



# The HARVESTER Newsletter

A Publication of Southwest Church of Christ

November 2023

Dear Southwest Family,

Church family, it's a special time of the year, is it not? The leaves have changed. The harvest has been gathered. The turkeys are tiptoeing through the woods, ever so quietly.

I absolutely love Thanksgiving. There's food, family, football, naps, and Charlie Brown. I mean how could you go wrong? Digging through my files the other day I came across a story that I feel is appropriate for this time of the year:

It was autumn, and the residents of a remote town in Alaska asked their new mayor if he thought it would be a cold winter. Being new and inexperienced, he chose to err on the side of safety. He replied that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the village should collect wood to be prepared.

Several days passed and it dawned on the mayor that the National Weather Service had an outpost just a mile from town. He called and asked the gentleman on the other end, "Is the coming winter going to be cold?" His reply was, "Yes, it looks like this winter is going to be cold indeed." So, the mayor went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared.

A few weeks went by, and the temperatures stayed rather mild. So, he called the local National Weather Service outpost again and asked, "Is it going to be a cold winter?" "Yes," the man replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter." The mayor again went back to his people, but this time he ordered them to collect every scrap of wood they could find.

A few more weeks passed, and the temperatures stayed mild. So, the mayor called the National Weather Service station a third time. "Are you absolutely sure that this winter is going to be cold? "Absolutely!" the voice replied. "It's going to be one of the coldest winters on record!" "How can you be so sure?" the mayor asked. The weatherman replied, "Because the townsfolk have been collecting wood like crazy!"

The holidays bring with them many good things. Food. Family. Fellowship. The list goes on. But there are some bad things as well. Cold temperature is one. Another, is *busyness*.

I'm reminded of a story from Luke 10:38-42. As Jesus and His disciples were on their way, they came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. While Martha was busy preparing for all the festivities, Mary, Martha's sister, sat at Jesus' feet listening to what he said. Matha made a fuss about Mary's apparent disregard for the situation. "Tell her to help me!" she demanded of Jesus. And His reply? "Mary has chosen what is better" (Luke 10:42).

It is indeed a wonderful time of the year. But far too often we allow the busyness of the season to crowd out what is better. It can be easy to fall into the habit of working our way through our holiday "to do" lists that we don't stop and truly enjoy what's happening around us. The holidays are a blessing from our Father! Let's make certain that we stop and smell the proverbial roses while we can. Let's be certain to choose what is better!

Keep up the good work, Southwest!  
Mike Hawkins

## Events & Information

### Monthly Figures

#### In- Service Attendance:

10/1	10/8	10/15	10/22
104	87	96	83

*“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

**Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study 11/21:** We will not have study on Tuesday, 11/21. Instead, the ladies will be decorating the church for Christmas. Volunteers are needed – please arrive by 10 am. Questions? See Karen Rummer.

**Veteran's Day Honors:** Sunday, 11/12, Southwest would like to honor the veterans in our congregation. Contact Cindy in the church office with your information, so she can include you in the recognition. Thank you for your service!

**Congregational Dinner:** Sunday, 11/12, Congregational “carry-in” style dinner & meeting. Dinner is at 5 pm, with the meeting beginning at 6 pm. All are welcome to join us.

**Ministry Leaders:** If you are a ministry leader who has information that should be added to the bulletin, on the screen before service, or announced at the beginning of service, please provide detailed information to the church office before 1 pm on Thursdays.

**B.A.C.M. Food Pantry item:** Pasta noodles. Place items in the BACM box in the kitchen.

**Soup Kitchen:** Southwest members will be serving on 11/21. Please see Terry Trump for details. Thank you for your continued willingness to serve for Christ's kingdom!

**Scrapbooking & Crafters:** Saturday, 11/11 from 9 am-10 pm in the fellowship hall. Open to anyone who likes to scrapbook, craft and fellowship with others. Bring a snack and beverage to share. Questions? Call the church office.

**“Senior Moment” Group Outing:** There will NOT be a Senior Moment outing for the month of November. Check back next month for more details or updates.

**Wednesday Night Live:** Refreshments start at 6 pm. Then at 6:30 pm, a combined class of adults and teenagers meet in the Fellowship Hall, and a Kindergarten through 5th grade class that meets in the basement.

**Men's Bible Study:** Monday evenings at 6:30 pm. Discussions focus on different books of the bible, by chapter, until completed. All men are welcome to join.

**Tuesday Morning Ladies Study at 10 am:** We are doing a study of Philippians 4:4-8 using Max Lucado's book, *Anxious for Nothing- Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*. Let Karen R. know if you would like a book for \$15.

**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](mailto:seniorministerswcc@gmail.com);  
Eli Blackford [youthministerswcc@gmail.com](mailto:youthministerswcc@gmail.com); and the Church Office [swccbarberton@gmail.com](mailto:swccbarberton@gmail.com)

# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise – the fruit of lips that openly profess his name." Hebrews 13:15</i></p>			1 WNL	2	3	4
5 <i>Elder's Mtg.</i>  Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	6 <i>Men's Study</i>	7 <i>Women's Bible Study</i>	8 WNL	9	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>  Scrapbooking
12 <i>Veterans Day Service</i> <i>Deacon's Mtg.</i> Congregation Dinner	13 <i>Men's Study</i>	14 <i>Women's Bible Study</i>	15 WNL	16	17	18
19 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	20 <i>Men's Study</i>	21 10 am <i>Decorating</i>  <i>Soup Kitchen</i>	22	23 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	24	25
26	27 <i>Men's Study</i>	28 <i>Women's Bible Study</i>	29 WNL	30	<p><i>"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops." Proverbs 3:9</i></p>	

BIRTHDAYS:	
11/1	Lisa Mitchell
11/1	Chuck Weinsheimer
11/3	Eli Blackford
11/3	Terry Trump
11/3	Todd Yocum
11/6	Rhonda Starcher
11/6	Carter Webb
11/16	Julie Bradshaw
11/17	Madison Mitchell
11/19	John Hounshel
11/25	Sydney Hawkins
11/26	Don Berube
11/29	Linda Smith

## ANNIVERSARIES:

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](mailto: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 everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer." 1 Timothy 4:4-5*

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.

- NOV 1: Matthew 20-21  
NOV 2: Luke 18:15--43; Luke 19:1-48  
NOV 3: Mark 11; John 12  
NOV 4: Matthew 22; Mark 12  
NOV 5: Matthew 23; Luke 20-21  
NOV 6: Mark 13  
NOV 7: Matthew 24  
NOV 8: Matthew 25  
NOV 9: Matthew 26; Mark 14  
NOV 10: Luke 22; John 13
- NOV 11: John 14-17  
NOV 12: Matthew 27; Mark 15  
NOV 13: Luke 23; John 18-19  
NOV 14: Matthew 28; Mark 16  
NOV 15: Luke 24; John 20-21  
NOV 16: Acts 1-3  
NOV 17: Acts 4-6  
NOV 18: Acts 7-8  
NOV 19: Acts 9-10  
NOV 20: Acts 11-12
- NOV 21: Acts 13-14  
NOV 22: James 1-5  
NOV 23: Acts 15-16  
NOV 24: Galatians 1-3  
NOV 25: Galatians 4-6  
NOV 26: Acts 17; Acts 18:1-18  
NOV 27: 1 Thessalonians 1-5; 2 Thessalonians 1-3  
NOV 28: Acts 18:19-28; Acts 19:1-41  
NOV 29: 1 Corinthians 1-4  
NOV 30: 1 Corinthians 5-8

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

## Kids Korner



"Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!" Psalm 95:2

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

T	A	C	E	G	I	K	N	M	O	Q	S
U	H	I	S	W	Y	J	O	Y	F	U	L
B	D	A	F	H	P	J	I	L	N	P	R
L	P	T	N	V	R	Z	S	A	S	C	9
E	S	G	P	K	E	H	E	K	O	M	9
T	A	9	R	O	S	Q	R	T	N	V	5
S	L	5	A	C	E	G	F	H	G	J	L
C	M	2	I	P	N	R	I	T	S	V	H
O	Y	D	S	Z	C	F	N	V	H	T	N
M	A	K	E	P	E	5	T	R	I	S	K
E	U	W	Y	A	C	5	O	W	Z	N	B
K	M	O	H	I	M	2	S	U	W	Y	G

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](http://www.swccbarberton.com)  
[www.facebook.com/swccbarberton](http://www.facebook.com/swccbarberton)

### WEEKLY WORSHIP TIMES:

Sunday Morning:

Sunday School 9:30 am

Morning Worship 10:30 am

## Youth Ministry

### Message from Eli:

Hey, Southwest Family,

Recently, I have been thinking about the relationship between two familiar New Testament figures- Paul and Timothy. Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles responsible for spreading the gospel and planting churches all over the Roman empire. He was a gifted leader, author of much of the New Testament, a missionary who doggedly endured persecution for the sake of winning people to Christ.

Timothy was a young man when Paul met him. The son of a Greek father and a Jewish-Christian mother, Timothy was forced to decide early in life whose spiritual heritage he would follow. He chose to place his faith in Jesus. Acts 16:2 tells us that *"he was well spoken of by the brothers"*. Seeing his sincere faith and potential for ministry, Paul hand-picked Timothy to accompany him in his missionary journeys. And when we read First and Second Timothy, which were letters from Paul to Timothy, we get a unique look into their relationship. Paul was like a spiritual father to Timothy (1 Tim. 1:2). He trusted him and encouraged him to not shrink away from using his gifts to lead the church in Ephesus.

The relationship between these two men can be summed up stating that Paul was a great mentor to Timothy. Without Paul in his corner, Timothy might not have reached his full potential. And this highlights an important and crucial relationship within the church. Young people need spiritual mentors.

So, what does it take to mentor someone? Check out what Walter Liefeld says in his commentary on 1 & 2 Timothy/Titus:

*"What young Timothys today need, especially, is personal mentoring, but not merely mentoring in the sense of giving information and offering guidance... To mentor a Timothy means to be available, to spend time with him or her, to understand the differences, and to seek to facilitate rather than to control the use of that person's distinctive gifts... In Paul, Timothy had a person who was close to him, who listened and understood him, who recognized his individual giftedness, and who had confidence in him."*

Mentoring requires relationship. Relationship requires availability. Are you relationally available to those who are younger than you?

Blessed to serve with you!

### Upcoming Kids and Teen Ministry events:

**Leaf Raking Day #2:** Saturday, 11/4. Leaf raking, flowerbed clean-up, light yardwork, etc. for the SWCC members in need of our help. Contact Eli with any questions.

**Friendsgiving:** Sunday, 11/19. More details to come – see the Sunday bulletin.

**No Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group on Sunday, 11/26**