



June 2019

Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

Single Service Summer



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**June 2nd -
Faith In Action Sunday**

Instead of a worship service, we will participate in community service projects

**June 30th -
Worship on the Lawn**

**July 14th & August 11th -
Ice Cream Sundays**

We will have a cool special treat to beat the heat after the service



Anthology of Scars

A treasured life lesson was shared to a group of classmates while in elementary school. One of my classmates, Molly, a girl about ten years old at the time, had severe burns across half of her body which included half of her face and hair. She had survived a house fire at the age of five and spent months in the burn unit of Barnes Hospital in St. Louis where she underwent a series of skin grafts. She donned a wig to cover a patch of her hair which did not grow back, an uneasy compromise for an active girl at her age. Her face bore the marks of scarring across her left forehead, around her left eye, and left cheek. Her arms were also badly scarred but she usually wore long sleeves to conceal them- even during the warm days of late May without air conditioning.

You couldn't help but notice. It seems that our attention is drawn to things out of the ordinary, and the marbled face with shades of pink, purple, and red captured our attention, which filled us with questions. "How did it happen?" "Did it hurt?" "Does it still hurt?" and "Will it get better?"

I don't remember the circumstances of what precipitated the moment, but Molly stood before our class and shared about how she wanted to be treated as a person with scars. First, she emphasized how we shouldn't stare. It made her feel uncomfortable and people should never point or talk about her as they walked past; she could still hear them and it was hurtful. Second, strangers shouldn't walk up to ask about what happened as it was none of their business. Without having a common reference point or relationship, they are being intrusive and are not entitled for her to open up about her painful experience. Third, if there is a relationship, then we are free to ask about the scars and she would talk about it to the level of the relationship. Being accepted for the person she was more important than the scars she bore.

Over the years, I was so grateful for the lesson. In Molly's case, our class quickly looked beyond Molly's scars to the point in which it was just a part of her. In fact we were quick to rise to her defense when others ridiculed or objectified her. Two years later, Molly's family moved from our area and we never saw or heard from her again, yet her life's lesson has remained ingrained in my mind to this day.

The fact of the matter is that we all have scars from past wounds. Some are visible for the world to see, while others can be found deep within us. It has been said that time heals all wounds. I feel that statement is false when the wounds are emotional. These wounds may never completely heal, but transition from pain to bitterness and resentment. They may become an emotional void of apathy or indifference.

During the month of June, I will be offering a holistic approach to the subject of how we live with our scars in my sermon series Anthology of Scars- "moving beyond our wounds as not to let them define us." Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Job, David, Peter are among the greatest spiritual examples within the Scriptures. Each of them had deep scars which shaped their faith and legacy, but also provided each a greater sense of awareness of God's plan for their lives. Their scars didn't define them, but became reminders of God's healing power and our witness to the power to arise beyond our wounds.

"Sometimes it's the scars that remind you that you survived. Sometimes the scars tell you that you have healed." - Dr. Ashley Wallis, Soul Survival

Pastor Gregg Burris
Senior Pastor

Youth June Activities (6th to 12th grades)



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



LESSON	MAIN POINT	BIBLE STORY	BIBLE VERSE	LESSON GOAL
Lesson 1	Only God Is Worthy Of My Worship!	Jesus Speaks to the Rich Young Man (Mark 10:17-22)	1 Timothy 1:17	The children will learn that we should only worship God. We accomplish this by not letting anything become more important to us than God.
Lesson 2	I Worship God When I Sing To Him!	David Celebrates as the Ark is Returned to Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6)	Psalms 33:1	The children will learn that we should worship God with our voices by singing to Him.
Lesson 3	I Worship God When I Pray To Him!	Elijah Speaks to God on the Mountain (1 Kings 19)	Psalms 46:10	The children will learn that when we worship God through prayer, we should not just give Him our requests. We should also listen.
Lesson 4	I Worship God When I Serve Him!	Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman at Bethany (John 12:1-11)	1 Peter 4:10	The children will learn that we worship God through serving. We should serve God and serve others even if it makes us uncomfortable.
Lesson 5	I Worship God When I Give!	The Believers Share Their Possessions with Each Other (Acts 4:32-37)	Psalms 37:21	The children will learn that we worship God through giving. We should give our tithes and offerings to God, but we should also give to people in need.
Lesson 6	I Worship God When I Love Others!	Peter Heals a Lame Man at the Gate (Acts 3)	1 John 3:11	The children will learn that part of worshipping God is loving other people. We can show love in many different ways including kind words, gifts, touch, quality time and acts of service.
Lesson 7	I Worship God When I Obey Him!	The Call of Abram (Genesis 12)	John 15:10	The children will learn that God should be more important than anything else in our lives. And if God truly is more important than anything, we will worship Him with our obedience.
Lesson 8	I Will Worship God In Good Times And Bad Times!	The Story of Job (Job)	Psalms 68:19	The children will learn that we have reason to worship God no matter what our circumstances are. We should worship God when things are going well, and we should worship God when things are not going well.

Sunday, June 9 All graduates will be recognized during our unified worship service.

Sunday June 23 Teacher Appreciation - We will be celebrating all FBCCC and FBC Teachers.

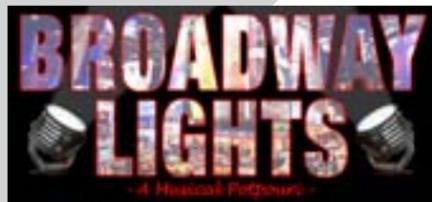
June 2nd is Faith In Action Sunday

Children are encouraged to participate in one of our family service activities such as the Neighborhood Food Collection or Family Promise. Childcare will be offered as needed. Please contact Carly Marino by Sunday May 26th if you will be bringing your little ones.

Greeters & Ushers Needed

We are looking to build a team of elementary-age ushers and greeters to serve the third Sunday of each month. We will have a practice session with the kids in the coming weeks. If your child is interested, please contact Carly Marino.





"BROADWAY LIGHTS" Shone BRIGHTLY!

by Mike Skerritt

On Saturday evening, May 18 many of the audience of almost 100 enthusiastically claimed Broadway Lights was the best benefit concert of the series that began about 14 years ago. The concert, a fund-raiser for the benefit of the FBC Music and Fine Arts Ministry, was produced and directed expertly by Helena Safarova, and featured favorites from Broadway shows, movies, and art song repertoire. The performers, all members or active friends of FBC, sang an inspired range of music that provided something for every taste of music represented in the audience. It wasn't just a few folks who said "This was the best FBC fund-raiser ever!" The concert was universally praised. One particularly enthusiastic fan remarked that this ought to be a semi-annual event instead of just a once a year gig!



The musical selections were eclectic to say the least. In what other venue could you ever find the aria "Si, mi chiamano Mime" from the opera La Boheme by Puccini sung just before "Snoopy," from You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown! Or the Lady Gaga song "Look What I Found" from A Star is Born on the same ticket as that old favorite "With a Little Bit of Luck" from My Fair Lady by Lerner and Lowe. No singers names mentioned so far because all of the cast of this benefit deserve special credit, including (in performance order) John Negus, Jae Williams, Paul Kroeger, Elizabeth Gockel, Angela Zawada, Michael Skerritt, Helena Safarova, David Cumming, Carole Negus, Stephanie Price, Lynne Provance and Laura Preston.

Of course all of the musical selections were made infinitely better by the talented accompaniment of Brian Kozak, Betty Meyers, Pete Psarris, Tony Carrero, and Stephanie Price. Special thanks to the production staff including Jiri Safar (slides), Iris Goins (box office and Mocktail Bar), Laura Preston (program), Greg Beckner (publicity), Betty Daniels (props), Kyran Hurle (sound), Skyler and Sierra Hurle (youth volunteers), John Negus (stage manager), and Jeff Gordon (technical support)

Special thanks goes out to the donors Eleanor Frey, Jiri Safa, Helena Safarova, Phyllis Ruppert, Joaquin Dos Reis, Carol and John Negus and Jack Shelley. Special mention goes to Anita Bartell who brought a huge contingent of her Zumba class to see Mike Skerritt, their token male of the Zumba class, sing.

A great time was had by all, and a date in May, 2020 has already been set for next year's concert. Hope you can attend!

Women's Retreat, May 11, 2019

by Fran Leanza



What happens when 41 very different ladies come together for a day? The answer is pure magic. As we gathered in the morning at the Intergrove Lodge at the North Chagrin Reservation Metro Park we first noticed our diversity. We were young, old and in between, good friends, familiar faces and strangers. We had red, brown, blond, black, gray and white hair and skin of all shades of tan and brown. We sang, shared in large and small groups, some hiked while others enjoyed yoga, relaxing in the sun, line dancing and all had fun making a piece of meaningful jewelry. We were led in clever games and activities that helped us know each other better. As our program developed we soon were no longer aware of our diversity but were woven together in our unity.



We welcome all women and friends of FBC to join us next year in this day of fellowship as we come together, united as sisters in Christ.

Thanks to the leader that made the magic all happen: Gwen Dyer and Kathy Adams-Case, publicity; Jen Bopple, registration; Laura Preston, Tondra Miller, Carol Broadbent and Debra Hegler, program; along with many others that shared their leadership in various activities.



by Mike Skerritt

We are expanding on our successful worship format of the past two years beginning with the 10 AM Sunday, June 9 service.

Each 10 AM Sunday service will be preceded at 9:30 AM by a short fellowship time including coffee, tea, juice, and delicious goodies. Late risers won't have to go hungry during the service. Unconsumed goodies will be allowed in the sanctuary.

Each service will include a mix of traditional and contemporary style music typical of the church's separate traditional and contemporary services scheduled for the balance of each year. For example, one Sunday a powerful organ prelude will start things off, and the following Sunday the church's talented Praise Team and Band will assume that opening role. Alternating styles for other elements of each service will take advantage of the many talented members and friends of the church.

And if you ever wanted to try singing in a church choir, you are welcome to join members of the church "Sometimes Sunday Singers," a group of regular choir members and congregation volunteers who meet at 9:15 AM to learn a simple song that is sung during that day's service. No audition required!

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the summer worship schedule will be the theme assigned to each Sunday, an effort to introduce a more relaxed and engaging atmosphere.

Sunday, June 9 is "Hat Day," when you are encouraged to wear a hat of your choosing, the more elaborate the better. Hats will be available if you don't have one of your own. And since the majority of hat wearers traditionally are women, we will limit singing to the fairer sex on this Sunday.

Everyone loves to eat, so we have incorporated a "Dollar Dog Sunday" on June 16 and encourage you to wear whatever Cleveland Indians attire you have. Hot dogs will be in the Courtyard after the service. And ice cream and root beer floats will follow the two "Ice Cream Sundae" services of July 14 and August 11.

While we are on the subject of food, don't forget the "Tailgate Party Sunday" where we will have a picnic in the parking lot and admire once again everyone's Cleveland Indians attire.

On June 23 you can wear a T-shirt on "T-Shirt Sunday," and on July 21 you are encouraged to wear your most

outrageous Hawaiian shirt on "Hawaiian Sunday."

On June 30 the **Community Service Sunday** will move to the front steps of the church so any and everyone can stop by. You are encouraged to bring a lawn chair so you will be comfortable on the front lawn of the church surrounded by neighbors and friends.

We encourage clothing in red, white, and/or blue on 4th of July Sunday which will actually be on Sunday, July 7.

You won't want to miss **Christmas in July** on July 28 when the music will be predominantly Christmas carols.

Recognizing the importance of our dedication to the community around us you will be encouraged to bring school supplies for struggling public schools while you wear a shirt with a logo from your favorite school on **Back to School Sunday**, August 18th, and non-perishable food for the hungry on **Homecoming Sunday**, August 25.

Summarizing –

- June 9 – Hat Day
- June 16 – Dollar Dog Day
- June 23 – T-Shirt Sunday
- June 30 – Community Service Sunday
- July 7 – 4th of July Sunday
- July 14 – Ice Cream Sundae
- July 21 – Hawaiian Sunday
- July 28 – Christmas in July
- August 4 – Tailgate Party
- August 11 – Ice Cream Sunday
- August 18 – Back to School Sunday
- August 25 – Homecoming Sunday
- September 1 – Labor Day Weekend Staff Appreciation Sunday
- September 8 – Return to the regular church service schedule
 - 9 AM Contemporary service
 - 11 AM Traditional service

First Baptist hopes that this summer schedule helps create closer relationships in the Heights area. There is something for everyone to enjoy.

<https://firstbaptistcleveland.org/single-service-summer/>



Hat Day



Hawaiian Day



Worship on the Lawn



Tailgate Day



Ice Cream Sunday



49'ers Upcoming Event

Saturday, June 15, 2019
12:00 Noon | 12:50 Departure

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad
Rockside Station 7900 Old Rockside Rd.
Independence OH 44131 - Box Lunch Included
firstbaptistcleveland.org/forty-niners



Calvary News



Our next meal service will be Friday, June 27, from 4:00 to 6:30 PM, at New Life at Calvary, at the corner of East 79th St. and Euclid Avenue. firstbaptistcleveland.com/homeless

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Your online Amazon purchases can benefit FBC! When you shop on <https://smile.amazon.com>. Products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages donate 0.5% of the purchase price to "First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland" when you select it as your charitable organization... happy shopping!

June Birthdays

2nd Jean Britton	9th Meredith Shelly	19th Claude Kennard	29th Cheryl Spahr
2nd Carol DeFlorentis	14th Frances Leanza	22nd Laura Preston	30th Frank Marino
4th John Currier	16th Sandra Bronoff	29th Delesia Robinson	

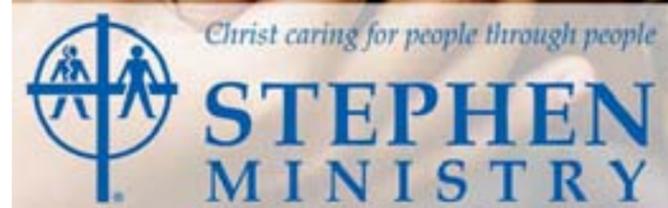
Tower Tidings Going Green

August Issue will be digital unless you choose print!

Many of you already know Tower Tidings is available on our website all the time ahead of time. You can often get the digital version online up to a week ahead of the printed version. If you already read Tower Tidings on your phone, tablet or computer, congratulations, you don't need to do anything. We found out many people receive the printed version of Tower Tidings but don't read it. If this is the case you don't have to do anything and your name will be dropped from the printed/mail list automatically so you won't receive it and you will save a tree.



However, if you are old school and prefer to hold a piece of paper in your hands while reading, don't fret, we will still mail you a paper copy! Just visit the website to choose to receive a paper copy of Tower Tidings. Don't have the internet? You can also make one phone call to the church office and let us know you would still like a paper copy mailed monthly. Just remember to recycle the paper copy after you are finished reading.
<https://firstbaptistcleveland.org/go-digital/>



Do you have the desire to become a Stephen Minister? Contact Mari Schroeder Jenkins or Pastor Burris in person or through the form on our web page.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry and how you can become part of our next training class that begins in September visit firstbaptistcleveland.org/stephen-ministry

Your Faith In Action Leaders

by Fran Leanza



On Sunday, May 19th Laura Leanza Preston gave an enthusiastic announcement to the congregations attending both services. Many of the twenty project leaders were present to encourage you to join them in service on June 2nd. This will be our 12th year in our day of service to our church, community and beyond. We have projects for the very youngest to the oldest, to meet a variety of talents



and interests. Make sure that you are a part of the action! For more information about Faith In Action visit <https://firstbaptistcleveland.org/faith-in-action/>



Run/Walk for Hunger with First Baptist

by Karen Cass-Gill

It was a sunny but chilly Saturday morning when our Run/Walk for Hunger team set off from the Great Lakes Science Center led by our team captain Wendy Chaney. Wendy was joined by her sons, Theo and Forrest, Jane Pernicone, Roby and Courtney Gill, Gregg Jenkins, Carly, Frank and Adam Marino, LaKeisha Austin and her daughter Kennedy and Steve Bopple, Jen and sons Jacob and Simon all coming together to fight against hunger in our community. After completing the walk, the team enjoyed a lunch provided by Mr. Hero and were entertained by Rock the House. Our team was able to raise over \$2,100 through the generosity of First Baptist Church and the Children's Center. Thanks to our Mission Cluster, FBC was a sponsor of this year's event. Thank you again to everyone who donated baked goods, purchased goodies or made a donation to our bake sales. Thank you for helping us to help others!

<https://www.firstbaptistcleveland.org/run-walk-for-hunger/>



Christian Education Classes



Don't miss our exciting Women's Bible Study! We are studying the Sermon on the Mount by Jen Wilkin. The Sermon on the Mount articulates what the life of a follower of Christ should look like. How should a disciple relate to sin? To others? To the Law? How should a disciple think, speak, and act?

This study takes an in-depth look at Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as He challenges us to think differently about repentance, salvation, and sanctification. Wilkin covers the entire sermon in this powerful and engaging study.

<https://firstbaptistcleveland.org/class-schedule/>



Discipleship Hour - Book of Acts
Sundays @ 9:00 AM
In the Fireside Room

Men's Bible Study - BE Alive
Every Other Wednesday @ 6:30 PM
In the Judson Room



Women's Bible Study - Sermon on the Mount
Every Other Wednesday @ 6:30 PM
In the Fireside Room



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Church Office - 216.932.7480
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FirstBaptistCleveland.org
office@firstbaptistcleveland.org

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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: Debra Hegler
*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
Rev. Sandra Alexander-Haynes, Christian Education Dir.
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

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: **June 15th**
The next issue will be mailed July 1, 2019

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