

Northwood Presbyterian Church
6721 N Monroe St
Spokane, WA 99208
509-328-2012 office@northwoodpres.org

October 2025

Northwood News

Note from the Pastor: “More Than Leaves Will Blow Into Our Yard”

In Michael Lindvall's book, *The Good News from North Haven*, people are not always so good. One of the stories, for example, depicts Alvina Johnson, who is so incensed that her neighbor's leaves fall over her property line that she takes the time and the initiative to hire “Danny Olson to go up in my tree and mark the leaves. He put an X on each one with a Magic Marker...” And this, according to the main character, is only fair. *She* should only be responsible for raking and bagging the leaves that grow vibrant and green—only to then fade and fall—in her own yard. Get the picture?

I mention this scenario as we enter the month of October because the winds of change are in the air—AND—because taking responsibility in the midst of change is tricky business. Here at Northwood Presbyterian Church, of course, we're not just talking about leaves, but the on-going ministry and mission that we have the privilege to enjoy. And through the years, it's clear that many of you (reading these words) have taken vital responsibility for doing all kinds of things. From decorating the sanctuary to leading Bible Study... from singing in the choir to baking bread and cookies... from gardening in the garden to budgeting in the budget... responsibilities abound, and you have met them.

However, as of this time of transition—these ‘interim’ months (when Northwood is between permanently-installed pastors)—it may be prudent to imagine the other so-called ‘leaves’ that may be blowing into our sphere of influence. In other words, every Christian congregation on the face of the earth exists for the benefit of its non-members, its stray sheep, its curious and not-so-curious outsiders. Consider what Jesus says to a fig tree—yes, a tree with leaves (but no fruit) in Mark 11:13:

“Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. He said to it, ‘May no one ever eat fruit from you again.’”

Now, is this just what the Incarnation of God sounds like when he's in a bad mood and hungry? Or does it suggest something about taking responsibility in times of great transition? In search of a reply, I also come to this passage from Luke 13:6—9, in which Jesus tells this parable:

“A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

And so, what do you think? What do you feel? What do you believe? What do you do?

My sense is that all of us here at Northwood—myself included—have about a year or so to dig around. Moreover, there's probably going to be some ‘manure’ that's spread around our Christian roots in the forms of grief and anxiety and doubt. For my part as your interim pastor, I'm

committing myself to care for you, to love you, to pray for you... but also to ask some provocative questions about the responsibilities that God's Spirit has invited us to pursue. And many of these, you see, may resemble the colorful, but decaying leaves that have been caught up in a breeze and have fluttered in our direction.

Thanks be to God! Some will be yellow. Others, orange, red, brown and black...

Peace~
Scott

Session Highlights

Session Report – September 2025

At their September 16, 2025 meeting, Northwood Session elders:

1. Pledge Sunday, November 16; Minute for Stewardship begins Sept. 28 and ends Nov. 16th.
2. Approved October's Fun Friday on October 17 for a slide presentation by Ken & Sharon Cathcart on their trip to Peru, also the committees' fall plans that includes Fun Friday potluck on November 17th.
3. World Communion and Peace and Global offering is Sunday, October 5th.

-Rev. Scott Kinder Pyle, Moderator

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Financial Update:

August 31, 2025

Total Income:	\$13,336.80
Total Expenses:	\$15,495.50
Gain/ <u>Loss</u> :	-\$2,158.70

Per Capita for 2025: \$39.00

Per Capita Income for 2025 so far: \$2,145 – thank you!

Thanks for giving faithfully to the ministry and mission
of Northwood as we've headed into this fall season!

Church Officer's

We do appreciate our new and continuing officers (Elders and Deacons) saying 'yes' to God and service in our church:

Elders: Class of 2027 - Ken Cathcart, Sharon Cathcart, Bob Brown; They join Class of 2026 - Elders Jane Nielsen, John Stramiello! And Deacons: Class of 2027 - Sharon Haven, Deacon (Moderator), Joe Simpson

Thank you to the 2025 Officer Nominating Committee: Moderator Ken Cathcart, Deacon Rep. Bill Ailes, Sally Almond and Robin Johnson!

Worship & Music

Along with the change of seasons, our church musicians again meet on Wednesdays, which started on Sept. 3rd. As usual handbells meet at 6:00pm and choir meets at 7:00pm. I also want to thank our musicians who played and sang solos and ensembles. It is always wonderful to hear the musical talents we have in this church. A special thank you to Cathy Brown who worked with each of the solo and ensembles. We always welcome new members. Our groups are no audition and needing only a heart to praise God. If you like to be part of Northwood music, please contact Bob Brown or just arrive at one of the rehearsal times listed above and you will receive a warm welcome. Thank you again.

-Bob Brown, Northwood Music Director

October Worship Assistants

October 5 – Scott Robinson
October 12 – Tami Robinson
October 19 – Bob Brown
October 26 – Scott Bassett



Christian Education

Christian Education

Bible Study has started and it is on Monday's at 12:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Scott has given us materials from a book on the Gospel of Mark. (Mark 1:1-8) All church members and congregants are welcome to participate. Pastor Scott will participate weekly as his schedule permits.

– Rod Christenson, Chris. Ed., Elder

Fellowship

Fun Friday & Fall Season

Fun Friday is October 17th, where we will have a presentation of Sharon & Ken's trip to Peru. Our potluck starts at 6:00pm. November's date is the 21st with a presentation from Scott Robinson on Special Post Office buildings in our country. Please sign up for the potluck on the Fellowship Bulletin Board.

-Elder Sharon Cathcart, Fellowship Committee

- 1 Joe Simpson
- 2 Liz Schatz
- 6 Sharon Haven
- 11 James Davis
- 22 Cathy Bowers
- 25 Ken Cathcart



Mission & Outreach

Peace & Global Witness Offering

On World Communion Sunday, October 5, we celebrate that God's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved, and we are not alone. Through participation in the Peace and Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table and we celebrate the peace we find there. The peace of Christ belongs to all of God's people. 25% of this Offering stays in our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our community, 25% is for connecting mid councils for peacemaking, linking congregations in ministries through presbyteries and synods



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

in their region, and 50% is for advocating for Christ's peace and justice. You will receive an envelope on October 5 to share in this special offering. Thank you for your generous support.

-Jane Nielsen, Mission & Outreach Elder

Northwood's Next-Step Workshop-Saturday, October 18th **10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." -Psalm 119:105

You're invited to a 'dreaming session' in which we'll discuss the past, present and future of ministry at Northwood Presbyterian Church in Spokane, Washington. This conversation is open to all members, friends and curious, well-meaning bystanders of the congregation. It will be facilitated by Interim Pastor Scott Kinder-Pyle. If you plan to attend, you might prepare by praying through Mark's Gospel, chapter 4, verses three through eight.

-Pastor Scott

Here is the tentative schedule:

10:30 a.m.- Gathering in Fellowship Hall-Introductory remarks on Mark 4:3-8

10:45-11:45 a.m. – The Most Up-Lifting Experiences in Church?

11:45-12 noon- Prayers of Spiritual Discernment & Hope in Christ

12 noon-12:30 p.m. - Lunch(maybe pizza!)- Continuing Discussion

12:30-1p.m.- Exercises: Imagine We're in Prison & The Crystal Ball

1-1:15 p.m. – This Church's Highest Calling

1:15-1:30 p.m. -Sending Song & Prayers

"Concepts create idols; only wonder comprehends anything..."

-Saint Gregory of Nyssa

Community News

Whitworth Auxiliary Annual Fall Bazaar & Bake Sale

The Whitworth Auxiliary invites you to its annual Bazaar and Bake Sale to be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 9706 N. Division Street, on Saturday, October 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be a Pie Café to enjoy a break from shopping, crafts, white elephant items, collectibles, Christmas items, raffles and lot of fun. Proceeds from the event benefit Whitworth Students. No tickets are necessary. Contact Cathy Bowers for any further information.

Hymn Sing

All are welcome to attend a community hymn sing on Sunday, October 12th @ 3pm at Spokane First Naz Church, 9004 N Country Homes Blvd. This is a free concert and donations to the Organ fund is appreciated.

A Huge Thank you!

Thank you so much for your recent donation of \$50.00. We really appreciate your support. Last week we served 16 new families in addition to our returning clients. Thank you all so much for the wonderful donation of food, we desperately needed it. Also, the volunteers who bring the food are delightful.

-Betty, Mead Food Bank



Announcements

Blessings to Sarah Hill and Craig Colgrove with the birth of Elliot Owen Hill Colegrove. He was 9 pounds, 1oz. He was born on Sunday, September 21st.

Northwood Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Scott Kinder-Pyle

Choir Director: Bob Brown

Office Administrator/Wedding Coordinator: Holly Christoff

Organist/Pianist: Cathy Brown

Treasurer: Donna Harvey

Sound Technician: Jo Detlaff

Custodian: Michael Stitt

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Web Site: northwoodpres.org Facebook: Northwood Presbyterian Church



NORTHWOOD
OCTOBER 2025 EVENTS:

Wednesday, October 1

Meals on Wheels

6 pm Bell Choir

7 pm Vocal Choir

Thursday, October 2

Meals on Wheels

Friday, October 3

Meals on Wheels

Sunday, October 5

World Communion Sunday

Peace & Global Witness Offering

10:30 am Worship Service

Scott Robinson, Worship Asst.

Monday, October 6

Christian Education @ 12:30pm

Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 8

6 pm Bell Choir

7 pm Vocal Choir

Sunday, October 12

10:30 am Worship Service

Tami Robinson, Worship Asst.

Monday, October 13

Christian Ed. @ 12:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 14

6/7 pm Committees

Wednesday, October 15

6 pm Bell Choir

7 pm Vocal Choir

Friday, October 17

Fun Friday @ 6pm, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, October 18

*Northwood Planning Workshop

@ Northwood, 10:30 am-1:30pm

Whitworth Fall Bazaar @ 9 am-2 pm

@ St. Luke Lutheran, 9706 N Division

Sunday, October 19

10:30 am Worship Service

Bob Brown, Worship Asst.

Monday, October 20

Christian Ed. @ 12:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 21

7:00pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, October 22

6 pm Bell Choir

7 pm Vocal Choir

Thursday, October 23

10:00 am Newsletter deadline

Reformation Sunday, October 26

10:30 am Worship Service-Wear Red

Scott Bassett, Worship Asst.

Monday, October 27

Meals on Wheels

Christian Ed. @ 12:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 29

Meals on Wheels

6 pm Bell Choir

7 pm Vocal Choir

Thursday, October 30

Meals on Wheels

Friday, October 31

Meals on Wheels

