



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

# SFBC FAMILY NEWS

Volume 46 Issue 6

June 2025

721 West Main

Salem, IL 62881

618-548-4060

"THE JUST MAN WALKETH IN HIS INTEGRITY:  
HIS CHILDREN ARE BLESSED AFTER HIM."

PROVERBS 20:7

HAPPY  
*Father's Day*



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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

## Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

It happened again! I wish it would happen with more frequency; nevertheless, it did happen. Reading a passage from the Bible that has been read many, many times before—then “bam.” The Holy Spirit impresses on one’s soul the gravity of the verses. It’s happened to me before, but this morning it happened again. I write this on Wednesday and while I was preparing for Bible Study tonight, Isaiah 64 ceased my attention—kind of, like a bomb exploding. Some of the time (hopefully) I’m not so distracted that the Spirit doesn’t get my attention, however this morning He did.

Isaiah writes his prayer in chapter 64 (actually, his prayer begins with verse 15 of chapter 63). He writes, *1 If only You would tear the heavens open and come down, so that mountains would quake at Your presence—* (Isaiah 64:1, HCSB). Read this verse again! Is this the cry of your heart? Our world is filled with trouble and many are filled to overflowing with anxiety. So many people wonder about the future; so many churches wonder why the majority of people choose little league sports over Sunday School. Iran wants a nuclear bomb so that they can use it. If only the Lord would tear open the heavens and come down.

Isaiah continues in his prayer, But we have sinned, and You were angry. How can we be saved if we remain in our sins? (Isaiah 64:5, HCSB). There it is—God has not torn open the heavens and come down because of our sin. Sin is an interesting word. It means basically, “missing the mark.” In other words, sin is when we fail to live up to God standard. God not only dislikes sin, He hates sin. He is righteous and pure; therefore, sin (sinners) cannot inhabit God’s presence. Can you answer Isaiah’s penetrating question: How can we be saved if we remain in our sins? This is an extremely important questions to be sure. The answer is cannot! Only the Lord can provide the solution to this issue: *7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace* (Ephesians 1:7, NKJV).

In verses 6-7 the true nature of the human plight is revealed.

*6 All of us have become like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like a polluted garment; all of us wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind. 7 No one calls on Your name, striving to take hold of You. For You have hidden Your face from us and made us melt because of our iniquity.* (Isaiah 64:6-7, HCSB).

Well, this is bad. We are in a mess and Isaiah wants the Lord to come, but to come to the ? rebellious. No, the Holy Lord coming to rebellious sinners-unimaginable. For us, yes, but not for God. The Apostle Paul helps us here: *21 He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him* (2 Corinthians 5:21, HCSB).

*1 If only You would tear the heavens open and come down, so that mountains would quake at Your presence.* I hope that the Lord will do this, and do so soon!

Grace and peace,  
Andy

## Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

In the book of John, chapter 4, we find a very peculiar interaction between Jesus and a Samaritan woman. This woman has no given name and is only known as the Woman at the Well. This entire interaction tells us a lot about Jesus' priorities and how he rejected false tradition to tell people about the Gospel. We can learn a lot from how Jesus approaches this situation through what the account tells us.

It begins with an odd scenario. Jesus sits down at the well in Samaria, an area that Jews would not usually travel to. The Samaritans were relatives of the Jews, but the Jews saw them as beneath "true" Jews. While Jesus was sitting, a woman approached to draw water at noon. This itself was also odd. Most women drew water early in the morning. This woman choosing to do so at noon meant she likely did not want to run into other people.

Jesus, unlike most people of that time, initiated a conversation with the woman. "...Jesus said to her, 'Give Me a drink.' For His disciples had gone away to the city to buy food (John 4:7-8). The woman was taken aback by this request and wanted to know why Jesus was asking for water from a Samaritan and a woman at that. 'Jesus replied to her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water (John 4:10).' He elected to ignore her question and instead respond with a definitive statement about living water.

The conversation goes on from here, with Jesus explaining that He offers water that will totally satisfy someone who has it, so they will not be thirsty again. After some more questions, Jesus asks her to bring her husband, and when she replies that she has no husband, Jesus uses His divine power to tell her about her life. She does not currently have a husband because she has been with five husbands and someone else who is currently not her husband. The woman, rather than being offended, was amazed, and knew she was talking to someone from God. After finishing the conversation, she went off to find other people to tell about Jesus.

How often do we ignore the people in our community that we find unsavory? There are people all around us that need to hear the Gospel and be driven in their heart to repent and turn to Jesus. They will only know about the Gospel if we take the time to tell them and have those genuine conversations with them, just like Jesus did with the Woman at the Well.

The passage concludes with Jesus seeing a crowd coming towards him, led by the woman. Seeing them, He told His disciples, "Behold, I tell you, raise your eyes and observe the fields, that they are white for harvest (John 4:35)." The fields around us are still white for harvest. We need to get out there and be God's laborers in the harvest.

## Women on Mission/Library

Just a reminder that Women on Mission will not be meeting in the month's of June and July. However, our ministries will continue during those months. Recently we purchased tokens cards from South Central Transit to be given to the men and women being released from the Marion Co. Jail. Many of these individuals do not have any one to pick them up after their release.

Thanks to those ladies who provided cookies and punch for the graduation for the students of ROE Pre-School.

In June we will be providing baby bottles to be filled with checks or change to assist in the ministries provided by the Salem Pregnancy Care Clinic.

Also, another opportunity to help our community is the Ministerial Food Pantry. Instead of an item requested each month, now a shopping list is provided with items most needed.

If you weren't able to give to the Mother's Day Offering in May, you can still give toward our goal.

Last but not least, the items requested in the month of June for Operation Christmas Child are sun glasses, children and youth jewelry, Band-Aids, and personal size Kleenex.

Blessings, Karen



I hope you've had a chance to check out last month's recommended book by Rob Phillips, *What Every Christian Should Know About the Trinity*. Please mark your calendars for July 19 & 20 to make sure you can meet him here in our church!

Another book of his that comes highly recommended is *The Apologist's Tool Kit (Resources to Help You Defend the Christian Faith)*. Followers of Jesus have always faced attacks from outside the church – from worshipers in the cult of Caesar to militant Muslims. But potentially more damaging are threats from within – from false teachers who tickle our ears (2 Timothy 4:3) to false prophets who come to us with “cleverly devised myths” (2 Peter 1:16).

The apostle Peter urges Christians to “always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you,” and to do so “with gentleness and respect” (1 Peter 3:15-16).

The Apologist's Tool Kit equips you to defend the Christian faith in just this way. This easy-to-read reference addresses some of the most commonly challenged Christian doctrines, from the existence of God to the authority of scripture. Each chapter concludes with probing questions, talking points, and references for further reading, making this a handy resource for personal or group study.

If you can read, you will find this book (as with all his books) easy to understand and apply to your life. It truly is easy-to-read.

Make sure to read some of his books before he gets here!! There is still time!

Dina



## Announcements

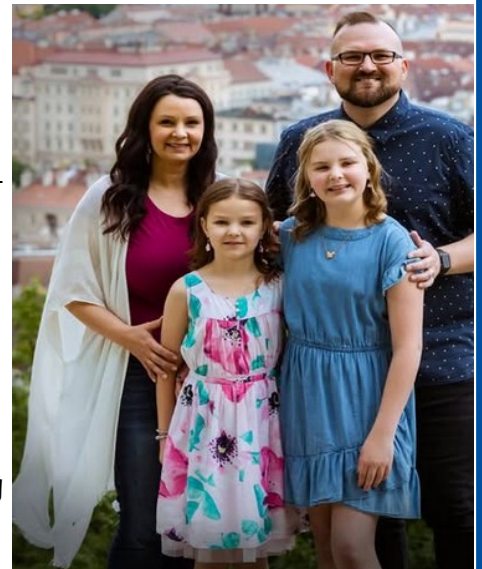
### MISSION MOMENT

Steven, Kelli, Kaci and Selah Shaddox

Serving in the Czech Republic

We recently spent a weekend together with our Czech pastor's family. It was a great time together! We have started doing this as we realize our children need time together to just bond with other children. And for us adults, we also need time away to plan, pray, talk through ministry/visions and have a space to just enjoy each other without the interruptions of life. For two years now our girls have shown up almost every Sunday and helped us set up the event center and worked through some cultural and language barriers that have been hard at times. Linda, Daniela, and Dominik hesitantly welcomed our girls on that first day and it took a while for them to warm up. But God has graciously used these times on our weekends away together to mold their friendships, create memories, and build lasting friendships. And now there are lots of giggles, hugs, and fun times together. Are there still language barriers at times? Yes. Are there still culture differences? Yes. And I don't think these will magically go away.

But, please keep our girls in your prayers. And thank you for praying for them because they are a HUGE part of our ministry! (Kaci is finishing 7th grade. Selah is finishing 4th grade.)



### Rob Phillips to lead an Apologetics Conference @ SFBC July 19 & 20th



Rob Phillips serves as strategic leader of Ministry Support and Apologetics for the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Phillips has worked for several FORTUNE 500 companies and a national Christian non-profit organization. He also served for 14 years as an associate pastor.

Phillips has participated in mission projects in Honduras, Nicaragua, Cuba, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, the Philippines and Malaysia.

He speaks at churches, conferences, training events and other venues. To schedule him to speak in your church or to your organization, contact him at [rob.phillips@oncedelivered.net](mailto:rob.phillips@oncedelivered.net).

He and his wife, Nancy, live in Jefferson City, Mo.



DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
June 1	Tom Reed	Greg Strother	Dale Helpingstine
June 8	Ronnie Donoho	Steve Smith	Gary Watson
June 15	Rick Meador	Gerald Purcell	Dallas Bundy
June 22	Steve Smith	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh
June 29	Gary Watson	Myron Lloyd	Jon Wieldt



DATE	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
June 1	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
June 8	Susan Wieldt	Debbie Pugh
June 15	Melissa Spenner	Dina Reed
June 22	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour
June 29	Melissa Spenner	Lesa Morris



<b>Nursery Volunteers</b> <b>(Call the church office if you would like to serve)</b> <b>Life Group                      Worship</b>		
June 1	Dina Reed	Pat & Gary Hampton
June 8	Janet Smith	Reha Lloyd
June 15	Barb Helpingstine	Annette Hardcastle
June 22	Kristen McMahaill	Sheri Peradotti
June 29	Susan Salliotte	Janet Smith



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
June 1	Mike & Angela Brooks	Kathy King
June 8	Christopher Spenner	Lynette Wiedle
June 15	Ken Smith	Judy Bundy
June 22	Dale Helpingstine	Lynette Wiedle
June 29	Mike & Angela Brooks	Lynette Wiedle



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

As I write this, we are fast approaching summer and all that it brings. Schools are letting out this week and graduations are happening at our local grade and high schools. Memorial Day weekend is the unofficial start of summer and families will be celebrating with cookouts and barbeques (my favorite food group by the way), ball tournaments, boating and fishing at the lake, and swimming at the pool. It's also the time that many families hit the roads for summer vacation to the beach or the mountains. No doubt many memories will be made this summer.

But remember, things don't come to a stop here at church. In fact we have many opportunities to be involved and serve our members and the community. Three such activities are volunteering with the "Hungry Hearts" to help make and deliver sack lunches for school age kids who might not have a lunch at home. This is the week of June 2nd-6th. Next is Family Fun Day in the Park on June 7th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Our church will have a booth to greet families, invite them to VBS, give away popsicles, and offer to pray with anyone who has a need. And then we have VBS scheduled for July 6th-9th. This is always a big event for our church and it takes many hands to make it a success. I know Christopher and Melissa would greatly appreciate any help you can give.

So as we make our plans for the summer, don't forget that we are still to be faithful in our church attendance, giving and service. Make sure that we don't leave God out of our summer plans. Proverbs 19:21 says, "Many plans are in a person's heart, but the Lord's decree will prevail."

Blessings,

Dale Helpingstine, Deacon Chairman

## **TRUSTEE REPORT**

In the early part of May, the Heating, Venting, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems were changed from the heating to cooling mode. We want to thank Mike Pugh and Jackson Lingafelter for making this change. There are several steps to follow in making this changeover. We also want to thank some ladies who were involved in cleaning and straightening a closet in the children's area.

During the May business meeting, the church voted to replace the glass and glass doors in the church office foyer. The door locks and hinges are worn out and this installation will take care of this problem. The glass will be replaced with a tinted glass to keep the sun's rays from further taking its toll on the floor tile and furniture in the foyer. At the same time a glass protective panel covering a stained-glass window in the sanctuary will be replaced. I want to thank a certain youth church member for bringing this broken glass panel to the trustees' attention.

During the last few weeks, the completion of repainting the parking lines, concrete stop blocks, handicap parking spaces, entrance posts to the parking lot and driveway, and the step at the auditorium foyer west entrance. This step has never been painted, so hopefully it will make it safer for the people using this entrance to notice the drop-off.

Dallas Bundy  
Chairman of the Trustees





**JULY 6 - 9TH**



Celebrating all classic cars and trucks

May 15th | June 19th  
July 17th | Aug 28th  
Sept 18th

6:00-8:00  
PM

Rain  
Cancels

Salem First Baptist Church  
721 W Main St. Salem, IL

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.

"Thou art a sea without a shore, a sun without a sphere..."

# Behold your God

**Sunday Nights  
Starting June  
1st @ 6PM**

JOHN SNYDER

Nothing provides the true follower of Christ with more profound and enduring satisfaction than turning from the limitations of self and this world to the unfathomable fullness of the living God. Nothing so directly affects the study of Scripture as one's understanding of what lies behind the little word "God." Nothing calls for such an entire consecration of the mind, heart, and will of the student as the study of this eternal Being, who is the cause and reason for all things. Nothing holds more practical value for the Christian than the realities of God's perfection.

For twelve weeks, *Behold Your God: The Weight of Majesty* guides the reader through passages that reveal God's perfections: His incomprehensibility, self-existence, independence, transcendence, immutability, infinity and eternity, omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience, wisdom, sovereignty, righteousness, holiness, wrath, goodness, love, patience, and zeal. The aim of this study is to provide the student with a tool for vastly enlarging his or her understanding of God in a manner that enlightens the mind, captivates the heart, and redirects the will.

God truly is "a sea without a shore, a sun without a sphere." Each of us stands before the boundless immensity of God's majesty. He commands us to know Him. He has provided all that we need to know Him through the redemptive labors of His Son, the illuminating work of the Spirit, and the Bible. A.W. Tozer wrote only the truth when he stated that God "can show a new aspect of His glory to us each day for all the days of eternity, and we have but begun to explore the depths of riches of His infinite being."

May God raise up a people who will say as David did so many years ago:

When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You,  
"Your face, O Lord, I shall seek."  
(Psalm 27:8)

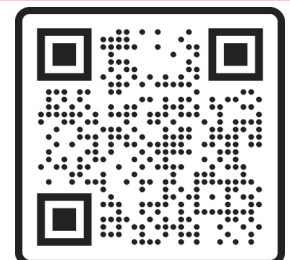
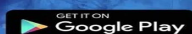
- John Snyder

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT [BEHOLDYOURGOD.ORG](http://BEHOLDYOURGOD.ORG)

## 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**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	5	6	7
8	9 AHG/TL Mtg. 5:30PM	10	11 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	19 Throwback Thursdays 6-8PM	20	21
22	23 AHG/TL Mtg. 5:30PM	24	25 2PM High Point 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	26 VBS Work Day	27	28
29 VBS Lunch after worship	30 VBS Work Day AHG/TL Mtg. 5:30PM		<div> <div></div> <div>“Being the Church in Salem and Beyond”</div> </div>			

Bonnie Hosey  
 Doug Jones  
 Kristen McMahon  
 Jonathan Stallard  
 Reed Thompson  
 Bill Dennis  
 Faye Wood  
 Matthew Carrigan  
 Nathalee Shults

June 01  
 June 01  
 June 01  
 June 05  
 June 06  
 June 12  
 June 12  
 June 14  
 June 17



Shade Woodward  
 Daniel Meador  
 Linda Thompson  
 Michael Brooks  
 Beryl Jett  
 Stacey King  
 Anthony Purcell  
 Bob Ward

June 17  
 June 18  
 June 18  
 June 19  
 June 21  
 June 25  
 June 29  
 June 29



**SALEM**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060

Website: [Salemfbc.com](http://Salemfbc.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  
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