

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

March 2025

## Northwood News

### ***Note from the Pastor***

The month of March begins with Ash Wednesday (no service this year however), March 5, followed by our annual season of Lent, the 40 days (not counting Sundays) and six Sundays leading up to Easter, which will be much later on Sunday, April 20, this year! Each year, the Lenten season calls us to spend these 40 days in self and community reflection – I hope our new “By His Wounds We are Healed,” Devotions for Lent also will help all of us prepare for our most important Sunday of the year, Easter/Resurrection Sunday, April 20. Please get a free copy, one per family available on Sunday, March 2. (See more info on worship page).

And, as the word Lent means (a few different things – ‘spring,’ ‘lengthening of days’ and ‘40’), don’t forget to SPRING forward one hour on Sunday, March 9! Let’s celebrate the arrival of spring, too, with a St. Patty’s Day baked potato potluck for Fun Friday’s Denali presentation by Matt Fetcho and his friend. That’s on March 20, 6 p.m. Please see the Fellowship page inside or the Fellowship Hall bulletin board to sign up!

In this newsletter, please see, too, the different activities for the continuation of our Lenten season, which is all month long before next month’s Easter Sunday, April 20! Below, again, in case you missed it, is my retirement notification letter required by our Presbytery to be 5-6 months ahead of time and accepted by our Elders at their February 18 meeting.

-In Christ’s woundedness, Pastor Sue Keim

February 18, 2025 FROM: Rev. Susan/Sue Keim, Pastor

TO: Northwood Pres. Elders, Deacons, Church Staff and Congregation,

I am writing to inform you that I will be retiring effective Sunday, August 10, 2025, after I turn 67 years old. I will, however, have my final Sunday, with two weeks of vacation, a little earlier on: Sunday, July 27, 2025.

While I look forward to enjoying my retirement, I have really appreciated this church family during my 15 years here as your Pastor and Head of Staff, especially the past 4-5 years, when it has been important for us to band together in our continuing Covid world! I also do not know, at this time, when I will have one more short medical leave this year -- as my neuro-surgeon’s appointment (again!) is not until March 5.

If I can be of any assistance before my retirement, I would be happy to provide whatever help I can -- to provide a smooth transition for/to my successor! Attached to this document, for our Session elders, was our Presbytery of the Inland Northwest’s (PIN) Parameters of Ethical Conduct guidelines for retiring installed pastors and congregations, which your Elders and I have agreed to! We have copies of that document for any of you who’d like to see it as we begin this process.

This summer, God willing, I do plan to downsize and sell my house and move back to Vancouver, WA/USA (where I was ordained). I hope to reconnect with Presbyterian churches there and to finish up on the waiting list for independent living at a retirement community. In the meantime, my prayers continue for all of us during these next 6 months, especially those of you who have just started or returned to Northwood Pres. during this past year or so! I know I am determined to “finish the race” well and with those final Amen, Amen’s. In Christ’s Service, Rev. Sue Keim, Pastor

## *Session Highlights*

### **Session Report – February 2025**

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

1. Prayed together for members of our congregation;
2. Accepted the Pastor's retirement letter and discussed with Presbytery Executive Shery Kinder-Pyle next moves for the church including putting together a search committee and hiring an interim pastor in August;
3. Heard of the new LED lights in the handicapped bathroom by the Sanctuary and Easter memorial flowers with inserts starting this month on March 30;
4. Approve Mission & Outreach's motion to split to use special fund Missions money to help support Family Promise and Cup of Cool Water. We would like to use \$1,000 (\$500 to Family Promise and \$500 to Cup of Cool Water) to be sent accordingly;
5. Approved the 2024 Annual Statistical Report for Northwood, the January 31, 2025 financial report, minutes for all the Congregational meetings and heard reports from all the Session committees.

--Rev. Sue Keim, Moderator

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

#### **Financial Update:**

January 31, 2025

**Total Income:                   \$11,756.01**

**Total Expenses:               \$15,628.84**

**Gain/Loss:                     \$ 3,872.83**

**Per Capita for 2025: \$39.00**

Per Capita Income for 2025 so far: \$753.00 – thank you!

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

#### **Officer Nominating Committee – THANK YOU!**

Here are the 2025 committee members chosen by the Congregation:

Ken Cathcart, Moderator/Session; Cathy Bowers, Deacons Rep.; at-large members: Bill Ailes and Robin Johnson

## *Christian Education*

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

The Adult Small Group continues their study 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 info.

## Fellowship



### Fun Friday - March 21

March 21 is Fun Friday. Fellowship Committee will supply the baked potatoes and you bring the potluck items for the baked potato toppings. Speakers are Matt Fetcho and Greg Rehn who will discuss their trip to Denali, Alaska. Potluck starts at 6:00 pm. And please sign up on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board; wearing green is definitely welcome!

### **March Birthdays**

9 Chris Vennum  
17 Mike Vennum  
21 Judy Reul  
26 John Monteith  
27 Ray Schatz

### **March Anniversaries**

26 John & Diane Monteith



## Worship & Music

### Lent & Easter Happenings

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and continues through Palm Sunday, Holy Week and then Easter on Sunday, April 20. Our new "By His Wounds We are Healed," Devotions for Lent (by Paul Scheidt) also will help all of us prepare for Easter! Please get a free copy, one per family available on Sunday, March 2. They are available on the table in the lobby. Each year on the Christian church calendar, we recognize Christ's journey to the cross and resurrection. There are several times during Holy Week where we will having an extra event including a combination Good Friday/Fun Friday next month.

### Worship Assistants for March:

March 2 – Ray Schatz  
March 9 - Cathy Bowers  
March 16 – Scott Bassett  
March 23 – Robin Johnson  
March 30 – Jane Nielsen

### 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

### **Corona Virus Update**

We still have an optional mask mandate inside the church building until further notice! Our Session elders decided to follow the state's guidelines. All of the Covid protocols are posted in our building. We also continue sending weekly emails with worship/choir music videos from Facebook and the Sunday announcements and bulletins (at the Sanctuary entrances, too). If you'd like us to mail you hard copies of any of the weekly items, monthly newsletters or an audio C.D. from Sundays, please call the church office. Please bring to worship, mail, or leave your tithe in the Office Administrator's box outside the church office. Thank you for your faithfulness and patience during the long pandemic, Rev. Sue Keim

## *Mission & Outreach*

### **Mead Food Bank & Meals on Wheels**

Mission and Outreach would like to encourage you to continue bringing food for the Mead Food Bank. It has been a while since we have had enough food to take to them. The items we hear most often that they need are: canned fruit, canned vegetables, and other canned items such as chili, spaghetti, and soups. Please consider adding some of these items to your grocery list. Food can be placed in the cart along the wall in Celtic/Fellowship Hall. Thank you so much!

-Jane Nielsen, Mission & Outreach Elder



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**Please set your clocks one hour ahead  
BEFORE YOU HEAD TO BED  
the night before church  
on Sunday, March 9!**

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### **Northwood Presbyterian Church Staff**

Pastor: Rev. Susan L. (Sue) Keim

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



**Transfiguration Sunday – March 2**

10:30 am Worship with Communion  
Ray Schatz, Worship Asst.

**Monday – March 3**

1:00 pm Adult Small Group, Fellowship Hall

**Ash Wednesday – March 5**

6 pm Bell Choir

7pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)



# LENT BEGINS

**First Sunday of Lent – March 9**

***Spring Forward!***

10:30 am Worship Service  
Cathy Bowers, Worship Asst.

**Monday – March 10**

1:00 pm Adult Small Group

**Tuesday – March 11**

6 pm Mission & Outreach Committee Mtg.  
7 pm Committee Night

**Wednesday – March 12**

6 pm Bell Choir  
7pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

**Second Sunday of Lent – March 16**

10:30 Worship Service  
Scott Bassett, Worship Asst.  
Cathy Brown, Children's Message

**Monday – March 17**

1:00 pm Adult Small Group  
Meals on Wheels

**Tuesday – March 18**

6:30 pm Deaco meeting, Fell. Hall  
7 pm Session, Fellowship Hall

**Wednesday – March 19**

Meals on Wheels  
6 pm Bell Choir  
7pm Choir

**Thursday – March 20**

Meals on Wheels

**Friday – March 21**

Meals on Wheels  
6 pm Fun Friday, Baked potato potluck,  
Fellowship Hall  
Program: Denali Adventures with Matt Fetcho,  
Greg Rehn

**Third Sunday of Lent – March 23**

Newsletter Deadline  
10:30 am Worship Service  
Robin Johnson, Worship Asst.

**Monday – March 24**

1:00 pm Adult Small Group

**Wednesday – March 26**

6 pm Bell Choir  
7pm Vocal Choir

**Fourth Sunday of Lent – March 30**

10:30 am Worship  
Flower memorial forms begin  
Jane Nielsen, Worship Asst.

**Monday – March 31**

1:00 pm Adult Small Group