

Easter Joys Abound

What a morning it was! My heart was filled with joy as we celebrated Easter on the lawn at Northwood. Seeing so many of you, many for the first time in a year, brought me great joy, as we worshiped and came to the Table together. After the honor of serving as your interim pastor, my joy was doubled by your outpouring of love and appreciation for Betty and me. I was overwhelmed. Betty and I spent the afternoon eating cake, reading your farewell cards, and being blessed again. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you for all these blessings and especially for our generous gift card. Betty and I will enjoy a special dinner out and be thinking of you. We miss you already, and I am sure next Sunday will be a more difficult day for us.

I am so glad that excitement for your new pastor is growing. I believe God has great things in store for you. As we part for now, I leave you with this charge: Remember who and whose you are, for you are children of God and friends of Christ; continue to build up the love and respect you have for one another, in this way others will know that you belong to Christ; always be doing something to enhance your personal spiritual growth; and seek to be the fragrance of Christ in a world that too often is mean, and messy, and downright stinky.

May God, out of God's great bounty, richly bless you and your ministry at Northwood Presbyterian Church.

Blessings,

Pastor Dick



Session Report for March

Session met March 23, moderated by Pastor Dick. Training continued with elders offering their perceptions of ways Northwood improvised, adapted or overcame obstacles related to Covid.

Two motions were previously approved by e-vote. The Safety Team recommended that NPC reopen its doors for in-person services starting on March 28. The annual congregational meeting is called for March 21 following worship, to be held via Zoom.

Pastor's Report, presented by Pastor Dick Kreutzer. The church will now be open 1-4 p.m. Monday – Thursday. Masks are required to enter the church building.

Buildings and Grounds Report, presented by Jennifer Rivera, chair. Information and cost were shared regarding new security doors to be controlled by electronic cards. Session members shared concerns regarding access and safety. Motion was approved to ask Jennifer to have further discussion with the Safe Church Team regarding the door security and how to better inform the congregation.

Mission and Service Committee Report, presented by Elizabeth Hewins, chair. Northwood will participate in a 21+-day food drive starting Easter Sunday and continuing through April 30. Members are asked to bring collected food to the church on Sunday, May 2 for delivery the next day.

Pastor Nominating Committee, presented by Elizabeth Hewins, member. The PNC moved to call a Congregational Meeting on April 18 present the terms of call for the pastor candidate chosen by this team. Motion was approved.

Congregational Concerns and Communications, presented by Sheron Antczak, chair. A member offered to donate a 4-foot Celtic cross to be installed on the church grounds. The motion was approved; the cross was accepted with thanks and has been installed outside on the Urban Crest side of the building, under the stained glass windows.

Notes of thanks

Thank you so much friends and family for the cards, calls, prayers, plants and visits. Your acts of kindness have been many and they have touched my heart and that of my family. There is never a good time to lose your mother and this terrible snow and ice storm was no exception. It made the physical act of getting to and from the hospital really difficult and trying to explain to mother why I wasn't always there even more so. We will lay her to rest at Ft. Sam Houston on April 21st and we will have her memorial service on June 1st at San Pedro Presbyterian Church as her final Birthday celebration of her life. Thank you again for your support. Much love, Libby Overholt

Dear Northwood Family and Friends there aren't enough words to express my love, thank you, appreciation and support you have given Allison and me during this difficult time. My faith is strong, but the love and prayers from each and every one of you are what has kept me motivated and going. As I've have said many times "He was 98 years young and we have been married 44 years. I have nothing to complain about." He loved our Northwood family and I will be forever thankful for all you have done to enrich our lives. God bless all of you! Jane Wright

Bread for the World! Have Faith, End Hunger



Elizabeth Hewins, Mission and Outreach chair

At our recent Mission Presbytery meeting, I heard Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, talk about the Matthew 25 program. She concentrated on one of the three areas of the Matthew 25 program—eradicating system poverty. You may be surprised to learn that 25 percent of children under 6 now live in poverty! One of the by-products of poverty is food insecurity. In Texas, 4,217,470 people are struggling with hunger - and of them 1,658,680 are children! We have all seen videos of the long lines of cars waiting at the San Antonio Food Bank. Northwood Presbyterian CAN do something to help with the problem of hunger in our own neighbor. As many of you know, Northwood has long been a supporter of the Agape Ministries—we have filled the little blue box in the Narthex, and several of our members faithfully take the contents over to Agape. Several of our members routinely volunteer time at Agape. If you recall, we filled the Narthex with food during Advent. Now it's time to do it again! Your Mission and Service Committee is having another food drive.

Agape Food Boxes

Find a big box for your family! In the ensuing **28** days starting Easter Sunday, April 4, place one item from the list below in your box—you will need a big enough box to hold all the suggested items (and a few extra if you are so inclined). On Sunday May 2, bring your box to church! There will be volunteers there from 10:30-2:00 to take your box. We will deliver the boxes to Agape on Monday, May 3. Agape helped develop this list of items, based on items they know their customers routinely need. All items are “shelf-stable” and nutritious and popular meal “hits.” In the meantime, don't forget the little blue box in the Narthex for other items as Northwood begins to open for in-church worship. Shelf-stable foods, as well as household items and clothing are always welcome. Every Sunday is “undie Sunday”!

Questions? Call Elizabeth Hewins!

Food Items List

Cranberries (canned whole or jellied)	Canned corn	Cat/Dog food (don't forget the pets!)	Oatmeal
“Stove Top” stuffing	Canned vegetables	Peanut butter	Pasta
Potato Flakes	Bread mixes	Macaroni & Cheese	Spaghetti sauce (canned)
Potatoes (white or yams)	Cake mixes	(boxed)	Canned or packaged soups
Canned Yams/Sweet Potatoes	Rice	Canned fruits	Mixed nuts
Canned pumpkin	Beans (canned or packages)	Canned tomatoes	If you want to wait until the few days, you can add fresh Apples or Oranges
Canned beans	Cereals	Canned tuna	
	Dried/powdered milk	Crackers (boxed)	

Be creative—if you think of other items, add them in—just be sure they are shelf stable and nutritious. If you are interested in volunteering to collect and/or deliver the boxes, let us know. Thank you Northwood for your generosity and love!

Day School welcomes spring

by Martha Sherrod

Spring has sprung and new flowers and plants have been planted around the Day School. The children are enjoying more time in our outdoor learning environment! It is wonderful to be outside and learning!



April is the Week of the Young Child and the Day School will be celebrating. The Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the world's largest early childhood education association. The purpose of WOYC is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. The WOYC was first established in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through 8 years) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later in life. The WOYC is a time to plan how we – as citizens of a community, a state, and a nation – will better meet the needs of all young children and their families. As a high accredited childcare center, Northwood Day School certainly plays a huge role in preparing our children for success in their future!

The teachers at the Day School have begun to use the Ages and Stages assessment that we were trained in a couple of months ago. This assessment is helping our teachers better plan for the needs of the children and helps them collaborate with parents to provide the best early childhood education for our children.

Open enrollment continues for the summer and for next school year, so spread the word!!

We look forward to the time when we can once again welcome visitors into the school. Until then we continue to put all safety and health protocols into place. Thank you for your prayers and support of our Day School. Happy Spring!!



PW in April

The Saturday Circle meets April 17, 9:30 a.m.
The study of *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament* continues via Zoom and Elizabeth Hewins has the Zoom link.

The Wednesday Circle also continues to study *Into the Light*, April 14 at 10 a.m. Contact Judy Harris for information about the meeting at Northwood.

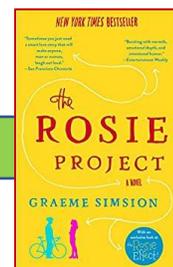
The Monday Evening Circle meets April 12 at 6 p.m. via Zoom. Their study is Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from 1 & 2 Thessalonians*. Contact Sherryl Walsh for the Zoom link.

All women are invited to attend any circle.

Contemporary Book Club

Sunday, April 25, at 6 pm
The Rosie Project
by Graeme Simsion

Everyone is invited!
Judy Harris has
the Zoom link



Easter together! Alleluia!

Goodbye and thank you to Pastor Dick and Betty



Blessed with a beautiful morning to celebrate the resurrection together, members, friends, and families gathered to worship and remained to say goodbye to Pastor Dick and Betty Kreutzer.

Worship Team shared the Good News on our welcome sign.

One member donated a Celtic cross through the Congregational Care Team. It has been installed on the Urban Crest side of the building.

Youth “egged” the yards of members who were not able to attend worship.

The musical tribute with everyone singing to accompaniment by Owen and Debra included “Farewell to Dick and Betty,” “Thanks for the Memories,” and “Bye-bye Betty.”



 By being a part of activities at Northwood Presbyterian Church, you may find your image, voice, or quotes used in our social media, website, or publications.

