

## Note from the Pastor:

### It's Time to Go Public

**"Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him..."**

**—Matthew 3:13**

The church season of 'Epiphany' is a compelling time to consider your own spirituality and how your words and your ways impact the world around you. As noted in the scripture above, Jesus himself went public. Having been born in relative isolation in Bethlehem, his parents hightailed it to Egypt and then immigrated back to provincial village of Nazareth. During these three decades, we know very little about how Jesus learned and grew in wisdom; but we know enough to understand that he couldn't keep the love of God to himself... And so, here he comes again—the Embodiment of the Holiest of the Holy—consenting to baptism, getting splashed and submerged in the chaotic waters of creation—alongside every other ragamuffin pedestrian believer with a longing heart. This is important in that Jesus does not keep to himself. He doesn't just privatize his special indwelling with God's Spirit, but puts people like us (centuries later) on notice: *if there is a Revelation of God's Grace coming to us, it will arrive as we risk ourselves in community and in conversation.*

Perhaps for days, weeks, months and years, you have practiced your 'religion' as if it were your own to pick and choose—as if it were a smorgasbord, and you could grab for what feels comfortable, remain indifferent to what seems boring and reject, with an upturned nose, the challenges and confusion that befuddle you. Jesus, around thirty years of age, won't be doing that sort of thing anymore (if he ever did). After his excursion in the wilderness, where he'll contemplate the powers and principalities which try to tempt him with a false sense of ego, Jesus of Nazareth will break free of 'Nazareth' and explore every person, place or thing in his path. There will be no question, no trauma, and no demon that he'll avoid. And that brings me back to you, to the folks here at Northwood Presbyterian. Have you truly broken free?

As Interim Pastor, I'm not about to shame or to cajole anyone into a ministry that resembles the passionate journey of Christ. But don't miss this opportunity. If you've hung around, savoring the fellowship of this church, but haven't yet stood up before the congregation in public, you might be destined for an 'Epiphany'—which is a moment or a milestone to say, '*As God is with me, I am with you, and I am with you even when it gets ugly, even when relationships and responsibilities are messy.*' This is precisely what Jesus is doing as John the Baptist hesitates in Matthew 3; he says in verse 15: **"Let it me so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness."** With all this in mind, I am inviting you to go public and to consider a formal declaration of faith, which includes either a celebration of Holy Baptism or a Renewal of Baptism. For this to happen, you might plan on a **New Member's**

**Class on Sunday, January 11, from 9 to 10 a.m.**, and to then embody all that God has been doing in your individual life by consenting to being sprinkled with water in worship.

Obviously, there's more than H2O involved. Aren't you curious to find out?

Peace~  
Scott

### **NORTHWOOD NEW MEMBERS CLASS**

#### **WHO:**

Long-time friends of the congregation  
who believe it's time for them  
to belong to something more  
than a cozy fellowship  
but to a church-mission-to-the-world

#### **WHY:**

Because, just as Jesus submitted to  
the Baptism of John the Baptist  
in public,  
it's vital to people of faith  
that we mutually and  
vulnerably submit to one another  
in public

#### **WHEN:**

Sunday, January 11, 2026  
New Member's Class, 9—10 a.m.  
Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Come forward to the Baptismal Font  
as you will be called

#### **WHAT:**

This formal ceremony is a Sacrament,  
which is a Sign of God's Grace.

Moreover—if you're hoping to  
participate fully in the calling of a new pastor,  
this servant of God will undoubtedly  
appreciate the vows you take  
on the day above

#### **HOW:**

Let Pastor Scott know soon  
[pastor@northwoodpres.org](mailto:pastor@northwoodpres.org)

*Session Highlights*

## Session Report – December 2025

At their December 16, 2025 meeting, Northwood Session Elders:

1. Approved the balanced 2025 General Fund Budget, the Congregational Meeting, scheduled January 25, 2026, for the annual Congregational Meeting immediately following worship.
2. Shared from Christian Ed. that the adult small group Bible study will continue to meet, after the holidays.
3. Heard reports from all Session committees

--Rev. Scott Kinder-Pyle, Moderator

### ***Northwood Presbyterian Church***

#### **Financial Update:**

November 30, 2025

<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$169,868</b>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$174,024</b>
<b>Gain/Loss:</b>	<b>\$4,157</b>

#### **Per Capita (SAME; no increase) for 2026: \$39.00**

Per Capita Income for 2025 as of Nov. 30: \$1,067.00 – thank you!

*Thanks for giving faithfully to the ministry and mission of Northwood  
as we ended last year together!*

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#### **Congregational Meeting:**

**Sunday, January 25, immediately following worship**

#### **Business:**

**\*Acceptance of General Fund Budget for 2026**

**\*Elect 2026 Officer Nominating Committee members**

**\*Annual corporation meeting to elect new officers voted in last  
July.**

***Elect new Officer Nominating Committee.***

#### **Congregational Meeting**



## ***Mission & Outreach***

#### **Mission & Outreach Thank You's**

Mission and Outreach thanks you for knitting, crocheting, and purchasing hats, scarves, gloves, and socks for the Christmas tree in the Narthex this holiday season! The decorated tree with all that you bring, after Christmas, will go to Cup of Cool Water, a street ministry downtown for teens. Cup of Cool Water is always so appreciative of all that you provide for the kids who are in need. Thank you for your generosity in helping youth keep warm.  
-Jane Nielsen, Mission & Outreach Elder

#### **Christmas Angel Tree**

For some years, we at Northwood have enjoyed helping a Linwood family with Christmas gifts and holiday dinner fixings. This year, we hosted a family whose sons attend Linwood

Elementary School. We delivered all the food and gifts the week before Christmas. The Mission & Outreach Committee thanks all of Northwood.

-Sally Almond, Mission & Outreach Committee

## Worship & Music

### Unhanging of the Greens

Please join the Worship & Music Committee and volunteers to take down the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary on Epiphany Sunday, January 4. Let's be sure to finish up our season by taking down and storing all the Christmas decorations. Many thanks from Worship & Music to the merry team of decorators who came to decorate the church for Christmas!

### Advent Wreath & Christmas Thank You's

As we end this Advent and Christmas season, I'd like to thank all who participated in the four Sundays of reading and lighting our Advent wreath this year.

-Pastor Scott

### Worship Assistants for January

January 4 -- Taffy Potter  
January 11 -- John Stramiello  
January 18 -- Cathy Bowers  
January 25 -- Robin Johnson

### January Greeters:

January 4 – Carol Christenson  
January 11 - Gerry & Susan Riddle  
January 18 - Terry & Jane Nielsen  
January 25 - Mike & Gayle Fethco



## Fellowship

### Fun Friday - January 16

Fun Friday is January 16, Potluck at 6 pm and the program is an update from Family Promise. Thanks to everyone who helped make December 19 Fun Friday and Wassail on Sunday, December 21 -- both a great success. We enjoyed playing White Elephant Bingo with fun and unique prizes. The Wassail was highly praised, but the cookies made by everyone was a delight.

### January Birthdays

3 De Baskin  
9 Sue Goleeke  
11 Taffy Potter  
14 Sharon Cathcart  
24 Donna Harvey  
27 Randy Goss





## **Our Northwood Mission Team**

Robin Johnson, Bethany Richards, Joshua Barnes,  
De Baskin and Liz Schatz

### **Northwood Presbyterian Church Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Scott Kinder-Pyle

Office Administrator: Holly Christoff

Treasurer: Donna Harvey

Custodian: Michael Stitt

Choir Director: Bob Brown

Pianist/Organist: Cathy Brown

Sound Technician: Jo Detlaff

Phone: 509-328-2012 / E-Mail: [office@northwoodpres.org](mailto:office@northwoodpres.org)

Web Site: [northwoodpres.org](http://northwoodpres.org)

Facebook: Northwood Presbyterian Church



# JANUARY

## NORTHWOOD CALENDAR

### January 2025

**Thursday -- January 1**

**Happy New Year!- Office Closed**

**Epiphany Sunday – January 4**

10:30am Worship/Communion

Taffy Potter, Worship Asst.

Coffee Time

Un-hanging of the Greens

**Monday – January 5**

12:30pm Adult Small Group Bible Study

**Wednesday – January 7**

12:30pm Admin. & Finance Meeting

6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday – January 11 Baptism of the Lord**

10:30am Worship Service

John Stramiello, Worship Asst.

Coffee Time

Worship & Music Committee

**Monday – January 12**

12:30pm Adult Small Group Bible Study

**Tuesday – January 13**

6/7pm Committees

**Wednesday -- January 14**

**11:00am Annual Reports Due**

6:00pm Bell Practice

7:00pm Vocal Choir Practice

**Friday -- January 16**

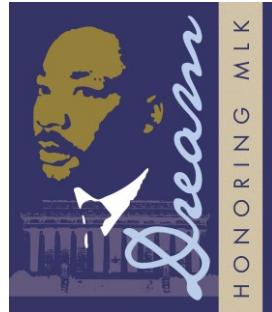
6:00pm Fun Friday Potluck

**Sunday – January 18**

10:30am Worship

Cathy Bowers, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time



**Monday – January 19 Meals on Wheels**

Martin Luther King's Birthday

12:30pm Adult Small Group Bible Study

**Tuesday – January 20**

7pm Session

**Wednesday – January 21 Meals on Wheels**

6:00 Bell Practice

7:00 Vocal Choir Practice

**Thursday - January 22 Meals on Wheels**

**Friday – January 23 Meals on Wheels**

Newsletter Deadline

**Sunday – January 25 Annual Congregational Meeting After Service**

10:30am Worship

Robin Johnson, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

**Monday – January 26**

12:30pm Adult Small Group Bible Study

**Wednesday – January 28**

6:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal