



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

# SFBC FAMILY NEWS

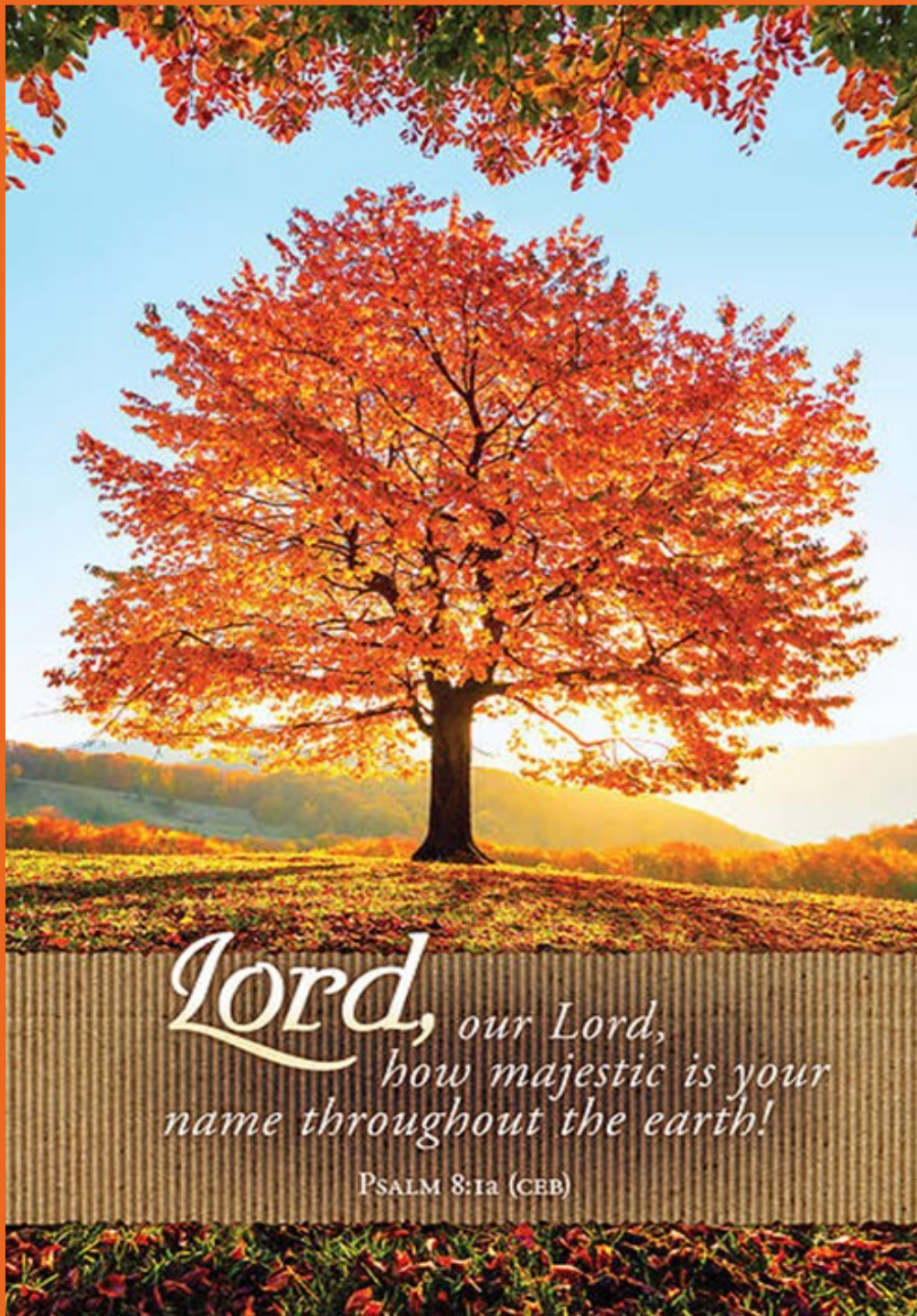
**Volume 46 Issue 10**

**October 2025**

**721 West Main**

**Salem, IL 62881**

**618-548-4060**



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**SALEM FIRST BAPTIST**

## Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church Family,

As we turn the pages of Scripture, one of the most surprising books we encounter is the Book of Jonah. Many know it as the story of “Jonah and the great fish,” but the real heart of the story is not about a man swallowed by the sea—it is about a God whose mercy is deeper than the ocean.

Jonah tried to run from God’s call, but he discovered that we can never outrun the Lord’s presence or His purposes. Even in the belly of the fish, Jonah prayed, and God heard him. This is a reminder for us all: no matter how far we stray, we are never beyond the reach of God’s mercy.

The book also teaches us something uncomfortable but essential—God’s compassion extends even to those we might consider our enemies. Jonah struggled with this truth, but God gently reminded him, and us, that His love is not limited by our preferences or prejudices.

So, what does Jonah teach us today?

1. **God is patient**—He pursues us even when we resist Him.
2. **God is merciful**—He hears us when we repent and call out to Him.
3. **God is compassionate**—His love reaches beyond us to those who desperately need Him.

Let this encourage you: God is not finished with you, no matter where you’ve been or how you’ve failed. And He invites us to join Him in extending His mercy to others.

May we, unlike Jonah, run toward God’s calling and not away from it.

In addition, I ask that you pray regularly for both Awana and Good News Clubs. Awana resumed on September 21. In this ministry, God’s Word is front and center. Children (clubbers) are encouraged to commit Scripture to memory. This “hiding God’s Word in one’s heart” makes it possible for the Holy Spirit to bring to mind that which is committed to memory when it is needed most. The Good News Club is beginning September 30. This is a Bible Study that is housed in public schools. Instead of asking children to come to us—we are going to them. Please pray for these ministries, the leaders, and the children.

Grace and peace,  
Andy

## Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

This month I wanted to speak more as the Youth Director than write something based on a principle or idea. Over the past month some big things have been happening with our youth here, both good and concerning. As a church, it is important to remember that these young men and women are the next generation. That term gets thrown around a lot and I don't enjoy repeating buzzwords. But these young men and women are the current and future church, with all that entails.

First, the good. We are seeing active growth in all of our youth ministries. Awana has split between Jr. and Sr. High because of this growth and the Life Group is next, if a few more people can volunteer up there. We average about fifteen students on a given Wednesday night with a good ratio of boys and girls. More importantly, they are inviting their friends to experience the teaching of the Gospel. We see a unique passion and energy from them and they are motivated to live for Christ in a world that is dead-set against them.

Going further off that point, I want to get into a more concerning development with our youth. Most if not all of you are aware of the recent murder of Charlie Kirk. Some of you may have even seen the video of the event after searching for it. I took a poll a couple of weeks ago on a Wednesday night and asked our youth how many of them were aware that the murder had happened. All of them were aware. I asked how many had seen the video. Over two-thirds had. I asked how many of them had gone looking for it. None of them had. It had effectively been shoved right in their faces by an uncaring social media algorithm which does not care if content is suitable for those audiences, only that it was getting clicks and attention.

I am not decrying social media. But you do need to be aware that a lot of these young men and women are going to see events like this happen in real time. It is part of their reality. They are now acutely aware of what standing up for your faith can mean. Despite that, they are still determined to live for Christ. They want to use their talents to further the Gospel and the Kingdom of Christ.

Please be praying for our youth department. They need it more than you could ever realize. They are the leaders of the church and they have a lot of questions about the world. If you can, I urge you to take the time and interact with them. Thank you for the constant support you give to our youth ministry.



## Women on Mission/Library

Ten ladies were present at our last meeting. Our mission project was assembling the boxes for our upcoming Operation Christmas Child packing party. This party will be on Monday, October 20th at 6PM.

There will be empty boxes available for pick up in the church sanctuary on Sunday, October 19th for individual packing and are due back on Sunday, November 16th.

A huge thanks for the items given through out the year to help in the Operation Christmas Child Packing Party boxes!

A reminder that our church is still collecting non-perishable food items for our local Salem Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry. A grocery cart is placed in the main hallway for these items.

Our next Women On Mission meeting will be on Monday, October 6th at 9:30AM.

Blessings, Karen



Our newest fiction book series is by Francine Rivers and is titled Mark of the Lion. This trilogy, set in first century Rome, follows Hadassah, a Jewish slave girl, Marcus, a Roman aristocrat seeking faith, and Atretes, a Germanic gladiator fighting for freedom. One reviewer stated that you feel as though you there as a part of the story. The characters seem real so it is easy to identify with them. The author incorporates the grace, truth, and the love God has for all people.

A Voice in the Wind introduces readers to Hadassah, a young Jewish girl captured and sold into slavery but still holding firm to her faith in God. Though torn by her love for a handsome aristocrat, Hadassah becomes a shining beacon of light in the darkness and depravity around her.

In An Echo in the Darkness, Marcus, a wealthy Roman aristocrat touched by Hadassah's sincere belief, begins to wonder if there's more to this life. As he continues to search for meaning and faith, he is led by a whispering voice from the past that could set him free from the darkness of his soul.

The trilogy concludes with As Sure as the Dawn, which follows Atretes, the high chief of a Germanic tribe who fought as a gladiator and won his freedom. As Atretes sets out to return home with his infant son, only one thing stands in his way: Rizpah, a Christian widow who has cared for the baby since his birth. A preface from Francine Rivers explains her inspiration for the books, a glossary of historical terms is given for easy reference, and discussion questions are given for personal or group use. Millions have been captivated by this popular tale of love, courage, and faith.

Come in and check them out!

Dina



**Thank you for your service!**



*Pastor Andy & Tara  
DeWitt*

"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood." – Acts 20:28



*Associate Pastor  
Christopher,  
Melissa & Luke  
Spenner*





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



DATE	TEACHER	ASSISTANT
October 05	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
October 12	Melissa Spenner	Debbie Pugh
October 19	Melissa Spenner	Dina Reed
October 26	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour



<b>Nursery Volunteers</b> <b>(Call the church office if you would like to serve)</b> <b>Life Group                      Worship</b>		
October 05	Dina Reed	Janet Smith
October 12	Susan Salliotte	Dina Reed
October 19	Janet Smith	Nancy Stallard
October 28	Barb Helpingstine	Paula Strother



DATE	VOLUNTEER	PIANIST
October 05	Mike & Angela Brooks	Kathy King
October 12	Christopher Spenner	Lynette Wiedle
October 19	Ken Smith	Judy Bundy
October 26	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle



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

The calendar says it's Fall but the summer heat and drought is barely letting up. Even the hummingbirds, who usually start their southern migration in early September, are still hanging around long past Labor Day.

October usually bring our most brilliant fall colors and milder temperatures. It also is Pastor Appreciation Month. We have two extraordinary men serving in that roll and I encourage each of you to let them know, personally, how much you appreciate all they do. We will be having our annual Pastor Appreciation luncheon on October 19th, following the morning worship service. The menu is set and the meal will be catered. All we need is your presence to make it a success.

October is also the month that we as a church plan our budget for the coming year. Each of the major committees or groups will be receiving a Budget Planning package to fill out. Each group needs to prayerfully consider their financial needs for next year and return their package to the office so that the Budget Planning Committee has time to gather all the information and set a date to meet in late October.

Blessings,

Dale Helpingstine

Deacon Chairman



## TRUSTEE REPORT

During the month of September, the trustees were able to complete two projects. The second elevator was inspected and the application for the state permit has been made. It has been a struggle this year to get the inspections and all the paperwork completed. I started in May contacting the company (ATIS) that does the state inspection and the representative from the elevator company (it was Custom Home) that puts the elevator through its operations to make sure it functions properly and safely. The elevator company we are working with this year is Phoenix Elevator in Mt. Vernon. The individual who worked on our elevators from Custom Home died this past year, and they did not have anyone qualified to be present and work with a state inspector, so we had to find a new company. Both elevators must pass an inspection each year according to Illinois State Law. Inspections must be done with the elevator company's worker and the state inspector present at the same time.

A second project that was completed was the application of two coats of DuckCoat on the roof around the steeple and the roof on the carport. This work is done to keep the two roofs from leaking. I want to thank Ronnie Donoho for helping with this project.

Dallas Bundy

Chairman of the Trustees







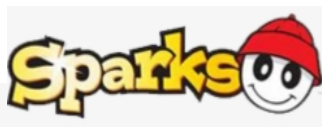
October 05 . . . . Regular Club (Pizza Rolls, Chips & Cookies)

October 12 . . . . . Fire Safety (Taco Salad, Quesadilla's & Dessert)

October 19 . . . . . Crazy Hat Night (Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy & Pancakes)

October 26 . . . . . Wear Orange (Chicken Nuggets, Corn Curls & Orange Cookies)

(Menu)



We would like to thank our church family for the many thoughtful gifts, prayers and love you have shared with us in celebration of our new baby. Your kindness means so much and we are truly blessed to be part of such a caring congregation.

Brandon, Bethany, Elias, Elaina, and Brooklyn Quandt




We need candy to hand out. You may bring it to the office.

**Thank you!**





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>“Being the Church in Salem and Beyond”</b>			<b>1</b> 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	<b>2</b> 11:30AM Fellowship Luncheon	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Little Egypt Parade Ministry
<b>5</b> 5-7PM Awana	<b>6</b> Prayer Mtg. 6AM Women on Mission 9:30AM	<b>7</b> CEF 2:30-4:30 @ Hawthorn	<b>8</b> 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 5-7PM Awana	<b>13</b> AHG/TL	<b>14</b> CEF 2:30-4:30 @ Hawthorn	<b>15</b> 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> OCC hoxes Pastor Appreciation Luncheon 5-7PM Awana	<b>20</b> OCC Packing Party 6PM	<b>21</b> CEF 2:30-4:30 @ Hawthorn	<b>22</b> 2PM High Point 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 4PM Church Council 5-7PM Awana	<b>27</b> Last AHG/TL 5:30PM	<b>28</b> No CEF	<b>29</b> 5:30PM Youth Study 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Rehearsal Mission J Kids	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Trunk or Treat	

Grant Reed  
 Jon Wieldt  
 William Wantland  
 Deborah Hays  
 Brenda Lingafelter  
 Mary Lou Chitwood  
 Evelyn Parker  
 Madison Moheit  
 Judy Quick  
 Joann Holzhausen  
 Brandi Alber

Oct. 02  
 Oct. 05  
 Oct. 06  
 Oct. 09  
 Oct. 11  
 Oct. 14  
 Oct. 15  
 Oct. 17  
 Oct. 18  
 Oct. 19  
 Oct. 20



Brandon Albert  
 Sharon Woodward  
 Larry Blankenship  
 Thomas Gordon  
 Jeanna Chapman  
 Mickey Ward  
 Susan Salliotte  
 Samuel Hardcastle  
 Simon Hays  
 Chuck Stallings

Oct. 20  
 Oct. 22  
 Oct. 23  
 Oct. 24  
 Oct. 25  
 Oct. 25  
 Oct. 26  
 Oct. 27  
 Oct. 29  
 Oct. 30





**SALEM**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060

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

Facebook: [Salem First Baptist Church](https://www.facebook.com/SalemFirstBaptistChurch)



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”*

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

**Office Hours**

***Monday—Thursday***

***9:00 to 4:00***

**Closed 12:00 to 1:00**

**for lunch**

**Friday 9:00—12:00**

