

Northwood Presbyterian Church
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September 2026

Northwood News

From the Pastor: **The Sermon You Missed—That Never Was**

Homiletics is the all-encompassing word that seminary teachers and theologians use to talk about the pastoral art of preaching. And when they use it in a training course or a scholarly essay there's typically a profound sense that whenever a pastor stands in the pulpit and engages the vocal cords, it matters for the life and ministry of any church. Even this one! Of course, you may disagree. That's your prerogative. And, undoubtedly, through the centuries in which preaching has occurred, people have tuned out, taken naps, day-dreamed about a game of golf or made a mental list of all the activities they'd rather be doing. I myself have sat in the pews and experienced a very real temptation to drift off like the fictional *Walter Mitty*. Nevertheless, here's what needs to be said about preaching and its crucial role in a person's journey of faith and in a community's sense of direction:

"A voice says, 'Cry out!'"

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'"

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

The poetry of Isaiah 40:6—7 was on my mind the Sunday I was supposed to preach a sermon at Northwood, but never did. It was August 2, 2026—the Lord's Day—a day that the Lord had made for our joy and our gladness. But rather than basking in those transcendent emotions, many of us found ourselves in a "Leave Now!" Evacuation Zone—with wildfires, filling the less-than-breathable air with flame, smoke and ash. And so, back to the grass. Some of it would literally become fodder for the blaze along the corridor of Indian Trail Road; and there was nothing for us to do but pray for the victims, the firefighters and first-responders.

Nothing. But maybe not nothing. God, I believe, addresses you and I in all sorts of circumstances. C.S. Lewis once suggested how God whispers in our happiness, but shouts in our pain; and I don't know how to feel about that. I much prefer the happiness and the safety, in which case I'd have to settle for not necessarily hearing the whisper. But what if, periodically, there's the need for a shout—or as the prophet says, a "crying out"

And likewise, here's where I'm convinced that a sermon can become the Word of God that names the hurt and names the healing.

Again, feel free to disagree. But the written words of the Bible as well as the written words of the sermon I had planned to preach that first Sunday in August do not mean a thing. They are nothing... unless those words and images are heard and acted upon in a community like Northwood. Please keep that in mind if it's me or if it's your future pastor. A sermon's purpose is not to entertain (although it can be entertaining). A sermon's aims are neither to flatter nor to fawn, but to invite a dynamic encounter with the Spirit of Jesus Christ. And so, if you happen to get bored, or feel that something's going over your head, work harder, pay attention harder, ask God to help you stick with it. You, the listeners, are as much a part of the preaching event as the preachers themselves. And by the way, the sermon you missed on August 2nd was going to be entitled, "The Logistics of Sitting Down on the Grass." It never happened. The passage from Matthew 14:13—21 was never read aloud or expounded upon—within the community. I was going to refer to the crowd of 5000-plus people whom Jesus prompted to sit down on the hillside and to wait for their nourishment. That particular

nourishment didn't take place on that fateful day, but maybe it will happen again soon. I hope to see you in September when the grass will still be growing.

Peace,
Pastor Scott

Starting in September: The theme I'm hoping to explore with Northwood Presbyterian Church in the fall might be summarized as follows: Everyone's 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 August 18, 2026, meeting, the elders:

1. We prayed for the Northwood congregation and the Pastoral search committee.
2. Renewed contract with Pastor Scott for 6-months.
3. Reviewed the terms for hiring a new Pastor for Northwood, per Administration & Finance.
4. New Ruling Elder for Mission & Outreach is Liz Schatz. -Rev. Scott Kinder-Pyle, Moderator

Northwood Presbyterian Church



July 2026

Total Income: \$12,444

Total Expenses \$13,034

Gain/Loss: (590)

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

Thank You!

Dear Northwood Congregation,

I want to take a moment to thank the people who gave Susan and me a new office.

Liz Schatz and her crew cleared out the resource room. They sorted, gave away and tossed for more than a few days.

Joe Simpson and his helper, Rod Christenson, patched and painted the former resource room and turned it into a bright, clean, and functional office.

I want to invite you to visit and see what all of their hard work accomplished.

With sincere gratitude,

Donna Harvey, Treasurer

Worship & Music

FALL KICK-OFF SUNDAY: September 13

As Worship and Music moves toward planning for the fall, there are a couple dates to keep in mind. The first date is September 9 for our Handbells and Choir. On that date we will start our normal rehearsals with the Handbells at 6:00 pm and the Choir as usual at 7:00pm. A big welcome back to

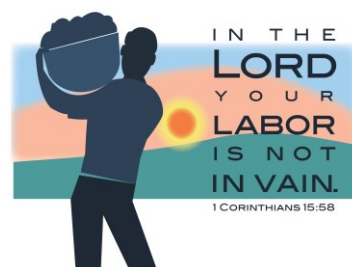
our ringers and singers. We would be excited to welcome anybody new as well to either group. Music is praise and if you have a heart to praise, come join the fun!

The second date of note is September 13. **On that date the worship time returns to 10:30 am.** Praise Team and Choir will participate in worship that Sunday. I look forward to working with all our singers and bell players again this year.

A Big Thank You!

As usual, our summer music has featured a number of soloists, both singers and instrumentalists. I want to thank those people for adding their talents to our summer worship services. We heard from John Stramiello (bass solo), Jane Nielsen (flute solo), Cathy Brown (cello), Joette Detlaff (vocal and guitar), Scott and Adam Bassett (tenor duet), Northwood Tenors and Basses (vocal ensemble) Maile Esperas (Alto soloist), Robin Johnson and Susan Stokes (flute duets). There were some wonderful performances. Thanks to you all.

Bob Brown



Happy Labor Day Weekend! (9/5-9/7)



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

September 6
September 13
September 20
September 27

MaryAnn Barney
Cathy Bowers – **10:30 a.m. Worship**
Tami Robinson
Scott Robinson

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

APPROACHING THE BIBLE WITH HONEST CURIOSITY

Starting Sunday, September 13, 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. WE CANNOT AVOID INTERPRETATION**
- 2. THE ESSENTIAL DYNAMICS OF THE BIBLE'S WITNESS**
- 3. 'WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED' VERSUS WHAT COULD HAPPEN**
- 4. GENESIS BEGINS IN BABYLON**
- 5. LOOKING BACK FROM A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY THAT'S MOVING FORWARD**

6. **KINGS AND KINGDOMS ALL PASS AWAY, BUT...**
7. **DON'T ASSUME 'DAVID' WRITES EVERY PSALM**
8. **THE PROPHETS WHO DON'T PREDICT THE FUTURE**
9. **WHY FOUR ACCOUNTS OF JESUS' LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION**
10. **THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 'DISCIPLES' AND 'APOSTLES'**
11. **A CALL TO BELIEVE IS NOT A CALL TO BE CERTAIN**
12. **PRAYER HAS A POINT, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT WE THINK**
13. **THE FREEDOM OF CHRIST IS A FREEDOM FROM ONE'S OWN EGO**
14. **UNITED AGAINST AND AMID 'THE EMPIRE'**

Mission & Outreach

Resource Room/ CE Closet Clean-Out Update

Many thanks for the crew that showed up to move, sort, toss and organize the mass of items removed from the room. As of mid-July, there have been approximately 130 hours given to this project, something close to 550 lbs. of reusable supplies donated to Art salvage, two carloads of items donated to Neighborhood Global Thrift, one carload full donated to Northwest Christian Thrift, a few blue recycle bins of paper, and an untold number of full garbage cans take to the dumpster.



Clean-up Project

The shelves and the built-ins were removed from the walls and the filled and sanded. With many thanks to the "crew," Jo Detlaff, Susan Anderson, Cathy Bowers, Janis Goss, Moya Nolette, Rowan Nolette, Margee Bailey, Ray & Liz Schatz, Rod Christenson, Joe Simpson, Margaret Herron. More up-dates to come, including tours sometime in September, of the new resource room, the new Treasure's/Clerk's office, and the refreshed nursery.
-Liz Schatz

Mead Food Bank

In mid-July I made an impromptu announce concerning the almost empty shelves at the Mead Food Bank. You responded and a couple of weeks later the Fetcho's delivered 215 pounds of food. Thank you!

Now that school has started, we might consider ideas for after-school snacks for the kiddos. Some suggestions might be easy to open single serve items like granola bars, cheese and crackers, fruit cups, and nuts.

Thank you for supporting the Mead Food Bank.

Liz Schatz, Mission & Outreach

... to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Fellowship

Fun Friday Potluck and Program **September**

We will start up Fun Fridays on the third Friday of September, **September 18th at 6 pm** with a potluck. Our guest speaker will be Marijke Fakaslieki speaking about the Fig Tree, newspaper that publishes monthly covering and connecting the faith and nonprofit communities in the Inland NW.

Looking forward to gathering and sharing a meal together and learning about our community.

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.



September Birthday's & Anniversaries

Birthday's

September 2 Jacob MacMurtrey

September 20 Janis Goss

September 20 David Simpson

Anniversaries

September 10 Bob & Cathy Brown

September 23 Rod & Carol Christenson

September 29 Ken & Teddie Bell

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



September

Wednesday - Sept. 2

Meals on Wheels

Thursday - Sept. 3

Meals on Wheels

2:00 p.m. Bowling group @ Lilac Lanes

Friday - Sept. 4

Meals on Wheels

Sunday – Sept. 6 @ 9:30 a.m.

Communion Sunday

Maryann Barney, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Monday- Sept. 7 Labor Day

Tuesday - Sept. 8

7:00 p.m. Committees

Wednesday – Sept. 9

Bell Practice @ 6 p.m. Choir @ 7 p.m.

Thursday - Sept. 10

2:00 p.m. Bowling group @ Lilac Lanes

Friday- Sept. 11 *Always Remember!*

***Sunday- Sept. 13 Worship @ 10:30 a.m.**

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class Starts

Cathy Bowers, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time



Back to School

Tuesday – Sept. 15

7:00 p.m. Session

Wednesday – Sept. 16

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

Thursday- Sept. 17

2:00 pm Bowling @ Lilac Lanes

Friday – Sept. 18

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. **Fun Friday Potluck**

& program *"Fig Tree" Newspaper*

Sunday- Sept. 20 Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class

Tami Robinson, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Tuesday – Sept. 22

First day of Autumnal Equinox/Fall

Wednesday - Sept. 23

Newsletter deadline for October issue

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

Thursday-Sept. 24

2:00 p.m. Bowling @ Lilac Lanes

Sunday - Sept. 27 Worship @ 10:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Class

Scott Robinson, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Monday- Sept. 28

Meals on Wheels

Wednesday- Sept. 30

Meals on Wheel

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