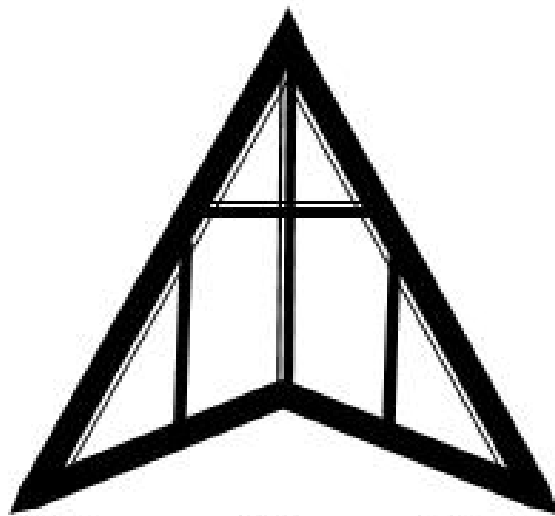


Large Print
Bulletin
&
Announcements

Welcome To
Northwood Presbyterian
Church

A Stephen Ministry Church
Organized February 19, 1978

September 7, 2025
11:00am



Come, Grow, Go!

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

Like us on Facebook!

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 upon 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 har-
vest 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 relationship 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