



The HARVESTER Newsletter

A Publication of Southwest Church of Christ

July 2023

Dear Southwest Family,

There's an old joke that has been shared by many a preacher...

"The village atheist was not a bad man, he just didn't believe. He was not interested in church, and there was only one in the area. One day the church building caught on fire, and the whole town ran toward it to help extinguish the flames, including the village atheist. Upon seeing the man, the preacher said, 'Hey, this is something new for you, this is the first time I've ever seen you running to church.' To which the village atheist replied, 'This is the first time I've ever seen the church on fire!'."

Over the past month I have had the opportunity to work with, and fellowship with, several of our members outside the boundaries of the church property. I have been greatly encouraged to hear how excited so many of you are about the things the Lord is doing in your lives. It is simply awesome to hear and see people who are "on fire" for Jesus. And let me tell you, your excitement is contagious!

I am reminded of the words of Paul to the young preacher Timothy, *"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God..."* (2 Timothy 1:6 English Standard Version).

It is not necessary to assume that Timothy's zeal had become cold. Yet, if a fire isn't stirred it will go out! Our spiritual walk is like a flame kindled in our hearts, and we must be mindful of it. Our flesh and our adversary attempt to extinguish this fire daily; therefore, we must labor as much as we can to nurture it and keep it burning.

July is an important month here at Southwest as the church will host Vacation Bible School. Eli has picked a fantastic theme this year, "Happy Campers"! I am excited to go through this adventure with the kids and all of you as well.

At VBS, I'm certain we will have the opportunity to "sit around the campfire" (be it real or artificial), and as we do, we might ask ourselves, "How's my flame? Is it burning bright? Does it need fanning?" I also think it would be a benefit to ask, "Who or what is that flame burning for? God? Myself? Someone or something else?" Over the course of those five evenings, we will have an opportunity to examine ourselves, so let's seize the moment!

Let's be reminded of what Jesus said about the church, *"¹⁴ You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven'"* (Matthew 5:14-16 ESV).

Brother. Sister. Friend. How's your flame?

Keep up the good work, Southwest!
Mike Hawkins

Events & Information

Monthly Figures

In- Service Attendance:

5/28	6/4	6/11	6/18
77	109	90	92

“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.

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

VBS- Happy Campers: Monday 7/10 through Friday 7/14 from 6 to 8:30pm. Please stop by the foyer table to pick up flyers to pass out to friends, family, neighbors or coworkers. Questions, see Eli.

Men's Annual Corn Roast: August 14th at 6pm, Lakeview Christian Church on S. Main Street in Portage Lakes. Men of all ages are invited to join for an evening of Food, Fellowship and Fun! Attending? please contact the church office.

Soup Kitchen: Southwest members will be serving on July 4th. Please see Terry Trump for details. Thank you for your continued willingness to serve for Christ's kingdom!

B.A.C.M. Food Pantry item: Breakfast items- pop tarts, hot or cold cereal; canned soup and ramen noodles. Place items in the BACM box in the kitchen.

Scrapbooking & Crafters: The group will be meeting on Saturday, 7/15 from 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This event is open to anyone who likes to scrapbook, craft and fellowship with others. Please bring a snack and beverage to share. If you have any questions, please call the church at 330-825-7263.

“Senior Moment” Group Outing: Tuesday, 7/18 at 12:15pm, at Der Dutchman in Walnut Creek. To carpool, we will leave from SWCC at 11:30am. RSVP to Karen R by Sunday, 7/16.

Wednesday Evening Bible Groups- Summer: Beginning 5/31, refreshments start at 6pm. Followed by men's and women's classes at 6:30pm. The women's group is doing a study on the book, "Finding I Am" by Lysa TerKeurst. The men's group is doing a study titled, "Fighting to be a Man of God".

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

Tuesday Morning Ladies Study at 10 am: We will be finishing our “Women of the Bible” study this month, but will continue to meet for a devotion and prayer time the rest of the summer. Questions?, call Karen R. 330-671-7463.

No Ladies Bible Study on Tuesday, July 4th.

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 their NEW address: Rahab Ministries, 3480 W. Market Street, Suite 303, Fairlawn, OH 44333.

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

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

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"38 Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. 39 Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses." Acts 13:38-39</i></p>						1
2 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	3	4 Happy 4 th of July Soup Kitchen	5 Bible Study Groups	6	7	8
9 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	10 VBS	11 Women's Bible Study VBS	12 VBS	13 VBS	14 VBS	15 Scrapbooking
16 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	17	18 Women's Bible Study "Senior Moment"	19 Bible Study Groups	20	21	22
23 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	24	25 Women's Bible Study	26 Bible Study Groups	27	28	29
30 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	31					

BIRTHDAYS:	
7/2	Sophia Hershberger
7/10	Michael Berube
7/14	Austin Hawkins
7/14	Russ Mercer
7/14	Kevin Weaver
7/15	Debbie Easterday
7/20	Megan Busi
7/25	Caitlin Hawkins
7/25	Dan Hughey
7/28	Julia Friedrichsen
7/30	Lynn Hounshel
7/30	Rodney Webb
7/31	Ron Browning
7/31	Matt Kirkhart

ANNIVERSARIES:	
7/3	Russ & Karen Mercer
7/6	Eric & Katy Geimer
7/12	Dick & Linda Smith
7/17	Jim & Karen Rummer
7/22	Lynn & Chris Hounshel
7/24	Joel & Debbie Martin
7/26	Billi & Mindie Cromer
7/27	Borin & Veronica Phy
7/30	Michael & Peggy Giovanini
7/30	Kevin & Angie Sapper

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 available on the Southwest Church of Christ webpage under the Ministries tab.

Growing Your Faith

“For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,” Romans 8:3

The bible readings for the new year of 2023 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.

- JULY 1:** Obadiah; Psalm 82-83
JULY 2: 2 Kings 1-4
JULY 3: 2 Kings 5-8
JULY 4: 2 Kings 9-11
JULY 5: 2 Kings 12-13; 2 Chronicles 24
JULY 6: 2 Kings 14; 2 Chronicles 25
JULY 7: Jonah 1-4
JULY 8: 2 Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 26
JULY 9: Isaiah 1-4
JULY 10: Isaiah 5-8
- JULY 11:** Amos 1-5
JULY 12: Amos 6-9
JULY 13: 2 Chronicles 27; Isaiah 9-12
JULY 14: Micah 1-7
JULY 15: 2 Chronicles 28; 2 Kings 16-17
JULY 16: Isaiah 13-17
JULY 17: Isaiah 18-22
JULY 18: Isaiah 23-27
JULY 19: 2 Kings 18:1-8; 2 Chronicles 29-31; Psalm 48
JULY 20: Hosea 1-7
- JULY 21:** Hosea 8-14
JULY 22: Isaiah 28-30
JULY 23: Isaiah 31-34
JULY 24: Isaiah 35-36
JULY 25: Isaiah 37-39; Psalm 76
JULY 26: Isaiah 40-43
JULY 27: Isaiah 44-48
JULY 28: 2 Kings 18:9-37; 2 Kings 19:1-37; Psalm 46, 80, 135
JULY 29: Isaiah 49-53
JULY 30: Isaiah 54-58
JULY 31: Isaiah 59-63

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

Kids Korner



“Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God”.
1 Peter 2:16 ESV

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

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

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

Youth Ministry

Message from Eli:

Hey Southwest Family!

The opening lines of scripture are packed with powerful truth.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen 1:1) With this statement, Genesis introduces the most foundational claim of the entire Bible: that God caused everything that exists.

In recent years, the "Big Bang" theory has gained a lot of acceptance. Although there's a lot of physical evidence that can be interpreted to support this theory, it doesn't address this major question: *What is the ultimate cause of the universe?* For most of history, humans have believed this cause to be something or someone divine. This is the claim of Genesis 1:1.

Verse 2 continues, *"The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep."* (Gen 1:2a) Perhaps you could argue that this is how ancients might have described the pre-Big Bang universe. But science doesn't provide evidence for the presence of a personality amidst this primordial chaos, a personality that the Bible identifies: *"And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."* (Gen 1:2b)

The Bible says that God is spirit. He exists outside the physical universe in a realm that astro-physics can't measure because it is outside the boundaries of time and space. And as an eternal, spiritual being, God causes the temporal universe.

While it was not the Big Bang, in my imagination God starts the universe with a bang for sure. *"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."* (Gen 1:3) God's voice thunders, and in a flash, lightning cuts through the dark. Or maybe the light gradually permeated the darkness like God was sliding a dimmer switch. Either way, God spoke light into being, as well as everything else he created (see the rest of Genesis 1).

Speech comes forth from intelligence. Whether human intelligence or artificial, only a complex source produces speech. However, no speech has the power to alter or originate matter. It's just not possible. Scientific research would confirm that. But Genesis 1 tells us that when God speaks, an entire universe of matter comes into existence. Now that's power unlike any other. And as science continues to unveil the macro- and microscopic complexity of the universe, we learn that the intelligence behind that speech is unlike any other as well.

In just a few verses, the Bible reveals an amazing God who is spiritual, eternal, powerful, and far more intelligent than we could ever be. Now that's starting the Bible out with a bang!

Blessed to serve with you!

Upcoming Kids and Teen Ministry events:

VBS: "Happy Campers" July 10-14. Register kids 3 years old thru 5th grade online through the church website. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Eli.

VBS Donation List – all items due by July 6th

- 25 - Swimming pool noodles
- 10 – Hula hoops
- 25 – Sports balls (variety the size of soccer balls, dodge balls, volleyballs, etc.)
- 1 – Large container of pretzel rods
- 4 – 8oz bags of white candy melts
- 4 - 8oz bags of gummy worms
- 2 – 30oz Goldfish crackers
- 1 – Large package of Twizzler pull and peels
- 2 – Family size bag of Swedish Fish gummies
- 4 – 5.9oz chocolate pudding mix
- 4 - 8oz Cool Whip
- 4 – Box of honey graham crackers
- 3 – 8oz cream cheese
- 4 – 7oz marshmallow crème
- 32 - Hot dogs
- 8 – Cans of crescent roll
- 1 – 100ct Ziplock sandwich bags
- 1 – 60ct string cheese

*If you would like to donate any of these items, please drop them off at the church office or in Eli's office. For the large amount needed items, you may donate any quantity.

**This donation list is on the Youth bulletin board outside of Eli's office and will be kept current to the items needed. If possible, check the bulletin board or call the church office before donating to ensure that the items are still needed.

***We are also looking to borrow, 15-20 un-lit Christmas trees, of all sizes. Trees will be ready for people to pick up on Sunday, July 16th after service. Trees will be held for one week after VBS, unless other arrangements regarding pick up is made. Trees not picked up, will be donated. Thank you.