

SFBC FAMILY NEWS

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*May he give you the
desires of your heart and
make all your plans succeed.*

PSALM 20:4

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PASTOR DR. ANDY DEWITT

Dear Church Family,

As we move steadily toward the approach of Spring, we are reminded that God is always at work bringing new life out of what once seemed dormant. The bare trees, the quiet fields, and the long winter nights gradually give way to budding branches, birdsong, and longer days filled with light. Spring does not rush in all at once—it unfolds gently, faithfully, just as God so often works in our lives.

There are seasons in our spiritual journey that feel like winter. We may experience uncertainty, waiting, or even hardship. Yet just as surely as the earth tilts toward the sun, we can trust that the Lord is guiding us toward renewal. Growth is happening beneath the surface, even when we cannot yet see it.

In the weeks ahead, I encourage you to look for signs of spiritual springtime. Perhaps it is a renewed commitment to prayer, a restored relationship, a deeper hunger for Scripture, or a fresh opportunity to serve. Let us be intentional about cultivating hearts that are ready for God's new work among us.

As a church family, we also enter this new season together. Spring reminds us that we are part of God's living garden—each person uniquely planted, each gift carefully given, each life nurtured by His grace. May we encourage one another, pray for one another, and grow together in faith.

When the winds of life feel uncertain, we hold fast to the promises found in the Bible, especially in the Gospel of John 14:1–6, where Jesus comforts His disciples with these words:

“Do not let your heart be troubled; ^[a]believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many ^[b]rooms; if that were not so, ^[c]I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be. ⁴And you know the way where I am going.” ⁵Thomas *said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going; how do we know the way?” ⁶Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.”

May these words steady your heart and fill you with hope as we move into this new season together.

Grace and peace,
Andy

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

CHRISTOPHER SPENNER

Do you feel like the world has left you behind? Do you feel like it is just impossible to keep up with all the new technologies and problems the world seems to offer? You are not alone. With so many new types of tech appearing in just the last few years, it is hard to feel in control of our lives and be aware of all the changes that are constantly occurring.

One of the biggest, if not the single biggest advancement in the past few years has been AI. Once simply referred to as Artificial Intelligence, AI now takes on a variety of roles in our daily lives. It not only “summarizes” our searches but answers our phone calls and manages our calendars and days (if we allow it to).

This has led to a deluge of content that is extremely fake but is impossible to tell apart from the “real thing.” As this invasive technology comes into our feeds and devices more and more, what can we do to ensure we are not tricked or deceived by extremely convincing frauds?

The Bible tells us in 1 John 4:1, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” While the face it is wearing may be new, deception from the enemy is not new. For the past two thousand years he has worked tirelessly to trick well-meaning followers of Christ into believing in harmful things. How do we know what the truth is? We need to be constantly present in what is real. You may have heard before how there are people who are trained by the government to recognize counterfeit money. They do not do this by examining each counterfeit closely, but by studying original money for so many hours that by the end of their studies they can immediately tell a fake by feel or sight.

In the same way, the best way to stay aware of the enemy’s deceptions, including through the use of AI or other technological tools, is by knowing the Word of God so well that the lies of the enemy cannot find any hold on us. If we are faithful and diligent to stay in the study of the Bible, we will not be led astray. John 10:27 reassures us, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” If we are used to hearing the voice of the Good Shepherd, we will hear it over the loud and convincing lies of the world every time.

WOMEN ON MISSION/LIBRARY

We will be collecting the following items for our Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes during the month of March: Clothing items for children such as shirts, shorts etc., flip flops or shoes that will fit into the box. If you have any questions about OCC, see any of the Women on Mission ladies.

We would like to invite any of our ladies to come and join us. We meet the first Monday of the month at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 2nd at 9:30. See you there!

Our church has been serving at the Salem Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry on the second Monday of each month. We will be helping on Monday, March 9th at 12:15 at Grace United Methodist Church. See me (Karen), if you would like to serve or have question. This is such a blessing to be God's hands and feet! Also, we are collecting different items each month for the food pantry. March we are collecting canned meat (tuna, chicken, Vienna sausage) and Hamburger Helper. You can put these items in the grocery cart in the main hallway.

Blessings,
Karen



Library News

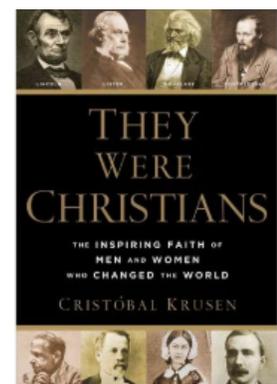
What do Abraham Lincoln, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Louis Pasteur, Frederick Douglass, Florence Nightingale, and John D. Rockefeller Sr. have in common? They all changed the world and they were Christians. With passion and precision, Cristobal Krusen brings to light the little-known stories of faith behind twelve influential people of history.

They Were Christians reveals the faith-filled motivations of these important world figures who made some of the most outstanding political, scientific, and humanitarian contributions in history. Discover the true stories behind

- the founding of the Red Cross
- the family crisis that drove America's favorite president on his knees
- the supernatural call that led a beautiful English socialite to save thousands of soldiers
- and more

The fascinating profiles of these faithful history makers will encourage, entertain, and inspire you to deepen your faith, pursue excellence in your vocation, and serve others.

Happy Reading,
Dina Reed



TRUSTEES' REPORT

During February, a few projects were completed. New kitchen soft-close drawer slides were installed in some of the drawers. Two outside lights on the northeast side of the educational building were upgraded with new housings and LED bulbs. Another light on a pole at the east parking lot had burned out and has been replaced by Ameren. The parking lot stops have again been aligned. They are often moved out of place when the snow is pushed off the parking lots. A couple of months ago several wasp nests were knocked down off the outside second floor educational building windows. Winter is a good time to do that type of project so you will not get stung. Hopefully this will reduce our wasp population this summer.

When working with some of the files in the office, I came across a file concerning the organ which the church has. In 1975, an old Allen electronic organ which the church had was sold for \$1,000. On September 30, 1975 an agreement was made with Wicks Organ Company to purchase a custom-built pipe organ for \$83,846.40 to replace the Allen Organ. Today, the present organ is appraised and insured for \$750,000. Besides the pipes that are visible in the sanctuary, there are two rooms behind these pipes that contain the remainder of the 2,100 pipes and 21 chime tubes. There is also a real bell which is struck with a mechanism to produce the actual bell sound. The sound from this bell is what one can hear at the beginning of the morning worship service.

Dallas Bundy
Chairman of the Trustees



Welcome Baby Savage

We are gathering baby items for
Ty Michael Savage arriving in March!
There is a crib in the main hallway to place
your items.

Date	Greeter	On Call	Security
01	Tom Reed	Greg Strother	Dale Helpingstine
08	Ronnie Donoho	Steve Smith	Gary Watson
15	Rick Meador	Gerald Purcell	Dallas Bundy
22	Steve Smith	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh
29	Jon Wieldt	Tom Reed	Ronnie Donoho



Children's
CHURCH!

Date	Teacher	Assistant
01	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
08	Dina Reed	Debbie Pugh
15	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
22	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour
29	Family Worship	Family Worship

NURSERY
VOLUNTEERS

Date	Worship #1	Worship #2
01	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
08	Dina Reed	Debbie Pugh
15	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
22	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour
29	Family Worship	Family Worship



Date	Volunteer	Pianist
01	Dale Helpingstine	Kathy King
08	Mike & Angela Brooks	Lynette Wiedle
15	Mike & Angela Brooks	Judy Bundy
22	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle
29	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle

 <p><i>Nursing Home</i> MINISTRY</p>	<p><i>Centralia Manor - 1910 E. McCord St.</i></p> <p><i>Faye Wood #206</i></p>
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DEACON MINISTRY

I would like to thank everyone who had a part in making our Family Fun Night a success. The Deacon's take the responsibilities for all the organizing of this event, but it takes the whole church to make it a success. If you brought any kind of soup, hot dogs or dessert, helped with the drinks, the set up of tables, or kept watch on the kids in the blow ups, on behalf of all the Deacons, I say a big "thank you"! **THANK YOU!**

We would like to pray for any of our church family that have medical problems, personal concerns, lost loved ones or just struggling with day to day issues. Let your deacon or for that manner any deacon of a need you have. There is power in prayer and God hears them all.

With all of us working together, we can make our church a place that we can be proud to say, "I belong to Salem First Baptist Church!"

Blessings,
Ronnie Donoho, Deacon Chairman





Date	Theme	Menu
March 1	International Missions	Beef Ravioli, chips & snack
March 8	Pajama Day - toothbrush collection for Kids on Mission	Corn dogs, chips, snack cakes & hot chocolate
March 15	Wear Green St. Patrick's Day	Grilled cheese, green punch, green cookies & chips
March 22	Easter Fun Night Last Book Night	Surprise Night! Ice Cream Sundae
March 29	Last Club Night/Awards Magic Show	Pizza & dessert



**CHRISTIAN
ILLUSIONIST!**

MARCH 29, 2026

6PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!

MARCH



2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 5-7PM Awana	2 6AM Prayer Meeting 9:30AM Women on Mission	3	4 5:30PM Youth 6PM Praise Team Mission Kids	5 9AM or 6PM Women's Bible Study 11:30AM Fellowship Luncheon	6	7
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 5-7PM Awana	9 5:30PM AHG/TL	10	11 5:30PM Youth 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Mission Kids 7PM Deacon's Mtg.	12 9AM or 6PM Women's Bible Study	13	14
15 5-7PM Awana	16	17	18 5:30PM Youth 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Mission Kids	19	20	21
22 4PM Church Council 5-7PM Awana	23 5:30PM AHG/TL	24	25 5:30PM Youth 6PM Bible Study Praise Team Mission Kids	26	27	28
29 5-7PM Awana Magic Show	30 5:30PM AHG/TL	31				

Mary Kneemyer Mar. 02
 Verna Piper Mar. 07
 Jo Stallings Mar. 07
 Daniel Childress Mar. 08
 Ron King Mar. 08
 Helen Jett Mar. 12
 Mackenzie Moheit Mar. 12
 Lilly Moheit Mar. 16
 Sadie Cantrell Mar. 17
 Patricia Crippen Mar. 17
 Lynette Wiedle Mar. 18
 Gerald Purcell Mar. 19
 Sandy Hicks Mar. 21



Rose Ann Fulkerson Mar. 22
 Barbara Wells Mar. 22
 Steve Brubaker Mar. 24
 Melody Webb Mar. 24
 Rylan Chancellor Mar. 26
 George Kruse Mar. 26
 Susan Beasley Mar. 27
 Miranda Dennis Mar. 27
 Trinity Savin Mar. 27
 Eric Dennis Mar. 29
 Sharon Dennis Mar. 31
 Bethany Quandt Mar. 31
 Ivan Quandt Mar. 31



SALEM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Our Vision:

*"Being the Church in
Salem and Beyond"*

Phone: 618-548-4060

Website: Salemfbcc.com

*Facebook: Salem First Baptist
Church*



Join Us. . .

Sundays

8:30-9:20AM

in Fellowship Hall

Sunday

8:30 ~9:20AM

9:30AM

10:45AM

5~7:00PM

Cafe' Agape

Life Groups for all ages

Morning Worship

Awana

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