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THE GREATER WABASH BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

April 2026

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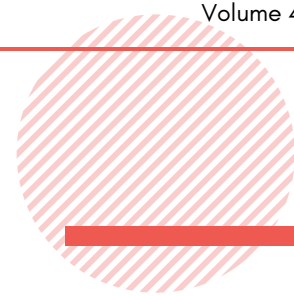
Briefs from Brent

I am turning in my office keys on March 31. On April 2 I will be sixty-nine years old. The official name for that is retirement. I prefer to think of it as the beginning of a new chapter in life. I have some plans and some dreams, but I honestly do not know what this new period in my life is going to look like. Throughout my life I planned and kept my eye on the future, while at the same time seeking to live day by day, step by step, with my ears open and heart aware of the voice of God. I will continue to take that stance.

Jeanette, Brock, and I wish to say thank you for a wonderful eleven years of serving the churches of the Greater Wabash Baptist Association. I will miss being in this role. But we are not moving. Fairfield has become home for us. We bought a house near Fairfield two and a half years ago and we plan to live here. I hope to continue to preach as often as possible. If you need a pulpit supply or interim and I am available, I will be glad to help.

When people have asked me about the Greater Wabash Baptist Association, I have always bragged that we are the best association in Illinois. Our churches differ from one another in many ways, yet we have a tremendous spirit of cooperation. Our churches are generous. If there is a special financial need such as the support of our Disaster Relief ministry, or our annual youth camp, or improvements on our buildings, our churches have graciously responded. This cannot be said about every association, but it is true of ours. We are Baptist churches so we have autonomy and yet we know the value of abiding with one another.

I love the GWBA family. Our people and our churches are some of the best. I believe our association has a great future. Time and circumstances cause things to evolve. We do not look the same as when we began nearly 150 years ago. What you remember about GWBA 40 years ago is different than it is today. We have changed during my time as your leader. More changes will develop in the years ahead. But the gospel is the same and it is still relevant to be on mission together. I will be praying with you and for you as you discover the best path forward in the years to come.



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Clerk

GWBA Interim

Brent Cloyd has retired as the Associational Missions Strategists (AMS) of our Association. Our by-laws state that the Leadership Team of the Greater Wabash Baptist Association has the responsibility to appoint an AMS Search Committee for the purpose of selecting a candidate for the AMS position to be presented in view of a call to the messengers of the Association. The Leadership Team's goal is to appoint the Search Committee by the middle of May.

Jay Loucks, Interim Associational Mission Strategist (AMS)

Jay Loucks is the Moderator of the GWBA. As such it is his responsibility to chair and give leadership to the Leadership Team in the absence of an AMS. Not knowing how long the search process will take and desiring to have continuity, the Leadership Team has asked Jay to serve as the Interim AMS on a half-time basis (20 hours per week). Jay will begin as interim AMS on April 1, 2026.

Jay is well known in our association and has been very involved in our GWBA Camp ministry. He grew up in Ohio and has served churches in Arizona, West Virginia, and Ohio.

For the last 5 ½ years he has served as the pastor of Wayne City Baptist Church. He holds an Associate degree in biblical studies, a Bachelor of Ministry degree, a Master of Theology degree, and a Doctor of Ministry degree in biblical counseling from Andersonville Theological Seminary of Camilla, Georgia. He is married to Joann. They have two adult children, a son and a daughter.



If you need to contact Jay, you can do so at (618)-599-5448 or email him at pastorjayloucks@yahoo.com.

Baptisms

It is wonderful to see how the Lord continues to work in our churches.

FBC Carmi



The Lord is on the move in the life of First Baptist Church of Carmi. Pictured on the left in the picture is Pastor Drake. On the right is Jake Swift. Jake assisted Pastor Drake in baptizing his two sons, Issac and Tanner Swift. Pictured also is Jessica Woods (friend of Nate Mugge), who helped lead Nate to the Lord and stood beside him as a support/encouragement during the baptism. The young lady in the front who was baptized is Colette Garner. What a great day in the Lord for these people and for the congregation in Carmi.

FBC Mt. Carmel

Pastor Steve Freels at First Baptist Mt. Carmel had the privilege of baptizing Adam Brewer. It is always a great day to see new believers give testimony of their faith and intentionality to live for Jesus.

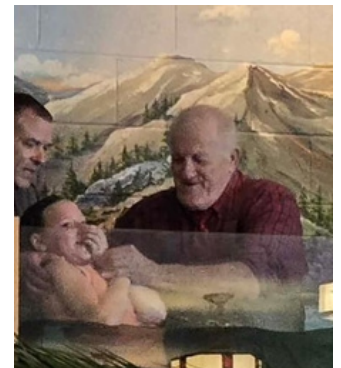


FBC Grayville

The Lord continues his good work at First Baptist Grayville. Pastor David Smith reports the baptisms of Ken Martin and Korey Martin.

Northside, Fairfield

It was a great day at North Side Baptist Church in Fairfield. 95 people were in attendance for the baptisms of Ashley Porter, Jason Brown, and Temperance Sanders. Hallelujah what a Savior!



If your church has baptism pictures to share, please send them to us so we can rejoice with you.

GWBA Pastor's Prayer Breakfast

First Baptist Church Fairfield will host a GWBA Pastor's Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday April 7 at 7:30 AM. This is a time to come together and join with one another in seeking the Lord for our association and our churches.

GWBA Deacon Training

Deacons from four of our GWBA churches attended the deacon training at Sims Missionary Baptist Church on Saturday March 21. The training was led by IBSA Zone Consultant Bob Dickerson.



GWBA Training

Seventeen people were in attendance for the GWBA training night at North Side Baptist Church in Fairfield on Thursday March 12. Jay Loucks led a training session on children and youth. Kaleb Collard led a session on the use of church Media.

Albion Is Hosting a Youth Event

The First Missionary Baptist Church would like to invite your young people to attend their Bringing Back the Blaze event. The church is located at 106 South 4th Street in Albion.



**BRINGING BACK
THE
BLAZE**

FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD, 5-8 PM
THE FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
8TH GRADE - COLLEGE FRESHMAN

**GUEST SPEAKER:
NATHANIEL MARLOW**

Camp Month Report

February was designated Camp Month in our association. So far \$15,967.70 has been given as designated gifts for our camp ministry. If individuals or churches still wish to give to our camp ministry they can send donations to Greater Wabash Baptist Association, 101 N. 7th Street, Fairfield, IL 62837. Just designate on the check that it is for camp.

Camp Registration

The camp registration packet can be found -->[HERE](#). It will also be on the website and paper copies will be mailed out soon. If you have any questions regarding camp, please contact Dennis or Carissa Seidel at 618-315-0690, 618-315-0692 or gwbacamp@gmail.com



The poster features a yellow background with a sunburst pattern. At the top, the text 'GWBA CHURCH CAMP' is written in large, blue, bubbly letters with white outlines. Below the title are three photographs: a group of people in canoes on a lake, a band performing on a stage with a blue backdrop, and a person playing flag football on a field. The poster is divided into two columns for 'JUNIOR CAMP' and 'SENIOR CAMP', each with a list of details. At the bottom, a blue wavy banner contains the application deadline and contact information.

GWBA CHURCH CAMP



JUNIOR CAMP

- XP Isaiah 41:10
- Pastor: Christian Cullison
- July 4-7, 2026
- current 3rd-7th grades
- \$125 - camper

SENIOR CAMP

- Lift Heavy
- 2 Corinthians 4:17-18
- Pastor: Tim Johnson
- July 7-11, 2026
- current 8th-12th grades
- \$165 - camper

Camp applications are due on May 18th.
Questions - contact Dennis or Carissa Seidel 618-315-0690 or 618-315-0692

Lake Sallateeska Volunteers Needed

VOLUNTEER



Help us show God's love in practical ways this summer

JUNE & JULY 2026

Lake Sallateeska Baptist Camp

Serving at camp is a powerful way to make a difference. Whether you can help for a week or just a day or two. Your time and willingness matter. Every role helps create a fun, safe meaningful experience for campers. There is a place for everyone to serve this summer.

Contact Us

618-336-5272



JacobKimbrough@lbsa.org

IBSA Camps are made possible by the generous giving of Illinois Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program and Mission Illinois Offering.

Priority Women's Conference

This year's Priority Conference is like no other.

1 CONFERENCE
priority

2 DAYS
April 24-25

3 LOCATIONS
Markham, Decatur, Troy

Priority is a gathering of like-minded women intentional about being a disciple who makes disciples.

We will gather for ONE conference, over TWO DAYS (April 24-25), in THREE different locations across the state of Illinois.

It's a chance for women celebrate God's faithfulness through worship and studying God's word; equip themselves to live as a follower of Jesus through educational breakout sessions and leave ready to return to their area of ministry reminded that they are not alone on their journey. Priority is planned with you in mind. You are our community.

There will be live worship, breakouts, and expo halls at all locations, and the main teaching sessions will be broadcast from Decatur to the other 2 locations.

Check out the schedule and the biographical information about the speakers [HERE](#).

Plan to attend this outstanding Women's Conference.

Mill Shoals Building Upgrade

A wise person once said that fellowship is the body of Christ enjoying itself. One of the ways the body of Christ participates in fellowship is by sharing food together. The Mill Shoals Missionary Baptist Church understands this and recently did the labor and bore the expense of building an addition for this new kitchen.



GWBA - April Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Tim Lasswell** (celebrating 7 years at FBC, Mt. Carmel)
- 1 Dennis Southerd**
 - 11 Kona Ready**
 - 14 Easton Bradley**
 - 17 Brianna Trowbridge**
 - 18 Timothy Caudill**
 - 20 Jay & Joann Loucks**
 - 24 Bill McKiddy**
 - 30 Jay Loucks**

Did You Know?

Greater Wabash Baptist Association has a website. Have you checked it out?

greaterwabash.org

We're also on Facebook.

Treasurer's Report			
February 2026			
General Fund Income	Amount	General Fund Expenses	Amount
Crossville Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 600.00	AMS Health Life Retirement	\$ 2,051.17
Ellis Mound Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	AMS Salary	\$ 2,842.27
Elm River Baptist Church	\$ 50.00	Meeting Expense	\$ -
First Baptist Church, Albion	\$ 899.22	Office Expense	\$ 137.62
First Baptist Church, Carmi	\$ 575.00	Telephone	\$ -
First Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 100.00	Utilities	\$ 310.34
First Baptist Church, Grayville	\$ 167.00	Administrative Assistant Salary	\$ 450.00
First Baptist Church, Mt. Carmel	\$ 250.00	AMS Hospitality	\$ 92.68
Jasper Baptist Church	\$ 27.00	Christmas Bonus	\$ -
Keenes Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 222.00	Convention Expense	\$ -
Liberty Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 313.00	Payroll Taxes	\$ 53.56
Mill Shoals Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 214.00	Staff Mileage	\$ -
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Treasurer Salary	\$ 250.00
North Side Baptist Church, Fairfield	\$ 364.96	Improvements Repair New Equipment	\$ 30.00
Northside Missionary Baptist Church, Gray	\$ 250.00	Benevolence	\$ 150.00
Olive Branch Missionary Baptist	\$ 225.00	Leadership Development	\$ -
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist	\$ 400.00	Mission Development	\$ -
Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 150.00	Payroll Liabilities	\$ 178.74
Samaria Missionary Baptist Church	\$ -	Student Ministry/Camp	\$ -
Sims Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 337.96	Investment Expense	\$ 25,000.00
Stewart Street Baptist Church	\$ 103.76	Postage	\$ 31.20
Ten Post Oak Missionary Baptist Church	\$ 282.00	Associational Clerk Salary	\$ -
Wayne City Baptist Church	\$ 178.08	Insurance	\$ 416.66
Miscellaneous	\$ -	Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 31,994.24
Misc. Transfer from Special Accounts	\$ 25,000.00		
Total - General Fund	\$ 30,708.98	Associational Missions Bank Balances	
		General Fund Balance - Checking	\$ 2,507.00
Monthly Income & Transfers	\$ 30,708.98	Special Gifts - Designated Savings	\$ 3,817.51
Previous Balance	\$ 3,792.26	Total	\$ 6,324.51
Expenses	\$ 6,870.61		
General Fund Balance	\$ 2,507.00	Investments	
		Baptist Foundation of IL	\$ 60,000.00
		BFI Cash Management	\$ 59,214.79
		Peoples National Bank	\$ 69,301.08
		Total	\$ 188,515.87
Special Gifts Income		Special Gifts Expense	
Camp	\$ 500.00	Camp	\$ -
Disaster Relief	\$ -	Disaster Relief	\$ -
Mission Fund	\$ -	Mission Fund	\$ -
New Equipment	\$ -	New Equipment	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 0.75	Miscellaneous Transfer	\$ -
Total	\$ 500.75	Total Special Gifts Expense	\$ -

If you have used Sunday School literature to be taken to Love Packages to be shipped for reuse internationally please contact Jay Loucks at 618-599-5448 or via email at pastorjayloroucks@yahoo.com