



The HARVESTER Newsletter

A Publication of Southwest Church of Christ

December 2022

Dear Southwest Family,

“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV)

I am a big fan of “simple scripture.” By “simple” I mean, scripture that is straight and to the point. “Simple scripture” is easy to understand, cut and dried, if you will. I’d say this passage from Thessalonians is a good example of “simple scripture”. But don’t be misled. Although this passage may be simple to understand, this passage certainly is a challenging one! Allow me to illustrate.

This is a joyful time of the year, is it not? With the celebration of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year we have several reasons to be joyful. Some of us have the opportunity to see people we haven’t seen for a long time. We have the opportunity to show our appreciation of loved ones. And, best of all we have the opportunity to get our bellies full! That alone makes me *full* of joy...pun intended! But Paul reminds us to be joyful **always**.

This is a prayerful time of the year, is it not? The holidays, for me at least, are a time of reflection. And when I begin to reflect, I can’t help but pray and express my gratitude. The holidays can also place a great deal of stress on many of us. For some it can be the stress of family get-togethers. For others it might be financial stress. Maybe it is the stress of finding that “perfect gift”. Whatever the stress may be, when we are burdened by something we can’t help but pray to God. But Paul reminds us to pray **continually**.

This is a thankful time of the year, is it not? For this is the time of the year in which we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! The greatest gift of all! The One who overcame the curse of sin and defeated the sting of death. Jesus, the One who makes all things new – and we get to celebrate that with the hope of a new year. How could we not be thankful during this special time of the year? But Paul reminds us to give thanks in **all circumstances**.

I have learned that some of the easiest scriptures to understand in the Bible can be the most challenging to perform. Therefore, let us all continue to encourage one another through this holiday season and through the remainder of our days. “Be joyful **always**; pray **continually** and give thanks in **all circumstances**.”

It is my prayer that the body of Southwest would enjoy the celebration of our Lord’s birth and be hopeful of the plans He has for us in this New Year.

Until all have heard,
Mike Hawkins

Events & Information

Monthly Figures

In- Service Attendance:

10/30	11/6	11/13	11/20
83	98	79	64

“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: **Weekly Need:**
General: \$3,600 Missions: \$442

Pastor Welcome Luncheon: Everyone is invited to lunch immediately after service on Sunday, 12/18 as we welcome our new pastor Mike Hawkins, his wife Sarah, and their two daughters Caitlin and Sydney.

Christmas Eve Service: Saturday, 12/24 at 7pm. Everyone is welcome!

Acme Cashback Program: Envelope is in the foyer if you would like to contribute your receipts to SWCC's fundraiser.

B.A.C.M. Food Pantry item: Peanut butter. Place items in the BACM box in the kitchen.

APS Giving Tree: It's that time of year again! Southwest is partnering with Akron Pregnancy Services with the annual Giving Tree. The tree is displayed in the foyer. Gift tags are numbered and attached to the tree. If you are able to assist this year, take a tag and write your name on the list next to the corresponding number. **All gifts must be returned by 12/7.** Any questions, please see or call Cindy in the church office.

“Senior Moment” Christmas Potluck: On Tuesday 12/13 at noon. Bring a dish to share and let Karen Rummer know by 12/11 if you plan to attend.

Soup Kitchen: Southwest members will be helping on Tuesday, 12/06. Thank you for your willingness to serve for Christ's kingdom! Any questions, see Terry Trump.

Bible Discussion Group: Wednesday evenings, plan to join the new 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: 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

(additional information on last page)

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."</i> Zechariah 9:9 NKJV</p>				1	2	3
4 <i>Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group</i>	5	6 <i>Women's Bible Study</i> <i>Soup Kitchen</i>	7 <i>Bible Discussion & Youth Groups</i>	8	9	10
11 <i>Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group</i>	12	13 <i>Women's Bible Study</i> <i>"Senior Moment"</i>	14 <i>Bible Discussion & Youth Groups</i>	15	16	17
18 <i>Welcome Luncheon</i>	19	20 <i>Women's Bible Study</i>	21 <i>Bible Discussion & Youth Groups</i>	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>
25 <i>Christmas</i>	26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>

BIRTHDAYS:	
12/1	Victoria Friedrichsen
12/2	Tracey Hamilton
12/4	Daniel Wilson
12/6	Mary Bradford
12/8	Meghan Sapper
12/14	Jonathan Friedrichsen
12/22	Mikayla Sapper
12/23	Sharon Weinsheimer
12/25	Freda Brouse

ANNIVERSARIES:	
12/20	Dale & Rhonda Starcher
12/29	Jared & Caroline Friedrichsen

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

"For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

Spend time with the Lord each day this month by reading the following scriptures. To help commit them to memory, write in a journal or notepad and review daily.

DEC 1: Isaiah 7:14-17
DEC 2: Isaiah 9:6-7
DEC 3: Isaiah 11:1-5
DEC 4: Isaiah 11:6-10
DEC 5: Isaiah 40:1-5
DEC 6: Isaiah 52:7-10
DEC 7: Jeremiah 33:14-16
DEC 8: Psalm 72:1-7
DEC 9: Psalm 72:8-14
DEC 10: Psalm 72:15-20

DEC 11: Psalm 95:1-3
DEC 12: Malachi 3:1-3
DEC 13: Matthew 1:18-20
DEC 14: Matthew 1:21-25
DEC 15: Matthew 2:1-6
DEC 16: Matthew 2:7-12
DEC 17: Luke 1:26-29
DEC 18: Luke 1:30-34
DEC 19: Luke 1:35-38
DEC 20: Luke 1:46-50

DEC 21: Luke 1:51-56
DEC 22: Luke 2:4-7
DEC 23: Luke 2:8-12
DEC 24: Luke 2:13-16
DEC 25: Luke 2:17-20
DEC 26: Galatians 4:4-7
DEC 27: Philippians 2:5-8
DEC 28: Philippians 2:9-11
DEC 29: James 1:16-18
DEC 30: Titus 3:3-7
DEC 31: John 3:16-21



Scripture list courtesy of www.swtblessings.com

Kids Korner



"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14 (NIV)

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

L U K E A H C E H I S G
I K M N R I P R T U W 2
V D Y O Z G B E D P F 1
H N V J Y H E A V E N 2
L A N R P E S R T A U W
F V O Y A S B T D C E F
H L I K M T O H Q E T R
G U G O D V H A 2 1 1 E
A E I U Y O B O C D H S
L W H O M P Q R S U V T
K B D 2 1 4 E T H E A S

For you to color:



Connect with Us



Love God Love People Lead People to Jesus

Michael Hawkins, Senior 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

Tuesday Women's Bible Study: 10am

Youth Ministry

Planned Events:

Nothing definite at this time. Check the bulletin on Sundays, or during Youth Group.

Notes from the Congregational Meeting from Ron Browning

1. The biggest announcement and most exciting news: thanks to an anonymous donor of \$36,000 we are happy to say we paid off the rest of the building loan. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, to whomever you are. May God our Father return your blessing tenfold.
2. With the loan paid off, we are looking at options to build a pavilion. Right now, with the prices for building material, the cost could be \$30-\$40,000 depending on how big it is, and how we can get electric and water to it. We're hoping next summer the prices will come back down. However, the Elders will keep researching our options. Input on where we should build it and how big it needs to be is very welcome.
3. This year we were able to put a new roof on the parsonage, buy a new shed and add lights to make our parking lot safer and brighter as people walk to their vehicles.
4. We started a new scholarship this fall giving \$500 to a student who was going to a Christian college or university. Discussion was held as to why we would only help a student going to a Christian school since our Christian kids can make an impact in non-Christian colleges and universities. There was discussion about all our kids being granted an opportunity of help from us. The elders said they would discuss this further.
5. We were able to give our missionaries an extra gift of money three times this year due to the generous giving of Southwest members.
6. There was a short explanation on Dan's leaving and the process of finding his replacement. We ask if anyone has any questions, please ask one of the elders and not to rely on rumors because the Elders know both sides and the middle.
7. We advised everyone that Mike would be here on 12/18 and a welcome luncheon is being planned for right after the service. We will also let everyone know when they will be moving into their new home, so we can help them move in.
8. All candidates that ran for Deacons or Elders were approved.

Psalm 118:24, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; We will rejoice and be glad in it."

The Lord is definitely here at Southwest Church of Christ; we can see His presence by looking at all the blessings and things we were able to accomplish this year.

From Garland Carr and Family:

We would like to collectively thank everyone who has been so supportive of our family, especially over the past few months. We enormously appreciate all the prayers, transportation, cards, flowers, Benevolent Fund donations, food, visits, and so much more. You have shown us Christ's love through your actions. We love you Southwest Church family!