

SFBC FAMILY NEWS

Volume 47 Issue 07

July 2026

721 W Main

Salem, IL 62881

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And ye shall know the
TRUTH
and the truth shall
make you free.
John 8:32

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PASTOR DR. ANDY DEWITT

As we enter the month of July, our nation continues to celebrate a significant milestone—the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. This anniversary invites us to reflect on the ideals of liberty, justice, and human dignity that have shaped our country's history. In the area of history, we will celebrate our nation's founding by offering the movie *A Great Awakening* on July 1, at 7 PM, at the Salem Theater and on Thursday, July 2, at Salem FBC, also at 7PM. In addition, copies of the Constitution will be made available to those who want one. And the American flag on our church's flag pole will be the Betsy Ross flag sporting the 250th anniversary of the United States.

For Christians, patriotism is not simply pride in our nation; it is gratitude to God for the freedoms we enjoy and a commitment to use those freedoms responsibly. We give thanks for those who have sacrificed to preserve our liberties, for leaders who have served the common good, and for generations of citizens who have worked to build stronger communities. We are reminded of this nation's founding in the words of President John Adams, *"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. . . Our constitution was made for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."* When Adams mentioned "religion" he, without question, was referring to Christianity.

Scripture reminds us that our ultimate citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20), yet God places us within earthly communities where we are called to be salt and light. As followers of Christ, we are entrusted with the responsibility to pray for our nation, care for our neighbors, welcome the stranger, and work for the benefit of all people. The greatest benefit of all is living and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,

Andy



ASSOCIATE PASTOR CHRISTOPHER SPENNER

This year marks a momentous anniversary for our nation. This July 4th we celebrate 250 years of the United States and try to look with optimism at the future of our nation. God has certainly used this nation mightily in the past to accomplish the work of His kingdom and we pray earnestly that He will continue to do so. One thing that is abundantly clear in any honest study of the history of this country is the firm belief in God and the Gospel that motivated most of the founding fathers and influenced the core laws of America.

John Adams, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and a signer of the Bill of Rights, had a few things to say about his Christian faith. "The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity. I will avow that I then believed, and now believe, that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God." He also remarked, "The Christian religion is, above all the religions that ever prevailed or existed in ancient or modern times, the religion of wisdom, virtue, equity and humanity."

One of the early struggles faced by the founders during the Revolution was the issue of unity. At that time, each state had its own governance, and convincing them to join together in common cause was difficult, given that each state wanted to do what was in their own best interests. Clever arguments made by the founders helped the attitude of unity to prevail in the end, and Benjamin Franklin remarked at the signing of the Declaration, "We must, indeed, all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." His humor, while dark, put matters into perspective. It was unity or death for the colonies. In the same way, we are called to unify as the church. Jesus prayed in John 17:21-23, "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."

As we celebrate the history of our nation this year, we must remember that we are strong precisely because of the Christian values which our founders held so dearly. They believed in the Gospel and they believed in unity and they were able to accomplish incredible things. I pray that we will do the same in the service of God if we also prioritize spiritual unity in the truth and a love for the Gospel.



WOMEN ON MISSION & LIBRARY

We will not be having a monthly meeting in July, however we will continue promoting and participating in our mission opportunities.

Thanks to all who filled the baby bottles provided by the local Pregnancy Care Clinic with you monetary gifts.

Our next day for SFB to assist in the Salem Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry is Monday July 13th. Our shift for the day is from 12-5:30PM. We divide the day in different time slots. The items requested for the month of July are soup, crackers, cereal, coffee, tea and coca.

The items requested for the Operation Christmas Child ministry is #2 pencils, one subject not books, children scissors, erasers, sharpener and fine and broad markers.

Blessings,
Karen



Library News

The subtitle of **When God Doesn't Fix it** is Lessons You Never Wanted to Learn, Truth You Can't Live Without. Each of us have had experiences of broken dreams and this book is written by Laura Story (worship leader and recording artist) who also created a song with the same message entitled "Blessings".

Laura's fairy-tale life was no longer possible with her husband's diagnosis of a brain tumor. She examines the brokenness of some the heroes of our faith and shows how despite their flaws, God was able to use them in extraordinary ways. It was not because of their faith, but because of the faithfulness of our God. He may not fix everything. In fact, your situation might not ever change or even get better, but with Jesus, YOU can!

Below is just a part of "Blessings". Please Google it to hear the music and the rest of the lyrics of this amazing song.

*We pray for blessings, we pray for peace
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep
We pray for healing, for prosperity
We pray for Your mighty hand
To ease our suffering.*

*And all the while, You hear each spoken need
Yet love us way too much to give us lesser things*

*Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops?
What if Your healing comes through tears?
What if a thousand sleepless flights are what it takes to know You're near?
And what if trials in this life are Your mercies in disguise?*

May God bless you all with His amazing grace!
Dina

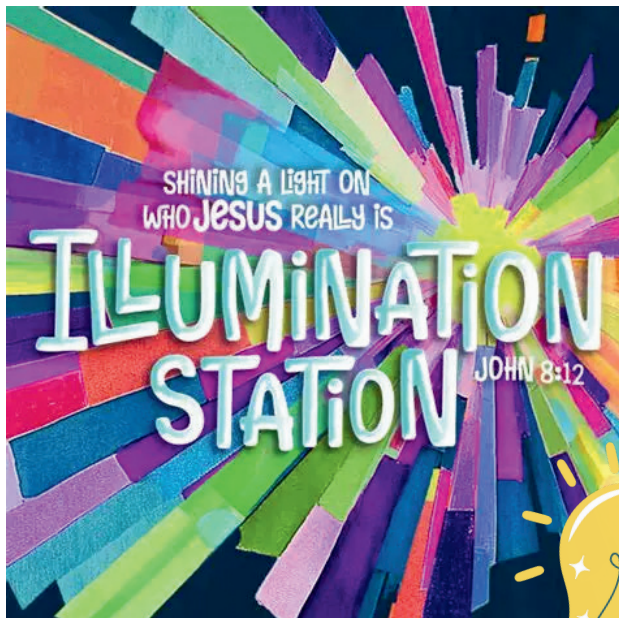


TRUSTEES' REPORT

During the month of June, the trustees had a tree cut down near the playground. It was rotten, and created a dangerous situation of a limb falling on someone or nearby property. Also, at the June church business meeting the church approved a proposal to paint the exterior of the three exterior double sanctuary and bell tower wooden doors and also the west metal door. The wooden doors had been painted in 2022 and are in good condition, but needs another coat of paint. The trustees are also receiving bids for painting four classrooms, doors on the first floor, and some touch-up painting on the walls in the first floor hallway, fellowship hall, and restrooms. The trustees have also received two of three bids for the Grant Program. After the third bid is received, the trustees will bring a recommendation to the church about awarding the contract for the Grant Program.

The trustees are also trying to get rid of a dozen old soap dispensers and soap containers. If you are interested in obtaining one, or helping the church dispose of them, please contact a trustee. We would like to sell them if we can.

Dallas Bundy
Chairman of the Trustees



VBS 2026
Register Online Now!



JULY 6 -9

DEACONS MINISTRY

Date	Greeter	On Call	Security
05	Greg Strother	Gary Watson	Dallas Bundy
12	Mike Pugh	Myron Lloyd	Tom Reed
19	Steve Smith	Tom Reed	Dale Helpingstine
26	Gerald Purcell	Greg Strother	Ronnie Donoho

Children's CHURCH!

Date	Teacher	Assistant
05	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
12	Susan Wieldt	Debbie Pugh
19	Melissa Spenner	Lesa Morris
26	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Date	Worship #1	Worship #2
05	Pat Hampton	Gary Hampton
12	Dina Reed	Reha Lloyd
19	Maggie McNeal	Janet Smith
26	Paula Strother	Sheri Peradotti



Date	Volunteer	Pianist
05	Dale Helpingstine	Kathy King
12	Mike & Angela Brooks	Candace & Wayne Howard
19	Mike & Angela Brooks	Judy Bundy
26	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle

Nursing Home
MINISTRY

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

A GREAT AWAKENING



JOIN US FOR TWO FREE SHOWINGS!

Wednesday, July 1st @ 7:00PM

Salem Theater

Thursday, July 2nd @ 7:00PM

Salem First Baptist Church

For more information :

618-548-4060

LORD

How great to be an American;
To live in the land of the free.

To love and worship you,
As was intended to be.

How blessed we are,
How thankful we should be.

Eternal life awaits us
Paradise, you and me.

Our flag of red, white and blue

Waiving in the breeze,

Stars and stripes forever.

Our hearts swell with pride at the
playing of the "Star Spangle Banner."

Take a moment; Count your blessings.

Our flag, The United States of
America, Our God, full of mercy, hope and
love.

I'm proud to be an American,
Proud to be a witnessing Christian.

— Bev Smith



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating All Classic Cars and Trucks

THROWBACK THURSDAYS

2026

This event is open to all classic cars, trucks, muscle cars, hotrods, and antique vehicles. Just bring your car, lawn chair and enjoy the evening.

RAIN CANCELS

May 21st
June 18th
July 23rd
August 27th
September 17th

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

6:00-8:00 PM

Contact: Dale Helpingstine 618-322-7123

PLEASE NO ALCOHOL ON CHURCH PROPERTY

Thank you for your kindness, support and hospitality during the funeral service for our mother, Jo. We deeply appreciate the use of the church for the service, and the delicious luncheon you provided afterward. We also thank you for the Memorial gift made to the Baptist Children's Home in memory of mom. Your love, prayers, and care were a great comfort to our family.

*With Sincere Gratitude,
The Family of Jo Stallings*

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

We are incredibly grateful for your donation.. Your support is helping us provide assistance for those with mobility issues. Thank you for being a part of our purpose.



**Gratefully,
Mission Salem Board**



The Family of Jon Wieldt

Thank you to the best church family anyone could have. Your concern and prayers were felt and needed.

The meal was exceptional! Thank you to all who had a part in it.



Jon loved his church and so do I!

*Love,
Susan & Family*



JULY



2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

<i>"Being the Church in Salem and Beyond"</i>			01 7:00PM The Great Awakening @ Salem Theater	02 7:00PM The Great Awakening @ Salem First Baptist Church	03	04
05 No PM Service	06 	07	08	09	10	11
12 Truth Project "Who is God" 6PM	13	14 21	15 5:30PM Youth 6:00PM Adult Bible Study Mission Kids Praise Team	16	17	18
19 Truth Project "What is True?" Part 1 6PM	20	21	22 2:00PM High Point 5:30PM Youth 6:00PM Adult Bible Study Mission Kids Praise Team	23 6-8PM Throwback Thursday	24	25
26 Truth Project "What is True?" Part 2 6PM	27	28	29 5:30PM Youth 6:00PM Adult Bible Study Mission Kids Praise Team	30	31	

Marlene Hilger July 01
 Pat Hampton July 03
 Paul Womack July 04
 Johannah Stallard July 06
 Don Jones July 08
 Christian Boyles July 12
 Lainey Cantrell July 12
 Rachelle Oziemkiewicz July 12
 Kay Pullium July 13
 Pat Nattier July 15
 Shirley Parkinson July 15



Mark Peradotti July 15
 Jaysen Alston July 16
 Sharon Kavanaugh July 20
 Paulette Murphy July 21
 Fred Wiedle July 21
 Emily Vanhyning July 22
 Darlene Page July 26
 Charlene Eidson July 29
 Gary Watson July 29
 Tom Reed July 30
 John Erickson July 31



SALEM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Phone: 618-548-4060

Website: Salemfbcc.com

Facebook: Salem First Baptist Church

Our Vision:

"Being the Church in Salem and Beyond"



Sunday

8:30 ~9:20AM

9:30AM

10:45AM

5~7:00PM

Cafe' Agape

Life Groups for all ages

Morning Worship

Awana

Join Us. . .

Sundays

8:30-9:20AM

in Fellowship Hall

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00-4:00

Closed 12:00-1:00 for
lunch

Friday 9-12

For YouTube:



Wednesday Evening

5:30PM Yourth Bible Study

6:00PM Adult Bible Study

Mission Journey Kids

Praise Team Rehearsal