Church Events

- Dec 2nd - Joyful Jam starts
- Dec 2nd – Symphony North Concert
- Dec 5th – Advent Noels start
- Dec 9th - Get to Know Northwoods Lunch
- Dec 9th - Choir Christmas Concert
- Dec 14th - Dinner & Movie Night
- Dec 16th - Contemplative Service
- Dec 24th – Christmas Eve
- Dec 25th and 26th – Church Office Closed
- Dec 30th – College Sunday

Christmas Eve - December 24th
4:00 P.M. Family Service
Children sing with glow sticks
7:00 P.M. Traditional Service
Candlelight with choir & brass
9:00 P.M. Come As You Are Service
Casual with candlelight & communion

College Sunday - December 30th
One Service at 10:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary
We encourage everyone to wear their college gear!
The Advent Conspiracy

A discussion occurred in a comic strip between two relatives. . .

Skyler: What was it you wanted for Christmas, Uncle Cosmos?
Cosmos: I told you, Skyler, just a little peace and quiet.

Skyler: I know, but I just came from the mall. I think they're all out of that.

What is it that you want for Christmas? I mean really want. I think many of us truly desire peace, hope, joy and love. Unfortunately, we get caught up in the Christmas rush with extra parties, buying presents, putting up lights, wrapping presents and decorating the house. Even with good intentions, many times all these extra activities create more stress and less peace.

A number of years ago, a few pastors were lamenting about how they had come to the end of the Advent season exhausted and sensed they had missed out on truly preparing for the mystery of incarnation. So they decided to try something different for their families and congregations and they called it -- the Advent Conspiracy Movement. It has four tenets – Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More and Love All.

One of the best ways to prepare is by making a commitment to worship during Advent and to participate in activities that help us focus during this season. Todd has put together another great series of Advent Noels and our Sanctuary Choir is preparing inspiring music for their Christmas Concert. As we sing familiar carols and hear words from scripture, we sense some of the wonder and awe of the God becoming flesh in our everyday lives.

So let's not just go through the motions again this Advent. Please join us and be part of the Advent Conspiracy! My hope and prayer is that you and your family would experience God's grace and joy during this Advent season.

Praying for more grace and peace,

Pastor Paul

Prayer: Living Jesus, Thank you for loving us so much that you came to be with us. Amidst all of the distractions and hustle of life, help us focus on you and your love during this Advent season. In Christ’s name. Amen.
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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st Sunday in Advent 8:00 Blood Drive 11:00 Joyful Jam 12:00 Elder Training 4:00 Symphony North Concert</td>
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<td>6:30 Men’s Study 8:45 Tai Chi ESL 10:30 &amp; 6:30</td>
<td>12:00 Advent Noel 7:00 Yoga</td>
<td>9:30 Presbyterian Women 10:00 Spanish ESL 10:30 &amp; 6:30</td>
<td>8:30 Quilters 10:30 Classics</td>
<td>50 Plus Trip 8:00 Property Work Day 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Parent’s Day Out</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Sunday in Advent 11:00 Joyful Jam 9:30 Elder Training 12:00 Get to Know Northwoods 7:00 Choir Concert</td>
<td>6:30 Men’s Study 8:45 Tai Chi ESL 10:30 &amp; 6:30 9:30 Discovery Women 7:00 Bible &amp; Brews</td>
<td>12:00 Advent Noel 7:00 Yoga</td>
<td>10:00 Spanish ESL 10:30 &amp; 6:30</td>
<td>6:00 Dinner &amp; Movie Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Sunday in Advent 11:00 Elder Training 7:00 Contemplative Service</td>
<td>6:00 Session Meeting and Dinner</td>
<td>6:30 Men’s Study 8:45 Tai Chi ESL 10:30 &amp; 6:30</td>
<td>12:00 Advent Noel 7:00 Yoga</td>
<td>10:00 Spanish ESL 10:30 &amp; 6:30 10:00 Golden Gathering</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th Sunday in Advent</td>
<td>Services at 4, 7 and 9 p.m.</td>
<td>Merry Christmas Church Office Closed</td>
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<td>10:00 Spanish ESL 10:30 &amp; 6:30</td>
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## Calendar & Events

### Sundays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Worship Services</th>
<th>8:15 AM</th>
<th>Chapel</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapel Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traditional Service</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modern Service</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Fellowship Hall</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>9:15 AM</th>
<th>Grace Place</th>
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<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>9:15 AM</td>
<td>Yellow &amp; Green</td>
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<td>Family Fellowship</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Grace Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Sunday School</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
<td>Youth Bldg.</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Craft Store</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>By Oasis</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bible Studies &amp; Other Classes</th>
<th>9:30 AM</th>
<th>Room 211</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Book of Daniel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journey of Genesis</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Conf. Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gospel of John</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Room 211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contemporary Issues</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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### Weekdays

#### Mondays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12:00 PM</th>
<th>Room 404</th>
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<tr>
<td>AA</td>
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#### Tuesdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6:30 AM</th>
<th>Room 211</th>
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<tr>
<td>Men's Bible Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tai Chi</td>
<td>8:45 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESL Class</td>
<td>10:30 AM &amp; 6:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
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<td>RheumaTalk (2nd Tuesdays)</td>
<td>1:00 PM</td>
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<td>SAA</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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#### Wednesdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9:30 AM</th>
<th>Room 211</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mystical Traditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Group</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
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#### Thursdays

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<tr>
<th>10:30 AM &amp; 6:30 PM</th>
<th>Rooms 213 &amp; Scout Bldg.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESL Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish Class</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classics Class</td>
<td>10:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
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### Spotlight on Safety

Be aware of the location for the First Aid Kits and the AEDs in all church buildings. First Aid Kits can be found at the welcome centers (Narthex and Journey), in the main kitchen, in the church office work room, and in the youth building. We have one AED in the Narthex down the hall where the bathrooms are located. The other AED is located right outside the glass doors into Fellowship Hall.

### Year End Giving

We are on track with our budget numbers through November, but we need a big push during December if we are to make our end of the year numbers and benevolence expenditures. You can help us in two specific ways:

1. Prepay your 2019 pledge
2. Make an additional year-end gift

Thank you for your faithful support of Christ’s ministry in helping to make a difference in the lives of people.
Congratulations to Justin and April Soliz on the birth of their baby, Carly Ann Soliz, on October 14, 2018.

Sympathy is extended to Charles and Lyn Coe, and their daughter, Deborah Kent, on the death of Deborah’s husband, James Matthew Kent, on October 9, 2018.

Sympathy is extended to Joyce Schnell on the death of her sister, Lois King, on October 14, 2018.

Sympathy is extended to Dolly Ferrell on the death of her husband, Jim Ferrell, on November 1, 2018.

Contemplative Service—
While the holidays can be a time of great joy and celebration, they can also be a time when the burdens of grief and stress are felt more profoundly. On Sunday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall we will have a Contemplative Service of Worship. Through quiet, music, scripture, anointing, communion and prayer we will open ourselves to the presence of God and light of Christ. If you would like a ride to this service or need childcare please contact Ann Marie by December 10 (281-444-8861 or annmarie@northwoods.org).

On-going Support Groups:
AA—Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at noon in Room 404
SAA—Tuesday Evenings, 6:30-8:30 in Room 404
RheumaTALK—Second Tuesday of the month (December 11) 1:00-2:30 in Oasis
How many times have we heard folks say that “life was simpler when …” as they harken back to an earlier time in their lives? I’m guilty of stating the same sentiment, I suppose. Sure, there are things that make life a lot easier now, like e-mails and text messages and having a cell phone with me in the grocery store so I can call my husband at home to read me the grocery list that I left on the counter – or, better yet, snap a picture of it and text it to me. It’s easier to be more connected with friends and family over social media and through video chatting. And microwaves. I remember the day one came into my household (it was a Christmas gift for my mom from my dad and it was ginormous, taking up almost a whole countertop, which was precious real estate in our little galley kitchen). But as we get into the holiday season, I often hear a yearning for the way Christmas used to be, when sharing a meal or a homemade gift was more than enough, when there was time to “just be” with family, when there was time to feel the anticipation and expectancy of the Advent season. This is one of the reasons I’m so excited about the Advent Conspiracy sermon series and the redirection of our intention, both about the meaning of this Season, and about our lives’ purpose living in the era of Christ. Maybe we’ve gotten too far from Bethlehem, too far from the unfathomable gift of God through the baby Jesus, too removed from our deep, deep need for a Savior. Maybe the message of this Advent is just what we need to hear to help us reclaim the “simpler” life we yearn for, a life where time and connections were so central to our celebration. This month, the Sanctuary Choir will offer a holiday concert celebrating Christmas carols on Sunday, December 9 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. There will be a “Longest Night” Contemplative Service on Sunday, December 16 at 7:00pm, which will provide a time for true reflection and introspection, especially for the many of us that struggle with sadness or grief around the holiday season. We will be blessed by the children singing at the 4:00pm Family Christmas Eve service, enjoy brass in worship at the Traditional 7:00pm service, and celebrate Christ’s birth in contemporary sounds at the 9:00pm service.

Blessings of this Advent Season to you.
Jennifer Klein Salyer
The Christmas season has a distinct and discernible character. It smells like pine trees and peppermint, wassail and egg nog. It feels like cool, crisp air and the energy of childlike expectancy. It looks like twinkling lights, bright star-filled skies, and colorful ribbons and wrapping paper. And it sounds like “Deck the Halls” and “Jingle Bells” and “Silent Night.”

Join the Northwoods Sanctuary Choir and special guests as they present a concert honoring the sounds of Christmas. On Sunday evening, December 9 at 7pm, you are invited to experience a Celebration of Carols. Bring your family and friends to this festive, free event.
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 meets most Sundays, 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon in the parlor across the hall from the sanctuary. We deal with a wide-range of topics, a good many suggested by those who attend. We invited you to join us as you see topics of interest.

Here is the line-up for December, 2018.

Dec. 2nd - **Gemstones of the Bible.** Certified Petroleum Geologist in Oil & Gas Minerals Management, Martha Creager Barnes will expound on the precious stones designed into the garments of the priests in Moses’ day (Exodus 28) and found in the blueprint for the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21). Martha is a member of First Presbyterian Church, Houston.

Dec. 9th - We welcome Mike Tarvin, Director of Spiritual Care and Values Integration at Houston Methodist Willow brook Hospital. Before pursuing a career in civilian chaplaincy, Rev. Tarvin served as a distinguished military chaplain. During ‘The Surge’ he supervised over 600 chaplains and chaplain assistants in combat operations throughout Iraq. Mike will speak about his long career in the field of ministering to others, focusing on the work he has and is doing with suicide issues and suicide prevention.

Our thanks to Sylvia McLarty who arranged for this program after hearing a presentation by Chaplain Tarvin, which she found impressive, inspiring, and informative.

Dec. 16th - **Faithful Followers of Jesus and Their Stories of Faith.** Our thanks to Elizabeth Jeter for lining up members Kim Abouabdo, Carol Farley, and Joaquin Gay to share their faith journeys with us.


Dec. 30th - NO CLASS. Happy New Year, Everyone!

LOOKING AHEAD: Jan. 6, 13, 20 **Caring for Adult with Severe Memory Loss.** Then, a several week series on **Guns and Schools: A Search for a Christian Solution.**
**Discovery Women—December 11th**

This month we are traveling to the Brookwood Community Center in Brookshire by Harris County bus. We are excited about this trip. After a guided tour, we will shop the garden and have lunch in their Café. The ladies can’t wait to buy some beautiful poinsettias for their Christmas décor.

The Brookwood Community is a God-centered educational, residential, and entrepreneurial community for adults with functional disabilities located in Brookshire, Texas. Brookwood is funded through tuition, private sector donations, and sales from our entrepreneurial enterprises. “Through the Grace of God.... *The Brookwood Community provides an educational environment that creates meaningful jobs, builds a sense of belonging, and demands dignity and respect for adults with special needs*.  And we are blessed to go there. Come join us!

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**Dec. 14th  IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE  Jimmy Stewart**

Friday Night Movies begin at 6:00 PM in Grace Place with a catered meal, followed by commentary by Debbie Shelley and screening of the film in the Chapel at 7:00 PM; please don’t be late! All films will have closed captioning.

Reservations can be made in the Narthex before and after the 9:30 service for the two Sundays preceding the film. The cost is $10 per person (cash, please – no checks), payable when you register. A few reservations may be available by calling Debbie Shelley at 281 370-7345 (no guarantee); however, reservations paid for at the door are $12 per person. Popcorn and candy will be available for a donation outside the Chapel before the film.

While Northwoods is pleased to provide you with Movie Night, your help is needed to make it happen. When you register for a movie, please consider volunteering a few minutes of your time for that movie by taking reservations in the Narthex, picking up the food, helping set up for dinner, cleaning up after dinner, making popcorn, etc. With just a little help from you, we can continue to make Movie Night possible.

Thank you. We look forward to another season of fun, fellowship, food, and – of course – movies!!
MISSIONS

Ministry

Share Life with Others – Give Blood

Thank you for those who gave in our last blood drive. Your donations have the potential to save over 100 lives! Donate at our next Blood Drive December 2nd, 8:00-12:30. Make an appointment in advance at the sign-up table in the Narthex the previous two Sundays or by calling/e-mailing Melissa Ross at 281-353-1042; msrzpr@swbell.net

You can also help out by volunteering at our drive or providing snacks for our donors. If interested in helping out, please sign up on your connect card at church or call/email Melissa Ross.

World Crafts Store Open Each Sunday for Your Holiday Shopping!

Whether you are gifting others or treating yourself, you’ll want to come by and check it out. The perfect item is waiting there for you – home decorative items, jewelry, fashion accessories, food items, the world’s best coffee (both regular and decaf!) and so much more! 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. And all the profits go back to the artisans in emerging countries. Hope and justice with every purchase! Definitely a win-win for everyone! Cash, checks and MasterCard/Visa are happily accepted.

Next Golden Gathering is on Thursday, December 20th

Each month, Northwood volunteers throw a theme party with fun, music, entertainment, and lunch. Enjoy the morning and befriend our "Care Partners" who have early dementia/Alzheimer's. Your time allows their caregivers some precious free time for themselves. Golden Gathering is held the 3rd Thursday of every month and volunteers are asked to be there from 9:45am-1:15pm. Sign up any month on your connect card or send an email to davidpuig@northwoods.org.
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. Here is a list of our Giving Tree organizations for this year:

- Toys
- Habitat House
- New Winter Shoes
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- Bonding Against Adversity
- Baskets for Homebound Seniors
- The Heifer Project
- Home of Hope

When you donate to one of these 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. Last minute collections at the church office on Monday, December 17th.

Help the NAM Pediatric Health Center

The NAM Pediatric Health Center was started by Dr. Susan Gardner, a former Northwoods member, and helps hundreds of children and teens by providing quality medical care to infants and children through age 18. If so moved, your donation can be done online: https://northwestassistanceministries.nationbuilder.com/2018_make_your_mark (just copy and paste)
PYCC Youth Rally: On November 11th Northwoods youth attended this year's PYCC Youth Rally. It was an amazing day of worship, service, and fellowship together - we loved getting to reconnect with our friends from churches in our presbytery! Our PYCC reps: Sadie, Emma, Max, and Connor did such a fabulous job of helping lead the day. Our adult PYCC reps: Leah McFadden and Rob Trennel work so tirelessly all year with PYCC and their hard work shows beautifully. We would love for you to join us next year!

As the holidays draw closer, here’s some important info you need…

There will be a Christmas party at the Ham house for our youth and adult volunteers on Saturday, December 8th. It’s an open house so feel free to drop by anytime between 1-3:30pm. Please contact Chelsea if you have any questions or would like more information.

As the new year draws closer there are so many wonderful opportunities for our students to get involved at Northwoods- one of the big ones is Confirmation class. If you or your student (8th grade and up) have never been confirmed and would like to, please contact Chelsea (chelsea@northwoods.org) to sign up.

Winter Retreat is also almost upon us! January 4-6 our students are heading to spend a weekend together- connecting and drawing closer to God. We would LOVE for your student to join us! The cost for the weekend is $140 and you can sign-up with Chelsea.
Thank you!

Golf Tournament:
What an amazing show of support for the 7th Annual Northwoods Golf Tournament! We were able to raise over $16,800 toward our goals of supporting Northwoods Youth Ministry and Boy Scout Troop 331. During this season of being grateful, we would like to express our sincere thanks to all who made the event a success: sponsors, silent auction donors, golfers, participants and volunteers. We could not have done this without you!

Thank you!
For the month of November, we studied the connection between cooperation and God’s character, as shown through His big story. Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God. God created us to work together in community. We see how God brought people together time and time again throughout the Bible to accomplish something big for him. When we work together, we reflect on what Jesus envisioned for his followers. Our love for one another can point people to him.

Joyful Jams will be starting Sunday, December 2nd, from 11-12 in Grace Place; we will be practicing every Sunday from 11-12 in Grace Place until our family Christmas Eve service. We will be performing several songs and will need speakers to help tell the story of Jesus’ birth. We had a great turn out of over 30 kids last year! Please email me at lindsay@northwoods.org to sign your kiddo/kiddos up! We do have a song that we will be including our preschoolers on, so they are also welcome to join us from 11-11:15!

Parents' Day Out on Saturday, December 8th, from 10 am - 2 pm. There is no cost, and lunch will be included! This would be a great time to get some of those holiday errands completed! Email lindsay@northwoods.org to RSVP!

Children's Ministry is going to be hosting an Advent Celebration that coincides with the Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 1st. We will have games, a bounce house, cookie decorating, and an Advent craft for the kiddos to participate in while volunteers are helping in the Sanctuary.
Northwoods Presbyterian Church
3320 Cypress Creek Parkway
Houston, TX 77068-3688

Next Logger Deadline – December 10th!

Return Service Requested

NORTHWOODS WOMEN’S
CONFERENCE 2019
SATURDAY, MARCH 2

“Under the Wings of God:
The Saving Power of Friendship”

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Keatan King, Assoc. Pastor
St. Philip’s Presbyterian, Houston

Registration begins Sunday, February 3