



March 2019

Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

*In Like a Lion
and out like a lamb.*



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"In like a lion, out like a lamb" has always seemed a straightforward enough proverb: at the beginning of March it is still winter, and by the end of the month temperatures are warmer, spring has begun. In many climates like ours, the weather hasn't quite reached the lamb stage by the end of the month — it's more like a cat when you take away their food bowl. You got the idea. This phrase has been referred to as an "eighteenth-century saying" in more than one source, while Wikipedia calls it "an old Pennsylvania" saw.

There are a several origin theories. One of them is the stars or astrology. At this time of year, Leo is the rising sign; by April, it's Aries.

As Wikipedia says, there is also a biblical connection. Although Isaiah 35:2 casts a lion metaphorically as forbidden in the future paradise ("No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there"); in 11:6,7, Isaiah references such formerly ravenous beasts as becoming peaceable: "The lion will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox."



God's Healing Power

Our human nature seeks to avoid pain and unpleasantness. Whenever we sense pain, we seek instant relief. Our bodies are very sensitive to temperature, sounds, light, wind, electricity, pressure, toxics, injury and disease which can cause injury. While the threshold of pain may vary from person to person, pain acts as the body's alarm system that something is impacting the normal operation of the body and serves to warn us of danger or injury. A physician is usually called upon when we experience pain so that a diagnosis can ascertain the condition and remedy provided for the problem and pain.

Our medical community of doctors, dentists, nurses, technicians, therapists, and caregivers are greatly esteemed and appreciation in their effort in bringing relief from pain during times of suffering. In this, they are healers.

Examining the pages of Gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, we find that much of the immense popularity of Jesus came as a result of his ability to bring healing to the afflicted, to mend the wounded, and to physically restore those abandoned by the medical limitations of his day (the blind, deaf, lame, leper, and tormented.) Jesus' ability to heal became a key piece of evidence of his claims of divinity.

"Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them." Matthew 4:23-24

Matthew's account of Jesus' healing ministry highlights a key distinction of the role of Jesus as divine healer. This ability to preform miracle healings came in conjunction with his message of bringing 'good news of the kingdom.' This distinction came in the revelation that Jesus had a bigger picture for his life than to alleviate physical pain. That's because there are pains we all experience which no medication or physical treatment can cure. These are the wounds of the soul and the injury of the spirit.

Drugs and treatments may help us cope with our struggle within our inner self. Our pains emanating from rejection, loneliness, regret, guilt, loss, inadequacies, bitterness, anger, jealousy, betrayal, insecurity, injustice, sorrow, or countless other emotions tear at the fabric of our inner well being.

The human spirit needs to experience healing, on a level that is even greater than our physical counterpart.

Today there are many in the mental health fields which do a wonderful service to assist in the healing of the soul. Yet, the primary ministry of Jesus, and the center piece of the good news (gospel), was that He came as the Savior. In this role, Jesus has the power to heal the soul through the power of love. As we recall the events of the passion of Christ approaching Lent (the period leading to Easter and Resurrection), the story of His own suffering and death is something in which each of us can identify. His suffering on the cross was not just limited to physical torment. Jesus experienced a series of emotionally painful injuries. He was rejected by his own people (including his disciples), mocked, ridiculed, publicly humiliated, falsely accused, betrayed, hated, and tortured unto death. This inner suffering provided the means for Him to identify with us. He personally experienced our inner pain. If we accept his claim of divinity, then the power of His resurrection and ascension truly provides for us a personal salvation in Jesus as overcomer, victor, and healer of our brokenness. It was His love in the midst of pain that brought freedom and deliverance- our salvation.

During the month of March, my sermon series is titled "Healing 101". In this series, it's my desire is to focus on Jesus' ability to bring spiritual healing to our lives through the application of faith, forgiveness and acceptance. Healing 101 will be a step by step process to enable us to open our hearts to receive love, which is the ultimate medicine to heal our inner self. God is its ultimate source of love and Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love.

"Do you know what hurts so very much? It's love. Love is the strongest force in the world, and when it is blocked that means pain. There are two things we can do when this happens. We can kill that love so that it stops hurting. But then of course part of us dies, too. Or we can ask God to open up another route for that love to travel."

- Corrie Ten Boom

Pastor Gregg Burris
Senior Pastor

Youth Department is Baking Cookies for Kairos Prison Ministry (6th to 12th grades)

We will be meeting to bake as many cookies as possible for the Kairos Prison Ministry on March 8th at 6:30 pm. Pizza will provided for everyone who gets their bake on!



Let's Go Mining!!!

Join us for a night of family fun, celebrating individuality and creation! Due to popular demand we will play Minecraft, Legos, and enjoy fellowship time with snacks and a family devotional and game. We may even discover each other's hidden talents. The kids can come dressed as their favorite Lego or Minecraft character and we'll have a photo booth!

For more info visit firstbaptistcleveland.org/mining



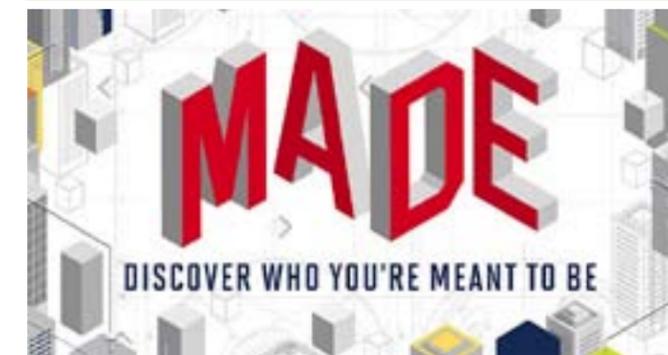
Family Game Night Party



Pastor Jeff is now a property mogul, owning several large hotels in prominent locations and maybe even a couple of railroads, if you want to travel there! If you missed this game night let Carly know you would like to take him on in the next family game night or bring your own game that you might win. For more info visit firstbaptistcleveland.org/family



Children's Department Schedule For Elementary Children (Infants to 5th grade)



WEEK 1

GENESIS 1:26-28

Image of God

SAY THIS: God made me in His image.

WEEK 3

LUKE 15:1-7

The Lost Sheep

SAY THIS: God wants to have a relationship with me.

WEEK 2

1 TIMOTHY 4:12

Timothy

SAY THIS: God made me to make a difference

WEEK 4

1 SAMUEL 16:7

Samuel and David

SAY THIS: God wants to see what really matters.

REMEMBER THIS

"How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well."

Psalms 139:14, NIrV



INDIVIDUALITY - Discovering who you are meant to be

Paul Kroeger, Chancel Choir Baritone, Wins Prestigious Contractor Award!

by Mike Skerritt



In 2009 I encouraged Paul Kroeger, an excellent baritone, to audition for the role of Emile De Becque in our upcoming production of South Pacific. I had seen Paul in his outstanding portrayal of Don Quixote in the Solon Players production of Man of La Mancha and believed he would be perfect for the role of Emile De Becque. He came to auditions, wowed the production staff, got the role, and proceeded to win over Ensign Nellie Forbush in the musical, not to mention the H.E.L.P. audiences. We finally convinced him to join the FBC Chancel Choir in January of 2017, and we are so glad to have him with us. Paul has been a vocal coach since 1974, mostly in Cleveland. He is also a conductor of some merit making his debut leading a production of the Opera Gianni Schicchi by Puccini. His stage debut was in Offenbach's La Belle Helene led by Matthias Bamert, then associate conductor of the Cleveland Orchestra.

SO, it came as a surprise to learn that this gifted musician won a prestigious Pulse of the City News Award in the Customer Care Award Category as a Painting Contractor, for the fifth time! "Honored for Excellence in Customer Satisfaction" is the way the award reads. I knew Paul was a painting contractor. It's hard to make a living singing in the FBC Chancel Choir. But I had no idea how good and respected he is. This is his response when I questioned him about his other profession. "I often do a couple of rooms at a time for my customers, and maybe the hallway and up/down stairs. Over time I will end up prepping and repainting all the rooms in a home, even a foyer with a

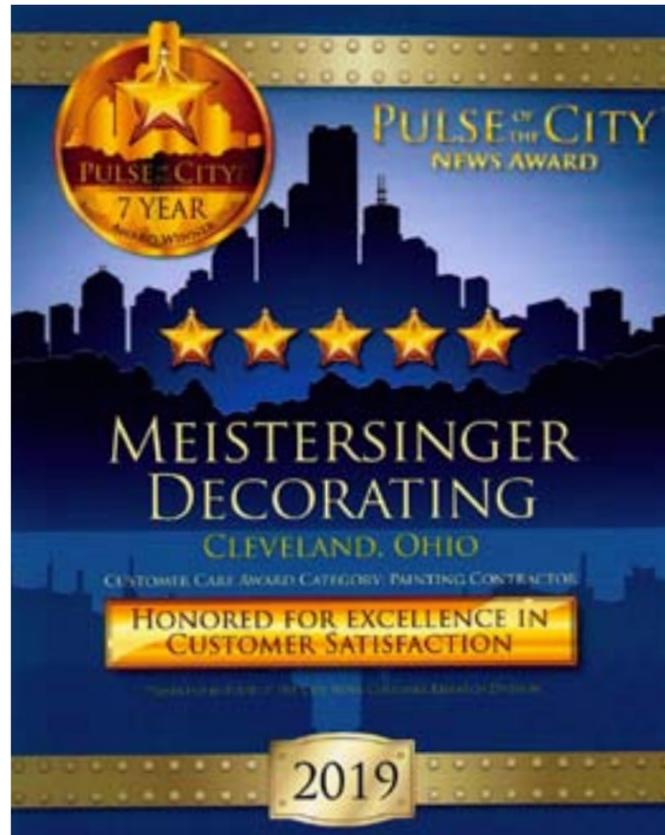
49'ers Upcomming Events



Program
March 3rd, Sunday 12:45 p.m. Lunch | 1:15 p.m. Program
 Speaker: FBC Member, Monroe Goins and panel members- "21st Century Challenges Facing Our Social Justice System" How domestic violence affects society's social structure. \$5

Social
March 31st, Sunday 12:45 p.m. Lunch | 2:00 p.m. Matinee
 H.E.L.P.'s production of "Sweeney Todd" at FBC.

More Info or to Join - firstbaptistcleveland.org/forty-niners



cathedral ceiling. So, basement, attic, utility room, trim only, patching plumber holes in drywall, even changing sash cords in older double hung windows are part of my service." In 1996 Paul renamed his company Meistersinger Decorating after the opera about tradesmen who enjoyed singing in their spare time.

If you would like to talk with Paul about a decorating project in your home contact him: meisterdec@sbcglobal.net. Text him at (216) 287-0270 or call him at (216) 741-4762.

Cleveland Chamber Choir



Sunday, March 10th at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary
 Music of Brahms, Britten and Rindfleisch
 The Cleveland Chamber Choir is an ensemble of professional singers from Northeast Ohio under the artistic direction of choral conductor Scott MacPherson. Committed to the Northeast Ohio region, the Cleveland Chamber Choir is dedicated to growing a diverse audience of choral music and presents concerts throughout Cleveland and its surrounding communities.



WHAT DO YOU GET when...

you mix cool jazz by the Demetrius Steinmetz Jazz Ensemble, thirteen talented poetry readers and writers, Goodies by Faith, and an appreciative audience?

**A FABULOUS EVENING!
 THAT'S WHAT!**

by Mike Skerritt

Mike Skerritt took a very popular event initiated by Sharon Anderson in 2013 as part of the FBC Arts Outreach program; added 12 poetry readers and reader-poets; hired the Demetrius Steinmetz Jazz Ensemble featuring Demetrius on piano and bass, Brian Kozak on Guitar, and Eileen Burns as vocalist; plied everyone with delicious Goodies by Faith; and the rest is history. Poems by established authors such as H.W. Longfellow, Louisa May Alcott, and Mary Oliver were intermixed with original compositions including one by D. P. Younginger (FBC's own Ryan Jenkins). From the powerful "Negro Mother" by Langston Hughes read by Monica Sturgis to the silly "Albert and the Lion" by Marriott Edgar read by Mike Skerritt, topics about nature, justice, beauty, history and faith were all covered by wonderful readings. A wonderfully responsive crowd enthusiastically applauded every reading and every jazz interlude!

Readers and attendees alike have already demanded a repeat in 2020 so Mike has penciled in 7:30 PM Friday evening, February 21, 2020 for the next Jazz-Poetry Night!

Heartfelt thanks to (in no particular order) our readers Monica Sturgis, Donielle Williams, Tom and Lisa



Wadsworth, Kathy and Mike Skerritt, Constance Haynes, Debra Hegler, Tondra Foxx-Miller, Mari Jenkins, Chuck Mayhew, Sonya Kyle and Barbara Walker. We can't thank Demetrius Steinmetz, Brian Kozak and Eileen Burns enough for beautiful music that took us back to the 40's, 50's and 60's! Thanks also to Faith Arnold for the wonderful refreshments, to Jeff Gordon and his crew for setting up the room and monitoring the microphone, and to Greg Beckner for his work on the program, which changed almost hourly. IF we missed anyone we apologize. IF you missed this wonderful program, put Jazz-Poetry Night in your calendar for 7:30 PM Friday, February 21, 2020! Don't miss it!



Barbara Walker



Tondra Foxx-Miller



Kathy Skerritt



Chuck Mayhew



Mike Skerritt



Donielle Williams



Mari Shroeder-Jenkins



Lisa Wadsworth



Sonya Kyle

Photographs
 By
 KAREN GILL!
 Thank You!

SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET
MARCH 29 - APRIL 7

With the curtain rising in shortly over a month, the cast of Sweeney Todd is hard at work making beautiful music. Kat Pernicone's (director) minimalist vision is a sight to behold. The small, tight-knit cast is sure to create a beautiful and somewhat macabre ambiance to Spahr Center.

The Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra is prepping their bows to slide across their strings as smooth as Sweeney's razor!

When describing the show to a friend of mine who had never seen it, I had to break it down into three parts. First is the comfort and anticipation of returning home after a long time away. Our anti-hero returns to London to reclaim his family and pick up his life where he left it off. Second is the ascent of the hero and the emotional decline of the anti-hero. I won't tell you too much! Old Sweeney wouldn't like that. Finally there is justice! Our anti-hero Sweeney both serves justice and is served justice.

There is a beautiful, funny, sad, scary, and horrible story to be told March 29th -April 7th.

We've planned a very special opening night dinner and a show on March 29th! This three course dinner and a show is sure to be tasty and I promise Mrs. Lovett has nothing to do with the pie!

Tickets for the dinner are available on the church's website as well as tickets for the performances! Don't miss your chance to see the worst pies in London and perhaps have the tastiest dinner in Shaker!

If you'd like to help sponsor our show, sell tickets, or assist with the run please see either Jane Pernicone or Kelley Pernicone.

More info or Tickets - firstbaptistcleveland.org/sweeney-todd

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March Birthdays

1st Trinity Johnson	7th Alwin Miller	12th Elle Frey
3rd Alex Cardwell	7th Diamond Miller	12th Cynthia Gill
3rd David Parajon	9th Cynthia Burke	15th Mona Robinson
3rd Mike Skerritt	9th Rosemarie Dabson	20th Wilma Hall
4th Joyce Berry	11th Roby Gill	23rd Jacquelyn Berry

Anniversaries

2nd Gregg & Mari Jenkins
4th Paul & Anne Eickmann
9th Jeff & Tammy Gordon
21st Jerry & Stephanie FallCreek Tillman
22nd Kristen Roberts

Feeling A Chill on Sundays?



by Jeff Gordon

I've been hearing comments about the temperature in the sanctuary during worship services: "Why is the fan on?" "Why is it so cold?"

The simple answer would be, "Hey ... welcome to winter in Cleveland!"

But there are several additional factors influencing the warmth (or lack thereof) you may be feeling. Our sanctuary, built in the 1920's when coal was a cheap heat source, has absolutely no insulation in it. It was built with massive stained glass windows that do little to keep the winter cold out. And over the years, sections of the heat registers in the side walls have been removed for reasons unknown. Throw in a winter like this where the temperature dips into the negative numbers, and it all becomes more than our building can easily handle.

We installed the enormous ceiling fan – and keep it on during worship – because its purpose is to push the warm air trapped in the ceiling down where it will do some good. We do have some other circulation fans going as well on the weekend. However, if you're still feeling a chill, let me encourage you to dress warm ... and pray for an early spring! We're doing all we can to warm things up, and are not turning thermostats down to save money. Besides, this is Cleveland, so it won't be long before I'm hearing the comments, "Why is it so warm in here on Sundays?!"

Choir Schedule

Come, make beautiful music with us on Thursdays!

Cherub Choir (Pre-K) meets from 5:00 - 5:20 p.m. in Wheaton.

Children's Choir (Grades K-5) meets in the choir room from 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Handbell Choir rehearsals will resume March 7th at 6:00 p.m.



Spur Cross Youth Outreach & Koinonia Camp Fundraiser



Saturday, March 9th @5:00 PM

Texas Smoked Brisket BBQ | Silent & Live Auctions
Live Entertainment | Pizza for the Kids

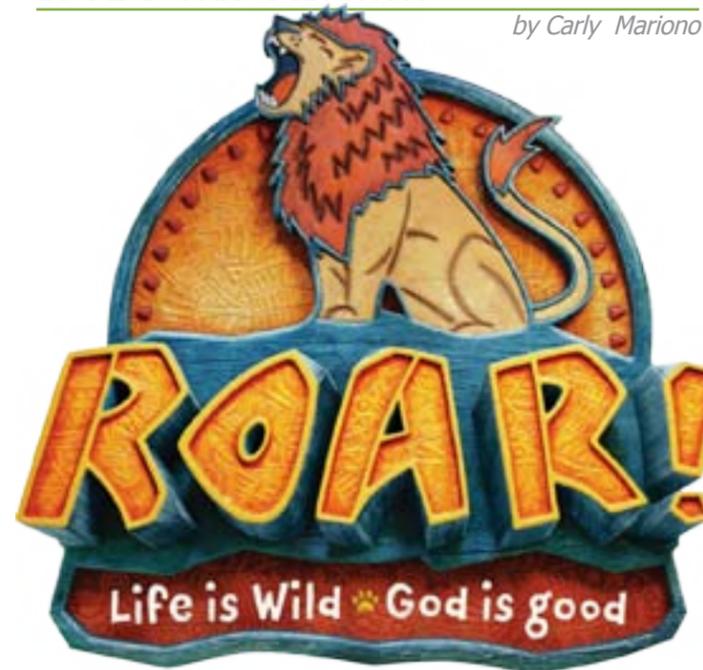
Location – Lifebrand Cowboy Church
1289 Mentor Avenue, Painesville, Ohio 44077

Tickets
\$25 - Ages 9 & up
\$10 - Ages 3 to 8
FREE - Ages under 3

Register – christiancampohio.org
Email – Lifebrandcc@gmail.com
Call – Patty (440)346-0340 or Pastor (440)796-1061

Kids ... Get Ready to ROAR in VBS This Summer!

by Carly Mariono



Join us **July 29th - Aug 2nd** for an epic African adventure as FBC transforms into the Savannah. At Roar Vacation Bible School, kids will explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life. Plans are already being made for a roar-ing good time! Grab a friend and join us!

Congratulations to Apollo's Fire



Hot Meals For The Homeless



On **Friday, March 22, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m.**, we will be preparing and serving a hot meal at New Life at Calvary Church, located at East 79th Street and Euclid Avenue. Please join us in this wonderful expression of kindness and love to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Suburban Orchestra Concert

Sunday, March 24, 2019, 3:30pm in the Sanctuary

Domenico Boyagian, Music Director
Rachel Stenzel, Concertmaster
Emilio Llinas, Concertmaster Emeritus

VERDI and BRAHMS with Dean Buck, Guest Conductor
Verdi: Luisa Miller Overture
Brahms: Haydn Variations
Brahms: Symphony no.2

CONCERTS ARE FREE
(Seating begins at 3:00 pm.)





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First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland
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Shaker Heights, OH 44118

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Dated Material: Feb. 28, 2019
Thanks for prompt delivery!

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one again?

<https://firstbaptistcleveland.org/watch-sermons>

2019 FBC Lay Leadership

Moderator: Kim Kidd-Collins
Vice Moderator: Tony Peebles
Treasurer: Ralph Hise
Clerk: Tammy Gordon
Children's Center: Frank Marino

Communication & Outreach: (Unfilled)
*Greeters, Welcome Center, Marketing,
& Communications*

Discipleship: Ship Collins
*Discipleship Classes, Children's Ministry,
Youth Ministry, & Covenant Groups*

Fellowship and Nurture: Iris Goins
*Stephen Ministry, Deacons,
& New Member Orientation*

Stewardship: Dan Mizener
*Property and Finance, Stewardship Campaign,
& Endowment and Audit*

Missions & Social Concerns: Jessica
Chapman-Martinez

Worship and Fine Arts: G. Michael Skerritt

Serving in Ministry

Rev. Dr. Kregg F. Burris, Senior Pastor
Rev. Jeff Gordon, Associate Pastor
Stephanie Price, Director of Music
Betty Meyers, Associate Director of Music
Brian Kozak, Director of Praise Team
Minister Jae Williams, Director of Youth Ministries
Carly Marino, Director of Children's Ministries
Jane Pernicone, Director of Children's Center
Star Knuckles, Executive Assistant/Office Admin.
Greg Beckner, Graphic/Web Designer & Marketing
Margo Jerome, Accountant

Tower Tidings Staff

Editors: Greg Beckner, Kregg Burris, Jeff Gordon

Thank you to the many volunteers who help
assemble the Tower Tidings mailing each month!

If you would like to be a part of our volunteer team
please contact Star in the church office, sknuckles@firstbaptistcleveland.org. Lunch is provided.

The next Tower Tidings Deadline: **March 15th**
The next issue will be mailed March, 2019

Please e-mail articles or news to Greg Beckner:
office@firstbaptistcleveland.org