeless and very low-income individuals and families who turn to HEP for assistance. Ashley Lowery, President & CEO

Email Scam Alert

You may be aware that some of our members have received scam emails in the past month, and once over a year ago, that appear to be from Pastor Chris. The emails request financial support in the form of gift cards. Our pastor does NOT send these emails although the email address is very similar to his. This email scam is also happening to pastors in other churches in our area. Please know that your pastors and the church staff will never solicit any funds in this manner. Simply forward the message to the church office so they can be collected for the police. It saddens us when anyone seeks to do harm but especially when they prey on the kindness and Christ-like hearts of our members.

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of:

Raymond Bailey
Jane Urban
Fred Drew
Fran Alwood
Fred Drew
Jane Urban

In Honor of:
Virginia Cromwell

Given by:

Art & Jeanette Holloway
Art & Jeanette Holloway
Art & Jeanette Holloway
Bill & Patty Martin
Earl & Jessie Lusk
Bill & Bunny Bitner

Given by:
Bill & Patty Martin

Prayer Ministry

Bill Allen, Ken Andreassen, Carol Anderson, Julie Bryant, Sue GaVette, Shirley Gleason, Lyn Heider, Jeri Heycock, Fred Inkles, Jane Kaempfer, Joyce Klotz, Mildred Martin, Robin MacLennan, Charlotte McQuown, Norman Phillips, David Smith, Gene Snyder, Al & Ethel Holden, Bonnie Beyer, Don Drummond, Ruth White.

Prayers and Christian Sympathies to:

- Babs Bailey upon the news of the death of her son Raymond Bailey on April 14.
- Terry and Wilai McNay upon the news of the death of their son, Brian McNay on April 11.

Stephen Ministry Training

A ministry of love and compassion! Stephen Ministry is a vital expression of the love and grace of Jesus to those who are going through tough times. Training to become a Stephen Minister will begin **Sept. 17th**. To learn more about this opportunity to provide emotional and spiritual care to people experiencing difficulties in their lives, please call Pastor Paul at 727-796-8090 or elder Jacki Koski at 727-726-5359.

Thank You

During this time of Lent, a Northwood couple decided not to "Give up something," but to "Give back something". They donated over 19 cases of canned goods to the Northwood Food Pantry and as the need for food at this critical time grows, our pantry is so grateful for this enormous donation. Thank you so much.

Christian Education

TCI Class (Today's Christian Issues)

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Fresh Brewed Bible Study

Presbyterian Women's Circles



Given the guidance from the Presbytery and public health officials, we have suspended all group gatherings, including Christian Education for children, youth and adults until further notice. We are exploring ways in which we can meet virtually. Please use our website for up to date information.

Experiencing God Class

If you'd like to join the Experiencing God class virtually via Zoom at 10:30am on Sunday mornings, please contact Vicki Krueger at vickilee33@aol.com and she will send you the meeting details each week.



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 Cassondra Fredriksen at sonna.fredriksen@gmail.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/>.

Prayer, Joys and Concerns

Each Sunday we will be worshipping online at both 9:30 & 11:00am. The Ignite contemporary service has a time of "prayers, joys and concerns" where people individually offer prayer requests. While worshipping via livestream we wanted to make that possible. If you have a "prayers, joys or concerns" request you would like lifted up at the 9:30am service, please go online to our homepage at www.northwoodpc.org and click on "Prayer Request" under the "Resources" tab. Just remember that these prayer requests may be shared via livestream. If anything is private, do not submit it for sharing this way. We will share as many as the time permits.

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:6-7

Virtual VBS "Exploring God's Creation"

June 1st - 5th

We are taking Vacation Bible School virtual! We will be offering a five-day online opportunity to connect with each other through zoom for various VBS events such as morning energizers & songs session, Bible study, craft lessons, storytime, puppets, science experiments and more throughout the week with supplies you have at home! We will be using Zoom for the live sessions from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, as well as our private children's Facebook group for recorded videos, resources, challenges, and other opportunities.

You may register at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4EA5A82CA3FA7-virtual>

If you have any questions you may contact Justine Davis at childrensministry@northwoodpc.org or Rosalie Bradford at bradfordrosalie@gmail.com.

Exploring God's Creation is about seeing God through God's creation. We will explore different aspects of nature like plants and animals, & different places in the world. Each day will have a themed element of God's Creation.

Children's Ministry



- Children's Ministry is sending out personal notes to the children of Northwood so watch for your note in the mail. If you want to receive a note for your child or grandchild contact Justine Davis at childrensministry@northwoodpc.org.
- Please be sure to check out and "like" the Children's Ministry Facebook group. Each week we will have a children's Bible lesson posted along with other activities. https://www.facebook.com/groups/633579497423839/?source_id=263480270372443
- Join Miss Rosie and Youth Helpers every Tuesday from 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm for a children's story time via Zoom! Follow the link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/185925188>

Kid's Corner Preschool Registration

Registration is currently open for the 2020-2021 school year! We have openings in our 2's, 3's, and VPK. Please share the news! If you are interested in a tour of the school, please contact Justine Davis at 727-723-7679 or schooldirector@northwoodpc.org or to set up an appointment.

Class of 2020

ARE YOU A GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR? OR COLLEGE GRAD?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! WE WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE YOU IN THE VIRTUAL CHURCH SERVICES MAY 17TH AND IN A SPECIAL CLASS OF 2020 BOOKLET

CITYLIGHT

What's Going on in Citylight

As we all know, Youth and Family Ministry at Northwood has gone "virtual" given the COVID-19 epidemic. However, we are still going strong! Youth lessons have been communicated via email, Zoom, Teams, Facebook, Instagram, and more! As Church, Sunday School, Confirmation Class, Confirmation Youth Group, Game Night, have gone virtual until further notice, we are hoping to reschedule and pick up where we left off for events and activities that can't be held online! We are still preparing for our summer mission trip to Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry and our high school retreat to Montreat Conference Center. **As of now, all of our summer events are still happening. We are looking to move our C-darkirk trip to late July.** Please pray for our ministry as we approach these summer trips. In the meantime, please pray for the safety and well being of our community, and the impact COVID-19 will have on people physically, emotionally and financially. Let's be in communication during this tough time, supporting one another with love and prayer. I encourage you not to panic but to find peace and be active in this time! You are a part of this community, and we need you! Please continue to participate in our virtual ministry; providing ideas, prayers, and good spirits. As your Director of Youth & Families, my job is to always support you, especially during times like these. Please reach out with your prayers, needs and concerns. I will check in with you, pray with you, pray for you and keep you updated on the situation as things move forward.

Check your email, Facebook and Instagram for a youth lesson every Wednesday, our Tuesday & Thursday Bible Studies, Game Night every Friday & Sunday night, and Sunday School and Sunday devotions! We are also going to be hosting a virtual VBS June 1st-5th . We need youth helpers! Youth can volunteer to help with VBS and earn community service hours. Sign up is located in your weekly email.

Sunday, May 17th, Graduation Sunday

Class of 2020 Seniors will be recognized in the 9:30 am & 11:00 am service ONLINE!

Seniors are invited to share a bio for a senior booklet to be handed out at the church. Contact Rosalie Bradford at bradfordrosalie@gmail.com to be featured. The directions are in our weekly email and on our Facebook.

With Love and Support,
Rosalie Bradford
Director of Youth and Family Ministry