



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

SFBC FAMILY NEWS

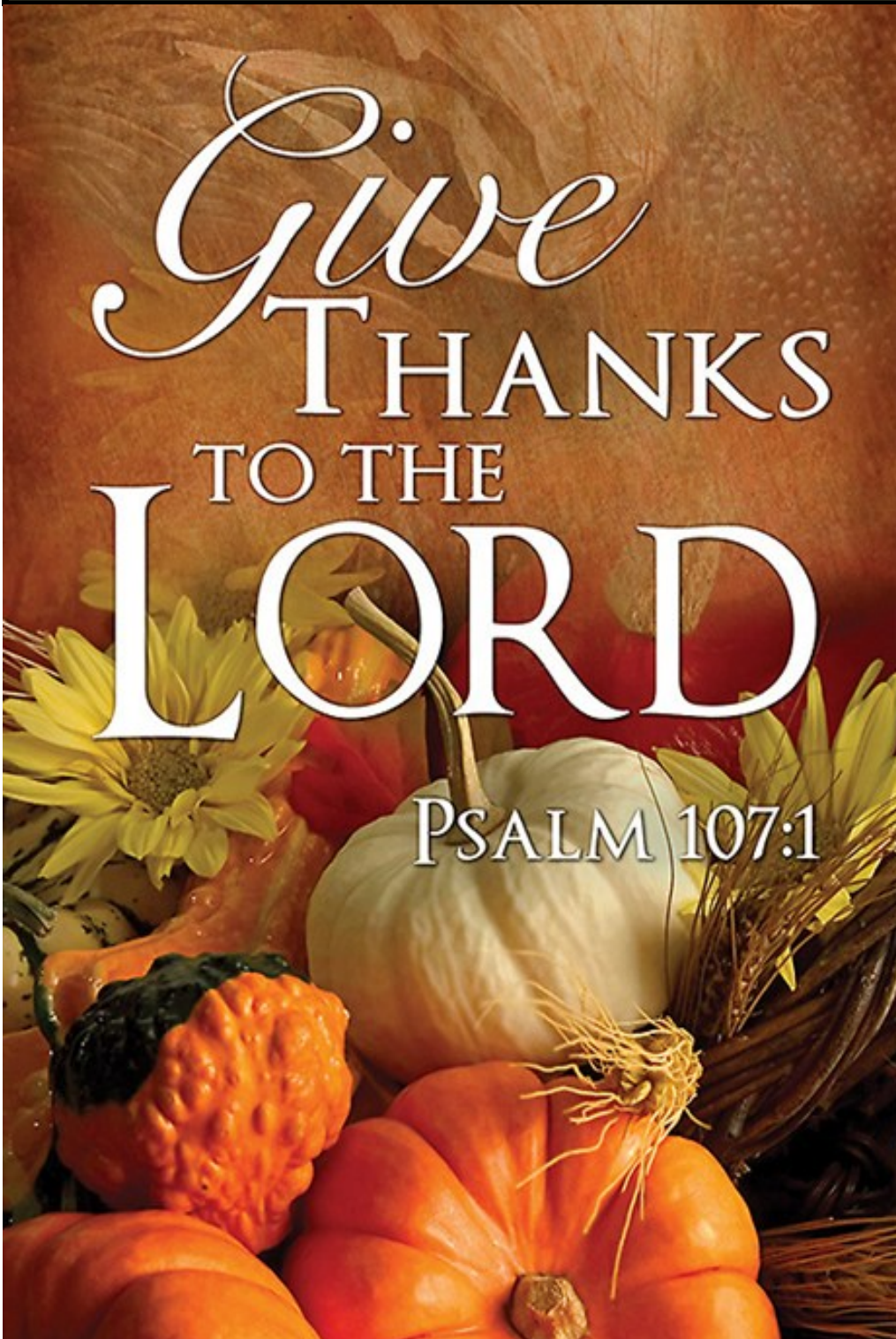
Volume 46 Issue 11

November 2025

721 West Main

Salem, IL 62881

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

As we enter the month of November, we are reminded of the importance of gratitude. The vibrant colors of fall, the crispness in the air, and the harvest of corn and soybeans remind us of God's abundant provision and steadfast faithfulness. This season, often marked by Thanksgiving gatherings gives us an opportunity to pause and give thanks—not just for what we have, but for who God is.

Psalm 100:4 encourages us to *"Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name."* Gratitude is not just a response to our blessings—it is an act of worship. And even in seasons where life feels heavy or uncertain, we are invited to give thanks because God is with us, working in and through every circumstance.

This November, I invite you to take time each day to name the things you're thankful for. Perhaps write down or keep a journal to record those blessings for which you are thankful, or say a prayer of thanks as you begin and end your day. As we practice gratitude, we begin to see more clearly how God is moving in our lives and in our church.

Let's also remember those in our community and beyond who may be experiencing this season with less—less food, less warmth, less family, or less hope. May our thankfulness overflow in generosity, compassion, and service.

I also wish to express my personal gratitude to so many of you that have expressed kindness and generosity to both Tara and me with cards and gifts that you gave during the Pastors Appreciation dinner a couple of weeks ago. The meal was wonderful (can't go wrong with fried chicken) and I'm grateful for the work that so many did in order to make our time together so pleasant. I truly am grateful to serve this church family. You all have blessed me far more than I can say. Paul, writing to the Philippians states, *"I thank my God for every remembrance of you"* (Philippians 1:3). I can certainly join the apostle in applying this verse to you.

Gracefully,

Andy

Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

I want to sincerely thank everyone in this church family for your outpouring of gifts and support for Pastor Appreciation Day. We genuinely appreciated every card and gift that we received and we feel truly blessed to be part of such a loving congregation. We look forward to many more years spent with all of you in the work of God's kingdom together.

It is a good month to remember to be thankful. Not only do we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday this month, but we are reminded of many of the difficulties we have faced in 2025. From large, shocking events like the senseless murder of Charlie Kirk to the multiple funerals and other difficulties we have faced, the world can feel like a very hostile place. It is in these times that we can be reminded of verses like Philippians 4:4 where Paul encourages us by saying, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"

Paul wrote these very famous words while in prison for his faith. This was clearly not an ideal place for him to be. However, he still found reasons to be positive about the imprisonment. He told the Philippian believers that all the guards were aware of his great faith in Christ. He naturally was thankful for those who were praying for his deliverance, but he told the Philippians boldly in Philippians 1:21 that, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." No matter how his imprisonment turned out, Paul was only focused on what he was able to do for the Kingdom of Christ.

While we can find it hard to be thankful at times, we should always start with being thankful for the salvation that has been freely offered to us by God. We can live lives that are pleasing to him and fulfilling to our souls because of the selfless work that Jesus did on the cross for us. God has blessed us immensely and He even gives us blessings on top of that.

This Thanksgiving despite the troubles around us we have so much to be thankful for. God is good to us all the time, especially when we do not deserve it. Remember to rejoice in the Lord always throughout this season.



Women on Mission/Library

Christmas music and the sounds of joy could be heard during the Operation Christmas Child packing party on Monday evening October 20th while twenty seven individuals packed 150 boxes.

On Sunday, October 19th, empty boxes were made available for individual packing, these are due back Sunday, November 16th.

As always, in December we will be promoting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering which enables our foreign missionaries to serve in various countries around the world, our goal this year is \$13,500.00 The entire amount of our offering goes directly to the ministry of these missionaries.

Our next monthly meeting will be Monday, November 3rd at 9:30AM in the fellowship hall.

Blessings,
Karen.



November brings thoughts of Thanksgiving so I went in search of such a book. What I found was a different kind of book about thanks in **Thanks a Million!** Mrs. Sharon, thanks for ordering this book by Ray Comfort and Kirk Cameron! (What a great duo!) I plan on quickly reading it and getting it back on the shelf by the time the newsletter comes out!

Kirk Cameron preaches to the crew on a Hollywood movie set, shares the gospel with hardened criminals and murderers in the LA County Jail as well as with famous celebrities. He preaches “open-air” at a Southern California High School. We get to be a fly on the wall as he speaks about spiritual things to Jim Carrey, and as Ray Comfort witnesses to atheists, Jehovah’s Witnesses, psychics and gang members.

Thanks a Million! is sheer encouragement with a bucket full of pure adrenaline. You get to eavesdrop on the most interesting conversations about the most interesting topics. Though it is meant to be an interesting read, the sole purpose of its printing is to teach you what to say, how to say it, and then to send you out on your own million-dollar adventure!

The back of the book shares that Matthew Henry said, “I would think it a greater happiness to gain one soul to Christ than mountains of silver and gold to myself.” This book will encourage you that you can help make Heaven crowded.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,
Dina



Honoring Our Pastors



A special thanks to all who help make our Pastors feel appreciated!



“The Perfect Pastor”

After hundreds of years a model for the pastorate has been found to suit everyone.

1. He preaches exactly 20 minutes and sits down.
2. He condemns sin but never hurts anyone’s feelings.
3. He works from 8 in the morning until 10 at night, and he does everything from preaching to custodial services.
4. He is 26 years old and has been preaching for 30 years.
5. He is tall and short; thin and heavy set; handsome but not overpowering.
6. He has one brown eye and one blue; hair is parted down the middle. The left side is dark and straight; the right side is brown and wavy with a balding spot on top showing maturity.
7. He has a burning desire to work with teenagers and spend all his time with the older folks.
8. He smiles all the time with a straight face, because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his work.
9. He makes 15 calls a day and spends all his time evangelizing the unchurched, and is never out of the study.

—as read by Charles Swindoll, 1981



DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
November 02	Mike Pugh	Myron Lloyd	Tom Reed
November 09	Steve Smith	Dale Helpingstine	Dallas Bundy
November 16	Rick Meador	Jon Wieldt	Gary Watson
November 23	Gerald Purcell	Ken Smith	Greg Strother
November 30	Ronnie Donoho	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh



DATE	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
November 02	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
November 09	Dina Reed	Debbie Pugh
November 16	Melissa Spenner	Dina Reed
November 23	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour
November 30	Family Worship	



Nursery Volunteers (Call the church office if you would like to serve)		
	Worship #1	Worship #2
November 02	Dina Reed	Wheat Collier
November 09	Pat Hampton	Gary Hampton
November 16	Janet Smith	Reha Lloyd
November 23	Susan Salliotte	Barb Helpingstine
November 30	Maggie McNeal	Sheri Peradotti



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
November 02	Mike & Angela Brooks	Kathy King
November 09	Mike & Angela Brooks	Lynette Wiedle
November 16	Ken Smith	Judy Bundy
November 23	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle
November 30	Paul's Class	Lynette Wiedle



**Centralia Manor - 1910 E McCord St.
Faye Wood #206**

Many of you know, or remember our oldest son, Jared. As a child he came to me one day, when he was in fourth grade, and told me he wanted to run on the cross country team. Now I was never much of a runner and neither was Barb, so I asked him, "Jared, do you KNOW how far they have to run?" That never dissuaded him and he went on to run cross country and track throughout his grade and high school years, and was a part of many winning teams. After high school he quit running competitively but he continued to run to stay in shape. Then about 10 years ago, when he was 30, he decided he wanted to run a full 26.2 mile marathon. Jared was always one that once he made his mind up to do something, he was going to do it no matter the cost. So he began training and slowly building up his stamina and the distance he could run. He ran and finished that marathon! Last Sunday, October 20th, he ran and completed his second 26.2 mile marathon at the age of 40.

It takes a lot of training, strength, determination and heart to face a grueling marathon race, especially when the wind is blowing and it's pouring down rain, like it was last Sunday. Most of us will never know what it takes to run and finish a marathon. But sometimes just the demands of day to day living can leave us feeling exhausted and wondering if we can make it to the finish line.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us that God is the sustainer of our hope and strength when we grow weary. Isaiah 40:28-31 says, "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth, He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall, but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

So I hope that you will take these verses to heart the next time you feel weary, or like you are running life's race alone. God understands what we are experiencing and He never grows tired or weak. Seek Him and He will renew your strength and carry you on His wings to finish the race He has set before you.

Blessings,

Dale Helpingstine, Deacon Chairman



There are always repairs and updating that must be done with the church building that has been dedicated for the ministry of God. This past month, one of the air-handler drains in the sanctuary has been cleaned and repaired. The drains exit through the walls of the sanctuary to the outside of the building. Two cameras have been installed to give surveillance to the outside chiller and the fire escape. Now the church has 30 cameras for security. A flush valve has been repaired on a urinal in the men's restroom on the second floor. The windows for the office foyer have been replaced. New doors will be installed before long. A loose stair railing on the stairs going to the north balcony in the sanctuary has been tightened to the wall. A trim piece on the grand piano in the sanctuary has been reinstalled. A DVD player has also been purchased to replace one that has quit functioning in a Sunday morning Bible Study class.

In updating our computer system, the trustees authorized the purchase of four new computers; but after further research, it was found that only three new ones were needed. These new ones will go in the pastor's office, the associate pastor's office, and the workroom. The secretary's office computer will receive some updated programs. Some of the old computers were not able to function properly and compatible with the new programs that are available.

Dallas Bundy
Chairman of the Trustees



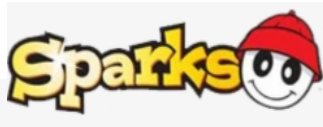
November 02 Bring a Friend (Chili, Hot Dogs & Dessert)

November 09 Thank You Veterans (Grilled Cheese, Vegetable Soup & Dessert)

November 16 Kids Mission (Spaghetti, Salad & Garlic Bread & Dessert)

November 23 Parent Appreciation Dinner (Ham, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans & Dessert)

November 30 No Club Thanksgiving Weekend
(Menu)



Little Egypt
Parade
2025

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 5-7PM Awana	3 Prayer Mtg. 6AM Women on Mission 9:30AM	4 CEF 2:30-4:30 @ Hawthorn	5 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Benji Dryden Guest Speaker Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	6 11:30AM Fellowship Luncheon	7	8
9 5-7PM Awana	10 Food Pantry 1:30PM @ Grace Methodist	11 	12 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	13	14	15
16 OCC boxes due back Lord's Supper 5-7PM Awana	17 AHG/TL Awards Ceremony	18 CEF 2:30-4:30 @ Hawthorn	19 2PM High Point 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	20	21	22
23 4PM Church Council 5-7PM Awana	24	25 No CEF	26 2PM High Point 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	27 	28	29
30 No Awana	 <h2 style="margin: 0;">"Being the Church in Salem and Beyond"</h2> 					

Colton Chancellor
Greg Strother
Ken Smith
Steve Smith
Don Wayman
Dwayne Scott
Reha Lloyd
Aubree Hoagland
Susan Wiedlt
Kenny Robinson
Jerry Summers
Sally Wilson

Nov. 03
Nov. 03
Nov. 04
Nov. 07
Nov. 07
Nov. 08
Nov. 10
Nov. 11
Nov. 11
Nov. 13
Nov. 13
Nov. 13



Grayson Purcell
Maggie McNeil
Jane Gaston
Nakita Harris
Heidi Woodward
Richard Freeman
Andy Hays
Courtney Wessling
Barbara Helpingstine
Kerroll Hays
Brenda Austin
Connie Seymour

Nov. 14
Nov. 15
Nov. 17
Nov. 19
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Nov. 23
Nov. 25
Nov. 27
Nov. 27



SALEM
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060
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 and Beyond”



Office Hours
Monday—Thursday
9:00 to 4:00
Closed 12:00 to 1:00
for lunch
Friday 9:00—12:00

The Office will be closed on November 27 & 28th for Thanksgiving!

For YouTube:

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

Sunday
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
5:00-7:00 PM Awana