

Northwood Presbyterian Church
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July/August 2026

Northwood News

From the Pastor

On Asking God to Bless... SO THAT... In preparation for the recent blessing of Northwood's Garden, I took some time to ponder what exactly we're doing when we invite God's blessing on anything or anyone. Is it magic? Is it some form of incantation? Is it a social nicety? Are we uttering those three words, 'God bless you,' after a sneeze because we're genuinely concerned about someone catching a cold? And what in the world is happening as the Almighty is evoked and summoned to bless a particular nation—one that's celebrating 250 years of existence? My honest guess is that it's mostly a rallying cry, a patriotic gesture and a hope that the persons of our various states and territories will find a common cause or a sense of unity. But here's the thing: if the 'God' we invite to bless is truly the Creator of the Cosmos, and as far as we know the stuff of the universe has been expanding in dynamic fashion for 13.8 billion, what's most clear is that no one person and no one nation will be the end-user of God's Blessing.

Consider the nation of Israel, and consider the following from Genesis 12:2—3, as the Holy One engages in conversation and covenant with the biblical figure of Abraham: "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." It's the 'SO THAT' of those verses which should give us pause; and what we can glean from them is the sacred pattern of how God blesses and why. God blesses for effusive purposes—so that you and I will be a blessing to others. And likewise for the good ol' (although not really so old) U.S.A. Setting aside the disagreements many of our fellow citizens have about the existence or the nature of the Divine, the Abrahamic blessing is clearly a summons to sincere responsibility and loving compassion for the whole world. Another scripture to stew on with our hot dogs and apple pie comes from Revelation 7:9, where John the Seer conveys his heavenly vision of those who are blessed by God: "After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb..."

Hopefully, we're getting this. I have known the pride of being an American my entire life or, at least since the opera singer, Kate Smith, sang the Irving Berlin composition—"God Bless America"—before the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Boston Bruins to win their first Stanley Cup in 1974. It was a superstitious thing for me then... but not anymore! For me today, and I hope for you, a blessing from the Sovereign Lord amounts to that inspiration, motivation and empowerment we enjoy while exercising our freedom in Christ. Moreover, since Christ was crucified by the empire of the first century, I need to pay attention to the ways of 'empire' employed by any people on the face of the earth. What I am offered, and what I offer, is a Kingdom Blessing. Not a favored status. And whether my hometown team wins another game or not, it's that blessing that's going to matter... beyond this Fourth of July, beyond this summer, beyond the arrival of Northwood's next pastor... until the Kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven!

Peace~ Scott

Coming Next Fall!

The theme I'm hoping to explore with Northwood Presbyterian Church in the fall might be summarized as follows: **People Are Prone To Worship**. And within that phrase there's something good and something not-so-good.

Namely, if each human being has embedded in their individual D.N.A. a longing for communion with the Ultimate Presence of a Holy & Loving God, all people everywhere would do well and thrive in the pursuit of that potential experience and (as we might see) in the *practice* of that presence—even when it feels like absence.

Leaving that paradox aside for the moment, however, people often fall for the trick that befell the Hebrews as they fled from their enslavement in Egypt—which is to say, they 'worshipped' the Golden Calf (Exodus 32). And, consequently, here are the two operative passages from the prophets that have always given me pause and made me appropriately nervous whenever I enter the sanctuary and endeavor to pray, sing and preach:

Isaiah 29:13—14

**“The Lord said:
Because these people draw near with their mouths
and honor me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,
and their worship of me is a human commandment
learned by rote—
so I will again do amazing things with this people,
shocking and amazing.
The wisdom of their wise shall perish,
and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden.”**

Jeremiah 7:2—4

“... Hear the word of the Lord, all you people of Judah, you that enter these gates to worship the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your doings, and let me dwell with you in this place. Do not trust in these deceptive words: ‘*This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord.*’”

So, my thinking—as the congregation wonders about its future, and awaits its next pastor—is that we do a deep dive into the dynamics of worship; and I hope you'll join me.

- September 06: Liturgy Means 'the Work of God's People' [Matthew 18:15—20]
- September 13: Christian Formation Begins with Worship [Matthew 18:21—35]
- September 20: Our Praise Comes in Response to the Living God [Matthew 20:1—16]
- September 27: Your Call Is Among, For and To the People [Matthew 21:23—32]

- October 04: What the World (Without End) Has to Do with Worship [Matthew 21:33—46]
- October 11: How Worship Ought to Make Us Worthy [Matthew 22:1—14]
- October 18: Worship Testifies Against the Empire [Matthew 22:15—22]
- October 25: Why We Don't Worship the Bible [Matthew 22:34—46]

Session Highlights

At their May 19, 2026, meeting, the elders:

1. Voted and approved that Session and committees will be cancelled for June and July and resume in August.

-Rev. Scott Kinder-Pyle, Moderator

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Financial Update:

May 31, 2026

Total Income: \$15,715

Total Expenses \$13,531

Gain/Loss: 2,184

Per Capita for 2026: \$40.00

Per Capita Income so far this year: \$1,720.00 – thank you!



**Don't forget to send in your pledges, if you
are gone for the summer!**

***"For God Loves a Cheerful giver"
2 Corinthians 9:7***

Worship & Music



Join us for an Outdoor Worship on July 26th at 10:00 am at Audubon Park. 3405 N Milton & Northwest Blvd. This is a shared worship experience. Bring a chair and beverages. *Please bring desserts to share, look for a sign-up sheet on Fellowship bulletin board.

SUMMER WORSHIP UNDERWAY - 9:30 AM!

Through Labor Day weekend (9/6)

Please contact Choir Director Bob Brown if you'd like to participate in Special Music this summer!



*Summer Worship
Schedule*

July & August 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

July Worship Assistants

July 5	Scott Robinson
July 12	Tami Robinson
July 19	Bill Ailes
July 26	Worship @ Audubon Park

August Worship Assistants

August 2	Sarah Colgrove
August 9	Bethany Richards
August 16	MaryAnn Barney
August 23	Ken Cathcart
August 30	De Baskin

FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY:

September 13 - 10:30 a.m. Worship Services begin

Choirs & Praise Team Return!

First Choir Rehearsals of the fall season:

Wednesday, September 9

6 p.m. Hand Bells (Bell Loft) & 7 p.m. Vocal Choir (Sanctuary)

The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC)

The committee has begun meeting. We thank you for entrusting us with this important endeavor. We will do our best to represent the congregation. This process is strictly confidential. It is a long, slow and deliberate process. We are confident that God will provide us with a new pastor. We will keep you informed if there is anything we can share with you. Please respect the privacy and confidential process. Please keep us in your prayers and please be patient. -Tami Robinson

A Note About the Pastoral Nominating Committee (P.N.C.)

At a specially-called meeting of Northwood Presbyterian Church on May 17, the active members (in attendance) voted to commission the following to serve on the **Pastoral Nominating Committee: Tami Robinson, Ray Schatz, Randy Goss**. Please keep these individuals in prayer as they seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and engage in the process of discernment for this congregation's next installed pastor.

A few things to keep in mind:

- The PNC does its work with the support of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest and our Committee on Ministry liaison, Lorelee Bauer — lorelee.bauer@gmail.com
- The PNC will periodically be updating the Session and the congregation-at-large on its progress. However, the majority of their deliberations will take place in the strictest confidence.
- The initial transition steps of the PNC include the writing of the *Ministry Discernment Profile* (MDP), entering the MDP into the *Church Leadership Connection* (CLC), screening possible candidates, refining the pool of prospective candidates, crafting questions for the interviewing of candidates with the consultation of Presbytery, the actual interviewing of candidates...

Christian Education

Adult Small Group/Bible Study

The Monday adult small group plans to re-start in September! Our elder for Christian Ed. is Rod Christenson. Please contact him if you have any ideas for a new Bible or topical study, or see the Christian Ed. bulletin board in the hallway for more information and/or to sign up for the fall study. We meet Monday's at 1:00 pm.

Mission & Outreach

Resource Room/ CE Closet Clean-Out

The Clean-Out Crew will begin working on the storage closet in the classroom hallway on Monday, July 6, 9am -12 noon. Let Liz Schatz know if you have items stored in there that should be kept. On day one we will be moving everything to the classroom across the hall. We will sort, organize and toss in the morning of the rest of that week. Please feel free to join us. -Liz, Moya & Rowan



Clean-up Project

The Community Garden

Spirit of All Living Things and of the Life that Germinates, Sprouts
and Bursts Forth from Death—Even Christ Jesus—

We praise you for the wondrous beauty and the surprising resilience of Creation,

For its hidden intricacies,
its bold, seasonal changes
and its sleek, green tendrils.

For seeds, stalks and flowering buds we express our thanks.

We are caretakers and stewards of this sacred space and sometimes we'll sweat beneath
your sun, and sometimes we'll strain in carving up the soil, and sometimes we'll wonder
about the fruits and how they'll nourish us.

Bless our sweat, our strain and our wonder. Deliver us from too much focus on the
results of our own efforts and make us mindful of the process and of being partners—
co-creators with you...

And if a neighbor wanders by and catches a glimpse of this verdant ground, bless that
person who is known to you; and guide all who come and go here into the abundance of
your grace.

Bless this Garden as a mission-foothold in and for the world.

And may we discover the Kingdom of Heaven growing
here when we're not looking.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—
the Creator, the Redeemer and Sustainer of all Life and Loving-Kindness.

Amen.

—June 14, 2026

Mead Food Bank

Mission and Outreach would like to thank you for all the of food which was 358 pounds you recently
donated to the Mead Food Bank and delivered to them Sunday, May 30. Their shelves did not have
much to give to the many families who would be waiting that afternoon. I learned that they have
served as many as 95 families. They continue to need canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned
meats, other than tuna, boxes of macaroni and cheese, crackers, spaghetti O's, cereals, and anything
that is shelf stable. They were thrilled with the food you helped provide. Please consider adding
some of these items on your grocery list. Thank you.

-Liz Schatz ,Elder, Mission & Outreach

Fellowship

Fun Friday Potlucks

Are now finished for the summer

See you Friday, September 18 , 6-8 p.m.!



Hey Holy Rollers, please join us Thursday's at 2 pm at Lilac Lanes and Casino for fun and fellowship. The cost is \$10.00 for an hour and includes shoe rental.

-Robin Johnson

July Birthdays:

- 1 Dion Davis
- 3 Randy Anderson
- 11 Betty Thompson
- 12 Andrew Goss
- 14 Kathy Vennum
- 17 Lee Fish

July Anniversaries:

- 7 John & Cyndi Stramiello

August Birthdays:

- 5 Steven Cathcart
- 8 Craig Colegrove
- 10 Joni Marler
- 12 Elouise Engle's **102nd birthday!**
- 18 Liz Thies
- 19 Rowen Nollette
- 25 Tami Robinson

August Anniversaries:

- 18 Ray & Liz Schatz



Birthdays &
Anniversaries
This Month!

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

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, 9-2



JULY 2026

Thursday—July 2

2:00 pm Bowling @ Lilac Lanes

Saturday – July 4 “Happy Fourth” #250

Sunday – July 5 *Pastoral sub. Matt Bell*

9:30 am Worship Service with Communion

Scott Robinson, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Monday – July 6

Meals on Wheels

Wednesday – July 8

Meals on Wheels

Thursday – July 9

2:00 pm Bowling @ Lilac Lanes

Meals on Wheels

Friday – July 10

Meals on Wheels

Sunday – July 12 *sub. Ken Cathcart*

9:30 am Worship Service

Tami Robinson, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Tuesday – July 14

NO Session or Committee meetings in July

Thursday—July 16

2:00 pm Bowling @ Lilac Lanes

Sunday – July 19

9:30 am Worship Service

Bill Ailes, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Thursday – July 23

2:00 pm Bowling @ Lilac Lanes

***Sunday – July 26**

10:00 am Outdoor Worship Service

Audubon Park(Milton & Northwest Blvd)

Thursday – July 30

2:00 pm Bowling @ Lilac Lanes

AUGUST 2026

Sunday – August 2

9:30 am Worship with Communion

Sarah Colgrove, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Monday – August 3

Meals on Wheels

Wednesday – August 5

Meals on Wheels

Thursday – August 6

2:00 pm Bowling @ Lilac Lanes

Meals on Wheels

Friday – August 7

Meals on Wheels

Sunday – August 9

9:30 am Worship Service

Bethany Richards, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Tuesday – August 11

7:00 p.m. Committees

Thursday—August 13

2:00 pm Bowling @ Lilac Lanes

Sunday – August 16

9:30 am Worship Service

MaryAnn Barney, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Tuesday – August 18

7:00 pm Session

Thursday—August 20

2:00pm Bowling @ Lilac Lanes

Sunday-- August 23-Newsletter Deadline

9:30 am Worship Service

Ken Cathcart, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Thursday -- August 27

2:00 pm Bowling @ Lilac Lanes

Sunday – August 30

9:30 am Worship service

De Baskin, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Monday -- August 31

Meals on Wheels

