



ILLINOIS FREE WILL BAPTIST

NOVEMBER 2023

NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication for Illinois Free Will Baptist families



DAY OF
PRAYER
2023

NOVEMBER 7

NAFWB



**MISSION
NORTH AMERICA
OFFERING**

November 19, 2023



NORTH AMERICAN
MINISTRIES

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HISPANIC CONFERENCE REPORT

On August 26-27, Camp Host hosted its first Hispanic Conference for Illinois Spanish speaking Free Will Baptist churches with more than 70 people in attendance. Pastor Phillip Kennedy of Benton gave the opening prayer for the Friday evening service and Brother David Shores gave the formal welcome from the Illinois State Association to all those present. Brother Illian Perez, pastor of the Palabra de Vida Church in Burbank, Illinois organized and directed the conference.

Representatives from 9 countries carried their flag to be placed at the front of the chapel: United States, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Columbia, Mexico, Ecuador, Venezuela and Cuba. Churches and missions represented were: Palabra de Vida, Burbank, IL; Northwest Church, Chicago, IL; Roca Solida, Elgin, IL; Camino Church, Ada, OK; Cristo mi Fortaleza Church, Oklahoma City, OK; Hilltop Church, Fuquay-Varina, NC and Conway Church, Conway, AR.

Speaker for the conference was Brother Rolando Delgado of Russellville, AR.

All the churches participated by presenting the music, skits and testimonies.

Delicious meals were enjoyed as well as the Christian fellowship in the Lord.

Plans for the next Hispanic Conference to meet July 26-28, 2024 are already underway. Please continue to pray for our Spanish speaking ministries.



Pastor Rolando Delgado



Fellowship Time



Registration



Communion

PITTSBURG CHURCH

Pastor: Eddie Donelson, Pastor: Keith McDannel and Pastor: Josh Colson Reporter: Heather Phillips

Can you believe October is already over?! October is always a busy month at PFWBC.

On October 1, we had a great time celebrating our 116th Homecoming with a wonderful service featuring music by our Sunday Evening Band. Then to top it off after the service we had an amazing fish fry meal with more sides and desserts than the eye could see! We appreciate all of the people who put forth effort to prepare for a meal of this size; it is not an easy task!

On October 15, we had a Fall Family Festival at The Patch in Marion. Riley's BBQ treated us with bbq, hot dogs, and all the fixings! Life can get *really* busy and our Fall Fest was the perfect opportunity to slow down and enjoy time as a church family, hang out with friends, and meet new people. We had GREAT food, FUN games, and then a WONDERFUL evening service outside under the stars.

During the month of October, we celebrated our PFWBC Pastors. *Ephesians 2:10 says, "We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* We are so blessed by the dedication and hard work of Pastor Eddie, Pastor Keith, Pastor Josh, and Pastor Kyle.

We are praying everyone has a great November and a Happy Thanksgiving! Let us remember and celebrate our blessings of 2023. Our Heavenly Father is so, so good to us, and we need to praise and thank Him daily! As Thanksgiving approaches let us take time to reflect upon all the things that God has given us. Let us be thankful for all the things that He has done for us in our lives. It is so important, as Christians, that we humble ourselves before God and show true appreciation for all that our Maker has done for us and provided us with. What JOY!!

"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."- Psalm 1:9

Change what we see in 2023!

JCITY CHURCH

Pastor: Randy Carney Reporter: Doug Hancock

We have been blessed at J-City Church as we see God's hand moving throughout the congregation. Our outdoor baptism and picnic drew 53 people...many non-members and possible prospects. Randy and Helen Ferguson joined the church that same morning and we welcomed them to the family.

Our new ladies SS class is prospering and more curriculum is having to be ordered. There have been several surgeries amongst us...and we thank God that all have been successful.

Keith and Sarah Fletcher gave a video presentation of their recent trip to Israel on Sunday night of September 17th...and everyone marveled at the sites of the Holy Land. Afterwards, there was a potluck featuring some delicacies from Israel.

October begins Discipleship Explosion, an interactive Bible study that will expand into our neighborhoods as members invite friends to join and learn about Jesus...and salvation. The goal is to expand as folks become more experienced in reaching others for Christ.

On the 22nd was a wiener roast at the Carney's and on the 29th, some displayed their talents at the community 5th Sunday Sing. We finally finished the month on the 31st (won't say that word) uptown at the Trail of Treats...allowing us to make contact with hundreds of kids and parents.

Looking into November, the church will be participating in the Ten Commandments Walk at Arrowhead Lake on the 4th and the community Thanksgiving service on the 19th with Brother Carney giving the message. Please remember in prayer all of our churches as we labor together to lead souls to Christ.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." – Galatians 6:9

HARMONY CHURCH

Interim Pastor: Kent Dunford Reporter: Alice Barron

Harmony held its Youth Rally on September 17th and it was a great success with 90 in attendance. Thanks to all who had a part in it. There was good Spirit, preaching, music and eats. Another good job Brother Cody Alstat for arranging the rally.

On Sunday, September 24th following morning service, Elijah Diefenbach, 7, was baptized in Brother Vern Brotherton's pond. What a blessing.

Monday, October 1st, 15 people went skating at the Marion skating rink.

The Lord provided a wonderful day for our annual church in the park on the 8th. We had preaching, singing and lots of food. There were 107 in attendance. The day started chilly but it ended up sunny. We know Fall is here but can winter be far behind! A special thanks to all who came and who helped with the service.

Tuesday, October 10th we met for Sisters of Strength and Masters Men meeting.

Let us all keep Israel in our prayers

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" - Psalm 27:1

HAZEL DELL CHURCH

Pastor: Curtis Smith Reporter: Diana Kirk

Happy Fall, everyone!

Congratulations to Brother Dylan and Sister Rebekah Rock on the birth of their precious baby girl, Rosalie Pauline who was born on September 5th. She is the granddaughter of Brother Randy and Sister Debbie Kash and Brother Jeff and Sister Angela Rock. Please keep baby Rosalie in your prayers as she is recuperating from heart surgery. She is home and doing well following her surgery. God is good. He hears and answers prayers.

God provided a beautiful day for our Church in the Park Picnic on Sunday, September 17th. There were 65 in attendance at the Gun Creek picnic area at Rend Lake for this special day.

We celebrated our 109th Homecoming on October 1st. It was a great day of reminiscing, music, preaching, fellowship And food. There were 117 in attendance. Brother Ernie Lewis delivered our message and Redemption provided the special music. Thank you to all who helped with the decorating and food preparation.

Celebrate Recovery started on Thursday, October 5th. There were 22 in attendance for the first night. They will be meeting each Thursday evening at the church with a meal at 6:00 and a meeting at 6:30.

"Depart from evil, and do good: seek peace, and pursue it." – Psalm 34:14

ARNOLD VIEW CHURCH

Pastor: Adam Brown Reporter: Jodi Tanner

It seems as though Fall is flying by! Our congregation has been so blessed this Fall. We've had the opportunity to hear Rusty and Brenda Carney share how the Lord is working in Japan. It was such a blessing to have them to help kick off Good News Club this Fall. Please join us in praying for the students taking part in the Good News Club as they share what they are learning with family and friends. We've been blessed to host our fellow churches for quarterly meeting and the community for our Fall Festival.

Our most sincere sympathies are extended to the families of Melba Mausey and Adena Jones.

November promises to be filled with opportunities to reach out to others in our community. Veterans will be honored in our morning worship service on November 5. Additionally, one of our veterans, Jeremiah Benoit, recently received a Quilt of Valor in honor of his service.

We'll celebrate Thanksgiving in various ways throughout the entire month. We'll host a community Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, November 15. Operation Christmas Child box collection is in full swing. Preparations for Christmas events for the children are underway as well. It is always such a blessing to see the Christmas message shared through the eyes of children. In a recent message, Pastor Adam reminded us that Jesus came in the flesh to dwell among and offer us His greatest gift. Let's strive to share our thankfulness for that gift by sharing Christ's love with those we encounter in our daily walk.

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" - 2 Corinthians 9:15 (ESV)

BENTON CHURCH

Pastor: Phillip Kennedy

It has been a busy time for all! Some from our church attended the Masters Men Retreat! It was quite a blessing and so encouraging! We had a tragedy in our town on September 16th where 3 teens lost their lives and it was hard on everyone. Sunday, Sept. 17 was especially hard. There was a candlelight vigil in their honor that night. Some from our church also attended the youth rally at Harmony and Jim McComas did a great job especially in light of the tragedy. Please continue praying for these families.

On September 21st we hosted a Student Hangout. Jackie Kennedy and Barbara Smith attended the Women's retreat September 22nd and 23rd. We also had a few attend the Leadership Bootcamp at Ina FWBC! It was such a Blessing! Thankful to all who played a part in putting on such a helpful event.

On October 1st we had our Church picnic. We enjoyed an outside worship service followed by food and fellowship in the gym! It made the day so special to have Brother Gene Norris and his family with us! Brother Gene preached a wonderful message to us! The next day we had our monthly Pastors breakfast at Bonnie Cafe in Mount Vernon and Brother Gene was able to attend and visit with many of our Pastors. On October 6th we hosted a Gym night and had a great attendance! On October 9th we had Fellowship with the Pastor and enjoyed donuts and coffee. We had a great attendance at it as well since the schools are on fall break. Pastor and family left for a family vacation after our Fellowship time and returned Friday, October 13th. While in Nashville Jackie Kennedy (and family) were able to visit the provision closet at the National offices. We were also able to attend chapel at Welch and visit with different ones including some of our Illinois students! In Pastor Phillips absence, David Gibbons lead Bible study on Wednesday night!

We will have our Harvest Sunday on November 5th at 10A.M. followed by a Thanksgiving style meal. Our Gym Night will not be until November 10th from 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. Our student Hangouts for November will be on the 2nd and 16th both from 6:00p.m to 7:00p.m.

Don't grow weary in doing good. Pray for us and we will continue praying for you all!



INA CHURCH

Pastor: Brad Ryan Reporter: Katie Williams

Hello everyone! We are in a busy season, but a good one. In September, some of our people attended the Master's Men retreat and the IL Ladies Fall retreat at Camp Hope. We also attended the Ina Fall Fest, where we sold snacks to raise money for CTS. At the end of September, we hosted the Leadership Boot Camp put on by the FWB North American Ministries.

October 1st was our 95th annual Homecoming service. Our youth choir practiced for several weeks in preparation for this day and did a wonderful job singing! Brother Tom Malone was our speaker and we had over 250 in attendance. It was a big encouragement and a wonderful day celebrating the history of our church!

We are mourning the loss of Melissa Wingo who went to be with the Lord on October 12th. The Wingo family is so special to us and Missy was such an inspiration as she fought cancer for the past 5 years. She never stopped praising God amidst her storm and will be greatly missed.

On October 15th we had our community outreach Block Party. It was a cold evening, but we made up for it with hot chocolate. We had a good crowd come and enjoy face painting, games, good food, and hear the word of God preached. Pray for the seeds that were planted on this day. Blessings to you all!

BLUE POINT CHURCH

Pastor: Ernie Lewis Reporter: Suzanne Lewis

Several of the men from the church have been gathering in the home of Daryl Hargrave each month for fellowship, Bible study, and pool. We also have a couple of different ladies' groups that have been meeting for Bible studies.

Emalie Matthews led See You at the Pole prayer time at Cisne High School. Our church provided donuts and drinks for all the students and community members that attended.

Brother Ernie attended part of the Master's Men's Retreat at Camp Hope. He also attended the recent Pastor's breakfast in Mt. Vernon. Suzanne attended the Ladies Retreat at the camp and was blessed by speakers Brenda Carney and Melinda Squires. The reports from Sarah Malone and Christina Price were also very encouraging.

We hosted another grocery giveaway for Senior Citizens in our gym. We were served the best soups ever at our annual Chili and Chowder. Some also enjoyed the trap shoot that afternoon.

Brother Ernie was the guest speaker at the Hazel Dell homecoming. He and several of his family members really enjoyed the special services. Paul Boyer of Mascoutah filled in at Blue Point that morning.

We are trying something new this fall by hosted 'Centered Soccer' for elementary grade students. Amelia Byars and members of her Sunday school class are coordinating this outreach.

Ernie and Suzanne enjoyed attending the East Central District meeting at the Pleasant View Church.

We celebrated our 126th anniversary with special homecoming services. A group from Branson called "The Texans" provided lots of special music. A special group of Blue Point adults and Junior Church youth also sang. Larry Cook was our guest speaker. His wife, Linda, and several other family members also attended. Beautiful fall décor was throughout the church and the Link including a photo backdrop on the front porch. Everyone enjoyed a delicious pot-luck dinner at noon.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



All of us should thank God every day for His goodness, love and mercy. This is especially true as we celebrate our time to give thanks to our Heavenly Father on a day that is set aside for that purpose by our government. National recognition of His love and bountifulness to our nation should be appreciated as we feast on this special day. I liked what the reporter from Pittsburg Church, Heather Phillips, wrote this month in her letter: *"Let us remember and celebrate our blessings of 2023. Our Heavenly Father is so, so good to us, and we need to praise and thank Him daily! As Thanksgiving approaches let us take time to reflect upon all the things that God has given us. Let us be thankful for all the things that He has done for us in our lives. It is so important, as Christians, that we humble ourselves before God and show true appreciation for all that our Maker has done for us and provided us with. What JOY!!!"* AMEN!

Illinois Free Will Baptist November 2023

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Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists
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*Reporters: Please send all correspondence for the Illinois Newsletter to www.davidshores37@gmail.com
The deadline for articles for publication in the December Newsletter is due November 15th*

A NOTE FROM SHANE and JOY

Our Team member Jacob got back to France at the end of August. He's been back for a little over a month and it's great to have him back! He's teaching two English classes at the center and hoping to get another one started soon.

A few weeks ago we had a visit from another 'Team Member'. This team member is currently retired, but had worked in our home office for many years. We can't be here doing the work that we're doing without the people in the home office doing their jobs. They take care of accounting, reports, websites, promotional materials, forwarding mail, etc.

We also couldn't be here without those who are giving each month or year to support us. When you Give Gifts and Lift us up to the Father, you are part of this team. We appreciate so much each person doing their part to serve the Family!

MARK YOUR NOVEMBER CALENDAR AND REMEMBER THESE DATES:

November 5 - Daylight Savngs Time Ends

November 7 – National Day of Prayer

November 11 – Veteran's day

November 19 – NAM Offering

November 23 – Thanksgiving Day

