



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

# SFBC FAMILY NEWS

Volume 45 Issue 07

July 2024

721 West Main

Salem, IL 62881

618-548-4060

*In God  
We Trust*

| Inside This Issue                            | Pages |
|--|-------|
| From the Pastor's Desk                       | 2     |
| From the Associate Pastor's Desk             | 3     |
| Women on Mission / Library                   | 4     |
| Announcements Poem                           | 5     |
| Schedules/ Nursing Home Ministry             | 6     |
| Youth Ministry Sisters in Christ             | 7     |
| Revival Seeking Scripture Throwback Thursday | 8     |
| Monthly Calendar July Birthdays              | 9     |
| Information Page                             | 10    |

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

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

## Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

The anonymous Psalmist writes in Psalm 33:12, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD. . ." This verse, in its context, refers to Israel. The verse concludes, ". . .The people He has chosen for His inheritance." An application of this verse is for the nation that also has the LORD as her God. And our nation certainly was founded as a nation whose God is the LORD. Consider the following:

The first Charter of Virginia (1606) specified that the Virginia colony should bring glory to Almighty God and advance the Christian faith. The Mayflower Compact (1620); Forty-one pilgrims prepared the first written constitution. It began: "In the name of God, Amen, having undertaken for the Glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith..." The New England Charter (1620) states "...to advance the enlargement of Christian religion, to the glory of God Almighty." The Carolinas' Charter (1622) reads: settled for "the propagation of the Christian faith. The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (1643) purposes a "...confederation together to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the gospel of our Lord Jesus which we now profess."

In more recent history, the following is true. In Pledge of Allegiance (1954), the words "under God" were adopted by Congress on June 14. Our National Motto (1956) was a joint resolution that was adopted by Congress on July 20, establishing "In God We Trust" as the national motto of the United States. In his proclamation in 1983, President Ronald Reagan (1983) declared Year of the Bible.

A Final example: *Newsweek* in Dec. 27, 1983 wrote: "Perhaps even more than the Constitution, the Bible is our founding document...Bible study was the core of public education and nearly every literate family not only owned a Bible but read it regularly and reverently."

In 2024, has our nation drifted from the commitments and ideals of her founding? Only with a deep sense of grief, we must admit that she has drifted and compromised her founders' desires. Regardless of your politics, it is unmistakably clear that we are no longer a "nation whose God is the LORD," but a nation whose god is our own deviant desires. Same-sex marriage is the law of the land. Gender identity (in opposition to science) is celebrated with the full and total support and power of the federal and many state governments. Abortion is the main sacrament of one of the political parties (you know which one), which they pursue with a fundamentalist's religious fervor.

Can you imagine President Biden saying this today? (Thanksgiving Day Proclamation 1789). "Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection, aid and favors..." I can't either.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance" (Psalm 33:12, NASB).

Grace and peace,

Andy

## Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

Have you ever felt like you are unimportant? It's easy to look around and see great things happening for the Gospel in big important places and feel inadequate as a result. Maybe you've felt like God just doesn't want to work through you. Maybe you've even felt like there isn't a place in His plan for you. The Bible is full of people who we might deem as insignificant but that God worked through in mighty ways. One I want to focus on is David.

David was no one's first choice for anything. The youngest son in a family filled with other sons meant he was getting very little inheritance or family influence after his father's death. Since he was the youngest, he would not even be given the opportunity to prove himself in battle but would be stuck doing the chores no one else wanted. In this case, it was the work of a shepherd. This was long, disgusting, thankless work to essentially maintain his father's monetary assets.

David decided to make the most of it, however. Even in such a squalid position he took an opportunity not afforded to many of us today. In his time alone, he spent time with God. David wrote a multitude of songs throughout his life and many were written during this time. He was inspired by his work in these lonely fields to write the twenty-third Psalm, which so accurately took from his experiences watching the sheep entrusted to him. He made a beautiful comparison to how God cares for us as His own sheep. This would never have been written without his specifically being made to do shepherd work.

Of course one of the most famous stories regarding David is his fateful encounter with Goliath. However, many people forget about the obstacles he faced to even get to that encounter to begin with. He was sent to the battlefield to deliver food to his brothers since he was not eligible to fight. While there, he heard Goliath mocking the Israelites and God and was filled with righteous anger. When he saw no one else volunteer to fight, he was determined to fight Goliath himself, youngest son or not.

Despite being no one's first choice, David was King Saul's only choice to fight Goliath. Impressed with his bravery and too cowardly to go out himself, he offered David his own armor to fight in. Perhaps Saul thought that he was going to lose the battle anyway and sacrificing one young man was worth it to save the rest of his army. He may have assumed David was so unimportant that no one would even miss him! Yet to everyone's surprise, it was God's use of David that took the day for Israel and defeated Goliath.

You may feel unimportant in church. You may feel like you're no one's first choice, not even God's. You may feel like you are either too young to do anything meaningful or far past your prime. But God does not make mistakes when he adds people to the Body of Christ. Every single person in the church today has a purpose to accomplish. God has gifted every member with at least one spiritual gift. Have you exercised that gift lately or are you allowing it to sit unused?

Remember, we were not saved by God just to populate heaven. We were saved so we would become His disciples and fulfill the Great Commission, which includes making more disciples. Think of someone you know today who needs discipling. Will you take the first step to begin that work?

## Women on Mission/Library

Due to busy schedules, our ladies haven't been meeting monthly. However, many have continued to serve in our church and community. Thanks to those who helped with Hungry Hearts and ministered to some of our members following surgery and other situations. We will resume our meetings on Monday, August 5th at 9:30AM.

We have continued receiving items monthly for Operation Christmas Child. In the month of July we are requesting school supplies and during this month those supplies are on sale at Wal-Mart and Dollar General.

We appreciate your kindness and giving spirit toward all of our church's special mission emphasis.

Blessings, Karen



*Women on Mission*  
Growing Closer To Christ

### Can you name these fathers from the Bible? (Answers)

1. A father whose rash vow cost the life of his precious daughter. (Judges 11:30-40)
2. A father who was ready to offer his son as a sacrifice in obedience to God's command. (Gen. 2:2)
3. Name the father of Moses. Do you think he knew of his wife's plan to save Baby Moses? (Ex. 6:20, Ex. 2:1-10)
4. How did Jacob's partial love for Joseph lead to suffering for his son? (Gen. 37:3-4)
5. Who was the father of Jacob and Esau? Was he a wise father? (Gen. 25:19-26)
6. Name the father of Samuel. Why do you think he was a good man? (1 Sam. 20:28)
7. Who was Abraham's father? Do you think he taught his son to worship Jehovah? (Gen. 11:31)
8. Name a son of Jonathan who was befriended by King David. (2 Sam. 9:1-7)
9. Who was Rehoboam's father? Was he a wise man in his last days? What drew his heart away from God? (1 Kings 1:4)

How exciting is it to think we will meet each one of these in Heaven? Do we wear nametags there? Sometimes I remember stories but forget the characters. . .how embarrassing will THAT be?!?!?

Happy reading in July!  
Dina





# Announcements/Thank You

A little change –  
**CHANGES LIVES!**



LORD

How great to be an American;  
 To live in the land of the free.  
 To love and worship you,  
 As was intended to be.  
 How blessed we are,  
 How thankful we should be.  
 Eternal life awaits us  
 Paradise, you and me.  
 Our flag of red, white and blue  
 Waiving in the breeze,  
 Stars and stripes forever.  
 Our hearts swell with pride at the  
 playing of the “Star Spangles Banner.”  
 Take a moment; Count your blessings.  
 Our flag, The United States of  
 America, Our God, full of mercy, hope and  
 love.  
 I’m proud to be an American,  
 Proud to be a witnessing Christian.

— Bev Smith

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT**  
**I SAMUEL**  
**SEPTEMBER 12-OCTOBER 31**  
**THURS. AM OR PM**  
**ORIENTATION/BOOK UP 9/5**  
**BOOK \$22**



**JULY 7-10TH**

**UBS 2024**

**Ages 4 yrs. – finished 6th**

**6:00-8:00PM**





| DATE    | GREETER        | ON CALL       | SECURITY          |
|---------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| July 07 | Greg Strother  | Gary Watson   | Dallas Bundy      |
| July 14 | Mike Pugh      | Myron Lloyd   | Jon Wieldt        |
| July 21 | Steve Smith    | Tom Reed      | Dale Helpingstine |
| July 28 | Gerald Purcell | Greg Strother | Ronnie Donoho     |



| DATE    | TEACHER | LESSONS |
|---------|---------|---------|
| July 07 |         |         |
| July 14 |         |         |
| July 21 |         |         |
| July 28 |         |         |



| Nursery Volunteers<br>(Call the church office if you would like to) |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| July 07   | Pat & Gary Hampton |
| July 14   | Andrea Hays        |
| July 21   | Reha Lloyd         |
| July 28   | Annette Hardcastle |



| DATE    | VOLUNTEER            | PIANIST        |
|---------|----------------------|----------------|
| July 07 | Mike & Angela Brooks | Kathy King     |
| July 14 | Mark Tablor          | Lynette Wiedle |
| July 21 | Ken Smith            | Judy Bundy     |
| July 28 | Paula's Class        | 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

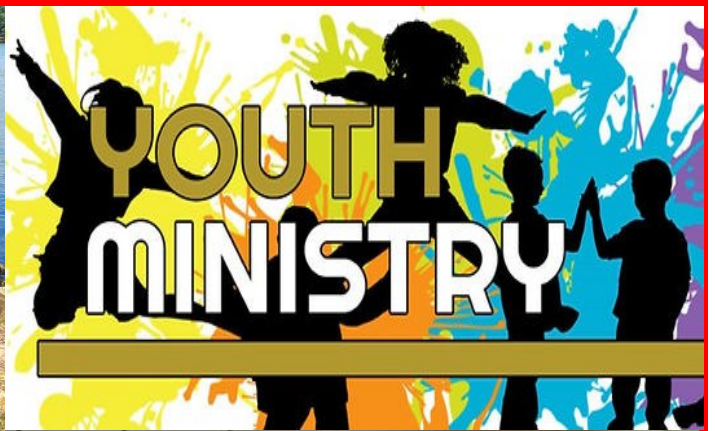
Odin Health and Rehab Center— 300 Green St.  
Suzanne Pollard

Helia Health Care Center—1201 Hawthorn Rd.  
Melody Webb

Heritage Woods—2049 E. McCord, Centralia  
Carrie Braden








**Sisters in Christ**

August 24, 2024  
 Grace United Methodist  
 Dinelle Frankland,  
 Guest Speaker

Registration is open!

The Woman at the Well.  
 Mary. Mary & Martha. You. Me.

**SAME GOD**

 Sisters In Christ  
 (Southern Illinois)





**REVIVAL**  
**AUGUST 18-21**  
**WITH EVANGELIST**  
**SAM MOORE**  
**Make plans to attend**  
**and bring a friend!**



July 2024

| Date     | Verses           | Date     | Verses            |
|----------|------------------|----------|-------------------|
| 07/01/24 | Psalm 96-102     | 07/17/24 | Proverbs 16-18    |
| 07/02/24 | Psalm 103-105    | 07/18/24 | Proverbs 19-21    |
| 07/03/24 | Psalm 106-107    | 07/19/24 | Proverbs 22-23    |
| 07/04/24 | Psalm 108-114    | 07/20/24 | Proverbs 24-26    |
| 07/05/24 | Psalm 115-118    | 07/21/24 | Proverbs 27-29    |
| 07/06/24 | Psalm 119:1-88   | 07/22/24 | Proverbs 30-31    |
| 07/07/24 | Psalm 119:89-176 | 07/23/24 | Ecclesiastes 1-4  |
| 07/08/24 | Psalm 120-132    | 07/24/24 | Ecclesiastes 5-8  |
| 07/09/24 | Psalm 133-139    | 07/25/24 | Ecclesiastes 9-12 |
| 07/10/24 | Psalm 140-145    | 07/26/24 | Solomon 1-8       |
| 07/11/24 | Psalm 146-150    | 07/27/24 | Isaiah 1-4        |
| 07/12/24 | Proverbs 1-3     | 07/28/24 | Isaiah 5-8        |
| 07/13/24 | Proverbs 4-6     | 07/29/24 | Isaiah 9-12       |
| 07/14/24 | Proverbs 7-9     | 07/30/24 | Isaiah 13-17      |
| 07/15/24 | Proverbs 10-12   | 07/31/24 | Isaiah 18-22      |
| 07/16/24 | Proverbs 13-15   |          |                   |

*2024 Throwback Thursday*



Dates  
 May 16<sup>th</sup>  
 June 20<sup>th</sup>  
 July 18<sup>th</sup>  
 Aug 22<sup>th</sup>  
 Sept 19<sup>th</sup>



*Times: 6:00-8:00 PM*

*"Celebrating all classic cars and trucks"*




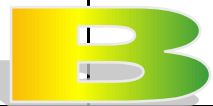



Contact: Dale Helpingstine 618-322-7123

*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.*





| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|--------|----------|
|  | 1<br>6PM Wendell Miller's Memorial Service  | 2   | 3<br>6PM Bible Study<br>Mission Journey<br>Kids<br>Youth Study<br>Praise Team<br>Rehearsal                              | 4<br> | 5      | 6        |
| 7   | 8<br>Prayer Meeting 6AM   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12     | 13       |
|  |  |  |   |   |        |          |
| 14<br>Leadership Team Mtg. 5PM<br>Special Business Meeting @6PM                   | 15<br>AHG/TL 5:30PM   | 16  | 17<br>6PM Bible Study<br>Mission Journey<br>Kids<br>Youth Study<br>Praise Team<br>Rehearsal                             | 18<br>Throwback Thursday 6-8PM  | 19     | 20       |
| 21<br>One Way Singers   | 22  | 23  | 24<br>2 PM Manor @ Salem Woods<br>6PM Bible Study<br>Mission Journey<br>Kids<br>Youth Study<br>Praise Team<br>Rehearsal | 25  | 26     | 27       |
| 28  | 29<br>AHG/TL 5:30PM   | 30  | 31<br>6PM Bible Study<br>Mission Journey<br>Kids<br>Youth Study<br>Praise Team<br>Rehearsal                             | <p><b>“Being the Church in Salem and to the nations”</b></p>                            |        |          |

Marlene Hilger  
Rick Chapman  
Madison Keele  
Pat Hampton  
Paul Womack  
Johannah Stallard  
Betty Canon(would be)  
Christian Boyles  
Rachelle Oziemkiewicz  
Kay Pullium  
Pat Nattier  
Shirley Parkinson  
Mark Peradotti

July 01  
July 02  
July 02  
July 03  
July 04  
July 06  
July 07  
July 12  
July 12  
July 13  
July 15  
July 15  
July 15



Jaysen Alston  
Noah Savin  
Jena Clifton  
Sharon Kavanaugh  
Paulette Murphy  
Fred Wiedle  
Emily Dice  
Darlene Page  
Charlene Eidson  
Gary Watson  
Tom Reed  
John Erickson

July 16  
July 17  
July 18  
July 20  
July 21  
July 21  
July 22  
July 26  
July 29  
July 29  
July 30  
July 31



**SALEM**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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



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.

**OUR VISION**

**“BEING THE CHURCH IN SALEM TO THE NATIONS”**

Office Hours

*Monday—Thursday*

*9:00 to 4:00*

**Closed 12:00 to 1:00**

**for lunch**

**Friday 9:00—12:00**



**Office will be closed on July 4th**

Wednesday Evening

5:30—6PM Media Center Open  
6:00 PM Adult Bible Study  
Youth Bible Study  
Praise Team Rehearsal  
Mission Journey Kids

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  
6:00 PM Behold your God: Rethinking God Biblically