



Illinois Free Will Baptist

November 2020

# Newsletter

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## RESCUE CHURCH

**Pastor: Bryant Harris Reporter: Donna Harmon**

It is the greatest privilege given by one human being to another to care for the veterans at their most vulnerable time when their bodies have betrayed them. They may barely know, but at that moment, you are the most important in their life. To all our veterans:

“God bless you!” from Rescue Church.

We are thankful that Irma Lee is now home with Jerrel and Katie...we miss you Irma Lee!

Ted is in the CIC at Marion VA Hospital to build his strength,  
and we are counting the days until he can come home.

Tom is having a lot of tests to find out where he goes from here.

Thanksgiving will be over before the next Newsletter, so we wish everyone a very special Thanksgiving. *“What an awesome God we serve!”*

VETERAN'S DAY  
NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>



*A Day to Honor our Heroes*

## JCITY CHURCH

**Pastor: Keith Fletcher**

God's out of the box in Johnston City! We are excited to announce that our church has agreed to purchase the First Christian Church's former parsonage (504 E. Broadway) to set up JCity Center for Hope and Renewal. This community development center will address the long-term needs of our town, its families, and individuals. JCity Center will offer support groups for those with addictions, counseling for individuals and families, and financial mentoring for those who are enslaved by generational poverty, dysfunctional relationships, and mental illness. This vision of a Christian community development center has been on our hearts for almost a decade. We originally planned to use a vacant building owned by our church (formerly Happy Time Daycare), but the cost of renovations was prohibitive. That building will be razed in order to expand the play area used by our summer meals program (JC Kids' Lunch Bunch) and year round by our neighbors. By the way, God provided the volunteers and resources needed to serve almost 11,000 meals to children in our community this summer. Oh, the stories we could tell if space permitted!

September 25, we launched a Good News Club “after school.” Eight or nine students faithfully attend this event on Friday afternoons at our church. Until the pandemic, this Child Evangelism Fellowship sponsored ministry was held at Jefferson School and more children could attend, but we are thankful for faithful teachers and volunteers who help spread the gospel and teach children the Bible. After Good News Club relaunched, our children's director Marta Phillips also restarted our children's church program during Sunday morning worship. We continue to meet on Sunday mornings in person (with social distancing) and online (Facebook Live and Youtube).

Our precious brother Donnie Phillips left an amazing 3-year battle with pancreatic cancer behind September 26, 2020 in order to enter the presence of the Savior he so dearly loved. A teenager when our church began, Donnie, now 86, was one of our most faithful members. He was a Sunday School teacher, trustee, deacon, and persistent prayer warrior, and he served in all of these roles with his characteristic smile, which was well-known in the community. Donnie's sister, Lucille Johnson, is a resident at the Anchor assisted living in Marion. She is our church's only surviving charter member.

Our oldest member, Reba Ritter celebrated her 97th birthday October 12. Pastor Keith and Sarah had a “window visit” with her at Integrity Nursing Home in Marion Sunday afternoon. They delivered a card signed by everyone in the congregation and a gift bag containing a t-shirt and face masks decorated with the Cardinal's logo. She would love to hear from you to via cards and letters (Reba Ritter c/o Integrity Nursing, 1301 E. DeYoung St., Marion, IL 62959).



## **BEAR POINT CHURCH**

**Pastor: Gowdy Cannon Reporter: Kayla Cannon**

Greetings from Bear Point Free Will Baptist Church! We first want to say thank you for all your prayers for Liam Cannon, our (Brother Gowdy and Kayla's) son. We have received the best news possible at this time and will only be doing tests every few months to check his progress.

Services are up and going during all of our normal worship times. We are also providing Facebook Live access for those who are not able to attend. Our WAC group has been meeting and went on an outing to Cracker Barrel earlier in October. They are also busy preparing for our Homecoming services on October 25th. Judson Phenicie will be speaking and we will have harp music as our special music this year.

Our youth and families have been busy with our annual Pie Frying. We gathered on October 12th to fry pies as a fundraiser for our youth for the National. We spent most of the day rolling dough, filling pies, frying them, and preparing orders. Thank you to all who supported our youth!

This past month our Deacon Emeritus, Cecil Webb, went to be with the Lord. He was 85 years old and had been a faithful member and deacon for many years. Please pray for his family during this time.

## **HARMONY CHURCH**

**Pastor: Bruce Thurman Reporter: Cody Alstat**

Hello from Harmony, we are excited to see the trees changing colors and the fall weather is coming. On September 11<sup>th</sup> our Pastor and his wife lost another family member. Pastor Bruce's sister, Barbara, passed away. Please keep their entire family in your prayers. On September 11<sup>th</sup> James and Charla Krikie became grandparents again to Adley Jean who weigh 6 lbs. 9 oz and was 21 inches. September 27<sup>th</sup> during our evening worship we had New Life Drama Company that worshiped with us through many skits. Please pray for the whole group as they travel all over the world during this year. The month of October is Pastor Appreciation Month and we are busy with many events this month. We kicked things off on October 3<sup>rd</sup> we had a Fish Fry at the church and we had a wonderful crowd of people show up. On October 4<sup>th</sup> some of the men of the church cooked breakfast for our Pastor and His wife. We are thankful to have such wonderful people willing to step up and help out.

*"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" – Romans 10:14*

## **HAZEL DELL CHURCH**

**Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk**

Happy Fall, everyone! What a beautiful time of year!

October has been a busy month. We are enjoying being able to worship together again. Praise God!

Brother Jeff Owens was with us for a Tent Revival beginning on Wednesday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> and running through Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. We enjoyed great messages, good music and worship. The weather was perfect for the outdoor revival. Brother Andy Lee was with us for our Homecoming service on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Special music was by the Gospel Messengers. There was no noon meal this year due to Covid-19. Both Brother Owens and Brother Lee delivered very good messages that were a special blessing.

We will soon be preparing and delivering Senior Meals again. There will be more information on this in the near future. Continue to remember the following in prayer:

Brother Brian Lewis-beginning a new treatment  
Brother Denny Dial-recovering from open heart surgery  
Sister Len Jones-current health issues  
Sister Donna Harrison-knee surgery  
Sister Andi Smith-recovering from surgery

Our senior adults-many miss being in church fellowship due to health and/or social distancing. God's blessings to you all. Stay safe.

*"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves,  
and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways;  
then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."  
II Chronicles 7:14*

## **BLUE POINT CHURCH**

**Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis**

The "See You at the Pole" program was held at Cisne High School. Blue Point provided donuts and drinks for those who were able to attend. Several of our teens had speaking parts in the program, along with teacher Mike Conard, and Principal Kevin Bowen.

We celebrated our 123rd anniversary with special Homecoming Services. The gospel group, "For Heaven's Sake", presented a musical program and Josh Bennett, home missionary to Tifton, Georgia, preached in the morning service. Our own people who also helped with music included Connie McGrew, Kim Cook, Beth Hilliard, Bryce Henry and Jessica Pennington. Ashley Lewis Bennett also helped with the special music.

Brother Ernie and Suzanne attended the pastor and wife dinner hosted at the Hazel Dell Church. They enjoyed the food and the fellowship. Thanks to Brother Curtis and Emilee for a wonderful evening. Brother Ernie also attended the East Central District quarterly meeting at Calvary. He gave a mission report, Harlen Johnson brought the morning devotion, and Tyler Penn spoke in the morning service.

Our own Vicki Gifford is an amazing artist. In recent days she has won awards at the art shows in both Albion and Fairfield. Some of her work can be seen at [Facebook.com/vicki-gifford-painter](https://www.facebook.com/vicki-gifford-painter). She most recently won "Best of Show" at the Fairfield Paint Out/Art Splash. She has also done many art pieces for our church as VBS backdrops, a baptistry background, etc.

## **WALTONVILLE CHURCH**

**Pastor: Mark Wells**

Hello from Waltonville Free Will Baptist Church. We are having our sanctuary painted and hope to have done for the Quarterly Meeting! We started having our Sunday School on Wednesday nights. Brother Marty Fairchild was teaching, but has been mandated over time the last few weeks. Brother Mike Kuhner has been filling in for Marty. Both are doing a great job. Please keep Sister Maxine Hicks in your prayers as she heals from a broken hip and replacement. She turned 90 on the 7th. We were able to go sing Happy Birthday to her before church Wednesday night. Connie said that it made her day. Keep praying for us in Waltonville as God continues to move us forward!! Let us raise a Hallelujah!

## **ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH**

**Pastor: Ivan Ryan Assistant Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks**

Average Morning Worship attendance during September was 76. Several in our congregation are doing Daily Bible readings and specific prayers as part of the Jeremiah 29 Initiative. Brother Adam Brown brought the Morning Worship Message on September 20. Pastor Ivan Ryan brought the Homecoming Message at Bakerville. Eugene Borum, 77, passed away on September 17. Condolences to his family. The teens met at our church on September 23 for an evening of a short lesson, a bonfire and food.

*"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Corinthians 15:57*

## **2020 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

The 2020 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference returns to Nashville Airport Marriott December 7-8. Pastors, church leaders, and denominational leaders from across the country will gather to explore the theme "Refresh," with an emphasis on church health.

Monday and Tuesday evening keynote sessions will feature Dr. Thom S. Rainer, founder and CEO of Church Answers, an online community and resource for church leaders.

Conference Registration is \$225.00 which includes all sessions and materials, four meals, and refreshment breaks.

Note: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, registration *will* be limited.

## **PASTOR APPRECIATION**

Send us a note and tell us how you and your church honored your pastor during October Pastor Appreciation

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



*Note to Reporters: Articles for publication for the December Newsletter must be submitted by November 15th  
Please send all information to [davids@myfreewillbaptist.org](mailto:davids@myfreewillbaptist.org)*

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO ILLINOIS 2020 WELCH GRADUATES**

Even after being forced to vacate the campus and move to online studies, these Illinois graduates pressed on to the finish line! Congratulations to: **Emma Elizabeth Guthrie**, BS in Psychology (Hartford, IL), **Sarah Elizabeth Pierce**, (*Cum Laude*) BA in Intercultural Studies (Mount Vernon, IL) and **Christine Ruth Lewis**, MA in Teaching (Chicago, IL)

## **NOVEMBER 22 – MISSION NORTH AMERICAN OFFERING**

## **NOVEMBER 26 – A DAY OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD!**

## **2021 NOMINEES REQUESTED NOVEMBER 27th**

The 2020-2021 Nominating Committee, which will serve through the national convention in Memphis, Tennessee, is prepared to receive nominees for the 2021 election, according to Jeff Blair (OK), committee chairman.

The following board and commission positions will be filled in 2021: Home Missions/North American Ministries (3), Board of Retirement (3), Free Will Baptist Foundation (3), Commission for Theological Integrity (1) Historical Commission (1), Media Commission (1), Music Commission (1), General Board (11), Executive Committee (3), and General Officers (4).

Nominations, accompanied by a brief resume, must be submitted exclusively to the chairman on or before November 27. Download the nomination form at [www.nafwb.org/nominations](http://www.nafwb.org/nominations).

Contact Chairman Jeff Blair: Nominating Committee 7274 E 570 Road, Locust Grove, OK 74352 [jablairjr@gmail.com](mailto:jablairjr@gmail.com)