



The HARVESTER Newsletter

A Publication of Southwest Church of Christ

April 2023

Dear Southwest Family,

We live in a day of information. At our fingertips is the collective “knowledge” of mankind. Which is a blessing and a curse in my opinion. But one of the many blessings of our day, is GPS. We are able to type in a destination, and step by step our path is directed for us. Gone are the days of having to stop and ask a “local” for directions...well sort of.

Right after we had moved to Virginia, we went on a youth group outing to a skating rink, about a half an hour from the church. At the time we were using a GPS that is unlike the GPS on our cell phones. The GPS we were using did not update in real time.

If being unfamiliar with the area was the only thing we were working against, it would have been enough. Unfortunately, there was a massive road project going on. As the evening convened and we were headed back to our homestead, we were at the mercy of the voice coming from the GPS receiver.

The voice politely said turn left, but the road was closed. With no other option we continued down the road. Then we heard that dreaded word... “recalculating,” followed by the command to, “make a U-turn, as soon as possible.” So, we did. Then heading back down the same road, in the opposite direction, it said to turn right. “BUT I CAN’T TURN RIGHT BECAUSE THE ROAD IS STILL CLOSED!”

We drove a little way and passed a 7-11 store – at last a good landmark to use so we could get our bearing. Listening intently to the GPS we drove another 5 or 10 minutes, in circles, only to pass that same 7-11! We passed that same 7-11 four different times that night! Finally, we stopped there and asked the clerk for directions. We laughed hard that night. Belly laughed. We had to, just to get through the frustration!

Can you see the parallel to our spiritual life? Sometimes we get lost in an area that is unfamiliar. That is unsettling, isn’t it? Even frustrating! But the great thing about our spiritual life is that our “Road Map,” the Bible, never needs updating. It will never say to us, “recalculating.” We have the complete revelation of our Lord. It’s like the apostle Peter said, “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence” (2 Peter 1:3 *English Standard Version*).

I heard a preacher say once, “[The Bible] It’s not an old book, it’s a timeless book. It doesn’t tell us how it was, it tells us how it is, and how it will be.” Amen! What better source of direction could we have in this life?

My encouragement to us all is this, let’s stay on target; allowing the word of God to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (ref Psalm 119:105).

Keep up the good work, Southwest!

Mike Hawkins

Events & Information

Monthly Figures

In- Service Attendance:

2/26	3/5	3/12	3/19	3/26
89	83	85	81	93

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Thank you for your faithfulness church! We continue to have several folks watching online each week. Please continue to pray for our church family – both those in corporate worship and those being reached by our online ministry.

Deacon's List:

Chair: Open
Audio/Visual: Jared Friedrichsen
Secretary: Mike Bunn
Parsonage: Open
Maintenance: Lynn Hounshel
Special Projects: TBD, Lynn, and Phil Friedrichsen
Benevolence: Tony Storad
Church (Building): Lynn Hounshel

We are continually blessed by the generosity of God's people. Thank you for your continued financial support so that we may meet the needs of our ministry staff, missionaries, benevolence ministry, and the general ministry of the church. For your convenience, we would like to remind you that online giving is available through our secure internet portal at <https://swccbarberton.com/giving>.

Thank you, church family, for your ongoing support of Southwest Church of Christ!

Weekly Need:

General: \$3,600

Weekly Need:

Missions: \$442

APS: Walk of Life 2023: will be held May 20th! If anyone would like to be a walker or sign up as a team, please call Cindy at the church office. 330-825-7263. Chuck Weinsheimer will represent Southwest again this year!

Church Spring Clean-up: There will be a SWCC work cleaning day on April 1st and 9am. More details will be coming soon and will be in the bulletin.

Egg Hunt Candy Donations Needed: If you would like to donate individually wrapped small candy, please place in the kitchen container or give to Eli. All donations need to be received by Wednesday, April 5.

B.A.C.M. Food Pantry item: Macaroni and Cheese. Place items in the BACM box in the kitchen.

Scrapbooking & Crafters: The group will not be meeting during the Month of April.

“Senior Moment” Group Outing: Tuesday, 4/18 we will be going to Rose Villa in Portage Lakes for lunch at noon. If you want to carpool, meet us at church at 11:30am. RSVP to Karen R. by 4/16 if you will be joining us.

Soup Kitchen: Southwest members will serve Tuesday, 4/25. Thank you for your willingness to serve for Christ's kingdom! Any questions, see Terry Trump.

Men's Bible Study: Monday evenings at 6:30pm. “Study of James” is the topic. All men are welcome to join the group.

Bible Discussion Group: Wednesday evenings join the group, open to both men and women, for a deep dive into God's Word. Light refreshments at 6pm, study begins at 6:30pm. Youth activities will also be going on during this time.

Tuesday Morning Ladies Study at 10 am: We are using Jean E. Syswerda's book, “Women of the Bible”. All women are welcome. If you need a book, call Karen at 330-671-7463.

Rahab Ministries: They are a faith-based ministry devoted to rescuing and restoring victims of human trafficking. Please consider supporting this ministry financially. Checks may be sent to: Rahab Ministries, One Center for Leadership, 901 Tuscarawas Street, E. Canton, OH 44707

Connect with your church leaders: Mike Hawkins seniorministerswcc@gmail.com; Eli Blackford youthministerswcc@gmail.com; and the Church Office swccbarberton@gmail.com



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead," 1 Peter 1:3</i></p>						1
2 <i>Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group</i>	3	4 <i>Women's Bible Study</i>	5 <i>Bible Discussion & Youth Groups</i>	6	7 Good Friday <i>Ohio Teens for Christ</i>	8 <i>Ohio Teens for Christ</i>
9 Easter <i>8am Sunrise Service 8:30am Breakfast</i>	10	11 <i>Women's Bible Study</i>	12 <i>Bible Discussion & Youth Groups</i>	13	14	15
16 <i>Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group</i>	17	18 <i>Women's Bible Study "Senior Moment"</i>	19 <i>Bible Discussion & Youth Groups</i>	20	21	22
23 <i>Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group</i>	24	25 <i>Women's Bible Study</i>	26 <i>Bible Discussion & Youth Groups</i>	27	28	29
30 <i>Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group</i>		<i>Soup Kitchen</i>				

BIRTHDAYS:	
4/6	Ben Weaver
4/8	Del Sechler
4/10	Marti Bair
4/10	Joni Jones
4/12	Sydney Hershberger
4/15	Karen Busch
4/16	Phil Friedrichsen
4/18	Jamie Storad
4/21	Cindy Weaver
4/23	Kaylah Blackford
4/23	Brian Weaver
4/26	David Berube
4/28	Debbie Bunn
4/28	Alice Kauslick
4/29	Elizabeth Busch
4/29	Ryan Kriston
4/30	Bobbie Browning

ANNIVERSARIES:	
4/3	Eli & Kaylah Blackford
4/18	JJ & Melinda Hershberger
4/25	Tony & Jamie Storad
4/29	Brian & Karen Busch

Did you have a birthday or anniversary this month that we missed? Would you like to have your special day added to our calendar? Write your name, the occasion, and the date on the prayer tab in the bulletin. Place the tab in the offering plate on any Sunday. Or you may send an email to: kdbusch15@gmail.com, and I will gladly include your information.

Do you know someone who would positively benefit from reading *The HARVESTER*? Our newsletter is now available on the Southwest Church of Christ webpage under the Ministries tab.

Growing Your Faith

“¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.” Phil 3:10-11

The bible readings for the new year of 2020 are to focus on studying the bible in chronological order. As you read each day, meditate on God’s words and His promises to us.

- APR 1:** Judges 6-7
- APR 2:** Judges 8-9
- APR 3:** Judges 10-12
- APR 4:** Judges 13-15
- APR 5:** Judges 16-18
- APR 6:** Judges 19-21
- APR 7:** Ruth 1-4
- APR 8:** 1 Samuel 1-3
- APR 9:** 1 Samuel 4-8
- APR 10:** 1 Samuel 9-12

- APR 11:** 1 Samuel 13-14
- APR 12:** 1 Samuel 15-17
- APR 13:** 1 Samuel 18-20; Psalm 11, 59
- APR 14:** 1 Samuel 21-24
- APR 15:** Psalm 7, 27, 31, 34, 52
- APR 16:** Psalm 56, 120, 140-142
- APR 17:** 1 Samuel 25-27
- APR 18:** Psalm 17, 35, 54, 63
- APR 19:** 1 Samuel 28-31; Psalm 18
- APR 20:** Psalm 121, 123-125, 128-130

- APR 21:** 2 Samuel 1-4
- APR 22:** Psalm 6, 8-10, 14, 16, 19, 21
- APR 23:** 1 Chronicles 1-2
- APR 24:** Psalm 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87
- APR 25:** 1 Chronicles 3-5
- APR 26:** Psalm 73, 77-78
- APR 27:** 1 Chronicles 6
- APR 28:** Psalm 81, 88, 92-93
- APR 29:** 1 Chronicles 7-10
- APR 30:** Psalm 102-104

Scripture list courtesy of
[www.biblestudytools.com/
 bible-reading-plan/chronological.html](http://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/chronological.html)

Kids Korner

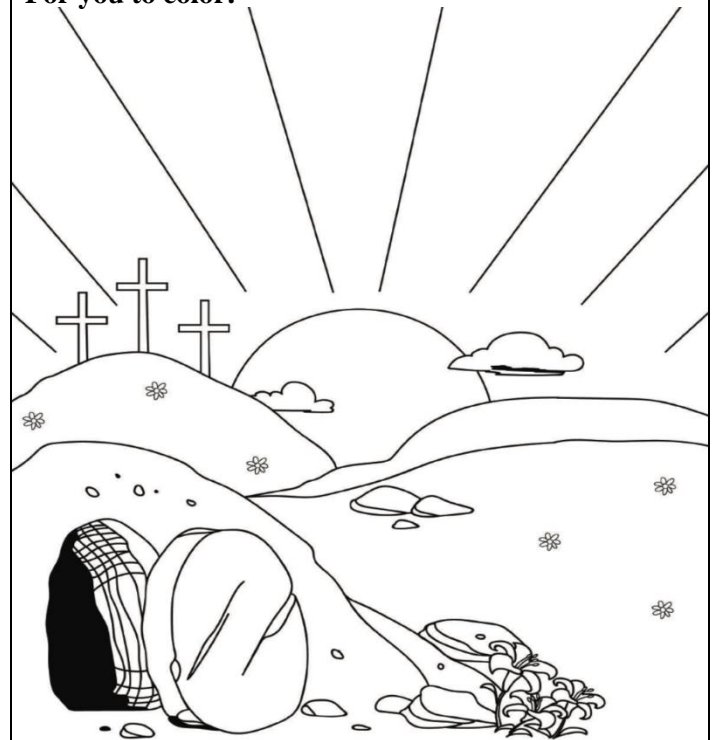


“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

Find the underlined words from the verse above in the word-search below.

Y	T	H	A	T	B	D	L	E	W	J	F
O	G	J	H	K	M	P	O	B	I	E	R
U	Q	D	E	C	L	A	R	E	L	S	O
T	W	U	A	V	Y	N	D	L	L	U	M
A	C	I	R	E	G	D	J	I	K	S	L
M	O	U	T	H	O	P	R	E	A	T	D
U	W	Y	Z	H	A	G	B	V	D	F	E
H	J	L	M	N	P	O	E	E	Q	R	A
K	R	A	I	S	E	D	T	U	W	Y	D
B	C	T	H	E	G	M	Y	O	U	R	E

For you to color:



He is Risen

Connect with Us



Love God Love People Lead People to Jesus

Michael Hawkins, Senior Minister
Eli Blackford, Youth Minister
Jared Friedrichsen, Worship Minister
Cindy Weaver, Secretary
(330) 825-7263
www.swccbarberton.com
www.facebook.com/swccbarberton

WEEKLY WORSHIP TIMES:

Sunday Morning:
Sunday School 9:30am
Morning Worship 10:30am

Youth Ministry

Message from Eli:

“Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” John 4:29 (ESV)

If these words don't immediately ring a bell, they were spoken by a Samaritan woman who met Jesus in the midst of her hiding. Over her life, she had racked up a lot of shame. Her lifestyle was culturally unacceptable, the result either of her poor choices or her difficult circumstances (probably a combination of both). To avoid judgment, she avoided community, getting her daily supply of water in the afternoon when no one else visited the local well.

When this woman encounters Jesus, she attempts all of her usual tricks to erect a barrier between the two of them. Read along in John 4 and you'll see that:

- 1) She pulls out the race card: *“How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealing with Samaritans.)*
- 2) She questions that Jesus can even deliver what he offers: *“Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”*
- 3) She misrepresents herself: *“I have no husband.”*
- 4) She deflects the conversation to a heated debate topic: *“Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”*

Jesus cuts through all of it. He persists until she realizes she can't hide anymore. And rather than judgement, she discovers freedom, the source of living water, the key to unfettered worship – she discovers King Jesus. And her life is immediately changed. She boldly and passionately engages her community without fear, inviting everyone that she can to come discover Jesus for themselves.

What can we take away from this story? Don't push Jesus away. Whether you are still getting to know him or you've been in a relationship for a long time, we must choose to lean into him every day. This requires daily vulnerability, allowing him access to the shameful and ugly parts of us that he already knows about anyway. Meet him at the well, and he will give you water that will become in you a spring welling up to eternal life. Surrender yourself wholly to him, and you will know indeed that Jesus is the Savior of the world.

Here are a few Kids and Teen Ministry events coming up:

Ohio Teens For Christ: April 7th-8th. For those teens who have signed up, contact Caroline Friedrichsen for trip details.

Easter Sunday Egg Hunt: April 9th at 9:30. This is for all kids aged birth-5th grade. If you know families that may want to join us for this event, contact the church office for invitation cards or find them on the table in the church lobby.

VBS – July 10th-14th: The theme this year is “Happy Campers: Spending Your Summer with God.” Lots of volunteers are needed! Stay tuned for planning meeting dates, or contact Eli at any time if you would like to be part of the VBS team.

Blessed to serve with you!