



Though your sins
are like scarlet,
they shall be white as snow
Isaiah 1:18

| Inside This Issue | Pages |
|--|-------|
| From the Pastor's Desk | 2 |
| From the Associate Pastor's Desk | 3 |
| Women on Mission / Library | 4 |
| Mission Moment SOW Evangelism App | 5 |
| Schedules/ Nursing Home Ministry | 6 |
| Deacon Ministry Trustee's Report | 7 |
| Awana Schedule Family Christmas Party | 8 |
| Monthly Calendar January Birthdays | 9 |
| Information Page | 10 |

Listen to Sunday Morning Services
WJBD 1350 AM 92.1 FM
or Facebook Live

- *Audio/Video Sermons*
- *Up Coming Events*
- *Ministries*

On the Web!
Salemfbc.com



SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

Well....it's here again! The New Year has arrived. Do you make resolutions? Many people do. Probably the most common resolution is health related: lose weight, eat healthier, begin an exercise routine to name a few. As good as these are, it's not only physical health that's important. There are other health concerns that some should address. I hear a lot about the concern of many, especially, young folks, about emotional health. It seems that multitudes of people who believe that their emotional health is a worry. Perhaps there is good reason. Consider the growth of the mental health professionals, for example. As one wag writes,

For over the past thirty years, the number of primary mental health personnel has increased from 14,000 to over 100,000. These personnel include psychiatrists, psychologists, psychiatric social workers, and psychiatric nurses.

Some 17 million mentally-ill in the U.S. occupied half the hospital beds in America.

As important as physical and mental health are, spiritual health may be the most neglected of all—even among those people who claim that they are followers of the Lord Jesus. It seems to me; this area of healthy living should be a major concern for Christians. Perhaps this should be the subject of a New Year's resolution. But what would this look like? Well, the Christian disciplines are a good place to begin. For example, prayer, Bible reading, service, solitude to name a few. As helpful as these may be, there is a more fundamental consideration.

As Moses was addressing the people in Deuteronomy (Deuteronomy means "second look at the law"), he reminds them of what is most important. "You shall love the LORD with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deut. 6:5). In the New Testament Jesus calls this the "Greatest Commandment." It is reported that both Charles Wesley and C H Spurgeon expressed the following about their relationship with the Lord: "Charles Wesley wrote passionately: Thou, O Christ, art all I want, More than all in Thee I find. Charles Spurgeon revealed his life's true secret: "I looked at Him, and He looked at me, and we were one forever."

Jesus added in His high priestly prayer (in John 17), "I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17:26). Notice specifically the kind of love that Jesus refers to here. It is the kind of love that God the Father has for the Lord Jesus, the Son. This would be the love that we should have for Jesus. Martin Luther adds this about this love: "The life of Christianity,' says Martin Luther, 'consists of possessive pronouns.' It is one thing to say, 'Christ is a Savior'; it is quite another thing to say, 'He is my Savior and my Lord.' The devil can say the first; the true Christian alone can say the second."

Your physical health is important, so is your emotional and mental health. Never underestimate the value and importance of your spiritual health. Remember that He is the "Hidden Treasure" (Matthew 13:44) and the "Peral of Great Price" (Matthew 13:45-46). In 2025, make your love for Jesus your glorious pursuit.

Happy New Year,
Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

One of the most important things when planning for a trip is to ensure that you will have everything that you need. It can be easy to forget something very important. Then you may discover while trying to enjoy a vacation that you forgot something. Depending on how important that item really was, it can be very expensive and possibly even necessary to replace it. To avoid feeling this way, we often check our things multiple times before setting off on a trip.

There is no new trip like the start of a new year. Each year brings its own unique joys and challenges. Most people would believe that there is nothing you can do to prepare for a new year. The world believes that things just happen and the best you can do is keep a positive attitude. As Christians, we know that God works everything for good to those who love Him. If this is the case, that means we can prepare to be part of God's work in a new year.

The first things we want to do to prepare are to ensure we are following Jesus to the best of our abilities. This means making sure we are studying God's Word and praying to Him regularly about all of the things going on in our lives. One very effective way to do both of these is to use an app or journal to remind you, such as the SOW Evangelism app. One of the most important subjects that should be in your prayers are the Lost. We do not just want to pray for ourselves and our friends but also for those who need to respond to the Gospel message.

These are a great way to start preparing for God's work in the new year. You can also find new ways to serve in the church. There is always something to do and there is always an opportunity to grow in a new area. God always wants us to show that we are His disciples through our love for one another and heartfelt service in the church is one of the best and most accessible ways to do that.

God is constantly at work in the world around us. One of the greatest things about our faith is that He invites us to come alongside Him in that work. But to be a part of that work, we have to be ready for when He calls us to it. Studying Scripture, praying, and serving are ways that we can be sure that we are ready for His call. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for Salem First Baptist Church in 2025.

Women on Mission/Library

Although we didn't have a regular meeting this past month, we still ministered to our shut-ins. We also gave small gifts to the children who attend the ROE Preschool in our church facility and gifts to their teachers. Members of our God's Warrior Class were given a Christmas bag full of goodies.

Just a reminder that in January, 2025, we begin our monthly donations for Operation Christmas Child. January is the month for bar soap and light colored wash cloths, these monthly donations help fill the boxes in the month of October.

Our next Women on Mission meeting will be Monday the 6th of January.

Thanks for all the monetary gifts given through out the year of our special mission emphasis.

Blessings,
Karen



Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow! Don't be caught without a good library book when the snow starts! You never know when it will start or when it might end! There is nothing like a good book, a cup of cocoa (or coffee if you are a grownup) and a nice, warm blanket by a window or fireplace to enjoy the snowfall and a new destination in a book.

One of my favorite series is written by Jan Karon entitled The Mitford Series. These books follow Father Tim's life as an unmarried, sixty-something year old Episcopalian priest who enjoys Wordsworth, Oswald Chambers, C.S. Lewis and feels the two books of Timothy were written directly to him. Most of the books take place in Mitford, NC where he lives with his dog, Barnabus, who only obeys when scripture is quoted! Oh, the many escapades Father Tim encounters with the characters in the church as well as the town! Some of his antics, as well as those of others will make you laugh, shake your head, or sometimes tear up.

In the first book, we meet Dooley, a young boy who gets Father Tim's attention with an unusual question the first time they meet. We also meet Cynthia, the pretty artist who moves in next door to the parsonage! You will have to read it to see how that friendship evolves! With names like Mule, Louella, Puny, Miss Rose and her brother, Uncle Billy, and Fancy Skinner, you are sure to make some new friends! Some of these characters might even remind you of someone in your own neighborhood! Father Tim often tells his parishioners to pray the prayer that never fails. You must read some of the books to find out what that prayer is...

Get your books before the snow starts falling!

Dina



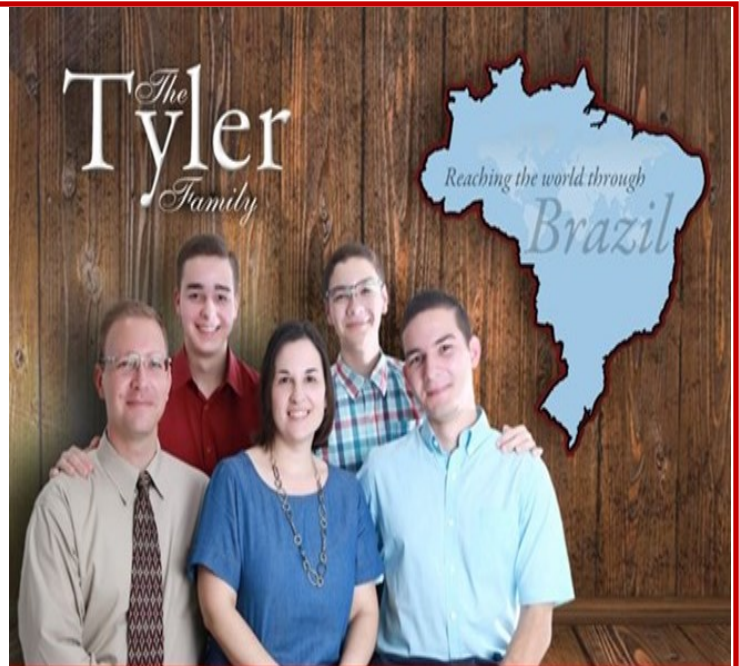
Announcements

MISSION MOMENT

Jeremy and Amanda Tyler are busy in Brazil! Their church has made the choice to help several young indigenous men who are trying to serve the Lord and reach the next generation with the Gospel. They have very little training and are being bombarded with false doctrine as well as persecuted by the government and groups opposed to the Gospel. Please pray that the Lord will give them wisdom as they seek to encourage and help them.

Other prayer requests that they ask us to take to the Lord:

1. A Holy Spirit awakening in their own lives as well as in the lives of their church members.
2. Salvation of Rogério and Edna (visitors that have been attending since their July Conference).
3. Salvation of men that will help strengthen the church.
4. Safety on the treacherous roads as they come and go from activities.
5. Wisdom in working with Theiglyson and Alessandra. (They were saved earlier in the year. After recently having a baby, they have faced many struggles.)



You can keep up with the Tyler's at www.tylersinbrazil.com

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.





The Deacon's had their annual Christmas Dinner on December 12th. During the evening they elected a new Deacon Chairman. Dale Helpingstine will be our Deacon Chairman for 2025. Dale has been a Deacon here at Salem First Baptist Church for over 25 years. Serving by his side is his beautiful wife Barbara.

Special guests were invited Barbara Phillips and Bev Smith which are widows of Deacons who served our church faithfully for years.

Let's pray for the Deacon's Ministry as they serve our church for the Lord.

We would like to thank our 2024 Chairman, Tom Reed and his wonderful wife Dina, for all they have done to serve our Lord this past year.



TRUSTEE REPORT

Two trustees were elected at the December special business meeting to serve three-year terms. They are Mary Alice Dice and Dallas Bundy. They will join the present trustee members who will continue to serve. These four people are Debbie Dodd, Ronnie Donoho, Myron Lloyd; and Debbie Pugh. I hope that you will express your thanks to Gary Hampton and Susan Wieldt for their fine work while serving as trustees during their three-year term, which ended on December 31, 2024.

The trustees elected to serve as officers for the 2025 year are: Dallas Bundy, chairman; Myron Lloyd, vice-chairman; and Debbie Pugh, secretary. The trustees have also selected trustees and members-at-large to overlook certain areas of ministry. Ronnie Donoho will oversee the church bus; Debbie Dodd will oversee the kitchen and its ministry; and the Decorating Committee will include trustees Myron Lloyd and Mary Alice Dice, and members-at-large Dale Helpingstine and Susan Wieldt.

During the trustees' report at the January church business meeting, there will be a brief corporation meeting included in the trustees' report. A slate of officers for the corporation will be proposed by the trustees. The corporation is required to meet at least once a year to keep our corporation status.

The first trustees' meeting for 2025 will be on January 7. Several items are already on the agenda. If you have a concern that needs to be discussed and studied by the trustees, please contact any of the trustees listed above. We shall strive to do our best to take care of the building and possessions with which our church has been gifted to be used for the ministry and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dallas Bundy
Trustee Chairman



January 05 Welcome Back (Pizza and Ice Cream Sundae)

January 12 Regular Club (Hot Dogs, Chili and cookies)

January 19 Crazy Hair Night (Chicken Nuggets, chicken noodle soup and snack cakes)

January 26 Kids Mission-Collecting wash cloths & soap (Pancakes, Biscuits & Gravy)
(Menu)



FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY



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

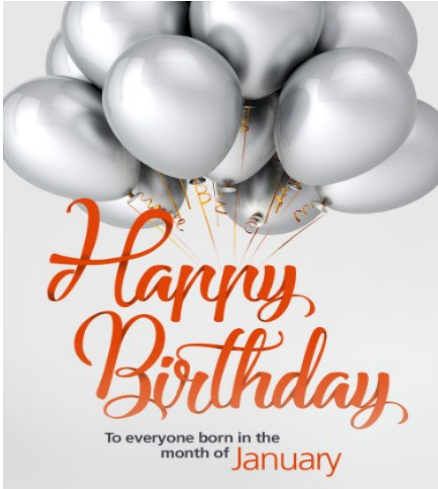
Site Location: Salem First Baptist Church
721 W. Main St, Salem, IL 62881
January 18 & February 8, 2025
8am to 4pm
Walk-ins only



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|------------------------------|---------|---|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| <p>“Being the Church in Salem and to the Nations”</p> | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | | | | | | |
| 5 5-7 PM Awana | 6 9:30AM Women on Mission | 7 | 8 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg. | 9 11:30AM Fellowship Luncheon | 10 | 11 |
| 12 5-7 PM Awana | 13 | 14 | 15 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal | 16 | 17 | 18 Tax Assistant here @ SFBC 8-4PM |
| 19 5-7 PM Awana 7PM Business Mtg | 20 | 21 | 22 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 5-7 PM Awana | 27 | 28 | 29 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal | 30 | 31 | |

| |
|------------------|
| Karletta Gray |
| Adam Savin |
| Shalonda Welford |
| Allysa Buerster |
| Abriella Sum |
| Harry Word |
| David Salliotte |
| Angie Scott |
| Lynn Kincaid |
| Richard Daniels |
| Paula Hays |
| Elias Quandt |

| |
|---------|
| Jan. 02 |
| Jan. 02 |
| Jan. 04 |
| Jan. 05 |
| Jan. 09 |
| Jan. 10 |
| Jan. 13 |
| Jan. 14 |
| Jan. 15 |
| Jan. 16 |
| Jan. 16 |
| Jan. 16 |



| |
|--------------------|
| Candace Howard |
| Nathan Helm |
| Karen Watson |
| Mary Lois Hawkins |
| Andrea Hays |
| Shanda Word-Runkle |
| Anne Coates |
| Annette Hardcastle |
| Tonya Huffhine |
| Marjorie Shanafelt |
| Ronnie Donoho |
| Avery Runkle |

| |
|---------|
| Jan. 17 |
| Jan. 19 |
| Jan. 21 |
| Jan. 22 |
| Jan. 23 |
| Jan. 25 |
| Jan. 26 |
| Jan. 27 |
| Jan. 28 |
| Jan. 29 |
| Jan. 30 |
| Jan. 30 |



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