

Northwood Presbyterian Church
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Spokane, WA 99208
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May 2026

Northwood News

A Note from the Pastor:

You Might Look Up All the Bold Bible Passages Below—and We Can Talk

Here's a quote from a book I've been reading and re-reading:

“People and life are mostly ungraspable in literal terms; they are shot through with mystery. But this is precisely the strength of poets and the poetic imagination, and these offer the language best suited to gesturing toward the transcendent” [William A. Dyrness, *Poetic Theology; God and the Poetics of Everyday Life*: p. 291].

To begin this May newsletter-blurb with these words is to throw everyone who's curious, willing and cooperative into the deep end. And I mean that as an invitation. In other words, what if we didn't insist that faith in Christ delivered answers? What if we didn't insist on absolute certainty? A church, not far from us, associates 'Biblical Prophecy' with a blue-print of how the future will unfold. But since Hal Lindsay's *The Late, Great Planet Earth*, published in the 1970's, 'Armageddon' and the 'Anti-Christ' have been idling just around the corner... and life goes on. For over fifty years, people for whom Christ died and rose again, have consulted the apocalyptic playbook and made money off the so-called predictable answers. And, as your interim pastor, I believe it's all been a profound and diabolical mistake.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not condemning anyone to hell because of their youthful infatuation with this stuff. But I *am* saying there's a better way to understand and to be nourished by the Sacred Bible—and that way is the way Jesus read it—and then put its Hebrew text to imaginative use in a Greek-speaking world. For example, and if you're so inclined, check out John's Gospel, chapter 15, where Jesus is described as “**The True Vine.**” It's really quite beautiful. And that beauty takes on even more resplendence when we review **Isaiah 5:1–7**, **Jeremiah 2:21** and **Ezekiel 19:10–14**. Each of these major prophets does its best work in poetry. By contrast, a literal take of any of these passages would be a huge waste of time (even if someone were a botanist). And the important dynamic that's being encouraged is not the search for definitive, fill-in-the-blank, *Google*-answers, but the questions of *abiding*: What does it mean to “**abide**” in Christ? Why not spend the summer as a community of faith wondering about that? By the same token, why were the communities of faith that arose in ancient Israel seemingly unable to bear the 'fruit' God has in view? Moreover, as per **Galatians 5:22–23**, is this fruit now growing among us in Spokane, Washington, in 2026?

You see, we could go on and on. Life and people are “shot through with mystery.” And what's so cool is that a congregation like Northwood Presbyterian is theologically positioned to honor that mystery and to savor the spiritual growth that happens in the midst of that honoring. Another thing I'd offer goes like so: every church needs a pastor who values the poetry of Jesus and who is bold enough to leave things uncertain. (That's right. You read that correctly.) As much as you may want a pastor who tries to nail down the answers and assuage any latent anxieties, the best candidate will be someone who pries up those nails and foments the “**the fear of the Lord,**” which is “**the beginning of wisdom**” (Psalm 111:10).

Special Congregational Meeting:
Mark your calendars!
This year on Sunday, May 17th

After Worship Service - Members, please plan to stay for the following business: To vote on the Pastoral Nominating Committee and *New/continuing Church Officers for 2026: John Stramiello, Chairperson-Building & Grounds, Bob Brown, Chairperson-Worship & Music, Carol Christenson, member-Worship & Music, Rod Christenson, Chairperson-Christian Education, Joe Simpson, Chairperson-Deacons—All positions are 1-year terms.*

Session Highlights

Session Report – April 2026

At their April 21, 2026, meeting, Northwood Session Elders:

1. Prayed together for the needs of our congregation;
2. Approved minutes from the March 2026 Meeting.
3. Approval of Special Congregational Meeting on May 17th.

-Rev. Scott Kinder-Pyle- Moderator

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Financial Update:

March 31, 2026



Total Income:	\$18,250
Total Expenses:	\$14,286
<u>Gain/Loss:</u>	\$3,964

Per Capita for 2026: \$40.00

Per Capita Income for 2026 so far: \$821.00 – thank you!
Thanks for giving faithfully to the ministry and mission of Northwood!

Worship & Music

May Worship Assistants

May 3 Sarah Colgrove
May 10 Bethany Richards
May 17 Jane Nielsen
May 24 De Baskin- Pentecost Sunday
May 31 Rod Christenson

Greeters-Thank you!

May 3 Carol Christenson
May 10 Sue & Gerry Riddle
May 17 Jane & Terry Nielsen
May 24 Mike & Gayle Fetcho
May 31 De Baskin



'Worship in the Park'

Sunday, July 26, 10 A.M. at Audubon Park, 3405 N. Milton St. Spokane, at the corner of Milton and Northwest Blvd. This will be a shared worship experience with our siblings in Christ from Shadle Park, Lidgerwood, Emmanuel and perhaps other local congregations. Plan to bring your own chairs and drinks. Peace - Scott

Christian Education

Adult Small Group Bible Study

The adult small group Bible Study meets on Mondays, at 12:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. We will be finishing up on May 18. Everyone is welcome! Thank you for attending.

-Rod Christenson, Chris. Ed., Elder



Christian Education Office and Storage cleanup will be over the summer months, the C.E. office will be getting a through clean-out and reorganization. If you know of any items that should be held onto, please contact Rod Christenson or Liz Schatz.

Fellowship

Fun Friday for May

Fun Friday for May is May 15th is a glass blowing demonstration by fellow member, Joshua Barnes, start time is at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship/Celtic Hall; sign-up is on the Fellowship bulletin board. We will resume Fun Fridays in September. -Elder Sharon Cathcart, Fellowship

Holy Rollers Bowling

Our bowling small group will now be called the Holy Rollers. Please join us on Thursday afternoons at 2pm, at Lilac Lanes and Casino. The cost is \$10, which covers shoe rentals and two games. We will not meet in early May, as the bowling alley is under renovation. Once there is a lane available, with no waiting, the group will resume. Please check the Sunday bulletin or e-mail announcement for an update. Thank you. -Robin Johnson



3 Gretchen Cathcart 26 Molly Rupp
9 Marsie Nollette
12 Julie Fish
21 Jeanne Ross *"Happy Birthday"*

Mission and Outreach

Food Bank Reminder

Mission and Outreach would like to encourage you to continue bringing food for the Mead Food Bank. The items they need are: canned fruit, canned vegetables, and other canned items such as chili, spaghetti, and soups. Please consider adding some of these items to your grocery list. Food can be placed in the cart near the kitchen door in Celtic/Fellowship Hall. The Mead Food Bank staff is always so grateful when we come with a car full of food! Remember school will be getting soon and there will hungry kids looking for snacks.

-Jane Nielsen, Mission and Outreach Elder

Northwood Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Scott Kinder-Pyle
Office Administrator/Wedding Coord.: Holly Christoff
Treasurer: Donna Harvey
Sound Technician: Jo Detlaff

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

Phone: 509-328-2012

E-Mail: office@northwoodpres.org Web Site: www.northwoodpres.org

Facebook: Northwood Presbyterian Church

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 9-2



Sunday – May 3 *Fifth Sunday of Easter*

10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
Sarah Colgrove, Worship Asst.
Pastor's Katie Haney/Woody Garvin
Coffee Time

Monday – May 4

12:30 p.m. Bible Study

Wednesday – May 6

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. Vocal Choir

Sunday – May 10 *“Happy Mother’s Day”*

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m. Worship
Bethany Richards, Worship Asst.
Coffee Time

Monday – May 11

Meals on Wheels
12:30 p.m. Adult Small Group Bible Study

Tuesday – May 12

6/7 p.m. Committee Night

Wednesday – May 13

Meals on Wheels
12:30 p.m. Admin. & Finance
6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. Vocal Choir

Thursday – May 14 *Ascension of the Lord*

Meals on Wheels

Friday – May 15

Meals on Wheels
6:00 p.m. Fun Friday Potluck/program

Seventh Sunday of Easter – May 17

10:30 a.m. Worship
Jane Nielsen, Worship Asst.

Special Congregational Meeting Election of Pastoral Nominating Committee

Coffee Time

Monday – May 18

12:30 p.m. Adult Small Group Bible Study
Ends

Tuesday – May 19

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Wednesday – May 20

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. Vocal Choir

Saturday – May 23

10:00 a.m. Newsletter Deadline

Pentecost Sunday– May 24

10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Wear Red

De Baskin, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Monday – May 25 *Memorial Day Holiday*

Wednesday – May 27

6:00 p.m. Bell Choir
7:00 p.m. Vocal Choir

Trinity Sunday – May 31

10:30 a.m. Worship
Rod Christenson, Worship Asst.
Coffee Time

