My TPS Is Expiring—What Do I Do?

Your Legal Options
Adjusting Status through Family/Work
Your rights after your TPS Expires

Immigration Workshop
Date: November 21, 2018
Time: 7:00—9:00 p.m.
Location: Northwoods Presbyterian Church
3320 Cypress Creek Pkwy
Houston, TX 77068

For more information: (281) 799-9076 Mariana Sanchez—V. P.
(281) 444-8861 Northwoods Presbyterian Church

Church Events

- Nov 3rd Habitat Build
- Nov 4th Fall Back Time Change
- Nov 15th Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- Nov 17th NAM Day of Service
- Nov 18th Congregational Meeting
- Nov 22nd and 23rd Church Office Closed
- Nov 25th Interactive Movie Night
Dear Friends,

During the month of November our focus on Sunday mornings is being GREATfull. We are blessed in many ways. In a world where many live in lands of poverty and struggle, we live in a land of abundance. In a world where people still live on the edge of starvation, we have to watch out that we do not overindulge in the abundance that we have.

I came across the following list of observations:
If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ... you are richer than 75 percent of the people of the world.
If you have money in the bank, cash in your wallet and spare change in a dish someplace ... you are among the top 8 percent of the Earth's wealthiest people.
If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ... you are more fortunate than the million who will not survive this week.
If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation ... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

Instead of focusing on what we don’t have, maybe we should be grateful for what we do have.

Colossians 3:15 says, "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful."

What are you thankful for?

Here’s my quick blessing list:
My wife, children and grandchildren
Our church and our caring members
Our various ministries and commitment to service
Our passionate and gifted staff

Take a moment and say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for your blessings.

With much love and gratitude,

Pastor Paul
Sympathy is extended to Marlene and Andrew Gerrard on the death of Marlene’s sister, Beverly Kuzniakowski, on September 15, 2018.

Sympathy is extended to Ruth Harris on the death of her husband, William Harris, on September 19, 2018.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Harold Fesler who died on September 22, 2018.

Sympathy is extended to Cari and Peter Herbert on the death of their daughter, Kati Hammett, on September 26, 2018.

Sympathy is extended to Lloyd Otteman and family on the death of Lloyd’s wife, Sue Otteman, on October 1, 2018.

Congratulations to Gene Meyer who was awarded the Prayers of the People Lay Minister of the Year Award. Gene serves faithfully as a Lay Chaplain at Houston Northwest Medical Center.

Spring Interfaith Dialogue Council—Thanksgiving Service

Please join us the Thursday before Thanksgiving, November 15, at 7:00 p.m. at Northwoods for our Spring Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with our neighbors in a celebration of thanksgiving. Area choirs will join with our Northwoods Sanctuary choir and leaders from various faith communities will offer us a powerful service. As we are the host congregation, we provide cookies for the reception following the service. If you can provide a few dozen cookies, please contact Jean Thomas at irisjean@comcast.net.
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Calendar & Events

Sundays

Worship Services
Chapel Service 8:15 AM | Chapel
Traditional Service 9:30 AM | Sanctuary
Modern Service 11:00 AM | Fellowship Hall

Sunday School
Elementary 9:15 AM | Grace Place
Preschool 9:15 AM | Yellow & Green
Family Fellowship 10:30 AM | Grace Place
Youth Sunday School 9:30 AM | Youth Bldg.
World Craft Store 10:30 AM | By Oasis

Bible Studies & Other Classes
The Book of Daniel 9:30 AM | Room 211
Journey of Genesis 10:00 AM | Conf. Room
Gospel of John 11:00 AM | Room 211
Contemporary Issues 11:00 AM | Chapel

Weekdays

Mondays
AA 12:00 PM | Room 404

Tuesdays
Men's Bible Study 6:30 AM | Room 211
Tai Chi 8:45 AM | Gym
ESL Class 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM | Rooms 213 & Scout Bldg.
AA 12:00 PM | Room 404
RheumaTalk (2nd Tuesdays) 1:00 PM | Oasis
SAA 6:30 PM | Room 404

Wednesdays
Mystical Traditions 9:30 AM | Room 211
AA 12:00 PM | Room 404
Youth Group 6:00 PM | Youth Building
Yoga 7:00 PM | Room 211

Thursdays
ESL Class 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM | Rooms 213 & Scout Bldg.
Spanish Class 10:00 AM | Rooms 211 & Oasis

Fridays
Classics Class 10:30 AM | Room 211
AA 12:00 PM | Room 404

NORTHWOODS 2019
WOMEN’S CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, MARCH 2
MARK YOUR CALENDAR
SAVE THE DATE
MORE CONFERENCE DETAILS &
HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE
TO FOLLOW IN THE MONTHS AHEAD!
ADULT Ministries

MIDWEEK CLASSES

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY
Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m., Room 211
Led by Pastor Paul

ESL CLASS
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Rooms 213 and the Scout Bldg.

MYSTICAL TRADITIONS: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM
Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., Room 211
Led by David Puig

SPANISH CLASS
Thursdays at 10:00, Rooms 211 and 231 (Oasis).
led by Lic. Yelitza Caraballo and Dr. David Puig.

CLASSICS CLASS
Fridays, 10:30 a.m., Room 211
This class enjoys learning together by bringing professors into the classroom through DVD classes offered by The Great Courses company.

SUNDAY CLASSES

BIBLE STUDIES
THE BOOK OF DANIEL—Led by David Gordon
9:30 a.m. in Room 211
JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE: GENESIS —Led by Johnie Wood
10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room
GOSPEL OF JOHN—Led by David Puig
11:00 a.m. in Room 211
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Sundays in the Chapel at 11:00 am

The Contemporary Issues Class invites all interested to meet most Sundays in the chapel (in the same building as the sanctuary), 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon. Here is the line up for November’s programs. With November being a month associated with the honoring of Veterans, we feature two programs around that theme (for Nov 4 and Nov. 18).

**NOV. 4th - Fallen Warriors Memorial and Gallery.** This eloquent tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country is not far from our church. In addition to inviting those in charge of this honored place to speak, member Jim Wilson is checking out the possibility of having the memorial/gallery opened after the class for all who would like to visit there and enjoy a Sunday lunch at near by Saints, owned by Northwood members.

**NOV. 11th - Thanks to Barbara Thomason who has arranged for James Robertson of the Cypress Creek Flood Control to bring us up-to-date on matters around this issue. Mr. Robertson is well qualified to speak knowledgeably of issues of water control and conservation. In 2004 he became chairperson of the Cypress Creek Greenway Project and has over the years received a number of honors including the “Mayor’s Volunteer Houston Award” in Environmental and Wildlife Preservation.**

**NOV. 18th - The 2 % Defending the 98 %.** Out of his career of service to our country, CI favorite Johnie Wood will talk about Being Christian and Being Military; Can it Work? Johnie’s focus in his distinguished military career was on issues of security. Among other posts of significance, our speaker, for the U.S. Air Force, worked in Psychological Operations, Counterterrorism, and Security Assistance.

**NOV. 25th - THANKSGIVING WEEKEND. No class.**

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**50 Plus**

The 50+ group will attend the Tidelanders A Cappella Christmas Concert in Sugar Land on Saturday, December 8th. A bus will leave the church at 12:15 PM. Tickets cost $18.00 plus dinner on your own. After the concert, we will have dinner at the China Bear Restaurant. Sign-up in the narthex during November. Contact Bill or Marion Calvert or Miriam York with any questions.
Habitat for Humanity Build on November 3rd
Join our Northwoods team on Saturday, November 3rd from 8am -3pm to work on a dream house for a deserving family. We guarantee you will feel such satisfaction and joy knowing that you are helping a family build a better life! Both skilled and unskilled hands can be put to work and there are a variety of tasks both indoors and outdoors! Sign up on your Connect Card at church or contact David Puig at davidpuig@northwoods.org.

Jump Start Your Holiday Shopping - Visit our World Crafts Store!
The World Craft Store is now stocked with new and exciting fair trade merchandise just in time for holiday giving! Whether you are gifting others or treating yourself, you’ll want to come by and check it out. The merchandise we carry is handmade by skilled craftspeople in developing regions of the world and is marketed by fair-trade organizations which promote social and economic progress. All the profits go back to the artisans in emerging countries. Hope and justice with every purchase! The store is open each Sunday from 10:30 to 11:00 am and is located in the front hallway facing the courtyard. Cash, checks and MasterCard/Visa are happily accepted. See you there!

NAM Day of Service on Saturday, November 17th
Every few months we join others from 9am-11am for a day of service at NAM. You may choose to help out Meals on Wheels to deliver groceries to the home bound OR you may choose to sort clothes at the NAM restore. It is a perfect way to spend your Saturday morning making a difference! Check your connect card at church or email davidpuig@northwoods.org. We will be in touch with the details. What a perfect way to share the love of Christ with your neighbors!

Tis the Season for the Giving Tree
Studies show that giving makes us feel happy, giving is good for our health, and giving is contagious! Each year, Northwoods members reap these benefits when they participate in our Giving Tree Project. Last year we collected over 70 toys for children, made 20 holiday baskets for the homebound, and raised over $21,000 for different organizations! This year we will do it all over again starting on Sunday, November 18th. When you donate to one of our causes, you will receive an ornament to hang on a Christmas tree in church. You can donate for yourself or in the name of a loved one or a friend! We will be collecting through December 16th before and after services.
Here we go, into that busy time of the year. One of my pastor friends likes to call it “Hallowthanksmas.” Stores like Target started preparing for Hallowthanksmas right after they put away the school supplies. For many of us, it’s a time of stress. It’s a time when we can’t lose focus, lest we get sucked into the holiday vortex only to emerge dazed and confused sometime in mid-January.

As a Hallowthanksmas Survivor, I am so grateful for our pastoral staff and their thoughtful worship planning during the Thanksgiving and Advent seasons.

Personally, I am really looking forward to the sermon series on living GREATfull lives. I would imagine we all strive to be thankful, to be grateful for our lives’ blessings, but sometimes the busyness and stresses of life get in our way. And we all know that Hallowthanksmas can be filled with “to-do’s” that may not be our “want-to-do’s.”

Pastor Paul asked if I would write a hymn to commemorate this sermon series. We will introduce one verse of the hymn each of the five weeks in the series, until we are singing all five verses on the final Sunday of the series. Each verse serves as a reminder of the gratitude challenge we will be given each week: (1) Give a Compliment, (2) Reach Out, (3) Encourage Another, (4) Act Randomly (as in, engage in random acts of kindness), and (5) Thank God.

The music the Sanctuary Choir and Journey Band will lead each week has been selected to further speak the message and GREATfull challenge. It is my prayer that the words to these songs will stick with you throughout the weeks, equipping you to combat the doldrums of Hallowthanksmas and instead allowing you to fully engage and enjoy the seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent.

Worship Team Announcement
We are having a Church Work Day on Saturday December 1st at 8:00 am. Come help decorate the Sanctuary, Chapel and Journey to make the Church look festive as we celebrate the Christmas season.

Advent Noels are in the Sanctuary at noon on Wednesdays in December prior to Christmas where there will be talented performers to help get us in the Christmas spirit followed by a soup and salad lunch.
We need volunteers to help with both events.

Call Sylvia McLarty 281-320-8159
or Kortni Mann 713-553-9450
Rise
Our first Rise service of the year was a huge success! We are so grateful for the youth and volunteers who worked so hard to bring us an evening of worship and reflection. Our theme this year is: Metamorphosis and it was wonderful to hear our students describe how they see a relationship with Christ to be transformational. We hope you will join us for our next service, Sunday, October 21st at 9:30am in the Youth Building.

Youth Group:
The first few months of Fall our students have been working through a series entitled: “Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church’s Mission”. It has been a powerful series where they have asked themselves questions like, “What is the Church’s role in responding to mental illness?” or “How can I help someone who struggles with mental Illness feel less isolated?” Our students have shown real maturity and vulnerability as they have navigated a difficult topic. As we conclude this series, we continue to pray that God would reveal ways that we can help effect real compassion, empathy and grace.

Golf Tournament:
It is not too late to sign up to play golf and/or attend our dinner and silent auction! We would love to have you join us on Sunday, October 28th for a fun event- the proceeds of which will help our youth department. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Chelsea Ham.
For the month of October, we focused on Contentment. Everything we have comes from God. He is faithful to provide what we need. And even more than what we own, God can also provide what we need to face whatever happens in our life. God has proven time and again, that we can trust Him no matter what. We can complain or become jealous of what others have, or we can choose to respond with contentment, knowing that God has a plan for our lives. Our memory verse came from Luke 12:15 NIrV: "Then he said to them, watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."

Joyful Jams will be starting up in December in preparation of our Family Christmas Eve Service! We will be performing the Nativity Story, and there will be some opportunities for some of our friends to perform a solo. Practices will be on Sundays from 11-12 in Grace Place. Email Lindsay at lindsay@northwoods.org to register for Joyful Jams!

We are still looking for families and church members to host Family Fellowship. If you are interested, please email Lindsay or call at 254-715-3855.
Advent Noels—Wednesdays in December at noon.

Christmas Eve Services—December 24th at 4:00 pm 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm.

College Sunday—December 30th. One Service at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary.