



Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

Blessings From Above

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For Our Single Summer Service

Photo by Pete Psarras

We continue 10:00 AM Sunday services 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, goodies are allowed in the sanctuary.

Each of our summer services includes a blend of traditional and contemporary style music typical of our separate traditional and contemporary services.

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. These are the themes for Aug.

August 4 – Tailgate Party

August 11 – Ice Cream Sunday

August 18 – Back to School Sunday

August 25 – Homecoming Sunday

God speaks through circumstances

Connecting the Circumstances

Two young children were spending a beautiful summer day laying in the grass gazing up into the bright blue sky watching large white fluffy clouds move overhead. (Cloud-gazing is one of the simple joys of life that we seem to outgrow in our busy world.) One child saw the shape of a dog and the other a shark. It takes a bit of imagination and the movement of the clouds often morph the imagine from one thing into something else.

For many secularist, this illustrates how Christians and people of faith view our world, imposing their imagination to see God in common objects around them. This "imposition" might be better called "faith" or "belief." Beliefs are foundational to our views of the world. Some beliefs are open to empirical testing, not just by scientists but by everyone. Gravity, for example, can be tested everyday by dropping an apple from your hand. Proof of God requires some empirical testing and also requires faith—belief by feeling, by intuition, by a "sense of knowing."

Currently the tide seems to be moving from religious belief to that of the agnostic perspective of uncertainty, or to a secular position which refuses to see any resemblance of supernaturalism as a platform for belief.

Do you believe that there is a God who is directing your life? Einstein expressed his belief in this way: "I believe in Spinoza's God who reveals himself in the orderly harmony of what exists, not in a God who concerns himself with the fates and actions of human beings." And yet, when the belief in the 'Divine' becomes an accepted part of our empirical foundation of the cosmos and part of our world-view, we are thereby open to the acceptance that a higher order is at work within our personal existence.

If order is seen in our universe, then our lives are subject to that order. If God designed our world, then God interacts with us. The fabric of faith then provides the material to create a tapestry of a life with purpose and introduces a level of spirituality which gives meaning to our existence.

With this foundation, those things which might appear to be explained as coincidences (a chance circumstance) are nothing of the sort. The word 'coincidence' is used only

once in the Bible and that was by Jesus Himself when He was teaching the parable of the Good Samaritan. In Luke 19:31, Jesus said, "And by a coincidence a certain priest was going down in that way, and having seen him, he passed over on the opposite side." It is translated from the Greek word synkyrian, which is a combination of two words syn and kurios. Syn means "together with," and kurios means "supreme in authority." A biblical definition then would be "what occurs together by God's providential arrangement of circumstances."

There are times in which circumstances align beautifully. But to anyone who believes in a Divine Supreme Being that sincerely cares for the welfare of His creation, such occurrences are more than mere coincidences. In Jeremiah chapter 29, verse 11, God says, "For I know the plans that I have for you, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope."

When we start connecting the coincidences, patterns emerge which defies the argument for chance or randomness. Faith uses these patterns to reveal the handiwork of God. As Christians, our faith is placed in the divinity of Jesus, the Christ, who is at work in our life in all circumstances. The Gospel of Jesus tells of God's plan of salvation, forgiveness, hope and new life. His plan of redemption and restoration unfolds by our walk of faith.

Every time a "coincidence" emerges, it serves to remind us that the divine order is at work in us. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified." Romans 8:28-30

Blessings,



Pastor Gregg Burris
Senior Pastor

FBC & Community Youth Explosion!

The community and youth explosion was a fantastic success! There were over 26 young people, as well as family members from within First Baptist and community members who attended. There was delicious food, praise in song through karaoke, video games and biblical board games which added to the excitement. As we continue our outreach to the community and building the Lord's kingdom, we thank God!



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



"Safari Celebration" VBS Zoo Wrap Party



We're going to the Zoo on Sunday, August 11th. There will be lunch in Wheaton Center after church. Tickets will be handed out that day. Kids attending morning or evening VBS will be free, all others over age 2 are \$12. Have your ticket order to Carly by Sunday August 4th. If you have questions contact carly@firstbaptistcleveland.org

LESSON	MAIN POINT	BIBLE STORY	BIBLE VERSE	LESSON GOAL
Lesson 3	God Provides The Courage To Live For Him!	Daniel and the Lion's Den (Daniel 6)	Psalms 27:1	The purpose of this lesson is to teach children that God will give us the courage to do the things He wants us to do. Therefore, we should not be afraid to obey Him.
Lesson 5	God Provided Jesus To Lead And Guide Us!	Jesus As the Good Shepherd, We Are the Sheep (John 10:1-7)	John 10:10	The purpose of this lesson is to teach children that God provided Jesus to lead and guide us. If we follow Him, we will have the best life.
Lesson 6	Salvation Only Comes From God!	Stories of Jesus (Luke 2, 3, 19; John 14)	John 14:6	The purpose of this lesson is to teach children that God provides salvation for everyone through His Son Jesus, and that Jesus is the only way to heaven.
Lesson 7	God Provides Forgiveness When We Ask For It!	Prodigal Son (Luke 15)	1 John 1:9	The purpose of this lesson is to teach children that it is important to apologize and ask for forgiveness from people and God.

Fantastic New Children's Center Floors

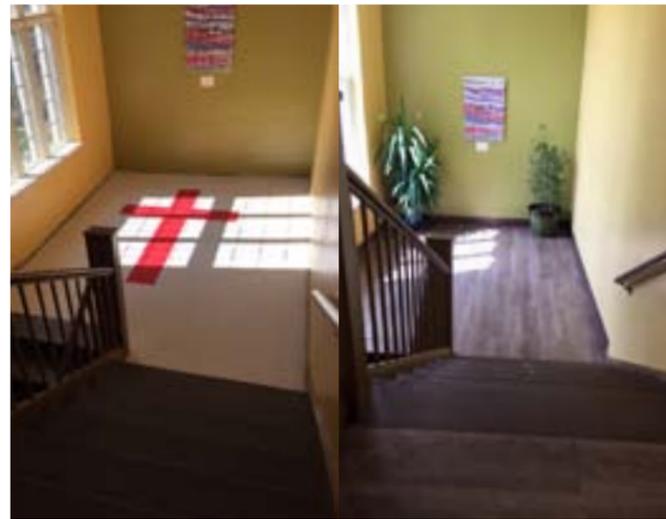
by Jane Pernacone

In our efforts to continually improve the quality of the child care setting, The Children's Center recently completed a beautification project. Two layers of old tile were removed from the second floor hallway. Luxury vinyl tile along with new baseboards and stair treads were installed. The transformation was dramatic and very fitting for the natural aesthetic that we want for our child care environment.



Before

After



Music Notes

Gospel Choir will sing "My Tribute" by Andre Crouch on Sunday, August 25th at the 10am service. Rehearsals will be Sunday mornings at 9:15am in the choir room on Sunday, August 4, 11, 18, and 25th. More Info -

firstbaptistcleveland.org/choirs



First Baptist Church Is In The News

Have you seen us in the local media? We have ads and articles in the Heights Observer printed newspaper and [articles online](http://articlesonline@heightsobserver.org) at heightsobserver.org. When you see us out there you can help spread the word by liking and sharing what you see with your friends.

"First Baptist Church has been a great place for me to grow in my relationship with God. I love our youth events and outings and getting to know different people."

T. C.



First Baptist Church

OF GREATER CLEVELAND

3630 Fairmount Blvd.
Shaker Heights, OH 44118

firstbaptistcleveland.org

Summer Youth Discipleship Hour 9am
Summer Worship Service 10am

You probably are already familiar with our Facebook page to catch up with upcoming events and news but we are also on Twitter, YouTube, NextDoor, Patch, and many other event sites. Click on any of the following links -

facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchofGreaterCleveland/

twitter.com/firstbaptistcle

youtube.com/channel/UCGPcB14N9TRe50jES6uHK7Q?

nextdoor.com/events/calendar/

patch.com/ohio/shakerheights/calendar

eventbrite.com/d/oh--cleveland-heights/all-events/

If you see FBC or an FBC event online you can like or share with your friends. If you need help following us on any of these sites call the church and we'll help you out. The more you like and share the better we get. Let's get social!

FBC Card Ministry Greeting Cards

by Jeanie Belhobek



FirstBaptistCleveland.org/card-ministry

Do you know someone who is feeling a bit down and out? Contact the Card Ministry to request a "Thinking of You" card. We send Sympathy and Get Well cards too. You can easily request that we send a card from the FBC website. We look forward to serving you!

The FBC Card Ministry,
Jeanie Belhobek, Beverly Farmer, Connie Haynes

MOPS (Mothers of Pre Schoolers)



MOPS (Mothers of Pre Schoolers) of First Baptist Church will begin meeting every other Friday morning from 9:30am-11:30am starting September 13th. If you know a mom of young children interested in finding a community of moms, this is it! For more info visit firstbaptistcleveland.org/mops or contact Stephanie Price through the form at the bottom of that page.



Welcome Aboard

We welcome Victor Bull as Vice Moderator for the remainder of 2019. God's blessing to Tony Peebles and his family. Tony is continuing his Deacon training and ordination with The United Church of Christ at Mt. Zion Congregational Church.



VICTORIOUS!

by Mike Skerritt

Many Heights area folks are feeling overwhelmed by the unrelenting political tension and negativity they are exposed to on an almost 24/7 basis, with no letup in sight. Turning off social media, skipping TV news broadcasts, and not reading newspapers, all have mixed results in providing relief. Eating out and watching movies works for some. but worrying about the expense of such an evening often cancels out the benefits.



But there is an alternative!

Michael Ward of First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland thinks that there is a better way to "enable the positive to be victorious over the negative." He is putting together a Family Praise and Worship Evening he is calling VICTORIOUS! for 7:30 PM Wednesday, August 14 in the air conditioned Spahr Center of the First Baptist Church at 3630 Fairmount Boulevard in Shaker Heights.

Open to all families (and individuals) of all ages from all over the Heights area, the concert will feature inspirational and uplifting music, all contemporary, performed by the very talented Praise Team and Praise Band of the church under the direction of Brian Kozak, considered by many to be one of NE Ohio's most talented guitarists.

Among such songs as "Your Love Awakens Me," "Oceans," and "Lord, You Are Good," will be some new music including "Look Up Child" and "Oh, Come to the Altar." Instrumental interludes will add spice to the excitement of the evening.

Michael will MC the event, and folks may just sit back and enjoy the festivities. But Michael will encourage you to sing along, get up and dance if you are so moved, and otherwise let the music push out the negative in your life so the positive will be VICTORIOUS!

The evening is free and open to the public. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliations or lack thereof. The concert starts at 7:30 PM but refreshments, provided by members of the Praise Team on a potluck basis will be available starting at 6 pm in the church's beautiful Tressler Courtyard. Attendees are welcome to bring something of their own to share.

Michael thinks that together people can rise above the surrounding chaos. Singing, dancing, and thanking a higher power for the good things in their lives will make folks be VICTORIOUS! over the ongoing hard times!





Calling all FBC members... If you have been thinking about becoming a Stephen Minister, time is running out to apply for our September 2019 training class. Contact Mari Schroeder Jenkins through the form on the web page <https://firstbaptistcleveland.org/stephen-ministry> by Aug 4.

A TRANSFORMATION OF THE SOUL:
A JOURNEY FROM ADDICTION TO RECOVERY TOLD
THROUGH SECULAR MUSIC

ROCK OF FAITH

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2019

6PM APPETIZERS & SILENT AUCTION
7PM CONCERT

TICKETS
\$20 ADULTS \$15 SENIORS \$10 STUDENTS

PROCEEDS BENEFIT STELLA MARIS, AN ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER THAT GUIDES RECOVERY AND REBUILDS LIVES

August Birthdays

- | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1st Martha Stromann | 9th Jane Smith | 17th Darryl Robinson | 22nd Sylvia Workman | 30th Joseph Belhobek |
| 2nd Debbie Cornelius | 12th Middy Crellin | 18th Chris Tillman | 24th Barbara Hise | |
| 4th Mary Wild | 12th David Cumming | 19th Don Crellin | 24th Mari Schroeder-Jenkins | |
| 7th Chris Wright | 13th Monica Sturgis | 19th Priscilla Kingston | 26th Emma Melton | |
| 8th Anita Hamdan | 15th Tracy Long | 22nd Gregory Bagley | 29th Tammy Gordon | |

Calvary News



At our May meal service at New Life at Calvary, we served about 40 people a delightful summer menu, which included hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, and watermelon. Our biggest need each month is volunteers. Please consider joining us on Friday, August 23. We will be there from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM. If you want more information visit firstbaptistcleveland.com/homeless or if you have any questions contact Tina Marr through the form at the bottom of that page.

Men's Wednesday Bible Study Group



Every Other Wednesday @ 6:30 PM in the Judson Room
Be Transformed: Christ's Triumph Means Your Transformation by Warren Wiersbe
Study focus is John chapters 13-21. All men are welcome. Come for the discussion and fellowship.

Sunday 9 AM Discipleship Hour



Sundays @ 9:00 AM in the Fireside Room
1st & 2nd Timothy and Titus by Max Lucado
We all need a mentor in our spiritual walk. Someone to lead you through the calm days and chaotic moments. A trusted confidant you can turn to with questions and concerns. These practical words of wisdom that Paul shared with Timothy and Titus are still indispensable keys to discipleship in our generation.

Rock of Faith Benefit Concert

All the proceeds from this concert will go towards the capital campaign for Stella Maris. Currently we have a matching grant and what ever we raise for this donation will be doubled by the Lozick Foundation. We have lost over 300,000 people to the opiate epidemic. Stella Maris still has a waiting list of over 100 people waiting to get into detox. To make matters worse now we are seeing an increase in cocaine and methamphetamine that is cut with fentanyl creating new problems with opiate addiction but targeting a different demographic. Please come to this concert or [buy a ticket](#) and sponsor someone in treatment so they can attend the concert.



A Warm Welcome To Our Friends From Nicaragua

by Fran Leanza

Sunday, July 14th began with worship on our front church lawn. Marta Parajon, pastor of First Baptist Church in Managua, Nicaragua was present along with her mother, Joan Parajon and several other family members. Marta brought us greetings from the members of our sister church. Our church has had a relationship with FBC Managua for fifty five years. Many FBC people that have been to Nicaragua were in worship and delighted to be able to greet members of the Parajon family.



In the late afternoon about forty gathered at the Leanza home for a pot-luck supper. About half of the group were Nicaraguan guests of Nancy Wheaton and of the family of Jessica and Luis Martinez. The other twenty were members and friends of FBCGC who have been to Nicaragua on mission work teams. It was a great time of fellowship and renewing friendships.

Marta Parajon spoke to our group about the challenges facing her in leading their church during this time of government unrest. They have lost some members but also gained new members. With more of their membership out of work they really appreciate the contributions from our Mission budget to them. These funds have been mainly used for Christian education.

Kairos Cookie Ministry

I want to thank everyone for your great support of the Kairos prison ministry. We are returning to Trumbull Country Correctional Institution on September 19th and we welcome your prayers and cookies. The prison has about 1100 inmates (we call them residents) and 30 of those are going through the Kairos program every 6 months. The residents are truly changed by the Holy Spirit such that the number of fights goes down and, if they get out, the chance of them going back is small. This ministry changes lives.

One of the enticements is that we give each resident lots of cookies. We even pass out a dozen to each inmate throughout the institution. The residents call them "Jesus Cookies". FBC produces dozens of cookies each time we go in. We need the cookies on September 8th and they can be dropped off next to the office. We also establish a prayer chain for people to pray for the retreat throughout the entire weekend. I will provide a list of time slots if you would pray for 30 minutes for the residents and the team. A big thanks goes to the youth who always crank out cookies. Please wrap us in prayer.



In Christ,
Brian
<https://www.firstbaptistcleveland.org/kairos/>



Otis Roberto Martinez, president of the AMOS board, reported that several mission groups have come to Nicaragua in the last few months. Despite the political problems the teams have been safe, have had no travel problems and have participated in successful mission projects that have been helpful to the work of AMOS. He encouraged us to send a team next summer. If you are interested contact Gregg Burris, Jessica Chapman-Martinez or Nancy Wheaton.



 Greater Cleveland Food Bank



Free 2019 Mobile Pantry Produce Pick Up is Available at First Baptist Church

Come the First Saturday of the Month
Saturday, Aug. 3 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturday, Sept. 7 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

We hope to see you this summer!
Bring your valid ID and your own bags.
TEFAP Guidelines Apply



Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland
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Shaker Heights, OH 44118

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The Children's Center - 216.371.9394

FirstBaptistCleveland.org
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

2019 FBC Lay Leadership

Moderator: Kim Kidd-Collins

Vice Moderator: Victor Bull

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.
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 church office,
sknuckles@firstbaptistcleveland.org. Lunch is provided.

Content deadline for next Tower Tidings: **Aug 15th**
The next issue will be mailed September 1, 2019

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