



# The Southwesterner

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## GENTLENESS

November 10, 2024

As I read this recent article from Josh Yates from the Fruitland Church of Christ in Jackson, Missouri, I found myself thinking about our recent election season. I do not recall seeing any ads over the past few months featuring a candidate at any level claiming to be “the gentlest candidate.” They want to portray strength and power. We might fall into that same trap of equating gentleness with weakness. Consider Josh’s thoughts below and remember the call to be gentle. - Brian

As a Christian, I often think about the fruit of the Spirit. These are a list of characteristics that should be evident in our lives as we strive to walk in the Spirit and be molded into the image of Christ. So of course, I like to think of each one of these and ask myself if I display these qualities in my life. Do I see these things in me? Do others see these things in me? If someone were to introduce me to a stranger and describe the type of person that I am, would they use some of these words to describe me? The other day as I was thinking on this, I got stuck on gentleness for a second and realized how easy it may be for some of us to think a little negatively about possessing this important trait. When I say some of us, I am thinking particularly of men.

Imagine with me that a friend is introducing you to someone, and he says, “Oh this is Josh, this guy loves everyone, and everyone loves him!” (Love). That would be nice, right? Now just go down the list. “Oh this is Josh, he’s the happiest guy you’ll ever meet!” (Joy). Well thanks! “Oh this is Josh, he is so cool and laid back and easy going” (Peaceful/Patient). I like that! Keep going! “This is Josh, he’s a super nice, super good guy” (Kind/Good). Nice, I really appreciate that! “This is Josh, he is just so gentle!...wait, what? Come on man, where is that coming from?”

Would many of you have the same reaction? How many men out there would like to be automatically thought of as the “gentlest” man someone knows? I would guess not many, yet it is a trait we should all desire to have. To a masculine mind especially, this trait may sound weak and undesirable, but what is it really?

Gentleness, or meekness, does NOT mean weakness. The Greek word was often used in describing the breaking and training of a horse. Even old English used the term “Meeking a horse” in the same way. If one were to “meek” a horse, it wouldn’t mean the horse was stripped of its power, but rather that the power of the horse had been harnessed from an uncontrollable state to a controllable one under the hand of its master. Power under humble submission to the master, just as we should be under our master. It means power under control.

When thought of that way, it requires a great deal of strength to cultivate a quality of gentleness. Strength by restraint or self-control. Since gentleness springs from humility, someone who lacks it may instead be described as rash, impulsive, prideful, selfish, easily angered, unreasonable, arrogant, and mean natured. Now, doesn’t being described as gentle seem much better than that?

Jesus himself said, “*I am gentle and lowly in heart*”. Our all-powerful, almighty Savior could never be described as weak, but He was gentle, and He is still gentle with us, which should make us all the more appreciative of this often-underappreciated trait. So be proud to be called gentle. That’s just another way of saying Christ-like, and what a compliment that would be!



### Elders

Jeff Butler  
Greg Hatton  
David Hendricks  
Richard Howard  
Brent Lowe  
Butch Platt

### Ministers

Brian Lewis  
David Dirrim  
Thorin Turner  
Kyle Wilson

### Secretary

Dana Chilcoat



# Family Matters

**Glenda King** is struggling with her health at this time and would appreciate your prayers.

**Leon Hughey** was readmitted to Arbuckle Memorial Hospital in Sulphur on Tuesday. He is not doing well. Please keep him and the family in your prayers.

**Amanda Lampkin** is requesting prayers for her grandpa, David Johnson, who fell and broke both arms and one shoulder. He is in a skilled nursing facility already battling Alzheimer's and now several broken bones.

**Please keep** Vernon and Pat Morgan in your prayers. They would appreciate anyone who would like to come and visit them. For those that would like to visit them, the address will be on this week's "Because We Care" list or call the office.

**Madonna Tidwell** broke her shoulder recently. Please keep her in your prayers.

**We are asking** for prayers for Mary Shirey, Sonya Clark's mother. It was recently discovered that she has another large kidney stone in her right kidney and a small one in her left kidney. We are praying that her surgery will be sooner than later and that her antibiotics will keep her infection in check while we wait. Thank you so much! With love, The Clark Family

**Our sympathy** goes out to Jared and Kellie Hudson and their family on the passing of Jared's mother, Janice Hudson, who passed away Thursday morning. Please keep Jared and his family in your prayers.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

*"Pray without ceasing."*

Please continue to pray for...

Pam Foxen, Lea Crain, Arles Wells, Leon Hughey, Pat Morgan, Jana & Stacey Stewart, Barbara Cannon, Ken & Wanda Roper, Myrtie Clarke, Nash Gilliam, Betty Gerth, Barbara Hataway, Sherry Price, Dona Pippen, Barbara Lewis, Randy Hall, Ronald Trent, Sue Silkey, Shirley Love, Katie Meaders, Johnnie Sing, Cherry Bennett, Shirley Perry, Pattie Mitchell, Debbie Harber, Warner Fleck, Randy Wilson and Thayne Consequellos.

## Happenings

### *Church Events & Announcements*

**The Ladies Prayer Group** meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 4pm. They will meet next on **November 10th**.

**Meals on Wheels week** will be **November 11th - 15th**. Helpers are: Tommy Myers, Bill Young, Don Kite, Dub Borders, and Chuck Love.

**There will be** a Safety Team meeting on Sunday, **November 24th**, at 4pm in room 100. See James Bryant for questions.

**The Yellow House** will pass out food on Monday, **November 25th**, from 8am - 10am. Helpers this month are Butch Platt, James Bryant, Chuck Love, Mark & Cindy Coleman, Glenda Lillard, Carolyn Pults, Kim Simpson, & Donna Duncan. **The Yellow House food will be picked up and sacked on the morning of Wednesday, November 20th**. If you're unable to help, please see Chuck Love.

**We will have** a singing night on Wednesday, **November 27th**, at 6:30pm in the church auditorium. There will not be any classes.

**You are invited** to a Christmas Paint Party on **December 6th** from 6pm - 10pm in the fellowship building. Please bring a finger food. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Desk, for those that would like to attend, along with a picture of what we will be painting that night. Please see Carli Turner for questions.

### H.O.P. Banquet

(Honoring Older People)

Our annual H.O.P. Banquet will be Sunday, **November 17th**, in the fellowship building following our morning services. If you are 60 years or older, please come join us! The banquet is hosted by the youth group.

(There will not be a Golden Doers Meal in November)

### Thanksgiving Boxes

We will be handing out Thanksgiving boxes again this year on Monday, **November 25th**, from 3pm - 7pm at the Yellow House. This is for families with children in school that may be in need of one. If you would like to donate monetarily to this, please make your checks payable to Southwest church of Christ and memo them as "Thanksgiving Boxes."

**The DEADLINE for monetary donations is Wednesday, November 20th**. There is a sign up sheet on the Welcome Desk for those that would like to help prepare and pass out the boxes. Please see Chuck Love for questions.



# 18 UPCOMING EVENTS

## November at a Glance

- 03 EEM Hope Project Contribution, Elders, Deacons, Ministers Meet, AWTG at Choctaw
- 05 Widower's Breakfast
- 06 WNFM Meal
- 07 College Meal/Devo (Hatton)
- 09 Jr. God's Girls
- 10 Ladies Pr. Grp, Youth Meal/Fel.
- 11-15 Meals on Wheels Week
- 14 College Meal/Devo (Graham)
- 17 H.O.P. Banquet, Youth Meal/Fel.
- 21 Col. Meal/Devo at SBC (Lewis)
- 24 Safety Tm. Meet, Ladies Pr. Grp.
- 25 Yellow House, Thanksgiv Boxes
- 27 Singing Night (No Classes)
- 28-29 Office Closed (Thanksgiving)



## TEENS AND YOUTH

### November 10th

Youth Group  
Meal & Fellowship

### November 14th

Youth Group  
Home Bible Study

# Birthdays of the Month

- 11/11 William Gould,  
David Hendricks
- 11/12 Sadie Dennis
- 11/13 Tommy Vass
- 11/14 Shirley Love,  
Heaven Tamayo
- 11/15 Garrett Hatton
- 11/16 Mark Willis,  
Jan Young



### November 14th

College Meal & Devo  
(Graham)

### November 21st

College Meal & Devo  
at the SBC (Lewis)

**The college group** will travel to Eastside church of Christ in Midwest City on Sunday, November 17th, for a support update.

**The college group** will also begin raising funds for their spring break mission trip to Nicaragua.



## PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Heaven Allen Hunter Wilson  
Michale Perry Clay Wilson Jr.  
Josh Higginbottom  
Frank Holsapple Jr.

## Bible Classes

SUNDAY MORNINGS

### Adults

David Hendricks  
Auditorium

Jeff Butler

Titus  
Room 100

David Dirrim  
Adult Bible Class  
Fellowship Building

Brad Trekell  
Sermon on the Mount  
Room 111

### College Group

Kyle Wilson  
Room 107

### Youth Group

Thorin Turner  
Room 101

### Elementary

5th - 6th grades: Room 104  
2nd - 4th Grades: Room 102  
K - 1st Grade: Room 105

### Preschool

3's & 4's: Room 112  
Toddlers, 2's & 3's: Room 114  
Babies: Room 113

*For the Record: 11/03/2024*

Bible Study	165
AM Assembly	222
PM Assembly	52
Wednesday PM	150
Contributions	\$14,280
Budget	\$13,777



## SERVING THIS WEEK

### Sunday Morning:

Song Leader: Kyle Wilson  
Opening Prayer: Mark Clark  
Closing Prayer: Beau Griffin  
Scripture Reading: Trenton Hensley  
Lord's Supper Thoughts: Butch Platt  
Communion: Brad Butler, Toker Dennis,  
Joe Dirrim, Jag Frye, Tim Hensley,  
Stefan Iorga, Tommy Vass, Kerry White  
Alternate Communion: Todd Martin & Ronnie Osborn  
Balcony Communion: Matt Bryant & Don Kite  
Nursing Home Communion: Greg Hatton  
Attendance Counter: Hunter Nickell  
Safety Team Walk **AM/PM**: Keith Nail  
Safety Team Camera **AM/PM**: Cody Frye  
Coordinator **AM/PM/Wed**: Quaid Clark & Jared Griffin  
Sound Booth **AM/PM/Wed**: Drew Adams & Caleb Estes  
Welcome Desk (Nov.): Brent & Diana Lowe  
Greeters (Nov.): Mark & Cindy Coleman; Sue H. & Jan M.

### Sunday Evening:

Song Leader: David Lewis  
Opening Prayer: Thorin Turner  
Closing Prayer: Justin Lane  
Attendance Counter: Chuck Love  
Communion: Steve Black & Mark Tinsley

### Wednesday PM:

Song Leader: Scott Estes  
Announcements/Opening Prayer: Ried Duncan  
Closing Prayer: David Hendricks  
8 Minute Devotional: David Hendricks  
Attendance Counting: Drew Graham  
Safety Team Walk: Hunter Nickell  
Safety Team Camera: Kevin Graham

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome  
Sing and Be Happy  
Scripture Reading: Hebrews 9:27-28  
Prayer  
All in All  
Faithful Love  
Holy Ground  
Thoughts From the Cross: Butch Platt  
Can He Still Feel the Nails?  
Communion  
Give Thanks  
Contribution  
What a Day That Will Be  
A.M. Lesson: By His Own Blood  
There's a Fountain Free  
Announcements  
In Christ Alone  
Prayer  
  
P.M. Lesson: Justice

An elder and his wife are available in the classroom of the middle hallway of the building during each invitation.

**Shepherd for November:** Butch Platt

**Supporting Shepherd & Wife:** Jeff & Pam Butler

### **November Contribution Counters:**

Drew Adams, Kevin Graham, Drew Graham

## SOUTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST

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OFFICE@SWCOCADA.COM

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Online Giving



### Sunday

Bible Classes - 9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship - 5:00 p.m.

### Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class - 10:00 a.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Classes - 6:30 p.m.



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