


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

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Sent with Prayer to...

# Welcome New Members!

Please welcome our new members that joined us for our November Discovering Northwood Class!



8:15  
 Judy Corrello  
*Reaffirmation of Faith*



11:00  
 Angie Hodges  
*Reaffirmation of Faith*



11:00  
 Bucky & Sharon Helms  
*Transfer of letter*

A Stephen Ministry Congregation *Northwood Presbyterian Church*  
  
  
**The Window**

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**December 11,  
 2017  
 Volume 27, No. 11**

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761  
 727-796-8090 Main Office  
 727-723-7679 Preschool, Before & After Care  
[www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org)



**January  
 12 & 13  
 8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

## ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Have you been saving all your treasures for the annual Music Ministry Garage Sale? We hope so because the time is here. Donations will be accepted on the following days and times in Room 14:

- December 27, 28, 29, 2017 - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- December 30, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- December 31, 2017 – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- January 2, 3, 4, 5, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- January 6, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- January 7, 2018 – 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- January 8, 9, 10 – 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

If you need a different time, please call Susan Curry (727) 709-8237.

If you have items that need to be picked up, we will have a truck and trailer available on Saturday, December 30, 2017, and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 5, 6 and 7, 2018. Please call (727) 709-8237 to arrange for a time.

The Garage Sale will be held on Friday, January 12 and Saturday, January 13 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The sale can only be successful with your help. Please invite your friends, neighbors and family to donate and to come to the sale. Thank you in advance for your amazing generosity.

Thank you, Stephanie Carson (Director of Music Ministries), Susan Curry and Carol Rathmell (Co-Chairs).

# At-A-Glance

December 11, 2017

## This Month at Northwood

### Sunday, December 17:

8:15 A.M. Cantata: "Carol Suites"  
 9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service  
 11:00 A.M. Cantata: "Carol Suites"

The church office will be closed: **Monday, December 25th & Tuesday, December 27th.**  
 It will reopen Wednesday December 27.

### Sunday, December 24:

10:00 A.M. One Morning Worship Service  
**Christmas Eve Services**  
 4:30 P.M. Family Candlelight Service  
 7:30 P.M. Traditional Candlelight Service

### Sunday, December 31:

8:15 A.M. Traditional Service  
 9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service  
 11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

The church office will be closed  
**Friday, December 29 and Monday, January 1.**  
 It will reopen Tuesday, January 2.

### Sunday, January 7:

8:15 A.M. Traditional Service  
 9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service  
 11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

### Friday & Saturday January 12 & 13:

8:00 A.M.– 2:00 P.M. Annual Garage Sale

### Sunday, January 14:

8:15 A.M. Traditional Service  
 9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service  
 11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

**Friday, January 19– Monday, January 22:**  
 Cedarkirk Women's Retreat

### Sunday, January 21:

8:15 A.M. Traditional Service  
 9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service  
 11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

### Sunday, January 28:

8:15 A.M. Traditional Service  
 9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service  
 11:00 A.M. Traditional Service  
 12:00 P.M. Annual Congregational Meeting

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## The Window

Published monthly by Northwood Presbyterian Church  
 Edited by Tracy Donovan

### Submissions:

If you have information that you would like to be considered for the newsletter, e-mail [communications@northwoodpc.org](mailto:communications@northwoodpc.org), or place it in Tracy Donovan's box in the church office. The deadline is the 2nd Monday of the month.

### E-News:

If you are interested in receiving emails with upcoming church events, please send an email with your name and request to [communications@northwoodpc.org](mailto:communications@northwoodpc.org).



# Thank You!

The Northwood Food Pantry would like to thank the TCI Sunday School Class for their monthly donations of much needed food items and also the monetary donations that have so generously given. Because of your support, our food pantry is able to provide food to those people of our community that otherwise would go hungry. Thank you again for your continued support.

The Thornwell "Building Tomorrow's Families Today" would like to thank Northwood Presbyterian for the \$60 Contribution for Sponsorship of Sara Jo Cottage. Thank you for putting children and families first.

The Shiners Hospitals for Children in Tampa would like to extend their sincere gratitude for our kind contribution of 6 lbs of can tabs. Your gift plays a meaningful role in fulfilling the hospital's mission of quality care.

Last month Eisenhower Elementary School conducted a food drive for the Salvation Army and after the drive was over and the food had been picked up, the students continued to bring in canned goods. Our food pantry would like to extend a huge thank you to Atticus Ulrich for donating this food to Northwood's food pantry.

Thanks to the Carlstedt family for donating all the items listed on our Food Pantry shopping list. The pantry has given out 300 bags of food so far this year and during the holiday season many hungry families come to the church doors for help. Thank you again for your generous gift to the pantry.

The Northwood Presbyterian Food Pantry would like to extend a huge "Thank you" again this year to Linda and David Feller for their overwhelming donation of over 280 cans of much needed food items. This donation has been an enormous help, especially at this time of the year, since we have already given out over 290 bags of food. Thank you again for your generosity as you are a blessing to Northwood and the community. ~Northwood Presbyterian Food Pantry



# Merry Christmas!

# Christian Education

Bailey Shields, Christian Education Team Chair

## Women's Ministry



**Monday, December 18th, 7:00 P.M.**  
Lydia Circle, rooms 5 & 7

**Tuesday, January 2nd, 9:00 A.M.**  
Bible Study, room 5

**Friday, January 5th, 10:30 A.M.**  
Fresh Brewed room 5

**Tuesday, January 9th, 9:30 A.M.**  
Esther-Elizabeth Circle, rooms 5 & 7

**Tuesday January 9th, 1:00 P.M.**  
Naomi Circle @ member's home

**Monday, January 15th, 7:00 P.M.**  
Lydia Circle, rooms 5 & 7

### Questions?

Contact **Patty Martin**  
(813) 855-0851 or  
[bill.martin2@verizon.net](mailto:bill.martin2@verizon.net)

### Women's Retreat January 19-22

Join the women of Northwood for an amazing weekend of fellowship, games, crafts, canoeing and nature walks. Enjoy the peaceful beauty of Cedarkirk while staying in a heated lodge, complete with fireplace and kitchen. Info coming soon!!!

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### 8:15 AM Children's Christian Education

**3 Yr. Olds-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** (16/17 School Year)  
Children may remain in service with their family or join us in room 3 for a multi-age Sunday School following the anthem.

### 9:30 AM Children's Christian Education

**3 Yr. Olds- Kindergarten, Room 3**  
Students will start and stay in their classroom for the Sunday school hour.

### 1st-2nd Grade, Room 2

Students will start and stay in their classroom for the Sunday school hour.

### 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.

### 11:00 AM Children's Christian Education

**3 Yr. Olds-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** (16/17 School Year)  
Children may remain in service with their family or join us in room 3 for a multi-age Sunday School following the anthem.

*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 Dawn Winder, Chair of Worship Team.*

### 9:30 AM Middle & High School Christian Education

Middle & High School Sunday School during the 9:30am service will meet in the sanctuary to worship together for the first 30 minutes, then move to the youth room for the lesson with Youth Director, Vanessa Celotto

Think on These Things An Intelligent, Imaginative, Hospitable Reading Group led by Pastor Paul will meet on Monday, 15 from noon to 1:15 in rooms 13 and 15. The theme for the group is "Engaging books a thoughtful Christian ought to read." This month we are reading and will discuss Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis. People are welcome to bring a lunch or snacks. For more information, contact Pastor Paul Means at 727-796-8090 or [paul@northwoodpc.org](mailto:paul@northwoodpc.org)

# GIT & LIGHT

NPC YOUTH

### Weekly Schedule:

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (9:30)–Worship, NO Sunday School  
Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (5-6:30) – NO Youth Group  
Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> (6:30-7:30) – NO H.S. Bible Study  
Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup> (7-10:00) – NO Game Night  
Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> (9:30) – Worship and Sunday School  
Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> (5-6:30) – Youth Group  
Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> (6:30-7:30) – NO H.S. Bible Study  
Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> (7-10:00) – NO Game Night  
Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> (9:30) – Worship and NO Sunday School  
Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> (5-6:30) – Youth Group  
Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> (6:30-7:30) – H.S. Bible Study  
Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup> (7-10:00) – NO Game Night  
Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> (9:30) – Worship and Sunday School  
Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> (5-6:30) – Youth Group

### Upcoming Events:

- Outreach opportunity with Feeding Tampa Bay on December 27<sup>th</sup> (youth and adults)
- Starbucks Meet-up on December 28<sup>th</sup> (young adults only)
- Scavenger Hunt December 29<sup>th</sup> (youth only)
- Painting the City on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (youth and adults)
- Trampoline Park Outing on January 5<sup>th</sup> (youth only)

### Volunteers Needed:

- Feeding Tampa Bay on December 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-4:00pm (we need youth and adult volunteers)
- Painting the City on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> multiple shifts available (we need youth and adult volunteers)
- Game nights on Fridays in January from 7:00-10:00pm (adult volunteers only)

(Please see the weekly bulletin for more updates.)

*Vanessa Celotto, Director of Youth and Family Ministries*  
[YouthDirector@NorthwoodPC.org](mailto:YouthDirector@NorthwoodPC.org) ~ (813) 624-2593

## Children's Ministry

Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry

### Drop N' Shop Report

We had a very successful Drop N' Shop event. Thank you to the wonderful adult and youth volunteers for helping with this event. I think the volunteers had just as much fun as the children. We had 24 kids attend to make snow and learn about the Christmas season. We look forward to doing this again next year!

### Kids & Youth

### Do you play a musical instrument?

Kids and youth (ages 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade), come play your instrument on Christmas Eve...your gift to the Lord! If you have a sacred song to play during our pre-service concert at 4:00 PM please call or e-mail Justine Ruisz.

### King's Kids

King's Kids will resume on Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> and then run through Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. This is our Wednesday program for children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. It runs from 4:00 to 5:45 p.m. throughout the school year. This is a mid-week program to help build friendships in a Christian environment, and strengthen faith, bringing children closer to God.

*Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry*  
[Childrensministry@northwoodpc.org](mailto:Childrensministry@northwoodpc.org)  
(727)796-8090 Cell/text- (727)641-8140

### Prayer Ministry

Ken Andreassen; Doris Croasmun; Shirley Gleason; Howard Green; Fred Inkles; Kelly Jordan; Jane Kaempfer; Mildred Martin; Robin MacLennan; Helen Meier; Norman Phillips; Marian Rather; David Smith; Gene Snyder; Al & Ethel Holden; Bill & Jane Sutton; Bonnie Beyer

### Fun! Friends! Friday! Ren Crew

The Ren Crew 2nd Friday Fellowship will meet on January 12 at 10:30 in rooms 9 & 11. The Ren Crew is a young-at-heart, 50's Plus group that enjoys sharing life experiences with one another. We continue the popular theme "Windows to the World" with Babs Bailey providing the program of her "Adventures in Thailand." Following the program we will enjoy lunch at Chili's.

All are welcome! Transportation is gladly provided for those needing a ride. Join us and treat yourself to a Friday filled with fun and friends! Questions? Contact Pastor Paul at 796-8090 or [paul@northwoodpc.org](mailto:paul@northwoodpc.org).

# Financial Matters



## Have you considered the benefits of directing your IRA distribution to your church?

A Qualified Charitable Distribution permits annual direct transfers to a qualified charity totaling up to \$100,000 of tax-deferred IRA savings. (Funds that have been distributed from the IRA to the IRA owner and are then contributed to charity don't qualify.) QCDs offer advantages over taking a taxable IRA distribution and then contributing the proceeds of that distribution to a charity. That's because taxable IRA distributions must be included in adjusted gross income. As a result:

- Income taxes on Social Security benefits can increase.
- Adjusted gross income (AGI) limitations on annual charitable deductions can defeat current deduction of the charitable contribution of IRA distribution proceeds (carryovers to a limited number of future tax years is available).
- AGI limitations trimming itemized deductions can apply.
- Medicare insurance premiums can increase.

QCDs avoid those results. These types of distributions have now been made permanent under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016. If you'd like to make a gift to Northwood in this way, please speak to Chris Hurst in the church office.

## 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 for 2017 is \$30.75 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.

## Online Giving

If you are interested in setting up online giving, visit the "Giving" link to the secure portal at [www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org) or call the Church Office. For your convenience, gifts can be processed as credit card or e-check transactions. Additionally, you may make a one-time gift or set your contributions up for automated processing on a schedule that you select. Participation in the offering on Sunday morning is an act of worship and we wish to include those who choose to give online. If you so choose, you will find laminated cards in the Narthex that can be placed in the offering plate to say "My gift this week was made online." Thank you for your continued and faithful support of the ministry and mission of Northwood Presbyterian Church.

## 2017 Contributions

Giving intended for 2017 must be received in the church office by or postmarked no later than December 31, 2017. 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 16) so that the transaction

## Church Photo Directory

*Space is filling up! Be sure to sign up soon.*

### **Remaining photography dates are:**

\*December 27 (12:00- 7:00 P.M.)\*

January 24 (1:00- 8:00 P.M.)

January 25 (10:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.)

January 26 (1:00- 8:00 P.M.)

January 27 (10:00 A.M.- 5:00 P.M.)

February 6 (1:00- 8:00 P.M.)

*\*To accommodate visiting students/relatives\**

***Our new church directory won't be complete without you!***

**Did you notice?** Earlier this month, the Angel Tree in the Narthex was transformed by faithful volunteers (thank you for all you do) into our church Christmas Tree. We're all familiar with a traditional Christmas tree. Over the years, the Christmas tree became a symbol of Christ as the "tree of life." Through the birth of Jesus, believers have been given God's gifts of life, light and wisdom. Chrismons differ from many traditional ornaments, however, and have spiritual roots. Chrismons were first developed in 1957 by Frances Kipps Spencer of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Va. In an effort to create appropriate decorations for her church Christmas tree, Spencer fashioned centuries-old symbols into white and gold tree decorations. As a result, the use of Chrismons to decorate Christmas trees is popular in many churches today just as it is at Northwood. The history and background information that follows will give you a greater appreciation of our own Northwood Chrismon Tree!



"Chrismon" is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram," and means "symbols of Christ." Chrismons are gold and white, representing majesty and purity. Ideas for fashioning them are developed from early Christian symbols, the Bible and church histories. Although Chrismons have been used in the United States since 1957, many symbols of Christianity have come down to us through the ages. Early Christians often worshipped in secret to avoid possible persecution and death. They developed certain symbols that were used to communicate with fellow believers and direct Christians to secret places of worship. Symbols that signified the believers' faith often adorned doors and buildings, and were included on items such as jewelry and household utensils. Spencer's Chrismons and similar designs are now used on Chrismon trees in churches of different denominations throughout the country. There are many Chrismons. Some are explained below.

- Alpha and Omega: The first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet are used in this Chrismon to signify that Christ is the beginning and ending of all things. This is mentioned in the Bible in Revelation 1:8.
- Anchor cross: The anchor cross originated in ancient Egypt and was adapted by the early Christians in the catacombs.
- Bell: A bell is often used to call people to worship. This Chrismon symbolizes the sounding forth of God's word and serves as a reminder that God should have first priority in our lives.
- Bible: This Chrismon is a replica of an open Bible, which represents the word of God.
- Budded cross: The Budded Cross is symbolic of the young Christian who has just begun serving Christ. Like a bud, young believers are considered "immature Christians."
- Burning torch: This symbol reminds Christians to be witnesses for Christ.
- Butterfly: The butterfly is a symbol of Christ's resurrection and eternal life. Just as the butterfly emerges from its cocoon and flies upward with a new body, the followers of Jesus Christ are reborn and given a new life.
- Cup: The cup is a symbol of the blood Jesus shed on the cross for our sins. The cup also reminds us of Holy Communion.
- Chi Rho: The Chi Rho Chrismon is a monogram of the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ - Chi (X) and Rho (P).
- Christmas rose: The Christmas rose is a white, hardy rose that blooms at Christmastime. It is symbolic of the messianic prophecy.
- Circle and triangle: This Chrismon combines a circle and a triangle to form an unique symbol of the eternity of the Trinity.
- Cross and crown: The cross and crown symbolizes a Christian's reward in heaven for being a faithful servant while living on earth.
- Cross pattee: This form of the cross resembles a Maltese cross and is often used for decorative purposes.
- Daisy: Toward the end of the 15th century, the daisy became a popular symbol for the innocence of the Holy Child.
- Dove: The dove is a widely recognized symbol of purity and innocence. The dove also stands for the Holy Spirit.
- Epiphany star: This star represents the star of Jacob and the star that led the wise men to Jerusalem. See Numbers 24:17.
- Fish: The fish is a popular symbol of Christianity today. It was a secret symbol used by the early persecuted Christians.
- Fleur de lis: This flower-like symbol represents the virgin Mary.
- Harp: The stringed harp is symbolic of music that praises God.
- Lamb: In the New Testament, Jesus is often referred to as "the sacrificial lamb."
- Lamp: The lamp stands for the word of God. See Psalm 119:105.
- Manger: The manger reminds us to be humble, and represents the simplicity of the birth and life of Jesus.
- Shamrock: The three leaves of the shamrock, or clover, stands for the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
- Shell with drops of water: This Chrismon is symbolic of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan river by John the Baptist.
- Trumpet: The trumpet signifies a call to worship, the day of resurrection and the day of judgment.

Be sure to notice our beautiful Chrismon Tree in the Narthex when you come for Christmas worship!

Adapted from [http://thetandd.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/symbols-of-christ-chrismon-tree-decorations-hold-true-spirit-of/article\\_a4b1849c-2cd3-11e1-9ce0-0019bb2963f4.html](http://thetandd.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/symbols-of-christ-chrismon-tree-decorations-hold-true-spirit-of/article_a4b1849c-2cd3-11e1-9ce0-0019bb2963f4.html)