

ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

APRIL 2021

NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families



The Illinois State Association met at Hazel Dell Church in rural Sesser on March 18-19 for a very harmonious session. On Thursday evening, forty-one registered delegates enjoyed hearing and being challenged by Brother Daniel Edwards' seminar presentation, "Welcome to the Wilderness". Some business was transacted that evening as Moderator Curtis Smith led us through seating delegates, appointing committees, receiving the Executive Board report, reports of the State Treasurer and Promotional Secretary, and approving Together Way allocations. Two items were tabled for discussion on Friday: (1) Constitutional amendment and (2) How to distribute funds which have

accumulated in the Promotional Fund. These funds would be used to support other ministries in our state.

On Friday the delegates heard reports from the state boards, National departments and the Illinois WNAC. The Constitutional amendment (ARTICLE I, Meeting of Members, Section 1) was adopted which gives empowers power the Executive Board to conduct business for the Association during emergencies. The amendment reads, "Should necessity arise from war, or pestilence or any cause which prevents a regular meeting of the Illinois State Association, whether such a condition is of a local or general condition, then the Executive Board shall be privileged to call and act with full authority in all matters pertaining to the general welfare of the Illinois State Association, providing whatever transactions passed shall be by two-thirds vote of the members present, and providing that such transactions shall not conflict with the purpose and edicts of the constitution and by-laws of the Illinois State Association."

After some discussion it was decided to consider the needs of the various state boards and the promotional office and make a final decision on the distribution of promotional funds at the 2022 state meeting.

Three Illinois pastors spoke during the meeting: Brother John Hollis, Brother Larry Cook and Brother David Shores. It was reported that two former Illinois pastors, Brother David Turner and Brother Burt Hall went to be with the Lord this month. The Hazel Dell Church was thanked by all attendees for hosting the meeting and providing the meals. At the Friday night banquet, Pastor Ivan Ryan was given a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of ministry.

In 2022 the association will meet with the Calvary Church in Salem, Illinois.

Celebrate Easter!

HE IS RISEN
alleluia

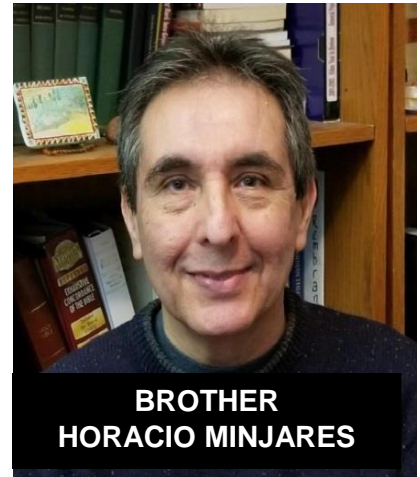


THE FOX RIVER DISTRICT ANNOUNCES ORDINATION SERVICE

We are excited to announce that Horacio Minjares has been examined and met the requirements and will be ordained as a Free Will Baptist minister at the Solid Rock FWB Church at 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

Please announce this to your entire church. This is an important event in Horacio's life and in the life of Solid Rock FWB Church.

It is also an important event for all of our churches. We would strongly encourage you to bring as many people from your church as possible. We need to see more men entering the ministry and being ordained. Being there to see Horacio ordained could be what God uses to call more men from our churches to be pastors. So, please announce it and let's have as many people there to encourage Horacio.



**BROTHER
HORACIO MINJARES**

CONNECT CHURCH

Pastor: Dan Smith Reporter: Shirley Brown

Hello, to all our Sister Churches. Like so many of our sister congregations, Connect Church has been experiencing the effects of the pandemic. Beginning in March 2020, we closed our doors to Bible studies, worship services and other activities requiring congregational attendance in an effort to keep us all well and safe. Even with the virus guidelines in place, several of our members contracted the virus and, while there are no reported deaths of members due to the virus (Praise God), our attendance numbers are down. Due to the pandemic, we continue to hold only worship services on Sunday mornings, while observing social distancing and optional mask wearing. Sunday services have been broadcast on YouTube and Facebook since the start of the pandemic. Our first public worship service since the pandemic was held May 31, 2020. Our Small Group studies began again in September 2020 and are continuing until this summer; however, they are held in the church building on various evenings rather than in members' homes for safety's sake.

We have partnered with a local elementary school during this unusual time; during the summer of 2020 we collected non-perishable food items for needy families; when school began in August, we donated socks and underwear for needy students; and during Christmas time, our members helped with donations of coats, hats, gloves, socks, underwear and toys. These are opportunities for our members to be "the Hands and Feet of Jesus" in our local community. *"Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus." - 1 Peter 5:14b*

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

In the month of February we received a special offering for Welch College. The Link continues to be used for Pee Wee basketball practice and club volleyball. This is one way we feel that we can provide a service to our community.

We welcomed Darrell and Bev Laughlin back from their winter sabbatical in Yuma, Arizona. While they are there, they are able to be part of the ministry of the Vertical Church's where their son-in-law, Jason Taylor, pastors.

Brother Ernie enjoyed a pastor's breakfast hosted by Brad Ryan and Jason Janus at the Ina Free Will Baptist Church. The men enjoyed food, fellowship, and a report on the upcoming state association at the Hazel Dell Church. Brother Ernie also took part in a meeting of the Camp Board and camp directors to plan for the summer camp sessions.

We have recently restarted our "Connect" program for teens in grades seven through twelve. Kevin and Beth Bowen lead the teens. Each week they have a Bible lesson, games, and snacks.

We are excited to have several expectant couples from our church. Currently we are hosting a diaper and wiper 'sprinkle' for Michael and Dalton Doody whose baby is expected next month.

HARMONY CHURCH

Pastor: Bruce Thurman Reporter: Cody Alstat

Hello from Harmony. Our Sisters of Strength made sunshine baskets for all of our shut-ins and deliver them to some of the members on the 6th. We want to thank everyone that helped in anyway. We started our Sunday School classes back up on the February 7th and we had a little breakfast that some of the men of the church were happy to prepare for us.

The Masters Men and Sisters of Strength met for their monthly meeting at The Bonnie Café for a little Valentine's Day banquet. Sister Mary Kay Lappin went home to be with the Lord on February 12th at 9:59 pm. She was a member of our church for many years and she will be deeply missed. Please keep the entire family in your prayers. We started our Youth classes back up on February 17th with a little Pizza party. We had a total of 19 kids come. *"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



**Pastor Bruce Thurman
and wife, Pat**

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk

Happy Spring to all. It has been so good to begin to see the signs of spring all around us.

Our attendance seems to be picking up with the slowing down of Covid. So very thankful for this.

Many changes are about to take place with the upgrade to our sanctuary. Also, there is going to be an upgrade to our parking facilities with the addition of a concrete handicap parking area. We will be having our morning worship services in the fellowship hall while the upgrades are being completed. Also, our Wednesday evening services will continue to be online through the completion of the upgrades. We are tentatively planning a dedication celebration of our upgrades for May 16th.

An Easter Egg Hunt is being planned for April 3rd.

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9

WALTONVILLE CHURCH

Pastor: Mark Wells Reporter: Chris Kuhner

It seems that the old devil isn't happy with us here at Waltonville FWB Church. We have had something coming at us every time we turn around. My wife's mother passed away on the 7th of February. She had Covid. at the same time Tammy's youngest sister found out that she had thyroid cancer. One of her sister's sons had an accident with a compound saw cutting his arm badly and another son had surgery to remove a stone from his kidney. We felt like there was a spiritual pall upon us. Good news: we had a new baby born back in January to Andrew and Amanda Lynch (Kinsley Terry Lynch), she came in at 7lbs. 2oz. and 19 in. We have another baby on the way in June. God has plans for this church and we desire your prayers as we move forward. During the biggest snow storm and the sub-zero temperatures canceling our services for two weeks, on the coldest Sunday, Chris Kuhner and I met at the church to put the message out on the internet. Before we got started there was a young lady who showed up that had walked over three blocks to come in the sub-zero temps. She stayed for the service and has been coming ever since. We thank the lord he keeps bringing more to us.



The IM Board met with missions candidate **EMILY PETTY** and she received unanimous approval to serve as a two-year intern to Japan. Chairman Jeff Nichols expressed, "It is always a joy to serve on the IM board, but the opportunity to approve new missionary interns is special. Free Will Baptists are blessed to have a stream of young people saying yes to God." Please schedule Emily for a service at your church. Help her raise support. **You may call Emily at 217-994-6274**

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

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

World Missions Offering –April 25th

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

BENTON CHURCH

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ! During the last month we have been excited to see faces that we hadn't seen since before covid-19. We had our annual business meeting on Wednesday March 10th. We voted that we will start Sunday school back up on Easter Sunday! Our Sunday School will begin at 9 a.m. and our morning worship service will continue at 10 a.m. We will also continue to have Wednesday night Bible study at 6 p.m.

We are also excited to announce that on June 13th is our 50th homecoming! Brother Gene Norris founding pastor of our church will be our guest speaker! We will also have the Wanda Mountain Boys providing special music! We are excited to be celebrating the churches 50th year in Ministry! Praising God for His goodness and His faithfulness throughout the years

