



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

# SFBC FAMILY NEWS

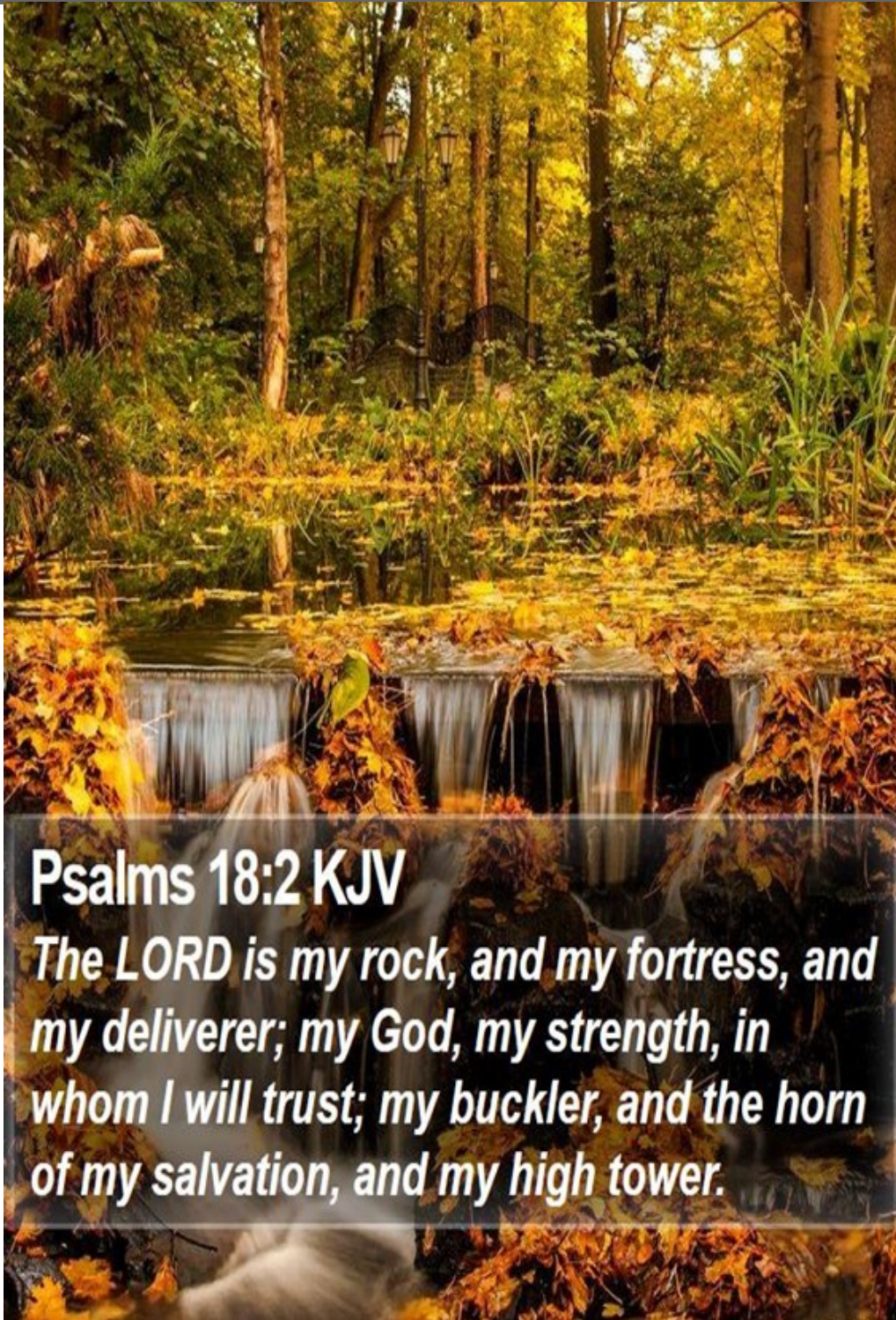
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Salem, IL 62881

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## Psalms 18:2 KJV

*The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

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SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

## Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church,

As I finished typing the first two words of this article, it struck me. These two words are stated in our conversation frequently, at least, from my lips they are. "Dear" is a word of endearment, a word that communicates a degree of affection. The ancient Greek language (which is the original language of the New Testament) has five different words that are translated into English as "love." Four of the five are used in the New Testament. The word in Greek that comes nearest to "dear" is the word is *phileo*. This word is the root of Philadelphia (city of brotherly love). This is how we, as Christ-followers, are to treat each other. Paul writes, "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Eph. 4:32, NKJV).

The second word is "church." In the New Testament, it is not used to designate a location as it means so often today. It refers to people. The church is and always is people. The church is not a building that has a physical address. Rather, it is a group of people that meet together in order to worship and praise the Lord and to learn and to encourage one another (these, too, are expressions of worship). This is why meeting regularly together is so important (see Hebrews 10:25). Remember this—unfortunately many professing Christians today have forgotten this if they ever understood it in the first place. Again, Paul reminds us, "Husbands love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her" (Eph. 5:25, NKJV). This is a powerful example for husbands, but it also indicates the place of the church (people) in Jesus' heart.

One example of a church that was dear to Paul's heart was the church in Philippi. Many Bible teachers love this short letter. It's filled with joy, love, and hope. Paul tells the people of this church: "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you" (1:3, NKJV). Oh, by the way, are there fellow believers who could say that to you and be telling the truth? Some think that this church was problem free; they didn't cause any worry for the apostle like Corinth did or the Galatians had. But this is not true. They had problems. A couple of examples: first, they were very poor. Paul refers to them in 2 Corinthians 8 & 9. Secondly, they were in the middle of church conflict. Apparently, two women (see chapter 4:2) didn't get along. This had the potential to split the struggling congregation. This is why the Apostle Paul attempted to move their focus to Christ (see chapter 2) instead of dwelling on financial problems and personality conflicts.

There is one final thought that occurs to me. On a given Sunday (and throughout the week), not only is God's Spirit moving within a church but also the enemy. If a church is really serving the Lord, Satan will do his best to disrupt the fellowship and cause division in the church (you can count on it). The devil has many strategies to harm a church. He will use outside pressure like persecution; however, the more successful method is from inside. Strife among members is his delight. Mistrust and innuendo bring him great joy. Whining and complaining are his amusements. Paul, again, warns: "But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another" (Galatians 5:15, NKJV). He follows this by encouraging us to, rather, walk in the Spirit—something that I pray each of you wants to do.

In His Grace,

Andy





## Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

It is often difficult to know how to best engage the culture in which we live. We are entering a time in American history where we cannot count on the majority of our culture being “Christianized” anymore or even having an understanding of basic Bible terms. We are entering an era of Biblical illiteracy. It is not that most people know what the Bible says and choose to reject it, it is more simply that they have no idea what the Bible says at all. If we are to be salt and light to this dying culture around us, we need to know how to share our faith in a way that is not mired in language that the lost person of today will not understand.

One of the best ways to begin a conversation (especially around this time of year when people are already thinking about the supernatural) is to ask people if they have any kind of spiritual belief. If you have a decent rapport going, this can give you some valuable insight into their worldview. While you may feel unprepared to answer a question about someone’s worldview, you can easily probe deeper just by asking how they know what they believe is true and if they were wrong, would they want to know? Another popular method is to ask someone how many of the Ten Commandments they can name. Most people are at least familiar with the Ten Commandments as a concept but very few know more than a few. This is a great way to explain our innate sin nature as well.

How do we go about this work? One of the key verses that offer guidance is given by Jesus in Matthew 10:16. In this verse Jesus is about to send the disciples out to minister in an environment that has already proven hostile towards his teachings. He advises them, “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” Jesus wanted his disciples to be effective in their early ministry and he advised them with a twofold command. To be as wise as serpents is to be prepared for the answers you may receive and to know how best to respond to them. However, this is coupled with the admonition to be as innocent as doves. Our message will not be received well if it comes from a spirit of simply wanting to be right and “fight back” against a bad worldview. We need to be in a spirit of wanting to see God change lives, knowing that we cannot change those lives ourselves.

This time of year kids are going back to school and are coming home with answers to their deepest questions that are found in an atheistic and secular worldview. They are being told they are nothing more than cosmic accidents and that their greatest good is to follow the current view of fallible man on every issue imaginable. These kids and families need answers and they need Jesus. Let’s make an effort to reach them this fall.

In Christ,

Christopher Spenner



## Women on Mission/Library

Our road trip to Mt. Vernon to tour Grace Haven and Angels Cove was both enjoyable and informative! We were blessed and grateful to see how Illinois Baptist State Association is providing for those clients seeking compassion and spiritual guidance, we are helping in that ministry with our tithes and offerings.

We are in the midst of our Illinois Baptist State Offering emphasis and I encourage all to seek God's guidance in how He wants us to give toward our goal of \$2,000.

October is our month to highlight our giving to Operation Christmas Child and have an opportunity to give and learn more how the boxes impact the lives of children around the world. We are blessed to have a special guest share her testimony in our morning worship service on Sunday, October 15. Elena Nicholson was removed from an abusive, poverty-stricken home into an orphanage in the former Soviet Union. At a time when she was feeling unloved, she was handed an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox gift. It was the first gift she had ever received. Hear her share of how she received Jesus Christ, the best gift ever! On Monday, October 16 at 6:00 PM, we will be hosting a Packing Party to fill 100 boxes, these are in addition to boxes filled by individual families.

Our next regular monthly meeting will be Monday, October 2nd at 9:30 AM.

Blessings,  
Karen

### Check and see how many you got right!

1. In what country did the Queen of Sheba live? (*Arabia*)
2. In what country did Noah's ark land? (*Armenia—Genesis 8:1-5*)
3. What country asked Paul to "come over and help us"? (*Macedonia—Acts 16:9*)
4. In what land did Moses spend forty years in preparation for his life's work? (*The land of Midian—Exodus 2:15*)
5. In what country was Tarshish, where Phoenicians went for tin? (*Spain—Ezekiel 27:12*)
6. What part of Egypt did Pharaoh give to Joseph's relatives? (*The land of Goshen—Genesis 45:9,10*)
7. In what country was the great city of Damascus? (*Syria—2 Samuel. 8:6*)
8. What name was given to the district through which Paul traveled on his second missionary journey? (*Asia Minor down the coast of Greece—Acts 15:40,41*)
9. After the flood, what great country did Ham and his descendants occupy? (*Africa—Genesis 10:6-20*)
10. Give three names for the land to which the children of Israel returned. (*Canaan; The land of promise; Palestine; The Holy Land*)



Come check out our Bible quizzes section in the library!

Happy Fall Y'all, Dina

P.S. It's almost Christmas! Starting in November, stop by the library for a free gift that will make the Christmas season more meaningful for you, your family and friends.

# Announcements/Thank You



*Women on Mission visited Grace Haven and Angel Cove ministries through Baptist Children's Home and Family Service.*



Lord,

I think of you and there's heaven in my heart

I walk with you, There's joy in my step

I come to you in prayer and peace fills my soul

I praise your name, You gift me with glimpses of heaven

I witness to others and am myself blest

I call for your strength and guidance

You grant me with forgiveness and life eternally

Living a Christian life with God

Is the answer to our world problems

How can it be any other way?

Make Him the center of your life.



By Bev Smith

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DATE	GREETER	ON CALL	SECURITY
October 01	Greg Strother	Gary Watson	Dallas Bundy
October 08	Mike Pugh	Myron Lloyd	Jon Wieldt
October 15	Steve Smith	Tom Reed	Dale Helpingstine
October 22	Gerald Purcell	Greg Strother	Ronnie Donoho
October 29	Ken Smith	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh



DATE	TEACHER	LESSONS
October 01	Deanna Buerster	Animal Safari—Elephant
October 08	Deanna Buerster	Animal Safari—Rhinoceros
October 15	Deanna Buerster	Animal Safari—Monkey
October 22	Deanna Buerster	Animal Safari—Hippopotamus.
October 29		Family Worship—No Children's Church

**Nursery Volunteers**  
(Call the church office if you would like to serve)



October 01	Janet Smith
October 08	Dina Reed
October 15	Wheat Jackson
October 22	Pat & Gary Hampton
October 29	Andrea Hays



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
October 01	Mark Tabor	Kathy King
October 08	Mike & Angela Brooks	Lynette Wiedle
October 15	Christopher Spenner	Judy Bundy
October 22	Connie Seymour	Lynette Wiedle
October 29	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 Betty Canon

**Helia Health Care Center—1201 Hawthorn Rd.**  
Melody Webb

**Heritage Woods—2049 E. McCord, Centralia**  
Carrie Braden



## UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

"I dare you, a double dare you. . . I double dog dare you!" As a young fellow, I would hear such challenges. Today the "challenges of each day" are enough to be concerned, or double think a lot of things. It's like, what can I do today to "goof" things up again? Or, better, what can I do to help someone today? Are we concerned about what other people might think of our actions or words? Or, better are we concerned about what the Lord wants regarding our actions and words?

The Lord gives us a guide (the Holy Spirit), Christian's discernment, the Holy Word, the preached word, and fellow believers to assist in daily life challenges.

My favorite book in the bible is James. This book really challenges me. "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance" James 1:3). Yes, lack of wisdom many, many times, has led to asking God many, many times for wisdom (James 1:5).

Oh, yes, and I did not get hurt in any "double dog dares you" situation. But there was a slight black eye received in a disagreement on a school bus trip. Yet, please learn more from the practical advice given in the letter of James.

God's Blessings to you  
always,  
Deacon Greg



# PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY

## OCTOBER 22, 2023

**Lunch provided right after worship  
Let's shower them with cards of  
appreciation and  
Love!**



**Thanks for all you do  
for our Lord!**



## Bible Study 201

### Paul's Epistles

Objective: To gain a better understanding of Paul and his belief as a follower of Jesus Christ by studying his letters in chronological order so that we can strengthen our belief in Jesus Christ.

#### Galatians

Review Chapter 1: Paul introduced himself and explained how he got to where he was and the authenticity of the gospel.

Review Chapter 2: Paul defended the gospel to the Jews and disciples and because of the Gospel there was no difference in believers.

Review Chapter 3: Paul explained that we are justified by faith and heirs of Abraham's seed according to the promise.

Review Chapter 4: Paul explained that believers were adopted and that they are joint heirs with Jesus and that we were free like Isaac, unlike Ishmael the son of the bond woman.

Review Chapter 5: Paul explained that we had freedom with the gospel through Christian Liberty and that love fulfills the law, and that we should walk in the Spirit to avoid lust of the flesh.

Review Chapter 6: Paul states that we should share each other's burdens, be generous to our spiritual leaders, we will reap what we sow whether it is for the Spirit or for the flesh, and what matters to God is that we are changed from the inside out.

This being the first letter that Paul wrote, he is very bold and not afraid to explain the gospel to the disciples that were still supporting the Jewish laws. He stated different ways that Christians are not bound to the Jewish law. That we have liberty from the law after Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, which gave us freedom from the law. He also explained that we should sow according to the Spirit and not the flesh or the influence we have from the world. If we have trusted Jesus, then we have been set free from the world and law.

October 1, we will continue our study with the first chapter of 1 Thessalonians. We meet in room 201 on Sunday mornings at 9:30, and everyone is welcome to attend.



SALEM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

# FUN FALL FEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

NOON - 3PM

**FUN FOR THE FAMILY!**

FOOD, FAMILY FUN, AND TRUNKS OF  
CANDY AS WE CELEBRATE THE  
FALL SEASON. ENTRY IS FREE.  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

721 W MAIN ST, SALEM, IL 62881



- October 01 . . . Regular Club
- October 08 . . . Fire Safety
- October 15 . . . Crazy Hat Night
- October 22 . . . Regular Club
- October 29 . . . Wear Orange

Sundays 5:00—7:00PM





**2023 Cars and Coffee  
Cruise Ins**

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


DJ  
Rod Stewart

Rain Cancels

**Dates:** April 29<sup>th</sup>, October 14<sup>th</sup>  
**Times:** 9:00 AM - Noon  
**Contact:** Dale Helpingstine 618-322-7123

**FREE COFFEE & DONUTS**  
*This event is open to all classic cars, trucks, muscle cars, hotrods and antique vehicles. Just bring your car, lawn chair and enjoy the morning. Please No Alcohol on Church property.*




Elena Nicholson

Sunday,  
October  
15th  
Morning  
Worship!  
**OCC**

Elena was 8 yrs. old when she and her sister were moved from an abusive, poverty-stricken home into an orphanage in the former Soviet Union. At a time when she was feeling unloved, she was handed an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift. It was the first gift she had ever received.

With the gift, Elena was given a booklet, which seemed like an unbelievable fairy tale. It said the Creator of the universe loved her. She began to pray, hoping for a family for her and her sister—a prayer that was answered in 2004 by a loving family in the United States. To hear about God's lover in her life, please join us for a special time of Elena sharing her testimony.





# October

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 5PM Awana Club	2 Prayer Meeting 6AM Women on Mission 9:30AM	3	4 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kid Praise Team Rehearsal	5 WBS 9-11am & 6-8PM	6	7
8 5PM Church Council Mtg. 5PM Awana Club	9 American Heritage Girls 5:30-7:30PM	10	11 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kid Praise Team Rehearsal 7PM Deacon's Mtg	12 WBS 9-11am & 6-8PM	13	14 Cars & Coffee Cruise Ins 9-Noon
15 Guest Speaker Elena Nicholson OCC recipient OCC Shoeboxes handed out 5PM Awana Club	16 OCC Packing Party 6PM	17	18 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kid Praise Team Rehearsal	19 WBS 9-11am & 6-8PM	20	21
22 <b>"EVERY ONE BRING ONE!"</b>  Pastor Appreciation Sunday! 5PM Awana Club	23  American Heritage Girls 5:30-7:30PM	24	25 2PM Manor @ Salem Woods 6PM Bible Study Youth Study Mission Journey Kid Praise Team Rehearsal	26 WBS 9-11am & 6-8PM	27	28 Fun Fall Fest Noon-3PM
29 5PM—Awana Club	30	31	<p><b>"Being the Church in Salem and to the nations"</b></p>			

Grant Reed  
Kayla Buerster  
Ila Westerman  
Jon Wieldt  
Jerri Chapman  
William Wantland  
Molly Smith  
Deborah Hays  
Brenda Lingafelter  
Mary Lou Chitwood  
Evelyn Parker  
Madison Moheit  
Judy Quick

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Joann Holzhausen  
Brandi Albert  
Brandon Albert  
John Buerster  
Sharon Woodward  
Larry Blankenship  
Jeanna Chapman-Ahn  
Kerstina Tabor  
Mickey Ward  
Susan Salliotte  
Samuel Hardcastle  
Simon Hays  
Charles Stallings

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**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”*



***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
- 6:00 PM Evangelism Made a Little Less Difficult