



ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

APRIL 2022

NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION!

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 17th



FIRST CHURCH - BENTON.

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy

A lot has happened in the last month. On the 15th of February we had our annual Church business meeting. We set and approved the church budget as well as elected officers. Dale Baumgarten was elected as a new trustee. We also voted to move our Wednesday night services from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. starting Wednesday March 16th.

In the month of February I finished up a sermon series that began on the first Sunday in January. We went through essential functions of the local church based off an article by Clint Morgan. On Wednesday nights we finally got to finish the book of Job. We had only planned to do 4 Wednesday night lessons in Job and the idea was to be done in January but due to having to cancel so many services we didn't get to finish until the first Wednesday in March.

Our church was saddened by the loss of Denzil Franklin who has attended our church for years. We served the funeral dinner at our church on the last Saturday of February to the Franklin family.

Some from our church attended the "Ignite the Flame" dinner at the Ina Free Will Baptist Church! Pastor Phillip Kennedy and family also travel to Blue Point Free Will Baptist Church to hear the Welch College Choir. We had a open gym night targeted toward teenagers to provide a safe place for kids to have fun on the first Friday in March. We will have more open gym nights in the future. Some will be for teenagers while other nights will be open gym for all ages.

Pastor Phillip Kennedy attended the pastor's breakfast on the first Monday of March. It's really encouraging to be able to get together with Free Will Baptist pastors and talk about Ministry.

On March 14th we had our first fellowship with the pastor event. We simply met together for coffee, donuts, refreshments and of course fellowship. This is a time for our church family and Community to come together and enjoy each other's company. We plan to have this Fellowship on the second Monday of every month at our church at 9 a.m. While it's a great time for us to Fellowship we also get to know each other better and can invite our neighbors to join us.

We enjoyed attending the Illinois Free Will Baptist State meeting and are looking forward to Easter! Please pray for those that are sick in our church and we will pray for your church as well! Let's also pray for each other as we reach our communities for Christ!

BEAR POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Gowdy Cannon Reporter: Mona Lappin

Warm greetings from Bear Point. Brother Gowdy is continuing his sermon series, *"The Gospel is Everything"*, and has preached some inspiring messages.

The youth had a Movie Night to encourage young people to invite friends to church. Thank you to Brother Justin for the idea of this new ministry and to all those who helped put it together. The first one was a trial run to see how things go and work out any kinks before opening it up to the general public.

The ladies were busy this month with an outing to Cracker Barrel, cooking for our last potluck, and providing desserts for 5 Loaves Cafe.

We are so grateful that God has been with Ms. Ceola while she is recovering from her fall in Florida, and Dale Branche had a successful surgery. We have also been blessed by Brother John and Vickie Hollis joining our services since their retirement. Pray for Brother John as he recuperates from illness.

Praising God for working in the lives of young people. The Lappin's were able to travel to Peoria to see their grandchildren Arthur and Ellie follow the Lord in baptism. Also the GOOD news of little Liam's latest MRI! The mass has shrunk and they can wait a year to go back! **GOD IS BIG ENOUGH!**

Looking forward to hearing Mark King preach at the end of the month, and our upcoming Easter services.

"My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection..." - Philippians 3:10 (HSCB)

PITTSBURG CHURCH

Pastors: Eddie Donelson and Keith McDannel

Reporter: Heather Phillips

Praying all of our sister churches had a blessed March and are hoping to see the Sonshine even more as spring approaches! Sam Churchill said, "Spring is the way you feel when you get up in the morning, the glint of sunlight on a windowsill, the underground noise robins hear as worms work their way below the surface of a lawn. Spring is a farmer sifting soil between his fingers. Spring is seed going into the ground; it is the laughter of children. It's when you say, 'Good morning,' and mean it. It's when God speaks and you can hear Him. Praise God for spring!"

For all those who love old hymns, gospel and Southern Gospel music, PFWBC is now hosting "He Keeps Me Singing" on the second Tuesday of every month, in our Chapel. If you have a testimony, praise report, favorite scripture or devotion you would like to share, this will be a great time to share it. There will be congregational singing plus several specials, devotions and testimonies. Spread the word and bring a friend or two! We want you to share your talents and just have a time of praising our Lord!

Preparations are being made for the Easter Egg Hunt for the kids of PFWBC and community. They always have a great time at this outreach! Resurrection Sunday is one our favorite days here. We are looking forward to our SONrise Service at 6am and breakfast to follow. Praying for this time of celebration and that God would pour out His spirit upon these upcoming services. **The HOPE is in you in 2022!**

"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." - Psalm 100:5

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Buddy Parks

Average Sunday School Attendance during February was 67. Jerry Jean, 83, passed away on February 3. Jerry Harris, 84, passed away on February 12. Condolences to these families.

Brother Shawn Bolley brought the Morning Worship Message on February 20. Our Valentine Banquet was held that evening. Congratulations to River Doss on becoming an Eagle Scout.

"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." - 1 John 3:11

HARMONY CHURCH

Interim Pastor: Kent Dunford Reporter: Cody Alstat

Greetings from Harmony, our attendance has been increasing over the past few Sundays. We had a Valentine's Day Party for the youth on February 16th and there were 9 kids in attendance. The ladies of the church went to Grange Hall Church for their yearly women seminar on March 5th and they had a wonderful service. Thank you to everyone that has anything to do with this outreach.

Our youth went Skating on March 7th down at Emery Brothers, we had a total of 6 skaters.

Our church sent a \$1,000 for the relief fund for the victims down in Mayfield, Kentucky. Brother Kent and Sister Tedra celebrated their birthday on March 11th. We hope they had a wonderful day! Our Masters Men and Sisters of Strength met for their monthly meeting on March 15th. Pray for our upcoming Homecoming Services that will be on May 1st when we will be celebrating 190 years in ministry.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law." – Galatians 5:22-23

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

Brother Ernie enjoyed the Pastor's Breakfast held in the Bonnie Café at the Mt. Vernon Airport. Brother Ernie, Suzanne, and four of our teens attended the Welch Ignite the Flame Dinner at the Ina Church. Suzanne met with several WAC state and district officers at the Benton Church. Besides discussing several items of business, the ladies enjoyed delicious soup provided by Amy Johnson.

Brother David Shores filled in for Brother Ernie while he and Suzanne were in south Georgia taking care of some grandkids.

The Quilts of Valor, Wayne County Chapter, recently met in our Link to continue making quilts for area veterans. Blue Point provided lunch for the group, catered by Katherine's of Cisne.

We hosted the Welch College Choir on a Monday evening. Our ladies provided supper for the group before the well-attended worship service. After the group had loaded their equipment they enjoyed some more desserts in the Link.

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk

Looking forward to Spring and all the new life that comes along with the beautiful season.

Congratulations to Brother Jon Paul LeVault on being elected as a deacon at Hazel Dell. An ordination program will be forthcoming.

Our Bible study group has begun. The group meets every other Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. The study is entitled "Knowing Jesus: Living by His Name".

Our Wednesday evening service is set to resume on April 6th.

We helped with the Lifeline food service on Tuesday, March 15th. Thank you to those who helped with this.

The Peppy Calebs met at Burton's Café for a luncheon on Tuesday, March 15th. There were 13 in attendance. This was our first outing since Covid began, and it was so nice to be able to fellowship together again.

"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!" - Psalms 118:24

WALTONVILLE CHURCH

Pastor: Mark Wells Reporter: Chris Kuhner

Hello from Waltonville Free Will Baptist Church!

We thank the Lord for all His blessings that He has given to our church.

Last month we were able to break the 50 mark of attendance. We thank the Lord for that as well. The weather has and will always keep people from coming and as I have told them if you don't feel safe to come then don't. We understand that. We are just waiting on warmer weather to come so we can get some more things done around here.

We had a great time over at Ina church with the Bible College folks. Learned some things and had some good food and fellowship as well.

We are looking forward to the state meeting coming up and hope to see some you all there. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to look for our roof to be replaced. John 6:6 says that the lord test us from time to time. He knows what He's going to do before the test comes up for us. Trust in the Lord!

NEWSLETTER

Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists
P.O. Box 1 Bonnie, Illinois 62816-0001

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

*The deadline for news articles for publication in the May issue of the Newsletter is April 15.
Please address all correspondence to davids@mvmfreewillbaptist.org*

APRIL EVENTS:

- 9th - East Central District.
– Blue Point Church
- 16th - Rend Lake District.
- Ina Church
- 17th - EASTER!
- 23rd – South Central
District.
– Arnold View
Church
- 29th and 30th – CTS Expo
- Ina Church

A BRIEF REPORT of the 2022 ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION

The meeting was hosted by the Calvary Church in Salem, Illinois and they certainly made everyone feel welcome! The church provided snacks, meals, and a friendly attitude toward the folks at the meeting. We were blessed on Thursday evening as Brother Doug Little presented a seminar, “Cultivating Vibrant Worship in your Church”.

In the business sessions, state boards reported activities from the past year and plans for the coming year, budgets were approved, board members and state officers were reelected. Together Way allocations will remain the same. The State Treasurer reported that he received \$338,035.78 through his office that was distributed to ministries in Illinois and National Ministries. Seven missionaries were present to share their work and seven representatives from our National Offices were there to share their reports with us. The body adopted a “Resolution of Repentance” that will be forwarded on to the National Convention in July.

Three young preachers: Ed Goode, Phillip Kennedy and Adam Brown shared messages on faith, fortitude and fearlessness. The Obituary Committee’s report reminded us of the work that has been accomplished by faithful and our need of commitment to the Lord’s work for us.

It was a good meeting with good business, fellowship, music and worship.

*Happy
Easter*