

Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias sales in Honor or in Memory of loved ones will continue through Sunday, December 15th. A sign up is available on the bottom of the Sunday Friendship Sheet. The cost is a \$9 donation for each poinsettia ordered. A listing of those who gave in honor or memory of their loved ones will be found in the Christmas Eve bulletins. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Feller at lpf1967@yahoo.com.

Pledge Update

To date we have received 199 pledge cards totaling \$516,725 for the 2014 budget. There are 497 potential pledge (member) units.

Recycling

The proceeds from paper recycling via the blue dumpster at the church are still used to fund college scholarships. We welcome your newspapers for this worthwhile project!

Christmas Joy Offering, December 15

On December 15 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 racially 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.

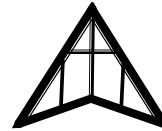
Welcome, Justine Ruisz

The Northwood family welcomes our new Director of Children's Ministry!

Justine Ruisz grew up at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Clearwater. While there she was actively involved in choir, bells, puppet ministry and Youth Group. After attending SPC, she realized that there was a career working with children, something that has always been her passion and which she has now done since 1999. She started working in Childcare centers while going to college. She attended UCF and USF to study Early Childhood Education and took the CDA state certification class to receive her Director credentials for Early Childhood Development. She worked in a preschool for five years, and was the Assistant Director for two.

Justine felt called to work with children in a Christian environment. That search led her to her position as Preschool Coordinator at Harborside Christian Church for three years. And now she has felt called to serve as part of Northwood's family as the Director of Children's Ministry.

Justine is married to Mathias (aka Matt), her husband of six years. They have two children, Blake and Lukas, and live in Clearwater. She is excited to get to know the families of Northwood!



Loyal to His Church
"Count on Me!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS—December 8, 2013

WELCOME GUESTS

We invite you to participate in the many opportunities for worship and service here. Our Discovering Northwood class is for newcomers as well as those of us who have been around awhile to simply learn more about us or to become a member of our church family.

The next Discovering Northwood class is **January 19th in room 4** of the Christian Education Building **from 11:00 am-12:00pm**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the pastor, Rev. E. Chris Curvin, at ChrisCurvin@Northwoodpc.org or Membership Coordinator, Katie Pacana, at Katie@Northwoodpc.org. Both Katie and Chris can be reached at 796-8090.

Daily Advent Devotionals Available Last year our staff took turns writing a daily advent devotion that we posted on Facebook. This year we'd like to offer them to you in print. Devotional books can be found in the racks outside the sanctuary. We hope these daily readings add to the excitement and preparation of the birth of the Christ child.

Ring, Sing, Mingle!! Our Christmas handbell concert is **TODAY** at 4:00 PM. All 4 bell groups (children, youth and 2 adult) will be performing and everyone will have the chance to sing Christmas Carols and songs to bring us, and ring us, into the Christmas Season. The concert will be followed by a reception of homemade goodies and treats. The cost? FREE! Our gift to you. Please bring your friends, relatives and neighbors for a fun and festive afternoon at NPC!!

Dinner for 6, 7, 8 Christmas Brunch The annual Christmas Brunch will be held at 12:30 **TODAY** at the home of Ken and Martha Tobiassen, 2727 Westchester Dr. S., Clearwater. Please call Martha at 727-669-5517 by Dec. 5 to determine what you should bring.

Christmas is Coming! Looking for gifts? Consider an Alternative Gift! For a \$5.00 donation you can honor a loved one by contributing to one of eight local, national and international missions. The Presbyterian Women will be available before and after each worship through December 22nd. If have any questions please contact Barbara Englehart (791-4648) or Nancy Johnson (366-7705).

Renaissance Crew 2nd Friday Fellowship will meet on Dec. 13 at 10:30 at St. Mark's Village. We will gather in the chapel where Northwood's Associate Director of Music/Organist, Tom Huffman, will present, "Christmas Carols through the Ages." Contact Pastor Paul at 796-8090 or paul@northwoodpc.org if you have any questions.

News About Our Children's Ministries

Sunday School Classes: Please see the back panel of the bulletin for information about our Sunday School Classes.

King's Kids:

- **Teacher Meeting** on Wednesday, December 11, from 4-5pm in rm 8.
- **King's Kids resumes** on Wednesday, January 15, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

December Choir

During the month of December (Dec. 11 & 18), the Angels (3rd-5th graders) will continue to meet weekly from 4-6pm in the choir room.

Family Christmas Eve Service at 4:30pm: The deadline to sign up to play your instrument is Tuesday, December 10th!

*Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry
Marcy Kemerer, Interim Director of Children's Ministry
Childrensministry@northwoodpc.org 796-8090*

Safety Harbor Holiday Parade:

Everyone of all ages, Come march with us in the Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 21 from 12:30-3pm in Downtown Safety Harbor on Main Street. Sign up on the Noah's Ark Bulletin Board!

Our event, sponsored by the Children & Youth Ministries, will be open to anyone who wants to participate. An adult needs to accompany all children in the 2nd grade and younger. **All participants must sign a waiver. Children in 3rd grade through 12th grade must sign an additional waiver if marching without parents.**

*There is available seating on the Church Bus for those unable to march but would like to participate. Please sign up today in rooms 12/14 at 10:30-10:55.

Important Dates: Today @ 10:30am-10:55am in rooms 12/14 Adult & Children's Meeting (sign waivers)

Friday, 12/20 - 7-9pm, Make signs, pick up costumes, prep candy canes
Saturday, 12/21 - 12:30pm Meeting Time for the 1pm Parade

2014 Giving/Pledge Envelopes will be available in the hall by the kitchen. Boxes are not numbered or labeled; you may take any one. When making "Cash" contributions, please include your name on the envelope to ensure it is accurately recorded. If you wish to set up online giving, go to www.northwoodpc.org and click the "Giving" link to our secure online portal. Thank you for your faithful support.

2013 Contributions—Giving intended for 2013 must be received in the church office **by noon on December 31st** or postmarked **no later than December 31, 2013**. 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 2013.

Youth Events

- **Sunday, December 8:** Youth Group 5-7
- **Friday, December 13:** Game Night 7-10pm
- **Sunday, December 15:** Christmas Party 5-7pm

Christmas Party December 15th, 5-7pm: Come join us as we enjoy pizza, games, and a white elephant gift exchange. All youth should bring a wrapped gift valued at \$5.00 to the party. (Please make sure your gift is appropriate for the exchange.) There will be a prize for the most creative holiday outfit.

Sunday School: Every Sunday at 9:30am and 11:00am in the Youth Room. Join us before or after the service you worship!

Confirmation: Calling all 7th Graders or those who have not already been confirmed. Confirmation will begin in January. If you are interested in participating, please contact Troy Harris.

*Troy Harris, Interim Director of Youth & Young Adults
troyharris1962@yahoo.com, 366-7762*

Food Pantry Request

Due to increased requests and the holidays, we need (cans & glass jars only, please) tuna, meats, pasta (such as ravioli or spaghettios), chili, beef stew, chicken and dumplings, pasta sauce, fruit, and chunky soups. We also need peanut butter and jelly which may be in plastic containers. Monetary donations are also accepted. If you have questions please call Pat Rabenstine at 727-785-5080. Thank you for your help.

THE BLOOD DRIVE IS DECEMBER 15th

The Blood Mobile will be here at church **Sunday, December 15th** from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Give Blood and help save lives!

2013 ANGEL TREE PROJECTS

PRISON FELLOWSHIP: Deliverers can pick up gifts TODAY between services in Room 4. Contact Jean DeFilippo, 470-9652

BETH-EL MIGRANT WORKERS: These (unwrapped) requests are on multi-colored angels on the Angel Tree & are \$1.00 up. **Gifts due December 11.** Contact: Jean DeFilippo, 470-9652 or Evelyn Towns, 785-3743.



Library News!!! Christmas books and some tapes are on display for check out in both libraries.