

*Grace and peace to you from
God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ. I thank my God
every time I remember you.
Philippians 1:2-3*

Happy Mother's Day!

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church,

One of the pivotal statements about the early church in Acts is found in chapter 2 and verse 42. “*And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.*” These are the priorities of those first followers of the Lord Jesus. For a moment or two, I would like for us to think about the third of the four priorities in Acts 2:42—*fellowship*. Today, the English word “fellowship” is a bit archaic; it is seldom used outside of traditional churches that still have an area in their buildings that is called “the Fellowship Hall.” But, in Acts 2:42, this is not even close to the meaning of the word. Fellowship means, “the close association between persons, emphasizing what is common between them; by extension: participating, sharing, contribution, gift, the outcome of such close relationships” (*The Strongest Concordance*).

People in all ages have craved relationships with other people. This is God’s design for humanity. You can see this “need” from the earliest of ages. Have you noticed how babies notice other babies? People today, we are told, have more technology at their fingertips, are connected, but lonely. Mental health has emerged as a major concern among younger adults in ways that previous generations seem to have never experienced. The need for biblical fellowship, that is, relationships is critically essential. We, as a church should make fellowship, relationships a priority.

There are barriers that make relationships more difficult these days. For example, smart phones. These devices provide people massive amounts of information at our fingertips—literally! If you want to know the population of polar bears in Alaska, google can tell you. The negative side of smart phones is their addictive nature. I have seen a family of five setting at a restaurant waiting for their food with all five, not talking to each other, but their complete attention on their phones. There are other barriers to true fellowship, too.

One way we can enhance fellowship, relationships, here is our new church library. You probably have noticed the construction as you enter the east doors of the building. This will provide a space for people to congregate and talk. (This is a good place to thank all who have worked on this area, moving books, etc. THANK YOU!).

In addition, our monthly meals on the first Thursday of each month. It’s good the “break bread with each other.” This pot-luck style meal is available for all who wish to attend.

The above two are only a modest starting place in building biblical fellowship—there needs to be more. The key to better, deeper relationship begins with you—with each of us. We should make this a priority like the early church did. “*And they devoted themselves to. . .fellowship.*” Think, pray, and fellowship!

Grace and peace,

Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

May Article 2023

What is your worldview? This may be a question you have never heard before. Even if the question is new, the concept is not new to you. Everyone on earth has a worldview whether they are actively aware of it or not. It informs every thought and action we take. It determines who we vote for, what products we buy, and how we see ourselves. What exactly is a worldview? Simply, a worldview is your framework for understanding reality.

Imagine you need to wear glasses in order to see more clearly. Maybe you don't have to imagine this. How much of a difference is there between the world you see when your glasses are on as opposed to when they are off? Now let's take it one step further. Imagine your lenses were tinted red. How would that affect how you saw the world? If someone told you the sky was blue, you would laugh at them. You would have a much more difficult time while grocery shopping since apples and tomatoes would blend into the background. And good luck seeing a red light while driving. Clearly, the wrong set of glasses can lead to absolutely disastrous consequences. In the same way, the wrong worldview can lead to very unintended consequences.

Think of your worldview as your glasses by which you see and interpret the world around you. We all see the same objects in the world but our worldview determines how we feel about them and categorize them. It's why when a law is passed, half the country rejoices and the other half is furious. If you have a biblical worldview, you can look at the beauty of nature and praise God for his handiwork. If you have an atheistic worldview, you will instead attempt to find meaning in the random chance of it all. Our goal as Christians is to ensure we have the right worldview and to help guide other people into adopting a biblical worldview. Only then can we bring them fully to Christ.

As we head into summer, be thinking about how what you see in the world around you influences your worldview. Movies, books, media, and even conversations can all slightly challenge our convictions by tinting our worldview glasses. Pray that God will give you the opportunity to have meaningful conversations about this crucial topic this summer.

In Christ,

Christopher Spenner

Library News/Women on Mission



Your Librarian
Sharon Dennis

A great big thank you for the years of service as our librarian. Sharon, you have done such a great job! Thank you!



Again, thanks to our FBC family for the continued support of our ministries.

Recently, we gave faithfully toward our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and will be promoting our ministries in Illinois through our Illinois Baptist State.

Our Mother's Day Offering goal will be \$1200.00 this year.

During the month of June, we will have an opportunity to support our Marion County Pregnancy Care Center located here in Salem. Baby bottles will be given to us to fill with our monetary gifts.

Each month we ask for needed items in prepare for the Packing Party in the fall. This is a church wide fellowship to pack Operation Christmas Child boxes. This months items are small flashlights (with extra batteries), solar calculators, small plastic reusable cups, bowls, water bottles, and blunt edged utensils.

Our May monthly meeting will be Monday, May 1 @9:30 in the fellowship hall.

Blessings,

Karen



Announcements/Thank You

The love and gratitude I feel for my church family can't be expressed. The calls, cards, visits, food and most of all the prayers you have so generously given. Thank you doesn't seem enough but, Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

In Christ's Love,

Bev Smith



Just a Reminder!

We have emergency kits in the front foyer in the closet and in the hallway just outside the Fellowship Hall. They are both equipped with automatic blood pressure machines. Ice packs are in the freezer on top shelf in the door.

Tribute to Mother

There is beauty in the sunshine
It unveils a lovely world;
There is beauty in the mighty oak With its
lofty arms unfurled;
There is beauty in the babbling brook
And the flowers so sweet and rare;
But the beauty of a Mother's love
Is quite beyond compare
Her love is higher than a mountain and
much wider than the sea
And she gives it all so free
She shares with me my sorrow
She understands it all
She is humble, meek and lowly, but yet
she stands so tall You
cannot measure a Mother's love by
the lovely sunshine ray;
Or even the mighty oak
which will disappear one day.
My Mother's love is always there
to guide me day by day.
And like the patient little brook
She helps me find my way.
So thank you, God, for Mothers
And the wealth of love they share;
For the beauty of the moment
When we both can show we care;
You are purer than the lily
Much sweeter than the rose;
So let me say "I love you"
So all the world will know.
— Ruby Chapman

"Daily Muse"

*I smile because I'm happy
For the promise you've made
You hold my hand and walk with me
Along life's perilous ways*

*You share with me your thoughts
As I begin each day
With thankfulness and praise
I fix my eyes upon you*

*Help me with decisions, Lord
Will I choose your ways
Or the ways of the world?
Please guard my thoughts and actions*

*Fill me with love and caring
To all I know and greet
Help me to witness boldly
As to the certainty of life eternal.*

By: Bev Smith



DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
May 07	Mike Pugh	Ronnie Donoho	Tom Reed
May 14	Myron Lloyd	Dale Helpingstine	Dallas Bundy
May 21	Rick Meador	Jon Wieldt	Gary Watson
May 28	Gerald Purcell	Ken Smith	Greg Strother



DATE	TEACHER	LESSONS
May 07	Deanna Buerster	Paws & Tales—The Good Shepherd
May 14		Family Worship—No Children's Church
May 21	Deanna Buerster	Paws & Tales—If the Tooth Be Known
May 28	Deanna Buerster	Paws & Tales—Miss Helga Grissel



Nursery Volunteers (Call the church office if you would like to serve)	
May 07	Reha Lloyd
May 14	Annette Hardcastle
May 21	Sheri Peradotti
May 28	Janet Smith



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
May 07	Ken Smith	Kathy King
May 14	Bev Smith	Lynette Wiedle
May 21	Karen Watson	Judy Bundy
May 28	Dale & Barb Helpinstine	Lynette Wiedle

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

Twin Willows—1600 N Broadway:
Donna Shoemaker

Helia Health Care Center—1201 Hawthorn Rd.
Ila Westerman Melody Webb

Heritage Woods—2049 E McCord St., Centralia
Mary Anne Rollinson

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

Odin Health and Rehab Center— 300 Green St.
Suzanne Pollard Betty Canon Carrie Braden

Cedarhurst of Centralia—1827 E. McCord St.
Ruby Chapman





DARRYL STRAWBERRY, GUEST SPEAKER

MARCH 26, 2023

With four World Series titles, Darryl is described as a legend by many who have been dazzled by the dynamics of his game. Though Darryl was extremely successful in his career, his personal life was plagued with addictions, abuse, divorces, cancer, jail-time and other issues. Darryl finally found true redemption and restoration in Jesus Christ.

Today, Darryl's purpose and passion is serving the Lord Jesus Christ and helping others transform their lives through the power of the gospel. Darryl travels the country speaking and bringing a message of hope and restoration in Christ.



UNDERSTANDING OUR TIMES KEN MIKLE– SPEAKER REPRESENTATIVE OF OLIVE TREE MINISTRIES

SATURDAY, MAY 20 @ 9AM SALEM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

What in the world is happening? Are we stuck in this "new normal"? Are things going to get better or worse? Is there more beneath the surface than we realize? Are you prepared for what may come next?

Ken Mikle, is a former detective, security consultant from Minneapolis, MN. As a representative from "Understanding the Times" he will present facts and evidence about what is happening in our world today and relate everything to what God says.



Esther

Women's Inductive Bible Study

Date: June 1, 8, 15, & 22

Times: 9-11am or 6-8pm

Orientation: May 25, 9am or 6pm

Salem First Baptist - south office entrance

... for such a time as this.



CONGRATS IBDR!

**THANKS EVERYONE
FOR A GREAT YEAR!**



2023 Throwback Thursday Cruise Nights

Celebrating All Types of Classic Cars and Trucks

Dates

- May 18th
- June 15th
- July 20th
- Aug 17th
- Sept 21st

RAIN
CANCELS

Times: 6:00-8:00 PM

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





VBS NEWS

We need empty 12 pack of soda boxes in good condition. Please and Thank You.

SAVE THE DATE!
VBS 2023—JULY 9-13





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Prayer Mtg. 6AM Women on Mission 9:30AM	2	3 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	4 Senior Adult Potluck @ 11:30AM Wee Learn & Play Graduation 6:30PM	5	6
7 4PM Church Council Mtg.	8 American Heritage Girls 5:30-7:30PM	9	10 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	11	12	13
14 	15 ROE Pre-School Graduation in Sanctuary AM/PM	16	17 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	18 Throwback Thursday Cruise-In 6-8PM	19	20 Ken Mikle from Olive Tree Ministries
21 Law Enforcement & First Responders Appreciation Day	22 American Heritage Girls 5:30-7:30PM	23	24 6PM Bible Study Mission Journey: Kids Praise Team Rehearsal	25 Orientation for Women's Inductive Bible Study ~ Esther 9AM or 6PM	26	27
28	29	30 Red Cross Blood Drive 2-6PM	31	to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Ephesians 4:12		

- Tara DeWitt
- Kathy King
- Aaron Watson
- Wanda Keele
- Mark Tabor
- Calvin Albert
- Katie Shelton
- Andrew Howard
- Beulah Lupkey
- Dorothy Schubert

- May 01
- May 02
- May 02
- May 07
- May 07
- May 08
- May 11
- May 17
- May 18
- May 18



- TJ Thompson
- Amanda Brink
- Joshua DeWitt
- Shirley Garden
- Johnny Powell
- Bradley Oziemkiewicz
- Langdon Collins
- Neva Isett
- Bonnie Becker

- May 18
- May 19
- May 20
- May 21
- May 21
- May 22
- May 27
- May 29
- May 30



SALEM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060

Fax: 618-548-6039

Website: Salemfbcc.com

Facebook: Salem First Baptist Church



Our Vision

The vision of Salem First Baptist Church is to become a growing family of committed believers with an increasing

- Passion for God
- Passion for People
- Passion to Serve

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

- 4:45 PM Women’s Chronological Bible Study
- 5:30—6PM Media Center Open
- 6:00 PM Adult Bible Study
Praise Team Rehearsal
Mission Journey: Kids

Sunday Morning and Evening

- 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