

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

January 2026
Northwood News

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

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

Total Income: \$169,868

Total Expenses: \$174,024

Gain/Loss: \$4,157

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!*

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.



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 Fetcho



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

Web Site: northwoodpres.org

Facebook: Northwood Presbyterian Church





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

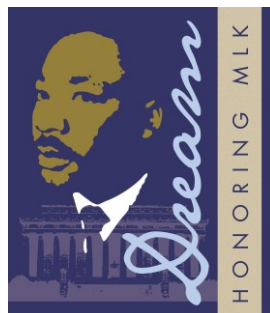
6:00pm Fun Friday Potluck

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