



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

SFBC FAMILY NEWS

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721 West Main

Salem, IL 62881

618-548-4060



GOD HAS MADE EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL
FOR ITS OWN TIME.
ECCLESIASTES 3:11

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

I hope that you have had a great summer season thus far. I do acknowledge that for some of you there has been sickness, surgeries, and other medical concerns that has come along with the warm weather of summer. I, too, have concerns and challenges of my own. If you are like me, these “disruptions” can take a lot of both physical and emotional energies.

But instead of focusing on these things (even though they are important), think along with me about something that’s wonderful. Before I get to what’s on my mind, first consider the following. Most people, when asked about heaven; specifically, how do you go there, respond with a common belief: “Live a good life and you will go to heaven.” The reasoning is: good people go to heaven and bad people go to the other place. Of course, the majority of folks believe themselves to be basically good.

The Apostle Paul addresses this issue while writing to (most probably Jewish believers in Jesus) believers in Romans 3. He writes: “Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight” (Romans 3:20). And then he adds, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (23). The option of being good is not a possibility because what a person might call “good” is not good enough in God’s sight. This is distressing news. If our best attempts at being good will never be good enough, then what do we do? Paul does not leave us in despair. Rather, he continues in verse 24, “being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.” The good news here is that our acceptability to God is given to us through Jesus. In other words, it is Jesus’ righteousness that is given to us when we trust Him as our Lord and Savior. Neither you or I will ever be good enough in ourselves. This is why we need a savior. Paul further asserts, “For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the Law” (28). Faith is trust in a person, that is, in the Lord Jesus Christ. He did what you or I could never do—live a perfect life. Therefore, trusting in Him we receive His righteousness and are able to be accepted by God.

So, however your summer is going, rest assured that you are “right with God” through Jesus Christ. It’s in Him that we have hope and assurance of heaven--Jesus and Him alone.

Grace and peace,

Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

Have you ever felt like things are worse today than they have been before? Do you look at the world around you and wonder why people seem so uncaring about being “good people” or about spiritual things? It may seem like things are as bad as they’ve ever been, but the Bible speaks of a similar time period characterized by wickedness. Despite the issues of the day, God uses His faithful people to shine the Gospel’s light into a dark world.

The time in the Bible being referred to is a difficult time found after Joshua’s conquest of the land of Israel from the Canaanites. Joshua was the next to lead the people of Israel after Moses and he carried the torch well. Under Joshua there were some mistakes made, but in general his time was noted for the Israelites walking faithfully with God. However, after Joshua’s death, things went downhill fast.

The Bible records all of this in the Book of Judges, which contains accounts from a four hundred year period where the Israelites were constantly failing to follow God. But there is an interesting account found at the end of this book that is recorded somewhat out of order. In Judges 18:30, we find the end of a strange account of a carved idol being set up. A character mentioned here is Jonathan, the son of Gershom, who is the son of Moses. (Some Bibles read Manasseh but Gershom is referred to elsewhere as Moses’ son.) What really makes this significant is the following chapter, which is a very gruesome account of a Levite’s concubine. The big kicker is this: It took only two generations after Moses for the people to fall away from God and embrace the brutal traditions of those living around them in the land.

This might sound bleak, knowing that at any time the church is a generation away from losing its focus on God. However, while the time of the Judges is characterized by a weak Israel, there are heroes who stepped up and continued to follow God. These Judges were often mighty warriors sent to save Israel via a military victory, but many of them showed great faith in God as well.

One of the best examples here is Deborah. Deborah is the only woman recorded as being one of these Judges and God revealed to her in a prophecy that the champion of Israel’s enemies named Sisera would be undone by Barak, the military commander. However, due to Barak’s cowardice, the victory would instead be given to a woman named Jael. The song of praise given by Deborah and Barak after the victory found in Judges 5 is a great indication of their dedication to God.

God has told us in Hebrews 13:5, “...I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Even when the world around us looks bleak we can take comfort that God will be with us. What God requires of us is to be faithful to what he has commanded. If we do this, we will be a light to the people around us and we may yet see a turning back to God in our nation.

Women on Mission/Library

Our monthly meetings will resume on Monday, August 4th in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30AM. After snacks and catching up with one another, we will have opportunity to participate in some local mission. Our annual ministry that we help with is our Back Pack filled with school supplies given to the staff at Hawthorn. These help assist families who are unable to purchase needed supplies.

A huge thank you to those who participated in our Baby Bottle ministry which helps our local Pregnancy Care Center in their ministries.

Be sure to look at the poster above our Operation Christmas Child table in the back hallway for the needs in August. This month items are Hot Wheels or Matchbox cars, Soccer Balls and pumps, balls that will fit in a box, coloring books, stickers, small story books and dolls.

Blessings to all of our church family who are faithful to support missions locally and abroad.

Blessings,

Karen



Women on Mission
Growing Closer To Christ

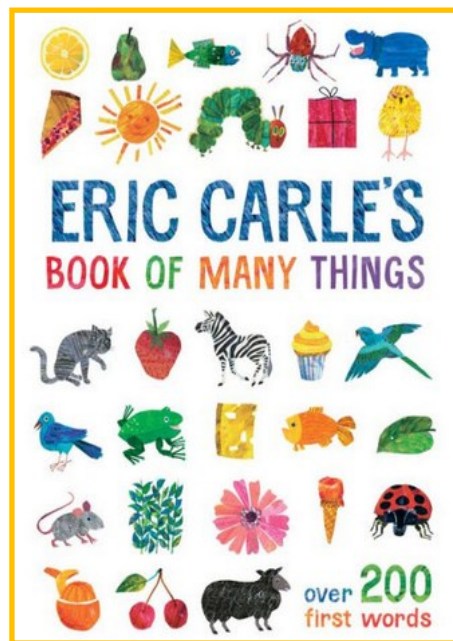
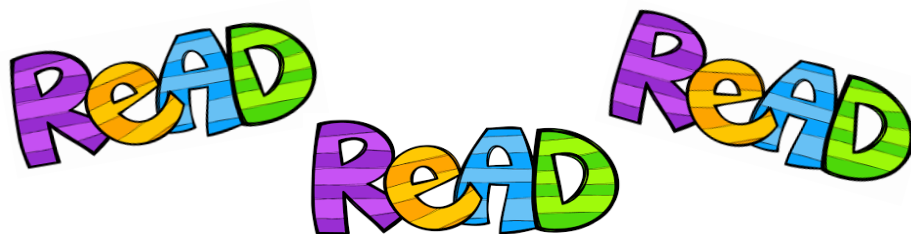


Welcome to August which brings back to school thoughts! Now would be a good time to re-new reading and review some skills that might need to be refreshed before the new school year begins. Have we got some books for you and your kids! Please check out our selection of children's books in the library. They are located at the north end of the room beside the card catalog. Youth books to baby board books can be found and checked out. It is never too early to encourage a love of books, reading and learning!

One of my favorite authors for younger children is Eric Carle. His bright colors and illustrations grab a little one's attention! (THIS BIG one's attention, too, honestly!) This is just one of the fun books from our library to share with the little ones you love.

Happy Reading!

Dina



MISSION MOMENT



SALEM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20TH AT 6PM



PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for Benjie & Kerri Dryden they are in search for housing around the Chattanooga, TN. area.



DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
August 03	Mike Pugh	Ronnie Donoho	Tom Reed
August 10	Steve Smith	Dale Helpingstine	Dallas Bundy
August 17	Rick Meador	Jon Wieldt	Gary Watson
August 24	Gerald Purcell	Ken Smith	Greg Strother
August 31	Ronnie Donoho	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh



DATE	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
August 03	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
August 10	Susan Wieldt	Debbie Pugh
August 17	Melissa Spenner	Lesa Morris
August 24	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour
August 31	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice



Nursery Volunteers (Call the church office if you would like to serve) Life Group Worship		
August 03	Dina Reed	Sheri Peradotti
August 10	Susan Salliotte	Janet Smith
August 17	Janet Smith	Dina Reed
August 24	Barb Helpingstine	Nancy Stallard
August 31	Dina Reed	Wheat Collier



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
August 03	Mike & Angela Brooks	Kathy King
August 10	Karen Watson	Lynette Wiedle
August 17	Mike & Angela Brooks	Judy Bundy
August 24	Mike & Angela Brooks	Lynette Wiedle
August 31	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle



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

Mark Your Calendars! The Deacons are planning a “Back-to-School” church “picnic in the park”. It’s been a long time since we did this and it’s time to do it again.

We have reserved Shelter #7 (the large one nearest the pool) for Sunday August 10th from 5-10 pm. The church will provide fried chicken and pulled pork BBQ, buns and sauce, as well as all the paper goods, utensils, and drinks. Everyone else is asked to bring their favorite picnic sides and desserts to share. Also, the deacons will be making homemade ice cream, but if anyone else would like to bring a freezer of their favorite ice cream it would be very much appreciated as well.

We hope you will plan to attend and make this a memorable event for our church.

Have a wonderful rest of your summer.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Blessings,

Dale Helpingstine
Chairman of the Deacons

TRUSTEE REPORT

During June, several projects have been completed. One project involves lights in the sanctuary. Since Top Electric Company had the use of a 26-foot lift, they were able to change all the spotlights in the auditorium as well as the bulbs in the pulpit chandelier. The company still has a work order for changing bulbs in the middle balcony chandelier, adjusting some spotlights on the stage area, and installing lights on the east steps in the sanctuary. While working on these lights, an informational sheet was made describing the bulbs needed for each spotlight and chandelier in the sanctuary. This informational sheet will be given to each trustee and the pastor. A copy will be included in a church facilities’ informational handbook being made by the trustees and kept in the office safe, and another copy in the church office filing cabinet. Emil Nattier II, Joyce Scrivner, and Myron Lloyd assisted in aiming the spotlights to light up the right location on the stage or the musical instruments. Thank you for this help.

Other projects completed include: The roof drainage system and gutters on the southeast corner of the educational building have been inspected to see that water is draining freely. A thank you goes to Debbie Dodd, who is in charge of the trustees’ Kitchen Committee, for purchasing some new drinking coolers to replace some that had mold in them that could not be cleaned. A thank goes to Mike Pugh for helping replace a pulley and belt on a first-floor air handler and a malfunctioning emergency light. A thank you goes to Ken Smith, Ronnie Donoho, and Christopher Spenner for making sure the church vehicle got its six-month inspection.

I praise God for the talents of our church members who help with various projects.



Are YOU ready to equip and encourage kids with the Gospel of Christ?

Choose to serve the Lord through an Awana Club.

Cubbies - Pre-K

Sparks - K - 2nd

T & T - 3rd - 6th

Trek - 7th - 8th

Journey - high school

1st Club Night: Sunday, September 21st from 5-7 PM

Please contact Tara 618-367-4570 or Pastor Andy if you are ready to build a relationship with kids and show them Jesus.



The Quandt's Baby Girl is on the way! They'll need diapers and wipes to prepare for the coming days! Help us celebrate by adding to the crib in the main hallway.

THROWBACK THURSDAYS

CELEBRATING ALL CLASSIC CARS AND TRUCKS

SALEM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
721 W MAIN ST. SALEM, IL

RAIN
CANCELS

DATES:
MAY 15TH
JUNE 19TH
JULY 17TH
AUG. 28TH
SEPT. 18TH



6:00-8:00 PM

CONTACT: DALE HELPINGSTINE 618-322-7123

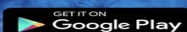
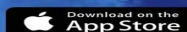
THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL CLASSIC CARS, TRUCKS, MUSCLE CARS, HOTRODS, AND ANTIQUE VEHICLES. JUST BRING YOUR CAR, LAWN CHAIR AND ENJOY THE EVENING.

PLEASE NO ALCOHOL ON CHURCH PROPERTY

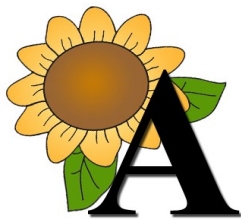
SOW EVANGELISM APP

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.

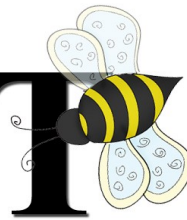
Download today and contact your Pastor for the unique church code.



Church Number
795442



AUGUST



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2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Being the Church in Salem and Beyond"					1	2
3	4 Prayer Mtg. 6AM Women on Mission 9:30AM	5	6 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	7	8	9
10 Lord's Supper Picnic in the Park 5-8PM	11 AHG/TL Mtg. 5:30PM	12	13 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal	14	15	16
17 Business Mtg. 6PM	18	19	20 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal	21 Good News Club Training 3:30-7:30PM	22	23
24 31	25 AHG/TL Mtg. 5:30PM	26	27 2PM High Point 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal	28 Throwback Thursdays 6-8PM	29	30

Mary Alice Dice
Ruth Ann Wilkerson
Dora Tate
Charley Scott
Janet Smith
Carys Collins
Wren Jackson
Nick Bowerman
Karen Dobbs
Frank Harris
Shawnee McDanel
Sharon Brown

Aug. 03
Aug. 03
Aug. 04
Aug. 07
Aug. 08
Aug. 09
Aug. 10
Aug. 11
Aug. 12
Aug. 13
Aug. 14
Aug. 16



Elowen Collins
Janet Austin
Debbie Dodd
Roy Pollard
Deric Rice
Angela Brooks
Lucas Scott
Bill Wells
Mike Holzhausen
Dina Reed
Jane Spence

Aug. 18
Aug. 21
Aug. 21
Aug. 21
Aug. 23
Aug. 24
Aug. 24
Aug. 27
Aug. 28
Aug. 29
Aug. 31



SALEM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060

Website: Salemfbcc.com

Facebook: Salem First Baptist Church



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
Praise Team Rehearsal

Sunday

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

6:00 PM Behold Your God