CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

10:00 AM CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3 Yr. Olds-2nd Grade (19/20 School Year)
Children remain in service with their family or join us in room 3 for a multi-age Sunday School worship following the anthem.

11:00 AM MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
The Middle & High School youths (6th-12th graders) are NOT meeting this week for Sunday School.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

9:30 A.M. TCI (Today’s Christian Issues) Rooms 9-11
TCI will not meet today, December 29th. We will resume on January 5, 2020 with new discussions of contemporary issues and their effects on our faith journey. And, as always, we'll have coffee and cookies to enrich the conversations.

11:00 A.M. Experiencing God Class Room 15, led by Vicki Krueger
Experiencing God will not meet today, December 29th. We will resume January 5th.
The Experiencing God class offers you a place to connect with other believers in the study of God's word and how it applies to our daily lives. Our goals: to grow in our understanding of the Bible, as Jesus' own group of disciples did; to meet the needs of others in our group in prayer and ministry; to become equipped for evangelism; and to let the living Word of God dwell richly in us.

11:30 A.M. Sunday Morning Bible Study
This Bible study will not meet today, December 29th. We will resume January 5th.
This Bible study meets at 11:30am on Sunday mornings in room 8 of the Christian Education Building. We are studying the minor prophets from the Old Testament. We are looking at God’s message of hope and reconciliation to God’s people while they were in exile. The book we are using is part of the Immersion Bible Studies—Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, and Jonah by Bruce Epperly. If you have any questions or would like to purchase a book for the study, please contact Cindy Huffman 727-409-8727 or lucindy1@aol.com. This is a discussion class and is approximately one hour in length. All are welcome! Come join us!

Hymn Notes:
“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”
This very old and well-known carol is not in our current Glory to God hymnal—that’s why we’ve printed the words. It was first published in 18th century England, probably around 1770. Even then it was introduced as “an ancient carol, sung in the streets of London.” In fact, old London had municipal watchmen who were licensed to perform certain tasks, including the singing of Christmas carols. This was one of their songs.
In A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens, Ebenezer Scrooge hears this song sung joyously in the street and tells the singer he’ll hit him with a ruler unless he stops singing. Of course that was not the intended response to this carol. Of course that was not the intended response to this carol.
Commas are very important in hymns including the opening line of this one. It is not, as so often thought, addressed to merry gentlemen but rather to those who may be anxious. Indeed, its message of God’s reassuring love is specifically directed at the shepherds who are frightened by the sudden appearance of an angel in their midst. That also explains the gender specific language. The comma is often misplaced in the singing, if not in the printing. The meaning is “God keep you merry, gentlemen.”

Welcome To Northwood Presbyterian Church
A Stephen Ministry Church
December 29, 2019
ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD
December 29, 2019
1st Sunday of Christmas
10:00 AM Worship Service

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

(LET THE CONGREGATION BE SILENT, AND IN PRAYER AS THE MUSIC BEGINS. PLEASE SILENCE ELECTRONIC DEVICES.)

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

LEADER: Let us proclaim the gracious deeds of God;
P: for the steadfast love of the Lord is great.
LEADER: Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord,
P: the glory of God’s people and a light to all.
LEADER: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;
P: in faith let us worship God!

OPENING VOLUNARY

“Away in a Manger” arr. Diane Bish

(Acolytes symbolically bring in the light of Christ & then take it out into the world.)

*HYMN #119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Jack Alwood

Our Ministry with the Children
(Children ages 3yrs – 2nd grade are welcome to remain in service with their parents or join us in room 3 for Children’s Church)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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.

CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High/He Is Born!”
Heather Wood & Sarah Flaherty

DOXOLOGY

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY GHOST; HAIL TO THE KING, ALL FASHIONED CONSPIRING!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581

SUNG BLESSING

“Peace Be to You” Michele White, Soloist

MESSAGE

“Eyes That See the Salvation of God” Paul Means, Associate Pastor

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

Daniel E. Gawthrop

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

CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

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