

SFBC FAMILY NEWS

Volume 47 Issue 09

September 2026

721 W Main

Salem, IL 62881

618-548-4060

*I pray to you, Lord, in the time of
your favor; in your great love, O
God, answer me with your sure
salvation.*

Psalms 69:13

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PASTOR DR. ANDY DEWITT

Dear Church Family,

During a Business Meeting several months ago, Jon Wieldt moved that we give away the money that went beyond our budget needs for 2025. This amount was approximately \$50,000. A committee was later formed to study and recommend ministries to "gift" with a monetary donation. The criterion for which ministries to give to was that each recipient be future focused, financially responsible, and was in keeping with our beliefs. The following is the list of ministries that were approved at Sunday's Business Meeting.

(1) Preborn: This ministry raises money to place ultrasound machines in Pregnancy Care Clinics throughout the United States. Statically, an abortion-minded woman will choose life for her baby 80% of the time after viewing the image of her unborn child on ultrasound. Our church approved \$15,000 (this is the cost of an ultrasound machine).

(2) Eight Days of Hope, Human Trafficking Ministry: This is a seldom considered problem, but is major in its impact. By this, I mean, there are children and women who are actually slaves experiencing inhumane treatment in the US. Eight Days of Hope is building homes throughout the US to house people rescued from being trafficked. We are giving this ministry \$10,000.

(3) The Bible League: This ministry distributes Bibles all over the world; especially to people groups that do not have Bibles in their languages. Our gift to them is \$5,000.

(4). Morgan Ahle: This is the only recipient who is an individual. Morgan grew up in FBC, Carlyle. She has finished her university degree and desires to work with college students for the coming year. As Cru's policy (formally, Campus Crusade for Christ), she must raise her own support. I met Morgan recently and she impressed me with her dedication to the Lord Jesus. And she will be a positive influence on students in the coming year, I'm sure. We are giving her \$2,400.

(5) Truth for Youth New Testaments: Every August this ministry provides free New Testaments to any junior high and high school student who will give it away to a friend. The testimonies from this effort are amazing. We gifted this ministry \$1,000.

(6) Books for Haiti Pastoral Students: There are 80 future pastors in Haiti in need of assistance with their training. There are two books that are required. Each student is required to purchase one book and the other is provided by scholarship. We want to provide the second book. Our gift is \$1,200.

The total thus far is \$34,600. Thanks to our committee for their work and thanks to the church, Salem First Baptist Church, for generously serving the Lord by contributing to His Kingdom. This is an occasion to celebrate!!

Grace and peace,
Andy



ASSOCIATE PASTOR CHRISTOPHER SPENNER

As the weather slowly starts to cool off and Summer gives way to Fall, the signs of the season are in the air. Vacations are winding down, festivals are happening, and children and teens are going back to school. In a lot of ways, the Fall can feel like a return to normal life after the excitement of Summer. One of the ways we can encourage this as Christians is by inviting people to return to church.

According to Gallup in an article written in 2024, church attendance has declined noticeably among all faiths, including Christianity. For Americans as a whole, only thirty percent say they attend any kind of religious service regularly. Over fifty percent say they seldom or never attend religious services of any kind. As a reminder, this poll was about any kind of religion, not just Christianity. When we think of how many people are not in a good church, those percentages will look much worse.

Instead of a culture where people appear to be Christians but do not take it seriously, we now live in a culture where even the pretense of being Christian is no longer there. What this means is that the newest generation is a generation that likely has never attended church at all. This may sound depressing, but it is also a great opportunity that we may partake in. Never before have there been so many people in America who can be introduced to the church with no prior baggage.

As Jesus told us in Matthew 9:37-38, after seeing a similar situation, “Then He *said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.’” When more people need to hear the Gospel, we need to pray for God to send workers into His harvest field.

God may even be calling you. Pray about how God would have you serve, whether in ministries like Awana or the food pantry, or even by reading Scripture or praying during church. God has plans for everyone in His kingdom, including you. Also pray earnestly that God will give us the courage and the words to take the Gospel of Christ to a lost and dying world this Fall.



WOMEN ON MISSION & LIBRARY

Attendance at our August meeting was down but our time together was a blessing. The ladies prayed for our missionaries and personal prayer requests were shared. We have seen how God has answered one particular request soon after it was shared. The group participated in preparing items for local ministries.

Due to Labor Day being on the first Monday of September, our next meeting will be on Monday, September 14th at 9:30AM in the Fellowship Hall.

The requested items for Operation Christmas Child in the month of September are: Small games, jump ropes and anything that has been requested in previous months. The Operation Christmas Child Boxes will be provided on Sunday, October 11th and will be due back on Sunday, November 8th. The packing party of these boxes will be on Monday October, 12th at 6:30PM.

I am so grateful for the individuals who volunteer each month at the Salem Ministerial Food Pantry. The month of September will be our State Mission Offering emphasis and our church goal is \$2,500.

Blessings,

Karen



Library

This month I would like to introduce her to some of our members' favorite author, Lauraine Snelling, author of The Promise of Dawn.

This first book in a series of four begins when opportunities are scarce in Norway. When Rune and Signe Carlson receive a letter from Rune's uncle offering to loan them money for passage to America, Rune accepts. Signe is reluctant to leave her home, especially as she is pregnant with her fourth child, but the promise of their own land is something they could never afford in Norway.

However, life in Minnesota is more difficult than Signe imagined. Uncle Einar and Aunt Gerd are hard, demanding people, and Signe and her family soon find themselves worked nearly to the bone to pay off their debt. Afraid they will never have the life they dreamed of, she begins to lose her trust in God. When the dangers of the North Woods strike close to home, will she find the strength she needs to lead her family into the promise of a new dawn?

My guess is that she does! (Full disclosure... I haven't read it yet.)

Hope you are relaxing and reading something good! (Even if it isn't from our library...maybe your next one will be...)

Dina

TRUSTEES' REPORT

During July, the following work and/or actions have taken place by the trustees. A new microwave has been purchased for the kitchen. Maggie has replaced a broken towel holder in the kitchen. Two flush valves have been repaired—one in the women's downstairs restroom and one in the sanctuary foyer's men's restroom. The church approved the replacement of both double doors for the east and south downstairs doorways. These doors are needed so the security work can be completed. Security Alarm has been awarded the \$150,000 grant for the security work on our church, and the work will begin soon. New cameras, new monitors, and other security devices will be installed.

Some HVAC repairs have been scheduled for the last of August. Two cores have been scheduled for installation in the sanctuary air handlers. These replace two that were leaking. The air conditioner for the youth rooms is broken and needs repaired, as well as a leak on one of the boilers that heats the downstairs rooms and sanctuary. All of this work should be done at the same time.

Painting has been scheduled for the later part of August or September for the outside wooden sanctuary foyer doors, the bell tower double doors, and the west foyer metal door. Painting on the children's rooms and the wooden doors in the downstairs hallways are scheduled in December or January.

The boilers and elevators have been inspected by the state. Our church secretaries--Glenda and Dianna--have been working on-line trying to get this inspection work completed and get our license for them. It has been a challenge to get this work done this year. The inspector used wrong numbers for the elevators. The state has also wanted the elevator inspection "paperwork" to be done on-line. After the state approves all the submitted material, then the license will be printed on our own church computers. Glenda and I had just become accustomed to filling out and submitting paperwork and that went well. As I said earlier, this year has been a challenge.

Dallas Bundy
Chairman of the Trustees



Sept 13 ~ First Club Night ~ Corn Dogs, Chips & Cookies

Sept 20 ~ Regular Club ~ Grilled Cheese, Chips, Peaches & Vanilla Wafers

September 27 ~ Regular Club ~ Taco Salad, Quesadilla's, Corn Chips & Cookies



Date	Greeter	On Call	Security
06	Tom Reed	Greg Strother	Dale Helpingstine
13	Ronnie Donoho	Steve Smith	Gary Watson
20	Rick Meador	Gerald Purcell	Dallas Bundy
27	Steve Smith	Rick Meador	Mike Pugh

Children's
CHURCH!

Date	Teacher	Assistant
06	Melissa Spenner	Deric Rice
13	Susan Wieldt	Debbie Pugh
20	Melissa Spenner	Lesa Morris
27	Annette Hardcastle	Connie Seymour

NURSERY
VOLUNTEERS

Date	Worship #1	Worship #2
06	Maggie McNeal	Sheri Peradotti
13	Paula Strother	Nancy Stallard
20	Barb Helpingstine	Susan Salliotte
27	Melissa Spenner	Reha Lloyd



Date	Volunteer	Pianist
06	Mike & Angela Brooks	Kathy King
13	Ken Smith	Lynnette Wiedle
20	Ken Smith	Lynette Wiedle
27	Ken Smith	Judy Bundy

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

Special Prayer Request

Will you join me in praying for our Pastor, Assoc. Pastor, and their families, our deacons, their wives and families. Our church family as we serve and minister in the cause of Christ for Salem and the surrounding area.

Blessings to all,
Ronnie Donoho
Chairman of the Deacons



Let me introduce myself, My name is Dianna Boyer. I am 58 years old and live in Bonnie, Illinois. I've spent the past 25 years working at my previous job, where I've learned a lot about hard work, dedication, and building relationships with others.

I'm a proud mother of three children and a grandmother to five wonderful grandchildren, who bring so much joy and meaning to my life. I attend Evergreen Christian Church in Salem, Illinois, which is an important part of my life and my faith.

I am grateful for my new role as Secretary at Salem First Baptist Church and the opportunity to serve and be part of the ministries here.

Through the years, I've experienced my share of ups and downs, but each experience has helped shape the person I am today. I'm grateful for where life has brought me and excited about what the future still has in store. Stop by the office I'd love to meet everyone.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 1 Peter 4:10 ESV



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



Dora Tate and family would like to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers and visits that were received for her 90th birthday. She felt very blessed and loved.



**Salem FBC raised
\$6,432.90
for Pregnancy
CareClinic!!**

Praise be to God!!!!

HELLO September 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Matt. 9:37"	01	02	03	04	05	
		5:30PM Youth 6:00PM Adult Bible Study Mission Kids Praise Team	11:30AM Fellowship Luncheon			
	06	07	08	09	10	11
			5:30PM Youth 6:00PM Adult Bible Study Mission Kids Praise Team	9AM & 6PM Women's Bible Study		12
	13	14	15	16	17	18
5PM Awana	9:30AM Women on Mission 5:30-7:30PM AHG/TL		5:30PM Youth 6:00PM Adult Bible Study Mission Kids Praise Team	9AM & 6PM Women's Bible Study 6PM Throwback Thursday		19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5PM Awana			2:00PM High Point 5:30PM Youth 6:00PM Adult Bible Study Mission Kids Praise Team	9AM & 6PM Women's Bible Study		
27	28	29	30	<i>"Being the Church in Salem and Beyond"</i>		
5PM Awana	5:30-7:30PM AHG/TL		5:30PM Youth 6:00PM Adult Bible Study Mission Kids Praise Team			

Jeannine Richards
 Narissa Sum
 Ryne Shelton
 Kelly Wood
 Donald Austin
 Carla Petty
 Troy Keele
 Braylee Bachman
 Lois Dodson-Nattier
 Debbie Pugh
 Abigail Dice
 June Lowry

Sept. 04
 Sept. 05
 Sept. 07
 Sept. 07
 Sept. 08
 Sept. 08
 Sept. 09
 Sept. 11
 Sept. 12
 Sept. 12
 Sept. 13
 Sept. 14



Dallas Bundy
 Chloe Oziemkiewicz
 Sarah Purcell
 Mary Anne Rollinson
 Carl Spence
 Darren Becker
 Sheri Peradotti
 Brian Piper
 Vernon Wiedle
 Twila Kincaid
 Lesa Morris

Sept. 15
 Sept. 16
 Sept. 16
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 Sept. 21
 Sept. 22
 Sept. 22
 Sept. 25
 Sept. 26
 Sept. 28
 Sept. 28



SALEM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

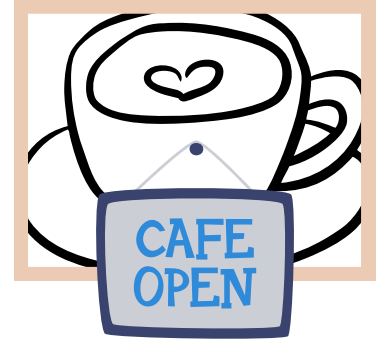
Our Vision:

*"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

For YouTube:



Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00-4:00

Closed 12:00-1:00 for lunch

Wednesday Evening

5:30PM

Youth Bible Study

6:00PM

Adult Bible Study

Mission Journey Klds

Praise Team Rehearsal