



FBC SALINA // DECEMBER 2025

# ***FBC*** **NEWSLETTER**



Matt Patrick and Julius Mojica strengthen bonds and develop meaningful connections while cleaning a member's roof on Service Day, Nov. 22.

## **The Hereafter: An Older Man's Reflections on God's Promises**

**GARY HARMON**

As a person ages and approaches the transition from earth to heaven, I believe it is natural for our thoughts to focus more on that journey. I know that for those uncertain about their path at the end of life on this earth, there may be some fear of the prospect. I assure those with doubts that God is loving and trustworthy. Seek out what He says and trust it. Trust in His word. Choose that path and find joy in the reassurance.

I know that for those who have claimed that assurance, Christ will be waiting with open arms and a place for us. Maybe an angel will escort us, but that is just frosting on the cake. The desert is Christ in all His righteousness and glory.

What will heaven be like, and what will we be like? I have thought about this a lot, and my understanding comes from God's wisdom, which I have gained through

His word and from this world. When readers notice worldly wisdom in my remarks, a warning should ring out, reminding them to compare it to God's wisdom, remembering that He is the source of all true wisdom.

My Dad told me, early in life and often repeated, that my name and what it represents reveal my true identity to everyone. I think I am just beginning to understand what he meant by that. My identity here on earth, my name, is a combination of every good thing I've done, every bad thing I've done, everyone I've loved, everyone I've hated, where I worked, how I worked, and what I truly believed was important. All of that comes together to form who I am. I tried to picture that for my life, but it appeared blurry.

That blurry picture from my youth was what the world saw. They still see some form of that picture. What should matter at every stage in life is the picture Christ sees. Praise God for the Holy Spirit, who interprets that picture. I thank God for the assurance of His love, a love that grants me forgiveness, though I am unworthy of it, and makes me worthy by grace alone.

*(continued on page 6)*

\*We are pleased to introduce Gary Harmon, a long-time member, who wrote this month's front-page article. While Gary now attends our online worship services every Sunday, he remains a deeply valued part of FBC family. He previously served as a Deacon and an Elder of the Church and retired after a career as a forensics and debate coach at high school and college level. Gary is married to Barbara Harmon, who volunteers in our church library. *We hope you enjoy his contribution!*



John and Barbara Karlin. John also plays drums during 9 a.m. worship.

## Get to Know: BARBARA KARLIN

First a little history! I'm Barbara Karlin and have been an FBC Salina member since the late 1970's. Music has always been a part of my life, starting with singing Sunday School songs, then piano lessons as a young girl and organ lessons in high school. I was organist at my home church (FBC, Barnard KS) for a couple of years and I sang and played in high school groups. Then came college where I sang in choir at FBC, Hays KS. I moved to Salina in 1976 and began attending FBC Salina, singing in the choir. John and I were married here in June 1978. When organist/pianist Joy Patrick found out I could play organ, I became her substitute. Then Joy

went to be with Jesus in 2013, but I was still teaching and didn't need another thing on my plate. Deb Moravec served as organist until her husband, Randy, finished his preacher schooling and became pastor at Gypsum, leaving in July 2015. I took over after that. God's timing was perfect since I had retired from teaching May 2014! Joan Grover served as music minister and pianist until moving away in 2019 so I "inherited" the music minister and choir accompanist roles. Amy Brandt (who was already choir director) began playing piano for the praise team.

One of my strengths as identified by StrengthsFinder is INPUT. This serves me well in my weekly meetings with Pastor Kevin. I suggest songs for the service, sometimes matching them with the sermon topic/scripture. When I don't know the sermon topic, I start with one song and then find others that compliment it. I have MANY alphabetized lists including one in which I identified various topics mentioned in each praise song. Then I can go to the "Topical Index of Hymns" in the hymnal and find hymns that coordinate with the praise song. During our meetings, Pastor Kevin and I discuss the songs and sometimes replace my choices with other ones. INPUT also demands that I keep track of when we sing a song so that none get over-used.

Praising God during worship is a privilege. I love to hear people singing their love for God, along with the song leaders and the praise team. It helps me focus on God's love for us...so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior and gave us the Holy Spirit to give us guidance and power in our daily lives. A few verses from Psalm 33:

*Sing joyfully to the Lord, you  
righteous;  
it is fitting for the upright to  
praise him.  
Sing to him a new song;  
play skillfully, and shout for joy.  
For the word of the Lord is right  
and true;  
he is faithful in all he does.*

**INPUT:** *People strong in the Input theme have a craving to know more. Often they like to collect and archive all kinds of*

## StrengthsFinder

Ever wonder who you really are? Or what makes you act or react differently than others? More importantly, ever wonder how you can make your greatest impact serving Christ?

StrengthsFinder is an online assessment used at FBC Salina to help people identify their natural, God-given talents. Using StrengthsFinder, you'll discover the unique way God created you, and how you can best serve Him.

Contact Pastor Kevin to dive deeper into becoming the image-bearer God created you to be.





**December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

You're invited to our Kids'  
Christmas Program!

Enjoy dinner at **6PM**,  
followed by a special  
program from our FBC Kids.

**FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN**

COME CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS WITH US!

Please scan the QR code by  
**Dec 14<sup>th</sup>** to RSVP for  
seating and food purposes.  
Thank you!



**COME LET US  
ADORE HIM**



**fbc salina**

**Dec 24 @ 7pm**

**FBCSALINA.ORG**  
843 Lewis Ave.  
Salina KS 67401

# Resilient Church: The Ability to Withstand or Recover Quickly from Difficult Conditions

PASTOR KEVIN HAZELTON

No English translations of the Bible contain the word “resilience” in the text. Nowhere does Scripture specifically mention the ability to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions. Yet, while the term is not in the Bible, the concept of resilience is all over Scripture! Just consider what the passages on this page say about resilience.

When the Israelite people crossed the Jordan River on dry ground, they used 12 large stones from the riverbed to build a memorial in the Promised Land. These stones were to be a “memorial to the people of Israel forever” of how God had delivered them out of Egypt and into the Promised Land (Joshua 4). By reminding the Israelites that He was at work, God developed their resilience for the challenges facing them in the future.

**Seeing God at work among us in the past develops our resilience for the future.**

That is why we celebrate the numerous ways that we see **God at work in FBC Salina** today. During our Unity Sunday celebration, we highlighted God at work in 2025 through ...

- Professions of faith, baptisms, and child dedications
- Young and old stepping up in service
- Youth and adults sharing the light of Christ with friends
- Testimonies of God intervening during difficult times
- 17 new families regularly attending worship in the last two years

These reminders are like the memorial stones for Israel. They are visible reminders that God is at work in FBC Salina. And like Israel, seeing God at work among us in the past develops our resilience for the future.

As we approach the end of 2025, we know that we will face adversity in the future - adversity as individuals and adversity as a church family. That is the nature of life. And while we don't live in the past, we can build on the past as we see God at work and trust Him to develop our resilience for the future.

God works among us at FBC Salina. He is making us a resilient church.

*“Though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again.”*  
Proverbs 24:16



Parents who committed to raising their child(ren) in the way of the Lord during Unity Sunday November 23, 2025: Kevin & Jennifer Chavez, James & Megan Welborn, and Joshua & Erin Schmaderer. (from left to right)

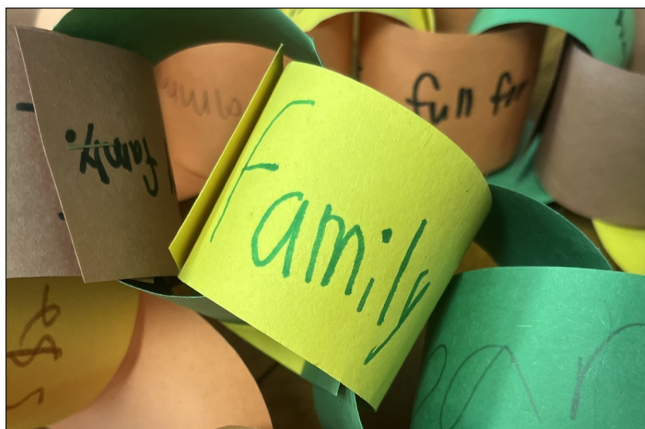
*“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I **PRESS ON** toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

Philippians 3:13-14

*“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.”*

Hebrews 1:1-2





During Unity Sunday, our FBC Kids and Youth created a “Gratitude Chain” that stretched across the entire stage! Each of the 225+ links includes somethings for which the kids/youth thank God for.

Things our FBC Kids/Youth are grateful for include:

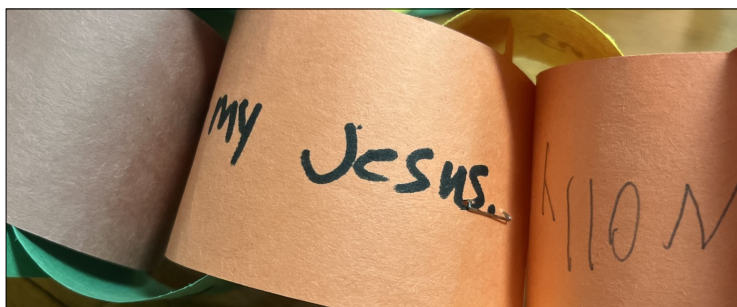
- **Jesus**
- **Family**
- **Gummy Bears**
- **Siblings**
- **Church**
- **Cupcakes**
- **Water & Food**
- **Their house**
- **The sun**

**What are you grateful to God for?**



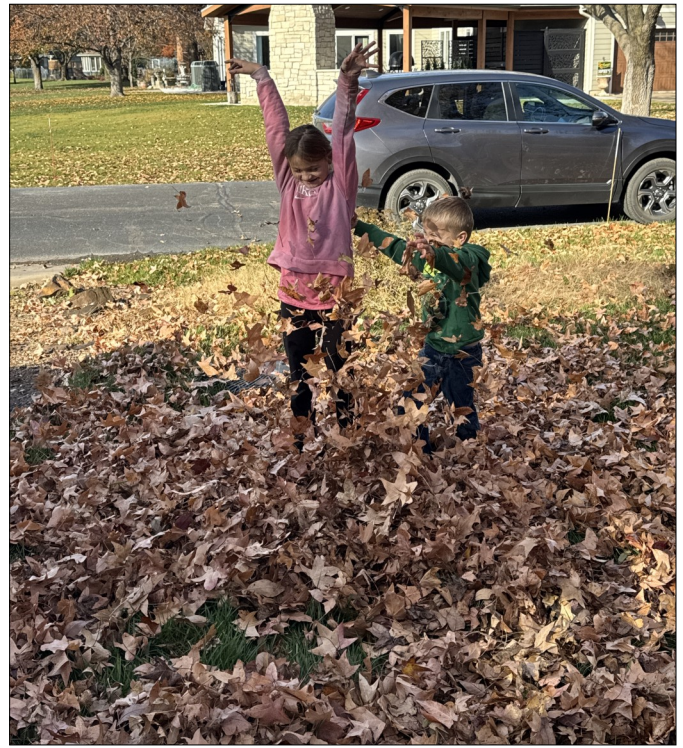
*“Those who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles...”*

Isaiah 40:31





# Service Day



## SUSAN PHILLIPS & THE SERVICE TEAM

A huge thank you to all who helped during the fall clean-up day last Saturday. Not only did we accomplish our goals of yardwork, trash collection, gutter cleaning and replacing boards and painting, it was also a time of fun and fellowship. It's amazing how much we can accomplish when we all work together. Thanks again!

## The Hereafter: An Older Man's Reflection on God's Promise

*(continued from page 1)*

Those thoughts made me wonder what it would be like on the first day in heaven. What would my identity be? I was reborn when I was saved, and many told me they could see my identity change, but in heaven, I will have a brand-new body. Thank God for that. This one is a pain, literally! I will have been sanctified, made in the likeness of Christ. My center will be Christ, and my thoughts will be focused on Him. How much more beautiful everything will be. I can imagine the music and surroundings, but I know it will be so much more.

Will I miss the world, the hunting, the fishing, the sports, and the people? From heaven's perspective, I don't think so. I believe we will remember things, but not long for them. The temptations of the world will seem less important. After all, we will be in the presence of Christ! We will cherish the gifts of love that came from God while we lived on this planet—our parents, our spouse, our children, our friends, but we will see them again.

In my current life, I have experienced unconditional love in many ways. Of course, through my family, but beyond them, it would be hard to say for sure. Remarkably, God's love has always been there to sustain me during my struggles, and I have always needed Him.

I'll need Him to get to heaven. God is pure and holy. How could God even approach us? We are a long way from pure, but praise God, we have a God who loves us unconditionally. He loves us so much that when our earthly bodies pass away, our souls will be lovingly received by Christ, with loving hands that bear the nail holes from the cross. Having died for our sins and thus purifying us, Christ will carry us across the bridge between earthly death and eternity.

And then the heavenly choir begins...



**Fiscal Ministry:** Based on the recommendation of the Executive Board, the fiscal report will be distributed to FBC members through the official minutes rather than the monthly newsletter. Full financial information will remain available to church members. Please contact Scott Darling, Fiscal Stewardship deacon, if you have any financial questions.





## 2025 FALL FEST

It was a beautiful night as we joined in fellowship with hayrack rides, hotdogs & smores, and staying warm by the fire.



## December Sermons

The season of Advent is also a time of waiting. Not passive waiting - like we're trying to survive another blustery winter. No, Advent is a time of active waiting - like the waiting you experience when spring is in the air, or the waiting when wrens build a nest on your front porch and you peak each day to see whether or not the chicks have hatched. That's what Advent is!

As you engage in worship during Advent, open your eyes and your heart to the newness of the life around you. See the season of the coming of the Christ child for what it really is - a season of new life. Spring is in the air!

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**December 7** - Pastor Joel

Matthew 1:18-25

**December 14** - Pastor Joel

Matthew 2:1-12

**December 21** - Pastor Kevin

Matthew 2:13-23

**December 24** - Pastor Kevin

7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**December 28** - Pastor Joel

Deuteronomy 1:1-18

# Upcoming Events

## **Sunday, December 7**

Noon Congregational Meeting—Potluck to follow.

## **Thursday, December 4**

6 p.m. In Touch at Susan Phillip's

6 p.m. Out of Touch @ Perkins

## **Wednesday, December 17**

6 p.m. Kids Christmas Program - Dinner begins at 6

## **NO WEDNESDAY EVENING PROGRAMS:**

December 24 & 31

## **Wednesday, December 24**

7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

## **Thursday, December 25**

Merry Christmas!

Church Office closed.

## Join Us in Person

### **Sunday Mornings**

Worship at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.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](http://www.fbcsalina.org)

### **Contact Us**

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