



FBC SALINA // AUGUST 2026

FBC **NEWSLETTER**

Rooted and Released: Living Out Our Mission Together

PASTOR JOEL ODONDI

What does a growing disciple of Jesus look like? In a world full of activity, it is easy to confuse busyness with spiritual maturity. We can attend church regularly, participate in events, and still miss God's deeper purpose for our lives. Jesus calls us to go beyond routine religion into a transforming relationship that changes us and sends us into His mission.

I listened to a recent sermon Jon Herbel preached at Rock Island Church in Herington. He challenged that church to evaluate their spiritual health in three realms: **Ministry for Me, Ministry Inside the Church, and Ministry Outside the Church.** I found that to be a healthy way for us to consider spiritual health. (You can listen to Jon's full sermon, "Participating in Mission", on the Rock Island Church YouTube channel.)

Ministry for Me:

DEEPENING OUR ROOTS IN CHRIST

Every fruitful Christian life begins with a personal relationship with Jesus. Spiritual growth requires intentional commitment. The early church devoted themselves to God's Word, prayer, fellowship, and worship (Acts 2:42). Paul urged believers to be rooted and built up in Christ so their faith would grow strong (Colossians 2:7).

Like a tree draws strength from deep roots, believers gain spiritual nourishment through Scripture, prayer, worship, and Christian community. When our roots are shallow, life's difficulties can overwhelm us. When we remain connected to Christ, we develop resilience, wisdom, and a deeper love for God. Everything else flows from this foundation.

Ministry Inside the Church:

STRENGTHENING THE BODY

A growing faith naturally expresses itself through service. God has given every believer unique gifts to build up His church (1 Corinthians 12:7). Each person has a role in the body of Christ, and no ministry is insignificant.

Whether teaching, encouraging, welcoming, serving behind the scenes, or meeting practical needs, every act of service contributes to the church's health and mission. Service is more than filling positions; it is partnering with God through the gifts He has entrusted to us. As each member serves faithfully, the church becomes stronger and more effective in sharing the hope of Christ.

Ministry Outside the Church:

REACHING THE WORLD

The Christian life was never intended to remain within church walls. Jesus calls us to represent Him wherever we live, work, and interact with others. We are Christ's ambassadors, carrying His love and truth into everyday life (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Often, ministry begins in ordinary moments. A conversation, a helping hand, a listening ear, or a simple act of kindness can open doors for the Gospel. As we intentionally invest in relationships, God uses those opportunities to draw others to Himself. The Great Commission remains our calling: to make disciples and share the hope found in Jesus.

A CALL TO ACTION

This month, ask yourself:

- How am I growing deeper in my relationship with Christ?
- Where am I serving and strengthening the church?
- Who is God calling me to influence beyond the church walls?

Let us not settle for simply staying busy. Instead, let us be deeply rooted in Christ, faithfully engaged in His church, and boldly committed to His mission. As we abide in Him, His life will flow through us, transforming our church, our community, and the world for His glory.

**fbc kids
&
fbc youth**

**WEDNESDAY
PROGRAMS**



**KIDS
PROGRAM**

For children ages
Preschool –
5th grade.
*Preschoolers must be
potty-trained.

For youth ages
6th – 12th grade.

**YOUTH
PROGRAM**



**KICK-OFF:
AUGUST 5**

**FIRST LESSON:
AUGUST 19**



Enjoy fellowship by dining together. Meal begins at 5:30 p.m.

Questions?

Contact the
Church Office
(785) 825-4643

**Stay
Connected:**

Find the calendar,
registration,
and more at
WWW.FBCSALINA.ORG

Location:

843 LEWIS AVE.
SALINA, KS 67401



Get to Know: The Littles

Roots of Faith, Hearts of Service

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

For the Little Family, FBC Salina has always been home. Raised in this congregation alongside her parents, Ed and Linda Ingram, and her brother, Zach, Amanda's faith took root early through our children's ministry and youth group. High school brought another

lifelong blessing when she met Austin—and as they say, the rest is history!

Now happily married for over 20 years, Austin and Amanda have built a home anchored in Christ, passing that same vibrant legacy of faith on to their two sons, Caddock and Isaac.

SERVING THE LORD TOGETHER

The Little family truly exemplifies what it means to live out a heart of service. Both Austin and Amanda have blessed our church as Outreach Deacons, spreading God's love beyond our doors. Amanda continues to give back in countless ways—serving as Church Moderator, teaching children's Sunday school, leading songs in the Sanctuary service, and playing in the Interactive worship band.

That joy for worship has naturally trickled down to the next generation: Caddock shares his talents on the guitar. Isaac brings his heart and energy to singing. **Together**, both boys have joined their mom on stage in the Interactive worship band, making praise a beautiful family tradition.

LIVING OUT FAITH IN OUR COMMUNITY

During the week, the Littles continue to shine their light across Salina: **Austin** serves our local industry working at Stryten Energy. **Amanda** nurtures young minds as the Head of the Youth Services Department at the Salina Public Library. **Caddock** is entering his junior year at Salina South High School. **Isaac** is taking a big step forward as he begins at South Middle School this fall.

We are immensely blessed by the Little family's steady devotion, musical gifts, and servant hearts. Next time you see Austin, Amanda, Caddock, or Isaac, be sure to give them a warm smile and thank them for all the ways they enrich our FBC Salina community!

Why Do I Journal?

PASTOR KEVIN HAZELTON

Last week I discovered a great back-to-school sale on composition notebooks—just 39 cents each. I bought six! No, I'm not going back to school. I bought them because I've used composition notebooks as personal journals for more than 30 years.

As Cynthia and I left the store, she asked if I had any future plans for my journals. Do I want others to read them? Will I use them as material for a memoir? Will I destroy them?

That conversation prompted me to think about why I journal. What keeps me returning to this practice after more than three decades? Why do I sit each morning in my favorite chair, Bible at my side and coffee in hand, and reach for my journal?

I don't journal for posterity. There aren't veins of intellectual or moral riches buried in the pages of my journals for future generations to mine. I suspect my children and grandchildren will be less than impressed if they stumble upon them after I'm gone.

I don't journal to reveal hidden secrets. There are no deathbed confessions that would shock the world. Yes, there are confessions of sins I've committed, frustrations I've wrestled with, and failures of which I'm not proud. At the same time, there are moments of joy, growth, and answered prayer that nobody else knows about.

So why do I journal?

I journal because it's the best way for me to connect with my Savior.

Journaling helps me pray. It helps me listen. It slows me down, forcing me to get out of God's way so He can take the lead. Journaling causes me to reflect on Jesus, making me more aware of who He is and more amazed by what He has done in the past, is doing today, and will do when He returns. It softens my soul, making me more sensitive to the gentle work of the Holy Spirit.

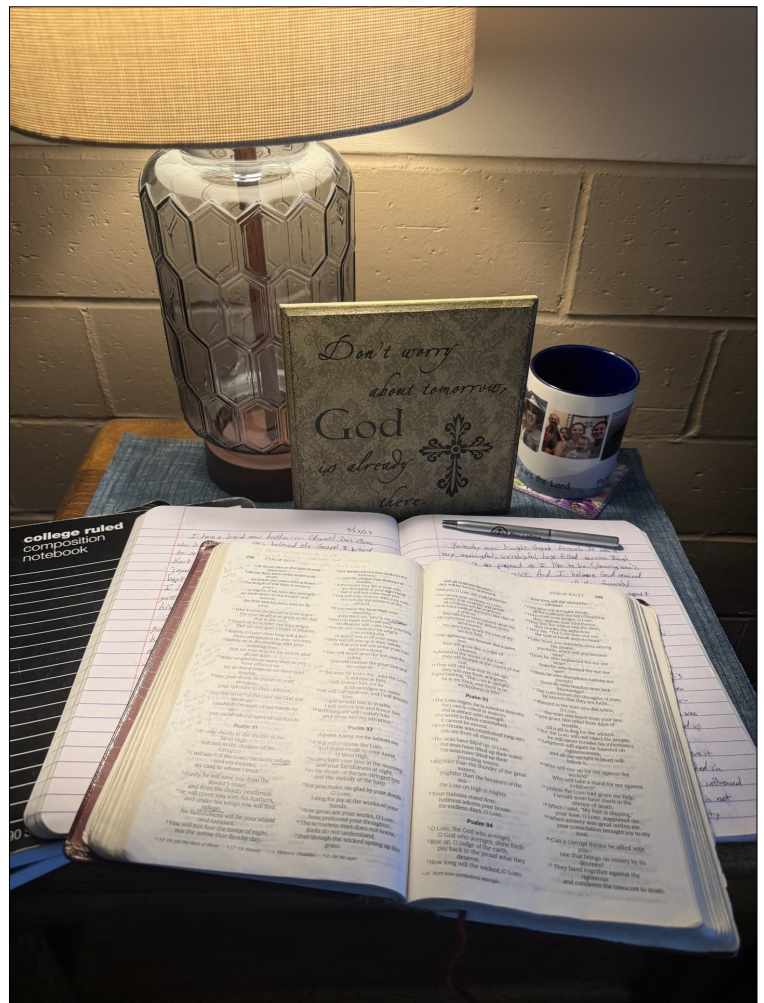
In other words, journaling is where I meet God. It is my sanctuary.

You may wonder what I journal about. To be honest, it varies from day to day. Most of what I write is ordinary. I journal about family, friends, and my church family. I write about blessings. I write about things that frustrate me, confuse me, excite me, and inspire me. I often record prayer requests and answered prayers. I journal about lessons I've learned, trials I've endured, and failures I've experienced. And yes, sometimes I even journal about fishing!

Richard Foster says that spiritual disciplines are not legalistic burdens but joyful avenues for inward transformation. Journaling is one of those spiritual disciplines for me. It is an intentional, regular practice that opens my heart to God so He can transform my mind, my heart, and my life.

What about you? What is your sanctuary? What practice opens you up to God so that He can transform your heart and mind? What discipline has become a joyful avenue for inward transformation? Is it prayer? Meditation? Fasting? Bible study?

Whatever it is, find your spiritual discipline. Find the practice that brings you back, again and again, into the presence of God. And if that discipline for you is journaling, I know where you can find a great deal on composition notebooks!



"I journal because it's the best way for me to connect with my Savior."



Reflection 2026: A Weekend of Spiritual Renewal and Growth

After weeks of prayer, planning, and preparation, our Annual Youth Retreat, **Reflection 2026**, was held on **July 17-18, 2026**, at the Webster Conference Center. This year's retreat was a tremendous blessing as God moved powerfully in the lives of our young people through biblical teaching, meaningful fellowship, and personal reflection.

The retreat was attended by **19 youth** (10 male and 9 female) and supported by nine dedicated youth leaders. Together, they created an atmosphere where young people could grow in their faith, build relationships, and encounter God in a personal way.

Our Youth Ministry is committed to transforming young lives with the Gospel, helping children and families experience the love of Christ in meaningful ways that lead to spiritual growth and lifelong faith. Reflection exists to support that mission by encouraging youth during one of the most important stages of life, when many of their most significant decisions and convictions are being formed.

MEANINGFUL BIBLICAL TEACHING

Our teachers faithfully guided the youth through powerful truths on repentance, forgiveness, purity, true worth, the Holy Spirit, spiritual warfare, and keeping Jesus at the center of life, equipping them to live boldly

for Christ in today's world. Through biblical teaching and personal testimony, they challenged our young people to embrace God's grace, stand firm in their faith, and discover their identity and purpose in Him.

We are grateful to all the teachers who prayerfully prepared and faithfully shared God's Word in ways that were engaging, age-appropriate, and biblically sound.

One particularly valuable session involved small-group discussions on **Youth and Culture**, led by Jacqueline Wood. The youth were divided into groups and challenged to think critically about today's culture through a biblical lens. Their thoughtful responses and active participation made this a meaningful learning experience.

A LASTING SPIRITUAL IMPACT

One of the most encouraging aspects of the retreat was witnessing many youth renew their commitment to God and His Word. During times of reflection, students were invited to write down personal struggles, burdens, sins, or challenges and nail them to a cross. The many trips made to the cross throughout the weekend demonstrated a sincere desire to surrender their lives more fully to Christ.

Those pieces of paper represented real struggles and real victories. For many, it was a powerful step toward freedom, healing, and spiritual growth. As leaders, we were deeply encouraged to see so many hearts responding to God's work.

The retreat also included activities and games that helped strengthen friendships and build a stronger sense of community. Another memorable activity invited youth to write encouraging and positive things about one another, creating an atmosphere of affirmation and appreciation.

THANK YOU

Reflection 2026 would not have been possible without the commitment of our youth leaders and volunteers. We are grateful to Dustin and Amy Schroller, Jordan Wamser and Jacqueline Wood, who volunteered to stay with the youth during the event. We would like to thank the Guest Teachers: Amy Schroller, Jed Phillips, Amanda Little and Pastor Kevin Hazelton.

We thank Jordan Wamser and the **Webster Conference Center** for providing excellent facilities and hospitality.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the parents, teachers, volunteers, and church family for their prayers, encouragement, and support. When we invest in our youth, we invest in the future of the Church. Our prayer is that the seeds planted during Reflection 2026 will continue to bear fruit for many years to come as these young people grow in their faith and walk with Christ.

Youth Leaders: Pastor Joel Odondi, Quin Lund, Leremy Lund, Jacqueline Wood, Dustin Schroller, Elena Herbel, Jon Herbel



“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1 Timothy 4:12

fbc youth



4TEN: Youth Mission Trip to Green Lake, Wisconsin

We are pleased to share that two of our youth, Zeph Woody and Emmelyn Woody, recently participated in a mission trip to Green Lake, Wisconsin, through the 4Ten Ministry. Thanks to the generous support of our church family at FBC Salina, they were able to take part in this life-changing experience.

A total of five students, accompanied by three adult leaders, attended the mission trip. They also partnered with participants from the Holy Spirit Conference, providing a wonderful opportunity to connect with believers from different cultures, backgrounds, and nationalities while serving together in Christ's name.



Zeph and Emmelyn pictured with their group during the trip.

REFLECTIONS FROM ZEPH WOODY

"Through the generosity of our church, Emmelyn and I had the opportunity to serve at Green Lake, Wisconsin, this year with 4Ten. During our time there, we worked on a variety of projects that helped support the ministry of the conference center. Our tasks included washing windows, landscaping, preparing guest houses and rooms, and assisting with many other important needs.

One of the greatest blessings of the trip was meeting and building relationships with people from around the world. We connected with missionaries from Thailand, a volunteer college group, leaders of the conference center, and many other inspiring individuals our age who were serving the Lord.

It was truly amazing to work alongside and learn from so many people united by a common faith. The friendships and experiences we gained made a lasting impact on us. I am excited to see what God has in store for 4Ten next year and hope to reconnect with many of the people we met along the way. Thank you to everyone who contributed, prayed, and supported us. Your generosity made this incredible opportunity possible."

REFLECTIONS FROM EMMELYN WOODY

"This summer I got the privilege of traveling to Green Lake Wisconsin with 4Ten, a leadership group. It was an amazing experience where we got to serve people through projects like pulling weeds and turning over rooms. I also got to witness the different ways people experienced God throughout the camp. I saw many people worshipping differently through journaling and spending time outside hiking or praying. Many different foundations and camps were there at the same time we were and shared with us about missionaries from Thailand, college groups, and the Holy Spirit conference where we made connections with people from all over the country. It was an amazing opportunity, and I am so excited to go to a different place next year, hopefully with many more youth."



We praise God for the growth, friendships, and servant-hearted experiences Zeph and Emmelyn gained during this mission trip. Thank you, FBC Salina, for investing in our young people and helping them grow as disciples who serve both their community and the world for Christ.

4TEN is a cutting edge leadership skills training for youth entering 10-12th grades during the fall.

4TEN was formed by the scripture I Peter 4:10. It exists to empower our youth to employ their gifts to serve Jesus and set an example. Youth are not the leaders of the future; we need them to step up NOW in their local churches! For more information or to apply online go to: <https://www.abccr.org/4ten>

August Sermons

It's easy to have a love-hate relationship with the book of James.

Love because James is so practical. It gives clear, concrete examples of how to live a godly life.

Hate (see below) for the same reason. There is no ambiguity about what God expects, meaning there are no excuses for not living a godly life.

Join us in August as we finish our journey through James, discovering Godly Wisdom in Foolish Times.

NOTE: Think of "hate" in the sense of being forced out of your comfort zone, not disgust for the Bible.

Sermon Series: Godly Wisdom in Foolish Times

August 2: James 3:13-18
Pastor Kevin

August 9: James 4:1-12
Pastor Joel

August 16: James 4:13-5:6
Pastor Kevin

August 23: FBC Family Day - Worship begins at 10 a.m.
at Webster Conference Center

August 30: James 5:7-20
Pastor Kevin

Executive Board Meeting

August 4

6:30 p.m.

Congregational Meeting

August 16

Noon

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FBC

FAMILY DAY

AUGUST 23

Webster Conference Center
2601 N. Ohio St., Salina, KS 67401

WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10 A.M.

Enjoy an unforgettable day of worship, connection, and joy!

What's Happening:

- An uplifting worship service
- Lunch provided by FBC Salina
- Activities for all ages:
 - Swimming
 - Gym
 - Boating
 - Board Games

This is a great time to extend an invitation to family and friends that you want to share Christ with and show them the beauty of God's community.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 4

6: 30p.m. Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 5

5:30 p.m. Kids/Youth Kick-Off

Thursday, August 6

6 p.m. In Touch @ Barb Karlin's

6 p.m. Out of Touch @ Hickory Hut

Sunday, August 16

Noon Congregational Meeting

Wednesday, August 19

5:30 p.m. Kids/Youth Lessons Begin

Sunday, August 23

Family Day at Webster Conference Center

Worship Begins at 10 a.m.

Find the calendar online at : www.fbcsalina.org

Join Us in Person

Sundays

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

Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

Praise & Growth Groups at 6 p.m.



Wednesdays

Prayer Group at 9 a.m.

Thursday, August 20

Timely Thursday at 10 a.m.

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