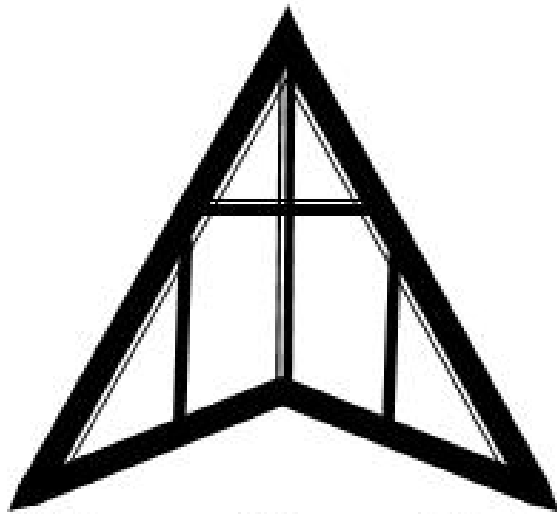


Large Print  
Bulletin  
&  
Announcements

**Welcome To**  
**Northwood Presbyterian**  
**Church**

*A Stephen Ministry Church*  
*Organized February 19, 1978*

**January 4, 2026**  
**7:00pm**



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

**Like us on Facebook!**

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

**Order for the Public Worship of God**  
**January 4, 2026**  
**2nd Sunday of Christmas/Epiphany**  
**11:00 AM Worship Service**

**WE COME TO WORSHIP**

OPENING VOLUNTARY “I Wonder As I Wander” arr. Mark Hayes  
*(Let us quietly prepare our hearts for worship during the opening voluntary)*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Curvin, Pastor

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Responsive)*

Leader: Arise; shine, for your light has come!

**People: We are called out of our darkness into light.**

Leader: Lift up your eyes and look around.

**People: We rejoice in the gift of light.**

Leader: Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.

**All: We come to kneel at the cradle of the babe,  
the light incarnate.**

**\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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

**\*HYMN #147**

**“The First Noel”**

THE FIRST NOWELL

**The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter night that was so deep.**

*Refrain:* **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel**

**They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.**

**And by that light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain***

**This star drew night to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.**

**Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence their gold and myrrh,  
and frankincense. *Refrain***

**Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood our life hath bought. *Refrain***

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

**Leader:** As we come to confess our sins, we affirm that God is a God of promise and light. If we turn to God and confess our sins, God will open our eyes that we may see light in our darkness and God will open our hearts to receive forgiveness through the babe of Bethlehem. Let us then confess our sins before God:

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*together*)**

**God of Light, we confess that we have gone astray and have left Your light. We follow the dim lights that call us to be more religious by following rules. We follow the light of this world and the fading light of personal salvation alone. Forgive us for not seeking the true Light of Your love for all nations. In the name of Jesus the Messiah, we pray. Amen.**

#### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON (*Responsive*)**

**Leader:** The Mystery of love is revealed in Jesus Christ. God's love is for all people. Seek to love others, and you will know God's love and forgiveness.

**People:** This is the Good News. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
**Amen.**

#### **\*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, back panel in 9:00 service*)

ANTHEM                      “Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow”      arr. Mark Hayes  
Soloist, Rachelle Cox

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 READINGS

Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSVUE)  
Hebrews 13:8 (NRSVUE)

SERMON

“Words of Wisdom for the New Year”  
Chris Curvin, Pastor

\*HYMN #150

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

DIX

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 #151

“We Three Kings”

KINGS OF ORIENT

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

*Refrain:* **O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign,  
Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshipping God Most High.**

*Refrain*

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.  
Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain***

\*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY “In thee Is Gladness” arr. Michael Burkhardt

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

Stephanie Carson, Music Director; David Furr, Organist