



# Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland



BE-COMING BE-ING BE-LIEVING  
[BE]  
BE-LONGING

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Each week this month, our focus will be on "Building a Community of Belonging". May 5th – Be-ing (our identity) Communion, May 12th – Be-longing (our place) and May 19th – Be-coming (God's plan). We look forward to seeing you each Sunday as we continue to grow in our BE. [firstbaptistcleveland.org/watch-sermons](http://firstbaptistcleveland.org/watch-sermons)



**Saturday, May 11**  
at 10:00 AM  
Cleveland Metropark  
Intergrove Lodge

**Saturday, May 18**  
at 7:30 PM  
Spahr Center

**Register Before May 6th!**  
All Women \$15

**Tickets at the Door**  
Adults \$15 | Students \$12



## More Powerful than Hate

The horrific Easter morning bombings in Sri Lanka defies all logic and common sense in its indiscriminate brutality and lack of humanity.

Sri Lanka is just off the coast of India. I've visited India twice and deeply love the beautiful people of such a vibrant culture. One picture taken just before the bombing shows happy children dressed up for Easter, another picture shows the spray of blood across the walls of the church just moments later. It sickens me. My prayer has been with the Indian Christian community and those impacted by the deeds of evil men.

Information coming out from authorities believe this attack on the innocent people in Sri Lanka was in retaliation for the murderous attack on two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand by 28 year old, Brenton Harrison Tarrant, a white supremacist who killed 50 innocent people.

### Retaliation?

The nine suicide bombers in Sri Lanka killed over 350 people at three churches and three prominent international hotels. Their attack on Easter Sunday morning, the great day of celebration of Christ's resurrection, was deliberate and an act of defilement. The inclusion of breakfast areas in the hotel was to target "westerns" and in doing so, it targeted families gathered on the Easter break holiday.

### Defense of the faith?

Is there little wonder that fanatics who use their religious beliefs to kill, wound, and destroy others to 'defend' their faith, in fact negatively impact religious belief. The willingness to blow up one's self and total strangers for God is repulsive to the civilized world.

Let's ask the following questions:

- 1) Does murdering one group of innocent people justify murdering another group of innocent people?
- 2) How does God delight in the "offering" of 350 dead in his name?
- 3) Do these suicide bombers expect God to 'reward' them for their actions?
- 4) How does such horrific actions promote their cause in a positive way?
- 5) When will violence against innocent men, women and children bring an end to violence?

Jesus taught us that love overcomes hate. The spinning wheel of violence only brings destruction to everyone it touches. The only remedy to stop this wheel of violence is to be confronted with the immovable wall of unconditional love. At the heart



Innocent children worshipping on Sunday.

The aftermath of the Easter Sunday bombings.

of Jesus' own response on the cross, he transformed the hate spewing from his enemies with pleads for forgiveness, mockery into prayers, pain into perseverance, and death's grip into the hands of His Father's acceptance.

Let us take a stand to end violence. Let us pray for the victims and families, but also let us make known, our petition of peace to God with a passion for all people by victorious power of love. The message of Easter promises eternal life awaits the child of God. The real power of the embracing gospel has the capacity to transform evil actions by the love of God into platforms to showcase genuine love, forgiveness, acceptance and healing. Let us stand together with victims of violence and lift our voices to oppose those bent on destruction. Our world needs to see genuine love as a viable option to the madness of those who preach a gospel of hate and destruction and to silence the loud voices, disrupt violent means, and challenge the heartless actions which propagate their message by a more encompassing message of peace.

By this they will know if you are my disciples, if you love one another.

Pastor Gregg Burris  
Senior Pastor

## Koinonia Elementary Camp (grades 3-5)

June 16-21



Parents, we're gauging interest to see if we can take a group from FBC; let us know if your child is interested in going to camp. Scholarships are available. Camp is a great time to build new friendships and grow spiritually. Days are packed with outdoor activities and high-energy group sessions designed to guide kids to Christ. Contact [Carly Marino](#) or [Jeff Gordon](#) to let us know if you're interested.



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

### REMEMBER THIS

*"But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak."*

Isaiah 40:31, NIRV



### Sunday Schedule for May

**WEEK 1**  
MATTHEW 28:16-20 ACTS 1-2  
**Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel**  
**SAY THIS:** Keep going because God is with you.

**WEEK 2**  
ACTS 16:16-40  
**Paul and Silas in Prison**  
**SAY THIS:** You can choose joy when life gets hard.

**WEEK 3**  
HEBREWS 12:1  
**Cloud of Witnesses**  
**SAY THIS:** God can help you let go of what is holding you back.

**WEEK 4**  
HEBREWS 12:2-3  
**Fix Your Eyes on Jesus**  
**SAY THIS:** Keep going because of what Jesus did for you.

LIFE APP

**PERSEVERANCE — Refusing to give up when life gets hard**

## Ian Marr's Senior Recital

by Tina Marr



Ian Marr, a senior at Shaker Heights High School (SHHS), will be performing a recital at First Baptist Church on Saturday, May 25th, at 4:00 PM.

During his high school years, Ian has enjoyed playing in the percussion section with the SHHS Wind Ensemble, SHHS Symphonic Band, and SHHS Raiders Marching Band. He is also a member of the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony and The Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra. As a percussionist, Ian plays a wide variety of instruments, from timpani to triangle. His favorites are the mallet instruments, which include the marimba and the xylophone.

Ian will be attending the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in the fall, majoring in percussion performance. He is the son of John and Tina Marr.



## CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA Youth Orchestra

VINAY PARAMESWARAN • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Friday, May 10th, 8 PM  
At Severance Hall\*

Vinay Parameswaran, conductor

Program includes:  
Bartok Dance Suite

Shostakovich Symphony No. 5 in D minor, Op. 47

\*Chamber Music Prelude Concert in Reinberger Chamber Hall at 7:00 PM

**\$15.00 tickets** are available, call 216.231.1111 or visit [clevelandorchestrayouthorchestra.com](http://clevelandorchestrayouthorchestra.com).

## Easter Sunday Volunteers

Thanks to all of our volunteers that helped make Easter special!



## Youth Sunday

Come support our Youth as they lead our worship service on May 26th. This is our first unified service for this year and it will start at 10 a.m. The Gospel choir will sing.

Calling all Youth: please join us during discipleship hour as we learn more about Jesus Christ. As we grow in the knowledge of the Lord, Jesus Christ, we look forward to a year of spiritual, service, and relationship building activities.

Work projects: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
*We're Out Of Here — Our service begins!*

by Fran Leanza



This is the 12th year that First Baptist Church has left the building for a day of community service, outreach and fellowship. Information and sign-up sheets will be available in Swasey Tower on May 5th. Find a project that you would like to do and sign up. We will begin with a brief communion service then it's off we go to serve!

Our celebration lunch from 12:00-1:30 PM is under the capable leadership of Tony Peebles, Benne Christian and Debra Hegler.

**SERVICE PROJECTS**

**Projects Leaving The Building**

**Neighborhood Food Collection**

This group will walk the neighborhoods near FBC collecting food items for Family Promise and for The Hunger Center at Bethany Baptist Church. The FBC Boy Scout troop will assist by distributing fliers, in advance, to the homes we will be visiting. Please bring your own water bottle, rain gear, stroller, and wagons.



**Project Leaders:** Laura Leanza Preston & Jen and Steve Bopple (meet in Wheaton Center).

**Project designed for:** 20-25 people; a great project for any age; infants, toddlers, children, youth and adults. No limit to the number of participants, the more the better!

**Judson Hymn Sing With Residents**



This group will travel to Judson Retirement Center for a hymn sing. We will go to several sections of the nursing care facility to sing familiar hymns with the residents.

**Project Leaders:** Gwen Dyer & Liz Gockel (meet in the Choir Room/Chapel to car pool)

**Project designed for:** 15-25 people; anyone who enjoys singing the old familiar hymns and in so doing bring a smile to the faces of these older people. You do not need to be a great singer, the words and music will be provided. Just bring along a great spirit. This project is open to children, youth and adults of all ages.

**Family Promise**

Come join with families living at the nearby Family Promise shelter. There will be a morning of fun crafts, games and stories with the children while the parents have an opportunity to have their own "Ask the Doctor" discussion group.



**Project Leaders:** Carly Marino with the children and Eddie Wills, M.D., with the parents (meet by the Welcome desk to car pool)

**Project designed for:** 10-15 people; children, youth, and adults.

**Rust Belt Community Garden**

Come help create a useful green space in our city. As we work together at a Cleveland Community Garden, located at 1407 E. 40th, Cleveland. The team will be weeding and thinning the garden to prepare the ground for planting. Bring a water bottle, rain gear, work gloves, kneeling pads, weed whackers, and small hand shovels.

**Project Leaders:** Jane Pernicone, Ship Collins & Todd Rogers (meet in the Fairmount Hall by the water fountain to carpool).



**Project is designed for:** 10-15 people; youth, and young adults, but all are welcomed.

**Produce Give Away From The Cleveland Food Bank**

This is a new exciting community project where we will be giving away 15,000 -25,000 pounds of fresh produce to our neighbors. This will be set up in our parking lot and we will need lots of willing hands to be at various stations to pass out the fresh fruits and vegetables.



**Project Leaders:** Jae Williams, Karen Gill & Kevin Boyer (meet by the playground).

**Project designed for:** 20-25 people, older children, youth and adults.

**Projects Taking Place Inside Our Building**

**White Cross Bandages**

Currently, bandages are being sent to the Congo. The Fireside

Room will quickly be transformed into what looks like a small factory: some ripping sheets, some running sewing machines, some rolling strips into bandages and everyone talking and having fun. Three portable sewing machines are needed as well as three people to operate them.



**Project Leaders:** Mari Schroeder-Jenkins & Barbara Walker (meet in the Fireside Room).

**Project designed for:** Any number of people with no limit to the number of participants, the more the merrier; older children, youth, and adults.

**Sorting Donations For The Men's Shelter At 2100 Lakeside And Recovery For Life**

The participants will be busy sorting and packing the items for delivery later in the week.

**Project Leader:** Joan Mihelich and Judy Donley (meet in Spahr Center).

**Project designed for:** 7-8 people; men, women, and teens.

**Preparing A No-Cook Dessert For A Calvary Meal And Emergency Food Snack Bags for Frontline Service**

This is an easy sit-down task of putting together a dessert of trail mix for our next guests we serve at the hot meal at Calvary church. This group will also prepare emergency food snack bags for the homeless mentally ill who receive services from who receive help from Frontline Service. It is difficult to help clients when hunger is their most immediate need. Participants will assemble zip lock bags filled with emergency non-perishable items.



**Project Leaders:** Tina DeBlaey & Iris Goins (meet in the Livingstone Room).

**Project designed for:** 8-10 people; children, teens, and adults.

**Nursery Is Open:** If there is a need, our nursery will be open for babies and toddlers with care being provided by the regular Sunday staff. Parents need to register in advance at the sign-up table for this service.

Questions? Ask Fran Leanza or Karen Gill or e-mail them at the bottom of the Faith In Action web page - [firstbaptistcleveland.org/faith-in-action](http://firstbaptistcleveland.org/faith-in-action)

**Start Collecting Items for FIA**

**Donations Needed In Advance To Make Our Day A Success**

**Frontline Services For Homeless For Emergency Food Snack Bags**



- Juice boxes, individual fruit cups or applesauce
- Packages of peanut butter or cheese crackers
- Granola or protein bars

**Recovery For Life (Women)**

- Back to work clothes for women
- Shoes, handbags
- Coats, jackets, rain coats, umbrellas
- Robes, PJ's, slippers
- Single bed sheets, bath towels

**For Family Promise**

The following items are needed for families as they make a fresh start in their own apartments.

- Soaps, cleaning supplies
- Foil, wax paper, lunch bags, toilet paper
- Sponges, new kitchen towels, hot pads
- Personal hygiene products for teen girls & women

**For The Shelter At 2100 Lakeside (Men)**

**For Men moving out to an apartment**

- Pots, pans, dishes, cooking utensils, coffee pot

**For use at the shelter**

- Books, recent magazines, devotional booklets, Guideposts, small Bibles, New Testaments, puzzle books and reading glasses from the dollar store
- Washable Men's clothing – Jeans, t-shirts, sweat shirts, jackets and rain gear
- Gym bags and backpacks (the men need to carry all their belongings with them during the day)
- Personal items – Trial/hotel size/small (under 4 oz.) bottles of shampoo & lotion, toothbrush, toothpaste comb, razor, deodorant

**For daily use**

- Water bottles

Collection baskets in the Fairmount Hall beginning May 5!

**Still Time To Register For The Retreat**

**Register by May 6th for the May 11th event!**

The Women's Retreat registration deadline has been extended to May 6, giving all women more time to register. So grab a brochure from the display in Swasey Tower or several other pockets below posters in the church, complete the registration form inside and return or complete the form online - [firstbaptistcleveland.org/retreat](http://firstbaptistcleveland.org/retreat) and bring in your \$15 check. See you all there!

# SWEENEY TODD

## THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET



The Happy Ending Lyric Players would like to thank everyone who came to our production of Sweeney Todd this year. We appreciate your support and your love of the arts.

[firstbaptistcleveland.org/help](http://firstbaptistcleveland.org/help)

### 49'ers Upcoming Events

Program

**May 19th, Sunday**  
Lunch 12:30 p.m. | Program 1:00 p.m.



**Speaker:** G. Michael Skerritt- "Community Theatre, A Joy and A Challenge"  
[firstbaptistcleveland.org/forty-niners](http://firstbaptistcleveland.org/forty-niners)

### Run/Walk for Hunger with First Baptist

Schedule of Events Saturday, May 11, 2019

**7:45 AM** Race Day Registration & Breakfast Tent Opens at the Great Lakes Science Center, entertainment and more

**8:15 AM** Kick-off Celebration hosted by Cleveland 19 News

**8:45 AM** Run/Walk for Hunger steps off

**Finish Line Celebration** at the Great Lakes Science Center. Be sure to join us as we celebrate the 31st Annual Run/Walk for Hunger with a donated lunch provided by Mr. Hero & Orlando Baking Company, entertainment, awards for our fastest runners and much more excitement, including our Kids Fun Run!

**Stay & Play** The Great Lakes Science Center welcomes all Run/Walk for Hunger participants to stay for a fun-filled day of explorations. By wearing your Run/Walk for Hunger t-shirt, you will receive a \$2 discount on entry into the museum and education facility.

**Parking** is available at the Great Lakes Science Center for a discounted price of \$5 (regularly \$11). Cash is preferred -you will have to pre-pay.

For more information or to sign up visit the website [firstbaptistcleveland.org/run-walk-for-hunger](http://firstbaptistcleveland.org/run-walk-for-hunger)

### May Birthdays

3rd Martha Artzberger	5th Lorie'l Johnson	7th Eddie Wills	17th Audrey Schregardus	29th Michelle Gates
3rd Phyllis Edberg	5th Marjorie Shim	11th Karen Gill	20th Suzanne Blum	30th Judy Donley
5th Ryan Jenkins	6th Stephanie Fallcreek	16th Frank Kidd	22nd Mary Wills	31st David Stevens

### Calvary News

by Tina Marr



In March, approximately 12 volunteers prepared and served a meal to about 55 guests.

Delesia Robinson set up a table to introduce our female guests to the services provided by P.A.D.S. She brought along guests from "Welcome to Sisterhood," an organization that focuses on mentoring and empowerment, which was founded by Angel Reese. We enjoyed having their help with our meal service and look forward to them joining us in the future.

Our next meal service will be Friday, May 24th, 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](http://firstbaptistcleveland.com/homeless)



Do you have the desire to become a Stephen Minister? Find out about Stephen Ministry and how you can become part of our next training class that begins in September by attending an information session on Sunday, May 19th after each service.

Contact Mari Schroeder Jenkins or Pastor Burris or complete the form on our webpage for more information [firstbaptistcleveland.org/stephen-ministry](http://firstbaptistcleveland.org/stephen-ministry)

### Suburban Symphony Orchestra - Delightful!

Review by Mike Skerritt



From the orchestra's opening number by Giuseppe Verdi to the echoing strains of Johannes Brahms beautiful music, patrons of the March 24 concert at First Baptist were treated to great music, the performance of which was enhanced by the remarkable ambiance of the First Baptist Gothic Sanctuary and its dynamic acoustics. Verdi's Overture from his opera Luisa Miller, Brahms' Variations on a theme by Haydn, and Brahms' Symphony No. 2 were masterfully performed by talented musicians from all over Cleveland, INCLUDING our own Stephanie Price on bass.

Maestro Dean Buck, Assistant Conductor of Cleveland Opera Theater, actively serves as Guest Conductor of various Cleveland organizations in symphony and opera. As Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master for Cleveland Opera Theater, he is also principal conductor of the New York based opera company LoftOpera. Dean is currently based in Cleveland and will complete his Master's Degree in Conducting from CIM.

But for me the best part of the concert was watching our own Stephanie Price play bass in the ensemble. Her focus on the music reflected her dedication to music of all kinds including that of our Sunday morning worship services.

The crowd of well over 200 people was enthusiastic in their appreciation of the concert, with many saying they hoped the Suburban Symphony would be back next year. The concert, free and open to the public, is a very nice addition to our Music and Fine Arts Season, and I will urge them to return. [suburbansymphony.org](http://suburbansymphony.org)



### Music Notes



Children's Choirs will rehearse on 5/2, 5/9 and 5/16. We will sing at the 11am service on 5/19.

Gospel Choir rehearsals:

Thursday 5/2 6:45-7:15pm  
Thursday 5/9 6:45-7:15pm  
Wednesday 5/15 7:15-7:45  
Thursday 5/23 7:15-7:45  
Sing on Sunday 5/26



All ages are welcome!  
[firstbaptistcleveland.org/choirs](http://firstbaptistcleveland.org/choirs)

### Broadway Lights

by Helena Safarova



"BROADWAY LIGHTS" A Musical Potpourri is an annual show that has proven to be an evening of wonderful entertainment for the whole family. Our own best singers and musicians are preparing a number of songs from famous musicals such as The Wiz, A Star Is Born, The Music Man, Jekyll & Hyde, Company, Waitress, Porgy and Bess, and many more, for your enjoyment. All proceeds from ticket sales directly support the FBC Music & Arts Programs. We look forward to seeing you in the audience! You are invited to stay after the show for sweet treats.

**Saturday, May 18 at 7:30PM, Spahr Center**  
**Tickets at the door: Adults \$15, students \$12**

Refreshments and Mocktail Bar (Non-Alcoholic Cocktails) available during intermission.  
More Info - [firstbaptistcleveland.org/broadway-lights/](http://firstbaptistcleveland.org/broadway-lights/)

### Your Amazon Purchases

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!



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First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland  
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Church Office - 216.932.7480  
The Children's Center - 216.371.9394

[FirstBaptistCleveland.org](http://FirstBaptistCleveland.org)  
[office@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:office@firstbaptistcleveland.org)

Facebook/First Baptist Church of  
Greater Cleveland



### Watch Sermons Online

Miss a sermon  
or want to hear  
one again?

[firstbaptistcleveland.org/watch-sermons](http://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:** 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 Knuckles in the office,  
[sknuckles@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:sknuckles@firstbaptistcleveland.org). Lunch is provided.

The next Tower Tidings Deadline: **May 15th**  
The next issue will be mailed June 1, 2019

Please e-mail articles or news to Greg Beckner:  
[office@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:office@firstbaptistcleveland.org)