FBC SALINA // NOVEMBER 2026

FBC NEWSLETTER

Jesus is in the Boat

PASTOR KEVIN HAZELTON

You don't have to watch The Wizard of Oz to know that storms are part of life in Kansas. Thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail, blizzards, floods, ice, and wind—we've seen them all.

We know storms will come. What we don't know is when.

The same is true in life. We know hardship, pain, and suffering are part of living in a broken world. What we don't know is when the next storm will arrive—or how fiercely it will blow.

In Mark 4:35-41, the disciples encountered an unexpected storm. They were sailing across the Sea of Galilee just as they had countless times before. Yet on this night, a furious storm that blew in unexpectedly terrified these experienced sailors. The wind was so intense, the waves so powerful, they feared for their lives.

In their fear, the disciples woke Jesus with a desperate question: "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" Jesus rose and commanded the storm, "Peace! Be still!" Instantly, the wind and the waves obeyed him.



Eliana Odondi at the FBC Salina Fall Fest. See the full story on Page 5

What strikes me most about this story isn't the fury of the storm, it's the location of Jesus. The entire time the disciples fought against the greatest storm of their lives, Jesus was asleep in the boat.

Jesus was in the boat.

From beginning to end, the Bible tells the story of a God who desires to be present with His people.

- In Eden, God walked with Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8-9).
- In the wilderness God guided His people through a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21-22).
- The psalmist declared that God is an "ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).
- In the valley of the shadow of death, David declared with confidence "You are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4).
- In Jesus, God "became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14).
- And God promises, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

The Bible's message is clear: We

(Continued on page 7)



Artistic idea by Joel Odondi, generated by Gemini

Dean M Barragree Scholarship

If you graduated in the Spring of 2026 from a Saline County school and are attending a post high school accredited educational institution, you are eligible to apply for the Dean M Barragree scholarship. The $500 per semester scholarship is available for up to eight semesters.

Since a notice for seniors to apply for the scholarship was not printed in the newsletter last spring as required, applications will be accepted for the Second Semester, January 2027. You may request application information from the church office or by email to: sbarragree@gmail.com. Completed applications shall be received by December 20, 2026, at the First Baptist Church office, 843 Lewis, Salina, KS 67401

If you were awarded the scholarship for the 2025/2026 year and meet qualifying criteria for the 2026/2027 year, you may apply by sending a copy of your current transcript with your request. Requests should be received at the First Baptist Church office by December 20, 2026.

Also the Dean Barragree Scholarship may be used for students working toward a Master's Degree. For questions or application information, email sbarragree@gmail.com.

Roof & Financial Update

A mediation hearing regarding the insurance claim for our flat roof is scheduled for November 12. By then, we anticipate having a clearer picture of our financial situation and upcoming needs. This timing is especially helpful as we continue our 2027 budgeting process and stewardship emphasis.

With this in mind, the Fiscal Stewardship Ministry will host a Financial Update Meeting on Sunday November 15 at 4:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The purpose of this meeting is simply to share information, answer questions, and gain clarity as we prayerfully consider how we can best honor God with the resources He has entrusted to FBC Salina.

Unity Sunday & FBC Thanksgiving

November 22, 2026

9 AM: Unity Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary

10:30 AM: Come hear stories and testimonies of God's faithfulness and learn what it means to be a member, with supervised children's activities provided.

12 PM: FBC Thanksgiving Meal

Service Day NOVEMBER 7TH

Breakfast & Devotional: 8:00AM
Work Projects: 8:30 AM - 12 PM

Need Help Around the House this Fall?

FBC Families needing assistance with leaf raking, gutter cleaning, yard work, or minor repairs Contact Susan Phillips

Want To Volunteer?

Join us for breakfast, fellowship, and serving our church Family. Bring: Gloves, rakes, brooms, or leaf blowers. Sign-up sheet is at the Connection Center, or contact Susan Phillips at 785 825 4133/785 404 7457

Weekly Studies

Men's Bible Study - Mondays

Our men's Bible study has just finished "Spiritual Leadership" by J. Oswald Sanders, and we're now turning to his "Spiritual Maturity". The book is organized into three units, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and each chapter works as its own study. That means we can take it one chapter at a time, giving each session room to stand on its own while the larger picture of God's character and work builds across the units.

This is not a 'how-to' volume but a 'be' volume. Rather than handing us a list of steps to master, it invites us to slow down and consider who God is, and who we are becoming in his presence. It is an invitation to immerse our hearts, minds, and souls in God, and to grow in maturity as we do. Whether you're a longtime member or joining us for the first time, we'd love to have you with us.



Worship is never a spectator sport—it's a collective response to who God is. When we gather for worship, we aren't here to watch a performance; we are invited to participate, engage, and draw near together as one body.

Seeing our worship teams in action is a powerful picture of what it looks like to lay down our talents, gifts, and passions as an offering of service.

Adult Bible Study - Wednesdays

Our Wednesday Evening Bible Study is working through the book of Romans. Paul's letter lays out the heart of the gospel: our need for grace, the righteousness we receive through faith in Christ, and the new life that follows. Each week we read a section together and discuss what it teaches and how it shapes the way we live. Come as you are, bring your Bible, and join us as we grow together in God's Word.

Monday - Fellowship Hall - 6PM
Wednesday - Library - 6:30PM
Thursday - Library - 9AM
Sunday - Fellowship Hall - 6PM

Timely Thursday Study

What is the real meaning of Christmas? Join us for "The Purpose of Christmas" by Rick Warren, beginning Thursday morning, November 5. In this encouraging study, we will discover why Christmas matters, what Christ's coming means for our salvation, and how the message of Christmas can help us experience peace with God and with others.

Come grow in your faith, deepen your understanding of God's greatest gift, and prepare your heart to celebrate the season with renewed joy and purpose. All are welcome!

Grow Groups - Sundays

Sunday Night Growth Group gathers to continue the conversation that begins in the morning worship service. Each week, we review the sermon that was preached, revisiting the passage, talking through what stood out, and asking how it applies to our daily lives. It's a relaxed setting to ask questions, share insights, and encourage one another to put the Word into practice during the week ahead. Whether you heard the message in person or missed it, you're welcome to join us.

POINSETTIAS

$13.50 Each
Deadline: November 12th, 2026

The poinsettia at Christmas is a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem. The red symbolizes the blood of Jesus Christ, and the white represents His purity. At FBC Salina, we also place a poinsettia to honor the memory of a loved one who has passed. Please see Janet Swenson or the FBC office for order forms.

A Church Sent

Why Missions Belong at the Heart of the Church

PASTOR JOEL ODONDI

Every church desires to reach people with the gospel and help believers grow in their relationship with God. Missions advance both purposes. It is not simply another ministry on the church calendar; it is an essential expression of who we are as followers of Jesus.

Throughout scripture, God reveals His desire to redeem people from every nation. He promised Abraham that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him (Genesis 12:1–3).

The Bible's vision culminates with people from every nation, tribe and language worshiping before God's throne (Revelation 7:9–10). Missions begin with God's heart and invites the church to participate in His redemptive work. This calling is clearly stated in the Great Commission. After His resurrection, Jesus declared: *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations"* Matthew 28:18–19.



Gary and Linda Palmateer delivered 321 pounds of pork to Victory Village Christian Academy, made possible through generous donations from the First Baptist Church family that covered both the meat and its processing costs. Beyond meeting a practical need, the visit strengthened relationships and deepened connections in ministry.

See their Testimony on Page 6

The Great Commission rests on three powerful truths. First, Jesus has all authority. We do not serve in our own strength but under the authority of the risen King. Second, Jesus commands us to make disciples. Missions is more than traveling, completing projects, or offering temporary assistance. It calls people to trust Christ, follow Him in obedience, become part of His church, and help others follow Him. Third, Jesus promises His presence: *"I am with you always, to the very end of the age" Matthew 28:20.*

Missions also strengthen the church. It moves us beyond isolation and reminds us that we belong to a global family of believers. As we partner with Christians from other communities and cultures, we receive encouragement, gain a broader understanding of God's work, and learn from believers whose faith has been tested in different ways.

Missions also deepens discipleship. Serving outside our familiar surroundings can expose our assumptions, stretch our faith, and teach us to depend more fully upon God. Trials produce perseverance and help believers become spiritually mature (James 1:2–4).

Missions transforms biblical knowledge into active obedience. A strong missions focus also gives the church direction. Clear goals for praying, giving, serving, and sending help move us from good intentions to meaningful participation. They unite the congregation around Christ's command and keep us focused on people who need the hope of the gospel.

Finally, missions cultivates grace. Listening to others, seeing life from their perspective, and serving alongside them can replace judgment with compassion. We begin to recognize the dignity of every person and learn to serve with humility rather than superiority.

Missions belongs to every follower of Jesus. Some may travel across the world, while others serve across the street. We can pray, give, encourage missionaries, welcome newcomers, meet practical needs, share the gospel, or serve faithfully in our community. No one is too young, too old, too busy, or too limited to participate.

There is always something each of us can do. Let us look beyond the four walls of our church and ask, "Lord, how can You use me in Your mission?" Wherever God has placed us, there are people to love, serve, and reach with the hope of Jesus.

The gospel is too good to keep and too urgent to delay.

Where Fellowship Flourished



Kenny Ade, Eliana Odondi, Joel Odondi

As crisp autumn leaves drifted across the yard and the cool evening air settled in, warmth, laughter, and light filled the home of Mike and Dannae Houser. Hosted by the FBC Fellowship Team, this year's Fall Fest was more than a seasonal gathering. It was a beautiful reminder of the joy that emerges when people open their homes, hearts, and lives to one another. More than 60 people came together for an evening marked by genuine fellowship, meaningful conversation, and lasting memories.

The evening was made even richer by the abundance of food and hospitality on display. Church members generously brought a variety of side dishes to share, creating a feast that reflected the spirit of community that defined the event. There was more than enough for everyone, and as people gathered around tables and fire pits, the shared meal became another opportunity to connect, laugh, and enjoy one another's company.



Glacier Andonie

Throughout the night, the property buzzed with activity. Children raced across the lawn enjoying games and outdoor fun while adults gathered around the warmth of a crackling fire. In the glow of the hearth, stories were shared, friendships were strengthened, and new connections were formed. These moments reflected the very best of Christian community, where relationships deepen through intentional time spent together.

One of the evening's greatest blessings was the opportunity to extend fellowship beyond our church family. Neighbors, friends, members, and guests gathered side by side, creating a welcoming atmosphere that embodied hospitality and love. The sight of familiar faces mingling with newcomers served as a powerful reminder that fellowship grows stronger when we make room for others.

For some, Fall Fest carries a special significance beyond the joy of a single evening. Six years ago, this gathering was one of my first meaningful connections with the FBC family. As I looked around this year, I could not help but reflect on those early moments and remember the first glimpse of the community where God was leading me to belong and serve. What began as a simple invitation became the start of lasting friendships, shared ministry, and a church family that continues to be a source of encouragement and growth.

Events like this are possible because of faithful servants who work behind the scenes. We extend our sincere thanks to the FBC Fellowship Team for their vision and organization, to Mike and Dannae Houser for graciously opening their home, and to every attendee who contributed their presence, enthusiasm, food, and stories to the evening.



Wrenlee Unruh

As the fire slowly faded and the evening came to a close, participants left with far more than fond memories. They departed encouraged, refreshed, and reminded that strong communities are built through shared experiences, meaningful relationships, and Christ-centered fellowship. Fall Fest was not simply an event on the calendar; it was a celebration of the connections that bind us together as a church family and as neighbors. Through shared meals, open hearts, and welcoming hospitality, God continues to weave us together into a community where everyone can find a place to belong.

Scout Sunday to a Church Family

GARY AND LINDA PALMATEER



Sometimes God uses the simplest invitations to change the course of a family's life. For us, that invitation came through our son Austin and a Boy Scout event at First Baptist Church, Salina.

We met through a mutual friend and, at the time, neither of us was actively involved in church. Life was busy, and church attendance was not a regular part of our routine. In 2007, our son Austin was involved in Boy Scouts, and we came to First Baptist for Scout Sunday. We had no idea that a single visit would become the beginning of a lasting church home.

That morning, we heard Pastor Jim Bridges preach. We appreciated the message, and our children connected with what was happening as well. Everyone seemed to enjoy the experience, so we came back the next week. Then we came back again. Before long, attending First Baptist became part of our lives.

What kept us here was not simply a sermon or a program. Pastor Jim eventually retired, and other pastors followed in leadership. What remained constant was the people. We found genuine friendships, caring relationships, and a church family that welcomed us and walked alongside us through every season of life. For our children, the youth group was small in those early years, sometimes only a handful of students. Yet they enjoyed being part of it, especially under the leadership of Pastor Kevin. His investment in young people made a significant impact on our family and encouraged us to continue growing alongside the church.

As our faith deepened, one of the most meaningful moments in our journey came when our entire family was baptized together. Pastor Steve baptized us as parents, while Pastor Kevin baptized our children. Standing together and publicly declaring our faith remains one of our most treasured memories at First Baptist.

Over the years, our involvement in the church expanded beyond attendance. Linda became involved in the Fellowship Ministry, first serving alongside others and eventually becoming part of the leadership team that helps coordinate meals, events, and opportunities for fellowship within the church family. One of the greatest joys has been helping create spaces where people can gather, share life together, and build relationships.

Gary served for several years as the Physical Ministry Deacon, helping oversee facility improvements and maintenance projects. During that time, he invested countless hours working alongside others to care for the church property, including major projects such as the installation of the church's air-conditioning system. Even after stepping away from formal leadership, serving the church through practical hands-on work has remained an important part of his ministry.

> God's not done with you yet.

Along the way, Bible studies, church ministries, and special events encouraged our spiritual growth. One particularly meaningful experience for Gary came during the Men's Encounter. At a time when he was wrestling with questions about purpose and why God still had him here after the loss of several loved ones, a simple but powerful reminder brought clarity: "God's not done with you yet." That truth became a turning point, reinforcing the conviction that God still had work for him to do and ways for him to serve others.

Today, what brings us the greatest joy at First Baptist is the same thing that drew us in years ago: relationships. This church has become family. We share a common faith, a common mission, and a desire to follow Christ together. Through worship, Bible study, service, and fellowship, we have found a place where we belong. One of the blessings we have especially enjoyed over the years has been growing alongside others through Bible studies.

The Sunday evening sermon discussion group has become a meaningful part of our week. It gives us the opportunity to reflect on God's Word, learn from one another, and apply Sunday's message to everyday life. We have especially appreciated Pastor Joel's leadership and the thoughtful conversations that help us continue growing as disciples. Through these experiences, we have felt genuinely appreciated, valued, and cared for as members of the First Baptist family.

Looking back, we have learned that church membership is about much more than attending a worship service. A healthy church family is built when members actively participate in worship, grow through discipleship, give generously, and serve faithfully.

Our own journey has been shaped by each of these commitments. We would encourage anyone who calls First Baptist home to take the next step if they have not already done so. Join a Bible study or discipleship group. Discover a place to serve. Invest in the ministry through your giving. Build relationships with others in the church family. When each member participates, the body of Christ is strengthened, and we all experience the joy of growing together in faith.

We are grateful that what began with a visit on Scout Sunday became an opportunity to worship, grow, give, and serve alongside people we now call family.

Jesus in the Boat

(Continued from Page 1)

will all face storms, but we will never face them alone.

Life is full of storms. Not merely storms that shake the earth, flood the valleys, or darken the sky, but storms that shake our lives. Storms that flood our eyes with endless tears. Storms that darken our souls with bitter pain.

The storms of life take many forms. Sometimes they arrive as a sudden tragedy. Sometimes they are a devastating diagnosis. They could appear as a broken relationship, a loss of a job, a financial hardship. Or the greatest storm of all, the death of someone we love.

In the midst of the storms of life, learn the lesson the disciples discovered. Take your eyes off the storm long enough to see that Jesus is with you in the storm.

Jesus is in the boat with you!

You are not alone. God has not abandoned you. And you do not have to weather the storm alone, either. Your church family is here to pray with you, walk beside you, and remind you of God's presence when you can only see the storm.

Whatever storm you face, trust the One who promises to be present with you today. The storm may be fierce, but you are not alone in the boat.

Church Through the Eyes of Christ

How do people see the Church today? How do you see the Church? Through the eyes of the world, the Church appears weak, fractured, antiquated, ineffective, divisive, etc. Perhaps you see the Church that way as well.

But in the eyes of Jesus, the Church is precious. It is HIS bride, HIS people. Jesus loves the Church.

In the four weeks leading up to Advent, we will attempt to see the Church the way Jesus sees the Church. For when we do so, we will develop a greater passion for Jesus Christ and for His Church.



Church through the Eyes of Christ

November 1st: Matthew 16:13-20
Pastor Kevin

November 8th: Ephesians 2:19-22
Pastor Kevin

November 15th: Ephesians 4:7-16
Pastor Joel

November 22nd: Ephesians 5:25-32
Pastor Kevin

The Christmas Touch

Advent is the season for anticipating and celebrating the coming of Christ into the world. During the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, we will consider practical ways to receive the touch of Christ and extend that touch to others so all people can experience Jesus Christ anew this year. Begin now anticipating what The Christmas Touch can mean in your life. Take your mind off the drudgery and baggage of the "holiday season" and fill your head with thoughts of making Christlike connections this Advent.

The Christmas Touch

November 29th: John 1:1-14
Pastor Joel

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Upcoming Events

Saturday November 7th
Service Day

Sunday November 15th
Finnacial Update Meeting @ 4:30pm
Fellowship Hall

Tuesday November 17th
Executive Board Meeting @ 6:30pm

Sunday November 22nd
Unity Sunday & FBC Thanksgiving
Service @ 9am
Testimonys @ 10:30am
Meal @ 12pm

Monday November 23rd
Giving cards due in the office

Sunday November 29th
Advent Season Begins

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.

Mondays
Men's Ministry at 6 p.m.

Thursdays
Timely Thursday at 10 a.m.

Wednesdays
Prayer Group at 9 a.m.
FBC Kids, Youth & Food 5:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

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