



The HARVESTER Newsletter

A Publication of Southwest Church of Christ

January 2023

Dear Southwest Family,

I probably sound like a broken record by now, but my family and I cannot thank the body of Southwest enough. The love, support, and encouragement has been overwhelming – and in a good way! We are humbled to be welcomed into your family and are so grateful to be on this journey with you. We are looking forward to what the Lord does in the years ahead.

One of the “joys” of moving is the ever-elusive lost item. My wife is still looking for her tennis shoes. I have an admission to make though. There were a couple of days where I was bound and determined to find some of those lost items, and I abandoned my morning routine of personal study and prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to, “*Pray without ceasing...*”. I like what Oswald Chambers says about that particular verse in his book, *My Utmost for His Highest*. He says, “*Our thinking about prayer, whether right or wrong, is based on our own mental conception of it. The correct concept is to think of prayer as the breath in our lungs and the blood from our hearts. Our blood flows and our breathing continues ‘without ceasing’; we are not even conscious of it, but it never stops.*”

Our spiritual lives are affected much like our physical lives. For instance, if we have a problem with our breathing, or a pain in our chest, we pay more attention to what is going on in our body. Likewise, when our prayer life becomes disrupted, we find ourselves focusing more inwardly and less outwardly. Our attention shifts, and our heart becomes less centered on The Kingdom of God and more centered on “self”.

As I reflect on those couple of days that I mentioned earlier, I can see how my lack of prayer affected my attitude. I was set and determined to get the things done that **I** wanted to get done. I did not have time for things that were not on **my** list. But had I taken the time to start the day with prayer, and continued to pray without ceasing, I’m certain I would not have been so focused on **me** and what **I** wanted to get done.

It’s that time of the year when we all begin to examine ourselves. We look back on the year past and ahead to the new one before us. For some, we like to set goals or resolutions to better our lives. I would like to encourage everyone to set a specific goal that will certainly better our lives, and the lives of others. Let’s make a 2023 resolution to pray without ceasing!

Let’s be resolved to pray for our members, teachers, leaders, volunteers and missionaries. Pray for our widows and widowers. Pray for the lost, the seekers, and the hurting. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel, and to bless others. If we resolve to “*pray without ceasing*” can you imagine the impact that would bring? Let’s make 2023 a year of impact – let’s pray without ceasing!

Keep up the good work Southwest!

Mike Hawkins

Events & Information

Monthly Figures

In- Service Attendance:

11/27	12/4	12/11	12/18	12/25
77	86	85	91	60

“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

APS Giving Tree: Thank you to everyone who participated in donating to this ministry for Christmas. Southwest Church was able to bless 31 children in our area.

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: Canned soups. Place items in the BACM box in the kitchen.

Scrapbooking: Please join us on Saturday, 1/21 from 9am to 10pm for a time of crafting and fellowship. Please bring your own drinks, and a soup or salad to share.

“Senior Moment” Group Outing: On Tuesday, 1/17 at noon at Fa Ray’s in Barberton. Please let Karen Rummer know by 1/15 if you will be joining us.

Soup Kitchen: Southwest members will be helping on Tuesday, 2/7. 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 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 10am: 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

Looking for support? Elders are available after every Sunday worship service, or by contacting the church office, to speak with you regarding prayer requests or offer spiritual guidance for your concerns.

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	9	10 Women's Bible Study	11 Bible Discussion & Youth Groups	12	13	14
15 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	17 Women's Bible Study "Senior Moment"	18 Bible Discussion & Youth Groups	19	20	21 Scrapbooking
22 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	23	24 Women's Bible Study	25 Bible Discussion & Youth Groups	26	27	28
29 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	30	31 Women's Bible Study	<p><i>"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." Romans 6:4</i></p>			

BIRTHDAYS:	
1/05	Carla Friedrichsen
1/09	Cathy Ross
1/16	Bob Klein
1/17	Barbara Hughey
1/19	Linda Sechler
1/21	Alice Gerbig
1/22	Adelyn Kriston
1/24	Debbie Martin
1/25	Joel Martin
1/30	Dick Smith

ANNIVERSARIES:	
1/07	Dave & Chris Hodge
1/17	Phil & Carla 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

“And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also, he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”

Revelation 21:5

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.

JAN 1: Genesis 1 to 3
 JAN 2: Genesis 4 to 7
 JAN 3: Genesis 8 to 11
 JAN 4: Job 1 to 5
 JAN 5: Job 6 to 9
 JAN 6: Job 10 to 13
 JAN 7: Job 14 to 16
 JAN 8: Job 17 to 20
 JAN 9: Job 21 to 23
 JAN 10: Job 24 to 28

JAN 11: Job 29 to 31
 JAN 12: Job 32 to 34
 JAN 13: Job 35 to 37
 JAN 14: Job 38 to 39
 JAN 15: Job 40 to 42
 JAN 16: Genesis 12 to 15
 JAN 17: Genesis 16 to 18
 JAN 18: Genesis 19 to 21
 JAN 19: Genesis 22 to 24
 JAN 20: Genesis 25 to 26

JAN 21: Genesis 27 to 29
 JAN 22: Genesis 30 to 31
 JAN 23: Genesis 32 to 34
 JAN 24: Genesis 35 to 37
 JAN 25: Genesis 38 to 40
 JAN 26: Genesis 41 to 42
 JAN 27: Genesis 43 to 45
 JAN 28: Genesis 46 to 47
 JAN 29: Genesis 48 to 50
 JAN 30: Exodus 1 to 3
 JAN 31: Exodus 4 to 6

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

Kids Korner

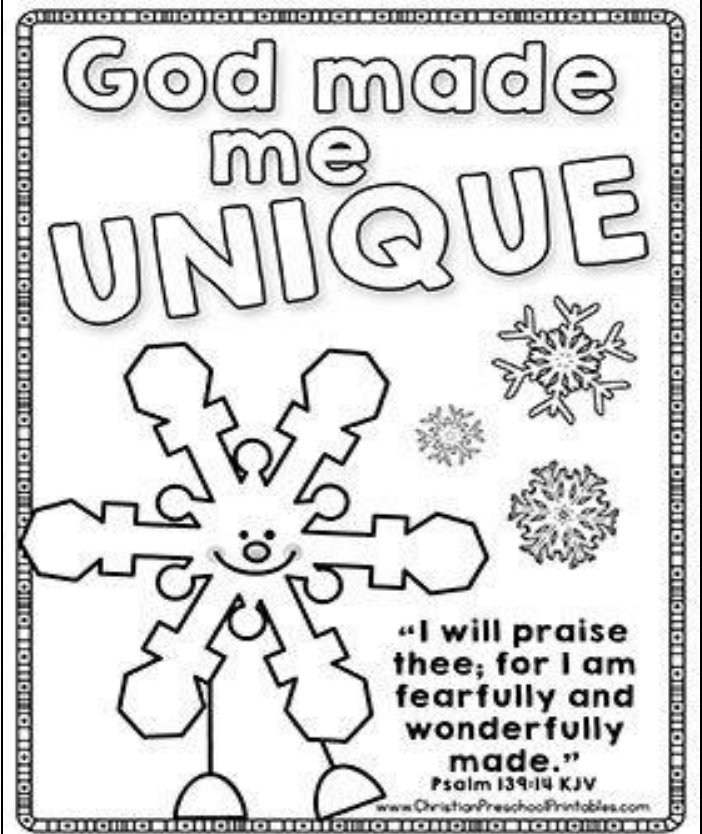


“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” Psalm 139:14

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

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

For you to color:



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

Tuesday Women's Bible Study: 10am

Youth Ministry

Happy New Year Southwest!

For Kaylah and me, the new year also brings a new ministry, a new home, and a new church family. And so, I'd like to start this new year by saying THANK YOU! We are so grateful for the invitation to serve with you; for all those who helped to clean, repair, and paint the parsonage; for the many gift cards to the local spots; and for the many smiles and hugs. We are blessed and excited to join you all!

It is an honor to serve as your youth minister. My hope is that I am able to help resource and support families who are intentionally discipling their kids to follow Jesus for the rest of their lives. I have lots of ideas for how we can do this, and I look forward to seeing what unfolds and sticks over the coming months.

As we look ahead into a new year, here are a couple of items coming up quickly concerning the Kids and Teen Ministry:

January 8th - Kid's ministry meeting after church (about 30 minutes). This meeting is for anyone who is serving, or is interested in serving, our kids on Sunday mornings. This will be the time to sign up for the nursery and Jr. Church schedule, as well as get information about curriculum.

January 8th - Youth Group (6th-12th grade) starts back up, 6:00-7:30p at the church. All teens are invited to join us for games, worship, teaching, and discussion as we begin to explore what it's really like to follow Jesus.

January 15th - Teen ministry meeting after church (about one hour). This meeting is for teens and their parents, as well as any adults from Southwest who are interested in serving in the teen ministry. Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP to me (Eli 330-573-1060) as soon as you can.

If you have any questions, please let me know!

Wishing you many blessings this year,
Eli