

# THE LEVITE

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## 10 things

**10 Things**  
Pastors wish you knew

*He gave  
some...*

*Ephesians 4:11*



**Where Can My Pastor Go?**  
He's human too



**My Son, My Pastor**  
That rambunctious son

# FOREWORD

## From the Levite Staff

As a reader of *The Levite*, you are likely a pastor, a preacher, or a lay member. October has been stipulated as pastor appreciation month, and *The Levite* staff and contributors want to take this opportunity to be an encouragement to those who serve in that capacity.

It is altogether appropriate and necessary that we give honor not only to the office but to the man. If we cheapen the office of the pastor by neglecting it or by removing ourselves from under its proper authority, we do damage to ourselves and to God's plan for the Church. Likewise, our maintenance and respect for the man helps us as Christians as well as the occupant of the office.

Since approximately 2002, which marks the most recent beginning of the priest sexual abuse scandals in the Catholic church, the office of pastor has been under heavy assault. Please do not misconstrue this thought and believe that I am drawing parallels with that institution; it is not my intent. The point is that as a result of those priest's actions, the left, the media, and the enemy have used them as an occasion to create a narrative about what it is to be a priest and, by extension, a pastor.


In my reckoning, the world makes no distinction between the priests of those scandals and good priests, nor do they recognize any difference between those priests and our pastors. The enemy wishes for them to paint the whole institution of what they see as the Church with a broad brush as being corrupt and staffed by abusers and not something with which they want to be involved. It is clearly a narrative created by the enemy to discredit the office of pastor and, by extension, to discredit the Church.

Even now, there is seldom a newscast that broadcasts without including a reference to the most recent debacle. Personally, I resent being lumped with that lot, and I think we all should be offended by the insinuation. One way we combat that is to encourage and pray for the men of God that are called to preach and pastor among us. They *absolutely* must be supported in a way that they

will not fail and bring a reproach but instead excel and be used of God. Another way is by venerating and honoring the office of pastor. To many of us this can feel cultish; I understand that. If you feel that way, then the focus is wrong. By lifting up the office of pastor, we are honoring God and the Church. By obeying proper spiritual authority, we are strengthening the Church and lifting up Christ, our High Priest.

In addition to the priest scandals, there are the so-called evangelists that many people encounter by way of the internet or TV. I am speaking of the Benny Hinn, Jim Baker, and Joel Olsteen types that so warp the idea of Christianity. Again, people that have little knowledge and experience with Christianity are likely to apply what they see from these men and their ilk to legitimate Christians and the Church. This is particularly odious to our Pentecostal Holiness pastors as men such as Benny Hinn have TV shows that concentrate on so-called "faith healing" such that the real thing is called into question. My pastor, and those of you reading this, are as far from this as light is from dark. Make no mistake—Satan will always try to raise up a counterfeit in an attempt to throw shade on the legitimate.

We give honor to those of you that are true blue, called men of God. We thank you for the hours of preparation that you spend on every message. Many of you deliver three messages a week *and* teach Sunday School—we thank you for that. Most of you do not earn what you would be worth in the secular world. To be effective, you must have strong ethics, character, and leadership skills, all of which are very marketable commodities that you are choosing to contribute to the cause of Christ—we thank you for that. You have a few hours in the spotlight a week, preceded and followed by untold hours in obscurity laboring in ways that cannot be told—we thank you for that. Mostly, we thank you for living your life in a way that lifts up and gives honor to THE office holder, Jesus Christ. That life is the opposite narrative that never gets

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airtime on the evening news, but it is the antidote to the poison that is being spread and the damage that is being done by the enemy.

We commit to you our support and our loyalty. We are pleased to work with you, for you, and alongside of you on our way to heaven. We dedicate this issue of *The Levite* to you and to The Lord who called, equipped, and appointed you. May He bless you and the Church mightily!



## A PRAYER FOR OUR PASTORS -

Brother Danny Compton

Jeremiah 3:15

*And I will give you pastors according to my heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.*

### Lord, we pray for our pastors that you:

- protect them, their wives, and their children.
- give them congregations of people who will come along beside them.
- give them understanding to be aware of the world but not be of it.
- help them to be concerned but not tolerant.
- help them to care and to be careful.
- help them to deal with disturbances.
- help them to encourage the discouraged.
- help them to teach those who seem unteachable.
- help them to reach the unreachable.
- help them to motivate those who are at ease.
- give them a supernatural ability to love the unlovable.

### Lord, we pray that you help us, the lay members that sit in the congregations of God's church:

- to get behind the vision of the man of God.
- to pray for the man of God consistently.
- to support the man of God and his family.
- to care for the man of God and his family.
- to be a blessing to the man of God and his family.
- to cooperate with the man of God.
- to be loyal to the man of God.
- to be willing to learn from the man of God.
- to honor God and the man He has given to the church.

Thank you, Lord, for our pastors. Reward them richly for their labor of love.

**IN JESUS PRECIOUS NAME, AMEN.**



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## Ephesians 4:11 - And He gave some pastors...

I thought it would be fitting to write an article about the heart of a pastor considering the month of October is officially Pastor Appreciation Month. Here are some sobering facts.

- TEN THINGS EVERY PASTOR WISHES HIS MEMBERS KNEW -**
- 97% of pastors have been betrayed, falsely accused, or hurt by their trusted friends.
  - 70% of pastors battle depression.
  - 7,000 churches close each year.
  - 1,500 pastors quit each month.
  - 10% will retire a pastor.
  - 80% of pastors feel discouraged.
  - 94% of pastor's families feel the pressure of ministry.
  - 78% of pastors have no close friends.
  - 90% of pastors report working 55 – 75 hours per week.

*Pastor David Webb*

The things addressed below may not be applicable to all ministers. However, I am confident that it will ring true with most.

- 1) Pastors wish their people understood how important it is to make church attendance a priority. Sporadic church attendance is the “flu” of the church. It’s not a terminal illness, but it will make the church less than effective.
- 2) Pastors wish their people knew how important it is for them to be prayed up. All church problems and family issues would resolve themselves if people stay prayed up!
- 3) Pastors wish their people knew the importance of responding to the moving of the Holy Ghost. Being engaged during song service, praying during the altar service, holding in high regard a move of God, being concerned and connected is a great encouragement to your leader.
- 4) Pastors wish their people knew how much we need them to grow in the Lord. We want to see them do well, to grow and be all they can be for the Lord! It is a blessing when the congregation is hungry for the meat of the Word.
- 5) Pastors wish their people knew how much they needed to be filled with the Holy Ghost. As pastors, we have great desire to see those who are in our churches receive the Holy Ghost. How much more power the church would have if the members were FULL of the Holy Ghost!
- 6) Pastors wish their people knew how much they are needed to buy into the vision! Church is not a one man/family show! It is a collective effort of God’s people to fulfill His will. You can’t do everything ... but at least ... do something!
- 7) Pastors wish the sheep would be at peace among themselves. Ditch the drama and promote peace. Do everything in your power to let brotherly love continue!
- 8) Pastors wish their people knew how much he loved them! When they lay out... he worries. When they are not dedicated ... he grieves. When they live carnal and uncommitted ... he feels like a failure. When they

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## MY SON, MY PASTOR - *Brother Doug Webb*

### 3 John 1:4 - I have no greater joy than to hear that my child walk in truth.

One of the greatest fulfillments of life for any Christian parent is to have their child to follow them in faith and make Jesus Christ the Lord of their life. Second unto that is to have that same child to dedicate their life to serving the Lord in ministry.

It was a joy as a young father and a young minister to see my rambunctious son get under conviction, go to the altar, and give his heart to the Lord. It was also a joy to see him yield to the call of the Lord to preach the Gospel. It is amazing for me to look back and see that the little boy I once prayed with is now ministering to others in prayer, and that the little guy I once taught the ways of the Lord is now teaching others the same. The little tyke that I comforted when he got bumps and bruises has now become a man of God that reaches out to comfort the hurts of others.

God certainly has a way of working things, doesn't He? I would have never dreamed that my little boy who would use the coffee table for a pulpit, holding his little Bible in one hand and pointing his finger with the other while pretending like he was preaching, would one day become a preacher. But God ordained it to be so! By the grace of God, my son has turned out to be a good husband, a good father, and a prince of a preacher; a man of unquestiona-

ble integrity and outstanding character.

When I consider these things, I am humbled and count myself blessed that the Lord has allowed me to live long enough to see the seed I sowed into my son grow to maturity. I am truly thankful to see him continue the legacy of ministry in our family as a Pentecostal Holiness preacher. As my father was my pastor and, in time, I became his, so I also became my son's pastor, and now he is mine. Therefore, I can say it is an honor to be able to call "My son...My Pastor."



### **Ten Things** - *continued from page 4*

won't get involved... he feels like they don't care. When they don't respond to his preaching, he feels rejected. The tears, fears, and prayers are so numerous it would shock the laity to know the half of what the Man of God carries!

- 9) Pastors wish their people wouldn't give empty excuses. God knows when you have a legitimate reason and when it's just an excuse.
- 10) Pastors wish their people knew we (Pastors) have no desire to dictate people's personal lives but to guide them into green pastures. We preach what we truly believe to be a danger to the flock ... no matter how strange it may seem to the sheep!

God gave you a Pastor to pray for you, preach to you, and be on call 24/7 for your needs. Support them with your best efforts as they lead you in the ways of the Lord. These were just a few things I believe every pastor wishes his people knew!





## THE SHEPHERD AND HIS FLOCK - *Brother Terry Coker*

A pastor is an ordained leader of a Christian congregation. The word "pastor" is a Latin word meaning "shepherd." The shepherd's primary responsibility is the safety and welfare of the flock. The Bible refers to shepherd, sheep, and lambs over 1,100 times.

I believe Christ likened His church to a flock of sheep because of their nature being more like man than any other animal He created. Sheep are noted for being meek, obedient, quiet, gentle, affectionate, clean and for their willingness to follow. They are easily frightened and prone to stray; leading others astray, therefore, they become prey. Sheep cannot live without man, neither can a church survive without a pastor. We are told to "obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls." (Hebrews 13:17) Like sheep, our behavior is not always good. As in all leadership, one of the hardest things to deal with are the different personalities. We all have one...shepherds and sheep.

At times I'm sure our pastors feel as though they are not leading sheep but trying to corral barnyard animals instead. Looking at the nature of a cow, we see them walking the fence, looking for a way out, always thinking the grass is greener on the other side. The goat is forever butting heads and climbing on the back of others to reach a higher position. The mule, with a long face, buries his heels in the dirt and refuses to plow.


The pig feeds on slop and will not stay clean. A rooster loves to strut and continually crows about something, while the hens are always clucking and pecking one another. The dog loves to drag up something that is dead and has been buried. Cats must be petted if they're not napping. Everyone wants to flee when the occasional skunk comes stirring up a stink. This may seem funny, but, sad to say, these characteristics also appear in the church.

However, this should not come as a surprise. Jesus began His ministry with a flock of twelve. They were ordinary men with ordinary personalities. We find in the Scriptures where they were impulsive, emotional, pessimistic, greedy and argumentative. Their carnality was shown in asking their Good Shepherd, "Which one of us is the greatest?" When Jesus needed them most to pray, they fell asleep. He questioned their loyalty when He asked, "Will you also go away?" Although these men had character flaws, Jesus formed them to be the backbone of His Church. But, oh, what a change after receiving the promise of the Holy Ghost! They went far and wide as heralds of the message of the risen Christ. They suffered greatly for their faith, and some met violent deaths because of their bold witness.

The Word of God has the answers we need to combat the problems in our churches. Today we watch as our pastors struggle with hurtful and dis-

appointing issues such as low church attendance. In Hebrews 10:25 we read the warning to "Not forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is..." Then we see no enthusiasm to worship. Pastors seem as though they are endeavoring to lead a pep rally. We are told in I Chronicles 16:29, "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name: bring an offering, and come before Him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Another problem is the lack of commitment. So many are not loyal; they become disgruntled and look for a different pastor and church, but Proverbs 3:6 tells us, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths..." Worldliness is a big failure in our congregations, especially with the younger generation. "For some no longer stand fast and hold the traditions which ye have been taught." (II Thessalonians 2:15) There is also a major need for more evangelism. Luke 14:23 says, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." We must remember sheep beget sheep. Then there is the devastation of backsliding. Again, the Word of God tells us "...for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first..." (2 Thessalonians 2:3)

Our adversary, the devil, will accuse the pastors, "It's your fault!" Be careful... "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not igno-

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**The Shepherd** - continued from page 7

rant of his devices.” (II Corinthians 2:11) We should never allow our emotions rule us, but “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:5) “Let the peace of God rule in your hearts to the which also ye are called in one body...” (Colossians 3:15) “Fear thou not: for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” (Isaiah 41:10)

The enemy of our soul works to show us the negative things in the work of God. We can rejoice and say that not everyone is backsliding and not everyone is going worldly. There are those that do the work of an evangelist and are committed to Christ, the church, and the pastor. We know those who are enthusiastic worshipers that are faithful to the House of God! Ephesians 5:27 tells us, “He will have a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

Jeremiah 3:15 says, “And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” (I Peter 5:4)



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**WHERE CAN MY PASTOR GO?** - *Brother Don Woolett*

When we have a struggle  
We can call on a friend  
Who can pray with us, council us  
Through thick and thin.  
That human connection  
We most often need  
To help bear our burdens  
And our conscience to ease.

Where can my pastor go  
When he has a need

To confide in somebody;  
To be fed instead of feed?  
A friend he can count on  
To be faithful and true;  
Not spreading his thoughts  
For the whole world to view.

You see, a pastor has trials  
For he's human too!  
Sometimes it's misfortunes;  
Sometimes me and sometimes you!

So, give him some space.  
Let him know that you care.  
Send some encouragement,  
Some good things to share.

For if we'll all work together  
With mercy and grace,  
Christ will lead us to victory  
Through the valleys we face.



## THE SECOND CHAIRS - *Brother David Whelan*

When I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, I remember the hand of our youth pastor on my shoulder encouraging me. What he said was what I needed to hear, and it was the last thing I remember until I came to myself some time later. I am not sure I would have prayed through that day if God had not sent him my way. It was another associate/youth pastor that became my personal friend and confidant. A trusted voice and wise counsel he remains. Then there is the elder lay minister in whom I have so much confidence and that is such an encyclopedia of the word of God and a valued advisor. Some of my favorite men of God are very experienced traveling evangelists.

A pastor is only one set of hands and one pair of ears. The now retired senior pastor of a mega church in Louisville, Ky, was once heard to say to his congregation, and I paraphrase here — I love all of you, and I wish I could get to all of your special events; however, if I pay you a visit in the hospital, it is probably because you received very bad news. — He was promoting the use of his associate staff.

God uses men who are not occupants of the “first chair.” Any lauding or treatment of the office of pastor would be incomplete without the exploration of all the “second chair” positions. Associate pastor, youth pastor, lay preacher, and other such titles apply. Often laboring in obscurity without financial compensation and without a clearly defined role, they complement and broaden the reach of the ministry. How many of us fondly remember our youth leader? How many have a favorite evangelist that inspires us to revival? How many of us, wanting to avoid breaking the proverbial camel’s back, will seek counsel from a wise lay minister on some matter rather than bring some triviality to the pastor? I suspect all of our hands would go up.

I am reminded of the image of Aaron and Hur in Exodus 17 supporting the hands of Moses to bring victory in the battle with the Amalekites. In much the same manner, the Aaron and Hur personalities of our day support and complement the work of the pastor. The Bible says that Aaron, Hur, and Joshua did at least three things.

First, Aaron and Hur pulled up a stone for Moses to sit on.

They contributed to the work at hand with their labor. Our ministers visit, pray, and work the altar. Often the first to arrive and last to leave at a work day are our ministers.

Second, each of Aaron and Hur held and supported one of Moses’ arms. Moses was the possessor of the vision for the Israelites. Moses, holding up the staff, was the fulfillment of that vision. Aaron and Hur were supporting and making possible the vision by holding up Moses. Likewise, through prayer and supporting ministries, the children’s minister, the youth minister, the jail minister, and others support the vision for the church.

Third, Joshua discomfited the Amalekites with the edge of the sword. By being our arm outstretched, the evangelist and lay ministers become an extension of the work of the church. The Holiness movement truly has, without doubt, global reach that is effective. Our pastors are talented and energetic men, but there is no way they can touch all the areas, let alone be effective, without the support of the ministry team.

I am grateful for men called by God to occupy these supporting roles. The Lord may call some to pastor in the first chair someday. However, those that I am acquainted with are pleased to serve where God has placed them. Preaching and position are not a currency for them, and I admire that. Having a servant’s heart and being in His will is premium.

As I was in prayer on how to encourage this diverse group, I was impressed of two statements regarding the impact of these ministries: broad and deep. It is difficult to even describe the variety of work that is done; it is also hard to describe the profound depth with which this work reaches. I want to be an encouragement, and the most encouraging thing I can think of is my own testimony shared in the opening paragraphs of this missive. Had it not been for a young lay minister’s persistence, I certainly would have never attended a Holiness church, never been filled with the Holy Ghost, and never realized God’s full desire for my life. For that, I am eternally grateful to you all.



## MY DAD, MY PASTOR -

Brother Andrew Hensley

I was born a multi generation Pentecostal. I have attended church my whole life, and for most of my life my father has been my pastor. I feel privileged that God saw fit not only to place me in a home that holds Him first, but in a pastor's home. I have been blessed with such a rich and wonderful heritage, and to God be the glory!

Pastors, while I do not bear your pastoral burden that is unique to each and every one of you, I do bear the load of being part of a pastor's home. I know your burden can be hard to bear at times, but praise God, He did not place this on you to carry alone! Thank God for your church leadership that helps you with the operations of God's house. However, while we praise God for those who help you, let us examine one more facet that is crucial to your ministry. God has blessed you with the first family of His house. Pastors, I admonish you to never lose sight of these crucial pillars to your ministry. I know how much we want to support you and help you. Remember that when you step down from God's sacred desk, and you shut the church doors, you have your family serving with you.

I still remember the call from dad summoning the family together. He said, "I need some family time." Never be hesitant to lean upon your family, especially your wife. We are your "biggest fans" as the saying goes. God placed us in your life to help you when you're low, to pull you back up! We want to see you succeed more than anyone else!

"To further the Kingdom of God is the greatest thing you can ever achieve in this life."

These were the words my Grandfather spoke to me. This is the motto I have placed on my life to try and achieve every day, as I know you are trying to do as well. Lean on your family. They will help you achieve this glorious goal we are all striving for. I love you dad. I love you my pastor.

Thank God for all of our pastors!



## A NOTE FOR THE MINISTRY -

Brother Doug Webb

*Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

*12 For the perfecting of the saints, **for the work of the ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

"The work of the ministry" is work to say the least. It demands our time, our resources, and our personal energy. We live to give. Our work is our way of life. We visit the sick and shut-ins, feed the flock of God with the Word of God, and manage the maintenance and business of the church. We are on call 24/7. Our goal is souls.

But as important as all that is... there is no ministry that deserves a minister's best effort any more than his ministry to his own family. I ask, what would it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lost the souls of his own? In all your reaching dear brother, to minister to the many needs of others, be careful not to forget to minister to the needs of those that are closest to you, your children.

Ministry demands a lot of time and energy often leaving us with little of either to give unto our family. Yet, in the midst of all our laboring, caring, and ministering to the needs of others, let us not forget about the souls of our own children! We've got one shot to train-them-up in the way they should go, and one opportunity to instill in them the godly principles for living they will need to survive in this ungodly world in which we live. We must take time while they are young to teach them how to be saved, and to lead them to the Lord. In Deut 6:7, we are commanded to teach them diligently the ways of the Lord. Don't take it for granted that they will just grow up knowing what they need to know about God just because they are growing up in a preacher's home. It doesn't work that way. We have to be intentional in our efforts. It's sad to say, but some ministers seem to have time for everyone else, and no time for their family. God forbid that your family become secondary to the ministry.

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## EVANGELISM - ENCOURAGING THE LOCAL PASTOR -

*Boggs Family Ministries*

Pastoring a church is hard work. It is a difficult and often thankless task. Even though the Pastor is often surrounded by people, his job can be very lonely. We see it as part of our duties as an evangelist to come along beside him and be an encouragement.

We need Pastors. I know some folks that do not believe they need a Pastor but they are wrong about that. God gave Pastors the responsibility to teach us His Word and to shepherd our souls. God gave some Pastors! If God gave them then I need them.

I would not be in the ministry and probably would not be saved if it were not for my faithful Pastor, Bro. Bennie Sutherland. Thank God that he preached the Word of God without fear or favor and poured in the right amount of law and grace when I needed it.

Also there would not be local churches for me to preach in and for us to sing in if it were not for God called Pastors that give their lives to reach souls and keep churches afloat. So it is fair and just to say that I would not have an a ministry as an evangelist if

it were not for local Pastors all over the USA. Thank God for the local Pastors.

We have some hard and fast rules when it comes to conducting ourselves properly when it concerns Pastors of churches where we are preaching. You might say it is our ethical frame work.

The Pastor is the Pastor. I am not the Pastor. I follow the Pastor's lead. Although I have a great working relationship with Pastors and I am free to "obey God" in their churches, I purpose to work within the bounds of his authority and not mine own.

We do not usurp the Pastor's authority in the services or out of church. We are under his authority and I often communicate that to the church from the pulpit. I do not only say it, we model our genuine submission to his authority in front of his folks.

We do not disrespect the local Pastor. In fact we do our best to elevate him in the eyes of his people. We constantly affirm him and his leadership in the local church.

We do not slam the local Pastor

while we are there or after we leave. There may be things that I think I would do differently if I were the Pastor but I am not the Pastor and my duty is to keep my big mouth shut.

Many Pastors are bi-vocational and are not available during the day but we spend time with the local Pastor when possible and befriend him and his family. Many of them desire and even need the friendship of an evangelist and we are determined to show ourselves friendly.

Encouraging the Pastor extends to being an encouragement to his wife and his children. People have been so kind to Odie and we intend to pay that kindness forward to the kids of Pastors in every church where we minister.

This is only one facet of my vision and approach to evangelism but it is a very important part of it. Pastors are not perfect and we all know that. But God gave them to us for our own good and encouraging them on purpose is a large part of what evangelists or at least this evangelist is called to do.



### **A Note** - continued from page 10

Set aside time for your own, not just for spiritual instruction, though that's important. Take time to be daddy to them. Play ball with your little boys, and dollies with your little girls. Take your boy fishing, and your girl to the park to play. Yes, by all means, take time to teach them the ways of the Lord and reach them for Christ, but take time to have fun with them as well. I can tell you this, you will never be sorry if you do, but you may forever be sorry if you don't.



# ***“Be Thou My Vision”***

*Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;  
Be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,  
O high King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.*

*Taken from the Hymn “Be Thou My Vision”*

*Words: Attr. Dallan Forgaill, 8th Century*

*Translated by Mary Byrne, 1905 and Elanor Hull, 1912*

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## Services and Times

Sunday School 10:00 am

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am

Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 pm

Wednesday Night Worship 7:30 pm