

## Note from the Pastor :

### Getting Political?

*The summer heat's coming and the price of gas is through the sunroof.* Can you feel it? I wanted to use that initial line in a poem, but have opted to deploy it in this little blurb instead. My reasoning goes like this: the rising temperatures remind me of the seasonal change, and the seasonal change reminds me of global climate-change, and global climate change reminds me of what Jesus says about the signs of the times, which reminds me that I need to pay attention *theologically* to what's going on.

And did someone say, 'The church shouldn't get POLITICAL'? I suppose I disagree, and I disagree because, in the Bible, God shows up amid various political debates over and over again. Moreover, as Jesus conducted his three-year earthly ministry in the center of the Roman Empire—and spoke critically of how its policies affected the people of Israel, it seems profoundly disingenuous for the followers of Christ to avoid politics. Here, then, are just a few examples of the Crucified and Risen Jesus addressing the injustices and the abuses of power:

- The birth narratives of Jesus include Mary's Magnificat (Luke 1:46—55), in which she sings that God ***“has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.”*** Matthew 2 also describes King Herod (of Judea) who wants to maneuver and manipulate the masses to keep himself in power; he tries to trick those immigrants who've crossed his borders for the legitimate purpose of worshipping the Christ-child; Herod then claims he'd like to worship him too, but the wise men don't believe him and return by ***“another road”*** (verse 12).
- Once fully grown and fully mobile in and around the villages of Nazareth and Capernaum, Jesus finds the fisher folk of Galilee who are unduly burdened by government taxation; he calls them to abandon the 'system' in which they are being exploited and makes public statements—about Herod in Luke 13:32—about Caesar in Matthew 22:21—all the while, reaching out to a distraught Roman soldier (Matthew 8:7), to a grieving widow (Luke 7:13), to vulnerable children (Mark 10:14), to the mentally-ill (Mark 5:8) and to the over-worked and the anxious (Matthew 11:28).
- The accounts of the crucifixion of Jesus (Mark 15; Matthew 27; Luke 23; John 18) all agree in that he is convicted of *'Sedition'* against the Roman government. 'Blasphemy' had been the stated reason the Jewish religious leaders may have been concerned; but without the challenging optics this Nazarene posed to civil officials like Pontius Pilate, the confrontation with the powers-that-be would have never taken place. Faith in the King of Jews begins with a conflict of political values.
- Finally, the claim of Jesus' resurrection is not some *pie-in-the-sky, we're-all-going-to-heaven-when-we die* sort of news. It's an assertion that the Holy One of the Cosmos will be the Ultimate and Final Judge on any supposed victim or any presumed victor. God raised a Palestinian Jew from the dead—and the only 'proof' will be found in *how* those who truly believe in him will live their lives and advocate for policies that help and do not harm.

So, fast-forward. *The summer heat's coming and the price of gas is through the sunroof.*

Let's wade into the complexity and the tension. Two-thousand years following the events represented in the New Testament, both conservatives and liberals are free to adopt 'Jesus of Nazareth' as the motivating impetus

for their voting records and their policy agendas. But take care. Jesus himself said, “*Not everyone who says ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven*” (Matthew 7:21), which suggests that we’re summoned to be *discerning* and not divisive... *trembling* and not toxic, in all our relationships.

And here’s where I’d like to promote the theological framework of the *Presbyterian Church (USA)*. Our tradition of Christianity is ‘reformed and always reforming’ around the proposition that Jesus is the Sovereign Lord of all history and creation—and that’s a proposition that needs space and time to consider in genuine conversation—even with non-Christians. We make our confession of faith amid an on-going process of understanding and arguing and articulating how the good news of grace and God’s loving-kindness inform the decisions we make, the actions we take and the words we use. *Christian Nationalism*—the belief that a nation ought to mandate belief in Christ and make life more difficult for those who don’t believe—is not the way to promote authentic faith. It’s the way to thwart, curtail or shut down the dialogue that began with the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2).

The Way of Christ Jesus is *Other-wise!*

Peace~

Interim Pastor Scott

## *Session Highlights*

### **Session Report – May 2026**

At their May 19, 2026, meeting, Northwood Session Elders:

1. Changed summer worship time to 9:30 AM hour beginning **Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>** ;
2. Reviewed the slate of continuing church officers from the Nominating Congregational Meeting on May 17, and the nominations to the Pastoral Search Committee.
5. Accepted the Financial Report for April 30, 2026 and heard reports from all committees.
6. An All-Church Clean-up is May 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Inside and out will be done. Pizza lunch to follow.
7. Community Garden Blessing will be on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

-Rev. Scott Kinder-Pyle, Moderator

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

#### **Financial Update:**

April 30, 2026

<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$14,331</b>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$19,155</b>
<b>Gain/Loss:</b>	<b>(\$ 4,823)</b>

**Per Capita for 2026: \$40.00**

Per Capita Income so far this year: \$500.00 – thank you!

## 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...

## *Worship & Music*

### **SUMMER WORSHIP HOUR BEGINS:**

**Sunday, June 21, 9:30 AM**

As we approach the end of our choir year, I just want to take a moment to thank all of our Northwood musicians for their dedication in service to the Lord. The choir and handbells finish up regular rehearsals on June 17 with our final presentation on Father's Day June 21. That is also the day the church moves into summer schedule of a 9:30 service time. I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful work and dedication of our accompanist and church musician Cathy Brown. Each Sunday, Cathy accompanies the choir and praise team, plays prelude and postlude as well as offertory, and accompanies the congregation in hymn singing. Her dedication is appreciated. As we move to summer hours the usual choir spot will be filled by "special music". Our own Northwood singers and instrumentalists will have a chance, as in other years, to add their talents to our worship. Finally, I thank the congregation and pastor for their support of Northwood music. -Bob Brown, Elder

#### **Worship Assistants for June:**

June 7 – Cathy Bowers  
June 14 –Ray Schatz  
June 21 (9:30am) – John Stramiello  
June 28 – Rod Christenson

#### **June Greeters**

Carol Christenson  
Susan & Gerry Riddle  
Jane & Terry Nielsen  
Gayle & Mike Fetcho

# Fellowship

**FUN FRIDAY POTLUCKS ARE FINISHED FOR THE YEAR - See you September 18.**

We have 12 tickets for the **Friday, June 26** Spokane Indians game which starts at 7:05 pm and includes fireworks after the game. Fellowship will cover part of the tickets, so each ticket is \$15. If there is a cost issue let Sharon or Ken Cathcart know and we can help further with the cost. Please let Sharon know so we can be certain everyone who wants to attend will have a ticket. (there are more seats nearby at this time, but going fast). There will be a sign- up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

## June Birthdays

- 4 MaryAnn Barney
- 8 Rod Christenson
- 14 Bob Brown
- 15 Carol Christenson
- 16 Jane Nielsen

## June Anniversaries

- 13 Randy & Sue Anderson
- 14 Ken & Sharon Cathcart
- 14 Lee & Julie Fish
- 29 Scott & Tami Robinson
- 29 Todd & Liz Thies



# Mission & Outreach

## Food Bank- Thank You's

Mission and Outreach would like to thank everyone who generously contributed recently to the Mead Food Bank. The latest 200 -pound food delivery taken on May 10<sup>th</sup>, was received with a sigh and their words "just in God's timing". Their canned fruit and vegetables were all but empty. They are now consistently feeding 100 families. They are so thankful for our church family's support.

-Jane Nielsen, Elder, Mission & Outreach

## Community Garden

We will dedicate and bless the church Community Garden on **Sunday, June 14** after worship. Mission & Outreach began cleaning out the garden beds in May! If you'd like to share either a half or whole bed, please let us know. If you need more information, you can talk to anyone on the committee. They are: Gayle Fetcho, Sally Almond, Betty Thompson, Cathy Bowers, Liz Thies, and Jane Nielsen. Also, thanks to Joette Detlaff for her weeding. -Elder Jane Nielsen, M&O

**Spring Mission & Outreach Bulletin Board – Thanks to Gayle Fetcho and Jane Nielsen**

# Community News

'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.



## **Wednesday - June 3**

6 pm Bell Practice  
7 pm Vocal Practice

## **Sunday - June 7**

10:30 am Worship  
Worship Assistant, Cathy Bowers  
Coffee Time

## **Monday - June 8**

Meals on Wheels

## **Tuesday - June 9**

6/7 p.m. Committee's

## **Wednesday - June 10**

12:30 pm Admin. & Finance  
6pm Bell Practice-Last practice  
7pm Vocal Choir practice  
Meals on Wheels

## **Thursday - June 11**

Meals on Wheels

## **Friday - June 12**

Meals on Wheels

## **Sunday - June 14 Garden Blessing**

10:30 am Worship Service  
Worship Assistant, Ray Schatz  
Coffee Time

## **Tuesday - June 16**

7pm Session

## **Sunday - June 21 9:30 am Summer**

Worship Assistant, John Stramiello  
**Happy Father's Day**, Coffee Time

## **Tuesday- June 23**

\*Newsletter Deadline

## **Friday - June 26**

7:00 pm Fellowship at Spokane Indians  
Game & Fireworks

## **Sunday - June 28**

9:30 am Worship  
Worship Assistant, John Stramiello  
Coffee Time

## Community Hymn Sing, June 7 at

6:00 pm at First Church of the  
Nazarene Church. 9004 N  
Country Homes Blvd.

### **Northwood Presbyterian Church Staff**

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Scott Kinder-Pyle

Office Administrator: Holly Christoff

Treasurer: Donna Harvey

Sound Technician: Jo Detlaff

Choir Director: Bob Brown

Organist: Cathy Brown

Custodian: Michael Stitt

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

Web Site: [www.northwoodpres.org](http://www.northwoodpres.org) Facebook: Northwood Presbyterian Church

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 9 am-2 pm