



The HARVESTER Newsletter

A Publication of Southwest Church of Christ

October 2023

Dear Southwest Family,

Have you ever felt like you were losing your mind? I would say we've all felt that way from time to time. But some reading this may even go a step further. You may be thinking, "Mike, it's too late. I lost my mind years ago!"

Maybe you've poured yourself a cup of coffee, only to put the carafe in the refrigerator? Or carried a letter to the mailbox to send, only to bring it back with the rest of the mail? Maybe you've gone into a room several times trying to remember the reason why you went into the room in the first place!

Years ago when I was working as a pipefitter I got up one Saturday, put my work clothes on, laced up my boots, made a pot of coffee, and turned on the news before I realized it was my day off.

We are currently in a sermon series called, "*Better Together*", where we are working our way through the book of Philippians. I love what Paul says about losing our minds:

So, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 2:1-5 *ESV*)

When I read what Paul wrote here, I can't help but think – *this is what loving your neighbor as yourself looks like!* But what does that have to do with losing your mind? Well, considering what Paul wrote, let's ask ourselves a couple of questions.

First, let's ask, "Am I striving to lose my mind?" Sounds strange, doesn't it? But losing our mind is not forgetfulness, as in the conventional understanding of the word. Losing our mind is the laying down of our whims, wills, and wants. It's a willingness to live beyond our own interests and live for the interests of others.

Second, let's ask, "Am I striving to put on the mind of Christ?" When we determine to put on the mind of Christ, we make the decision to imitate our Savior. We try, as best we can, to mirror His attitudes and His actions as we see them from Scripture. We seek God's interests. We seek God's will and God's wants.

Paul put it to the church in Ephesus like this: "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children." (Ephesians 4:32-5:1 *ESV*) Or, as I've suggested here in this article, *lose your mind and put on the mind of Christ.*

It seems strange to write this, but ***let's lose our minds!*** Let's strive daily to take on the mind of Christ – which is a mind of selflessness, and sacrifice, and service. Let's "...walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God". (Ephesians 5:2 *ESV*)

Keep up the good work, Southwest!
Mike Hawkins

Events & Information

Monthly Figures

In- Service Attendance:

8/27	9/3	9/10	9/17	9/24
87	101	92	91	87

“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

Preacher Appreciation Potluck Luncheon 10/15: for Mike and Eli after Sunday service. Please bring a dish or dessert to share. Recommendation: bring cold food in insulated bags with ice, or bring hot food in crockpots to keep it hot.

Trunk or Treat: Saturday, 10/28 from 4:30-7:30 pm here at SWCC. Please sign-up to participate in the line of cars. Theme: ERA's (70's, 80's, 90's, etc.) Please be tasteful in costumes & music. Decorate your cars and bring your own candy to pass out. Each car will be entered into a contest. There will be prizes!! We are also looking for donations to help with this fun-filled evening. View the clipboard in the foyer to see what items are needed, and how you can help make this event a huge success. Any questions, see Eli.

Acme Community Cash Back: We are collecting ACME receipts. Be sure that your receipt has a "Community Cash Back" amount at the bottom. Please leave them in the foyer. Box Tops can be left on Cindy's desk, in the blue folder.

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

Soup Kitchen: Southwest members will be serving on 11/7. Please see Terry Trump for details. Thank you for your continued willingness to serve for Christ's kingdom!

Scrapbooking & Crafters: Saturday, 10/7 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: Tuesday, 10/17 lunch at The Barn restaurant in Smithville. To carpool, we will leave from the church at 11:30 am. All those 55 or over are invited! RSVP to Karen R. by Sunday, 10/15.

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;
Eli Blackford youthministerswcc@gmail.com; and the Church Office swccbarberton@gmail.com

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Elders 3pm</i> Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	2 Men's Study	3 Women's Bible Study	4 WNL	5	6	7 Leaf Raking Day #1 Scrapbooking
8 <i>Deacons 12pm</i> Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	9 Men's Study	10 Women's Bible Study	11 WNL	12	13	14
15 <i>Preacher Appreciation Potluck Lunch</i> Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	16 Men's Study	17 Women's Bible Study "Senior Moment"	18 WNL	19	20	21
22 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	23 Men's Study	24 Women's Bible Study	25 WNL	26	27	28 Trunk Or Treat
29 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group	30 Men's Study	31 Women's Bible Study	"Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near." James 5:7-8			

BIRTHDAYS:	
10/5	Dave Hodge
10/19	Terry Hoover
10/19	Meredith Wilson
10/24	Tina Caracciolo
10/28	Katy Geimer
10/31	Genia Krunich

ANNIVERSARIES:	
10/4	Ben & Cindy Weaver
10/5	Chris & Kristy Prentice

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

"They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the LORD our God, who gives rain in its season, both the autumn rain and the spring rain, who keeps for us the appointed weeks of the harvest."

Jeremiah 5:24

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.

- OCT 1: Luke 1; John 1:1-14
OCT 2: Matthew 1; Luke 2:1-38
OCT 3: Matthew 2; Luke 2:39-52
OCT 4: Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3
OCT 5: Matthew 4; Luke 4-5; John 1:15-51
OCT 6: John 2-4
OCT 7: Mark 2
OCT 8: John 5
OCT 9: Matthew 12:1-21; Mark 3; Luke 6
OCT 10: Matthew 5-7
- OCT 11: Matthew 8:1-13; Luke 7
OCT 12: Matthew 11
OCT 13: Matthew 12:22-50; Luke 11
OCT 14: Matthew 13; Luke 8
OCT 15: Matthew 8:14-34; Mark 4-5
OCT 16: Matthew 9-10
OCT 17: Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9:1-17
OCT 18: John 6
OCT 19: Matthew 15; Mark 7
OCT 20: Matthew 16; Mark 8; Luke 9:18-27
- OCT 21: Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9:28-62
OCT 22: Matthew 18
OCT 23: John 7-8
OCT 24: John 9:1-41; John 10:1-21
OCT 25: Luke 10-11; John 10:22-42
OCT 26: Luke 12-13
OCT 27: Luke 14-15
OCT 28: Luke 16; Luke 17:1-10
OCT 29: John 11
OCT 30: Luke 17:11-37; Luke 18:1-14
OCT 31: Matthew 19; Mark 10

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

Kids Korner



"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven:" Ecclesiastes 3:1

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

H	A	R	V	E	S	T	I	N	G
I	B	D	Y	F	H	J	L	U	G
M	P	U	R	P	O	S	E	N	Q
S	U	W	E	Y	Z	A	I	D	C
E	G	I	V	K	M	H	O	E	Q
T	I	M	E	R	T	T	V	R	X
Z	B	D	F	Y	H	I	K	M	O
R	F	O	R	T	E	V	X	D	Z
Y	W	E	U	S	R	P	N	M	J
L	V	A	N	S	E	A	S	O	N
E	D	H	E	A	V	E	N	K	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 9:30 am

Morning Worship 10:30 am

Youth Ministry

Message from Eli:

Hey, Southwest Family,

Our theme for the youth group this fall is “Fearless”, and it comes from 2 Timothy 1:7: *For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (ESV)*

I don’t know about you, but I can always use a little less fear and a little more power, love, and self-control in my life. Okay, I could actually use a lot more. To think of all the times I have taken action, only so far as my own human limits allowed, makes me realize that there were a lot more opportunities that I have missed. Opportunities to take hold of what God had placed right in front of me.

But, here in 2 Timothy 1:7, we are told of an amazing reality. The Holy Spirit, whom God has given freely to help all believers, is Himself fearless! When I am lacking in ability, He is perfect in power. When I am short on love, He’s pouring the love of God into my heart. When the appetites of my flesh rage in me, the Holy Spirit also works in me to give me control over my choices. I will never be completely without fear. But when I remember to acknowledge the fearless Helper who dwells in me, He will not let me down!

I recently shared a story with the teens about how I struggle with a lot of social fears. There are a lot of social situations where I am uncomfortable or where I worry about rejection. Consequently, there have been times when I didn’t show up when I should have or speak up when I had something to say.

When I first met Kaylah (my lovely wife), I really wanted to ask her out on a date. But I was afraid. What if she said no? What if she said yes, but the date didn’t go well? What if this happened? Or what if that happened? What if, what if, what if...

Finally, I prayed. I asked the Holy Spirit for His help. I mustered up the courage to ask Kaylah out on a date. She said yes. The rest is history!

If I let my fear make the decision for me, I never would have taken hold of the amazing wife, best friend, and sister-in-Christ that God brought into my life. Praise the Lord that our Helper doesn’t make decisions based on fear, but is Himself fearless!

Blessed to serve with you!

Upcoming Kids and Teen Ministry events:

Leaf Raking Day #1: Saturday, 10/7. More details to come – see the Sunday bulletins.

Trunk or Treat: Saturday, 10/28 from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Eli.