



March 2020

Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

In This Issue

A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness. Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger, envy, or self-pity.

Create space in my life for more kindness and less spitefulness, greater generosity and stronger compassion.

Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognize the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me.

In your sacred name,
I pray. Amen.



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What Matters Most?

The central question regarding Christian faith is "Who is Jesus?" Theologians, philosophers, people of science, all the way to the common person on the street or in the field have asked this question. How we answer this question determines our response to the call of Christ.

During the season of Lent, my sermon series will be exploring this basic question in reference to our own existence. Unlocking the person of Jesus both quantifies and clarifies our place in the world and the meaning of our life. The title of the series is "What Matters Most." I've left off the question mark at the end intentionally. This title could be asking the question, "What matters most?" or it could be making an affirmation of one's faith as "what matters most!"

The seven sermons will examine the teaching and life of Jesus Christ in terms of what it means for each of us. Each week will help us understand ourselves through Jesus Christ.

March

- 1** A Matter of Origin - John 7:25-29
- 8** A Matter of Identity - Matthew 16:13-20 - License to Ministry Service
- 15** Rev. Jeff Gordon will be preaching
- 22** A Matter of Purpose - Mark 1:21-28
- 29** A Matter of Connection - John 15:13-14 - Stephen Minister's Commission Service

April

- 5** A Matter of Obstacles & Suffering - Mark 8:31-33 - Palm Sunday
- 12** A Matter of Existence Beyond Death - John 11:25-25 - Easter Sunday

Blessings,



Pastor Kregg Burris
Senior Pastor



Family DIY Night

We'll have Legos, Minecraft, Do-It-Yourself wooden models, food, and group activities. Kids of all ages RSVP to Carly: cmarino@firstbaptistcleveland.org



Congratulations on License of Ministry

Sonya Kyle, Ship Collins and Jennifer Whatley Williams will have their License of Ministry presented in worship service on March 8.

Faith In Action Weekend

by Karen Gill



Hebrews 6:10 "God is not unjust, he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."

The weekend of June 6th you will have several opportunities to lend a helping hand to folks in our community. Saturday, June 6th you can join our FBC team at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for the Hunger Network's Walk/Run for Hunger. As a bonus, after the event you will be able to stay and enjoy a day at the zoo with your family and friends for free. Or you can volunteer to help distribute produce at the Mobile Pantry here at the church. This program began last year as a Faith in Action project. Last summer we served 615 families and distributed over 40,222 pounds of produce. On Sunday, June 7th we will be leaving the pews in our Sanctuary to go out into the community to perform a variety of service projects.

Studies show that serving others results in a stronger sense of purpose and meaning in life which leads to better mental and physical well being. It is also pleasing to God! Please take an opportunity June 6th and 7th to share your time, talents and treasures with our neighbors.



HERO HEADQUARTERS
(Infants-4th grade)



FOLLOW THE LEADER
Preschool



DIY
Elementary

WEEK ONE
MATTHEW 3:3-4, 11, 13-17
John the Baptist tells everyone how special Jesus is and then baptizes Him when Jesus tells him to.

REMEMBER THIS:
"Come and follow me, Jesus said."
MATTHEW 4:19, NI+V

WEEK TWO
MATTHEW 4:18-22; LUKE 5:1-11
Jesus tells fishermen Andrew, Peter, James, and John to follow Him, and they do.

SAY THIS:
Who can you follow?
I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

WEEK THREE
MATTHEW 9:9-12
Jesus tells Matthew the tax collector to follow Him, and he does

SAY THIS:
Who can you follow?
I CAN FOLLOW JESUS.

WEEK FOUR
THE GOSPELS
Jesus tells twelve men to follow Him, and they become His disciples.

BASIC TRUTH:
JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

WEEK FIVE
JOHN 13:34-35
Jesus tells us to love one another the way He loves us so everyone will know we follow Him.

WEEK ONE
MATTHEW 18:21-35
Unmerciful Servant

SAY THIS:
Forgive others because God forgives you.

WEEK TWO
LUKE 19:1-10
Zacchaeus

SAY THIS:
When you forgive others, it can change them.

WEEK THREE
MATTHEW 5:1-2; 23-24
Jesus Teaches on Forgiveness

SAY THIS:
Take the first step to forgive others.

FORGIVENESS:
DECIDING THAT SOMEONE WHO HAS WRONGED YOU DOESN'T HAVE TO PAY

WEEK FOUR
LUKE 15:11-24
The Story of the Lost Son

SAY THIS:
Everyone needs to be forgiven.

WEEK FIVE
LUKE 15:21-32
Father and Older Brother

SAY THIS:
When you don't forgive, you miss out.

REMEMBER THIS:
"Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you."
COLOSSIANS 3:13, NI+V



Jazz-Poetry Night In Review
Friday, February 21, 2020 *by Mike Skerritt*



When an evening like this is this successful, it is almost impossible to know exactly which features ought to be highlighted. If Tower Tidings were 15 pages long everything that happened would be enthusiastically acknowledged. The evening was that good. For me, the organizer of this year's event, my heartfelt praise goes to every reader that participated. It is no easy task to stand up in front of a large group of eager patrons and deliver a reading that both



Eilean Burns

informs and entertains at the same time. But every participant made it look easy.

So my hat's off to (alphabetically) Tondra Foxx-Miller, Constance Haynes, Debra Hegler, Mari Shroeder-Jenkins, Ryan Jenkins, Sonya Kyle, Martha Lant, Jo Neff, Kathy Skerritt, Lisa Wadsworth and Sylvia Workman. Get well wishes go to readers Barbara Walker and Tom Wadsworth who were unable to attend because of illness.



Sonya Kyle

Delivered from the stage of the upcoming Happy Ending Lyric Players production of Matilda, Lisa Wadsworth helped promote the production by reading a poem titled "Television" by Roald Dahl, the author of Matilda. Jo Neff brought down the house by reading a series of hilarious Sunday Bulletin announcements with unintended double meanings. Tom Neff recited his poem from memory, a challenge I would never have taken.



Jo Neff



Ryan Jenkins

Sonya Kyle gave a sobering account of God's response to an individual's failure to find time to pray. Ryan Jenkins impressed the audience with his original insightful poetry which showed a maturity unexpected of such a young man. Mari Jenkins reminded us that the Bible is a great source of poetry by reading portions of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Several other readers presented thoughtful insights about humans' relationship to Christianity. Others focused on the reality

and challenges of life in today's political environment. All of the readings were well received.

Adding to the evening's enjoyment were Goodies by Faith, delicious cookies prepared by our own Faith Arnold. And Debra Hegler introduced a lottery that awarded four CD's of great jazz music to four lucky winners.

And last, but certainly not least, the music provided by Demetrius Steinmetz Jazz



Debra Hegler



Mari Schroder Jenkins

Ensemble was exceptional. With Demetrius himself on piano and bass, Brian Kozak on guitar, and Eilean Burns as vocalist, the audience was treated to a total of seven musical interludes, one between every 3 or 4 readings. Repertoire included "The Way You Look Tonight," "This Is All I Ask," my favorite "Whatever Lola Wants," and ending with "I'll Be Seeing You," all introduced by Demetrius with interesting details about their composers and their history. Eilean Burns has a wonderful voice for this style of music. She did a great job of selling all seven songs to an adoring audience. The ensemble received a well-deserved standing ovation to end the delightful evening.

Plans are already underway for a repeat of this event on February 19, 2021. Mark you calendars!



Martha Lant



Kathy Skerritt



Mike Skerritt



Chronic Pain Self-Management

Take Charge of Your Pain!

Start feeling better and get back to doing the things you love!

Chronic pain — pain lasting six months or more from a variety of causes—can cause you to feel irritable, tired, isolated, or helpless, and keep you from doing the things you enjoy. Researchers at Stanford University have developed Chronic Pain Self-Management (CPSM) to teach proven techniques for safely and effectively managing pain through:

- Exercise, strengthening, endurance, and flexibility
- Nutrition
- Managing medications
- Decision-making
- Communicating with family, friends, and doctors
- Evaluating new treatments

Participants learn and practice a safe, no-impact exercise program and receive an exercise CD and a book, Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Pain. If chronic pain is holding you back and affecting your quality of life, join us for this NO-CHARGE workshop and start feeling better today!

Chronic Pain Self-Management

April 17 —May 22, 2020
 Fridays, 10:00am —12:30pm

Presented by

Fairhill Partners
 12200 Fairhill Road
 Cleveland, OH 44120
 216-421-1350
 programs@fairhillpartners.org
 fairhillpartners.org

Workshop Location:

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland (Fireside)
 3630 Fairmount Blvd, Shaker Heights, OH, 44118

Register TODAY!
firstbaptistcleveland.org/chronic-pain-self-management





CIM's Music For Food by Mike Skerritt

They just kept coming - enthusiastic fans of great classical music performed by world-famous faculty and exceptional students of the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM), until the Sanctuary at First Baptist looked pretty full, and lots of food and money had been collected for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

"Music for Food" is a musician-led initiative for local hunger relief that was started in 2010 in Boston and is now active in chapters in over 10 cities in the US. The CIM Student Government Association is a participant in this effort to trade talent for food at a time when one in six people in NE Ohio is food insecure. Partnering with the Cleveland Food Bank provides the opportunity to make a difference in many people's lives.

The concert itself began with a delightful duet called Havanaise, Op 83 by Camille Saint-Saens featuring faculty member Olga Dubossarskaya Kaler on violin and student Melivia Raharjo on piano. Such a piece requires complete coordination between the two musicians, and they didn't disappoint. But for me, the delicate violin notes in high frequencies you don't hear very often were the best part. Those sweet and delicate notes made the more robust sections powerful by contrast.

The second piece was performed by a nine members ensemble of flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn players including faculty members Mary Kay Fink, Frank



Rosenwein, Afendi Usuf, Barrick Stees and Richard King, and students M. Isaac Ripple, Marquise Lindsey-Bradley, Corbin Krebs and Richard Lauson. Playing Charles Gounod's Petite Symphonie, these instrumentalists played with clarity, and brought out all the nuances, particularly of the opening Adagio and Allegretto Finale. Delightful.

After a 15 minute intermission a string ensemble played Felix Mendelssohn's String Octet in E-flat Major, Opus 20. The ensemble featured faculty members Jaime Laredo, Jeanelle Brierley and Sharon Robinson, and students Shannon Lee, James Thompson, Joseph Skerik, Alyssa Warcup, and Sarah Miller. The contrast between what was basically a wind ensemble just before intermission with this string ensemble was striking. Both offered exceptional clarity in the acoustically receptive Sanctuary, but I enjoyed the Mendelssohn a bit more than the Gounod piece. It was a great way to complete a wonderful program, and the audience rose as one to give the musicians a well-deserved round of applause.



The goal, of course, was to support the Cleveland Food Bank, and I am pleased to report that Stephanie Price and I helped some of the musicians carry out many bags of donated food to their waiting cars. We also learned that \$2,560 was donated by happy attendees.

We thank Stephanie Price for making the arrangements to bring this CIM group to FBC. We believe that it could be an annual event and Stephanie will explore that with her contacts at CIM.

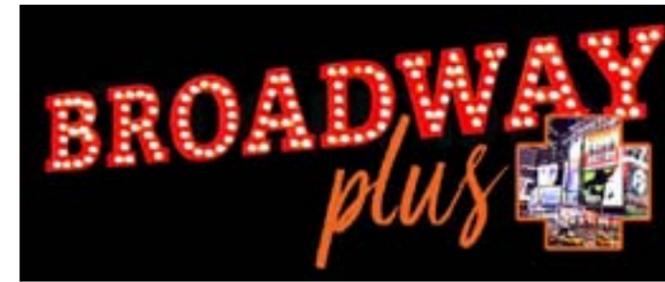


Classes Begin

Sundays 10:10AM
Wednesdays 7:00PM
Not Registered?
No Problem, Come!

Our sunday classes hare already met for the first time but you can catch up online. Wednesday classes begin 3/11. God calls us as believers to discover and use our spiritual gifts in order to grow the Church in Spirit and in numbers. The Holy Spirit enables us through spiritual gifts to build the Church. FBC needs your gifts.

Join us in the Judson Room for an in-depth study this Spring during our "Lenten Celebration of Spiritual Gifts." We offer two sessions of eight-week classes for your convenience — Sundays during the 10:10 a.m. Discipleship Hour and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Examine the Holy Spirit's part in spiritual gifts and discover or uncover your gifts. Also, experience an internship to test out your gifts. To that end, please plan on approximately a 30-minute interview and a maximum two-hour internship prior to commissioning. God calls. Please answer! More Info - firstbaptistcleveland.org/spiritual-gifts



Broadway Plus! by Helena Safarova

We are honored to present the Broadway Plus Gala Concert performed by a group of First Baptist singers and professional musicians just in time to celebrate Mother's Day or just to enjoy an evening with family and friends. An annual 90-minute concert proven to be fun entertainment year after year is featuring a music potpourri of musical theater showtunes, movie soundtracks, famous pop, and love ballads. About twelve years ago, the ever so talented singer, actor, producer and director Mike Skerritt, began the Back to Broadway series as a fundraiser for the FBC outreach programs, and I have been continuing with this idea for the past five years. Every year, we try to include different music genres to make the program flow and dynamics interesting for all. We are proud to say that Spahr Center was at its capacity every time our show was presented, and we are looking forward to seeing your friendly faces again. Thank you for coming in the past and thank you for coming again this May. The show will be great!

Refreshments and Mocktail Bar (Non-Alcoholic Cocktails) will be available during intermission. Stay after the show to meet the performers who would love to say hello to you. Saturday, May 9, 7:30PM, on stage in the Spahr Center Tickets at the door: Adults \$15, Students \$12, Children under 12yrs free.

All proceeds benefit the FBC Music & Fine Arts Outreach Programs fund.

Women's Conference

Saturday, May 16
Registration starts at 8:00AM

Save the date! You don't want to miss the First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland Women's Conference. Danita Harris will be our keynote speaker. Danita is a WEWS News 5 anchorwoman and an Emmy-Award winning journalist. She uses her profession as a main anchor to reach many people. She feels blessed to work in the broadcasting industry because it partners well with her commitment to community service.

Danita is also an ordained and licensed minister who was born in Chester, Pa. Her favorite scripture is Luke 12:48 "For everyone to whom much is given, of him shall much be required." She currently attends Church on the North Coast in Wickliffe.

firstbaptistcleveland.org/womens-conference



Angela Zawada, Soprano In Recital by Mike Skerritt

Our own Angela Zawada, the Chancel Choir soprano soloist, will be presenting a vocal recital of classical works at 1 PM Sunday, March 8 in our Sanctuary.

The program will feature works by Handel, Mozart, Schumann, Fauré and Samuel Barber spanning several musical periods and languages. Visions of night and dreams trace a path through the program from "O Sleep" from Handel's oratorio Semele to "Après un rêve" ("After A Dream") to "Sure on this Shining Night." The program also features fiery pieces like "Fleur jetée", with its virtuosic piano score to be performed by accompanist Adam Whiting of the Cleveland School of the Arts.

As a soprano soloist at the church, she has performed solos from works by Handel, Mendelssohn, and Saint-Saëns, and participated in theater productions of Les Misérables and Evita presented by the Happy Ending Lyric Players, the resident performing arts company of the church, now in its 44th season.

Angela holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Music degree from Roosevelt University. A recent addition to the music scene in Cleveland she was active in the opera scene in the Chicago area with such companies as Chicago Folks Operetta, Sinfonietta Bel Canto, Katydid Productions, Main Street Opera and Lingerie Lyrique. Angela was a founding member of and a performer with Chicago's VOX 3 Vocal Collective which specializes in performances of art song literature. She is currently studying with Richard Anderson here in Cleveland.

The recital is free and open to the public. Voluntary donations will support the Music and Fine Arts Program at First Baptist.

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 Rev. Dr. Pastor Gregg

In the Fireside Room

Wednesdays in the Word
Every Wednesday 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Dance, Stand, Run – Women's Group

by Jess Connolly

Led by Martha Lant, Sandra Alexander-Haynes, Tobili Sam Yellowe, and Charmie Scott

In the Fireside Room

No More Excuses: Be The Man God Made You To Be – Men's Group

by Tony Evans

Led by Eddie Wills

In the Montgomery Room

The Holy Land Revealed

by Professor Jodi Magness

Led by Betty Meyers

In the Livingstone Room

The Financial Peace Planner

by Dave Ramsey

Led by Tammy Gordon and Kim Kidd Collins

In the Library

Sunday Discipleship Hour
Every Sunday 10:10 AM - 11:00 AM

He Chose the Nails: What God Did To Win Your Heart

by Max Lucado

Led by Marty Capers and Wendy Chaney

In the Fireside Room

As we approach the season of Lent, please join us for this powerful Bible study. As stated by Max Lucado, every gift from God reveals His love, but no gift reveals His love more than the gifts of the cross. These gifts come not wrapped in paper, but in passion. These gifts were not placed under a tree, but around a cross. In this Bible study, Max Lucado explores the many gifts that Christ provided to us at His crucifixion.

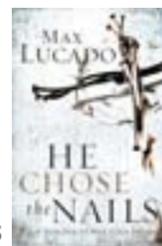
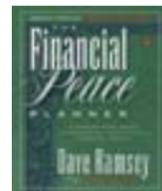
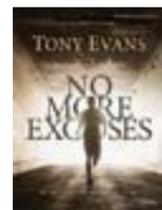
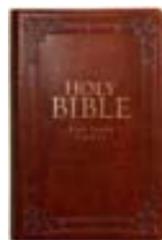
Spiritual Warfare: a Biblical & Balanced Perspective

by Brian Borgman & Rob Ventura

Led by Alwin and Tondra Miller

In the Livingstone Room

firstbaptistcleveland.org/class-schedule



Cleveland Life Institute



The Cleveland Life Institute (CLI) Spring Program for 2020 is in partnership with the leadership of Pride Among Daughters and Sisters (PADS). We want to advance their mission of providing sanitary pads, tampons, and feminine hygiene products [including incontinence products] to underprivileged girls, and women, to promote pride, dignity and confidence. We adopted the mission of PADS as the class project. We are exploring the steps in social entrepreneurship. We have examined the scope of our project and began to define the boundaries, strategic target and objective. We're moving PADS forward through the creation of a business plan, a feasibility study, and identification of financial resources for them to move forward to achieve their mission. Our end goal is to present a business proposal that will expand and strengthen the outreach of PADS within our community and teach our class the necessary steps for the creating and/or expanding their own non-profit. More Info - clife.org



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firstbaptistcleveland.org/rightnow

Matilda

by Kelley Pernicone

From the desk of Agatha Trunchbull, Hammer Throwing Champion 1969 and Headmistress of the Trunchbull School.

"It would seem that there is an extreme lack of discipline within society today. What is more discouraging is that the freedoms that young people seem to be enjoying have lead to, dare I say, individual personalities. Perhaps what is needed is a review of what true discipline is. Have no fear, I'm happy to guide you so long as you stay inside the line."

From March 20-29th the Happy Ending Lyric Players will be showcasing my heroic tale. The tale of a woman of true strength and discipline against the trials that come along with molding young minds. You will see how to properly handle disrespect for the rules as well as a perfect example of appropriate punishment. Learn how to throw the hammer, have a session of physical education, and even enjoy a spelling test! The show is wonderful for maggots, I mean children, of all ages. For more information regarding show times and tickets, visit firstbaptistcleveland.org/matilda or it's the chokey for you. Not sure what the chokey is? Join us for a show and I'd be happy to introduce you to it."

Don't listen to the Trunchbull. She is absolutely wrong about what the show is about. Matilda is a story of a young girl with extraordinary powers, but her most profound ability is to recognize when something is wrong and work to make it right! Matilda teaches us that it doesn't matter who you are or where you come from; you still have the power to do the right thing! This attitude inspires those around her to make major changes, especially in regard to a certain overbearing Hammer Throwing Champion. The Trunchbull did get one thing correct: information and show times can be found at firstbaptistcleveland.org/matilda! Tickets are on sale now! \$10 for children 10 and younger (maggots, as Trunchbull calls them), \$15 for students and seniors, and \$20 for adults. For group rate information, please contact Jane Pernicone. More Info - firstbaptistcleveland.org/matilda

Music Notes

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

Handbell Choir meets Thursdays from 6:15PM - 7:00PM.

The Children's Choir meets Thursday evenings from 5:15PM - 5:45PM.

More Info - firstbaptistcleveland.org/choirs



March Birthdays

1st Trinity Johnson
3rd Alex Cardwell
3rd David Parajon
3rd Mike Skerritt

4th Joyce Berry
7th Alwin Miller
7th Diamond Miller
9th Cynthia Burke

11th Roby Gill
12th Elle Frey
12th Cynthia Gill
15th Mona Robinson

20th Wilma Hall
23rd Jacquelyn Berry
27th Faith Arnold
28th Charie Babcock

Roald Dahl's
Matilda
THE MUSICAL
Performances
March 20 - 29
Fridays & Saturdays 7pm
Sundays 2pm
Presented by The Happy Ending Lyric Players
In Association with The Heights Arts Initiative
Tickets: www.firstbaptistcleveland.org/matilda
\$10 Children 10 & under
\$15 Students & Seniors
\$20 Adults
\$40 VIP Tickets (Include premium seating & Refreshment)

Kairos Prison Cookie Ministry

by Brian Broadbent



Sunday, March 8

Attention All Cookie Bakers!

We are preparing for another prison ministry visit and need cookies by Sunday March 8. Please place them in the volunteer office. Your cookies make a difference.

Before you bake, get more information, requirements and recipes at

firstbaptistcleveland.org/kairos





49ers Cargo Ship Program Report

by Pam Esch

Sunday, February 17th, FBC's 49ers once again enjoyed a delightful afternoon program in Spahr Center. Following a delicious lunch, attendees were treated to a fascinating history of Cleveland's bulk cargo ships and their importance in the growth and development of the city. Doug Kusak, Historical Interpreter for Cleveland Metroparks, provided both background information and images, from both the past and present to explain the nearly 200-year old shipping industry in Cleveland.



One highlight of his presentation was its focus on the William G. Mather, the flagship of its fleet, completed in 1925. Six hundred eighteen feet long, thirty-two feet deep and sixty-five feet wide, the Mather was designed to carry up to 14,000 tons of iron ore across the Great Lakes (as well as crew and invited guests and passengers). Today, for the most part, cargo ships have been replaced by container ships which also sail the Great Lakes and can carry anywhere from 70,000 to 100,000 tons. (Fortunately, Clevelanders can still see the William G. Mather Steamship as it is now part of the Great Lakes Science Center and available for tours from May through October.)

Kusak also discussed the Port of Cleveland and its history as a bulk freight shipping port, located at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River on Lake Erie. It is the third-largest port in the Great Lakes and the fourth-largest Great Lakes port by annual tonnage. Today it handles shipments from across the globe, with regular visits from vessels originating in Canada, Belgium, and Poland. According to Kusak, the shipping industry in Cleveland provides 20,000 jobs in the area and brings in 3 1/2 billion dollars a year. (To find out more about the Port of Cleveland and to see container vessels in action and their schedules, visit the website, MarineTraffic.com.)

The program concluded with a brief question and answer segment and ended at 2:30 pm.

The 49ers will be presenting its new series of stimulating and informative programs beginning in the fall of 2020. All are welcome to attend.



America for Christ Offering 2020

by Annette Szalay

Jesus teaches us to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). This is the theme for the America for Christ Offering for 2020. FBC follows the teaching of Jesus by reaching out to the community and providing for our neighbors' needs, physical and spiritual alike.

Thanks to your America for Christ (AFC) Offering contributions, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) ministers to families who have lost homes to floods, to children living lives of limitation in poverty, to seminarians preparing to devote their lives to sharing the Good News, and many more. ABHMS provides many ways to help our church love our many neighbors, near and far!

In 2019, our church's AFC gifts supported the following ministries:

- Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing Puerto Rico
- Providing scholarships to students to help ease the debilitating effects of excessive student-loan debt
- Immigration and Refugee Resettlement –partnering with organizations to help resettle more than 100,000 displaced persons
- Rizpah's Children- partnering with agencies that provide support to children living in poverty

By contributing to the AFC 2020 Offering, you increase our capacity to fulfill the biblical mandate in Matthew 22:39: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Help ABHMS reach their goal to love our neighbors and share the gospel! More Info - abhms.org/afc



Congratulations To Stephen Ministers

Our Stephen Ministry Commissioning of Traci Hixson, Ship Collins, and Mary Wild will be at both worship services on March 29th. More Info - firstbaptistcleveland.org/stephen-ministry

Congregations & Child Care Self Study Begins

The Children's Center has been providing care for young children since the addition of the education wing in the 1950s, and it became licensed by the State of Ohio in 1975. In 1997, the program expanded to enroll infants and toddlers.

Over the years, there has been no formal agreement about why the congregation has a child care program or what results the congregation expects of it. This has led to contention, especially around financial issues.

That is why FBC is embarking on a new project, Congregations and Child Care. The self-study focuses on the relationship between a congregation and its early childhood program. It is designed to promote high-quality, equitable child care by improving communication and relationships between congregations and early childhood programs.

The goal is to validate the ministry of The Children's Center by engaging the congregation and Center in a process of self-study that will help us be intentional about:

- FBCGC's mission in having the program
- The Children's Center mission to children and families
- The respective roles of the congregation and Center in governance and finance of the program
- The responsibilities of the leader of the congregation and Center in promoting communication and understanding among themselves, thus assuring mutual support for the work of both groups.

The self-study team includes Frank Marino (Cluster Chair Children's Center), Kevin Bouyer (Property & Finance), Jeff Gordon (Church Administrator), Mary Garofoli (Assistant Director) and Jane Pernicone (Director).

Our first task is soliciting feedback from the congregation to help us understand the congregation's thoughts around the mission and define the purpose of the early childhood program. A brief survey is planned for Sunday, March 15th. Look for progress updates in upcoming issues of Tower Tidings.



FBC Women's Retreat

by Fran Leanza

Saturday, May 2, starting at 9:30 a.m.

We will return to the Intergrove Lodge in the North Chagrin Reservation, Willoughby Hills

Mark Your Calendar Now So You Can Attend!

firstbaptistcleveland.org/womens-retreat-registration



Nicaragua Mission Trip

by Nancy Wheaton

June 20th – June 27th Sign Up Now!

The applications are in the office for anyone interested in going with us on the Nicaragua Mission Trip this summer.

Time is running short, especially for plane fares so please fill out the applications. Jeremy Bull our team leader would like to hold a meeting of participants on the weekend of March 6, 7, and 8th. Please hold that weekend for questions, and other information necessary for the mission trip on June 20-27th.

Please consider this awesome experience and join us for the trip. More Info - firstbaptistcleveland.org/nicaragua



Calvary Meals For The Homeless

by Tina Marr

Friday, March 27, at 4:00 PM

Our next meal service will be on Friday, March 27, 2020, from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. at New Life at Calvary, located at the corner of East 79th Street and Euclid Avenue. We hope you can join us for part or all of the time. If you are not able to attend, no worries. Maybe you'd like to donate a food item. You can find a sign-up sheet in Swasey Tower with all the details. If you have any questions or interest in assisting with this ministry, please contact Tina Marr – firstbaptistcleveland.org/calvary





Tower Tidings

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material: March 1, 2020

Thanks for prompt delivery!

Church Office – 216.932.7480

The Children’s Center – 216.371.9394

FirstBaptistCleveland.org

office@firstbaptistcleveland.org

Facebook/First Baptist Church of
Greater Cleveland



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2020 FBC Lay Leadership

Moderator: Kim Kidd-Collins

Vice Moderator: Carolyn Neal

Treasurer: Ralph Hise

Clerk: To be filled

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: Annette Szalay

Worship and Fine Arts: Carole Negus

Serving in Ministry

Ministries

Rev. Dr. Gregg F. Burris - Senior Pastor

Rev. Jeff Gordon - Associate Pastor/
Church Administrator

Rev. Dr. Sandra Alexander-Haynes -
Associate Pastor/Christian Education

Carly Marino - Director of Children’s Ministry

Music Ministries

Stephanie Price - Director of Music

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 Admin.

Greg Beckner - Web Design/Publicity/Marketing

Content deadline for next Tower Tidings: **Mar. 15th**

The next issue will be mailed April 1, 2020

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