

Northwood Presbyterian Church
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October 2026

Northwood News

From the Pastor:

Hallowing Out the Demons on Display: Maybe We Should Be Haunted

A few houses down from where I live, the neighbors have already decorated for Halloween. Already their rain gutters are festooned with ghosts and faux spider-webs. Already the lawn is littered with plastic skulls and tombstones. Already the bushes are ornamented with creepy dolls, hanging by their craggy hair... and every morning as I walk past this sight in particular. I've noticed how the dolls have their eyes gouged out... And I wonder... Given that these holiday-trinkets have been up and on display since the week after Labor Day in September, I wonder what it is I'm supposed to see!

Maybe (and I'm speculating here) the neighbors are catering to the younger children, who look forward to the fake-frightfulness of October 31st just as much as some others look forward to December 25th. On the other hand, maybe the sooner the indulgent adults position their demons in public, the more they don't have to deal with them in private. I can't be sure; and I won't be sure because it's really none of my business.

What is my business, however, are biblical texts like the following (from Matthew 23:27–28): *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful but inside are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of uncleanness. So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”*

Now, the spooky thing about Jesus' uttering words like these shouldn't be lost on us in the fall of 2026. And while it's not my intention to call anyone at Northwood a *hypocrite*, I *do* think it's important that we become a little unsettled by the what we hear of God's Word in the Bible as well as the ways God's people endeavor to embody that Word. Maybe we *should be* haunted. Maybe every time we take pride in the face we're presenting to others, God is summoning us, bit by bit, to lose our masks. A *mask*, for example, might be that we have nothing to learn or no need to grow. A mask might be that 'Everything's fine...' A mask might be our insistence that the traumas of the world at large have nothing to do with us. (It's always the other guy.)

Of course, another word for such cover-ups is the word, MASQUE. And what any good therapist or counselor will tell us is that people like us have become very skilled at hiding the hurt of our lives with a masque. I can masque my feelings of insecurity by getting unduly angry. I can masque my grief over a loss by indulging in a scary piece of gossip. ***“Do not be afraid,”*** the angels declare to the shepherds in the fields around the time of Jesus' birth—and to the women at the empty tomb; and my sense is that we often miss the point of that declaration. The point is—to face up to our *skeletons in the closet*—and to let the Holy One put them in their place once and for all. May the Spirit hallow us for all the days and nights to come. Amen.

Administration and Finance

At their September 15, 2026, meeting, the elders:

1. We prayed for the Northwood congregation and the Pastoral search committee.
2. Approval of Treasurer's Report for August 2026.
3. Approval of the contract for Pastor Scott for six months.
4. Approval of Pledge Sunday for November 15, 2026.
5. Approval of the contract with Northside Learning Center for school year (26-27).
6. Approval of Pastoral candidate to preach at Northwood, who is applying for a position at Whitworth Church on Sunday, November 1, 2026.
7. Approval of funds for Pastor Scott for continuing Pastoral Education.

Northwood Presbyterian Church



August 2026

Total Income:\$13,561

Total Expenses: \$13,299

Gain/Loss: \$261.93

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

September 20, 2026

Dear Friends 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

Stewardship Presentations

10/4	Building & Grounds	- John Stramiello
10/11	Fellowship	- Sharon Cathcart
10/18	Mission & Outreach	- Liz Schatz
11/1	Worship & Music	- Bob Brown
11/8	Deacons	- Joe Simpson
11/15	Pledge Sunday-A&F	- Ken Cathcart

Worship & Music

Make a joyful noise onto the Lord! Psalm 98:4



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

October 4	Ken Cathcart
October 11	Rod Christenson
October 18	Bill Ailes
October 25	Jane Nielsen

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.

- 1. GENESIS BEGINS IN BABYLON**
- 2. LOOKING BACK FROM A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY THAT'S MOVING FORWARD**
- 3. KINGS AND KINGDOMS ALL PASS AWAY, BUT...**
- 4. DON'T ASSUME 'DAVID' WRITES EVERY PSALM**
- 5. THE PROPHETS WHO DON'T PREDICT THE FUTURE**
- 6. WHY FOUR ACCOUNTS OF JESUS' LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION**
- 7. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'DISCIPLES' AND 'APOSTLES'**
- 8. A CALL TO BELIEVE IS NOT A CALL TO BE CERTAIN**
- 9. PRAYER HAS A POINT, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT WE THINK**
- 10. THE FREEDOM OF CHRIST IS A FREEDOM FROM ONE'S OWN EGO**
- 11. UNITED AGAINST AND AMID 'THE EMPIRE'**

***Small Group Book Study** meets on **Monday's at 1:00pm** in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join, we are currently using the scripture from the R.C.L-PCUSA.

Mission & Outreach

World Communion Offering Sunday, October 4, 2026

Wait! What is the World Communion Offering? Don't we call that the Peace & Global Witness Offering? And, did we forget to take the Pentecost Offering?

PC(USA) now has only three offerings per year instead of four. They are the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) taken each spring, the Christmas Joy Offering, and the new World Communion Offering. There is no longer a Pentecost Offering.

The World Communion Offering focuses on reconciling God's people around the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Causes that are supported include: racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, ecumenical and interfaith relations. As part of this Offering, a grant program has been created that allows any council of the PC(USA) — session, presbytery or synod regardless of participation in the World Communion Offering — to apply for funds to support their own efforts to do ministry around these cause areas.

Northwood will receive the offering on World Communion Sunday, October 4th.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

-Liz Schatz, Mission & Outreach

Fellowship

Fun Friday Potluck and Program October

Fun Friday on October 16th at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. Please sign up and bring something to share at the potluck. The presentation will be about Cambodia and Thailand by Ken and Sharon Cathcart.

Call me if you have any questions.

Sharon Cathcart



Hey Holy Rollers, please join us Thursday's at 2 pm at Lilac Lanes and Casino for fun and fellowship. The cost is \$12.00 for an hour and includes shoe rental.

See Mike Fetcho for any questions.



October 1 Joe Simpson
October 2 Liz Schatz
October 6 Sharon Haven

October 11 James Davis
October 22 Cathy Bowers
October 25 Ken Cathcart
October 27 Christina Almond

Community News!



-Turn your clocks back 1-hour on October 31st!

- 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.

-Arts and Crafts Bazaar at Prince of Peace Lutheran , 8441 N Indian Trail Rd on October 17, 9-3. Benefits Women's Ministries in Spokane.

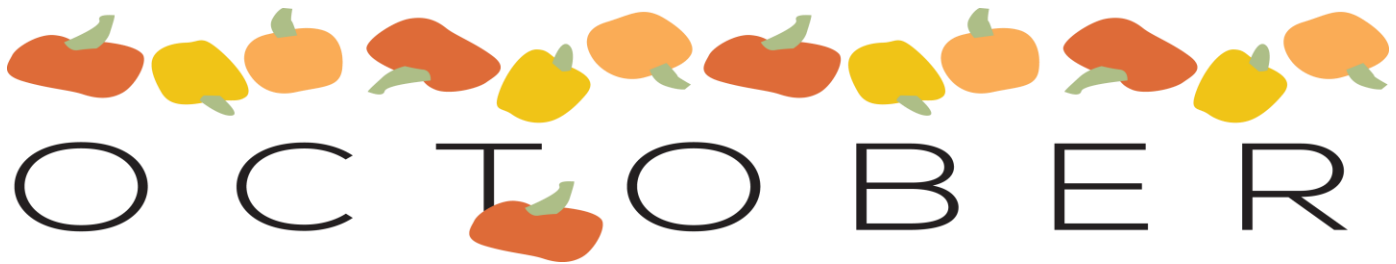
-Lilac Community Handbells is looking for ringers for the fall season, with 2concerts in Dec. Thursdays at Whitworth Presb. Church, open choir, no experience needed @ 5:30-7:00pm and advanced choir is 6:30-8:30pm. Cindy Boldrick, director, her phone is 509-990-9293.

Northwood Presbyterian Church Staff

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Scott Kinder-Pyle
Office Administrator: Holly Christoff
Treasurer: Donna Harvey
Sound Technician: Joette Detlaff

Choir Director: Bob Brown
Organist/Pianist: Cathy Brown
Custodian: Michael Stitt

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Web Site: northwoodpres.org 6721 N. Monroe St., Spokane WA 99208
Facebook: Northwood Presbyterian Church
Church Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday, 9am-2pm



Thursday – Oct. 1

Meals on Wheels

2:00 p.m. Small Group Bowling

Preschool using Fellowship Hall

Friday – Oct. 2

Meals on Wheels

Preschool using Fellowship Hall

Sunday – Oct. 4- Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class

Communion Sunday

Ken Cathcart, Worship Assistant

Minute for Stewardship-John Stramiello

Coffee Time

Monday - Oct. 5

1:00 p.m. Small Group Book Study

Wednesday – Oct. 7

Bell Practice @ 6:00 p.m. & 7p.m. Choir

Thursday – Oct. 8

2:00 p.m. Small Group Bowling

Sunday - Oct. 11 Worship @ 10:30a.m.

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class

Rod Christenson, Worship Assistant

Minute for Stewardship-Sharon Cathcart

Coffee Time-Mission & Outreach

Monday - Oct. 12

1:00 p.m. Small Group Book Study

Tuesday - Oct. 13

7:00 p.m. Committees

Wednesday-Oct.14

6:00 p.m. Bell Practice & 7 p.m. Choir

Thursday – Oct. 15

1:00 p.m. Small Group Bowling

Friday – Oct. 16

6:00-8:00 p.m. Fun Friday Potluck & Program

Sunday- Oct. 18 Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class

Bill Ailes, Worship Assistant

Minute for Stewardship-Liz Schatz

Coffee Time

Monday – Oct. 19

1:00 p.m. Small Group Book Study

Tuesday – Oct. 20

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Wednesday – Oct. 21

6:00 p.m. Bell Practice & 7 p.m. Choir

Thursday-Oct. 22

2:00 p.m. Small Group Bowling

Friday - Oct. 23

Newsletter Deadline for November issue

Sunday – Oct. 25 Reformation Sunday

Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class

Jane Nielsen, Worship Assistant

Minute for Stewardship-Rod Christenson

Coffee Time

Monday - Oct. 26

Meals on Wheels

1:00 p.m. Small Group Study

Wednesday – Oct. 28

Meals on Wheels

6:00 p.m. Bell Practice & 7p.m. Choir

Thursday - Oct. 29

Meals on Wheels

2:00 p.m. Small Group Bowling

Friday – Oct. 30

Meals on Wheels

Saturday - Oct. 31

12 :00 a.m. Turn Your Clocks Back