

SFBC FAMILY NEWS

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April 2023

721 West Main

Salem, IL 62881

618-548-4060 (phone) 618-548-6039 (Fax)



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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

What would it look like if a church (that is, the people that compose a church) saw itself as a missionary enterprise or movement? I imagine that the people of the church would actively search for ways to reach out to their community in order to bring the Gospel to those who had not yet experienced it. April offers us a great opportunity to reach out. How so? Because April 9 is Easter!

Easter is one of the two times a year that non-Christians and nominal Christians are more open to attend church (the other being Christmas). Coming from the viewpoint of a missionary, this is a perfect opportunity to invite others to attend worship with you this Easter.

Easter (resurrection day) reminds us of the world-altering event of history, yes, history. Jesus rose from the dead. But not only from the dead but also in His glorified body. This event has changed everything. In light of this history-changing event, it makes sense for those with a missionary outlook to use the occasion to remember and celebrate Easter and invite others to do the same.

Even though sceptics question the historical reliability of Jesus's resurrection, the Apostle Paul states that the resurrection of Jesus is understood by appealing to five facts of history in 1 Corinthians 15.

- Fact 1: Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture (v.3)
- Fact 2: Christ was buried and rose according to the Scripture (v.4)
- Fact 3: There were eye witnesses to Jesus being alive from the dead (vv.5-7)
- Fact 4: Paul was also an eye witness himself (vv.8-10)
- Fact 5: This is the only Gospel that can save (v11)

If you are reading this, you are already convinced that Jesus died on Good Friday and rose again the following Sunday. Trusting in Christ has changed your life. You have moved from death to life, from darkness to light, and from slave to being set free. Many others have not yet experienced what you have. They are still slaves to their sin. They are still held captive by the evil one. This is why missionaries travel to far off lands to tell people the good news about Jesus. You don't need to travel to the far reaches of the world to find people in darkness; they live across the street. They hand you your meal through the restaurant window. They wait on you at Walmart. And they call you on the phone trying to offer you some service. They, too, are in bondage—they need the good news of Easter and you can give them that invitation.

Grace and peace,

Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

Spring is in the air! While we can still expect cold and rain for a few more weeks, we will soon begin to see the budding of trees and the blooming of flowers. This time of year is known for new life. It is easy to see many more baby animals during this time and the first sprouts of the planted fruits and vegetables in the fields will soon appear. This season is so associated with new life that I believe it was intentional on God's part to have this season forever associated with the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the one who freely offers new life to everyone on earth.

New life is a concept that is found all throughout scripture. One of the most famous examples given in the Bible is in regards to the ordinance of baptism. Baptism, contrary to the views held by many churches, does not impart salvation. It does not make someone more worthy to get to heaven in the eyes of God. It does not even "wash away" our old sin. God declares that "...though your sins are scarlet they shall be white as snow..." (Isaiah 1:8). This is done through his forgiveness and grace alone. Baptism does serve an important purpose in publicly declaring what God has done through the work of Jesus. Paul explains in Romans 6:4 that "...we were buried with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life." Baptism is the ultimate symbol of our new life in Christ. It is a physical demonstration of our death to our old self and our resurrection to our new self.

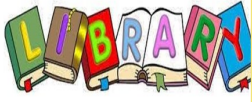
Another great example of new life is the future new life we have to look forward to. The Bible is full of promises regarding heaven. Revelation 21 describes in detail what our future will look like. It describes heaven as a place where "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4). What a wonderful promise from God. We can rejoice that one day we will be resurrected just like Jesus was. On that day, we will be reunited with all of our loved ones who have accepted Christ and join with them in eternal fellowship, praising and worshiping God together. What an incredible thought this Easter season.

In Christ,

Christopher Spenner



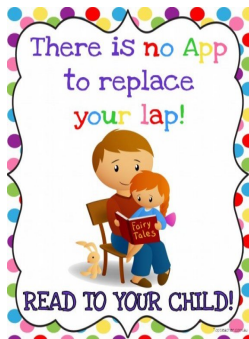
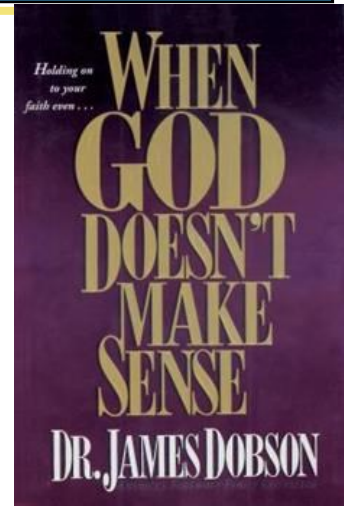
Library News/Women on Mission



Your Librarian
Sharon Dennis

With more than one million copies sold, *When God Doesn't Make Sense* is an immensely practical book for those who are struggling with trials and heartaches they can't understand. Why does disease, natural disaster, divorce, rejection, death, or some other sorrow seep into our lives when we are trying to serve the Lord?

1994 Gold Medallion Award winner! Every person who lives long enough will eventually encounter circumstances that are difficult to explain theologically. From years of counselling experience, Dr. James Dobson offers assurance of God's constant care, even when human suffering is beyond our comprehension.



The exciting sixth adventure in the Wild Brothers series reveals many changes for the Wild family. With just a few months before their return to the USA, the four brothers and their parents must say goodbye to the remote mountain tribe, and travel to coastal towns to be transported into the twenty-first century and prepare for their long trek back. This fun episode features the eldest son, Morgan learning to drive and preparing to leave the island for college. There is also a walk through a stinky open-air market, the discovery of a World War II fighter plane, a swim with a giant whale shark, and fun with the family's ever-lovable pet cuscus, Newt. Join them for the best adventure yet!

Our March fellowship was very well attended and enjoyed.

The ladies certainly exemplify our church motto, "Every Member Is a Missionary". After our missionary updates, the group participated in three local mission projects.

I encourage everyone to stop by and check out our Mission Map in the hallway. Dina Reed does a great job updating prayer requests and concerns from our missionaries.

Operation Christmas Child items requested for April are boys & girls combs, brushes and hair accessories. Let's not forget the older boys and girls.

Our next mission offering emphasis will be the Anne Armstrong Easter Offering in April. Our church goal is \$7000.00.

Our next monthly meeting will be Monday, April 3rd at 9:30.

*Blessings,
Karen*



Announcements/Thank You

Jack & Darlene Page welcomed a new great granddaughter, Emerson Sue Jayne Lloyd on March 20th. She weighed 4lbs. 15ozs. Proud parents are CJ & Michaela. Grandparents are Steve & Linda Thompson.



The family of Roy E. Rodgers would like to express their appreciation to friends and church for their prayers, cards, visits, food and memorial contributions. Your kindness and support will remain a special blessing to us.

A special thanks to Andy DeWitt for the comforting words, to Karen Watson for singing Roy's favorite songs, to the ladies who prepared the meal, and to Sutherland Rankin Funeral Home for their care of our loved ones.

Kay Rodgers
Leah Schodlatz
Brian & Charlene Rodgers



"He Has Arisen"

*How beautiful ~ to celebrate Easter
New life, starting over, all sins forgiven*

*Jesus, Son of God
His precious love for us
Paying the price
Eternal life awaits*

*My God of a 6-day creation
Is also a God of a 3-day resurrection*

*Declare the praises!
By: Bev Smith*



The Wayman family wishes to express our heart-felt thanks to our First Baptist Church family for your prayers, cards, well-wishes and visits in support of Janet's successful treatment and on-going recovery.



Dear Church,

There is no way Bill & I can properly thank you for your love & prayers shown us during my recent nursing home & hospital stay. The flowers, cards, visits, calls and food made it endurable. You were wonderful.

*In Christ's Love,
Bill & Sharon Dennis*





DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
April 02	Greg Strother	Gary Watson	Dallas Bundy
April 09	Mike Pugh	Myron Lloyd	Jon Wieldt
April 16	Steve Smith	Tom Reed	Dale Helpingstine
April 23	Gerald Purcell	Greg Strother	Ronnie Donoho
April 30	Ken Smith	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh



DATE	TEACHER	LESSONS
April 02	Deanna Buerster	What's In The Bible? - Spreading the Good News
April 09		Family Worship—No Children's Church
April 16	Deanna Buerster	What's In The Bible? - Letters from Paul
April 23	Deanna Buerster	What's In The Bible? - God's Kingdom Come
April 30	Deanna Buerster	What's In The Bible? - 6 Big Questions about God.



Nursery Volunteers (Call the church office if you would like to serve)	
April 02	Nancy Stallard
April 09	Paula Strother
April 16	Wheat Jackson
April 23	Pat & Gary Hampton
April 30	Andrea Hays



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
April 02	Paula's Class	Lynette Wiedle
April 09	Bev Smith	Kathy King
April 16	Karen Watson	Lynette Wiedle
April 23	Dale Helpingstine	Judy Bundy
April 30	Connie Seymour	Lynette Wiedle

MANOR AT SALEM WOODS - 441 HOTZE RD, SALEM:
Faye Wood #204

Centralia Manor - 1910 E McCord St.
Barbara Phillips #103

Twin Willows—1600 N Broadway:
Donna Shoemaker

Odin Health and Rehab Center— 300 Green St.
Suzanne Pollard Betty Canon Carrie Braden

Helia Health Care Center—1201 Hawthorn Rd.
Ila Westerman Melody Webb

Cedarhurst of Centralia—1827 E. McCord St.
Ruby Chapman

Heritage Woods—2049 E McCord St., Centralia
Mary Anne Rollinson



Spring Is Here—Enjoy the Flowers

“Oldies” songs are a hobby for this guy: a little Elvis, some Supremes, 4-tops spinning, and maybe a little “Hello Walls”.

One song recently that keeps you-tubing is Bobby Vinton’s , “Roses are Red”. In the song is a phrase we use as Christian believers. And I wish more songs today in popular music would leave out the negative vibes and contain ideas of focus as such. “May God Bless You” is verbalized in this song.

“Roses are red, violets are blue” and as God created us all and our surroundings—He still provides us the beauty of His creation springing all around us at this time of year. And reminders are songs like “Lily of the Valley”. When the lilies are in bloom, my thoughts focus on this favorite song of mine and my special Mom. Words include, I found a friend in Jesus, He’s everything to me. He’s the Lily of the valley, the bright and morning star. In sorrow He’s my comfort, in trouble He’s my stay. He tells me every care on Him to roll. He all my grief has taken. He’s my strong & mighty tower, He keeps me by His power.

Please reflect that Christ is our soul-keeper, never to leave us alone to trod the culture in which we find ourselves: and with future needs, on course with Him.

May God Bless You & Yours,

Deacon Greg



TRUSTEES’ REPORT

During the months of January, February and March these projects were approved and completed by the trustees’ and others. All the first aid kits were updated with new supplies and two new blood pressure monitors were added to kits. Thank you to Barb Helpingstine and Pat Hampton for completing this for the church. The two trees bought last year were planted out by the play ground area. Thank you to Debbie Dodd , Debbie Pugh and Susan Wieldt for following up on this. Burned out parking lot lights on the eastside replaced with led lighting. Leaking toilets in the nursery and ladies restroom repaired. Outside entrance door to the office area was also repaired.

Light fixtures throughout the church have been converted from fluorescent bulbs to LED bulbs. A big thank you to the following individuals who helped with the project Tom Reed, Gary Watson, Ronnie Donoho, Susan Wieldt, Debbie Pugh, Debbie Dodd, Dallas Bundy, Frank Harris, Clinton Baker and Kevin Keele. They switched out 274 fixtures, removed 548 ballasts and rewired light fixtures and installed 1004 LED light bulbs.

The new ladies restroom was approved by the church in a special business meeting Feb. 27th. Wayne Stevens construction will start the project sometime in mid May. The restroom will go where the library currently is located and the library will move to the parlor location. Any-one interested in helping with the move of the library please get with a trustee.

Gary Hampton
Chairman of Trustees



- April 02 Bring a Friend/Easter Fun!
- April 09 He is Risen—No Club
- April 16 Regular Night
- April 23 Final Book Night
- April 30 Feed the Children of the World

5:00—7:00PM

Sunday Nights



**2023 Cars and Coffee
Cruise Ins**

Salem
First Baptist Church
721 West Main St.
Salem, IL

DJ
Rod Stewart

Rain Cancels

Dates: April 29th, October 14th
Times: 9:00 AM - Noon
Contact: Dale Helpingstine 618-322-7123

FREE COFFEE & DONUTS
This event is open to all classic cars, trucks, muscle cars, hotrods and antique vehicles. Just bring your car, lawn chair and enjoy the morning. Please No Alcohol on Church property.

*Every Member is a
Missionary
@ Salem First*

SAVE THE DATE!
VBS 2023—JULY 9-13





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Life Group Training. 9-11AM
2 4PM Church Council Mtg. 5-7PM Awana	3 Prayer Mtg. 6AM Women on Mission 9:30AM	4	5 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	6 Precept Upon Precept Women's Bible Study 9-11AM or 6-8PM	7	8
9 Easter Sunday "Friend Day"	10 American Heritage Girls 5:30-7:30PM	11	12 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	13 Precept Upon Precept Women's Bible Study 9-11AM or 6-8PM	14	15
16 5-7PM Awana	17	18	19 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	20 Precept Upon Precept Women's Bible Study 9-11AM or 6-8PM	21	22
23 5-7PM Awana	24 American Heritage Girls 5:30-7:30PM	25	26 2PM Manor @ the Woods 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	27 Precept Upon Precept Women's Bible Study 9-11AM or 6-8PM	28	29 Cars & Coffee 9-Noon Bridal Shower for Ashley Bachman 2PM
30	to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:12					

- Jackson Lingafelter
- Bev Smith
- Terry Word
- Cheyenne Thompson
- Joseph Oziemkiewicz
- Clinton Baker
- Gena Farley
- Andrew Dice
- Connie Smith
- Lisa Smith
- Kory Keele
- Ashley Bachman
- Fred Hilger

- April 01
- April 02
- April 04
- April 05
- April 06
- April 08
- April 09
- April 10
- April 10
- April 13
- April 14
- April 15
- April 16



- Kathy Meador
- Frank Richards
- Melissa Spenner
- Jody Kuder
- Myron Lloyd
- Vivian Petrea
- Nancy Stallard
- Liz DeWitt
- Judy Bundy
- Steve Farley
- Al Simmons
- Shelly Becker

- April 16
- April 18
- April 18
- April 19
- April 20
- April 21
- April 22
- April 23
- April 25
- April 26
- April 26
- April 27



SALEM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060
 Fax: 618-548-6039
 Website: Salemfbcc.com
 Facebook: Salem First Baptist Church



Our Vision
 The vision of Salem First Baptist Church is to become a growing family of committed believers with an increasing

- Passion for God
- Passion for People
- Passion to Serve

Join Us . . .
Sundays
8:30 –9:20 AM
In the Fellowship Hall
 We serve bagels with cream cheese, donuts, fresh fruit, coffee, juice and milk.



Office Hours
Monday—Thursday
9:00 to 4:00
Closed 12:00 to 1:00
for lunch
Friday 9:00—12:00

Wednesday Evening

4:45 PM Women’s Chronological Bible Study
 5:30—6PM Media Center Open
 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study
 Praise Team Rehearsal
 Mission Journey: Kids

Sunday Morning and Evening

8:30—9:20 AM Café Agape - Donuts & Coffee
 9:00—9:30 AM Media Center Open
 9:30 AM Life Groups for All Ages
 10:45 AM Morning Worship
 5:00-7:00 PM Awana