

Note from the Pastor:

Happy February! As stores fill up with heart balloons, chalky candy hearts, and cheesy ballads, it reminds us to place our focus on true love, the love of our heavenly Father. As 1 John 4 reminds us, "God is love." So, when we love God first, we love others better, and especially when we heed Jesus' call and command to "love one other as I/Jesus have loved you." We will put it out there on the church sign during Valentines Day week, because how great it is that our Lord commands us to love one another in John 13:34-35!

In her book, *War Bonds*, Cindy Hval, a local writer who shared at our Fun Friday potluck just before the pandemic started, we can read love lessons from World War 2 veterans and their spouses. Here's the one I liked the best from a pastor, (of course!): "Really the best way to have a happy marriage is to put the Lord first in your life." And I'd add happy *anything* in life, too -- I've got one more love lesson, next, but I really liked this one about our faith in the Lord, and wanted to share it first! There are days when it's difficult to love, huh?

Here's our second love lesson about marriage from another World War 2 veteran Milt Stafford, "Marriage is a two-way street," he said. "It isn't all about your way, and it isn't all about her way. It's the way TOGETHER that counts."

Christian love is not just for the ones we hold most dear. Jesus said to "love everyone" and, for Christians, it is every day that we should care and find where to love and serve. Let's follow what this great writing my friend texted me years ago, at right, called, "Twice As Sweet." It reminds us that "Valentine's Day every day will make life twice as sweet." God's love then leads us to acting out that love in big and small ways, and I believe the world is better for it!

Bottom-line, God continues to call us together as a loving body of Christ here at Northwood Pres. As we progress through this month, too, how nice it is that Lent doesn't start until March 5 -- so, in the meantime, we do get to hear about love in 1 Corinthians 13 and Jesus' first sermon and lakeside callings in Luke 4-5. I appreciate all of you and your love for each other, too!

In Christ's love, Pastor Sue Keim

Twice As Sweet

On Valentines Day, we show our love;
We express our deep affections.
Those who are important to us
Get cards and sweet confections.

But Christian love is not just for
The ones we hold most dear;
Jesus said "love everyone;"
He made that very clear.

For Christians, it is every day
We should care and love and serve
Everyone we meet in life,
Whether they do or don't deserve.

Let's follow Jesus' good command
To love everyone we meet.
Valentine's Day every day
Will make life twice as sweet.

By Joanna Fuchs

Session Highlights

January Session Report

At their January 21, 2025 meeting, Northwood Session elders:

1. Prayed for needs in the congregation, and approved the 2025 mileage reimbursement rate and the upcoming Special Offerings for 2025;
2. Heard that Building & Grounds has replaced the light switch for the back door with one with a daylight timer, and is pricing new fire extinguishers closer to the Sanctuary;
3. Approved all of the inside/outside speakers for Fun Friday potluck programs through the school year starting with January 17's speaker, Bill Ailes, who will discuss "How we get our Mail"; February 21's guest speaker is Rebecca Jensen, trainee Master Gardener, who will discuss "Sowing in the Winter"; March 21's program with Matt Fetcho and his friend Greg Rehn to discuss their trip to and ascent of Denali; on April 18, to join with the Worship & Music Committee to have a potluck and then a service honoring Good Friday and on May 16, Susie Stokes will share about her recent trip to Japan with her husband who has Japanese ancestry.
4. Heard that a busy Lenten and Easter season, which begins March 5, with new Lenten devotionals on the way, but no Ash Wednesday service once again this year;
5. Approved and thanked the 2025 Officer Nominating Committee to send for final vote at the Jan. 26 Congregational Meeting: Moderator/Elder Ken Cathcart, Deacons Rep. Cathy Bowers and two at-large members: Bill Ailes and Robin Johnson;
6. Confirmed last month's votes to send on to the Congregational meeting changes in by-laws to make Deacons a committee for the church/Session and the approved 2025 Church Budget;
- 7.. Approved the financial report for December 31, 2024, and heard reports from all the Session committees.

-Rev. Sue Keim, Moderator

Northwood Presbyterian Church

Financial Update:

December 31, 2024

Total Income: \$205,317.33

Total Expenses: \$187, 992.40

Gain/Loss: \$17,324.93

Per Capita for 2025: \$39.00

Total Per Capita Income for 2024: \$1,363.00— thank you!

Thanks for giving faithfully to the ministry and mission of Northwood as we've begun this new year!

Fellowship

February & March Fun Fridays

Fun Friday for February 21 is "Sowing in the Winter." Rebecca "Becky" Jensen is getting her Master's of Gardener's certificate. She will be presenting (and bringing an activity) to show us what we can do now to prepare for our produce starting in the winter. She is an excellent speaker and excited to share her gardening knowledge. The potluck starts at 6:00 pm with the presentation to follow.

Fun Friday for March 21 is Matt Fetcho (Mike and Gayle's son) and Greg Rehn with presentation on Ascent to Denali. This should be exciting to hear about their challenges and successes. Potluck starts at 6:00 with presentation to follow.

-Sharon Cathcart, Fellowship Elder



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Jennifer Johnson

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Bill Ailes

Mission & Outreach

Christmas Thank You's

The Christmas Angel Tree helped provide gifts and a Christmas dinner for a family with six boys who attend Linwood Elementary and Salk Middle School. There were many gifts and gift cards for the parents and children. Thank you for your generosity in helping this family provide a wonderful Christmas for their family. And, this year 157 items were donated to Cup of Cool Water, a street ministry for un-housed youth. These items are used to decorate the Christmas tree in the narthex/lobby. It is never too late to begin knitting and crocheting for next year's tree! Thank you for helping these youth to stay warm this winter. The Director for Cup of Cool Water was very thankful for all that we brought and thank you to all who donated so many things!

-Mission and Outreach Elder Jane Nielsen

Christian Education

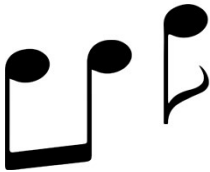
Adult Small Group Underway

The adult small group Bible Study meets on Mondays, at 1:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. They have resumed the PW/Horizon study called, "Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight," by Carol Bechtel. Men and women are both welcome, and please contact Christian Ed. Elder Rod Christenson for more information.

Worship & Music

Lent Begins March 5

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5 (sorry, no 'Imposition of Ashes' service). Please feel free to choose from the NEW Lenten devotionals purchased by your Worship & Music Committee. These will be available next month on the lobby table. It is called, "By His Wounds."



Worship Assistants for February

February 2 – John Stramiello
February 9 – Rod Christenson
February 16 – Taffy Potter
February 23 – Ken Cathcart

Greeters for February

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



Coffee Hour Treats

If you would like to contribute healthier treats at coffee hour, please feel free to bring them. For example: cheese and crackers, fruit or veggies. Bringing the items on a plate or tray would help make it easier to serve by eliminating the time for preparation. -Board of Deacons

Per Capita Reminder

The per capita for the 2025 year is \$39.00 (same as last year) and should be paid by each member of the Northwood congregation. Please remit, in the envelopes on the lobby table or in your 2025 Giving Envelopes), that amount to Northwood as this is the amount our congregation is charged for each member of the church by the Presbytery (and General Assembly) for our congregation's yearly membership in The Inland Northwest Presbytery.

Thank you, Dr. Ken Cathcart, Elder of Administration and Finance Comm



February EVENTS

Sunday - February 2

10:30 am Worship Service with Communion
John Stramiello, Worship Asst.

Coffee Time

Monday – February 3

1:00 pm Adult Small Group

Wednesday - February 5

6 pm Bell Rehearsal

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday – February 6

9 am Presbytery Summit Mtg. (on Zoom)

Super Bowl Sunday - February 9

10:30 am Worship Service

Rod Christenson, Worship Asst.

Bill Ailes, Children's Message

Coffee Time

11:50 am Worship & Music Comm.

Monday – February 10

1:00 pm Adult Small Group

Tuesday - February 11

6 pm Mission & Outreach Comm.

7 pm Committee Night

Wednesday - February 12

6 pm Bell Rehearsal

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Saturday – February 15 – 10:30 am**Memorial Service for Tammy Bassett:**

Audubon Park Methodist Church (3908 N.
Driscoll Blvd.)

Sunday - February 16

10:30 am Worship Service

Taffy Potter, Worship Asst.

Coffee Time

Monday – February 17***Presidents Day Holiday***

1:00 pm Adult Small Group

Tuesday - February 18

7 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday - February 19

Meals on Wheels

6 pm Bell Rehearsal

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday - February 20

Meals on Wheels

Friday – February 21

Meals on Wheels

6:00 pm Fun Friday Potluck

Sunday - February 23

10:30 am Worship Service

10 am Newsletter Deadline

Ken Cathcart, Worship Asst.

Coffee Time

Monday – February 24

1:00 pm Adult Small Group

Wednesday – February 26

6 pm Bell Rehearsal

7 pm Choir Rehearsal

Northwood Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Susan L. (Sue) Keim

Office Administrator/Wedding Coord.: Holly Christoff

Treasurer: Susan Anderson

Sound Technician: Jo Detlaff

Choir Director: Bob Brown

Organist/Pianist: Cathy Brown

Custodian: Michael Stitt

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Facebook: Northwood Presbyterian Church