

# HAND'S & FEET

Official Newsletter of Salisbury First Baptist Church



## Sabbatical: Reading - Rest - Ready

'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.' Lamentations 3:22-23

Greetings church family! I am so excited because by the time you read this I will be officially living in Salisbury and in the office as Pastor of FBC! How amazing the Lord has been to us through this whole process. Thank you for being so kind with all of the transition period and the updates you are making to the parsonage. We are beyond thrilled to live there. Recently, I was walking back through my prayer journal entries from January and I came across my prayers about possibly looking into this Baptist Church in Salisbury, MO. The Lord Jesus has been so kind and faithful to us.

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## Special This Month

- 6/29 - 7/3 CBA Mission Trip at Pleasant Woods Baptist Church
- 7/1 Pastor Cal & Bethany Moving Day
- 7/2 Youth Group at the City Pool 7pm
- 7/4 Gebhardt's 4<sup>th</sup> of July 6:30 pm
- 7/12 Quarterly Business Meeting
- 7/20 - 7/24 VBS

## Weekly Schedule

Sunday:

Sunday School 9:30 am

Worship 10:30 am

2nd Sunday Men's Prayer Time

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Thursday:

Youth Group 7:00 pm

# Sabbatical: Reading - Rest - Ready (cont.)

We are also thankful beyond measure for the sabbatical time that Hope of Dixon and FBC Salisbury have worked together to provide for me. I wanted to take a few words to explain what a sabbatical is and what I have been doing. I'm sure you'll be hearing about it in various conversations over the next few months because of the things God has been teaching me.

Sabbatical can be a few different things depending on the context. However, most basically it is targeted time off for rest and study. This article from the North Carolina Baptist Convention is helpful on the reasons why it is a good gift for churches to provide sabbaticals for pastors. <https://ncbaptist.org/article/5-reasons-your-pastor-should-take-a-sabbatical/>

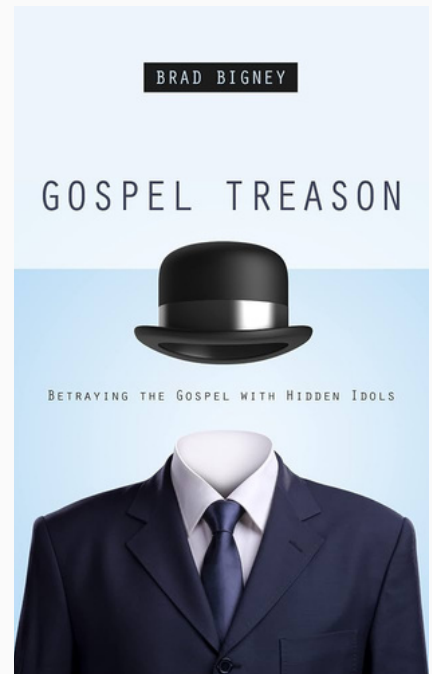
I know it is quite an odd situation for a pastor to take a sabbatical before arriving. It's been 25 years of ministry without one and to be honest, I needed the rest for the reasons listed in the article above as well as a few others. I want you to know how deeply grateful I am for the time. During my time I made a goal to through four books on various topics and decided to rest, read, and ready our house for moving.

Reading: I was helped by the book Analog Church by Jay Kim. It was really engaging. If I had to sum up the main theme, it is that people need to have deep interactions with real people in real places.

While digital tools are fantastic to help move people toward in person gathering and discipleship, those tools are never meant to be the end or to provide all we need for human interaction. Jesus died for a people, His church. We gather in person. We sing with one another. We share in the Lord's Supper together where-in we physically remember and symbolize the Lord's sacrifice for our sins. Analog church is how we accomplish the one another commands in the New Testament.

The challenge is for us who love Christ to spend a bit less time online in "fake" worlds and spend more time being intentionally with other people for the glory of God and spread of the gospel. I want you to think deeply on this question: How would your life look different if you made this change in your life?

I was also helped by Slow Productivity by Cal Newport. It was interesting going through them at the same time. They seemed to connect and weave together. Doing meaningful work slowly is better for creatively thinking and problem solving, leading to better results. This is in opposition to doing as much as you can as quickly as you can just for the sake of productivity. We must do what we do with careful intention for the glory of God.



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# Sabbatical: Reading - Rest - Ready (cont.)



I also have been walking through the *Imperfect Pastor* by Zack Eswine (a St. Louis area guy), that I would recommend to any pastor. It deals with much of the inner life of a pastor and brings the grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ to bear on the task and life of a pastor.

And the final book of sabbatical 2026 I would recommend to all of you. It is called *Gospel Treason* and is written by Brad Bigney. It deals with helping identify and turn away from idols of the heart that we may not even realize are in us causing us to act in particular ways. It is a hard book because the Lord will use Bigney's words to help you understand what scripture says about heart idols and you will then be faced with what you will be willing to do to rid yourself of them so you can love and serve God freely. Here are just a couple of quotes: "An idol is anything or anyone that captures our hearts, minds, and affections more than God."

"If you're expecting your needs to be met by anyone other than God, then you just put your expectations in a sinner."

"God is good but He's not safe. He will mess with your life-not just to be messing with it, but to conform you to the image of Christ. yet the flesh wants to remove such uneasiness from your Christian walk, and idols offer a way to do it. But it's a lie, a false promise." I HIGHLY recommend you read this book...

Rest: During sabbatical I took some naps. It was amazing to sleep and not feel guilty about it. Bethany and I took a 5 day sabbath rest retreat at Deer Ridge Ministries in Freeport, IL for pastors and their wives. We had an incredible time sitting under a tree and praying, reading, and singing worship music in the prayer chapel with some new friends.

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# Sabbatical: Reading - Rest - Ready (cont.)



We also had the opportunity over these weeks to spend MANY meals with Dixon are friends to say good bye and share about Salisbury and our hopes for the future. It was bittersweet but full of joy. Our hearts are full.

Ready:

I remember the day I told Bethany I missed the routine of sermon prep and preaching. That was a really happy day. I was resting and recharging. The Lord was replenishing me. It was refreshing. In this whole time I have wanted to have God make me ready for you and Salisbury I didn't want to walk in exhausted and unable to serve the way I know God wants me to. Again, I can not thank you enough for this time to prepare.

We have also spent A LOT of our time cramming our earthly possessions into cardboard boxes. Packing a house is a lot and even when you've done it several times, it's still exhausting every time. We will be happy to be done moving for another twenty or twenty five years should the Lord allow.

I cannot wait to be with you in just a few more days. From the time I am writing this, it's only six days till we will be residents of Salisbury. We continue to pray. Please also continue to pray for us as we prepare to join you there. May God bless you all.

In His Grip,  
Pastor Cal  
Your Pastor

# Child Dedication

Our church experienced a beautiful and joy-filled moment during Sunday's service as we celebrated the dedication of 20 children from 11 families. The sanctuary was full of gratitude, hope, and the shared commitment of parents and our church family to raise the next generation in the love and truth of Christ. This special moment reminded us of the sacred responsibility God places on parents, families, and the church to nurture children in faith, love, and truth.

During the service, parents came forward to publicly dedicate their child(ren) to the Lord, acknowledging that every child is a gift from God and committing to raise them in a Christ-centered home. The congregation joined in this promise, affirming our shared role in supporting these families through prayer, encouragement, and example. Our hope is that every child dedicated today will one day come to know Christ personally, choosing Him as their Savior and Lord. We look forward to watching their children grow in wisdom, strength, and the knowledge of God's love. As a church, we remain committed to supporting them every step of the way.



Thank You!  
Pastor Mike Flynn for coming and doing this special service!



# CBA Stateside Mission Trip



## STATESIDE MISSION TRIP TO PLEASANT WOODS

x x x  
x x x  
x x x  
x x x

JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>

### Possible Projects

- Framing
- Setting Trusses
- Decking for Roof

### Ministry Opportunities

- Backyard Bible Club at the City Park for
- K-12<sup>th</sup> Grades 9:30am - 12
- Suppling Food or Snacks for Workers or Backyard Bible Club

At the stateside mission trip they will be helping Pleasant Woods here in Salisbury. Pleasant Woods sanctuary had severe termite damage and had to be torn down. They are the process of rebuilding the sanctuary. The association still needs volunteers to help. With it being so close you can even help just a day or two if you can't do the whole week. If you are interested in going or have any questions please contact Jeff Gebhardt, Zach & Diane Cooper.



The statewide mission trip is almost here! Pleasant Woods Baptist Church is rebuilding their sanctuary after major termite damage, and our Association will be helping from June 29th-July 3rd. On Monday, June 29 we will begin with breakfast around 7:30 and begin working at 8:30 am.

Construction is already underway, so anyone with building experience is especially needed. The Association will also be hosting a Backyard Bible Club at the city park during the mornings. If you would like to help or have any questions please talk to Zack Cooper, Diane Cooper or Jeff Gebhardt. They will also need roofing crews for July 6th - July 10th if you can help.

This is a wonderful chance to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we serve our community. Below you can see pictures of the work that has already been done.





## Vacation Bible School

Invite your kids to Illumination Station VBS for the brightest week of the year! While many people claim to know about Jesus, many are in the dark about who He really is. During VBS kids will explore all the ways light brightens, illuminates, reflects, and reveals.

**Dates for VBS: July 20, 2026, to July 24, 2026**



**Registration starts at 8:30 AM,  
and we will dismiss at 12:00 PM**

**Grades: Pre K to entering 6th grade  
(Age 3, must be independent of being potty trained)**

There is no limit to the number of volunteers, so please come join us! \*Younger Adult Youth: If you're looking for service hours throughout the week or if you're just looking to volunteer for one or two days, your assistance would be greatly appreciated! I will be reaching out to the school to see if I can sign off on NHS hours for you all!

If you want to support VBS but can't make it to VBS, please consider donating snacks. About two weeks before the week of VBS, I'll send out a list of snacks if you're interested in helping out.

If you have any questions or would like to help out, please reach out to me:  
[gegbhardt30@gmail.com](mailto:gegbhardt30@gmail.com) or 660-414-0406

Blessings,  
Grace Gebhardt





### IS YOUR PRESCHOOLER READY FOR VBS?

We are thrilled to offer Illumination Vacation Bible School for Preschool. We love our little ones! However, we understand that not every 3 and 4-year-old is ready for the VBS experience. Please prayerfully read through the requirements below and consider whether or not your child is ready for VBS.

In the best interest of your child and the VBS staff and children, we must insist that you only register your child if you can answer yes to each of the points below.

#### SOCIAL READINESS

- Can be separate from you for several hours
- Can take turns and share toys
- Can listen to simple instructions





#### PHYSICAL READINESS

- Is potty trained
- Can use the restroom independently
- Can remain awake and alert during the entire time scheduled for VBS

**We look forward to seeing your kids!**




# Connect

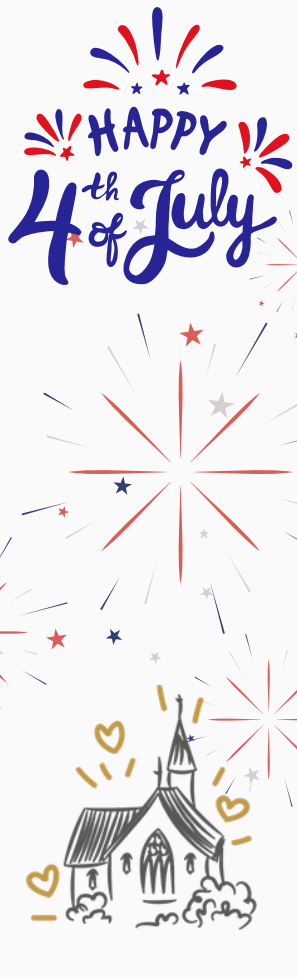


**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
**THE Gebhardt Annual 4th of July**  
**FISH FRY & FIREWORK CELEBRATION**

Saturday,  
 July 4th | 6:30 PM  
 Supper

JOIN US FOR  
 FOOD, FUN &  
 FIREWORKS!

PLEASE BRING:  
 YOUR FAVORITE LAWN CHAIR & A  
 SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE!



## PRAYER NEEDS >>>

- Pray for every child who will attend VBS, that God will prepare their hearts to receive His Word and draw them closer to Him.
- Pray for the VBS teachers, volunteers, and leaders to have wisdom, patience, energy, & joy.
- Pray that God will use VBS to reach families who may not regularly attend church.

**PASTOR CAL CALLISON**

Good day church! I thought it might be beneficial to put together a little informal "get to know me" page with some trivial info about my likes and dislikes so you can get to know me a little bit more as we lead up to our big move to town. See the QR Code for more information.

In His Grip,  
 Pastor Cal

**SALISBURY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**ILLUMINATION**  
*Station*

**WHEN: JULY 20<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup>**  
**TIME: (REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:30) 9-12**  
 CONTACT GRACE GEBHARDT (660-414-0406) FOR ANY QUESTIONS!

**DON'T MISS A THING**

SIGN UP FOR OUR MID-WEEK UPDATE

Email Melissa at  
 executiveassitant@fbcsalisbury.com  
 with your name, phone and email address



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