

# SOF in Touch

OCTOBER 2025

EXCITING NEWS FROM SHIELD OF FAITH MINISTRIES



## AT A GLANCE

- 10/4: Jail Service
- 10/11: ADUT trip to Dundee
- 10/12: Italian-themed outreach potluck—bring friends & family
- 10/26: Communion led by Matt Gilles; trunk-or-treat

## Wandering

By Jenny Deweese

“We’ve gotta go—get your stuff. Hurry!” and just like that, the Israelites left Egypt and set out for the Promised Land. It was going to be a wonderful deliverance—and it was miraculous, too, as they crossed the Red Sea on dry ground! They were free!

Then they did something that so many of us do: they focused on problems; they lost courage; they refused to claim what was theirs. Because of those choices, they ended up in a trying situation—wandering around for forty years in the desert.

Sukkot is the Jewish remembrance

of that time in the desert and a celebration of how God still provided all the Israelites’ needs. Their clothes never wore out, and they had mana to eat every day plus water to drink.

Have you ever felt like you were wandering? Do you feel like you’re wandering right now? Maybe you’ve made some questionable choices. Maybe you’ve drifted away from the Lord. Maybe you’ve just come to Jesus and are still figuring out what it all means.

God is patient and loving! He continually supplies our needs and whispers to our hearts that He’s wanting us to draw close

to Him. Instead of wandering through the wilderness of doubt, fear, or hopelessness, we can dive into God’s Word and find His promises for us—that He has a hope and future for us, that His plan is good and perfect! We can draw even closer through prayer: that quiet, private time away from the noisy world where we can actually hear His quiet, loving voice.

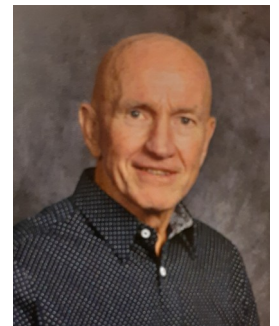
The more time we spend with Jesus, the more likely we are to follow His path into our own promised lands—those places where we can fulfill our individual purposes and bless others the most. Let’s seek Him!

## A Word from Pastor Weldon

Sunday, September 21, after watching and listening to Charlie Kirk stories, I felt encouraged to draw even closer to Jesus. I knew how important it was to study Scripture, but after watching and listening to all the clips on Charlie Kirk’s life, I felt the church could use a strong challenge of getting to know Jesus in a more personal way. Charlie was asked if he had 5 minutes to talk to Jesus, what would he talk about. To the surprise of the interviewer, Charlie said, “I talk to Jesus all the time.” My thought was *do most Christians talk to Jesus regularly?*

In the Bible Jesus would tell His followers, “If you learn to know Me, I will set you free” (John 8:32, 36). To know somebody you must spend time with that person. Remember, prayer time is supposed to be a two-way conversation between us and Jesus. The challenge is to learn how to listen.

When Jesus taught believers how to pray, He said not to just use a lot of words but to locate a quiet place to pull away so as not to be distracted and to talk with Jesus and listen to your heart for His response. You can also use your Bible to see if you sense a place to read. Like most



forms of discipline, it takes practice and self-control.

Come on, Church Families, let’s get to know Jesus even better.

You are loved.



## Inside this issue:

<i>A Message from Pastor Mike</i>	2
<i>ADUT Scuttlebutt</i>	2
<i>Youth Truth</i>	2
<i>Kids’ Corner</i>	3
<i>Nursery News</i>	3
<i>Ladies’ Life</i>	3
<i>An Adage from Pastor Adam</i>	4
<i>Men’s Moment</i>	4



## A Message from Pastor Mike

The Bible says weakness is not an end but an opportunity for God's power to be shown, as "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9) shows. Instead of self-reliance, the Bible encourages a reliance on God's strength which is available to those who trust in Him and points to God's ability to give strength to the weary. Weakness can reveal God's glory, and even the weak are blessed, as God uses the weak to shame the strong and bring them to nothing.

**God's Power is Shown Through Weakness:** 2 Corinthians 12:9: Paul expresses that God's power is made

perfect in weakness. This suggests that true strength comes not from a lack of weakness, but from God's power working through our vulnerabilities. Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me," is a key verse, emphasizing that strength comes from Christ, not from personal ability.

**Weakness as an Opportunity:** God's Grace: Weakness offers a platform for God's grace to be displayed and for Christ's power to rest upon believers.

Glory to God: By acknowledging and embracing our weaknesses, we

can demonstrate God's glory to others.

**God's Sovereignty:** God chooses the weak and foolish to shame the strong, showing that His wisdom and power are greater than human capabilities.

### Finding Strength in God:

Trust in the Lord: Isaiah 40:28-31 says that those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength, highlighting the importance of relying on God, not on one's own power.

The Spirit's Aid: The Holy Spirit helps in our weakness, interceding for us when we don't know what to pray for, showing that we are not alone in our struggles.

## "Adults Discovering Ultimate Truth"

*A group for ages 18-30ish who want to grow together in faith and fun*

## ADUT Scuttlebutt

By Jenny Deweese

God's sovereignty is a deep subject! He is supreme and is in charge, but He does not control people or circumstances. He delegated the rule of the earth to Adam and Eve, who pretty promptly gave it to Satan when he deceived Eve.

That's why Jesus came to buy us back. We are joint owners with

Him, now, so we can't give it up unless Jesus signs off on it, too, which He never will.

When difficult things happen, we can rest knowing God didn't MAKE it happen. He didn't stop it because He can't lie—He won't break His covenant with us—He gave us free will and gave the earth to us. If He stepped in to stop people from doing wrong things, He would be breaking His Word. He gave us the authority of Jesus' Name.

When bad things happen, WE can step in with the authority of Jesus' Name and stop it from happening! WE are the light of the world. WE are the salt of the earth.

Let's remember that, ADUTs! WE have the power to make REAL CHANGE happen!

## Youth Truth

Dear Young Leaders,

I hope this message finds you energized and ready to take on the challenges of today. As a generation poised at the forefront of change, your voices matter more than ever. We live in a time where our values and beliefs are being tested, but I believe in your ability to rise above and to lead with conviction.

You have the power to shape our future. Embrace your role as advocates for freedom, opportunity, and individual responsibility. Stand firm in your beliefs and engage in meaningful conversations. Remember that progress is built on the backbone of passionate, thoughtful discussions, even when we encounter opposition.

Stay informed, stay engaged, and don't underestimate your potential to influence others. Together, let's continue to champion the

principles of liberty that make our country great. The future relies on your courage and commitment.

In liberty,

Charlie Kirk



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

## Kids' Corner

Yes...  
seriously!  
LOL



Kids in grades 1-5  
growing with Jesus

## Nursery News

It's SO MUCH MORE  
than childcare!



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

## Ladies' Life

By Lynn Ahrens  
Ways to Hear the Lord  
More Clearly!  
Did you know that God cre-  
ated you to be able to com-  
municate with Him? In most  
cases, the #1 questions that  
Christians have are "How  
can I Hear God?" "How can I  
know that it's God?" How  
can I know it's not my own  
thoughts?" "How can I know  
it's not the devil speaking to  
me?"

There is a beauty in God's calling us His Sheep! Yes, we are His Sheep! He loves us dearly and will "shepherd" us by communicating with us if we let Him. The difference between having a "relationship" with the Lord and "religion" is that the believer now has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ! Yes, it has been conveyed that since the Bible has been printed, it now is the only way we hear from God. The greatest disservice we can give to anyone coming to Christ is to say we can have a personal relationship with Him but that He no longer speaks today. Jesus says in John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice and they follow me." It's hard-

wired, it's instinct, it's part of our system that we as believers can hear God's voice. Why would God create us with the ability to communicate and then not communicate with us? Hearing God is something that needs to be learned. We all had to learn to talk, to walk, to understand our language, and to pray. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. Whatever our spiritual gift is, we had to learn to operate in that gift. There are steps you can take to hear God speak to you. First of all, realize that it is a virtual impossibility to be on the fence desiring worldly things and expect to be able to hear when God speaks to us. Yes, God speaks to us often, even while (cont'd on pg. 4 LADIES)

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POINTING THE WAY TO  
JESUS!



## An Adage from Pastor Adam

I wanted to share some thoughts on the concept of being "salt and light to the earth," which has been resonating deeply with me lately. The phrase, often referenced in Matthew 5:13-16, encapsulates the calling we have to make a positive impact on the world around us.

Being "salt" signifies our ability to preserve and enhance the goodness in our communities, while being the "light" illuminates the path for others, showing them hope and guidance. It emphasizes the importance of leading by example—living out our values of a Spirit-filled life style and being a source of encouragement to those who might be struggling. In everyday actions, whether through kindness, compassion, or standing up for justice, we can reflect the values we hold dear.

Let's strive to embody this calling that our Lord Jesus Christ commissioned us to do by supporting each other in the pursuit of being agents of change. Together, we can spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ with positivity and make a difference in the lives of those around us.



(LADIES) we're living a sin-filled life, but we've clouded our minds with 'busyness' as well as anger, unforgiveness, defiance against someone, etc., making it virtually impossible to recognize His voice.

It's also hard to hear God when we are burdened about something, so to take steps in desiring to hear God is to: 1) be in a quiet place or turn on worship music; 2) talk to the Lord about the burdens you have and ask Him to take them from you. Prayer is an exchange of the burden. It has been said that if you still are burdened after you pray, then you really never prayed, you just griped to the Lord about your situation. Prayer is when you give Him the burden. 3) Read scripture of your choice and write down what you gleaned from your devotional time. What was it that you felt Jesus was saying to you through that word. It's amazing how often people have found that what they wrote down was exactly what they had needed for that day.

Hearing God is very natural. You were born to hear God. It's a part of your DNA. Learning to hear God is no different than going to school to learn and grow in knowledge. Children mature as they grow in knowledge by going to school to learn. As we grow in the Lord, we begin to realize, also, how to grow up and be respectful to others. The Word tells us to watch our tongue. Respect is gleaned by hearing God. May you experience the daily joy of communicating with the Lord.

## Men's Moment

Our men's ministry has been generously doing things behind the scenes for members of our church family who have ex-

perienced a variety of needs.

We appreciate the love of our men and their willing hearts to reach out and help others!

## HELPING HAND

