

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

March 2026  
Northwood News

*Note from the Pastor*

**Let's Work It Out SACRAMENTALLY**

*"... work out your own salvation with fear & trembling, for it is God at work in you, enabling you to will and to work for his good pleasure." —Philippians 2:12b—13*

**A sacrament is a sign and a seal of God's Grace**—and as such it's both physically tangible and spiritually active in the midst of a community of faith. The two sacraments recognized in the Reformed Christian Tradition of the *Presbyterian Church (USA)* are **Holy Baptism** and **Holy Communion** (also known as the Lord's Supper). And the reason I'm offering these practices up for review is not to mandate getting the ritual right, but to enliven us with the mystery of what's truly happening—and how the Presence of Christ may be experienced in new and fresh ways.

First up—Baptism! The waters of creation are precious; and from the history of the people of Israel and the early Christians onward, individuals didn't just get wet for the sake of their own individualistic experience. On the contrary, as Jesus himself took the plunge in the boundary-river over which the freed Hebrew slaves had crossed centuries earlier, he did so to **"fulfill all righteousness."** And what does that mean? It means to enter into a condition of mutual accountability and response-ability. In other words, as the Spirit hovers over the H<sub>2</sub>O, we arise as the Beloved Community—recognizing the promise to love and to receive love... and to submit to the likelihood that we're going to need help in the process. Baptism, as the entrance to this sort of life need happen only once; and although we may forget or become indifferent to its significance, the promise is never far off. At Northwood, of course, many are already baptized and that's cool. And yet, periodically it's not a bad idea to reaffirm the vows and to mark a milestone on the journey back to those covenant relationships. Logistically, it doesn't matter if you're sprinkled or dunked. But make no mistake: Baptism *does* matter because you and I *are* matter!

Second—Communion! Tracing things back (once again) to the Hebrews' hasty escape from Egypt, what we do with a loaf of bread and a cup of juice or wine is pretty amazing. 'Passover' was the original Jewish holiday, which Jesus of Nazareth honored and celebrated; and he did so notoriously just prior to his death by crucifixion. Offering himself—his physical body in association with the meal—he doesn't simply tell us to 'Remember Me' with a fond thought or a sentimental emotion, but to **RE-MEMBER** his body in a very passive and a very active way all at once. That is, picture your hand and picture how you eat by bringing your hand (with a utensil perhaps) to your mouth. By saying **"Take, eat... this is my body,"** Jesus is not inviting us to grab or to grope what we deserve, but to actually receive—and to assume a posture of receiving the fact of his flesh in world-history. Similarly, by saying **"Drink this all of you** (in the plural), he's not prompting us to get drunk on *Weich's* grape juice, but to meditate on the blood that he shed in very traumatic fashion. At Northwood, when we partake of these elements once a month, my hope is that you don't become preoccupied with the choreography\* of coming forward to the communion table (and then returning to your pews), but that you taste something sacred going down your gullet. And that *'something'* may provide nourishment and energy to serve in Jesus' name!

\*Below you'll find a little map that may help with steps toward and around the communion table. If you've been in the Northwood sanctuary, all the able-bodied are invited to do is walk forward by the center aisle.

—Maneuver toward the Minister of the Word & Sacrament—(that's me!)—and receive with an open hand a piece of broken-off bread from a recently washed hand—(that would be my hand!). And it wouldn't hurt (although it might) if we look each other in the eyes.

—Next, after consuming the Bread of Heaven take a few steps to your left a bit and reach for a cup of juice/wine from the tray. A ruling elder from this church will serve you; and as you drink it down, every last purplish calorie is the Cup of Salvation.

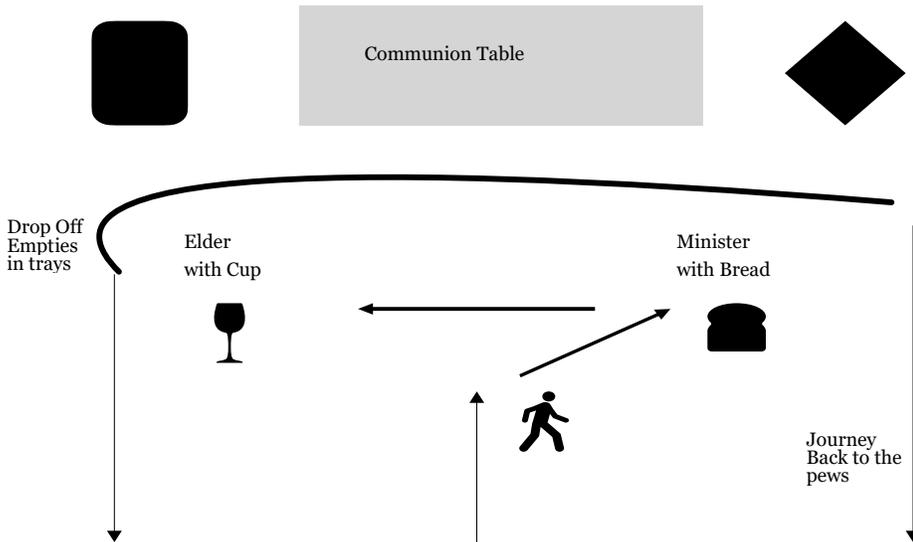
—I've heard through another 'grapevine' that some folks find it awkward to return to their seats after partaking of this sacred meal; and so, I've taken the liberty of illustrating a potential route. If you follow the dotted line, you can go around and behind those who are still serving and receiving the Sacrament without much problem. Or, if you're really daring, you can take a meditative stroll around the outside of all the pews.

—Of course, if you cannot walk and still want to receive Holy Communion, we will be coming to you. Rest. Breathe. Stay where you are.

—Christ Jesus is always coming to commune with us... a foretaste of the glorious banquet-feast to come!

Peace~  
Scott

### Lord's Supper Approach



## *Session Highlights*

### **Session Report – February 2026**

At their February 17, 2026 meeting, Northwood Session elders:

1. Prayers for the Northwood's Session members and Congregation.
2. A shared Ash Wednesday service with Knox Presbyterian, Shadle, Lidgerwood and Bethany Churches.
3. Reaffirmation of their Baptismal vows, we welcomed Raymond & Liz Schatz into membership. Next classes are **March 1 & March 22 at 9:00am in Pastor's office.**
4. 'Next step' Workshop is on Saturday, March 28, 10:30a.m. to 1:30p.m. (pizza lunch served)
5. Reviewed January's financial report and discussed protocols for building use by members & non-members.
6. Sue Anderson is the Deacon for March & April.
7. Mission & Outreach will like to create a bulletin board for Family Promise; they will supply the decorations and information for donating to them. March is their Match Madness Campaign. (Funds go directly to them)

--Rev. Scott Kinder-Pyle, Moderator

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

#### **Financial Update:**

January 31, 2026

<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$12,479</b>
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$18,124</b>
<b>Gain/Loss:</b>	<b>\$ 5,645</b>

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

Per Capita Income for 2026 \$641 so far– thank you!

*Thanks for giving faithfully to the ministry and mission of Northwood!*

## *Christian Education*

### **The Adult Small Group Continues**

The Adult Small Bible study continues their study on **Mondays at 12:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The book we are using is called "Mark for Everyone". All are welcome to attend. Please contact Christian Ed. Elder Rod Christenson for more info.

# Holy Baptism— Reaffirmation of Baptism— and New Members' Classes

When?

Sunday's

**March 1, 9 to 10 a.m.**

**March 22, 9 to 10 a.m.**

Where?

**Pastor Scott's Study**

Why?

**Because you're being offered a sacred choice:**

—to live out the love of God in the person of Jesus Christ in *specific* community with the 'Children of God' who gather here at Northwood Presbyterian Church at this time in history...

—and/or to mark the wondrous way that God's Spirit has moved in your faith-journey & to respond with a public expression of gratitude and the need for mutual accountability...

—and/or to learn the significance of Holy Baptism as it's been practiced for centuries...

—and/or to understand more thoroughly how Presbyterian Christianity offers an important voice in bearing witness to Christ and his kingdom of reconciliation, justice and compassion for the vulnerable...

**Contact Pastor Scott for further details: [pastor@northwoodpres.org](mailto:pastor@northwoodpres.org)**

*Fellowship*

## **Fun Friday - March 20**

Fun Friday on March 20 will be a presentation by Marijki Fakasiieili from the Fig Tree Newspaper. The Fig Tree is a non-profit publication that reports on faith-based activities and persons in our community. There will be a potluck starting at 6:00 pm and speaker to follow.

The small groups for bowling will meet at Lilac Lanes & Casino, 1112 E Magnesium Rd, Spokane. We will meet at 2pm on Thursdays starting on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Fees are \$10 a person which includes shoe rentals. A sig-up in on the bulletin board by Fellowship Hall, For more information, text or call Robin Johnson.

**March Birthdays**

9 Chris Vennum  
17 Mike Vennum  
26 John Monteith  
27 Ray Schatz

**March Anniversaries**

26 John & Diane Monteith



*Worship & Music*

**Lent & Holy Week Happenings**

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 18, and continues through Palm Sunday, Holy Week and then Easter on Sunday, April 5. Our new Devotions for Lent is called *Mercy, Passion and Joy* by, Joel Heck. Please enjoy and contemplate the passages, as we recognize Christ's journey to the cross and resurrection. They are available on the table in the Narthex.

- **'Next Step' Workshop-Saturday, March 28, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** (with pizza/lunch served)

- **Palm Sunday-March 29. 10:30am Worship** with Eco Palms

- **Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday), April 2** A Soup Supper & the Lord's Supper in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Carol Christenson who has agreed to facilitate the food. Gathering time is 6pm.

- **Good Friday-April 3**...plans are still underway for Northwood folks to join with Knox, Bethany and Shadle Park Presbyterian churches. Look for announcement in April's newsletter for time/place.

- Easter memorial flowers will be available once again!

Flower inserts begin on March 22 and are **due in office by March 29**. Cost is \$10 a plant.

**Worship Assistants for March:**

March 1 – Scott Bassett  
March 8 – Ray Schatz  
March 15 – Cathy Bowers  
March 22 – De Baskin  
March 29 – Rod Christenson

**Greeters for March:**

Week 1: Carol Christenson  
Week 2: Susan and Gerry Riddle  
Week 3: Jane and Terry Nielsen  
Week 4: Gayle and Mike Fetcho  
Week 5: Carol Christenson

Commented [HC1]:

## Mission & Outreach

### **Mead Food Bank**

Mission and Outreach would like to encourage you to continue bringing food for the Mead Food Bank. The food bank sent a joyous thank you note for the 335 pounds of food we gathered from the "Super Bowl of Caring". All food donations can be placed in the cart/ table along the wall in Celtic/Fellowship Hall. Thank you so much!  
-Jane Nielsen, Elder, Mission & Outreach

## Community News

\*Fig Tree Benefit Events- Lunch – Saturday March 14, 11-1pm(Hemmingson Ballroom at Gonzaga University)-Free Events& Breakfast Time, Wed., March 18, 8-9am by Zoom, to R.S.V.P. email [event@thefigtree.org](mailto:event@thefigtree.org)-509-535-4112. Donations can be mailed to The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St, 99202

\*All-Community Hymn sing on April 19 @ 6pm, Spokane First Nazarene Church, 9004 N Country Homes Blvd.



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**Please set your clocks one hour ahead  
BEFORE YOU HEAD TO BED  
the night before church  
on Saturday, March 7!**

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### **Northwood Presbyterian Church Staff**

Interim Pastor: Rev. Scott Kinder-Pyle      Choir Director: Bob Brown  
Office Administrator/Wedding Coord.: Holly Christoff      Organist: Cathy Brown  
Treasurer: Donna Harvey      Sound Technician: Jo Detlaff  
Custodian: Michael Stitt

Phone: 509.328.2012 / E-Mail: [office@northwoodpres.org](mailto:office@northwoodpres.org)

Web Site: [northwoodpres.org](http://northwoodpres.org)

Facebook: Northwood Presbyterian Church



**2nd Sunday of Lent – March 1**

**9:00 am Holy Baptism/Reaffirm/New Member Class**

10:30 am Worship/Communion  
Scott Bassett, Worship Assistant

**Monday – March 2**

12:30 pm Adult Bible Study, Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday – March 4**

6 pm Bell Choir  
7pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**3rd Sunday of Lent – March 8**

10:30 am Worship Service  
Ray Schatz, Worship Asst.

**Monday – March 9**

12:30 pm Adult Bible Study

**Tuesday – March 10**

7 pm Committee Night

**Wednesday – March 11**

12:30 pm Admin. & Finance Meeting  
6 pm Bell Choir

7pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**4th Sunday of Lent – March 15**

10:30 am Worship, Cathy Bowers,  
Worship Assistant

**Monday – March 16**

12:30 pm Adult Bible Study

Meals on Wheels

**Tuesday – March 17**

7:00 pm Session

**Wednesday – March 18**

Meals on Wheels

6 pm Bell Choir

7 pm Choir

**Thursday – March 19**

Meals on Wheels

**Friday – March 20**

Meals on Wheels

6 pm Fun Friday, Fig Tree, potluck, Fellowship Hall

**5th Sunday of Lent – March 22**

**9:00 am Holy Baptism/Reaffirm/New Member Class**

10:30 am Worship Service-Easter flower insert  
De Baskin, Worship Asst.

**Monday – March 23- Newsletter deadline**

12:30 pm Adult Bible Study

**Wednesday – March 25**

6 pm Bell Choir

7pm Choir

**Saturday- March 28**

**10:30 am – 1:30pm Next Step Workshop**

**Palm Sunday- March 29 Easter Flower orders due**

**Worship 10:30 am**

Rod Christenson, Worship Asst.

**Monday – March 30 Holy Week**

12:30 pm Adult Bible Study