

*Thanks be to God for his
indefinable gift!
II Corinthians 9:15*

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST



Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

Happy Thanksgiving! Yes, Thanksgiving is a few weeks away. The beginning of the holiday season is rapidly approaching. As I think about Thanksgiving, my mind rushes to something that David Jeremiah recently wrote. He writes, "It was 242 years after the first Thanksgiving celebration that President Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, proclaimed a national day of 'Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens.'" Later, in 1941, Congress acted to designate the fourth Thursday of November as the official date of Thanksgiving.

Today, Thanksgiving is characterized by family meals, a day off of work, football, and parades and the preparation for Black Friday sales. A day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our Father in the Heavens" is remembered by a few people (I hope). This, too, is a reminder how life changes from one generation to the next.

There is, however, another thought that comes to mind. The memory of a statement that Dr. Heuitt Glower said in a New Testament class is one of the first places my mind runs to when hearing the word "Thanksgiving." It was one of those observations that impacted my thinking to such an extent that it is a reoccurring thought. In 1 Corinthians 11 the Bible states:
*24 and when He had given **thanks**, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me"* (1 Corinthians 11:24, NKJV). Dr. Glower reminded us that Jesus, the night before His crucifixion, He gave "thanks." I had not noticed this before. Jesus was facing the excruciating, humiliating death on the cross and He is giving thanks.

Out of curiosity, I counted the number of times "thanksgiving" is mentioned in the English Bible. It is mentioned 27 times and the word "thanks" 110 times (did I mention that I counted?).

It seems from the example of the Lord Jesus and the number of times an "attitude of gratitude" is mentioned in God's Word, we should be a thankful people. We do have much for which to be thankful—right! O, yes, we do. Therefore, *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name* (Psalm 100:4).

May both you and yours have a Happy Thanksgiving as we endeavor to be a grateful people.

Gratefully,

Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

Do you feel like a soldier? Most of us have never experienced military life. We may be familiar with the concept but there is a great divide between the idea of military life and the actual experience itself. Most of us, myself included, would not want to join the military and live that way. We rightfully honor those who do choose to serve because we know the struggles they will face as part of that life. However, are you aware that you have been called to be a soldier? The Bible speaks of our Christian life in these terms and we need to be aware of how we are then to live.

In the second chapter of 2 Timothy we find this passage: “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful people who will be able to teach others also. Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him.” (2 Timothy 2:1-4) Paul, who is writing to Timothy as a young pastor in a very hostile environment, compared the Christian life to that of a soldier on the battlefield. The first truth he lays out is one that every Christian should take to heart. When we are taught from the Scriptures and are encouraged by that teaching, we should not keep it inside. We should actively spread what we have learned and teach others also. Often we worry that others may not want to hear or be preached at, but sometimes the truth that impacted your life told in your own words will be more impactful than a hundred sermons from a trained preacher.

Paul continues by using the illustration of a soldier to explain how the Christian will suffer hardship. Soldiers do not sign up to have fun. Soldiers do not sign up to go on an adventure. Soldiers do not sign up because they expect the good life. Most soldiers sign up expecting that they will encounter extreme hardship in their duties as a soldier. While most of them sign up with optimism, in the back of their minds they know they may not make it back alive.

The Christian life is a life that is not “fun.” In Ephesians 6 Paul lays out the reality of the enemy we face. “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12) We do not fight a battle that can be won by superior tactics and force of arms. We fight a spiritual battle on the inside against our own sin natures and on the outside every single day against malevolent spiritual forces. We must struggle every day to “crucify the flesh with its passions and desires,” according to Galatians 5:24. We must also contend for the faith against a culture that is more anti-God than it ever has been. If you are looking for hardship to suffer, look no farther than your own neighborhood. Our culture is beset on all sides by harmful ideologies that seem right to sinful man but will only bring harm and misery. We are to be a light shining in the darkness, reflecting the light of Jesus Himself.

As Paul concludes, the reason we are doing this is not for our own hope of advancement but to please the one who enlisted us. Jesus brought us out of the enemy’s camp and gave us a life worth living in service to Him. In all that we do, let us work as Soldiers of His Gospel and please Him in thanks for all He has done for us.

In Christ,

Christopher Spenner

Women on Mission/Library

A huge thanks to everyone who helped with the preparation for Operation Christmas Child emphasis, many children will come to know Christ through your efforts! The filled boxes will be due Sunday, November 12th.

Our next Women On Mission meeting will be on Monday, November 6th at 9:30 followed with a Breakfast Bunch.

Blessings,

Karen



The politics in the Middle East can be murky, confusing and, at times, even disturbing. Joel C. Rosenberg understands the problems and threats Israel continues to face and shares how lives will be affected in his book, [Epicenter](#). Check it out in the library: 220.1 Ros.

*Don't forget to stop by the library beginning Nov. 5th for a little something to start your **Christmas season!**

Blessings,

Dina



Announcements/Thank You

"Living Through You"

*Day by day I'm living through You
Depending on You completely.
My next breath, my next heartbeat,
All through You.*

*As I arise in the morning
I call on Your name, I am Your
child.
What do You have in store for me
this day?
Use me, I pray to glorify Your
name.*

*There is only one way to live this
life
And that is with You.*

*Help me daily to call upon and live
through You.*

*By
Bev Smith*



Salem Church,

Thank you so much for remembering Ila through your contribution to the Children's Home in her memory. Ila's love for Children plus her commitment to missions makes this a very fitting remembrance for her.

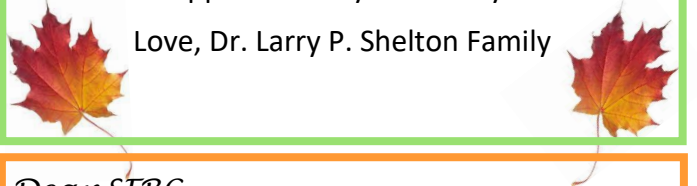
Sincerely,

Doris Wilson for the Westerman Family



Thank you for the donation to the Baptist Children's Home in Dr. Larry P. Shelton's honor. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are much appreciated by the family.

Love, Dr. Larry P. Shelton Family



Dear SFBC,

Thank you for your love, prayers, kind words, cards, and your presence at Larry's visitation and memorial. It makes us proud and blessed to belong to such a caring church.

Also, thank you for remembering my brother with a donation to Carmi Children's Home,

Love,

Gary & Karen





DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
November 05	Mike Pugh	Ronnie Donoho	Tom Reed
November 12	Myron Lloyd	Dale Helpingstine	Dallas Bundy
November 19	Rick Meador	Jon Wieldt	Gary Watson
November 26	Gerald Purcell	Ken Smith	Greg Strother



DATE	TEACHER	LESSONS
November 05	Deanna Buerster	Animal Safari—Cheetah
November 12	Deanna Buerster	Candy—Gum
November 19	Deanna Buerster	Candy—Sour Candy
November 26	Deanna Buerster	NOCC— Family Worship



Nursery Volunteers (Call the church office if you would like to serve)	
November 05	Reha Lloyd
November 12	Annette Hardcastle
November 19	Sheri Peradotti
November 26	Janet Smith



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
November 05	Mike & Angela Brooks	Kathy King
November 12	Mike & Angela Brooks	Lynette Wiedle
November 19	Mark Tabor	Judy Bundy
November 26	Ken Smith	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



WE LEARN & PLAY FIELD TRIP TO THE PUMPKIN PATCH



Operation Christmas Child Packing Party Huge Success!



Thanks To Everyone we
packed 159 boxes!
May God bless these boxes
as they go out!



- November 05 . . . Bring a Friend
- November 12 . . . Wear Red, White and Blue
- November 19 . . . Bring Your Parent to Awana Night
- November 26 . . . No Club—Thanksgiving



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



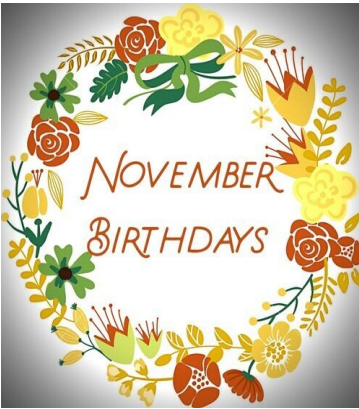
NOVEMBER

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"Being the Church in Salem and to the nations"			1 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kid Praise Team Rehearsal	2	3	4 American Heritage Awards
5 Lord's Supper Church Council 4PM 5PM Awana Club	6 Prayer Meeting 6AM Women on Mission 9:30AM	7	8 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kid Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg	9	10	11
12 OCC Shoeboxes due back Leadership Team 4PM 5PM Awana Club	13	14	15 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kid Praise Team Rehearsal	16	17	18
19 5PM Awana Club 7PM Business Mtg		21	22 2PM Manor @ Salem Woods No Evening Services	23 	24	25
26	27	28	29 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kid Praise Team Rehearsal	30		

Colton Chancellor
Greg Strother
Steve Smith
Don Wayman
Deanna Phelps
Hadley Smith
Reha Lloyd
Aubree Hoagland
Susan Wieldt
Nicholas Purcell
Kenny Robinson
Jerry Summers
Sally Wilson

November 03
November 03
November 07
November 07
November 09
November 09
November 10
November 11
November 11
November 11
November 13
November 13
November 13
November 13



Grayson Purcell
John Scrivner
Jane Gaston
Nakita Harris
Richard Freeman
Andy Hays
Barbara Helpingstine
Patsie Schleuter
Kerroll Hays
Armando Aguilar
Brenda Austin
Connie Seymour

November 14
November 14
November 17
November 19
November 22
November 22
November 23
November 23
November 25
November 27
November 27
November 27



SALEM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060

Fax: 618-548-6039

Website: Salemfbcc.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”



Jesus saith unto him,

*I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

- John 14:6

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
Youth Bible Study
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 Club