

WORSHIP NOTES: The season of Advent abounds with symbolism of faith, hope and joy. Many of our Christian customs originated as pagan rites and customs. Our advent wreath probably came from the ancients lighting candles on a wheel in the hope that the one who controlled the sun would turn the wheel of the earth's orbit to the sun once more. Used first in the Christian home, the circle of evergreens reminded everyone of the everlasting life found in Christ, the four candles lighted progressively each week represent "light out of darkness." The candles are purple or deep blue—the color of the season of Advent. (Some wreaths have a rose colored candle for the third week for churches that celebrate Gaudete Sunday which means "rejoice"). A newer custom is to give attributes to each candle (hope, peace, joy, love). At Northwood the seasonal colors are highlighted in the pastors' stoles, the paraments (cloths) on the communion table, and the new seasonal banners hanging at the right in the choir loft and in the narthex.

EDUCATION MINISTRY FOR ALL AGES

8:15 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (2014/15 School Year), Room 3, join us in the multi-age Sunday School worship class after the Children's Message.
Teacher: Justine Ruisz

9:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds-Kindergarten (14/15 School Year) Room 3
Teachers: Jana Davis & Diane Musto

1st & 2nd Grades Room 16
Students gather to worship at the beginning of the service with their teachers, in the front Sanctuary rows, closest to the band. After the Prayers of Joys & Concerns, they will move to room 16.
Teachers: Melissa Patel & Jean Swintek

3rd-5th Grades Room 8
Students gather to worship at the beginning of the service with their teachers, in the front Sanctuary rows, closest to the band. After the Prayers of Joys & Concerns, they will move to room 8.
Teachers: Andy & Stephanie Strelcheck

11:00 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds – 5th grade (2014/15 school year) join us as we bring the Bible to Action through games and activities in room 3 beginning at 11:00. Children will move to room 3 at 11:20 where they can be picked up after service. Should your child like to attend the service up until the Children's message, they can join in on the fun in room 3 after the Children's Message or remain in worship with their parents.
Teacher: Barbara Englehart

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Come join us for combined middle/high school Sunday school. We will be studying the "Elements" of our faith. Through new and exciting curriculum, we will learn how to grow in our walk with God.
9:30 AM Youth Room
11:00 AM Youth Room

Parents, if you wish for your children to receive communion please have them remain with you in the worship service on Communion Sundays. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact Elder Jackie Koski (jackieandjerry@verizon.net), Chair of Worship Team.

9:30 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SERENDIPITY—Rooms 13 & 15
TODAY: Join us as we study different Biblical Figures each week! Coffee and cookies are provided!

TCI (Today's Christian Issues)—Rooms 9 & 11
TODAY: The TCI class is filled with great discussion based on current events. We invite you to join us each Sunday as we take on a new current issue. Coffee and cookies will enhance the conversation.

11:00 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

EXPERIENCING GOD – Rooms 13 & 15
TODAY: Led by Vicki Krueger.

Welcome To Northwood Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Church

December 7, 2014

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by



*John and Janet George
in honor of
our 42nd Wedding Anniversary*



Friends of Northwood

Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the "2014-15 Flower Reservation Chart" on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. Thank you to those providing flowers each week In Honor/In Memory of someone or an anniversary/birthday!

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO....

Sunday, December 7th: David Hamilton, Jr., Holden Patel,
Monday, December 8th: Dave Cody, Wanda Fanning, Sue Glaser,
Barbara Jordan, Roger Snay, Sr.,
Wednesday, December 10th: Blake Estavil
Thursday, December 11th: David O'Leary, Mark O'Leary,
Amy Saperstein, Murle Whitten

If you see someone whose birthday is listed and you haven't seen them in church recently, give them a call!

FAITHFULLY SERVING NORTHWOOD CHURCH TODAY

ACOLYTES:
(8:15) Eli Jeffre
(11:00) Aidan McDermott

GREETERS:
(8:15) Jackie Rice & Bill Marshall
(11:00) Sally Uhler & Roger Snay, Sr.

USHERS:
(8:15) Ken & Linda Andreassen
Roland & Sheena Watkins
(9:30) Bill and Louise Mylin
(11:00) Pete and Evelyn Towns
Dane & Vicki Phillips

VAN DRIVER: Ed Puschmann



Greeters & Ushers



Ministers: All Members of the Church

E. Chris Curvin, Pastor
Paul Means, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Mission

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Order for the Public Worship of God
2nd Sunday of Advent
8:15 & 11:00 AM December 7, 2014

WE GATHER

*(Let the congregation be silent, and in prayer as the music begins.
Please silence electronic devices.)*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

OPENING VOLUNTARY Timothy Albrecht
"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"
(based on the closing hymn #87)
(Acolytes symbolically bring in the light of Christ & then take it out into the world.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

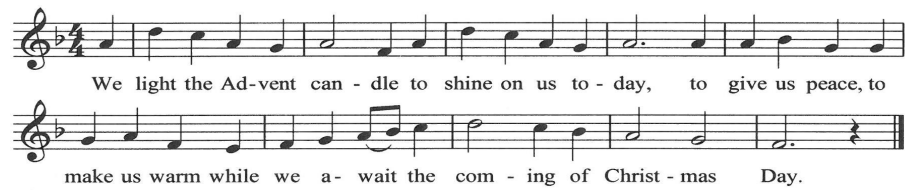
***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**
(Please complete the bulletin insert, "FRIENDSHIP SHEET," and pass it toward the center aisle.)

***HYMN #88 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"** VENI EMMANUEL
(stanzas 1,2,3)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

*(Choir) An empty stable was where they stayed
the night our Lord was born.
The lantern shone upon his face while Mary kept him warm.*

Lighting the Candle and Prayer
(8:15) Pete and Mimi Judd
(11:00) Doug and Georgiana Winder
All sing:



WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)

God of the future: you are coming in power to bring nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom or viewed you as the answer to our lives. We have lived casual lives and ignored your promised judgment. Judge us, O God, for we have been slow to serve you. Forgive us, for the sake of your faithful servant Jesus, our Savior, whose triumph we want and eagerly wait for. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #88 (Stanza 7)** VENI EMMANUEL
O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

ANTHEM "Pacem" arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

*Joyful singing we are bringing to the child, Emmanuel!
See the holy infant lowly who came down on earth to dwell!
Lift a song in jubilation, join with us in celebration!
Now the star shines high above; He's the King of Peace and Love!
Dona nobis pacem.
Joyful singing we are bringing, now the star shines high above;
Born is the holy child, King of Peace and Love.*

FAITH SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children age 3 (by 9/14) through first grade may go to Room 3 for Children's Worship.)

WE SHARE

CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING "Savior, of the Nations Come" Anton Kniller

***DOXOLOGY #606** OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below:
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

WE HEAR THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS *(page 581)* Isaiah 40:1-5 (NRSV)
(page 812) Mark 1:1-8 (NRSV)

SERMON Chris Curvin, Pastor
"Some Final Answers for This Christmas"

***HYMN #347 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"** PICARDY
(please stand)

WE UNITE IN PRAYER AND SACRAMENT

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE SHARING OF THE CUP; THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(To symbolize our unity in Christ, we hold the bread until the Elders and Deacons are served and then all partake as one body. To symbolize our personal relationship with the Lord, we drink of the cup, as the Spirit leads.)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Flor Peeters
"Creator of the Stars of Night" Wilbur Held

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

***HYMN #87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"** GENEVAN 42

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

"Suite on Wake, Awake—Finale" Wayne L. Wold

(You are invited to remain for the final act of worship, the closing voluntary. A closer look is welcomed if you wish to come stand next to the organ console.)

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
Tom Huffman, Organist & Associate Music Director

**Congregation will stand. If standing is difficult for you, feel free to remain seated.*

ignite

ignite is a contemporary worship service at 9:30 that delivers the message of Jesus Christ through Powerful Music, Media & Scripture Based Sermons.

LET THE COUNTDOWN BEGIN

WELCOME

PRAISE SONG

"Greater"

MEET & GREET

"My Soul Magnifies the Lord"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

"Advent Candle Song"
Solo: Carissa Johnston
Lighting the Candle
Roger and Janet Winder

"Emmanuel"

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS IN PRAYER

1st-5th Grade Children dismissed to Sunday School

**CALL TO OFFERING
OFFERTORY**

"Offering (Christmas)"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mark 1:1-8 (NRSV)

MESSAGE

"Some Final Answers for This Christmas"
Chris Curvin, Pastor

**COMMUNION
MUSIC AT COMMUNION**

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"
arr. Joel Raney

SONG OF DEDICATION

"Our God (with 'O Come, All Ye Faithful!)"

GOD'S BLESSING TO YOU

Sermon notes...

that Ignite Action!