



The HARVESTER Newsletter

A Publication of Southwest Church of Christ

May 2023

Dear Southwest Family,

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.”

Luke 24:5-6 English Standard Version

When we read about the disciples’ seeming disbelief, it can be easy to play the role of “Monday morning quarterback”. But we must remember, they had just lost their mentor, master, and friend in a horrific way. One can only imagine the mental anguish that they were going through. Sure, they should have known better – Jesus had told them repeatedly that He would rise again to defeat sin and death. And Jesus’ words had never failed them before. But in the depths of discouragement, it can be hard to think clearly.

In looking at this verse of scripture I asked myself a few similar questions. Am I seeking the living One among the dead? Am I searching for Jesus, the risen Lord, in a world that is dying? Or am I allowing this world to beat me down? Am I seeking to see the light in this world, or am I allowing the darkness of this world to choke out what light there is?

It’s so easy to get discouraged, isn’t it? Pick up a newspaper, watch the news, go to the mailbox, answer a phone call. If you do, you’re bound to get discouraged at some point. In fact, nowadays it’s difficult to have a conversation where things like school shootings, job losses, suicides, environmental disasters, illnesses, etc. aren’t mentioned. If we allow it, the negative things of this world will rule our thoughts, our conversations, and to some degree our lives.

But consider what Luke recorded: we serve a Lord that is alive, He has risen! Death could not defeat Him! And if we live a life in accordance with God’s Word, we too will rise over death!

“For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’

‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:53-57 *ESV*).

Friends, the war was won at the cross! The war was won upon the discovery of that solemn, empty tomb! The war was won in that upper room where Thomas declared, “My Lord and my God”. And friends, we are invited to attend the eternal victory parade! Let us make the conscious decision to set our eyes upon the One who is risen, and His will for our lives!

Keep up the good work, Southwest!
Mike Hawkins

Events & Information

Monthly Figures

In- Service Attendance:

4/2	4/9	4/16	4/23
102	117	88	99

“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

Calling all Graduates!: Please email your child's information, and a senior picture to swccbarberton@gmail.com by May 31. Southwest would like to honor them on June 4th, during morning worship.

APS Walk of Life 2023: will be held May 20! 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!

Round Lake Christian Camp, “Men's Dinner”: May 5, dinner 4:30 - 6:00 pm, speaker begins at 6 pm. Cost is \$30. *Speaker Dan Smith, from Momentum Christian Church.* Sign up in the foyer and grab your registration form.

Ken Muller, Canton Christian Home: Wednesday, May 10 at 6:30pm, Ken will join us to present the mission of CCH.

Hog Roast at the Wakatomica Christian Service Camp in Danville, Ohio: Saturday, May 13 at 5pm. We will meet at the church to carpool down to the camp. We will leave at 3:45pm. For additional information, see Mike Hawkins.

John Mitchell, Christian Restoration Association: will be at SWCC to preach & share the ministry of the C.R.A. on Sunday, May 28.

Congregational Meeting: Sunday, May 21 directly after church to discuss the pavilion.

B.A.C.M. Food Pantry item: Canned Ravioli/ Beef Stew/ Chili w/meat. Place items in the BACM box in the kitchen.

Scrapbooking & Crafters: The group will be meeting on Saturday 5/13 from 9am to 10pm in the fellowship hall. Please bring a gallon drink and/or snack to share. Questions? contact the church office: 330-825-7263.

“Senior Moment” Group Outing: Tuesday, 5/16 we will be going to the Waterloo Restaurant for lunch at noon. If you want to carpool, meet us at church at 11:30am. RSVP to Karen R. by 5/14 if you will be joining us.

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 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

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1</i>	1	2 Women's Bible Study	3 Bible Discussion & Youth Groups	4	5	6
7 Jr. Church Meeting Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	8	9 Women's Bible Study	10 Ken Muller - CCH 6:30pm	11	12	13 Scrapbooking
14 Mother's Day	15	16 Women's Bible Study "Senior Moment"	17 VBS Meeting 6:30pm	18	19	20 APS "Walk for Life"
21 Congregational Meeting Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	22	23 Women's Bible Study	24	25	26	27
28 John Mitchell	29 Memorial Day	30 Women's Bible Study	31	"I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed." Psalm 34:4-5		

BIRTHDAYS:

5/6	Woody Wilson
5/9	Garland Carr
5/9	Emma Kirkhart
5/11	Bourne Phy
5/15	Darlana Wise
5/16	Dan Washburn
5/17	Karen Mercer
5/18	Sally Weber
5/20	Ethel Steele
5/23	Cassidy Washburn
5/24	Barb Trivette
5/25	Sue Ross

ANNIVERSARIES:

5/2	Bob & Ethel Steele
5/6	Craig & Debbie Easterday
5/8	Ken & Treasure Kriston

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.

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

Growing Your Faith

“Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’” Isaiah 35:4

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.

MAY 1: 2 Samuel 5:1-10; 1 Chronicles 11-12

MAY 2: Psalm 133

MAY 3: Psalm 106-107

MAY 4: 2 Samuel 5:11-25; 2 Samuel 6:1-23;
1 Chronicles 13-16

MAY 5: Psalm 1-2, 15, 22-24, 47, 68

MAY 6: Psalm 89, 96, 100, 101, 105, 132

MAY 7: 2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17

MAY 8: Psalm 25, 29, 33, 36, 39

MAY 9: 2 Samuel 8-9; 1 Chronicles 18

MAY 10: Psalm 50, 53, 60, 75

MAY 11: 2 Sam 10; 1 Chronicles 19; Psalm 20

MAY 12: Psalm 65-67, 69-70

MAY 13: 2 Samuel 11-12; 1 Chronicles 20

MAY 14: Psalm 32, 51, 86, 122

MAY 15: 2 Samuel 13-15

MAY 16: Psalm 3-4, 12-13, 28, 55

MAY 17: 2 Samuel 16-18

MAY 18: Psalm 26, 40, 58, 61-62, 64

MAY 19: 2 Samuel 19-21

MAY 20: Psalm 5, 38, 41-42

MAY 21: 2 Samuel 22-23; Psalm 57

MAY 22: Psalm 95, 97-99

MAY 23: 2 Samuel 24; 1 Chron. 21-22; Psalm 30

MAY 24: Psalm 108-110

MAY 25: 1 Chronicles 23-25

MAY 26: Psalm 131, 138-139, 143-145

MAY 27: 1 Chronicles 26-29; Psalm 127

MAY 28: Psalm 111-118

MAY 29: 1 Kings 1-2; Psalm 37, 71, 94

MAY 30: Psalm 119:1-88

MAY 31: 1 Kings 3-4; 2 Chronicles 1; Psalm 72

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

Kids Korner



**“3 When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.
4 In God, whose word I praise - in God I trust and am not afraid.” Psalm 56:3-4**

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

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

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!

Mike is currently leading us through a sermon series called "If He, Then We." It is a discipleship series that hits on the idea that as we carry out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20), we are to follow the example of Christ's own ministry.

One of the ways we do this is by proclaiming the Gospel. The word *gospel* means "good news". But what specifically is the Good News that we are supposed to tell the world? Recently, Dominos had a week-long 50% off deal on all their pizzas. I don't know about you, but to me that was good news! But does that qualify as the gospel message? Of course not.

As silly as that example seems, sometimes the church comes dangerously close to replacing the Good News with what is good news. For example, some would say that the gospel message is "God loves you!" Is that good news? Absolutely. Is it true? Of course. Can it be life-changing information? One hundred percent. Do people need to know it? Yes. But is that consistent with what the Bible says is the whole Gospel message? Hmm...

Let's use the "If He, Then We" principle to see what Jesus says Good News is. Mark's account of Jesus' ministry tells us, "Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the *gospel* of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'" (Mk 1:14-15 ESV) Matthew's account summarizes this event similarly: "From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'" (Mt. 4:17 ESV) It appears that according to what Jesus proclaimed, the Good News is that there is a kingdom coming - the rule and reign of God is near.

It is good news to know that God so loved the world (Jn 3:16). It is Good News to know that this loving God is the one and only king a) who is perfect in justice and righteousness; b) who hates evil so much so that he will one day put a complete end to it; c) who is calling people to leave their own futile, sinful lives to be loyal subjects of his kingdom; d) who makes us righteous in spite of our sin through the death of his own son; and e) who frees us from our own death for eternal life in service and allegiance to his royal authority.

What are the implications of the Good News? I don't reign over my life. The King does.

I am blessed to serve with you at the pleasure of the King.

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

Wednesday Youth Group: last official evening meeting will be May 3.

May 7: Sunday Morning Junior Church Teachers meeting immediately following worship, in the fellowship hall. To set the summer schedule and to introduce the new curriculum. Open to anyone interested in teaching on Sunday mornings.

VBS Meeting: May 17, in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30pm.

Graduation Sunday: June 4, please submit your information and your senior picture to Cindy Weaver by May 31.

VBS – July 10 to the 14: 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.

Teen Ministry Small Groups: This summer we will have guys' and girls' small groups that will meet separately. More information to come soon. Contact Eli with any questions.