

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



**NORTHWOODS**  
Presbyterian Church

We are Christ's Disciples  
Celebrating God's Grace  
Creating Community  
Making a Difference

# A word from our Senior Pastor

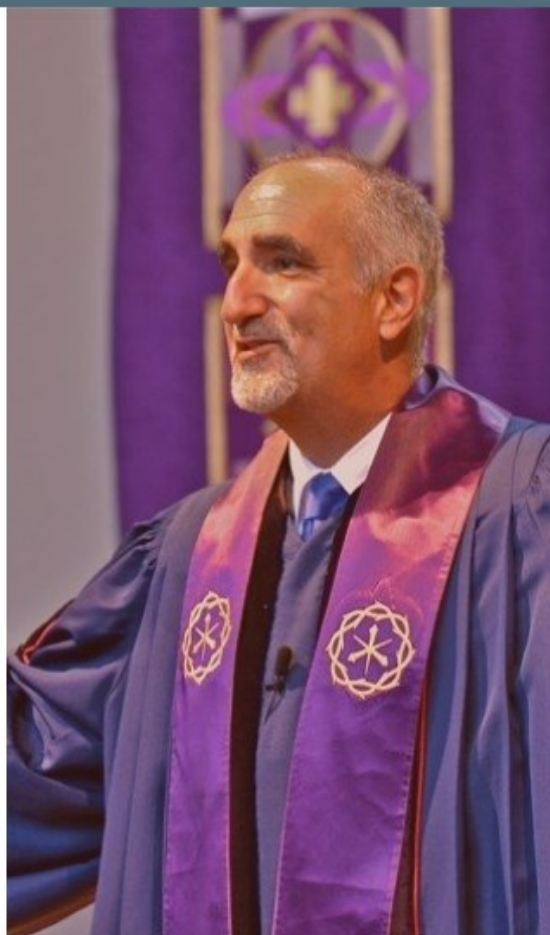
Dear Friends,

Wow! 2020 was nothing like what we expected. The COVID-19 pandemic required an unprecedented shift in ministry. Helping people connect with God and others, when you are supposed to be practicing social distancing, is not easy to achieve. However, in spite of these challenges, our staff and members offered their gifts and abilities to embrace the challenge. And although we thought the pandemic overshadowed our LOOK 2020 Goals, we were still able to accomplish many of the priorities. Our online worship and classes, along with our daily devotionals, are helping people grow and Live their Faith. We have Opened Doors (virtually) and are reaching more people than before the pandemic. We are reaching out to friends and neighbors and seeing them connect with us online. We have Offered Community and now have new people participating in our online classes, daily videos, and devotionals. And we are still Kingdom Building by serving people in need in our church and throughout our community. We even had the greatest Giving Tree Offering ever! Thank you for all your support and encouragement and for affirming the truth that God's Light Still Shines!

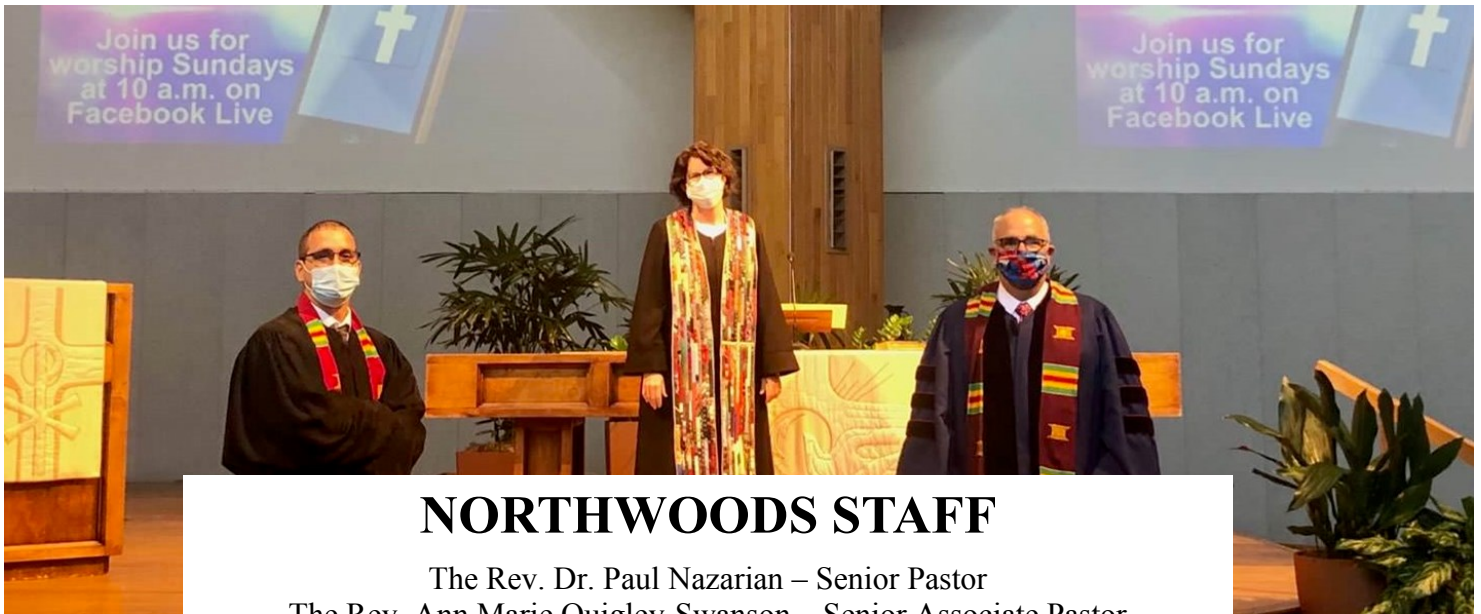
With much love and appreciation,



Pastor Paul







## NORTHWOODS STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Paul Nazarian – Senior Pastor  
 The Rev. Ann Marie Quigley-Swanson – Senior Associate Pastor  
 The Rev. Dr. David Puig – Associate Pastor  
 Maria Aguilar – Janitorial Facilities Assistant  
 Nicole Castillo – Executive Assistant  
 Valerie Dunmire – Director of Children’s Ministry  
 Norma Laughlin – Business Administrator  
 Joyce Leggio – Associate Director of ELCP  
 Bambi McWhorter – Director of ELCP  
 Anthony Mireles – Facilities Director  
 Todd Nolde – Organist  
 Jadon Punch – Facilities Assistant  
 Armando Ramirez- Facilities Assistant  
 Jennifer Klein Salyer – Director of Music and Worship  
 Heidi Smith – Financial Secretary  
 Mary Meghan Thomas – Director of Youth Ministry

## NORTHWOODS SESSION

### Class of 2021

Mike Browning  
 Dolores Gay  
 Ron Ledbetter  
 Margaret Rodriguez  
 Rob Trennel  
 Elaine Wallace

### Class of 2023

Tracy Bean  
 Bruce Green  
 Larry Hitt  
 Nancy Ingram  
 Sandy Roberts  
 Daniel Spencer

### Class of 2022

Sam Andrews  
 Eunise Basquez  
 Roy Eggenberger  
 Jennifer Gutierrez  
 Robert McCracken  
 Connie Saint

### Clerk to Session

Valerie Dunmire

### Treasurer

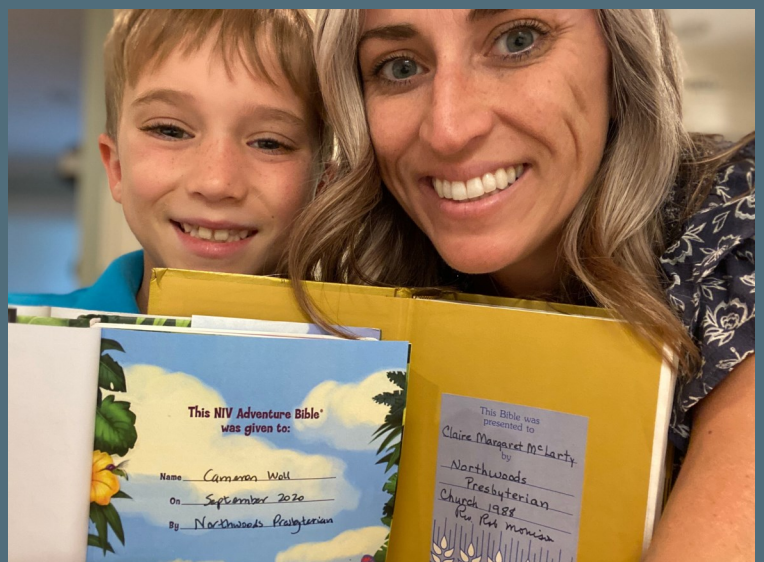
Bill Strange

## MEMBERSHIP DATA

New members	1
Baptisms	-
Death	16
Transfers	-
Dropped	109

Membership	2019	2020
Female	648	585
Male	469	408
<b>Total</b>	<b>1117</b>	<b>993</b>





<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2020 Actual</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>	<b>2021 Budget</b>
Pledges	1,004,129	1,172,735	1,106,500
Non-Pledged	183,447	174,000	175,000
Plate Offering	1,249	10,000	1,500
New Member	9,900	6,000	6,000
Building Use	31,188	40,000	30,000
Miscellaneous	2,818	1,500	1,500
PPP	148,400		
	1,381,131	1,404,235	1,320,500
Special Offerings	76,927	81,000	81,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,458,058</b>	<b>1,485,235</b>	<b>1,401,500</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Missions	138,114	140,424	132,050
Special Offerings	76,927	81,000	81,000
Personnel	868,652	901,361	865,940
Church Office	57,339	65,100	58,400
Worship	15,857	14,340	14,300
The Journey	2,206	10,500	3,575
Property	250,274	203,340	200,745
Congregational Care	987	3,000	2,400
Outreach	1,784	5,600	2,200
Children's Ministry	5,948	9,795	7,795
Youth Ministry	204	6,000	3,850
Adult Ministry	1,973	2,100	1,900
Church Life	5,769	13,025	7,525
Stewardship	17,228	21,150	15,950
Session	945	700	570
Child Care	1,332	7,800	3,300
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,445,539</b>	<b>1,485,235</b>	<b>1,401,500</b>
<b>Excess of Income over Expense</b>	<b>12,519</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>Dec. 31, 2019</b>	<b>Dec. 31, 2020</b>	
Cash	99,271	77,541	
Other current assets	0	0	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>99,271</b>	<b>77,541</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable	98,719	79,516	
Line-of-Credit	0	50,000	
Funds from ELCP	90,928	2,451	
Internal Activity Funds	66,028	94,542	
Due to GEM fund	19,050	13,967	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>274,725</b>	<b>240,476</b>	
<b>OPERATING FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>(175,454)</b>	<b>(162,935)</b>	



# Northwoods Dollars at Work 2020 Benevolences



## Missions Budget

10% of Northwoods Income	138,114
Special Offerings	76,928
	<b>215,042</b>

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA

Presbytery of the New Covenant Support	32,050
PC (USA) Per Capita Apportionment	9,988
PC (USA) Worldwide Mission	3,000
PC (USA) Seminaries	7,000
PC (USA) One Great Hour of Sharing	7,940
Presbyterian Children's Home	1,789
Presbyterian Joy Gift	1,789
Presbyterian Missionary Support	2,000
Presbyterian Peacemaking Offering	750
<b>TOTAL PC (USA)</b>	<b>66,306</b>

## LOCAL

Bonding Against Adversity	1,975
CanCare	1,500
Faith In Practice	3,855
Fe & Justica Worker Center	2,000
Fuller Seminary	2,000
Golden Gathering	736
Habitat for Humanity (NWHC)	5,585
Homeless Ministries	683
Hope Center	4,154
Interfaith Care Partners	3,000
Living Water Intemational	1,480
Make a Difference Day	1,437
Northwest Assistance Ministries	9,223
Northwoods Early Learning Center Scholarships	2,000
Northwoods Mission Operating Fund	1,188
Northwoods Quilting Team	410
Presbyterian Prayers of the People	3,000
Redeemed Ministries	3,055
Sleep in Heavenly Peace	2,500
Soup-er Bowl of Caring	957
United Campus Ministries -U of H	1,000
<b>TOTAL Local</b>	<b>51,738</b>

<b><u>STATE / NATIONAL / INTERNATIONAL</u></b>		
CEDEPCA - Central America		4,500
CUPS Mexico /U.S. Border Grant		2,000
First Presbyterian Church Havana		2,000
Hand in Hand School-Israel		2,000
International Seafarers Center		1,500
Northwoods Staff Trip Leadership/Mission Trips		1,070
Presbyterian Pan American School		2,000
Su Casa de Esperanza		2,000
Texas Impact		3,000
<b>TOTAL State / National / International</b>		<b>20,070</b>
<b>TOTAL MISSION OPERATING BUDGET</b>		<b>138,114</b>
<b><u>SPECIAL OFFERINGS &amp; GIVING PROGRAMS</u></b>		
Giving Tree		
Bonding Against Adversity		4,525
Habitat for Humanity (NWHC)		3,415
Faith In Practice		2,095
Living Water International		5,520
Redeemed Ministries		1,945
Sleep in Heavenly Peace		7,985
NAM Shoes		4,150
NAM Toys		4,860
Christmas Eve Offering		
Presbyterian Joy Gift		2,212
Presbyterian Children's Home		2,212
SOS Food Drive		8,325
Soup-er Bowl of Caring - Food Pantry		3,043
One Great Hour of Sharing		18,160
Designated Mission Giving		1,531
Disaster Relief		6,950
<b>Total Special Offerings</b>		<b>76,928</b>
		<b>215,042</b>

Our Missions Ministry Team funded the listed grants for our Northwoods Benevolences on behalf of our congregation. Most of our Partner Ministries that receive financial support from Northwoods also receive direct, hands-on involvement by servants in our congregation. In 2020, there were some organizations we did not support, but we hope to be able to partner with them again in 2021.

# 2020 Benevolences

*In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

*Acts 20:35*

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Bonding Against Adversity – A Houston based charity that provides assistance to Lawful Permanent Residents, so they can become United States citizens, by hosting free citizenship events and by providing help filling out N400 immigration forms.

\$1,965

**CanCare** - This ministry matches cancer survivors with those who are receiving treatment to provide support and hope. As a partner congregation, we provide benevolent support, and survivors in our congregation serve as CanCare volunteers.

\$1,500

CEDEPCA (Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America) - Presbytery of New Covenant and Northwoods have a long-standing partnership with this ecumenical ministry which is based in Guatemala. Our grant helps support its Women's Ministry with courses that promote the dignity, self-esteem, and leadership of women, the elimination of violence against women, and biblical training.

\$4,500

CUPS Mexico/U.S.Border Grant – Funds will be spent for improvements to a college preparatory high school in a small rural community in Northern Mexico. School staff and community leaders will renovate existing school facilities.

\$2,000

Faith in Practice – Funds will help to support the crucial medical and dental care of Guatemalans who live in extreme poverty stricken areas where medical care is virtually non-existent.

\$3,855

Fe & Justica Worker Center – this ministry provides a safe place for low-wage workers to learn about their rights in the workplace and advocates to improve working conditions. The center, also, attempts to obtain earnings that are due workers from their employers.

\$2,000

First Presbyterian Church of Havana – Our benevolence assists our sister church in Cuba to offer helping outreach ministries to poor families and at-risk children in its surrounding community.

\$2,000

Fuller Seminary Houston– Fuller's School of Theology programs are deeply rooted in Scripture and Classical faith tethered to a robust commitment to the church's mission locally and globally. Several campus locations and primarily online options. Classes are, also, offered in Spanish and Korean,

\$2,000

Golden Gathering (Paused in March) – Our volunteers provide a theme party each month with entertainment and activities for persons with mild dementia, which also provides respite time for caregivers. Our funds support the work of this ministry (\$731) and provided a stipend for our Coordinator (\$3,000).

\$736

Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Harris County - Our Habitat affiliate builds affordable housing for families in need, providing a no-interest mortgage in exchange for "sweat equity" hours. Our funds and volunteers help to build a "dream house" for a deserving family.

\$5,585

Hand-in-Hand School – Northwoods is part of a presbytery effort with the Jewish/Presbyterian Dialogue Group to support a school in Israel that brings together Jewish and Arab children to build a more integrated society. Our funds help to provide a Peacemaking Ministry Associate to work at this school.

\$2,000

Hope Center Houston – The Hope Center (formerly 1960 Community Hope Center) was formed to offer basic human services to our homeless brothers and sisters. At the center, they will find a welcoming atmosphere where they can relax and hang out. The facility offers shelter from inclement weather, clean restrooms, hot showers, a laundry, lunch and other necessities. Beyond the temporary basic needs, there are also mental health providers, support groups, and life coaches to help the men and women get out of homelessness. Teams of NPC women prepare and serve a meal once a month.

\$4,154

Interfaith CarePartners - This ecumenical ministry oversees congregation-based care teams that minister to families caring for older loved ones. Our grant helps to cover the costs associated with these caregiving programs such as our Golden Gathering and Second Family Ministry.

\$3,000

International Seafarers Center Houston - The Houston International Seafarers' Centers are a "home away from home" for seafarers visiting the Port of Houston. There is a team of ministers on duty, including two Presbyterian chaplains, and our grant helps to pay the salary of these two chaplains.

\$1,500

Joy Gift - The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Our Christmas Eve offering is split between the Joy Gift and the Presbyterian Children's Home. This amount represents additional funds sent from our operating budget.

\$1,789

Living Water – Living Water International exists to demonstrate the love of God by helping communities acquire desperately needed clean water, and to experience "living water"—the gospel of Jesus Christ—which alone satisfies the deepest thirst.

\$1,480



Make a Difference Day – NPC’s Annual Day of serving around our community as well as globally. We place great value on giving not only money to support ministry to others but giving our time and ourselves to service.

\$1,437

Northwest Assistance Ministries - Our ecumenical coalition provides services to meet the basic needs of persons in Northwest Harris County. In addition to our \$4,000 pledge as a Covenant Congregation, our \$3,000 grant for the Pediatric Health Center at NAM. The PHC offers high quality medical care to children of all ages.

\$9,223

Northwoods Early Learning Center Pre-School – We provided scholarships for disadvantaged children of two families to attend our pre-school. Families go through an approval process and pay a portion of the tuition.

\$2,000

Northwoods Mission Operating Fund - Our operating account covers expenditures such as mission project supplies, study materials, supplies to help the homeless, and NPC member assistance.

\$ 232

Northwoods Mission Leadership – Our Pastors and Missions Director provided leadership for our mission trips and international partnerships.

\$1,070

One Great Hour of Sharing –One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Typically collected as a special offering during the season of Lent, this amount represents additional support sent from the operating budget.

\$7,940

Peace and Global Witness Offering – Northwoods helps to support peacemaking programs and efforts of our Presbyterian Church (USA).

\$750

Prayers Of the People (POP) – The primary focus of POP is providing spiritual care to patients, families, and healthcare professionals in the healthcare systems with whom it partners. Lay Ministers are trained to provide spiritual care, and offer prayer and solace to those in need. The presence of God can provide peace and comfort to those coping with the challenges of illness such as disruption from daily life, varying levels of isolation, and suffering.

\$3,000

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - As a connectional church, Northwoods helps to support the ministries, missions, and work of our denomination. Our funds support Presbytery of New Covenant; Synod of the Sun, and PC(U.S.A.).

\$42,038

Presbyterian Children’s Home.-- Funds are to support our Houston Programs including foster care, maternity services and adoption, our Child and Family Program, and our Single Parent Family Program. Our Christmas Eve offering is split between this organization and the Joy Gift. This amount represents additional funds sent from our operating budget.

\$1,789

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Missionaries – Funds are provided for undesignated missionary support. Our missionaries all across the globe can respond to urgent requests for mission personnel.

\$2,000

Presbyterian Pan American School – Is a Christian, international, college-prep, boarding school in Kingsville, TX. The school has strong relationships with several countries throughout the world who send their students to PPAS.

\$2,000

Presbyterian Seminaries – Our grant of \$3,000 each supports the Austin Presbyterian Seminary and University of the Redlands Graduate School of Theology. An additional \$1,000 supported the Theological Education Fund that combines gifts from Presbyterians for students at Presbyterian seminaries throughout the U.S.

\$7,000

Sleep in Heavenly Peace – SHP is the only charity providing bunk beds to children who do not have a bed of their own. Gary Akin, started this chapter and many Northwoods members are helping to build and deliver beds including all the bedding.

\$2,500

Redeemed Ministries – This organization offers restoration services to adult survivors of domestic sex trafficking with a trauma-informed holistic healing program. Redeemed owns and operates an 8-bed restoration house in the Houston area for women. The house is a place of healing and hope for the journey ahead.

\$3,055

Souper Bowl of Caring – Souper Bowl of Caring is a nationwide, grassroots movement utilizing Super Bowl weekend to mobilize youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. A special offering is taken on this designated Sunday to benefit local area hunger-relief charities, including the Houston Food Bank. This amount represent additional funds sent from our operating budget.

\$ 957

Su Casa de Esperanza - This Presbyterian ministry improves the lives of families in the south Texas border region by providing prenatal education, after-school programs, parenting skills, health care, nutrition, and basic job skills. Our grant supports the Early Childhood Development Program to provide parent education and family support in order to give their children the best possible start in life.

\$2,000

Texas Impact – This statewide religious grassroots network works to advance state public policies that are consistent with universally held social principles of religious traditions, serving as a voice for the voiceless.

\$3,000

United Campus Ministries of Greater Houston – This campus ministry, sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), uses our benevolence to help sustain this presence on area campuses as they minister to students, faculty, and staff.

\$1,000





## 2020: A YEAR IN REVIEW

The frustrations of the pandemic did not stop the work of ministry at Northwoods. We worked to find new ways to reach out, create community, and engage our members and guests. Worship went online only and the church campus closed in March. We offered our first hybrid worship service in October, allowing a limited number of pre-registered worshipers to attend in-person, while the bulk of our worshipers continued to worship online. Without question, the online worship experience could not have advanced without the early efforts of Carmalyn McCracken and the continued efforts of Joe Foster and Mike Browning. We upgraded the computer system for Worship and acquired two high-tech cameras made for streaming, which further improved our online services and allowed for greater participation and representation in our worship services. Choir and band volunteer musicians quickly adapted to new technology, allowing our staff to provide high quality musical variety in the worship experience.

As a new way to engage, Northwoods developed a daily online presence on Facebook, offering devotionals and special themed video messages. Adult, Youth, and Children's ministries turned to Zoom, offering opportunities for Christian Education and creative fellowship. Congregational Care regularly reached out through phone calls and written communication to our members. Church Life events continued virtually- including Wine & the Word and Book Club. With a closed campus for the bulk of 2020, the Facilities staff was able to undertake numerous property improvement. Another project we undertook was to move our database and accounting systems to a new church management software- Realm. This not only allowed a platform for staff to work remotely if necessary, it opened up the possibility for members to have access to their own profiles and also be able to have a directory that is updated in real time.

While many things were different, we were still able to safely carry out some events like Make a Difference Day and Day of Renewal. The Advent Noels tradition continued- modified to exclude lunch and increase the length of each concert- bringing much joy to our online and in person attendees. The choir, band, children and special guests created a memorable virtual Christmas concert.

Early in the year, we were able to highlight and celebrate The Rev. Ann Marie Quigley-Swanson and her 15 years as a Pastor at Northwoods. In August, Northwoods said farewell to Chelsea Ham as she accepted a call to serve as pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Dinuba, California, and welcomed Mary Meghan Thomas as the new Director of Youth Ministry.

As we look ahead to 2021, we know our ministry at Northwoods is forever impacted by the happenings of 2020. We witnessed first hand how meaningful it is when our community reaches out to each other in love and care and concern. We experienced how much bigger The Church is than our campus walls, as we welcomed worshipers from all over the country every Sunday, and even from other countries for some of our special concert events. While we still will grapple with the pandemic well into the new year, we are assured of God's faithfulness to us and of our ability as a church body to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community and beyond, whether in person or virtually.





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