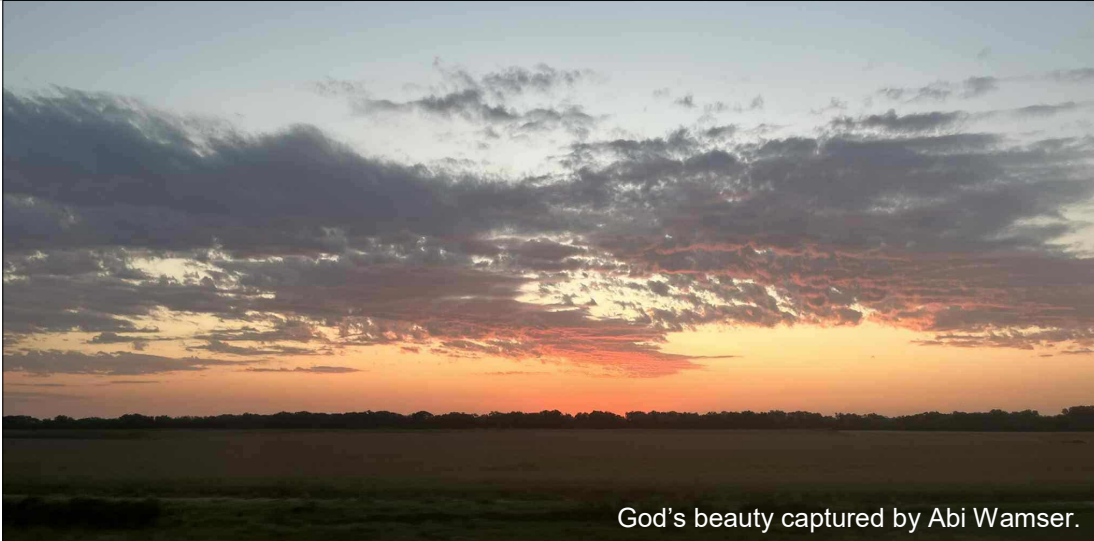




FBC SALINA // NOVEMBER 2025

FBC NEWSLETTER



God's beauty captured by Abi Wamser.

*"My heart is not proud,
Lord, my eyes are not
haughty; I do not
concern myself with
great matters or things
too wonderful for me."*

Psalm 131:1

David recognized a powerful truth: there were things far beyond his comprehension. He wasn't so arrogant as to demand a full blueprint of God's workings. Instead, he made the deliberate choice to focus on what he *could*

Beyond the "Why": Finding Rest in What You Can't Understand

PASTOR JOEL ODONDI

What happens when the familiar, comforting truth—"God is good, all the time"—collides head-on with a world that often feels anything but? It's easy to declare God's goodness when blessings abound, but what about the moments that shatter our expectation, leaving us confused, frustrated, or even angry? It's in the silent, empty chair at the dinner table after a sudden loss. It's in the devastating diagnosis that science can't seem to touch. It's in the agonizing *why* of persistent, unyielding struggle, where our heartfelt prayers seem to echo back unheard. In those catastrophic life events, when God's character seems to defy logic, where do we turn?

For a reassuring answer, we look to the heart of King David, a man who navigated extreme highs and lows. How did this mighty king, who wrestled with life's difficult issues, find peace when God didn't seem to make sense? He chose the path of humility and trust - a surrender beautifully captured in Psalm 131:1.

understand—God's revealed love and his own small sphere of influence—and leave the "great matters" to God's control.

The psalmist then paints one of the most tender, powerful images of surrender: himself as being "like a weaned child with its mother." Think about that image. A baby knows one thing: demand, and receive. But a weaned child has moved past that immediate, insistent need. They no longer frantically demand instant gratification but instead rest calmly. They trust implicitly in the mother's presence, provision, and care, not because they understand her schedule, but simply because she is *Mom*.

In the same way, we are called to rest in God's goodness and provision, even when His ways seem utterly baffling. Our faith matures when we move from demanding answers to resting in His sovereign love.

When your heart is unsettled, your mind is racing, and you feel the limits of your understanding, take a deep breath. Acknowledge your limitations. Trust that God is both sovereign and good, even when the puzzle pieces of life don't fit. You don't need to figure out everything; you just need to hold fast to the One who already has it all figured out. Whisper this simple prayer from the quiet of your heart: ***"My Father, I do not understand You, but I trust You. Calm my heart and quiet my mind, that I may rest in Your goodness and provision."***

May this be the month you choose to find rest in God's goodness, confidently leaning on your loving God.

Created and Redeemed

PASTOR KEVIN HAZELTON

Tom carried his new boat to the edge of the river. He carefully placed it in the water and slowly let out the string. How smoothly the boat sailed! Tom sat in the warm sunshine, admiring the little boat that he had built. Suddenly a strong current caught the boat. Tom tried to pull it back to shore, but the string broke. The little boat raced downstream.

Tom ran along the sandy shore as fast as he could. But his little boat soon slipped out of sight. All afternoon he searched for the boat. Finally, when it was too dark to look any longer, Tom sadly went home.

A few days later, on the way home from school, Tom spotted a boat just like his in a store window. When he got closer, he could see—sure enough—it was his!

Tom hurried to the store manager, "Sir, that's my boat in your window! I made it!"

"Sorry, son, but someone else brought it in this morning. If you want it, you'll have to buy it for one dollar."

Tom ran home and counted all his money. Exactly one dollar! When he reached the store, he rushed to the counter. "Here's the money for my boat." As he left the store, Tom hugged his boat and said, "Now you're twice mine. First, I made you and now I bought you." *

This story illustrates beautifully one of the richest and most precious themes in the Bible: Redemption. Redemption is the return of things to the way they are meant to be, when a torn relationship is mended, when what was lost is recovered, when what was broken is restored, when justice prevails.

The Bible is the story of God's redemption, restoring humans through Jesus to who we were created to be. Through his death on the cross, Jesus redeems us from the curse of sin and death. Jesus restores us by faith to who we were created to be—sons and daughters of God.

Our FBC Statement of Common Faith says this about redemption:

We believe the Gospel of Jesus provides the only means of redemption from sin for all humans, past, present, and future.

We do not have the ability to redeem ourselves. Jesus is the only means of redemption. Only Jesus restores us when we repent of our sin and trust in him by faith.

If you are redeemed by the blood of Jesus, you are God's twice. First, he made you. And through the blood of Jesus, he bought you back. You are His forever!

* *The Boy Who Lost His Boat*: Good News Publishers

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed... but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

1 Peter 1:18-19

"I know that my Redeemer lives."

Job 19:25

REDEMPTION

re - demp - tion

deliverance from evil by payment of a price



"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."

Isaiah 43:1

Unity Sunday &
FBC THANKSGIVING

November 23, 2025

9 a.m. Unity Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

Child Dedications

Bring Giving Cards Forward

10:30 a.m. Family Gathering in Fellowship Hall

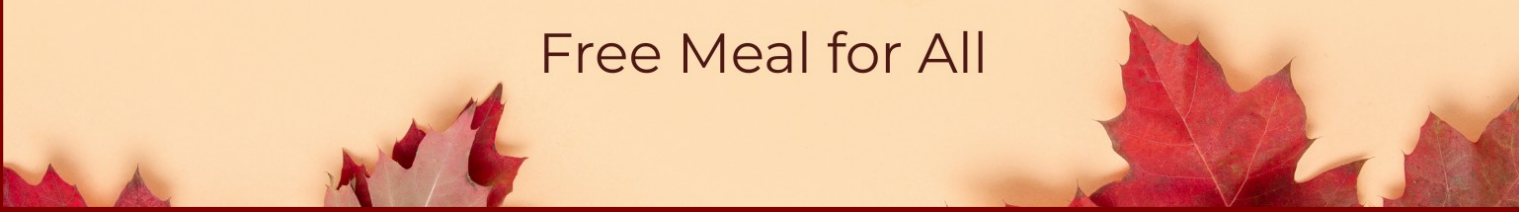
Stories & Testimonies Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Anticipating God's Vision for FBC

(Supervised activities for children available.)

Noon: FBC Thanksgiving Meal

Free Meal for All



A Church that Loves

The Power of Our Benevolent Fund

JOAN USHER, LOIS SHOW, JANA CONWELL,
and AMY SCHROLLER (Benevolent Fund Team)

When we talk about what it means to be the people of God, three actions stand out:

LOVE GOD
LOVE OTHERS
MAKE DISCIPLES

These aren't just feel-good phrases; they are the bedrock of our faith and, crucially, the mission that gives life to our Benevolent Fund. The Apostle John put it plainly: **"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"** (1 John 3:17). This isn't a suggestion; it's a call to action. We are thankful for your generous donations to the Benevolent Fund to help meet the needs of our FBC Family who are experiencing a financial crisis.

This is why the Benevolent Fund exists. Its primary purpose is to be a tangible expression of God's love by providing temporary financial assistance to our church families who are struggling with basic living needs. It's a mechanism for us to step into the gap for a brother or sister facing an eviction notice, a looming utility shut-off, or unexpected medical bills. It's our way of saying, **"You are not alone. Your family is here."** At Christmas, we prayerfully consider those that could benefit from a gift card. We also extend this outreach into the wider community, working with established agencies to share the Gospel and the love of Jesus through practical support.

To ensure that we are good and faithful stewards of the generous gifts entrusted to us, we have established thoughtful guidelines based on biblical principles and past experience. This process includes an application, an interview, and a majority vote, ensuring decisions are made responsibly, focusing on urgent needs like rent or essential utilities with shut off notice for our members. These guidelines, which you can access upon request, ensure that we use these sacred resources wisely and prayerfully.

A CALL TO SHARE AND A CALL TO GIVE

The beauty of the Benevolent Fund is that it asks for participation from everyone, both the giver and the recipient. If you are part of our church family and facing a time of crisis, please understand **it is an act of faith, not weakness, to reach out.** We want to pray with you, support you, and help you navigate this difficult season. Please don't suffer in silence. The application process is confidential, and the team is ready to serve you with compassion and grace. And to every member of our congregation, we ask you to continue to contribute to this vital ministry. Each Communion Sunday, a special collection is taken that is designated solely for the Benevolent Fund. When you give, you are directly investing in the life and well-being of a neighbor in need. You are providing the literal action that proves our love is real.

Let us commit together to keep this fund strong. Let us be a church where the love of God is so evident that no member has to face a crisis alone. Let your giving be an act of worship, and your willingness to ask for help be an act of trust. In doing so, we live out our faith and truly make disciples, showing the world what it means to be a family rooted in Christ.

TESTIMONIES

"The benevolent fund has helped us more than once. We are so grateful for the assistance in times of financial crisis. Thank you FBC family."

- Anonymous

"The benevolent Fund has been a real blessing for me several times in the past. Living in a limited income makes things very difficult; when an appliance needs repair, when I need help getting to the doctors appointment out of town or when other emergent issues come up. I don't know what I would do without this generous [gift]."

- Anonymous

Retirement: Trading the Desk for Discipleship

TESTIMONY - CINDY LAMER

Retirement. What does that word truly mean after spending 50-plus years working in banking, insurance, and city government? For me, closing that final professional chapter in April 2023 was wonderful, but the transition quickly showed me that retirement isn't just about *rest*; it's about redeployment.

My initial plans involved fully embracing the joys of family. I am blessed to have our children and four grandchildren close by, which means I now get to enjoy their many activities across the state. The flexibility to substitute teach at my daughter's preschool or spend a spontaneous "day out of school" with my granddaughters has been an absolute gift. Brad and I also savor the year-round camping trips we enjoy, often escaping to the mountains or spending New Year's Eve at Kanopolis Lake.

This newfound freedom—no longer constrained by the eight to five schedule—was also a profound blessing when I was able to spend quality time with my Mom before she passed away in January. I was raised in a wonderful Christian home, and I am deeply thankful that this flexible time allowed me to draw closer to the spiritual foundation my parents provided.

THE UNEXPECTED CALLING

While I knew I wanted to become more involved at First Baptist Church Salina, I honestly didn't think my service would involve cooking! God had a different, wonderful plan. I soon found myself helping the Fellowship Team. Now, being part of organizing funeral dinners, Wednesday night meals, potlucks, and holiday lunches is a vital part of my life here.

What I didn't anticipate was how much the friendships would enrich the service. The deep **fellowship, prayer, and laughter that** have developed with my team and within the Bible Studies I now have time to attend have become essential to my faith journey. It truly feels like every study is chosen just for me.

To anyone approaching or newly in retirement, I want you to know that you are a vital member of this church family, and you still have so much to contribute. Your gifts, your time, and your experience are exactly what our community needs.

I continue to live by the encouragement found in Philippians 4:6-7. We don't have to worry about what this new stage holds. Instead, we can *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* His peace will guard us, and we can do everything, including finding our new purpose, through Christ who gives us strength.



Child Dedication

On **November 23**, a child dedication will take place during our **9 a.m. worship service**.

Parents and/or guardians ready to commit to publicly raising their child in the way of the Lord, please contact **Pastor Kevin.*

Advent Season

November 30 – December 21

 GENES 

 DREAMS 

 PROPHETS 

 KINGS 

Our Advent series, Genes, Dreams, Prophets, & Kings, focuses on the first two chapters of the Gospel of Matthew. This four-week series shows us the powerful hand of God at work fulfilling His promise to bring salvation to all humanity. Genes, Dreams, Prophets & Kings all point to Jesus.

FBC Salina's Christmas Card Exchange is a voluntary and fun way to bless some or all of your church family by sharing a Christmas card.

Beginning November 30, boxes will be located outside Fellowship Hall.

*This is a great time to get your **information updated**. Find blank information sheets next to the boxes, fill one out, and leave it in the basket on the table for Janet to give to the Church Office.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

November 30 – December 21

FBC Salina's Christmas Card Exchange will begin at the end of this month.

Please place all cards **alphabetically by LAST** name. Updated directories can be found next to the boxes.

SERVICE DAY

NOVEMBER 15



Do you have gutters that need to be cleaned, yard work to do, or other small jobs that requires a little help? Or are you able to lend a hand? Let Susan Phillips know at (785) 404-7457.

Join FBC Salina as we come together with the Service Team to help members and friends complete projects around their home to prepare for winter.



Enjoy **breakfast at FBC Salina beginning at 8 a.m.** Work details will be given out following breakfast. See you there!

Fiscal Ministry

FBC Finances: Nine Months Ended – September 30

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Giving	\$176,966	\$181,654
Other	<u>19,358</u>	<u>6,445</u>
	\$196,324	\$188,099
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$269,376</u>	<u>\$260,102</u>
<u>Net Cashflow</u>	<u>\$(73,053)</u>	<u>\$(72,003)</u>

November Sermons

Jesus established His Church, declaring that because of His victory over Satan, we shall prevail. We declare there is victory in Jesus! But how is that possible?

Join us in November as we learn what Jesus teaches about becoming a “Kingdom Church.” This three week sermon series focuses on Jesus’ fourth discourse in the book of Matthew.

Sermon Series: “Kingdom Church”

November 2 - Pastor Kevin
Matthew 18:1-14

November 9 - Pastor Kevin
Matthew 18:15-20

November 16 - Pastor Kevin
Matthew 18:21-35

November 23 - Unity Sunday
Pastor Joel
Philippians 2:1-18

Advent Season Begins
November 30
Pastor Kevin
Matthew 1:1-18

Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 6

10 a.m. Bible Study Begins - *"Because of Bethlehem"*

6:30 p.m. Out of Touch @ Meddy's

Saturday, November 15

8 a.m. Breakfast at FBC Salina with Service Day to Follow

Sunday, November 23 - Unity Sunday

9 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary - Bring Giving Cards

10:30 a.m. Family Gathering in Fellowship Hall

Noon Thanksgiving Meal

Sunday, November 30

1st Advent Sunday

Join Us in Person

Sundays

Worship at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

Praise and Growth Groups at 6 p.m.

Wednesday Evenings:

FBC Kids and Youth at 5:30 p.m.

Adult Bible Study at 6:30 p.m.

Visit Us Online: www.fbcsalina.org

Contact Us

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