



The HARVESTER Newsletter

A Publication of Southwest Church of Christ

March 2023

Dear Southwest Family,

“O victory in Jesus, my Savior, forever.” Eugene Bartlett, 1939

Victory in Jesus is my favorite hymn! There is no particular reason why that is my favorite hymn; it's just a catchy tune. I often find myself humming or singing the words to that song throughout my day.

The other day I came across an article I had saved in my files from *The Sporting News Magazine*. This article addressed the trend of athletes involved in politics. As I read the article, I came across something that struck me funny. The author said this, *“...you and I can be complete strangers and if there's a game on, we can talk for hours. If you cheer for my team, you're my best friend, instantly.”*

I find that statement to be fairly accurate. How many times do we spark up a conversation with a complete stranger because they are wearing a hat, shirt, or jersey of our favorite team? How often do we talk with a casual acquaintance about the last big game?

But why do we find it so difficult to talk to Christians about our struggles? I will admit, for me, it can be so easy to talk to someone about sports no matter who they are or what they believe. But when it comes to talking to Christians about the struggles that I face, I often choose to remain silent. It is obvious to me that my own shortcomings are not necessarily a topic I like to talk about. I feel that some of you reading this might share the same sentiment.

God's Word says this, *“And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”* (James 5:15-16 *English Standard Version*)

As Christians we are called to rise above sin and James tells us how to accomplish this: we are to confess our sins to, and pray for, one another. The best part about confessing our sins to our brothers and sisters in Christ is, we are all cheering for the same team! And often we find that our brothers and sisters have been down the same road. Remember, *“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”*

I encourage everyone to consider what James said. Strength is gained from sharing in struggle, and victory comes from confession and prayer! From now on we should consider the lyrics of that old hymn I like to whistle every now and again. But I suggest we amend one word. Instead of *my* Savior, let's sing *our* Savior... forever!

Keep up the good work, Southwest!

Mike Hawkins

Events & Information

Monthly Figures

In- Service Attendance:

1/29	2/5	2/12	2/19
83	79	95	72

“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

Heath Church of Christ, Men & Boys Bean Dinner: Thursday, 3/16. Food will be served from 5-7pm, worship to begin at 7pm. Guest speaker is Jim Book from Kissimmee Christian Church. Visit their website: www.heath.church for more information. If anyone is interested in attending and would like to carpool, let Mike Hawkins know.

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

Scrapbooking & Crafters: Saturday, 3/18 from 9am to 10pm. Open to anyone who would like to scrapbook, or work on their craft projects. Please bring a snack and drink to share. Questions? Call the church office.

“Senior Moment” Group Outing: On Wednesday, 3/22 at 10:30am at FaRay's for “half-price burger day”, and/or meet us inside the Barberton High School theatre by 12:30pm for the 1:00 Senior Citizen (free) matinee performance of “Mama Mia”. Please let Karen R. know by 3/19 if you will be joining us.

Soup Kitchen: Southwest members will be helping in April. Thank you for your willingness to serve for Christ's kingdom! Any questions, see Terry Trump.

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

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.

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

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." 1 John 5:14 (NIV)</i></p>			<p>1 Bible Discussion & Youth Groups</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 Easter Activities Mtg. Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>8 Bible Discussion & Youth Groups</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Launch '23 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>15 Bible Discussion & Youth Groups</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18 Scrapbooking</p>
<p>19 VBS Meeting Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>22 "Senior Moment" Bible Discussion & Youth Groups</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

BIRTHDAYS:	
3/02	Treasure Kriston
3/04	Heidi Klein
3/05	Rick Mitchell
3/07	Crystal Robinson
3/08	Mindie Cromer
3/11	Cadence Brink
3/15	Abigail Robinson
3/18	Mike Bunn
3/22	Bryan Krunich
3/22	Kalib Cromer
3/23	Gary Weinsheimer
3/23	Kim Yocum
3/26	Jared Friedrichsen
3/27	Breva Mitchell

ANNIVERSARIES:	
3/09	Todd & Kim Yocum
3/15	Roger & Sue Durst
3/19	Bryan & Genia Krunich

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 pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:18 NIV

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.

MAR 1: Numbers 14-15; Psalm 90
 MAR 2: Numbers 16-17
 MAR 3: Numbers 18-20
 MAR 4: Numbers 21-22
 MAR 5: Numbers 23-25
 MAR 6: Numbers 26-27
 MAR 7: Numbers 28-30
 MAR 8: Numbers 31-32
 MAR 9: Numbers 33-34
 MAR 10: Numbers 35-36

MAR 11: Deuteronomy 1-2
 MAR 12: Deuteronomy 3-4
 MAR 13: Deuteronomy 5-7
 MAR 14: Deuteronomy 8-10
 MAR 15: Deuteronomy 11-13
 MAR 16: Deuteronomy 14-16
 MAR 17: Deuteronomy 17-20
 MAR 18: Deuteronomy 21-23
 MAR 19: Deuteronomy 24-27
 MAR 20: Deuteronomy 28-29

MAR 21: Deuteronomy 30-31
 MAR 22: Deuteronomy 32-34; Psalm 91
 MAR 23: Joshua 1-4
 MAR 24: Joshua 5-8
 MAR 25: Joshua 9-11
 MAR 26: Joshua 12-15
 MAR 27: Joshua 16-18
 MAR 28: Joshua 19-21
 MAR 29: Joshua 22-24
 MAR 30: Judges 1-2
 MAR 31: Judges 3-5

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

Kids Korner

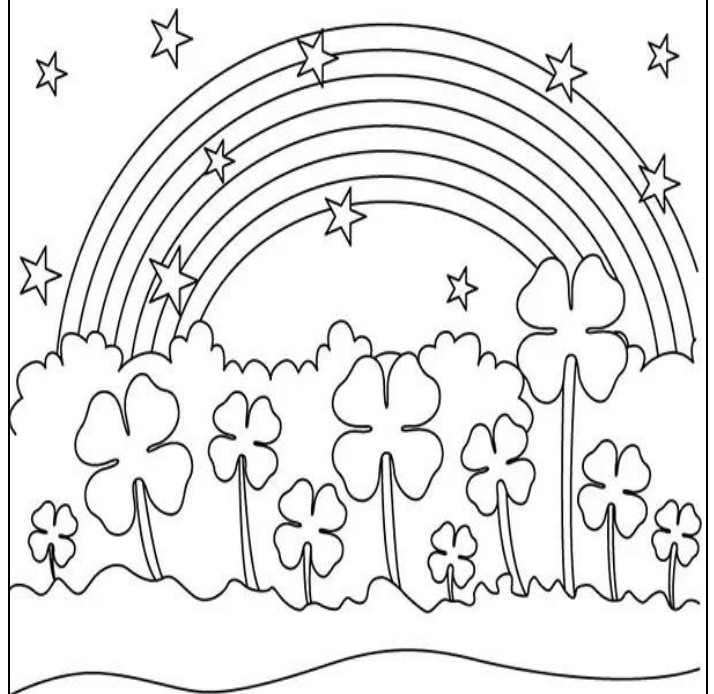


“And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.””
 Mark 16:15 NIV

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

E	B	T	1	6	1	2	A	N	D	B	T
C	V	H	D	F	H	J	L	K	M	N	H
M	O	E	P	S	T	U	L	W	Y	Z	E
A	B	M	R	D	P	R	E	A	C	H	F
R	G	J	L	Y	N	P	R	T	V	A	M
K	D	I	N	T	O	W	T	O	L	D	A
C	L	A	E	G	I	N	H	M	U	P	T
S	R	C	1	6	1	5	E	V	K	Y	T
G	O	T	A	J	O	H	N	B	E	K	B
E	W	S	G	O	O	D	Y	N	E	W	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

Tuesday Women's Bible Study: 10am

Youth Ministry

Message from Eli:

What's your earliest childhood memory?

I can vividly remember a brief moment of my fourth birthday. On top of my "Toy Story" themed cake sat a plastic Woody toy that would kick his legs when a trigger in his back was pushed down. The moment I can remember is my dad holding the Woody toy in his hand, activating the trigger, and making Woody kick a chunk of frosting off of his foot onto the table. I thought it was hilarious!

That brief moment is the only part of my fourth birthday that I can visually picture in my mind. But you know what's really weird? For some reason I also know that this memory occurred on a Sunday afternoon - specifically during lunch after church. Now, I cannot visualize anything that would tip me off to that fact. I don't remember a clock saying what time it was, or a calendar displaying the date. For some reason I just know it happened at that time and day. As a child, Sundays in the Blackford house just had a certain "feel" to them, and that feeling is impressed in this birthday memory. (P.S. I just checked the internet - my fourth birthday was in fact on a Sunday ☺).

Kids are so impressionable. Before any memories can even stick, little ones soak up impressions that have the power to set the direction of the rest of their lives. When they feel love and safety, they have far greater odds of growing up into a stable adulthood. When those things are lacking, they will live the rest of their lives desperately search for love, sometimes at the expense of stability. Whatever is pressed into them early will leave a lasting mark.

That is why it is so important, both to our kids and to God's kingdom, that the church makes impressions of Jesus early in a person's life. Before a child can even read the Bible for themselves, a mark can be made that sticks for life. So, thank you to all of our Kids Ministry volunteers for helping to impress upon our kids that they can trust Jesus' love for them!

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

- **Launch '23 – March 12th**. A group for our graduating seniors, to help prepare them for a life following Christ. The first meeting will be March 12th (either after church or before youth group) with the following dates TBD. More information coming soon!
- **VBS Meeting - March 19th**. The first VBS planning meeting immediately after church. Our theme this year is "Happy Campers". If you are interested in helping in any way with VBS this summer, please stay for this quick informational meeting.
- **Ohio Teens For Christ – April 7th-8th**. Turn in all forms to Caroline Friedrichsen before **March 12th**.
- **Easter Sunday Egg Hunt – April 9th, 9:00-10:00am**. In between the Sunrise Service and the 10:30am service we will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt for our kiddos! This is a great opportunity to invite families to join us for Easter Sunday!

Blessed to serve with you!