

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

December 2025
Northwood News

Note from the Pastor

Becoming A Member Is To Re-Member

***“These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng,
and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.”***

—Psalm 42:4

“On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.”

—1 Corinthians 12:22—26

I’ve been pondering the number of people in this congregation who seem to *belong* to it, but who have said they’re “*not members*.” And that, to my mind, is a shame. Membership at Northwood Presbyterian Church happens to be a vital tool in developing the integrity and the intimacy of our relationships. In Christ, we’re not merely friends, with common interests and cultural sensibilities; we’re covenant partners, who are being trained for the Kingdom of God. Consequently, if one of us says “I love Jesus” but “I’m not a member with you in the Body of Christ,” I wonder what that means for the seriousness and the strength of a mature faith.

On the other hand, I get the idea that membership in a church seems like a mere formality, and that when life and death are on the line, we shouldn’t be bothered with mere formalities. And I get the fact that many show up (frequently or infrequently) because “that’s how my family raised me.” But then again, sometimes a formal commitment in public, with words and with water, before God, takes us to a more transcendent level of intimacy.

During this upcoming Season of Advent—as we anticipate the God who joins us in the flesh—I’m inviting you to consider your status as a member who re-members the Body of Christ.

Peace~
Scott

P.S.—There may be an opportunity to be baptized for the first time, or to renew your baptism, in the new year. Pray on it and let me know your thoughts and feelings.

For those interested in becoming ‘members’ of this particular community of faith, the questions to which you respond are simple, AND YET PROFOUND:

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God,
and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ
and accept him as your Lord and Savior,
trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple,
obeying his Word and showing his love?

I will, with God’s help.

You have publicly professed your faith.
Will you be a faithful member of this congregation,
share in its worship and ministry
through your prayers and gifts
your study and service,
and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

I will, with God’s help.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

7:00 pm-Church Sanctuary

*“For to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”
Luke 2:11*

OTHER CHRISTMAS EVENTS – Mark Your Calendar:

**Christmas Fun Friday: December 19, 6-8 p.m.
Enjoy a merry Wassail Bowl on Sunday December 21st after service.**

Session Highlights

Session Report – November 2025

At their November 18, 2025, meeting, Northwood Session elders:

1. Began 2026 budget discussions and approval of the new job description for the Deacon committee chair. Approval of holiday days off for employees.
2. Approval of dates, Tuesday, January 20, 2026 -First Session of the new year; Sunday, January 25 as the Annual Congregational Meeting and Sunday, February 22, as a Special Congregational Meeting to explore and discuss the Mission Study that is in progress. Lorelee Bauer from the Committee on Ministry is invited.
4. Heard of Building & Grounds Committee's repaired Northwood sign on Monroe Street and converted mover into snow blower.
5. Heard of Worship & Music Committee's Thanksgiving and Advent plans, including Hanging of the Greens, November 29, set-up of the sanctuary Christmas tree and Advent wreath and Un-hanging of the Greens after the January 4 Epiphany worship service.
6. Approved the monthly financial report and heard reports from all Session committees.

-Rev. Scott Kinder-Pyle , Moderator

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Financial Update:

October 31, 2025

Total Income: \$152,816.63

Total Expenses: \$159,727.91

Gain/Loss: \$6,911

Per Capita for 2026: \$39.00 (no increase next year!)

Per Capita Income for 2025: \$ 2,145.00 – thank you!

*Thanks for giving faithfully to the ministry and mission
of Northwood as we end this year together!*

Administration and Finance

Thank you very much for the generous response regarding the pledge drive for 2026 budget cycle. Once again, the congregation showed its commitment to Northwood. If you have not yet pledged, please contact the office so that we can record your anticipated giving for 2026. The final budget proposal will be revealed at the annual congregation meeting in January. The date of the congregational meeting is Sunday, January 25 immediately following the church service. In addition to the budget, we will also vote on the nominating committee for 2026 as well as the annual corporation meeting. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this most important meeting.

The holiday season is rapidly approaching. Please note that the church office schedule will be altered for the holidays. **The church office will have its usual hours on Tuesday 12/23/2025**, but will be closed the remainder of the week. **The office will once again open on Tuesday 12/30/2025**, but will be closed the remainder of the week. During that time, any urgent needs regarding pastoral care please contact our pastor Reverend Scott Kinder-Pyle or Deacon committee chairman Joe Simpson. Likewise, you may contact any of the session members to relay any church business that was not able to be conducted on the above-mentioned Tuesdays. Our committee wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

- Dr. Ken Cathcart Elder

Worship & Music

Advent Has Begun!

Advent, the four Sundays when we prepare for Christmas, begins November 30, and that means our favorite traditions:

- * The Advent devotionals are now available on the table in the Narthex. This year's booklet is entitled, "A Grand Miracle", Inspiration from C.S. Lewis.
- * Thank you to all who are hanging the Christmas greens this year! Un-hanging of the Greens: January 4 on Epiphany.
- * This year we will again be offering memorial poinsettias during the Advent season. The purchase of these beautiful plants will give us a chance to honor a special person. Poinsettia inserts will run December 7-14. Plants will be on display starting Sunday, Dec. 21. The price will remain as other years at \$10. These always make a festive display to beautify our church. The plants can go home with the purchaser on Christmas Eve.



-Elder Bob Brown, W&M Comm.

December Worship Assistants

December 7– De Baskin

December 14 – Bill Ailes

December 21 – Scott Bassett

December 28 – Ray Schatz

December Greeters:

Please be sure to wave and point instead of touching!

December 7 - Carol Christenson

December 14 - Gerry & Susan Riddle

December 21 - Terry & Jane Nielsen

December 28 - Mike & Gayle Fetcho

Advent Readers and Candle Lighters:

November 30 – Sharon Haven & Joette Detlaff

December 7 – Stevie Wilkerson, Elei, Jimmy, Oliva, Cody

December 14 – Craig, Sarah & Elliot Colegrove

December 21 – Randy & Janis Goss; Marsie, Moya & Rowen

December 24 – MaryAnn Barney; Betty Thompson & Sally Almond

Fellowship

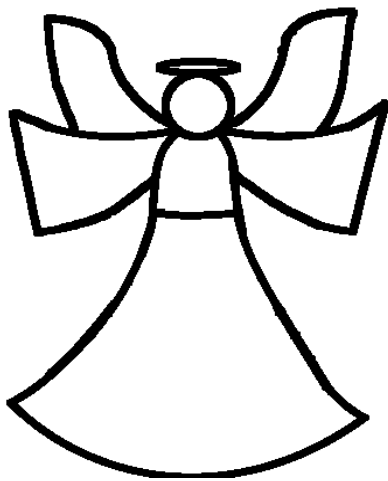
December Fun Friday & Wassail Cookies

Fun Friday is December 19 at 6 p.m. we will be having a White Elephant Bingo. Please bring a wrapped present that can be funny, silly or wonderful or repeat from previous years. Everyone will go home with a gift as we play Bingo. We will also have a potluck dinner. Sign-up is in Celtic/Fellowship Hall. Wassail Bowl is Sunday, December 21, following the morning service. We will have our traditional Wassail Bowl Punch (as well as tea, coffee and water) and cookies. The cookies are supplied by all the wonderful bakers (and occasional cookie makers) in our church. We need you to bring the cookies to Fun Friday (and we will put them in the refrigerator). Sharon will make the Wassail Punch.

A New Bulletin Board for Gratitude! Was set-up on the Fellowship board. It will coincide with Worship and Music committee for people to write their grateful messages on.

-Sharon Cathcart, Fellowship Committee Elder

Mission & Outreach



Christmas Angel Tree

Angel tree tags are going up soon! For some years, we at Northwood have enjoyed helping a Linwood family with Christmas gifts and holiday dinner fixings. This year, we are hosting a family whose sons attend Linwood Elementary School. You will find tags and a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from Pastor's office. We ask that gifts be Christmas-paper wrapped or in gift bags with the angel on the outside. Food items should be placed in the kitchen fridge nearest the door. All gifts are due on Sunday December 17, to Celtic/Fellowship Hall or the church office. Mission & Outreach Committee thanks all of Northwood for helping make this annual tradition a joy for a neighborhood family.

-Sally Almond, Mission & Outreach Comm.

Christmas Tree Items

Mission & Outreach invites you to begin knitting, crocheting, and purchasing hats, scarves, gloves, and socks for the Christmas tree in the Narthex lobby this holiday season! We will decorate the tree with all that you bring and will then take it all after Christmas to Cup of Cool Water, a street ministry downtown for teens. We have set up the tree after Thanksgiving. Cup of Cool Water is always so appreciative of all that you provide for the kids who are in need. Thank you for your generosity in helping youth keep warm.

-Jane Nielsen, Mission & Outreach Elder

Christmas Joy Offering

This Christmas season we have the opportunity to give to the Christmas Joy Offering. The Joy Offering supports retired ministers and church workers and their families through the Assistance Programs as they face medical



and emergency costs. It also supports students in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, as they pursue their education. In the next few weeks you will find inserts and then an envelope in your bulletin to provide support for the offering, which will be taken on December 21. Thank you for considering making a gift!

-Jane Nielsen, Mission & Outreach Elder

Christian Education

Adult Small Group Underway

The adult small group Bible Study has begun meeting again for the fall season. They meet on Mondays, now at 12:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. They selected a new Bible study: with materials from a by N.T. Wright, called '*Mark for Everyone*'. We have an Advent study, on Sunday mornings with Pastor Scott leading "Celebrating Abundance and Names for the Messiah". For more information, please email, call or text Christian Ed. Elder Rod Christenson.



Community News:

-BellaCristo Handbell Christmas Concert, Saturday, December 13th @ 7:00pm at Spokane Valley United Methodist Church, 115 N Raymond Rd or Sunday December 14 @ 3:00pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7307 N Nevada

-Holiday on Pipes, Christmas Sing-Along, December 21st @ 6:00pm, Spokane Church of the Nazarene, 9004 N Country Homes Blvd.

Northwood Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Scott Kinder-Pyle

Choir Director: Bob Brown

Office Administrator/Wedding Coordinator: Holly Christoff

Treasurer: Donna Harvey

Custodian: Michael Stitt

Sound Technician: Jo Detlaff

Organist/Pianist: Cathy Brown

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6721 N. Monroe St., Spokane WA 99208

Facebook: Northwood Presbyterian Church



Northwood Pres. Calendar – December 2025

First Sunday of Advent – November 30

9:00 am Advent Class

10:30 am Worship Service

Robin Johnson, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Wednesday – December 3

6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Second Sunday of Advent – December 7

9:00am Advent Class

10:30 am Worship Service & Communion

De Baskin, Worship Assistant

Coffee Time

Monday – December 8

12:30pm Bible Study

Tuesday - December 9

7:00pm Committees

Wednesday- December 10

12:30pm Admin. &

Finance Meeting

6:00pm Bell practice

7:00pm Choir practice

Third Sunday of Advent – December 14

9:00am Advent Class

10:30am Worship

Bill Ailes, Worship Assistant

Christmas Flower dedications due

Monday – December 15

12:30pm Bible study

Tuesday- December 16

7:00 pm Session

Wednesday – December 17

6:00pm Bell & 7:00pm Choir practice

Friday - December 19

6:00 pm Fun Friday/ White Elephant Potluck

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 21

9:00am Advent Class

10:30 am Worship Service

Scott Bassett, Worship Assistant

Christmas Joy Offering

Coffee Time/Wassail Bowl & Cookies

Monday - December 22

12:30pm Bible Study

Meals on Wheels

December 23 – Newsletter deadline

Wednesday - December 24 (office closed)

7:00 Christmas Eve. Worship

Friday – December 26

Meals on Wheels

Sunday –December 28

10:30 am Worship Service

Ray Schatz, Worship Assi.

Monday, December 29

12:30pm Bible Study

Wednesday – December 31 (office closed)