



November 2019

# Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and  
praise his name.*

Psalm 100:4

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### Fall Into First Baptist Church

Join us as we celebrate fall and remember why we are thankful. We come together as followers of Christ and bring in food by November 24th to donate to those in need in order for them to enjoy their Thanksgiving.

Join us and invite a friend on Sunday November 24th for our "Share the Spirit" unified worship service at 10 am followed by a Thanksgiving menu meal in the Bell Dining Hall. Following the meal, we will hold a brief Town Hall meeting to approve the 2020 budget. This is a great opportunity to invite family, friends, co-workers, or neighbors.



**We Are Truly Thankful**

An article entitled "The Age of Anxiety" in *The New Republic*, by Talia Lavin (Feb 26, 2019) captures the general sense of unrest in our world today. Volatile partisan debates within the walls of Congress, international tension (Brexit, Immigration Crisis, Syria, Turkey, Iran, and N. Korea), and social stress across all segments of society overwhelm us like a plague on the human spirit.

In an earlier period of uncertain times in the United States during a time of social upheaval regarding civil rights, the Vietnam war, fight for women's equality, and financial instability, some within the youth culture of the 1960s sang about "The Age of Aquarius" from the 1967 musical *Hair*. The opening song "Aquarius" espoused the hopeful line "then peace will guide the planets and love will steer the stars." Some of this generation protested for a brighter future with messages to "give peace a chance," "make love not war!", and "all you need is love."

There was something hopeful despite the dark clouds overhead.

Dark clouds today seem to be hovering over us like a dense fog which raises our levels of anxiety, widening a deeper level of hopelessness, and oppresses us into a dark state of depression. According to studies by the National Institute of Mental Health, nearly 20 percent of Americans experience an anxiety disorder in a given year; over 30 percent experience an anxiety disorder over the course of their lifetimes. And the rate is rising: The American Psychiatric Association earlier this year conducted a survey of 1,000 American adults, diagnosed a statistically significant increase in national anxiety since 2017.

Why does the present moment evoke such an efflorescence of nerves? It's tempting to point the finger at the 2016 election but those tension over the sharp political divide is symptomatic of an underlying national restlessness. Our youth have grown up with the 'war on terrorism' of the early 2000s following the events of 9/11 and the 'Great Recession' beginning in 2008, student debt, and low earning expectations. Thus, we have a generation who are not as hopeful looking ahead as the earlier generation wanting to 'give love a chance.'

Paul wrote in Philippians 4:6-8 "Don't be anxious about things; instead, pray. Pray about everything. He longs to hear your requests, so talk to God about your needs and be thankful for what has come. And know that the

peace of God (a peace that is beyond any and all of our human understanding) will stand watch over your hearts and minds in Jesus, the Anointed One." (The Voice Version.) Our anxiety is linked to our uncertainty. Any optimism needs to be grounded in something which we can be assured is genuine and real. And thus, our faith in a God draws us to a place of peace and rest despite the storms and conflict around us. As believers in Jesus, we have entered into a relationship with the Divine, who is a Savior, Redeemer, and Lord of our lives.

Earlier this year, I had a close call with death. If I had not had quick emergency treatment on my heart, I would not be here today. This near death experience has not created more anxiety in my life, but actually lowered my stress level as I've come to realize that my life is not really my own, but it is a gift of God. God oversees the circumstances of our lives and things do happen for a reason. Stress and anxiety rob us of the joy of living. As Christians, our message of hope is rooted in our relationship with God. Therefore, we have a mighty witness of love, peace and hope in the God of life and resurrection! It is our mission to provide a safe place for the stressed, the worried, and the anxious as a loving haven of refuge.

Jessica Chapman Martinez's message resonated with many because she pinpointed a key reason people don't attend church. For many, one in ten, the thought of attending a worship service would add stress to their lives rather than reduce it. It is my personal prayer that we might be part of the antidote to those feelings of anxiety and not part of the cause. One of Jesus' most frequently used phrases was "Peace be to you!" In John 14: 27, He said "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Let us be a refuge for the worried, a shelter for the stressed, a place of peace for those afflicted with anxiety. And let us be a place where we declare Jesus for all. And for this, we are truly thankful. Amen.

  
 Pastor Gregg Burris  
 Senior Pastor

**Family Fun  
Camping At  
Pymatuning**





Preschool

(Infants-4th grade)

**Preschool & Elementary Children's November Schedule**

Sunday mornings drop off Preschool in room 103 prior to worship service. K-4 are dismissed from the worship service with Carly to Wheaton Center from 10:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

<p><b>WEEK ONE</b> RUTH 1-2</p> <p>Boaz helps provide food for Ruth and Naomi.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>WEEK TWO</b> 1 SAMUEL 18:1-4</p> <p>David and Jonathan become best friends.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>WEEK THREE</b> EXODUS 16</p> <p>God provides food for the Israelites while they are in a desert.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>WEEK FOUR</b> LUKE 17:11-19</p> <p>Jesus heals ten lepers and one comes back to say thank you.</p>	<p><b>REMEMBER THIS:</b></p> <p>"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart."</p> <p>PSALM 111:1, ESV</p> <p><b>SAY THIS:</b></p> <p>Who can you thank for everything?  <b>I CAN THANK GOD FOR EVERYTHING.</b></p>	<p><b>BASIC TRUTH:</b></p> <p><b>GOD MADE ME.</b></p>
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Elementary

<p><b>WEEK ONE</b> 1 SAMUEL 17</p> <p>David and Goliath</p> <p><b>SAY THIS:</b> Honor others by giving them a chance.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>WEEK TWO</b> 1 SAMUEL 18:1-11; 19:1-7; 20:1-42</p> <p>David and Jonathan</p> <p><b>SAY THIS:</b> Honor others by putting them first.</p>	<p><b>WEEK THREE</b> 2 SAMUEL 9:1-13</p> <p>David and Mephibosheth</p> <p><b>SAY THIS:</b> Honor others by keeping your promises.</p> <p>.....</p> <p><b>WEEK FOUR</b> DANIEL 6</p> <p>Daniel Is Thrown Into a Den of Lions</p> <p><b>SAY THIS:</b> Honor God by giving Him credit.</p>
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**REMEMBER THIS:**

"Love one another deeply. Honor others more than yourselves."  
 ROMANS 12:10, NIRV

## Christian Education Schedule

Come join us in these upcoming Sunday and Wednesday classes to grow in God's Word.

**Mid Morning Bible Study**  
Every Wednesday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
*Study the Bible*

Led by Pastor Gregg

**Wednesdays in the Word**

*Invitation to Solitude and Silence*

by Ruth Haley Barton

Led by Sheri and David Stevens in **Livingston**

*How Do I Hear From God?*

by John Ragsdale

Led by Jane Pernicone in **Spahr Center**

*When God's People Pray*

by Jim Cymbala

Led by Tobili Sam-Yellowe and Charmie Scott in **Morrison**

**Women's Group**

*Open Your Bible*

by Raechel Myers & Amanda B. Williams

Led by Martha Lant in **Fireside**

**Men's Group**

*Be Transformed: Christ's Triumph Means Your Transformation*

by Warren Wiersbe

Led by Eddie Wills in **Montgomery**

**Sunday Discipleship Hour**

Every Sunday 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

*Praying At the Crossroads: Learning from the Prayers of Old Testament Leaders*

by General Editor Ken Coley

Led by Marty Capers and Wendy Chaney in **Fireside**

*Managing Personal Finances for Christians*

Led by Tammy Gordon in **Livingstone**

For descriptions of each of the classes visit

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

## Wednesdays In The Word

To God Be the Glory for the Things He Has Done! On Wednesday evening, September 18th, First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland was full of members and friends desiring fellowship and to grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Children, youth, and adults, more than 60 were present to learn the Word of God. Children playing, singing in the choir, and excited to be here. Youth learning about using wisdom in choosing their friends. Men studying the wonderful good news in the book of John. Women studying the book *Open Your Bible* starting with the benefits you receive from opening your Bible including hope, peace, wisdom, and understanding. Others were soaking in the concept of Life Changing

## New Sunday Discipleship Hour Classes

Discipleship Hour Classes start at 10:10 and end at 10:55.

**Dinner by Candlelight: Comfort and Joy for Advent**

by Kevin Louise Schaner

Led by Carol Broadbent

in the Morrison Room

As we approach this season of Advent, let's renew our anticipation of Christ's birth. Throughout the seasons of our lives, how we celebrate Christmas may change, but the joy of Jesus Christ remains the same. This book study will reconnect you to the sense of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace that flows from the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

This will be a four week study of the book *Dinner by Candlelight: Comfort and Joy for Advent* by Kevin Louise Schaner. The book study will be supplemented with Scriptures that focus on Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. This discussion will take place on November 3rd and 17th & December 8th and 15th. Books will be signed by the author.

**Praying At the Crossroads: Learning from the Prayers of Old Testament Leaders**

General Editor Ken Coley

Led by Marty Capers and Wendy Chaney

in the Fireside Room

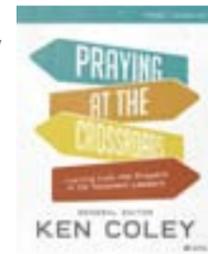
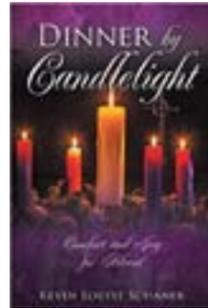
Prayer is vital to our spiritual growth, yet few of us pray as frequently or as fervently as we would like. We turn to God only in moments of desperation and crisis. God wants us to turn to Him at every moment of our lives.

The Bible is filled with the prayers of God's people. Often these prayers come at critical moments of their journey—"at crossroads of decision." This study will help you pray regarding everyday matters and at those critical, sometimes unpredictable crossroads of life. This discussion will begin on November 3rd and continue for 12 sessions.

[firstbaptistcleveland.org/get-connected/discipleship-hour](https://firstbaptistcleveland.org/get-connected/discipleship-hour)

Prayer-- meeting God at His throne of grace. Still another group of adults focused on How to Hear from God starting with acknowledging God's presence and asking for His guidance. In the Livingstone room, the class was enthusiastically engrossed in learning about the spiritual disciplines of solitude and silence.

Every Wednesday---The Church Is Open!!! By the grace of God, FBC members and friends have continued to show up week after week. It has been incredibly exciting to witness the favor of God as He continues to bless this ministry. Bring the whole family and let's continue to fellowship and study the Word of God on Wednesday evenings. Dinner is available starting at 6. Classes 7 to 8.



## Thanksgiving: An Opportunity To Help Others

by Fran Leanza

May the spirit of Thanksgiving open your heart to share with others. We who have "enough" and even more than "enough" sometimes need to be reminded that there are those right in our own community who do NOT have enough. Fixed incomes, low incomes, unemployed, large families, illnesses, all may cause food emergencies. Please bring your donations of non-perishable foods and share in giving hope and nourishment to those who have little.

We will be filling requests for food baskets that come to us from neighboring school principals and social workers as well as Pastor Burris.

Here is how you can help

- Come to Spahr Center on Monday morning, Nov. 25 to help sort food and pack the baskets and boxes. We will be working between 9 and noon. Sign up on the chart in Swasey Tower.
- Bring your donations of canned and packaged foods to church by Sunday, November 24.
- Buy a turkey to donate, bring it frozen on Nov.24 or 25 and put it in the Fireside refrigerator.
- Make a donation so that others can shop for fresh produce and turkeys. Make your check out to FBCGC with the memo "Thanksgiving".



## Music Notes

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7:15PM - 8:30 PM in the sanctuary and the choir room.

The Handbell Choir rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00PM in the sanctuary balcony.

The Children's Choir meets Wednesday evenings from 6:00PM - 6:30PM.

More Info -

[firstbaptistcleveland.org/choirs](https://firstbaptistcleveland.org/choirs)



## You Ar Invited

by Anita Bartel

**Sunday Nov. 17th**

**12:30 p.m. Lunch (\$5 at the door)**

**1:00 p.m. Program**

Question: Why does our FBC Children's Center have the coveted 5 Star rating?

Why does our Center always seem to have a waiting list?

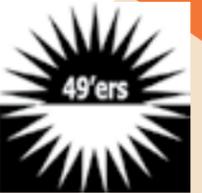
Answer: Ask any parent of a child at the Center and they will tell you that the success of the Center has everything to do with our outstanding director and staff.

Sunday, Nov. 17 Jane Pernicone, the director of the Center, will bring us the latest news of what is happening at the Center. She will tell us of the newest improvements not only to the education wing of the building but to the curriculum presented to the students.

We will begin with a catered lunch in Bell Dining Room at 12:30 PM followed by Jane's talk at 1:00 PM. She will include a tour of some classrooms & pictures of children involved in daily activities.

This program is sponsored by the 49'ers fellowship group and open to all.

If you are interested in joining the 49'ers or need more information contact us through the form at the bottom of our web page- [firstbaptistcleveland.org/forty-niners](https://firstbaptistcleveland.org/forty-niners)



## AMOS Ministries

It was great to have David and Mireya's here to keep us updated on the latest on AMOS and the new programs being instituted.

They sold many bags of coffee and were most appreciative of all the donations. They

also encouraged us to consider a team for the summer as the disruptions are lessening.

[firstbaptistcleveland.org/missions-service/nicaragua-missions/](https://firstbaptistcleveland.org/missions-service/nicaragua-missions/)



## FBC would like to congratulate Beverly and Gentrias Farmer on their 62nd wedding anniversary last month!

**November Birthdays**

4th Rebecca Chapman

6th Alta Daugherty

7th Coco Schneider

8th William Daugherty

8th Jerome White

9th Kevin Case

10th Dona Sutherin

11th Sharon Borders

14th Madelyn Miller

17th Luis Martinez

21st Martha Lant

23rd Kay Rolfs Massaglia

24th Barbara E. Drotar

26th Frank Frierson

26th Betty Meyers

27th Carmen Robinson

29th Tondra Miller

## What Christmas Gifts Can You Share With Neighbors In Need? *by April Shepherd*

The need continues for us all to share with our neighbors. Please plan now how you can help fill the "MITTEN TREE". Parents & grandparents, here is an opportunity to help your children experience the joy of Christmas through giving. Gifts can be placed under the tree starting Sunday, December 1st.

Here are ways to spread Christmas joy.

### GIVING OPPORTUNITIES AND WHAT YOU CAN GIVE

#### Fairhill Partners

Grandparents raising grandchildren, or in some cases great grandchildren, will truly appreciate your help in providing Christmas gifts, especially those with already stretched budgets. Have fun being a secret angel for one of these grandparents. Just ask Stephanie FallCreek about this program and the joy your gifts will bring.

*What you can give:*

Check the poster by the tree and choose a child/name to purchase a gift for and sign your name on the poster so we know who is shopping for that child. The gift you give needs to be under \$20. The poster will give you the name of a child, the age and a suggested gift. Return your gift, in a gift bag, clearly marked with the child's name to the big box under the tree labeled "Fairhill" by Sunday December 1.



#### Our newest collaboration this year is with NORA's House (Northern Ohio Recovery Association)

These women, receiving intensive services for substance use disorders in a locked facility, are permitted to see their children once a week. These women will be so excited to receive new unwrapped toys and clothes to give to their children on Christmas day. Place new items in the boxes marked NORA's House. (Could you put a picture of toys and clothes). Due date for the unwrapped gifts is Sunday December 8th.

#### 2100 Lakeside Men's Shelter

The staff at the men's shelter has asked for our help in providing warm winter clothing. Most of these men are out walking every day in all kinds of weather so lets all help to keep them warm from head to toe.

*What you can give:*

Please check your closet for gently worn shoes, boots, sweat shirts, jackets, coats, jeans and warm hats. You can also pick up some warm socks at your local discount store. The shelter is in need of new bed pillows and used single bed sheets, pillow cases, wash cloths and bath towels. Place your donations, under the tree, in the boxes marked "Men's Shelter" by Sunday, December 22.



#### Hot Meal Program At Calvary

Our guests coming to the January hot meal will be

delighted with your gifts to brighten & warm their day. Between 50 & 75 guests attend our meals so we hope that your generosity will make it possible for each guest to be given one item. Tina Marr and others who help serve each month can tell you how each item distributed, no matter how small, is appreciated.

*What you can give:*

Toiletries, hotel size or larger are greatly appreciated along with toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, chap stick, razors, nail clippers, handkerchiefs and packs of tissues. Place under the tree in the box marked "Calvary" by Jan. 5th.



#### Retired Ministers And Missionaries Christmas Offering

Many of these faithful servants worked for very low pay and truly appreciate this bonus gift at this time of year. This bonus check can make it possible for someone to buy a new tire for their car, travel to visit grandchildren or make a needed dental appointment.

*What you can give:*

You can make your check out to FBC and mark the memo "M & M" or place your contribution in the special envelope provided. This offering will be received through Jan. 5th.



#### Socks, Socks, And More Socks

*by Anita Bartel*

This year, instead of sending a shoebox to another country, we want to focus on those who are in great need right here in Cleveland. We are partnering with John Carroll University to help support their Labre Ministry which provides meals, toiletries and warm clothing to our homeless folks on a weekly basis.

Instead of filling a shoebox with toys, we are asking for new pairs of warm socks for both men and women. Look for a large Christmas box in Spahr Center (or it might be in the hallway). You will be able to drop a pair of socks into the box and then the students will deliver around mid-December. We will also be working with Dr. Sandra, Carly Marino, Delesia Robinson and Ship Collins to help us involve our youth.

The number of people sleeping downtown and on the west side has seen another increase over the last year. Shelters are filled to capacity every night. We can help make a difference.

The purpose of Labre is not only to feed the homeless, but to offer them friendship. These friendships are mutually beneficial and an opportunity to see the face of God in people of all kinds. More information coming soon. If you want to read more about the Labre Ministry, please click the link below.

[jcu.edu/student-life/getting-involved/campus-ministry/social-justice/labre-project](http://jcu.edu/student-life/getting-involved/campus-ministry/social-justice/labre-project)

## We Had A Fall Blast At Patterson



Kids of all ages enjoyed the day sliding down the monster slides and the other fun activities.



## Calvary News

*by Tina Marr*



Thanksgiving Day is coming, Thursday, November 28, 2019, and that means the next day, Friday, November 29, will be our opportunity to serve a delightful Thanksgiving feast to our guests at New Life at Calvary.

I hope you will consider helping with this meal. Many of us are home for a four-day weekend without the stress of work, which gives us time to reflect on our many blessings. One way to give thanks to God for these blessings is by serving others who are in need.

Our meal that day will be a traditional Thanksgiving meal, and you will see a sign-up sheet in Swasey Tower in mid November with details. Most importantly, of course, is turkey! We will need 80 servings of roasted turkey to serve our guests. It is most helpful if you can roast it and carve it so that we can work most efficiently in the Calvary kitchen. If carving is difficult for you, no worries; we will be able to carve it if necessary. If we don't have to carve all four or so turkeys, though, that would be wonderful.

So please mark this day on your calendars and plan to provide a food item and/or help serve Thanksgiving dinner. We will be at New Life at Calvary, located at the corner of E. 79th St. and Euclid Avenue on Friday, November 29, 2019, from 4:00 to 6:30, the usual time.

## Meet the Artist Reception - Review

*by Mike Skerrett*

Anna Costanzo - Quilter  
September 29 - Wonderful Event!



You've seen her work in the Gallery of the Fairmount Hallway! At the reception lucky attendees learned all about it at our Artist's Reception after Coffee Hour Sunday, September 29 attended by an enthusiastic group of FBC members, and family and friends of Anna. Plied with delicious goodies prepared by Faith Arnold and Laura Preston, the group was treated to a walk down the Fairmount Gallery with a stop at every beautiful quilt at which Anna described both the complexity of each work and the challenges of turning multiple pieces of fabric into incredible pieces of art.

Each quilt has a unique history which Anna shared with the appreciative audience. It takes between 4 to 6 months to complete a complex quilt, which is amazing for a woman who is a full time teacher, mother, and author of resource manuals for math teachers! Where does she find the time, especially when so much of the work is done by hand stitching. Take a closer look at each quilt, especially the fancy sewing in the border areas between panels and around the outside. Complex, repetitive designs that add an incredible degree of complexity are sown in one by one by sewing machine.

Anna made two sales that day, and many of the remaining quilts are also for sale. If you are interested turn over the lower right corner of a quilt and you will see the price. Let me know if you are interested and I will put you in touch with Anna.



This show will stay up through December. Think about one of these beautiful works of art as a Christmas gift for someone special in your life.



# Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland  
3630 Fairmount Blvd.  
Shaker Heights, OH 44118

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Dated Material: November 1, 2019**  
**Thanks for prompt delivery!**

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:** 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

### Ministries

**Rev. Dr. Kregg F. Burris** - Senior Pastor  
**Rev. Jeff Gordon** - Associate Pastor/  
Business Administrator  
**Rev. Dr. Sandra Alexandra-Haynes** -  
Associate Pastor/Christian Education  
**Carly Marino** - Director of Children's Ministry

### Music Ministries

**Stephanie Price** - Director of Music Director  
**Betty Meyers** - Associate Director of Music  
**Brian Kozak** - Director of Contemporary Music

### The Children's Center

**Jane Pernicone** - Director

### Office

**Star Knuckles** - Executive Assistant/  
Office Manager  
**Greg Beckner** - Web Design/Publicity/Marketing

Content deadline for next Tower Tidings: **Nov. 15th**  
The next issue will be mailed December 1, 2019

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