



SALEM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
721 W. Main St. Salem, IL 62881

SFBC FAMILY NEWS

Volume 46 Issue 4

April 2025

721 West Main

Salem, IL 62881

618-548-4060

He is not here; he has risen!
Luke 24:6a

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- *Up Coming Events*
- *Ministries*

On the Web!
Salemfbccom



SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

Resurrection Sunday (most people call this Easter) is a couple of weeks away. On April 20, we begin the morning with a sunrise service at 7 AM. Most likely we'll meet in the church auditorium because of the unpredictable nature of April showers. From 8-9:20 AM or so, breakfast will be served. This is a traditional hot breakfast that you won't want to miss. Bible Study follows at 9:30 AM and our regular worship service at 10:45 AM. Please invite friends, neighbors, and even relatives to take part in our Easter (Resurrection Day) services. By the way, the sunrise service and our regular service are not identical services. If you want to know the difference, I suppose you should attend both!

What does Jesus' resurrection mean for us today? *First, it means that we have a message of hope to proclaim.* We live in a troubled world. The brokenness that sin has caused in humanity cannot be overstated. Wars, crime, disease, addictions, broken relationships between people and, of course, the estrangement with one's Creator suggests a few areas that sin has touched. A few VBSs ago, one of the songs that children learned was "*Sin Messed Everything Up.*" It certainly has! The resurrection of the Lord Jesus offers the only genuine hope in a fallen world. The sinless One became sin so that we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). The hope is that unrighteous people (that includes all of us) can be reconciled to the righteous God through the Lord Jesus.

Secondly, the resurrection of the Lord ensures us *that we can always look forward to new beginnings.* Because of the devastating results of sin and sinning, a person may feel that there is no way to get beyond one's sinfulness. A man I once knew once excused his sinful behavior with the phrase "a leopard can change its spots." Basically, he was excusing his sinful practices by suggesting he was born that way. Unfortunately, people are prone to use this type of reasoning because they don't believe that they can be any other way. In Jesus, because of His resurrection, a new beginning is possible. It doesn't matter what your sin is or what your past has been, Jesus offers new beginnings. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV).

Jesus' resurrection also means *that we don't despair over the world's condition.* During news reports, there is little to find hopeful. Our government has wasted billions of dollars, some are fighting to keep dangerous people in our country, and many within our nation are horrible confused about what gender is. It may leave us shaking our heads in disbelief wondering what could possibly be next. But there is a better world coming. *Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells* (2 Peter 3:13, NKJV). We (Christians) have a glorious future made possible because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

Happy Resurrection Day,
Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

Have you ever opened a book to the middle or close to the end and felt very confused? Sometimes you might do that just to get a feel for what the book is about, but no one would actually do that and expect to understand the writing up to that point. Sure, they could gather some information from the narrative, but they would be missing crucial context. If this book was a novel, you would miss all of the story up until that point and possibly fail to understand character motivations. If this was a book making a central argument to support a point, you would miss establishing arguments. No matter what, starting a book this way would only lead to irritation and confusion.

Interestingly, many people do this when they approach the Bible. People are so eager to get to the part with Jesus or introduce new people to Jesus that they skip over or downplay the Old Testament entirely. In doing so, they also tend to skip over the very first part of the Bible, the book of Genesis. This book is often seen as controversial so many Christians just skip over it or treat it as a collection of well-meaning myths that can teach us moral lessons. Most do not take it seriously. Yet this book contains the reason for Jesus as well as a number of other teachings we believe as Christians.

Going through the account of Creation in Genesis 1:31 we read, "And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good." This initial creation was perfect, without sin or death. We know this because the penalty introduced in chapter 3 for eating of the forbidden tree in the garden was death. After Adam and Eve did just that, they were prevented from eating from the Tree of Life because to live forever in their sin-corrupted state would bring untold damage onto the whole of creation. However, in his mercy, God made a promise to Adam and Eve. Genesis 3:15 records this. "And I will make enemies Of you and the woman, And of your offspring and her Descendant; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel." This is the first promise made by God that a Savior would come and rescue humanity from the power of sin.

Without taking what the book of Genesis says as history, you really cannot find a reason that we need a Savior. Sure we can agree that something is wrong with us, but it may have been that the world was just created that way. It could be the case that death was part of God's plan if you don't have the book of Genesis to explain the truth. As much as we want people to meet Jesus, it is important that we first show them why Jesus had to come to earth in the first place. Don't skip Genesis when telling others about God's Word!

Women on Mission/Library

Spring is here! With this thought in mind, we have many opportunities to serve. Our next monthly meeting will be Monday, April 7th at 9:30AM in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be providing outreach to the ROE Preschool and to our church members who are home-bound.

Remember to pray for our Illinois Baptist Easter Offering through the entire month of April and our goal this year is \$7,000.00.

We are still collecting items for Operation Christmas Child and the items requested for the month of April are hair brushes, combs and hair accessories.

We are continuing to collect for our Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry. This month instant potatoes is our item. Please place in the grocery cart in the main hallway.

Blessings,

Karen



Can you answer these???

1. What kind of car did the apostles drive?
2. Where is math first mentioned in the Bible?
3. When was meat first mentioned in the Bible?
4. Where was Solomon's Temple located?

A merry heart
doth good
like a
medicine.

Proverbs 17:22

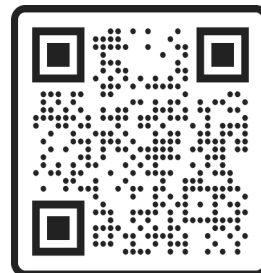
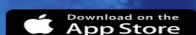
Hope you smiled or giggled at a couple of them!
Dina

1. Honda, they were all in one Accord.
2. In Genesis, Adam and Eve were told to multiply.
3. When Noah took Ham into the Ark.
4. On the side of his head.

SOW EVANGELISM APP

The SOW Evangelism app helps you apply God's word and His principles and prepare to join God in His mission of reaching and saving the lost.

Download today and contact your Pastor for the unique church code.



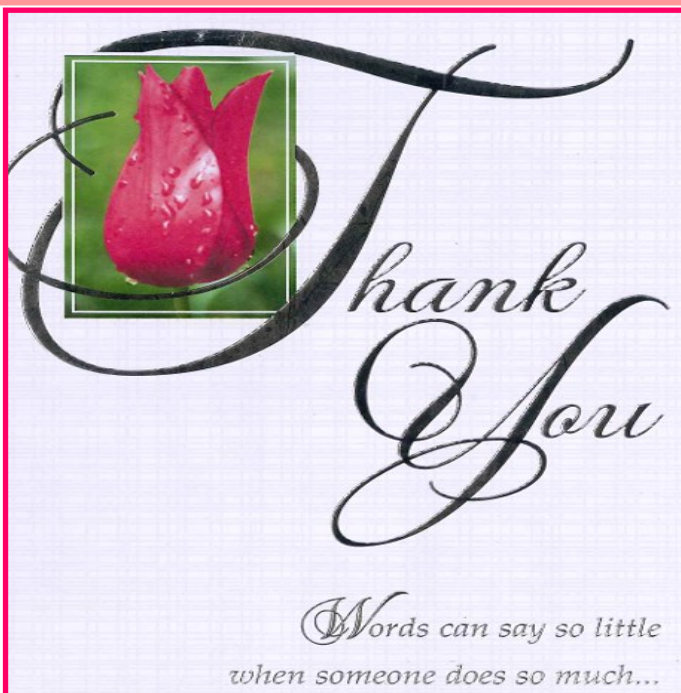
Church Number
795442

Announcements

MISSION MOMENT

Last month I promised to share a story of a patient from Togo, Africa.

Afi went to Kenya for resection of a large mandible tumor and facial reconstruction. Her procedure was complicated, so she required a bit more time there than expected. A successful surgery is never a sure thing, especially when there is a free flap which is dependent on blood supply coming from a small blood vessel that was sewn together. We are very thankful for the ability to partner with the team at Kijabe Hospital to be able to help our patients access this level of care. Afi had been looking for medical care for almost 10 years in multiple countries. While walking with her through this surgery over the past 4 months, Natasha, I, and other colleagues have had great opportunities to help her in various ways and share Biblical truths. She stayed here in Mango for an additional 2 ½ months due to an infection, and during that time she attended a Bible study with Natasha and some other women in our home and heard Truth on many occasions. She returned home just a few weeks ago with a wonderful cosmetic result and a new lease on life. Afi now has the opportunity to move beyond this health problem that had been the focus of much of her life and energy over the past several years. Please pray with us as she is at a major crossroads. She has already been able to share with various friends and family about the great physical change she has undergone, which is immediately visible upon seeing her, and we pray for her heart as well. Please pray with us for the head knowledge of salvation through Jesus alone to become heart knowledge.



*Wish there were words to
let you know how much
your thoughtfulness
is appreciated.*

Thank you!!

*For everything, especially
your prayers!*

*God is good & we are so
blessed!!*

Joann & Mike



DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
April 06	Greg Strother	Gary Watson	Dallas Bundy
April 13	Mike Pugh	Myron Lloyd	Jon Wieldt
April 20	Steve Smith	Tom Reed	Dale Helpingstine
April 27	Gerald Purcell	Greg Strother	Ronnie Donoho



DATE	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
April 06	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
April 13	Susan Wieldt	Debbie Pugh
April 20	Melissa Spenner	Dina Reed
April 27	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour



Nursery Volunteers (Call the church office if you would like to serve) Life Group Worship		
April 06	Dina Reed	Reha Lloyd
April 13	Barb Helpingstine	Annette Hardcastle
April 20	Kristen McMahon	Sheri Peradotti
April 27	Susan Salliotte	Janet Smith




DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
April 06	Mike & Angela Brooks	Kathy King
April 13	Karen Watson	Lynette Wiedle
April 20	Karen Watson	Judy Bundy
April 27	Mike & Angela Brooks	Lynette Wiedle

Centralia Manor - 1910 E McCord St.
 Barbara Phillips #103
 Faye Wood #204

Heritage Woods—2049 E. McCord, Centralia
 Carrie Roberts

Helia Health Care Center—1201 Hawthorn Rd.
 Melody Webb





JOIN US FOR EASTER

at Salem First Baptist Church

Sunrise Service - 7:00 AM

Breakfast - 8:00-9:15 AM

Bible Study - 9:30 AM

Morning Worship - 10:45 AM

TRUSTEE REPORT

Several projects were on the trustees' agenda during March. The decal for the church's website was changed on the church vehicle from salemfbc.org to salemfbc.com. A stronger light was placed on the roof to shine on the rose window in the front of the sanctuary. If you have not noticed the window on Sunday mornings, take a moment to see how beautiful God's sunshine makes the stained-glass rose window and give God the glory as you worship Him. Anchors for the ladders and the swing set on the playground have been installed for greater safety. I want to thank Ronnie Donoho and Frank Harris for helping install the anchors. I want to also thank Mike Pugh for working on a pulley and belt on an air-handler in the educational building and attending to other HVAC needs. I appreciate Maggie, other staff, and church members for their work and for alerting us when they hear an unusual noise or problem that needs the trustees' attention. The project to replace the lights in the sanctuary is about half-finished. Some of the parking concrete stop blocks have been straightened again.

At the special-called business meeting on March 16, 2025, the church voted to approve a proposal presented by the trustees to install lights on the east steps in the sanctuary. Hopefully the lights will provide further safety in navigating the steps.

Dallas Bundy
Chairman of the Trustees



April 06 . . . Last Club Night & Awards (Taco salad, quesadillas, & snack cakes)

April 13 Feed the Children (Surprise—Left overs)

April 20 Easter

**April 27 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
(Menu)**



SAVE THE DATE: JULY 6 - 9TH



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2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	3 11:30AM Fellowship Luncheon	4	5 Free Tax Prep 8-4 Appointment only
	6 5-7 PM Awana	7 9:30AM Women on Mission	8	9 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	10	11
13 5-7 PM Awana	14 AHG/TL first mtg. of year 5:30PM	15	16 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	17	18	19
20 	21	22	23 2PM Manor@Woods 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	24	25	26
27 Awana Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	28 AHG/TL Mtg. 5:30PM	29	30 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	"Being the Church in Salem and Beyond"		

Doug Cosby
 Jackson Lingafelter
 Bev Smith
 Terry Word
 Cheyenne Thompson
 Joseph Oziemkiewicz
 Clinton Baker
 Gena Farley
 Mary Beard
 Andrew Dice
 Connie Smith
 Lisa Smith
 Kory Keele
 Ashley Savage

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



Kathy Meador
 Shiloh Dennis
 Frank Richards
 Melissa Spenner
 Jody Kuder
 Lisa Smith
 Myron Lloyd
 Vivian Petrea
 Nancy Stallard
 Liz DeWitt
 Judy Bundy
 Steve Farley
 Alaina McIntosh

April 16
 April 17
 April 18
 April 18
 April 19
 April 19
 April 20
 April 21
 April 22
 April 23
 April 25
 April 26
 April 27



SALEM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060

Website: Salemfbc.com

Facebook: [Salem First Baptist Church](https://www.facebook.com/SalemFirstBaptistChurch)



Our Vision
*"Being the Church in Salem
and Beyond"*

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

5:30—6PM Media Center Open

5:30PM Youth Bible Study

6:00 PM Adult Bible Study
Mission Friends/Mission
Journey Kids
Praise Team Rehearsal

Sunday Morning

8:30—9:20 AM Café Agape

9:00—9:30 AM Media Center Open

9:30 AM Life Groups for All Ages

10:45 AM Morning Worship

5:00 PM AWANA