



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

# SFBC FAMILY NEWS

Volume 45 Issue 02

February 2024

721 West Main

Salem, IL 62881

618-548-4060

We *love*  
because  
he *first*  
*loved* us.

1 John 4:19

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- *Up Coming Events*
- *Ministries*

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Salemfbc.com



SALEM FIRST BAPTIST

## Pastor Dr. Andy DeWitt

Dear Church,

Well, we are a month into 2024. I hope that this new year finds both you and your loved ones doing well.

Last month I introduced our church's vision statement that serves to establish the direction we hope to travel in 2024 and beyond. As you may remember our vision is: *Being the church in Salem and to the nations*. Another way of saying this is "being the church in Salem and beyond." If we were in a boat and each of us had a paddle, this statement serves to set the direction so that we all would be paddling in the same direction. Without a clear direction, some of us would paddle in one direction and others in another. Instead of the boat moving across the water in one direction, we would be spinning in circles.

In addition, in last month's article, we noted the *core values* of our church. Actually, these are the same core values for any church that is biblically based in her approach to life and ministry. You may remember that these values are found in Acts 2:42. These are *devotion to the Bible's instruction* (teaching of the apostles). How can we know what we are to be and do without understand what God has said? Secondly, *devotion to fellowship*. We need each other. Next, is *devotion to breaking bread*. And fourthly, *devotion to prayers*.

Now, I turn to what we are to do, that is, our strategies. These, too, have strong biblical support. These are: *evangelism* (Matt. 28:16-20), *discipleship* (Matt. 28:16-20), *fellowship* (Acts 2:42), *ministry* (Acts 4:32-37; 6:1-6), and *worship* (Acts 2:46-47). A memory device that aids in remembering this is: *every dead frog must wiggle*. Yes, I know that this sentence doesn't make sense but, because of its silly nature, you will remember it. The first letter of each word reminds us of one of the five-fold strategies of a church. This is important because it enables us to evaluate our efforts by whether or not what we do is what we should be doing. There are many worthwhile activities and ministries that we could do; however, the question is "Is this what we should do according to God's Word?" Every ministry, every activity should relate to one of these strategies. There are lots of ministries we can devote our resources to, but these strategies serve as a filter enabling us to be the church in Salem and beyond.

Grace and peace,  
Andy

## Associate Pastor Christopher Spenner

Have you ever met a wizard? They're everywhere in our culture. They promise impossible things and say that if you only trust them and live according to their teachings they will give you everything your heart desires. They promise purpose, belonging, and success. You may be confused as to why I call these people "wizards." They don't typically walk around carrying magic wands or casting mysterious incantations. Despite this, their way of thinking has led many away from the truth.

So what is a wizard? While our modern definition makes us think of a magician or an old man in a pointy hat, there are multiple definitions for the term. In antiquity, a wizard was defined as a "wise man," someone who had a great understanding of the world. People sought out the advice of these wizards then and they still do today. Bookstores are full of self-help books and podcast apps are filled with people advocating that you align their thinking with theirs. With all this advice going around, it's impossible to know where to turn!

The Apostle Paul dealt with a similar struggle in his ministry. The book of Galatians was written to a church that had their own wizard infestation. In fact, Paul used exactly that kind of language to define them. Galatians 3:1 states, "You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus was publicly portrayed as crucified?" The Galatians who had heard the exact same gospel as everyone else had immediately disregarded it in favor of teachings stating they had to follow the Jewish Law to be saved. Paul compares this ideological shift to a "bewitching" as if the Galatians must be under a spell to have rejected the true gospel so quickly.

Today we find Christians all too eager to do the same. One of the best examples of a modern wizard is found in a very famous film you are probably familiar with. This wizard is the Wizard of Oz. At the end of the film the Wizard is exposed as a fraud after promising great gifts to the four brave heroes who defeated the Wicked Witch. However rather than admit he is a fraud, he doubles down and offers all four "gifts" to fulfill their desires. However, these gifts are not what the characters actually desired. They are cheap imitations. Instead of a brain, heart, courage, and home, the characters receive a piece of paper, a clock, a medal, and no way home. The imitations of the wizard are always hollow.

By contrast, Jesus, the true "wise man" offered a different way to find fulfillment. In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said, "Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is comfortable, and my burden is light." Christians are often accused of following all sorts of rules that are impossible to keep. But our Father is merciful and knows that we struggle. Our rules are meant to guide us and keep us on the right path. By following the Wise Man instead of a cultural wizard, we can find something other than a constantly changing standard we cannot live up to. We can find true rest for our souls.

## Women on Mission/Library

Just a reminder that our next monthly fellowship and mission emphasis will be on Monday, Feb. 5th at 9:30AM.

Even though we didn't meet in January, we continued to focus on doing missions. We were ask to provide healthy appropriate snacks for a young diabetic student attending one of local schools and those were purchased and delivered.

During the month of January, we ask for wash cloths and soap to be collected to be used for the Operation Christmas Child boxes in November. During the month of February the items requested for the boxes will be stocking caps, gloves and socks for young children to young adults.

A Huge thanks to all who gave toward our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. It is a blessing to know that 100% of the \$13,000 goes toward the ministry of our foreign missionaries.

Blessings,

Karen



*Women on Mission*  
Growing Closer To Christ

### LOVE

1. Who said: "Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee," and yet had denied His Lord three times not long before?
2. What is the most famous example in the Bible of love between two men?
3. What is the most famous example in the Bible of love between two women?
4. Who was known as the disciple whom Jesus loved?
5. Samson lost his life for the love of a woman. Who was she?
6. What is the most famous love text in the Bible?
7. Who said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends"?
8. What woman had an only son whom she loved dearly, yet gave him up to be reared in the temple for God's service?
9. Finish this text: "If ye love me..."
10. Which patriarch had a dearly loved son in his old age, and yet was willing to offer him up as a sacrifice when he thought God wished it?

***Answers next month! Don't forget to have a library book on hand when the forecast might keep you inside!!***

Happy Valentine's Day,  
Dina



## Announcements/Poems

*Father God*

*I've seen you today  
In so many ways  
Felt your presence  
My heart full of praise.*

*Morning beginnings  
Prayer with you  
Constant companionship  
In all I do.*

*Your gift of family,  
We love so much  
Beautiful and precious  
To the touch.*

*Much needed strength  
Unceasing care  
Shared lives  
Answered prayer*

*Another Beginning,  
A brand new year  
Knowing you, we can  
Live it without fear*

*Blest we are  
Help us see  
Preview of Heaven  
Witnessed by me.*

*Bev Smith*

Lord, I will praise you with all my heart.

I love to tell of all the marvelous things you have done.

I love to tell of your excellent greatness, O Lord Almighty.

I will sing praises to your name O Lord Most High.

O Lord, you reign forever and you are my shelter and my refuge in times of trouble.

I know your name and I will trust you O God.

I love to sing praises to you O Lord, for you reign forever and ever.

Carrie Braden



Let's not forget our homebound members during this winter season. Go by and visit, send a card, make a phone call, reach out to share the love of Jesus!



*Meet  
Angel Molenhour  
Our new Financial  
Secretary*

*I have been married to Gerald for 25 years. We have owned Molenhour Power Equipment since 2021. Before I worked at Security Alarm for 11 years.*

*Our youngest son is Gregory, who is in the Army National Guard. Our oldest son, Jonathan is married to Megan and they are parents to our grandson, James.*

*We have lived in Marion county our entire lives. I'm a PK the daughter of Ray & Kay Barnes.*



| DATE        | GREETER        | ON CALL           | SECURITY      |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| February 04 | Mike Pugh      | Ronnie Donoho     | Tom Reed      |
| February 11 | Myron Lloyd    | Dale Helpingstine | Dallas Bundy  |
| February 18 | Rick Meador    | Jon Wieldt        | Gary Watson   |
| February 25 | Gerald Purcell | Ken Smith         | Greg Strother |



| DATE        | TEACHER         | LESSONS           |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| February 04 | Deanna Buerster | Candy—Red Hot     |
| February 11 | Deanna Buerster | Candy—Jelly Beans |
| February 18 | Deanna Buerster | Candy—Candy bar   |
| February 25 | Deanna Buerster | NOCC—             |



| Nursery Volunteers<br>(Call the church office if you would like to serve) |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| February 04   | Janet Smith        |
| February 11   | Dina Reed          |
| February 18   | Wheat Jackson      |
| February 25   | Pat & Gary Hampton |



| DATE        | VOLUNTEER            | PIANIST        |
|-------------|----------------------|----------------|
| February 04 | Mike & Angela Brooks | Kathy King     |
| February 11 | Christopher Spenner  | Lynette Wiedle |
| February 18 | Connie Seymour       | Judy Bundy     |
| February 25 | Ken Smith            | 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.**  
Melody Webb

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

**Odin Health and Rehab Center— 300 Green St.**  
Suzanne Pollard

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





# SEEKING Scripture

## February 2024

| Date                              | Verses          | Date                              | Verses          |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/01/24 | Leviticus 1-4   | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/17/24 | Numbers 14-15   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/02/24 | Leviticus 5-7   | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/18/24 | Numbers 16-17   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/03/24 | Leviticus 8-10  | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/19/24 | Numbers 18-20   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/04/24 | Leviticus 11-13 | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/20/24 | Numbers 21-22   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/05/24 | Leviticus 14-15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/21/24 | Numbers 23-25   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/06/24 | Leviticus 16-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/22/24 | Numbers 26-27   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/07/24 | Leviticus 19-21 | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/23/24 | Numbers 28-30   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/08/24 | Leviticus 22-23 | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/24/24 | Numbers 31-32   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/09/24 | Leviticus 24-25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/25/24 | Numbers 33-34   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/10/24 | Leviticus 26-27 | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/26/24 | Numbers 35-36   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/11/24 | Numbers 1-2     | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/27/24 | Deuteronomy 1-2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/12/24 | Numbers 3-4     | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/28/24 | Deuteronomy 3-4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/13/24 | Numbers 5-6     | <input type="checkbox"/> 02/29/24 | Deuteronomy 5-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/14/24 | Numbers 7       |                                   |                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/15/24 | Numbers 8-10    |                                   |                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02/16/24 | Numbers 11-13   |                                   |                 |

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## Happy 100th Birthday Wendell Miller Card Shower

Wendell Miller will be turning 100 years old on February 14! He would love getting birthday cards from all of you! You may mail them to: Wendell Miller, c/o Candace Howard, 2924 Possum Trot Rd, Salem, IL 62881. Send your card any-time between now and the end of February, so that the joy of receiving cards is spread out over time. In your card, please write out a Bible verse and reference to be an encouragement to Wendell. And if it all possible, please include a photo of yourself or your family. Thank you for making his 100th birthday special!



February 04 . . . Bring a Friend

February 11. . . International Missions

February 18 . . . Family Fun Night

February 25 . . . Glow for Jesus Game Night



# FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

**February 18, 2024**

**Hosted by Salem First Baptist Church at Franklin Park Middle School**

**5-7PM**



**FOOD!**



*Face Painting!*



**BOUNCY HOUSES!**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



# February

2024

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday    | Saturday                                   |
|---|---|-----------|---|--|-----------|--|
| <p><b>“Being the Church in Salem and to the nations”</b></p>              |   |           |   | <p>1<br/>Women's Inductive Bible Study 9AM or 6PM</p>  | <p>2</p>  | <p>3</p>                                   |
| <p>4<br/>4PM Church Council<br/>5PM Awana Club</p>                        | <p>5<br/>Prayer Meeting 6AM<br/>Women on Mission 9:30AM</p> | <p>6</p>  | <p>7<br/>6PM Bible Study<br/>Youth Study<br/>Mission Journey<br/>Kids<br/>Praise Team<br/>Rehearsal</p>                               | <p>8<br/>Women's Inductive Bible Study 9AM or 6PM</p>  | <p>9</p>  | <p>10<br/>Earthquake Preparedness 9-12</p> |
| <p>11<br/>Leadership Team 4PM<br/>5PM Awana Club</p>                      | <p>12</p>   | <p>13</p> | <p>14<br/>6PM Bible Study<br/>Youth Study<br/>Mission Journey<br/>Kids<br/>Praise Team<br/>Rehearsal<br/>7PM Deacon's Mtg.</p>        | <p>15<br/>Women's Inductive Bible Study 9AM or 6PM</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p>                                  |
| <p>18<br/>Lord's Supper<br/><br/>5PM Family Fun Night @ Franklin Park</p> | <p>19</p>   | <p>20</p> | <p>21<br/>6PM Bible Study<br/>Youth Study<br/>Mission Journey<br/>Kids<br/>Praise Team<br/>Rehearsal</p>                              | <p>22<br/>Women's Inductive Bible Study 9AM or 6PM</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p>                                  |
| <p>25<br/><br/>5PM Awana Club</p>   | <p>26</p>   | <p>27</p> | <p>28<br/>2 PM Manor @ Salem Woods<br/>6PM Bible Study<br/>Youth Study<br/>Mission Journey<br/>Kids<br/>Praise Team<br/>Rehearsal</p> | <p>29<br/>Women's Inductive Bible Study 9AM or 6PM</p> |           |  |

Wayne Howard  
Diana Owens  
Joyce Scrivner  
Tom Gordon  
Carolyn Smith  
Melanie Jonson  
Rick Meador  
Mike Stallard  
Nevaeh Hester  
Kevin Keele  
Ellen Casey  
Jared Runkle

February 01  
February 01  
February 02  
February 04  
February 05  
February 06  
February 07  
February 07  
February 07  
February 11  
February 11  
February 12  
February 12



Dillon Sum  
Roberta Williams  
Jesse Cantrell  
Wendell Miller  
Gary Hampton  
Draven Sum  
Bonnie Gray  
Joan Purcell  
Linda Wright  
Lilienne Collins  
Andy DeWitt

February 12  
February 13  
February 14  
February 14  
February 16  
February 23  
February 25  
February 25  
February 27  
February 28  
February 28



**SALEM**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060  
Website: Salemfbc.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**

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

**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