Northwood Presbyterian Church
6721 N Monroe St
Spokane, WA 99208
509-328-2012
office@northwoodpres.org

November 2026

Northwood News

From the Pastor:

Thanksgiving is a national holiday and not specifically a Christian one. Nonetheless, in the blur of late-autumn and winter festivities about to overwhelm our schedules, it's easy to lump one special occasion with another.

Back in 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued the proclamation, which in part reads as follows: *"…I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens…"* And, of course, in the traumatic throes of the Civil War, a broad appeal to the Judeo-Christian ethos of a nation seemed prudent. Lincoln himself espoused faith in Jesus, and presumed a vast majority of the population did too.

But here's my dilemma: among those things for which I am most grateful is the safe and tolerant community which allowed space for my skepticism, my cynicism, my sadness and yes, at times, my atheism. And, as I reflect in 2026, my journey towards becoming a Christian person of faith in God would have been hindered if I had been bullied into it… or if I had been coerced, or peer-pressured, into it. Civil religiosity, I suppose, is here to stay; and every *Gallup* poll can clue us in on the numbers. Nominal belief isn't going anywhere; we have to start somewhere. But I'd really like to give thanks for those leaders who spur us towards something deeper than a prayer during half-time at a football game. I'd really like to give thanks for those who aren't quite satisfied with "our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens." In fact, as of the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Northwood Presbyterian Church will be anticipating the *God Who Dwells With Us,* and my fervent hope is that you (dear reader) can appreciate the difference.

Back around the year 50 CE, long before anyone dreamed of the bounty of a North American continent, the Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church that gathered in Corinth. That city had been established by Julius Caesar nearly a hundred years prior; and its citizens had a bustling economy to be grateful for. Some, however, appeared more 'blessed' than others; and when they celebrated the *Eucharist* (the Greek word for *Thanksgiving*), the apostle rips into them:

"When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. What! Do you not have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing…" **[1 Corinthians 11:20—22].**

Does this sound too harsh? Maybe. But wow! This year, when I'm chowing down my calories, when I receive my dose of tryptophan, I'm going to remember that reprimand and take up the challenge! And you? I remain grateful for you just as you are, but also for the challenges the Spirt of Christ has in store for you!

Peace~
Scott

Sermon Texts for November Through December

November 01

Matthew 23:1—12; Joshua 3:7—17

“Can Humility Be Taught?”

November 08

Matthew 25:1—13; Joshua 24:1-3a;14—25

[Dialogue Sermon with Marsie Nollette] “Preparing for the Next Wedding”

November 15

Matthew 25:14—30; Judges 4:1—7

“Rate the Risk Before Banking the Interest”

November 22

Matthew 25:31—46; Ezekiel 34:11—16

“The Anonymous Christians Among Us”

November 29 [First Sunday of Advent]

Mark 13:24—37; Isaiah 64:1—9

“Summer’s Coming, You Sleepy Heads!”

December 06 [Second Sunday of Advent]

Mark 1:1—8; Isaiah 40:1—11

“Are You There to Hear It?”

December 13 [Third Sunday of Advent]

John 1:6—8; 19—28; Isaiah 61:1—4; 8—11

“Identity and Testimony at the River”

December 20 [Fourth Sunday of Advent]

Luke 1:26—38; 2 Samuel 7:1—11; 16

[Dialogue Sermon with Terry Nielsen]

“The Angel Sent to You”

December 24 [Christmas Eve]

Luke 2:1—14; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4—7

“Now Appearing!!!?”

December 27 [First Sunday of Christmas]

Luke 2:22—40; Psalm 148

“You’re Gonna Want to See This Before You Die”

“I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God”. -Ezekiel 34:15

Administration and Finance

At their October 20, 2026, meeting, the elders:

1. We prayed for the Northwood congregation and the Pastoral search committee.
2. Approval of Treasurer's Report for September 2026.

Northwood Presbyterian Church



September 2026

Total Income: $13,163

Total Expenses: $15,769

Gain/Loss: ($ 2,633)

Per Capita for 2026: $40.00 * Per Capita so for this year: $1,720.00-Thank you!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Once again as the trees begin to change color, we are reminded that fall is upon us. Fall is typically the time of year, where our thoughts turn to taking stock of this year and thinking of the upcoming year. In our church, fall is also the time that we commit to the stewardship necessary for the upcoming year. In 2027 our church will embark on a new journey with a new pastor. A new pastor brings greater financial responsibility for our congregation in the form of cost for recruiting and moving a new pastor. In addition, there will be new requests for updating salary, and insurance benefits. I recognize that these demands occur at a tough time for many financially due to the rapidly rising cost of living. Please remember that stewardship involves not only financial commitment, but also commitment of time and talent to our congregation. Time and talent are just as important as the financial pledge. In the words of the great old hymn, ***God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*** *"Now direct our daily labor, Lest we strive for self alone; Born with talents, make us servants. Fit to answer at Your throne."* The next stanza reminds us that through his bounty and love we have all that we have. *"Treasure, too, you have entrusted, Gain through pow'rs Your grace conferred; Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word."* Perhaps the most important message of this hymn are in its concluding lines, *"Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call, Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, Serving You by loving all."* I ask you to ponder these profound words over the next few weeks and conclude through prayer and heartfelt thought about your commitment to Northwood for 2027.

On November 15, 2027, we will have our pledge Sunday. You may return your pledge cards in person on that Sunday. You may also return your pledge cards to the office prior to that day. The pledge cards not only allow us to determine our budget for the next year, but also remind you of your

commitment to Jesus' work through Northwood. As mentioned above a new pastor brings excitement, new purpose, and a new energy to Northwood. With this new energy there will also be new responsibilities financially. As always, I thank this congregation for its amazing generosity in time, talent, and finances.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Ken Cathcart, Administration and Finance, Elder

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Name(s)----------

Address----------

City----------State----------Zip----------

Financial Stewardship Commitment for 2027

$----------

Weekly Monthly Quarterly Annually

(Circle one)

This commitment may be increased/decreased due to changes.

Keep this portion as a record of your financial stewardship commitment to Northwood Presbyterian Church for 2027 :

$_____

Stewardship Presentations

11/1 Worship & Music - Bob Brown

11/8 Deacons - Joe Simpson

11/15 Pledge Sunday – Ken Cathcart Admin.

Please remember that pledge Sunday is Sunday November 15. Please return your pledge cards to the office either before that day or turn them in to the offering plate on Sunday, November 15. In addition, the Administration and Finance committee will be accepting cash gifts for the year end Christmas gifts for our church staff on Sunday, December 6 and Sunday, December 13. You may hand these gifts to Ken Cathcart, Elder for administration and finance or to treasurer Donna Harvey on those Sundays. Remember that cash gifts are necessary as we will not have enough time to convert a check into cash to give to our employees. Thank you as always for your generosity.

Elder Dr. Ken Cathcart

Northwood Presbyterian PNC

Northwood Presb. Church's job description for our new pastor has been posted to the PCUSA database. Potential candidates can now see our job opening and apply if they are interested in our church. The Pastor Nominating Committee would like you to pray that God speaks to the heart of the right individual and brings him/her to us as our next pastor.

-Tami Robinson, Chair PNC

Worship & Music

Worship Assistants

November 1 Ray Schatz
November 8 Joshua Barnes
November 15 Tami Robinson
November 22 Scott Robinson
November 29 Bethany Richards

Greeters

Week 1: Carol Christenson
Week 2: Susan and Gerry Riddle
Week 3: Jane and Terry Nielsen
Week 4: Gayle and Mike Fetcho
Week 5 : De Baskin

Christian Education

APPROACHING THE BIBLE WITH HONEST CURIOSITY

Adult Bible Study Class continues, starting at 9a.m. to 10a.m. and culminating on Sunday, December 13, Pastor Scott will guide discussion on some fairly important questions regarding the Holy Bible. These questions will blaze the trail for individuals and church communities to read and truly hear the authoritative voice in various passages in sacred scripture. Our goal will be to learn and to tolerate the possibilities of being wrong or misguided in our various interpretations. Moreover, we'll explore how the Bible's witness to Jesus as Christ cannot be kept to ourselves and must enter the public conversation of what's true and what's false, what's good and what's evil… and what it might mean to be sent by the Spirit of Jesus into the world.

11/1 THE PROPHETS WHO DON'T PREDICT THE FUTURE

11/8 WHY FOUR ACCOUNTS OF JESUS' LIFE, DEATH AND RESURECTION

11/15 THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'DISCIPLES' AND 'APOSTLES'

11/22 A CALL TO BELIEVE IS NOT A CALL TO BE CERTAIN

11/29 PRAYER HAS A POINT, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT WE THINK

12/6 THE FREEDOM OF CHRIST IS A FREEDOM FROM ONE'S OWN EGO

12/13 UNITED AGAINST AND AMID 'THE EMPIRE'

Small Group Bible Study meets on Monday's at 1:00 p.m. Bible Study sessions are open to all and we meet in Fellowship Hall. We are currently following the weekly Revised 2026 Common Lectionary, Presbyterian Church, (USA) to read and discuss scriptures from the Old and New Testaments. All are welcome and we currently have an attendance of 4-6 participants.
-Rod Christenson, Elder, Christian Education

Mission & Outreach

MEAD FOOD BANK
In mid-October Marsie, Moya & Rowen volunteered at the Mead Food Bank. The supplies were so low that, once again, they were down to handing out soda-pop for fruit and chips for grain. On Sunday, October 18th, Rod & Carol Christenson, Terry Nielsen, Mike Fetcho, and Marsie, Moya & Rowen delivered **1,034 lbs.** of food! The managers that accepted the food were very grateful. Thank you to all who donated, loaded, and delivered the food. Keep the food coming as the need has greatly increased, and remember monetary donations are always welcome.

PAJAMA DRIVE
This year we are participating in the Christmas Bureau Pajama Drive for kids. All items must be new with the original tags attached. The PJ's may be for any season, so check out those sale racks. Sizes that are accepted are infants - 18 Husky. There will be collection boxes located in the narthex and Celtic Hall. **Collection dates: Nov. 1 – Nov. 22**. Questions? See Liz Schatz or any Mission & Outreach member.

TOM'S TURKEY DRIVE
Volunteers are needed to make and load boxes on **Tues, Nov. 24 at 10 A.M. at the Mead Food Bank.** *There is a sign-up sheet on the board in Celtic Hall next to the kitchen door.*
Last year we loaded boxes for 300 turkeys. This year they have ordered 400 turkeys, as the number of households seeking assistance has increased. Questions? See Liz Schatz or any Mission & Outreach member.

LINWOOD ANGEL TREE
Be watching for the ANGEL TREE which will be posted on the Mission & Outreach bulletin board in the hallway starting **November 24th**. We will be collecting items for a Linwood Elementary School family of four. Questions? See Sally Almond.

Fellowship

Fun Friday Potluck and Program

Fun Friday on November 20th will be a potluck at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall followed by a presentation entitled "Winter Texans" by Scott Robinson.
Fun Friday in December is on the 2nd Friday of the month, **December 11th**. This will be our White Elephant Bingo event.
Holy Rollers Bowling Group meet at Lilac Lanes on Thursdays at 2:00pm. See Mike Fetcho for any questions.



November 9	Terry Nielsen	November 18	Diane Stueckle
November 9	Bobbie Altman	November 21	Scott Robinson
November 14	Scott Bassett	November 22	Sue Anderson
November 15	Robin Johnson	November 29	Holly Christoff

Anniversary - November 20 Kathy & Terry Potter

Community News!

- A Big thank you from Robin and Jeff Johnson. Jeff and I are overwhelmed by Northwood's financial donation to our household. The money will go towards new furniture. As a fire victim of the Old Trails Fire, this has been an unexpected journey for us. So many friends, family and churches have reached out to us with money, gifts and meals. The best part is someone stopping by to chat. We also know we Very lucky to have wonderful insurance. Many others in the community are struggling with complications of smoke and sewer damage. We thank you for your prayers for all effected by the situation.

- The Whitworth Auxiliary invites you to its annual Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale to be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 9706 N. Division Street
on Saturday, November 7 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. We will have Fall and Christmas items for sale, a collectibles table, jewelry, baked goods,
raffle baskets and more. We will have a pie cafe where you can get a slice of pie and a cup of tea or coffee. Proceeds from the event will benefit Whitworth students. See Cathy Bowers for further information.

- Fall Fund Drive for the Fig Tree Newspaper, Donate Oct. 14 to Dec. 1. Your gift will be doubled by matching funds up to $7,625 from the Fig Tree Board. Checks can go to "The Fig Tree"* 1323 S. Perry St* Spokane, WA 99202. Thank you.

-**Poinsettia orders start on November 29th through December 13th**. The cost per plant is $10. See order form in Bulletin, if not please call the office for one to be mailed to you.

Northwood Presbyterian Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Scott Kinder-Pyle — Choir Director: Bob Brown
Office Administrator: Holly Christoff — Organist/Pianist: Cathy Brown
Treasurer: Donna Harvey — Custodian: Michael Stitt
Sound Technician: Joette Detlaff

Phone: 509-328-2012 / E-Mail: office@northwoodpres.org
Web Site: northwoodpres.org 6721 N. Monroe St., Spokane WA 99208
Facebook: Northwood Presbyterian Church
Church Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday, 9am-2pm

Sunday – Nov. 1 All Saints Sunday
9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
Minute for Stewardship - Bob Brown
Ray Schatz, Worship Assistant
Coffee Time
Pajama Drive starts thru Nov. 22

Monday – Nov. 2
1:00 pm Small Group Bible Study

Wednesday – Nov. 4
6:00 p.m. Bells & 7:00 p.m. Choir Practices

Thursday – Nov. 5
2:00 p.m. Small Group Bowling at Lilac Lanes

Saturday – Nov. 7
9:00 a.m. Whitworth Fall Craft Bazaar

Sunday – Nov. 8
9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
Minute for Stewardship- Joe Simpson
Joshua Barnes, Worship Assistant
Coffee Time

Monday – Nov. 9
1:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Tuesday – Nov. 10
7:00 p.m. Committees

Wednesday – Nov. 11
6:00 p.m. Bells & 7:00 p.m. Choir practices

Thursday - Nov. 12
2:00 p.m. Small Group Bowling

Sunday – Nov. 15 Pledge Sunday
9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
Minute for Stewardship-Ken Cathcart
Tami Robinson, Worship Assistant
Coffee Time

Monday - Nov. 16
1:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Tuesday – Nov. 17
7:00 p.m. Session

Wednesday – Nov. 18
6:00 Bells & 7:00 p.m. Choir Practices

Thursday- Nov. 19
2:00 p.m. Small Group Bowling

Friday – Nov. 20
6:00 p.m. Fun Friday Potluck & Program

Sunday- Nov. 22 Christ the King
9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
Scott Robinson, Worship Assistant
Coffee Time

Monday – Nov. 23
Meals on Wheels
1:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study

Tuesday - Nov. 24
10:00 a.m. Tom's Turkey Drive @ Mead Food Bank

Wednesday – Nov. 25
Meals on Wheels
6:00 p.m. Bells & 7:00 p.m. Choir Practices

Thursday - Nov. 26 'Happy Thanksgiving'
Office Closed

Saturday – Nov. 28
9:00 a.m. "Hanging of the Greens"

Sunday – Nov. 29 1st Sunday of Advent
9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Worship
Bethany Richards, Worship Assistant
Coffee Time - Angel Tree
Poinsettia orders start

Monday - Nov. 30
1:00 p.m. Small Group Bible Study