

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO...

Monday, December 25: Patty Martin, Bill Bitner, Bobbi Hunt
Tuesday, December 26: Jim Warren, Ritchie Henley
Wednesday, December 27: Sally Uhler, Shannon O'Leary
Friday, December 29: Joyce Worley, Sarah Worley
Saturday, December 30: Doug Winder, Kaleb Adkisson



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

Kay Scheuerman
In Loving Memory of My Mom



Jody Beattie
In Loving Memory of Betty & Jack Beattie

Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the "2023 Flower Reservation Chart" on the bulletin board across from the kitchen, or you may send your information directly to 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:

(10:00) Barbara Bozinski & Barbara Forsyth

Ushers & Greeters

USHERS:

(10:00) Sue Miskiewicz & Roger Snay



*The angel said to her "do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favor with God.
And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear
a son, and you will name him Jesus.
He will be great, and he will be called the Son of
the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him
the throne of his ancestor David.
He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and
of his kingdom there will be no end."*

Luke 1:30-33 (NRSV)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Presbyterian Women, led by Patty Martin and Sue Miskiewicz

The Presbyterian Women, Sisters in Christ, meets on the second Tuesday of the month with our next meeting on January 9th at 10:00am in rooms 5 & 7. We are studying *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts*, by Olive Mahabir. Books are available for purchase in the office. The cost is \$5. Please plan to join us!

Fresh Brewed,

Fresh Brewed meets on the first Friday of the month with our next meeting on January 5th at 10:30am in rooms 5&7. We are studying the book, *"Prayer, Does It Make a Difference?"* by Phillip Yancey. If you need a book or have any questions, please contact Louise Mylin at LVNM1@hotmail.com or 727-787-9868.

Biblical TakeAways, led by Claudia Alwood

The adult Sunday School/Bible Study will take a break December 17th-31st. We will resume on January 7th at 10:00am in room 5. We will study the healing of the women with the flow of blood and the raising of Jairus' daughter in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and John. All are welcome! Bring your Bible.

Our Mission Statement: "Come! Grow! Go!"

- ♦ We are to COME to Christ and be active in worship and fellowship together.
- ♦ We are to GROW spiritually as we commit our time, talents and finances to Him.
- ♦ We are to GO out in mission and service in the name of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Citylight Youth Ministry Schedule

Sunday, December 24th

10:00 am - One Worship Service
4:30 pm - Contemporary Christmas Eve Service
7:00 pm - Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 27th

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm - Citynight- Youth Room

Friday, December 29th

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm - Game Night- Youth Room

Sunday, December 31st

9:00 am - Contemporary Service
10:05 am - Sunday School
11:00 am - Traditional Service

Follow the link to view our weekly email:

<https://mailchi.mp/7a540c63ab6c/citylightupdate322022-13537988>

Welcome To Northwood Presbyterian Church

*A Stephen Ministry Church
Organized February 19, 1978*

December 24, 2023



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
www.northwoodpc.org



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Order for the Public Worship of God
December 24, 2023
4th Sunday in Advent
10:00 AM Worship Service

WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”
arr. Robert Lau

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Curvin, Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*
Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!
People: Lift every valley, lift every voice.
Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!
People: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

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

*HYMN #133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ADESTE FIDELES
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God from true God, Light from Light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created!
O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE
Lighting the Candle

Jackie & Jerry Koski
The reader offers words about the candle of love.

RESPONSE *(sung to the tune “As with Gladness”)* DIX
All singing: **Light a candle bright and tall for a Love which knows no end.**
Love that comes to one and all. Fear and hatred to upend.
Shine within our hearts today, come, O Love, to us, we pray.
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CALL TO CONFESSION Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(together)*
Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how
we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. His story points us to
your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving.
We are distracted and confused, so focused on things that matter little
that we overlook the good news of great joy. Tell us again that the Savior
is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Renew our faith and love in
Jesus’ name, 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

ANTHEM “Hear the Angels Sing” arr. Mary McDonald
Dennis Rasmussen, Soloist

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, from heaven’s all gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing!
Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled;
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing.
And ever o’er its Babel sounds, the blessed angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold;
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song, which now the angels sing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORDS PRAYER
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy king-
dom 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, for
ever. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING “Mary, Did You Know?” Lowry/Green
Taryn Lumia, Director of Contemporary Worship, Soloist

CALL TO OFFERING

*O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL—#88 VENI EMMANUEL
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN #110 “Love Has Come” BRING A TORCH
Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high.

WE GROW IN THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isaiah 55:11 (NRSV)
Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

ADVENT SERMON SERIES
What Child Is This That Changed the World
#2 “The Good News Carries Us!”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN #132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” IN DULCI JUBILO
Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blessed forever more.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Ding Dong! Merrily on High”
arr. Andrew Unsworth

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

Stephanie Carson, Director of Traditional Music; David Furr, Organist