

### BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO...

**Sunday, December 22:** Steve Rickrode, Jonathan Luther  
**Monday, December 23:** Greg Brinkman  
**Wednesday, December 25:** Patty Martin, Bobbi Hunt  
**Thursday, December 26:** Ritchie Henley, Jim Warren  
**Friday, December 27:** Sally Uhler, Shannon O'Leary



*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*

**Beth Linville**

**In Honor of My Wonderful Family**

**Jean Swintek**

**In Honor of My Daughter Kathryn's Birthday**

Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the "2024 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) Cynthia & David Lawrence  
(11:00) Patty Adams & Hazel Vernon



#### USHERS:

(9:00) Louise Mylin & Roxie Swartz  
(11:00) Carol & Conrad Trunzo

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive  
and bear a son,  
and they shall name him 'Emmanuel',  
which means, 'God is with us.'"*

*Matthew 1:23*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Presbyterian Women, led by Patty Martin and Sue Miskiewicz

The Presbyterian Women's Sisters in Christ Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 14th at 10:00am in room 5 of the Education Building. Our study books, "Let Justice Roll Down" are available for purchase for \$5.00. For more information about how you can be involved, contact Patty Martin or Sue Miskiewicz.

### 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 January 3rd. The book we are reading is *Seamless*, by Angie Smith. If you need a book or have any questions, please contact Louise Mylin at [LVNM1@hotmail.com](mailto:LVNM1@hotmail.com) or 727-787-9868.

### Biblical TakeAways, led by Claudia Alwood

The adult Sunday School/Bible Study meets every Sunday morning at 10:00am in room 5. All are welcome! Bring your Bible. The class is studying 1 Corinthians. 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.

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

We COME to Christ in worship and fellowship together.

We GROW spiritually as we commit our time, talents and finances to Him.

We GO out in mission and service in the name of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

### 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 most of our staff who are full-time. If you don't see a phone extension we provide an email contact for you. 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

# Welcome To Northwood Presbyterian Church

*A Stephen Ministry Church  
Organized February 19, 1978*

**December 22, 2024**



### *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](http://www.northwoodpc.org)



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Order for the Public Worship of God  
December 22, 2024  
4th Sunday of Advent  
11:00 AM Worship Service

WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY      “Gesu, Bambino”      Pietro Yon

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 #113      “Angels We Have Heard on High”      GLORIA

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE  
Lighting the Candle

Jessie & Earle Lusk  
*The reader offers words about the candle of love.*

RESPONSE  
Reader: And so wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart.  
All: We wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

All Singing: *(sung to the tune “Away In a Manger”)*      MUELLER  
A candle is burning, a candle of LOVE,  
a candle to point us to heaven above;  
a baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;  
For Jesus is bringing God’s love to our earth.  
Words Copyright©1986 Sandra Dean

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      “The Gift of Love”      Maxine Woodbridge Posegate  
Michele White, Soloist  
*Little Jesus lay on the sweet smelling hay while angels watched from above;  
And the stars looked down on the sleeping town where God sent His Gift of Love.  
The stars looked down on the sleeping town where God sent His Gift of Love.*  
  
*Shepherds out on the hill where sheep lay so still heard the angels singing above;  
And they trembled with fright at the dazzling sight, when God sent His Gift of Love.  
They trembled with fright at the dazzling sight, when God sent His Gift of Love.*

*“Fear thou not, for this One is the Father’s dear Son, who is come down to earth from above.”  
Then with joy did they go to the manger low, where God sent His Gift of Love.  
With joy did they go to the manger low, where God sent His Gift of Love.*

SACRAMENT OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM  
Mia Corso Lambur, Daughter of Ali & Garrett Lambur

\*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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORDS PRAYER  
*(see ignite bulletin)*

CALL TO OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY *(sung to the tune of The First Noel)*      THE FIRST NOEL  
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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN      “He Is Born”      IL EST NE  
Refrain: He is born, the holy Child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!  
He is born, the holy Child, sing we all of the Savior mild.

Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming;  
Thru long ages of the past, now the time has come at last! Refrain

O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven;  
O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to humankind. Refrain

Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,  
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace. Refrain

WE GROW IN THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING      Matthew 1:1, 18-25 (NRSV)

SERMON SERIES: UNEXPECTED PRESENTS  
Sermon #2 “More Than Just ‘Merry Christmas’”  
Chris Curvin, Pastor

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\*HYMN      “There’s a Song In the Air”      CHRISTMAS SONG  
There’s a song in the air! There’s a star in the sky!  
There’s a mother’s deep prayer and a baby’s low cry!  
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There’s a tumult of joy o’er the wonderful birth,  
For the virgin’s sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! The star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song  
That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.  
Ay! We shout to the lovely evangel they bring,  
And we greet in his cradle our Savior and King!

\*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY      “I Saw Three Ships”      arr. Richard Elliott

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

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*

WELCOME

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE  
Babs Bailey & Georgia Rounding

PRAISE SONG  
“He Shall Reign Forevermore”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEET & GREET

PRAISE SONG  
“Your Name”

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS IN PRAYER

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,  
forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY  
“A Strange Way to Save the World”  
Solo, Dan Jeffre

SCRIPTURE  
Matthew 1:1, 18-25 (NRSV)

SERMON SERIES  
Unexpected Presents  
Sermon #2 “More Than Just ‘Merry Christmas’”  
Chris Curvin, Pastor

SONG OF DEDICATION  
“Angels We Have Heard (Glory Be)”

GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU

Taryn Lumia, Director of Contemporary Music