

SOF in Touch

JANUARY 2023

EXCITING NEWS FROM SHIELD OF FAITH MINISTRIES



AT A GLANCE

- 1/7: KERYX Prison Service
- 1/8: ADUTs "Movie with Pastor Mike" 12 pm
- 1/12: CCC 6-8 pm @ Deweese's house
- 1/22: Communion by Lynn Ahrens

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The Novelty of Jesus

By Jenny Deweese

"Novelty: *noun*, the quality of being new, original, or unusual" (Google search)

Thousands of years ago, a Baby caused quite a stir in a little town far away from Saginaw. The known world was a dark place, and the Jewish people were stuck in an old system of sacrifice that would never be enough to completely free them from sin's grasp.

That Baby ushered in a new hope, and about 30 years later, He turned Jerusalem and the surrounding areas upside down with His radical teaching about

God's Law and Covenant. This new and strange viewpoint caused a wide range of reactions in those who listened. No one ever stayed the same after an encounter with Jesus—they either believed Him and were transformed for the good or dismissed Him and were embittered to their loss.

Jesus perfectly kept the old Law and perfectly fulfilled the old Covenant. He brought to light the "new" Covenant that actually was always God's plan for us from before creation.

In this new year, may we glory in the promise we have from 2

Corinthians 5:17—"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." Jesus doesn't want us to wallow in our old ways. He wants us to stand firm, and He's given us His Holy Spirit to empower us. Let us resolve to believe we are new creations, to live out our new lives with confidence, and to seek out His new hope every day!

"The steadfast love of the Lord **never** ceases; His mercies **never** come to an end; they are new **every** morning; **great** is Your faithfulness" Lamentations 3:22-23 (emphasis added).

Happy NEW Year!!

A Word from Pastor Weldon



Happy New Year, church families! Let's determine to make 2023 our best year ever, inviting the Holy Spirit to be a part of our daily walk and asking the Spirit for wisdom to become stronger believers at work, play and in our communities. We can do it, brothers and sisters, in Jesus' Name. Ask yourself, "What areas in my life do I need to improve in 2023, and then involve the Holy Spirit for the help you will need.

We as a church family must remain steady and planted in our home church. Times are not going to get easier or be without trials. We will need to draw strength from Jesus and His body as the times get tougher.

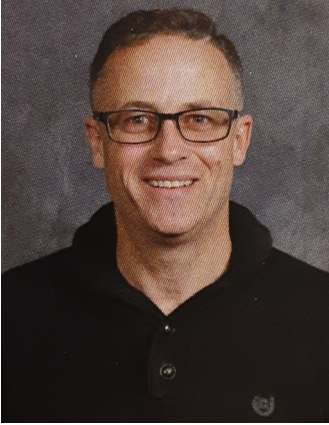
As your pastor I am committing to you all to do everything in His power that fills me to feed, protect, and defend the Gospel of Christ. I will not allow the devil or the government to shut

our church down nor compromise the Word of God, so help me, God! I love you all, and thank you for all you do for Christ and His church family (SOF).

Much love,

Pastor Weldon





A Message from Pastor Mike

Greetings, Shield of Faith Saints of God!

Wow, can it be 2023 already?!

You know time flies when you are doing something—"we must have done lots" because this past year flew by.

It is so nice being part of a church family that is active and ALIVE. You all are great, and I so love being a part of this with you. I look forward to all the adventures we will find our-

selves in this new year and can't wait to do it with you!

Praying for God's divine BREAKTHROUGHS for your life. Declaring in Jesus Name this is the Year of Breakthrough!



ADUT Scuttlebutt

By Jenny Deweese

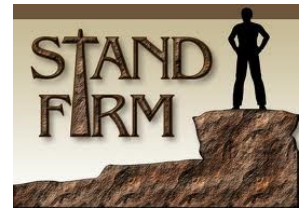
Our lesson last Sunday focused on Gideon after his victory over the Midianites. He refused to be his people's king and told them, "The Lord will be your King." How promising this seemed! Sadly, though, he requested a gold earring from each leader's plunder and fashioned an ephod out of them.

The ephod then became a snare for Gideon and his family.

Let us start 2023 with the same determination that the Lord will be our King. Then, let us stay firm and steadfast in following Him faithfully. Let us foil the snares the enemy lays at our feet and keep our focus on Jesus!

NOTE:

We will not have our 8 a.m. group on Christmas Sunday or on New Year's Day.



"Adults Discovering Ultimate Truth"
A group for ages 18-25ish who want to grow together in faith and fun



Junior and Senior High kids learning to navigate this crazy world together in a way that challenges the "norm" through Jesus' mighty power

Youth Truth

YOUTH CHRISTMAS

PARTY!!!

Saturday

January 7th

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.



Kids' Corner

By Jenny Deweese

"Jesus loves the little children—all the children of the world! Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight! Jesus loves the little children of the world!"

This classic Sunday school song was Russell's favorite as a small boy. I remember one Sunday during the worship service in Waterford, our gifted pianist played a beautiful arrangement of a medley of different songs for the offertory. Part-way

through, I recognized this precious tune, and Russell, although only about 3 or 4 at the time, immediately sprung up straight on the pew and scooched forward with a huge smile on his face. He looked at me, his eyes wide with delight as if to say, "Mommy, it's my favorite song!"

That moment gave me such joy! My precious little boy knew Jesus loved him. He knew the most basic message of the Gospel—and it was his favorite!

Our children are watching us—listening and learning and absorbing all we do and say. Through this children's ministry, we strive to help children realize that Jesus can be our favorite—because we were His favorite, first.

If you would like to know more about this ministry, feel free to talk with Jackie Gilles.



Kids in grades K-5 growing with Jesus

Nursery News

By Judy Barnes

WANTED:

Young kids who will have fun learning how much God loves them through a simple craft and Bible story.

We also have room for another nursery teacher once per month. If you are interested in ministering to these pre-

cious little ones, please see Judy Barnes or Jackie Gilles.



"Let the little ones come to Me..."
Infants through preschoolers' starting life in Jesus' love

Ladies' Life

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Join us Thursday, January 12th, between 6-8 p.m. for our next Coffee, Conversation, and Chocolate hosted by Jenny Deweese at her house.

There's no need to feel obligated to come on time or to stay until 8—come within those hours for as long as

you'd like or for as long as you can. We would LOVE to see you!

This is purely a time of visiting—no study, no games, no plan—just "hang time."

We hope to see you there!



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POINTING THE WAY TO
JESUS!



A Kernel from Pastor Kathy

The History of Sound in Worship Part 2: Creation begins to worship its Creator

I have always been intrigued with biblical worship—what it looks like, what it sounds like. I would like to try to give a historic time table of how we got to this place in our worship of God. Creation: God creates every single detail—what it looks like, what it sounds like. Creation on and above earth performs a symphony.

When creating our world and the great expansive heavens, He put the stars and all of heaven in place to receive praise from them. Psalms 148:1-4 says, "Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels...all his hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars of light! Praise Him, you heaven of Heavens. And you waters above the heavens." On the first day of Creation when God created the Sun, He created it so that the sun's pressure waves travel to its surface and then travel back to its core. The waves interact with each other and create 100,000 single musical notes. God created this sound, and as it says in Genesis on that day, "it was good."

On the second day of Creation, God created the Heavens. Gas pressure is everywhere between the planets and with their electrically charged ions and electrons, they create plasma. Plasma wave sounds occur in frequencies that the human ear can hear, and these waves sound like whale sounds and whistles. God created this sound, "And it was good..." The plasma sounds of the Aurora Borealis create "music" in the same way. Broken pieces of stars shoot pulses of Light. They are called Pulsars, creating rhythmic Bongo sounds. God created percussion in the heavens, "And it was good..." Scientists have found a black hole in space. Gases in it cause pressure. That pressure causes ripples that produce a frequency that corresponds to a B flat—8 full keyboards below Middle B. That is a million billion times below human hearing limits. (That is some bass guitar!) We can't hear it, but He can; he likes it..."And it was good"

Over 2000 years ago, ONE of those worshipping stars was created to Stand Out in the sky and lead those looking for a King to the Savior in the form of a Baby. And those angels and hosts of heaven joined in symphony with the music of the heavens and declared, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!!! Must have been quite a jam session. Lovingly, PK

Men's Moment

God's promise

By Adam Gilles, Elder

Ezekiel 36:26-28

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."

When we accept Jesus Christ as Lord over our lives, He promises us a

new heart and spirit.

That's when our hearts are circumcised—transformed with the things of God through salvation in Christ Jesus.

To receive the promises of God, believe in your heart that JESUS IS LORD and that God raised Him from the dead. It's simple—confess with your mouth...

"Lord come into my heart; forgive me of my sins; wash me; cleanse

me; change me; fill me with your Holy Spirit; set me free. Thank You for a new heart and Your promise."

If you said this prayer for the first, time welcome to the kingdom of God! I would love to hear from you. Please contact me at agilles77@icloud.com

May God bless you and shine bright upon you.

