



## Northwest News for August 2023

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### From Your Pastor Search Team

Thanks to all who attended the Conversation on July 23. The team explained the process of making the Congregational Profile and the Pastor Profile. We had a great discussion about our church, where God is leading us, and the commitment we have to seek God's will for NW—nothing more, nothing else, nothing less. The team is beginning a new stage in the transition process. We are training for interviewing and evaluating candidates. We hope to be able to interview candidates soon. We realize that it seems to be a long process, but we are working hard to seek God's will for NW. Please continue to pray for the team, for Matt and Phil as they seek candidates, and for the pastor God has chosen already. Pray for God to encourage and prepare the chosen pastor's heart for NW.

Please CONTINUE to pray for the team. Pray for strength as sometimes the task is daunting; pray for discernment so that we will not "lean on our own understanding" but rely on God. Fixing our eyes on God and seeking God's will for our church is our goal.

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### A Note from Phil

#### A Three-Week Sermon Series

#### "Thirsty For..."

As we read the Gospel of John, we hear the lively accompaniment of water as it sings over the scripture in John's stories. Behind so many scenes is the play and tumbling of water: the Baptizer's River, the six stone jars full of water, the well in Samaria, the pool of Bethesda, the raging sea, washing blind eyes, and the washing of dirty feet. Even when the dead body of Jesus is pierced with a spear blood and water flow out of the One who is "Living Water." Yet, the irony of the symbol of water as Jesus said from the cross, "I thirst," the very source and giver of "Living Water,"

We all thirst for something... Jesus knows and understands our thirsts. Over the next three Sundays we will look at the Samaritan women at the well – thirsty for something more and leaving the brokenness of the past (John 4:1-30); the paralytic at the pool – thirsty for healing (John 5:1-15); and the man born blind –thirsty to see the light even in barren the wilderness (John 9:1- 41).

As we gather for these Sundays during the hot dogdays of August the symbol of water speaks to our physical thirst. Yet even more, have you named or know your thirst that leaves your soul dry and searching? Come join us and invite friends as we come to the well of "Living water."

**August 6 – Thirsty for More – Leaving the Old Behind (John 4:4-15;28-29)**

**August 13 – Thirsty for Healing (John 5:1-8)**

**August 20 – Thirsty for Opening Blind Eyes (John 9:1-11;24-25)**

As you "wade" into these texts in preparing for worship, listen for the sounds of life-giving water flowing over the stories like a subterranean stream. The symbol has varied meanings like at the Pool of Bethesda. Yet, Jesus remains the source, provider, and symbol of "living water" for our deepest thirst. The Psalmist pleads, "My soul thirst for God, for the living God. Where can I go and meet with God?" Take the journey and come to the well... Come to worship... You just might discover what has been missing.

## Personnel News:

Let's get to know Linda Sherry, our office manager and pianist/organist. We are grateful to God for placing Linda in our midst.

Linda Sherry joined the staff of Northwest in August, 2022.

She is a native Oklahoman and grew up in Oklahoma City where she attended Putnam City Schools. She is a graduate of Phillips University and Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa. Linda is a retired Presbyterian pastor who has also had experience working as an educator, church administrator and musician for churches in Oklahoma, Texas, and California. She is the proud grandmother of seven; three of her grandchildren live here in Ardmore.

She is delighted to have the opportunity to be a part of this family of faith and to stay busy in retirement.

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## July Mystery Dinner

Fun was had by all who attended the last Mystery Dinner. We ate at "The Smokehouse" in Lindsay, Texas. It was a bit of a drive for some bouncing around in the van; but the food was delicious, and the fellowship was spectacular. Stay tuned for our next adventure. You will not want to miss because we have such a great time together.



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Visit our revised website:

[nwbcardmore.com](http://nwbcardmore.com)

Share your comments!

## Church Calendar

### **August 6/ Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship

### **August 9/ Wednesday**

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

### **August 13/ Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship  
2:00 p.m. Deacons' Meeting

### **August 16/ Wednesday**

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting  
Finance

### **August 20/ Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship

### **August 23/ Wednesday**

6:00 p.m. Business Meeting

### **August 27/ Sunday**

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
11:00 a.m. Worship

### **August 30/ Wednesday**

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

*Office hours: Monday- Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

Northwest Baptist Church  
1609 Robison St NW  
Ardmore, OK 73401