



The Logger

NORTHWOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2019



Merry
CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve - December 24th

4:00 P.M. Family Service

Children sing with glow sticks

7:00 P.M. Traditional Service

Candlelight with choir & harp

9:00 P.M. Contemporary Service

Casual with candlelight & communion

College Sunday - December 29th

One Service at 10:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary

*We encourage everyone to wear their
college gear!*

Church Events

- Dec 4th – Advent Noels start
- Dec 8th – Symphony North Concert
- Dec 8th - Choir Christmas Concert at 9:30 & 11 am (No 8:15 Service this day)
- Dec 15th - Longest Night Contemplative Service
- Dec 24th – Christmas Eve
- Dec 25th and 26th – Church Office Closed
- Dec 29th – College Sunday (One service at 10a.m.)

ADVENT

HOPE PEACE JOY LOVE



Dear Friends,

There always seems to be some road or highway construction going on in the Houston area. Road construction doesn't necessarily look like easy work: tearing up and hauling off the old pavement, filling in the ditches, covering up the holes, working in hot or cold weather. But isn't it nice once the new road is completed?

I think John the Baptist would have enjoyed highway construction. He said, "*Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.*" In a way he was like the foreman of the new Jesus Way project. He was trying to help people get ready for the Lord by helping them make a straight path for God. He was fulfilling the words from Isaiah 40:3-5:

A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

How can you make a straight path for God this Advent season? Are there some valleys in your life that need to be lifted up or some mountains that need to be leveled? Let us open up the avenues and opportunities for God to meet us this Advent season. I think that is one of the reasons why I so look forward to our Advent Worship Services and Christmas Eve Services. We hear again the words of scripture, sing together familiar carols, light candles and see the face of Christ's light reflected on each other's face - - we experience God's presence in our lives!

My hope and prayer is that you and your family will experience hope, peace, joy and love this Advent season. You also might think about someone who is not connected to a church family, and invite them to come with you!

With much love, appreciation and expectation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul".

Dr. Paul Nazarian
Pastor



Congregational Care

Sympathy is extended to Lynn and Bob Riley on the death of Lynn's mom, Jessie Watt McIntyre, on September 19, 2019.

Sympathy is extended to Joaquin and Dolores Gay on the death of their grandson, Mickey Peterson, on October 16, 2019.

Sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Phil Parker who died on October 21, 2019.

Home Communion

If you are unable to attend worship, our elders would love to bring communion to you. On Sunday, December 1st and the following week our elders will take communion to those requesting home communion. This is an extension of the bread and cup we share on Sunday morning, and is a physical reminder that we are one body. If you would like to receive home communion or you are an ordained elder and would like to serve please contact Pastor Ann Marie (281-444-8861 or



Contemplative Service

Especially for those seeking light in dark times

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 15th, 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 9th (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 10th) 1:00-2:30 in Oasis

December 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:45 Tai Chi ESL 10:30 & 6:30	9:30 Bible Study 12:00 Advent Noel 7:00 Yoga	ESL 10:30 & 6:30 9:30 Presby Women 10:00 Spanish	9:00 Quilters 9:30 Coffee Talk 10:30 Classics Class	8:00 Quilters
8 No 8:15 Service Today Holiday Music Event @ 9:30 and 11am Services 4:00 Symphony North Concert	9	10 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:45 Tai Chi 10:00 Discovery Women ESL 10:30 & 6:30	11 9:30 Bible Study 12:00 Advent Noel 7:00 Yoga	12 ESL 10:30 & 6:30 10:00 Spanish 7:00 Men's Bible & Brew	13 10:30 Classics Class	14
15 8:00 Blood Drive 7:00 Longest Night Contemplative Service	16 6:30 Session Meeting and Dinner	17 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:45 Tai Chi ESL 10:30 & 6:30	18 9:30 Bible Study 12:00 Advent Noel 7:00 Yoga	19 ESL 10:30 & 6:30 10:00 Golden Gathering 10:00 Spanish	20 10:30 Classics Class	21
22	23	24 4:00 Family Service 7:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Contemporary Service	25  MERRY CHRISTMAS Church Office Closed	26	27 10:30 Classics Class	28
29 College Sunday One Service at 10 am.	30	31 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:45 Tai Chi ESL 10:30 & 6:30				

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 Room
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

1 Corinthians	9:30 AM Room 211
Biblical Literature	10:00 AM Conf. Room
Book of James	11:00 AM Room 211
Contemporary Issues	11:00 AM Chapel

Weekdays

Mondays

AA	12:00 PM Room 404
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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

RheumaTalk (2nd Tuesdays)	1:00 PM Oasis
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SAA

	6:30 PM Room 404
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Wednesdays

Biblical Literature Study	9:30 PM Room 211
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AA

	12:00 PM Room 404
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Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM Choir Room
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Youth Group	6:00 PM Yth. Bldg.
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Yoga	7:00 PM Room 211
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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
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AA	12:00 PM Room 404
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SPOTLIGHT

ON SAFETY



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Did you know that there is a 30-1 greater chance to have a serious medical emergency in a church than an act of violence? Do you know what to do in case of such an emergency? Below are some key steps to follow. When someone is in a medical emergency, a quick response is

In case of an emergency at church:

- **Call 911**
- Give church address and entrance
3320 Cypress Creek Parkway,
Houston, TX 77068; 281-444-8861
- Stay with individual; stay on the line
- Start CPR if not breathing – 100Xminute
- Send someone for AED or first aid kit if needed
- Tell staff member – provide privacy
- Pray for the best outcome

AED Location:

- **On the right side of the Journey doors**
- **Between the restrooms in the Narthex**

First Aid Kit location:

- **Narthex & Main kitchen**
- **Welcome Centers in Narthex & Fellowship Hall**
- **Work room in Office Bldg**
- **Youth Bldg/ Childcare room**

**Church is on the Northeast corner of
Cypress Creek Pkwy and T C Jester**

This information is also available on a small card at the welcome centers or the church office if you wish to take one with you.

MISSIONS *Ministry*

Missions Biblical Challenges: TO TREE, OR NOT TO TREE?

Many Christians question the meaning of the Christmas tree, since its origins are not biblical. However, the symbol of the evergreen fir tree, which indeed was originally been used to celebrate winter pagan festivals, has become an irreplaceable element of our Christmas celebrations. It is believed that the first person to bring a Christmas Tree into a house, in the way we know it today, may have the 16th century reformer Martin Luther. He was believed to have been awe-struck by the scene — on a crisp, clear winter's night walk of bright stars twinkling through evergreen branches. It was so beautiful, that he went home and told his children that it reminded him of Jesus, who left the stars of heaven to come to earth at Christmas. He was the first to add candles to such a tree as decoration because he wanted Jesus' light to shine on his family as well. There were German immigrants who brought the tradition of the Christmas tree to the US in the XIX Century. Although they were openly decried by Puritans declaring such 'heathen symbols' demean the sacred holiday, our society has eventually given the Christmas tree an important place in our Christmas celebrations. We in Northwoods celebrate this old Christmas tradition through our Giving Tree. It becomes for us not just an ancient and beautiful tradition, but the way we can show solidarity and compassion with those who need our help most, whether homeless, homebound seniors, children with no beds or immigrants. And so, I believe we are challenged every Christmas through our Giving Tree to give those people in return what God has given to us. At the end, we all can rejoice and celebrate Jesus' birth around the evergreen fir tree, a symbol of God's everlasting love because immigrants decided to bring this tradition to our country. To tree or not tree, that seems to be the challenge for us on Christmas.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR MISSIONS PARTNERS:

Bonding Against Adversity (BAA): "Helping Others Help Themselves"
From the formation of Bonding up to today, Bonding has recognized one of the greatest needs in Texas is assistance for Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) who are qualified to become United States citizens. In 2010, BAA initiated healthy living and citizenship assistance programs. All were designed to provide education and assistance to these underserved communities. In 2014 there were 20 classes held in several different organizations, hosting 800 participants. There are more than eight million lawful permanent residents in the United States. The goal is to help those in our community reach the goal of citizenship by removing the barriers and complete the citizenship process. Bonding Against Adversity provides citizen workshops, citizenship preparation classes, and parenting education programs. Additionally, it also provides fee-waiver assistance and attorney consultations throughout the immigration process. Through these efforts, Bonding assists more than 1200 LPRs per year in becoming U.S. citizens. Go to <https://baatexas.org> for more information and to see how you might get involved.

Mission Ministries Events

Sundays
Nov 24-Dec 22
Giving Tree
Collections

Mondays
December 2-30
Habitat Restore
Weekly Work
Team

Sunday
December 15
Blood Drive

Thursday
December 19
Golden Gathering

Tuesday
December 31
Make/Serve
Lunch for 1960
Hope Center

Merry Christmas,
Happy Holidays
and New Year!

See you in
January 2020
with new exciting
opportunities to
serve in our
community...





As I write this, it's 74 degrees outside. By the end of the day, it's going to be in the thirties. On my weather app on my phone, starting around 5pm, the icon is:



Apparently we will have no sun, no clouds, no rain, no color to the sky. Just whooshing wind. (Of course, we *know* this won't be the case. There will be sun, and maybe clouds, and maybe rain, and the sky will have color, be it blue or gray or sunset golden pinks and purples, or deep black.)

So, why write about whooshing wind emojis in a Music & Worship column? Because, ready or not, the season is changing, and we are whirling our way into Advent: some of us in the clouds, some of us in a full deluge of life, some of us filled with blue-sky spirit, others of us surrounded by the dark of night.

And what gives me hope in the midst of the whooshing wind is our body of believers, this family of faith at Northwoods, where we are able to find a way to the manger, walking alongside someone who is where we are, or has been where we are, sharing in our joy, our sorrow, our pain. I wish you grace and peace in this new season, and I wish you the wonder of the miracle birth.

Musically speaking, the BIG news for December is that on Sunday, December 8th, our music groups will combine to present a special music cantata in worship at both 9:30 and 11:00 (both services taking place in the Sanctuary). There is no 8:15 service that day. The cantata features the Sanctuary Choir, the Journey Band and Vocalists, Todd Nolde on piano, Leslie Keig on cello, and Steve Dunn on French horn, with Pastors Paul and Ann Marie narrating. In addition, our new handbell choir will kick off both services with seasonal music. (And, a little birdie told me there will be holiday cookies between the services.)

Sunday evening, December 15th at 7pm is the time for the "Longest Night" contemplative service. This introspective, serene candlelight service is held in Fellowship Hall, offering centering prayer and music for those seeking a deeper spiritual time or those in need of peace and healing from emotional wounds.

Advent Noels (30-minute holiday concerts) are on Wednesdays at noon on the 4th, 11th, and 18th, followed by a soup and salad lunch. These events are free.

Three Christmas Eve services will be offered again this year: at 4pm (Family), 7pm (Traditional, with Choir and Harp), and 9pm (Contemporary).

Blessings,
Jennifer Klein Salyer
Director of Music and Worship
jennifer@northwoods.org

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

ADULT *Ministries*

MIDWEEK CLASSES

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

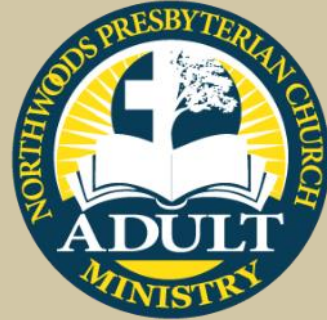
Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m., Room 211

Led by Pastor Paul

ESL CLASSES

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Rooms 213 & Scout Bldg.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m., Room 211

Led by David Puig

Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation

SPANISH CLASS

Thursdays at 10:00 a.m., Rooms 211 and Oasis (231)

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. Western Literary Canon in Context. The lectures include a couple from the bible, some of the ancient Greek authors to modern English authors.

SUNDAY CLASSES

BIBLE STUDIES

1 CORINTHIANS—Led by David Gordon

9:30 a.m. in Room 211

NARRATIVE BIBLICAL STORIES THAT HAVE SHAPED YOUR FAITH— Led by David Puig

10:00 a.m. in Conference Room

STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JAMES— Led by Tom Franklin

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 December's programs.

Dec. 1st and 8th - *The Christmas Story As Seen through the Eyes of Isaiah and Matthew*, presented by Tom Franklin, teacher of a Sunday morning Bible class. For these two Sundays Contemporary Issues and Tom's Bible Class will meet together in this special Advent observance. On Dec. 1st, join us in the chapel for the first of this two series Bible study .

Dec. 15th - *Finding Joy in EVERY Season.*

Member Carmalyn McCracken (www.yougotjoy.com), as joyous a person as you will find, will speak as to what makes for joy, drawing on her rich experience working with people as a Life Coach and seminar speaker. Note that "joy" is one of the special blessings we celebrate during the pre-Christmas Advent season.

Dec. 22nd and 29th - *NO CLASS. Happy Holidays!*

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LOOKING AHEAD:

Jan. 5, 2020. Start the new year off right. Attend the Contemporary Issues Class for an educational program on preventing strokes, led by nurse member of our congregation, Sandy Roberts.

DISCOVERY WOMEN

December 10, 2019

You will not want to miss the Discovery Women's meeting December 10, 2019!

Cretora Biggerstaff, a member of Northwoods and Discovery Women, will share her "Experiences in Life" as she approaches her 101st year. Cretora will be speaking to us about how things have changed in her lifetime. She will be covering subjects from cars to presidents to phones. And, perhaps most important, why she believes there is a reason she is still going strong.

Come and join us for coffee and goodies on Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. Hope you will plan to stay for lunch and for a time to visit with one another as we share sandwiches from Jimmy Johns.

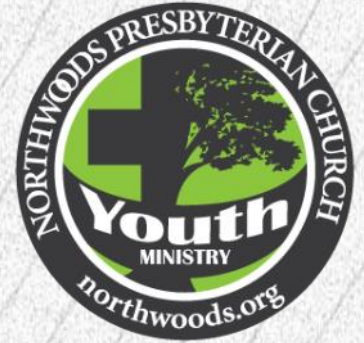
If any questions, contact Barb Owen at 713-252-5655.



YOUTH *Ministries*

Last month saw the youth program in a flurry of activities! We hosted the PYCC Youth Rally, had some mega fun at youth group, and developed stronger community with each other through small groups and games. As we look towards December here's what you need to know is happening:

- December 1st is the deadline to sign up for the High school mission trip to Los Angeles this summer (June 13-19). It costs \$500 and it's going to be a blast! Contact Chelsea for more info or to sign-up.
- We are currently taking sign-up's for Conclaves. Conclaves this year will be March 6-8th and costs \$150. Contact Chelsea for more info or to sign-up.
- The Youth Department Christmas Party is Saturday, December 21st from 1-3pm at Chelsea's house.
- College Sunday is on December 29th! We'd love to have you join us at 10am.



Boy Scout Troop 331 is looking for new members

Boy Scout Troop 331, for which Northwoods Presbyterian is the Charter Sponsor, is in the active part of annual enrollment. If you know of boys around the age of 11 who are moving from cub scouts to boy scouts, or are just interested in outdoor activities, we would love for you to suggest they visit troop 331. We meet on Mondays at 7:15 pm at the church. Please have interested parents contact our scout master Rob Hoffart (Rob@thehoffarts.com). Please check us out on our website www.BSATroop331.com.



Children and Family *Ministries*

Contact Children's Director
Valerie Dunmire
valerie@northwoods.org



Kids Connect cards

At the beginning of the 9:30 service, please fill out a Kids Connect card from the pew for your elementary and preschool kiddos. Have your child bring it to the steps during the Word on the Street so that when we leave for Sunday school we can stay connected with you.

New Sunday school themes for December preschool is "Starry Starry Night" and elementary is "Unboxed"

Family Fellowship -- Families with children in elementary school and younger are invited to join us for Family Fellowship every Sunday after parents pick kids up from Sunday School (about 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.) in the Oasis room. We usually celebrate birthdays in a given month on the first Sunday, so on that day cupcakes are allowed before lunch! To sign up please visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a44abae2aa75-fall>



No Joyful Jam -- There will not be Joyful Jam this holiday season. The 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family service will not involve a full scale performance this year.

"On behalf of the staff and the children, I would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU! to everyone who has been one of our Guest Readers, and those yet to come as well. The children have really enjoyed having special guests come to share stories with them in their classrooms every Tuesday. It is a special treat for everyone and we look forward to your visits every week. -
Bambi McWhorter, Northwoods ELCP Director"

Northwoods Presbyterian Church

3320 Cypress Creek Parkway
Houston, TX 77068-3688

Next Logger Deadline - December 9th!

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spring, TX
Permit No. 361

Return Service Requested

We *Have a* Savior

Join Northwoods this special Sunday as the Sanctuary Choir and Journey band will present a holiday musical event,

We Have a Savior!

This cantata will surely help you enter the Advent Season prepared to Worship Fully.

No 8:15 service this Sunday!

December 8th

9:30 and 11:00 am services

MERRY CHRISTMAS

celebrate the Savior's birth

