

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO...

Sunday, December 7: David Hamilton Jr., Laura Turner
Monday, December 8: Wanda Fanning, Barbara Jordan,
Beverly VanZyl, Roger Snay
Tuesday, December 9: Joan Ross
Wednesday, December 10: Blake Estavil
Thursday, December 11: Eleanor Cicerchi, Emma Tighe



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 & Mary Kreuziger
In Loving Memory of Our Father, Robert L. Miller



Peggy & Terry Steele
In Honor of Our Wedding Anniversary



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

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) Georgia Rounding & Louise Mylin
(11:00) Lois Harber & Gretchen Worth



USHERS:

(9:00) Carol Zieres & Cindy Gamble
(11:00) Edna Bartolucci & Barbara Moler

COFFEE SERVERS:

(9:00) Linda Granata & Keith Nadig
(11:00) Leslie Henley & Joan Ross



*In those days John the Baptist
appeared in the wilderness of Judea,
proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of
heaven has come near." This is the one of
whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
"The voice of one crying out in the
wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.' "*

Matthew 3:1-3

Large Print Bibles, Hymnals & Bulletins

Large print Bibles, hymnals and bulletins are available. If you need assistance locating one of these, please ask an Usher.

Hearing Devices

Hearing devices are available for use during the worship services. Please ask an usher if you are in need.

Your Giving Matters

For in-person worship, the offering plates will not be passed, however, offering boxes are located in the narthex. For those worshipping online, your giving matters too. Your continued faithfulness to the mission and ministry of Northwood through your giving is critical as the church's expenses do not stop. Please commit to maintain your regular schedule of giving by mailing your gift or using one of the online platforms below for giving electronically:

1. Text NPCHURCH to 73256 and follow the prompts.
2. Visit www.northwoodpc.org and click on the giving tab.
3. Click "Give" under the *ChurchLife app* menu options

Pledge Cards for 2026

Thank you for your faithful answer to God's call to give freely and wholeheartedly to support the ministry and mission of Northwood Presbyterian Church in 2025. If you have already submitted a pledge card for the coming year, thank you! If you have yet to do so, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available in the narthex and the church office. Thank you again for all God has done in and through your giving back to Him at Northwood Presbyterian in 2025. We look forward to the work God is preparing for us in 2026.

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 Music x2009
Taryn Lumia, Director of Contemporary Music, taryn@northwoodpc.org
David Furr, Organist, 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)
Aidan Murray, Facilities/Maintenance, x2002
Drew Milano, Sound & Tech, worship@northwoodpc.org

Welcome To Northwood Presbyterian Church

*A Stephen Ministry Church
Organized February 19, 1978*

December 7, 2025



**SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

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



Like us on Facebook!
facebook.com/npc.clearwater

Order for the Public Worship of God
December 7, 2025
2nd Sunday of Advent
11:00 AM Worship Service

WE COME TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNTARY “Variations on PICARDY” Michael Helman
Chorale, Duo, Trumpet Tune, Aria
(Let us quietly prepare our hearts for worship during the opening voluntary)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Curvin, Pastor

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive, Isaiah 11:6-9; 40:3-5)*
Leader: Prepare the way, the prophets call,
make ready the highways for God.
**People: How we long to walk down the sidewalks
in God’s kingdom of Peace!**
Leader: Prepare your hearts, for God’s realm opens up a new day.
People: We dream of a world transformed by God’s love.
Leader: Let us worship God, for God’s Spirit is in our midst!

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

*HYMN #88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” VENI EMMANUEL
(stanzas 5,6,7)

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE
Lighting the Candle

Kevin, Laura, Shannon, Liam and Erin O’Leary
The reader offers words about the candle of peace.

ALL SINGING
(sung to the tune “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”)
**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king.
Born to reign in us forever, Now thy gracious Kingdom bring.**
(“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus,” Glory to God, #82)

CALL TO CONFESSION Paul Means, Associate Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(together)*
**God of Grace, we confess that we are not ready for you to come into
our world — not quite yet. We cling to the known and familiar, afraid
of the transformation your grace will bring. Yet you are always a step
ahead of us, a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us into bold
new ways of being disciples. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the
work of repentance so that, fully reliant on your grace, we may know
the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. 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, see words in the 9:00am service)*

ANTHEM “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” arr. Craig Courtney
*Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown
when Thou camest to earth for me.
But in Bethlehem’s home there was found
no room for Thy holy nativity.*

Refrain: *O come to my heart Lord Jesus, O come to my heart, Lord Jesus.
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus: There is room in my heart for Thee.*

*Heaven’s arches rang when the angels sang,
proclaiming Thy royal degree.
But in lowly birth didst Thou come to earth
and in great humility. Refrain*

*When the heavens shall sing and the angels sing at Thy coming to victory,
Let the voice call me home, saying, “Yet there is room,
there is room at my side for Thee.” And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, my heart shall rejoice. Lord Jesus,
And my heart shall rejoice when Thou comest and callest me.*

CALL TO OFFERING
*(Church offerings are given through the giving stations in the hallway,
online or through the mail.)*

*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 3:1-12 (NRSVUE)

SERMON “Preparing the Way”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

*HYMN #92 “While We Are Waiting, Come” WAITING

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 #123 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” CAROL
(stanzas 1,2,4,5)

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “Toccata on PICARDY” Michael Helman

*(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

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE
Roxie Swartz & Gloria Whitfield

PRAISE SONG
“He Shall Reign Forevermore”

MEET & GREET

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE SONG
“Your Name”

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 Al-
mighty; 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
“The First Noel”

SCRIPTURE
Matthew 3:1-12 (NRSVUE)

SERMON
“Preparing the Way”
Chris Curvin, Pastor

HOLY COMMUNION

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

GOD’S BLESSING TO YOU

Taryn Lumia, Director of Contemporary Music