

Volume 46 Issue 2

February 2025

721 West Main

Salem, IL 62881

618-548-4060

You shall  
**LOVE**  
 the LORD your GOD  
 with all your  
**HEART**  
**SOUL**  
**MIND**  
**STRENGTH**

MARK 12:30

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

## Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church family,

According to legend, the valentine takes its name from a young Christian who once lived in ancient Rome. Like so many of the early Christians, Valentine had been imprisoned because of his faith. Often and longingly, he thought of his loved ones, and wanted to assure them of his well-being and his love.

Beyond his cell window, and beyond reach, grew a cluster of violets. He picked some heart-shaped leaves and pierced them to spell the words, "Remember your Valentine," then sent them off by a friendly dove.

But on the next day and the next, he sent more messages that simply said, "I love you." Thus did the valentine have its beginning.

I don't know if your childhood experience mirrors mine or not. I remember in the early years of grade school that Valentine's Day was somewhat of a big deal (or is seemed to be). My mother would buy a box of Valentines that were to be given to my school class. I would have to write something in each card and, do my best, not to forget any of my classmates (of course, there were only about 15 of them). Then, on the day of our class's party, we would gather the cards given to us, place them in a small paper bag and look through them that evening.

Valentines are meant to convey love and affection for both the giver and the receiver. But what actually is love? Most people think that they can define "love" until they are asked to. Movies, songs, and Hallmark Cards offer so many different descriptions of love without actually defining it. So, what is it? Depending on the context of how the word is used, it can mean many different things. I love ice cream and I love my mother are two very different things.

In order to better understand what "love" actually is, it's best to turn to the Bible. Most of you are in agreement with this. In the love chapter (1 Corinthians 13), Paul writes:

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. Love does not envy, is not boastful, is not conceited, <sup>5</sup> does not act improperly, is not selfish, is not provoked, and does not keep a record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> [Love] finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> [It] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

As you read these verses, notice that there are things that love does and things that loves doesn't do. This is what we should keep in mind when seeking to understand what love truly is. Genuine love acts; it motivates action. Consider the greatest act of love this world has ever seen.

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

I conclude with Jesus's words in John 13:34-35:

<sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Grace and peace,  
Andy

## Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

One verse that is often used in encouragement among Christians is Jeremiah 29:11. This verse reads, "For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." This verse is absolutely everywhere. It is in greeting cards, on banners and signs, and anywhere else that might remind someone that God cares about them. Now this verse is very interesting, because it is often interpreted in the sense of God looking out for your best interests. For example, someone may look to this verse to help them through a hard time because they see it as a direct promise to them that God will prosper them again. However, we do not always see that work out, at least in this lifetime. This causes heartache and pain, and questioning of God's sovereign plan. The truth of Jeremiah 29:11 is that it is merely the end of a much greater statement by God, but you need to back up first in order to take it in.

One of the most important things to do when we look at a verse is to look at the context of that verse. This means looking at the immediate surrounding verses to get a better look at the full picture of what God is saying. If we look back just one verse in Jeremiah 29:10, we find a very different message being delivered. The verse reads, "For this is what the Lord says: 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfill My good word to you, to bring you back to this place.'" That's not very encouraging! The Israelites are being told that they are about to go into exile for seventy years in a foreign land. The Israelites were so opposed to this message that they even hurt Jeremiah for preaching it. God was pronouncing judgment on His people for turning away from Him and towards idols instead. It was a guarantee that the people hearing this message would be shipped off to Babylon. Yet despite this, God still proclaims His faithfulness. He tells them that they will indeed go through hard times, but at the end of it, He will be there waiting to redeem them. He has a plan for what comes after their judgement.

For us today, this gives the verse a much different meaning. We are not simply being encouraged that God has good things planned for his people, we know according to Romans 8:28 that God works all things for good to those who love Him. The important message here is that God is faithful. There are many times we turn away from Him and towards our own idols. But God is always waiting to welcome us back with the future He has planned for us. As you go through this month, be in praise to God for His mercies which are everlasting.



## Women on Mission/Library

The weather prevented the ladies from meeting in January. We are hoping to be able to resume monthly meetings on Monday, February 3rd at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to everyone who donated wash cloths and bar soap for our January Operation Christmas Child emphasis.

The February requests will be stocking hats, gloves and socks. These items are for boys and girls ages 2-14. No items for babies or adults are needed.

Blessings,

Karen



*Women on Mission*  
Growing Closer To Christ



### Friendship

1. What is the outstanding example of friendship between two young men in the Bible?
2. What is the finest Bible illustration of friendship between two women?
3. With what family did Jesus have a very deep friendship?
4. Who was called "the friend of God"?
5. Complete this sentence and who said it: "Ye are my friends if ye do ....."
6. Whose friends and neighbors scoffed when he began to build a boat far away from any body of water?
7. Who was the friend "to him who fell among thieves"?
8. What book of the Bible says: "A friend loveth at all times?"
9. Who was Paul's beloved young friend to whom he wrote two epistles and whom he called "my own son in the faith"?
10. Is this proverb in the Bible: "A friend in need is a friend indeed."

These questions can be found in 200 Bible Quizzes in our library. Did you know all the answers? Good job! Just in case...answers will be given next month!

Happy Reading,  
Dina





## Announcements

# MISSION MOMENT



Let's catch up with the Shaddox family this month! Steven, Kelli, Kaci and Selah share the Gospel in Czech Republic. (You might remember that Kelli is Roger and Glenda Lipe's niece.) They are self-funded missionaries which means they are required to raise 100% of their living and ministry expenses; they are extremely grateful for our monthly gift.

In ministering to their non-believing Czech friends from their weekly English Club and Summer English camp, the Shaddoxes served 65 people a delicious, traditional Thanksgiving meal that Kelli prepared with her aunt and cousin who were visiting from the U.S. Everyone was thoroughly blessed by the meal as well as what was shared with them through word and music. Kaci and Selah did an amazing job of helping and serving, as well!

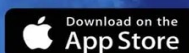
Please pray for the salvation of those they minister to weekly, that they would put their faith and hope in Jesus Christ.

Please pray for their church, (Pochodeň Praha) to experience spiritual and numerical growth in this new year and that the Lord would raise up leaders from among the church body.

## 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



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



DATE	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
February 02	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
February 09	Susan Wieldt	Debbie Pugh
February 16	Melissa Spenner	Dina Reed
February 23	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour



<b>Nursery Volunteers</b> <b>(Call the church office if you would like to serve)</b> <b>Life Group</b>			<b>Worship</b>
February 02	Dina Reed		Andrea Hays
February 09	Janet Smith		Reha Lloyd
February 16	Barb Helpingstine		Annette Hardcastle
February 23	Kristen McMahill		Sheri Peradotti



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
February 02	Mike & Angela Brooks	Kathy King
February 09	Christopher Spenner	Lynette Wiedle
February 16	Ken Smith	Judy Bundy
February 23	Dale Helpingstine	Lynette Wiedle

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

**Odin Health and Rehab Center- 300 Green St.**  
Suzanne Pollard

**Helia Health Care Center-1201 Hawthorn Rd.**  
Melody Webb

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

**Heritage Woods—2049 E. McCord, Centralia**  
Carrie Roberts



Hello church family.

We are now almost through the first month of 2025. I have once again been chosen to serve as the Chairman of the Deacons for this year. And once again we as a church have the opportunity to work together and accomplish great things for God's kingdom, here in Salem and throughout the world.

At our first meeting, the decision was made to have Family Fun Night from 5:00-7:00 pm on February 16th at the Franklin Park School gym and cafeteria. As usual, we will be having a soup and chilli supper, and wonderful desserts from our ladies. Hot dogs will also be available for the kids and anyone who likes chili dogs. We have rented "blow ups" for the kids and the gym will be open for a friendly game of basketball to those who are interested. Christopher will also be bringing some board games for anyone who wants to play. Be watching for announcements in upcoming Sunday bulletins. This event is sponsored by the deacons, but it takes all of us helping to make it work. So please be thinking of your favorite soup or chili to bring and share to help make this event a success.

As Chairman of Deacons for 2025, I ask for your prayers of support for me and all the deacons throughout this year as we strive to serve this church and our Pastors, Andy and Christopher.

Let us all work together to make 2025 a year that glorifies God at Salem First Baptist Church.

Sincerely,  
Dale Helpingstine  
Chairman of the Deacons

## TRUSTEE REPORT

During the trustees' report in the January church business meeting, the trustee chairman called the church into a yearly meeting for the corporation. The church is incorporated to protect our church members from certain legal liabilities and also to help obtain and keep our 501(C) status with the IRS. At the meeting, the following officers were nominated and elected: President—Dallas Bundy; Vice-president—Myron Lloyd; Secretary—Debbie Pugh; Treasurer—Angela Brooks; Board Members—Mary Alice Dice, Debbie Dodd, and Ronnie Donoho.

The trustees have purchased two new sump pumps. One replaced the defective one that was in the water well in the basement. The basement has water constantly draining from a water spring, but the well also catches the water when draining the HVAC system. A spare pump was purchased for a backup. Other agenda items and trustee work (some are completed already) include replacing the burned-out lights in the auditorium; finishing work on the playground equipment (tie downs); purchase of a refrigerator for the Mission Department; installation of sanctuary air handler core; purchase of rock for playground and basketball court; and repair of east door threshold and adjustment of door closure.

The trustees have also become aware of some people falling around our church. Some actions have been taken in the past, such as, a couple of years ago flower boxes were placed outside the office entrance to help people navigate around some concrete slopes on the parking lot and more recently stop blocks for cars in the parking lots have been painted yellow. People have stumbled over them and hopefully the yellow paint will help people notice the blocks. During the snow, the sidewalks and parking lots can have slick spots, so be careful. We try to clear and salt them, but there can still be slick spots. Inside the building, please be careful with all the steps. Use handrails and pay attention to the steps. Especially in the sanctuary, we all like to see who is in the sanctuary or where we are going to sit. Sometimes we forget that last step. Also, even tile and carpet areas on the level places can trip us. New shoes can have soles that catch the floor differently than those old shoes we have worn for years. The church has provided handrails and elevators for your use to keep you safe as you move throughout the building. Thanks for your help in staying alert and safe.

Dallas Bundy  
Trustee Chairman





February 02 . . . . . Bring a Friend (Grilled Cheese, Vegetable Soup, & Snack Cakes)

February 09 . . . . . International Missions Sunday (Taco Soup, Quesadillas and cookies)

February 16 . . . . . Family Fun Night 5-7PM (Franklin Park School)

February 23 . . . . . Glow for JESUS (Spaghetti, Salad, & Garlic Bread)  
(Menu)



# FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

## Sunday, February 16th

Hosted by Salem First Baptist Church at Franklin  
Park Middle School



FOOD!

5-7PM

BOUNCY HOUSES!



Face painting



# EVERYONE WELCOME



## FREE TAX PREP ASSISTANCE

If you have a simple return and need a little help or do not have access to a computer, you can visit one of the participating tax assistance sites and an IRS-certified volunteer will guide you through the process. What you will need to get started:

- ✓ Email Address
- ✓ Social Security Numbers for yourself, spouse, and dependents (if applicable)
- ✓ W-2s, 1099s, other income information
- ✓ Prior year tax return
- ✓ Bank Account and Routing Information

### CALL OR EMAIL TODAY

☎ 618-322-2975

✉ SalemILTaxPrep@gmail.com

Site Location: Salem First Baptist Church  
721 W. Main St, Salem, IL 62881  
January 18 & February 8, 2025  
8am to 4pm  
Walk-ins only



# FEBRUARY

**2025**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>“Being the Church in Salem and to the Nations”</b>						1 Youth trip to Sky Zone
2 5-7 PM Awana	3 9:30AM Women on Mission	4	5 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	6 11:30AM Fellowship Luncheon	7	8 Tax Assistant here @ SFBC 8-4PM
9 Lord's Supper 5-7 PM Awana	10	11	12 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	13	14	15
16 Family Fun Night 5-7 PM @ Franklin Park School	17	18	19 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	20	21	22
23 5-7 PM Awana	24 AHG/TL Parent Orientation Open House 5:30-7:00PM	25	26 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	27	28	

Wayne Howard  
 Luke Howard  
 Diana Owens  
 Joyce Scrivner  
 Tom Gordon  
 Carolyn Smith  
 Melanie Johnson  
 Rick Meador  
 Mike Stallard  
 Samantha Malcolm  
 Kevin Keele  
 Ellen Casey  
 Jared Runkle

Feb. 01  
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 Feb. 02  
 Feb. 04  
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 Feb. 10  
 Feb. 11  
 Feb. 12  
 Feb. 12



Roberta Williams  
 Jesse Cantrell  
 Gary Hampton  
 Larry Maddux  
 Pam Maddux  
 Bonnie Gray  
 Joan Purcell  
 Kobe Silvey  
 Cade Silvey  
 Linda Wright  
 Lilienne Collins  
 Andy DeWitt

Feb. 13  
 Feb. 14  
 Feb. 16  
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 Feb. 22  
 Feb. 25  
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 Feb. 27  
 Feb. 28  
 Feb. 28



**SALEM**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060  
Website: Salemfbc.com  
Facebook: Salem First Baptist Church



*Our Vision*  
*“Being the church in Salem and to the Nations”*

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 - 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 PM AWANA