



**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO...**  
**Sunday, September 7:** Gene Henriksen, Curtis Krueger  
**Monday, September 8:** Wally Ericson  
**Tuesday, September 9:** Anne Preston  
**Thursday, September 11:** Heather Stark, Brian Schultz  
**Friday, September 12:** Dale Goodman, Logan Bullis  
**Saturday, September 13:** Linda Granata, Denise Cernansky




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

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




**Friends of Northwood**




Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the "2025 Flower Reservation Chart" on the bulletin board across from the kitchen, or you may send your information directly to [communications@northwoodpc.org](mailto:communications@northwoodpc.org)  
Please remember to mark "flowers" and the date on your \$30 donation.  
Thank you to those providing flowers each week In Honor/In Memory of someone or an anniversary/birthday!

**FAITHFULLY SERVING NORTHWOOD CHURCH TODAY**  
**GREETERS:**  
(9:00) Louise Mylin & Jill Manning  
(11:00) Gretchen Worth & Lios Harber



Ushers & Greeters

**USHERS:**  
(9:00) Cindy Gamble & Carol Zieres  
(11:00) Patty Adams & Rocky Davis



**COFFEE SERVERS:**  
(9:00) Marie & Keith Nadig  
(11:00) Lesley Henley & Joan Ross

*"When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.  
As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."*

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**Matthew 13:19-23**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**  
**Presbyterian Women,** led by Patty Martin and Sue Miskiewicz  
The Presbyterian Women's Sisters in Christ Circle will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting will take place September 9th at 10:00am in rooms 5&7. We will begin a new 9 month study, *"Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ"* by Rhashell D. Hunter. Study books are available at the meeting and can be purchased for \$7.00. WE are delighted that several ladies joined our circle planning meeting in August; there is always room for more! For more information about how you can be involved, contact Patty Martin at [bill.martin2@verizon.net](mailto:bill.martin2@verizon.net) or Sue Miskiewicz at [susan.miskiewicz@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.miskiewicz@yahoo.com).  
**Fresh Brewed,**  
Fresh Brewed meets on the first Friday of the month at 10:30am in rooms 5&7. Our next meeting will take place October 3rd. If you have any questions, please contact Louise Mylin at [LVNM1@hotmail.com](mailto:LVNM1@hotmail.com) or 727-787-9868.  
**Biblical TakeAways,** led by Emily Sutphin & Earle Lusk  
After the Summer Break, this adult Sunday School/Bible Study group will look forward to seeing everyone in class on TODAY, September 7th at 10:00am, sharp in room 8. A very familiar scripture, **The Lord's Prayer**, has been selected for our first study of the season. Each of us should benefit from many instructional blessings and discoveries the Spirit will share from the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray. Please join us!  
**Youth Sunday School,** led by Dylan Cantin  
The youth Sunday School meets every Sunday morning at 10:00am in the youth room. During this time, we will discuss the scripture and message and incorporate worship elements like music into our hour.

**Church Staff Contact Information**  
*Staff members are available to answer any questions you might have regarding church related programs through our office phone system. Provided below are the phone extension numbers for our staff. If you don't see a phone extension, other information is listed. If you call the church office when the lines are busy or the office is closed, you will be prompted to use the Dial By Name Directory OR the staff member's extension number to leave a message. The church number is still 796-8090.*  
Chris Curvin, Pastor/Head of Staff x2007  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor x2006  
Stephanie Carson, Director of Traditional Music x2009  
Taryn Lumia, Director of Contemporary Music, [taryn@northwoodpc.org](mailto:taryn@northwoodpc.org)  
David Furr, Organist, [dmfurr35679@gmail.com](mailto:dmfurr35679@gmail.com)  
Emily Cantin, Director of Communications x2001  
Mark Fettke, Bookkeeper x2005  
Roxane Fineo, Director of Schools x2010  
Dylan Cantin, Assistant Youth Director x2008 (cell 727-723-5984)  
Drew Milano, Sound & Tech, [worship@northwoodpc.org](mailto:worship@northwoodpc.org)

**Welcome To**  
**Northwood Presbyterian Church**  
*A Stephen Ministry Church*  
*Organized February 19, 1978*

**September 7, 2025**



**Come**  
**TO THE TABLE**



**Ministers: All Members of the Church**  
E. Chris Curvin, Pastor  
Paul Means, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Mission

**Northwood Presbyterian Church**  
2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761  
(727) 796-8090 Fax (727) 797-8276  
[www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org)



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[facebook.com/npc.clearwater](https://facebook.com/npc.clearwater)



Order for the Public Worship of God  
September 7, 2025  
13th Sunday after Pentecost  
11:00 AM Worship Service

WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY “O For the Wings of a Dove” Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Paul Means, Associate Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

Leader: Come, all who seek to hear the Word of God and to receive His seed of life.

**People: We come with open hearts, longing for the good soil that bears lasting fruit.**

Leader: As the sower scatters the seed, so God scatters His grace freely up on us.

**People: We receive His Word with gladness, trusting that it will grow in us.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord, who prepares our hearts as good soil.

**People: May His Word take deep root in us and produce a harvest of righteousness. Amen.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*(Please complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET,” and pass it toward the center aisle.)*

\*HYMN #645 “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” MIT FREUDEN ZART

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**Gracious God, You are the faithful Sower who scatters the seed of Your Word generously and without partiality. Yet we confess that our hearts have not always been good soil. Our hearts can so easily become resistant to Your Word, shifting from hardened paths, to rocky ground, to thorny soil. Forgive us, Lord, for the hardness of our hearts, the shallowness of our commitment, and the competing loves that crowd out Your Word. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and make us good soil that receives Your Word and shares Your love with a hurting and love-starved world. We pray all of this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is both the Sower and the Seed. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen**

\*APOSTLES’ CREED *(Together)*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

ANTHEM “Rejoice, The Lord Is King” arr. Mark Edwards

*Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore!*

*Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore:*

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*Our Savior, Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love;*

*When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above:*

*Lift up your heart! lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!*

*His kingdom cannot fail, he rules both earth and heaven.*

*The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given.*

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!*

*Rejoice, again I say, rejoice, rejoice!*

*Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come*

*And take his servants up to their eternal home:*

*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again, I say, rejoice!*

CALL TO OFFERING

\*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 GROW IN THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23 (NRSVUE)

SERMON

Sowing and Growing: God’s Grace and the Human Heart

Part 1: “The Parable of the Sower, the Seed and the Soil”

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

\*HYMN #250

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

PROMISE

WE UNITE IN PRAYER AND SACRAMENT

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE SHARING OF THE 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 relation ship with the Lord, we drink of the cup, as the Spirit leads.)*

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN #724

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

ANGEL’S STORY

\*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Tuba Tune in D Major”

C.S. Lang

*(You are invited to reflect on the worship service during the closing voluntary. If you must leave before the end of the service, please respect those who remain and leave quietly.)*

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

*Please ensure all electronic devices are on silent during the service.*

Stephanie Carson, Music Director; David Furr, Organist

IGNITE

ignite is a contemporary worship service at 9:00 that delivers the message of Jesus Christ through Powerful Music, Media & Scripture Based Sermons.

**WELCOME**

**PRAISE SONG**

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

**MEET & GREET**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAISE SONG**

“Between You and Me”

**SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS IN PRAYER**

**\*APOSTLES’ CREED**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

“I Speak Jesus”

**SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23 (NRSVUE)

**SERMON**

“Sowing and Growing: God’s Grace and the Human Heart”

Part 1: The Parable of the Sower, the Seed and the Soil

Paul Means, Associate Pastor

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**SONG OF DEDICATION**

“You Are Holy”

**GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU**

Taryn Lumia, Director of Contemporary Music