



# The Northwester

## News and Notes

### Unity Service

Our next Unity Service will be **Sunday, September 23rd**, at 9:30 AM. Come for a very special time of worship and fellowship in English, Spanish, and Korean. Though our world tries to separate us based on the ways we're different, as Christians we proclaim a gospel that tears down barriers. Don't miss out on being a part of it!

### Hunger Walk

Thanks to everyone who supported our Hunger Walk team! Thanks to the efforts of those who walked and those who gave, we were able to raise over \$2,000 to be put to use to help the food insecure families we serve each Sunday.

As always, thanks for your generosity and support!



### Shults-Lewis Annual Day

Annual Day on Saturday, **September 15th**, is a chance to find out more about the good works going on at Shults-Lewis. There will be craft and food booths, a rummage sale, and a benefit auction. Find out more [here](#)



### Baby Shower

All ladies are invited to a baby shower at the Odums' home for *Robert* and *Natalie Waters* on Sunday, **September 30th**, at 1 PM. They are registered at [www.babylist.com/baby-SweetWaters](http://www.babylist.com/baby-SweetWaters). Hostesses are Michell Bain, Colette Blakely, Jan Okey, and Laura Odum.

## Gathering Times

### Sunday

Worship (English, Korean)	9:30 AM
Bible Study (All)	11:00 AM
Worship (Spanish)	12:00 PM
Worship (English)	4:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Study (All)	7:30 PM
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## Upcoming Events

### September

- 15** Shults-Lewis Annual Day
- 23** Unity Service (9:30 AM)
- 30** Baby shower for Natalie and Robert Waters (1 PM @ the Odums')

**Welcome to Northwest!** We're glad you're here today. If you're a visitor, please consider yourself an honored guest.

Please feel free to join in worship this morning to whatever extent you feel comfortable. Please fill out a visitors' card and put it in the offering plate so we can have a record of your visit.

[Sermons are available online.](#)

## Servants

### Help Wanted!

We need volunteers every Sunday to work in our **food pantry** from 1:00 - 3:30.

[Sign up Here](#)

### Winston Manor

9/9/18 Perry Littrell

9/16/18 Javier Herrera, Rene Torres

9/23/18 Clarence Thrasher

### Help Wanted - Communion Prep

Can you prepare communion before the 9:30 worship service?

[Sign Up for a Sunday Here](#)

## Last Sunday

Sunday School 70

AM Worship 138

PM Worship 13

Wednesday PM 31

### Offering

Regular \$ 3,010.00

Orphans' Lifeline \$ 100.00

Budget \$ 5,205.00

## Online Directory

[Click here for the online church directory.](#) See *Patrick* if you need the password.

## Worship Gathering

### 9:30 AM

Singing: Rawn Reinhard

### We Worship Together

841 *Sing and Be Happy*

833 *Ring Out the Message*

834 *Salvation Has Been Brought Down*

Memory Recital — Psalm 23

854 *Holy Father, Grant Us Peace*

436 *Nearer, Still Nearer*

235 *His Eye Is On the Sparrow*

### We Hear the Word of the Lord

Reading: Perry Littrell — Matthew 6:25-34

Sermon: Patrick Odum — *The God Who Sees*

273 *I Know the Lord Will Find a Way*

**Prayer for the Needs of the Church:** Perry Littrell

### We Come to the Table

484 *O Sacred Head*

Communion Meditation: Dylan Hoyer

Table: Tom Rucker, Andrew George, Travis Marsala, Robert Nunoo

**Offering and Announcements:** Perry Littrell

### We Go Out As Witnesses

244 *Hold to God's Unchanging Hand*

Prayer: Robert Waters

### 4:00 Worship

Singing: Dan Allen

Opening Prayer: Matt Bain

Meditation: Perry Littrell

Closing Prayer: Alan Bain

## Patrick's Points

*Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

-Ephesians 5:15-20 (NIV)

A couple of weeks ago, a group of evangelical church leaders was invited to dinner at the White House.

I'm guessing my invitation was lost in the mail. Or maybe I'm not evangelical enough. Or, most likely, I don't have influence on a large enough bloc of potential voters. (Did that sound cynical?)

The — let's call him the Host-in-Chief of the dinner — had some words for the church leaders that were present there. Now, before I go on, let me just promise you that I'll say what I'm going to say again if someone from the other party ever comes out with something like this in a room full of church leaders. But this is the guy who inhabits the White House *now* that we're talking about, and so I'm going to come across as critical of him. So, just get ready for that, or stop reading here if you prefer. And know that I pray for the guy and would like to see him succeed. I just can't do this by without comment, though.

So, again — room full of church leaders. Pastors, teachers, etc. And, really, not leaders of little churches. These are people who have influence. They preach to and teach and are read by large numbers of people every week, some of whom hang on their every word. This is why I take it seriously when the President of the United States invites these folks for dinner and then says the following:

"I just ask you to go out and make sure all of your people vote. Because if they don't — it's Nov. 6 — if they don't vote we're going to have a miserable two years and we're going to have, frankly, a very hard period of time because then it just gets to be one election — you're one election away from losing everything you've got."

He went on to stoke fears of militant action from "violent people" if his party doesn't do well in the midterm elections. He also talked a lot about getting rid of the Johnson Amendment\*, the tax code provision that prevents churches and church leaders from publicly endorsing candidates for office (at the risk of losing their tax-exempt status). You know, that provision that has hardly ever been enforced in 64 years.

"Maybe it's why you are very plateaued. I hate to say it, if you were a stock, you'd be like, you're very plateaued," he said at one point. "They really have silenced you. But now you're not silenced anymore."

Well, that's a relief. We're not silenced anymore. Maybe now the church will be saved.

So I think I'd like to use my "newfound freedom of speech." This will be a little weird, having been silenced for so long, so bear with me. And I think I'll use it to quote some guy whose name I can't quite remember. I mean, he isn't a politician or an evangelical church leader, so how important can his name be anyway. But the quote goes something like this: "My kingdom is not of this world."

Jesus said that (I remember now) while on trial before another politician who claimed to have power over him. In response to Pilate's fear of losing his own power, Jesus answered that power as the world defines it did not interest him in the slightest. The proof, he said, was in the fact that his followers didn't fight by the rules of those who held power in the world, or those who wanted to take it. They weren't confronting Pilate's soldiers. They weren't appealing to Caesar for an audience. The kingdom of which Jesus is ruler isn't concerned with the ways in which the world allocates power. It doesn't care about national boundaries, or party lines, or Imperial governors or Presidents. If the Roman legions couldn't bring down Jesus' kingdom then neither, I suspect, would the IRS.

And our President will never be the savior of the church. We already have one, thanks.

I get why he talks the way he does: decades as the head of a real estate and entertainment empire, and a couple of years in Washington, has taught him how to think about power in our world. It's to be used for personal advantage. It's to be held onto at all costs. When you have it, those who don't have it need your influence on their behalf. And they'll sometimes give a lot of loyalty in return.

The church doesn't need special treatment secured by loyalty to a politician who won't give us anything that he doesn't get back, with interest, in votes and money. We don't need to be able to endorse political candidates in order to have a message to speak in our world — and, in fact, endorsing candidates gets in the way of that message. If you want to do something for *us*, Mr. President, then please do what's right and just for *all* people — and, when you have to choose, *especially* for those on the margins of our world. That's what our King is interested in. That's what his Kingdom is about.

The danger in all this silliness isn't that our President believes that his policies can save the church. The danger is that the *church* might start to believe it. We've shown ourselves as having heads that are easily turned by the temptations of power — either having it ourselves or being close friends with those who do. When that happens, we tend to lose our way. We start thinking, like those influenced by power inevitably seem to, about how to get more, and how to use it to our own advantage. We build empires instead of following our Master in proclaiming God's kingdom and following him in giving ourselves in sacrificial love.

We're not "one election away" from losing what we have. And, if we are, then it isn't worth having. The church has never depended on the world's power brokers to keep it alive, or to keep its "stock" from "plateauing." If we did, I doubt we would have ever gotten past that night when our Lord and Savior stood before Pilate. We say with Paul that our citizenship is in Heaven. We live for the same kingdom for which the One who died for us lived. And we eagerly await a Savior from *there* who will bring about resurrection, renewal, and redemption.

I'm going to use *my* freedom of speech to tell you to vote for whoever your conscience tells you to vote for — or no one, if that's the way you want to show your loyalty to the Kingdom of God. I'm going to tell you that, whenever some politician on either side of the aisle suggests that a vote for him is a vote for God, you should call that what it is. And I want you to know that the price for any favors any politician wants to offer is too high.

We know who the King really is. Why should we care which pretender sits on the throne at the moment?

\*The Johnson Amendment is an amendment to the U.S. tax code, not the Constitution. The President does not have the power to abolish it; President Trump has instructed the IRS not to prosecute violations of it by religious organizations, which they rarely have since the amendment was passed in 1954.

## Prayer Requests

**New Requests and Updates** (Please don't forget to give updates to Diana Allen.)

*James Davis, Laura Odum's* uncle, passed away last week after an illness. Please pray for comfort for his family and Laura's mom, *Edith Blount*.

*Paul LaScola, Patrick Odum's* brother-in-law, is still very sick with gastroenteritis.

*Celeste Rucker's* mom, *Barbara Konczal*, passed away Friday morning after a battle with cancer. There will be a memorial mass for her next Saturday, September 15th, at 10:30 AM at Immaculate Conception Church.

### Ongoing Concerns

Sister *Tomasa Agosto* needs our prayers due to her health issues.

*Brother Baker*, a resident at Winston Manor, has asked for general prayers for Booker T. Houser and family, the Lotts, the Burns, the Taylors, and the Schafers.

*Don Ballarini* asks that we pray for his brother, *Ronald*, who is suffering from dementia and other health problems.

*Hillary Beata* asks that we keep *Rachel*, a member of her parent's church, in our prayers. She is a young mother who was just diagnosed with cancer.

*Wilma Brumley* is grieving the loss of her son, *Daniel*.

*Elida Cano* is still fighting cancer.

*Richard Cooper* has asked that we continue praying for the brethren in Guinea.

*Jennifer Duff's* sister, *Judy Duff*, is still fighting cancer. Jennifer's mother also has some health concerns.

*Carlos Estrada's* friend, *Madeline Badea*, has a degenerative bone disease.

*Barbara Foucher's* cousin, *Jonathan Williams*, has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

*Maria Fuentes*, who lives at Winston Manor, is dealing with severe pain in her back and side.

*Jan Gunter, Jim's* wife, needs some radiation therapy.

*Darrell Hutchens* has moved to Manteno Veterans' Home, Room 423 West, One Veterans Drive, Manteno, IL 60959. Cards are appreciated and visits are welcome.

*Irma Rae* from Winston Manor asks that we pray for issues in her life.

*Cathy Littrell's* aunt, *Diane Shabbing*, has colon cancer.

*Perry Littrell's* brother-in-law, *Joel Dallas*, has three bulging disks in his back.

*Perry Littrell* asks us to pray for *Gilliane Moore*, the sister of a friend of his who was in a car accident. Her son, *Kohen*, suffered skull fractures and brain trauma in the accident. *Gilliane* is in danger of losing an arm.

*Martha Lucunza*, a dear friend of *Susan Thrasher's*, is going through treatments for bone cancer.

*Mary Lynn*, friend of a resident at the Oak Park Nursing Home, has a leg that needs healing.

*Maria* from Winston Manor asks that we pray for her daughter and granddaughter.

*Linda McNeal* is coping with dizziness and other medical issues.

*Linda McNeal's* husband has some health problems.

*Linda McNeal's* nephew, *David*, is beginning chemo for lung cancer.

*Maria McNeal, Linda's* mother-in-law, broke her hip.

*Jay Min* asks for prayers regarding his mother's diabetes.

*Wayne Mitchell* asks that we pray for an improved relationship with his son, *Myles*.

*Gus Ramirez*, a friend of the *Thrasher* family, has been diagnosed with lung cancer.

*Marge Reavis'* sister has been diagnosed with cancer.

*Anabel Rice* is dealing with lupus.

*Celeste Rucker's* father, *Bob Konczal*, is struggling with chronic pain due to scoliosis and arthritis in the lower spine and hip.

*Tom Rucker's* aunt, *Sally Rucker-Dobbs*, is recovering from a recent stroke.

*Tom Rucker's* best friend's niece, *Katie Fearer*, has a large mass in her shoulder, lungs, and spine, and is waiting to be admitted to a cancer center in Houston. Her father, *Zane*, was in a bicycle accident and has multiple injuries, which has left him with no use of his arms. Please keep *Katie*, *Zane*, and their family in your prayers during this very difficult time.

*Vicki Sebela*, *Laura Odum's* cousin, is still recovering from eye surgery, diabetic retinopathy, and breast cancer.

*Herb Sherrod*, a former member at Northwest, is in the process of obtaining a new kidney so he can go off dialysis.

*Mary Smith's* cousin, *Jim Thompson*, fell and broke his hip during physical therapy. *Jim's* brother, *Stan Thompson*, had a stroke recently.

*Donna Stover*, a former Northwest member, is suffering from kidney disease.

*Barbara Thomas* and *Dolores*, both from the Oak Park Nursing Home, ask for prayers for improved health.

*Mike Thrasher* needs prayers for continued guidance and direction in his life and with his Tourette's and OCD.

*Celina Turman* asks that we pray for her mother, who has been in the hospital for blood pressure.

*Eugene Urbaszewski*, *Celeste Rucker's* uncle, has been diagnosed with a form of liver disease.

*Liz Van-Klingerin/Sumner*, *Clarence Thrasher's* sister, has a leaky aortic valve and may need surgery.

*Johnny Vera* asks for prayers for his family, health, and relationship problems.

*Cynthia Webster*, *Barbara Foucher's* sister, is in rehab recovering from a coronary. She is also dealing with kidney and immune system problems brought on by lupus.

*Daniel Williamson*, *Miriam Williamson's* husband, needs our prayer for recovery from his health problems.

*Willie*, a resident of the Winston Manor Nursing Home, has cataracts and glaucoma.

*Don Wood's* sister-in-law, *Jeanette Wood*, has stage 4 lung cancer and is undergoing radiation treatments.