

Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

So I recommend the enjoyment of life, for there is nothing better on earth for a person to do except to eat, drink, and enjoy life. So joy will accompany him in his toil during the days of his life which God gives him on earth.

Eccles 8:15

We're Back!

Enjoy Life! "Safely"

While some are living life like there was no pandemic, others still have some trepidation. We have [re-opened our sanctuary](#) for in-person worship by anyone who wishes to join but we also have our [livestream](#) available for anyone remaining cautious. We are here when you are ready! Patience is a virtue.

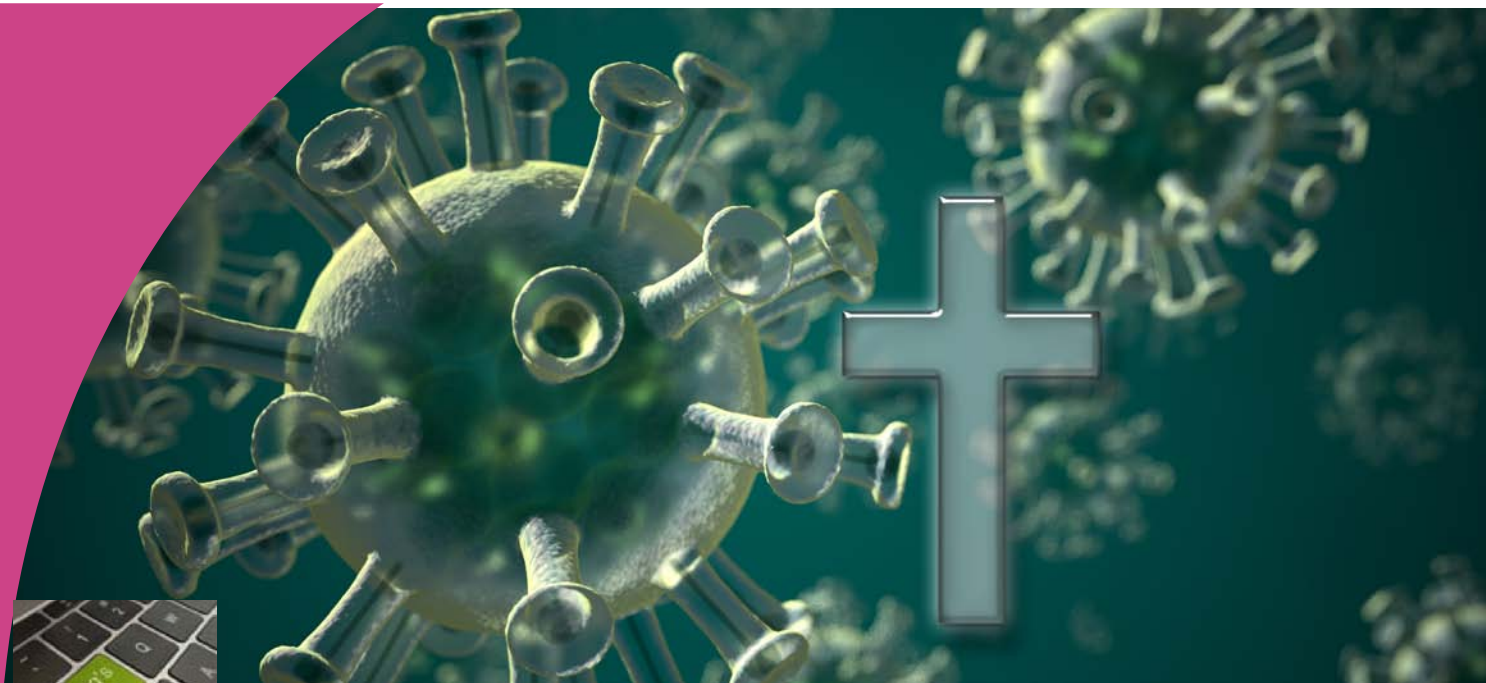
Here are some instructions for connecting with us during this COVID-19 pandemic. All of the pink underlined links are clickable. Bookmark our [Church Updates](#) page. Our worship service is streamed [LIVE Sunday morning on YouTube](#) while previous videos can be viewed anytime on our [YouTube Channel](#). Our [Wednesdays in the Word](#) classes are

available through digital conferencing, sign up to receive instructions via email. [Sunday Discipleship Hour](#) is available through Zoom conferencing. Our youth are active in their online [Zoom conferencing](#) Sunday at noon.

Our children get together online Sundays so please sign up to get on the [children's email list](#). Our [Spiritual Gifts classes](#) are online, you can find them on the web page. If you have anyone who needs our prayers please [submit a request online](#) for our prayer team. Stay healthy! If you have any trouble accessing any of our activities or have challenges using technology call Pastor Gregg 216-882-8555 and he can connect you with someone who can help!

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Spiritual Growth from a Pandemic

"Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!"

Isaiah 30:18

The First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland's Re-entry Task Force consists of Gregg Burris, Jeff Gordon, Sandra Alexander Haynes, Kim Kidd, Dan Mizener, Carly Marino, Mike Skerritt, Carolyn Neal, Carole Negus, Iris Goins, Monroe Goins, and Nate Hurlle. Under their guidance, we have following the state's health and safety protocols and returned to public worship on Mother's Day May 9th. It was a beautiful day of worship with a social distancing that filled the church. Since then, we have been busy planning our summer and fall scheduling. We are still in phase one of our return (which requires masks), but we are looking at a time-line for phase two which opens up gatherings of small groups.

According to Governor Mike DeWine, "It's time to end the health orders. It's been a year. You've followed the protocols, you've done what we've asked. You've bravely fought this virus." Thus, all Ohio's COVID-19 orders except those applying to nursing homes and other long-term care facilities will end, however, DeWine noted that stores and businesses still may require customers to be masked. The announcement comes on the same day the CDC's advisory committee approved a recommendation to administer the Pfizer vaccine on kids ages 12 and above.

The announcement means, beginning June 2, Ohioans will no longer be required to wear facial coverings and follow social distancing guidelines. It also puts an end to capacity restrictions at indoor and outdoor events. His announcement gave the green light for the Cleveland Indians to announce that Progressive Field will return to full capacity starting June 2.

These signs of returning to pre-COVID conditions do

not mean we will forget our era of quarantine and our home isolation. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, FBCGC has incorporated the use of technology in our ministry life. Live-streaming and recording of the worship service, expansion of electronic giving, and small group gatherings on Zoom are three major technological innovations which not only got us through the pandemic, they have expanded our ministry and now are part of ministry life.

Yet the greatest single lesson from these past several months has been to experience waiting on the Lord. Isaiah 40:31 "but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 30:18 - "Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!"

Hours of prayer and meditation, reading and reflection has given opportunity for growth in the inner self which strengthens the spirit and builds character. Patience is a virtue. As it states in the book of Ecclesiastes, there is a time and season for everything, and paraphrasing from it, "a time to refrain from public worship and a time to regather to worship." We will keep you posted as we re-open the church. May the difficult journey that we have been on individually allow us to arrive safely and stronger at our destination together.

Sincerely

Pastor Gregg Burris
Senior Pastor



We
Need
You!

Children's Ministries is looking for volunteers to serve in our toddler/preschool and elementary (K-4th) classes. All you need is a heart for children - training and support will be provided! Contact Rev. Sandra salexander@firstbaptistcleveland.org or Carly cmarino@firstbaptistcleveland.org

Stay tuned for information on summer meetings and events! Contact Carly cmarino@firstbaptistcleveland.org to join our e-mail list!



Mark your calendars for the Walk for Hunger on Saturday June 5th at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. We would like to gather a group from Children's and Youth Ministries to raise money and walk with our church team! Let Carly know if you plan on attending.

Fill out the form at firstbaptistcleveland.org/children-youth/childrens-ministries if you would like to join us!

June Birthdays

2nd Jean Britton	22nd Laura Preston
2nd Carol DeFlorentis	25th Mary Alexander
4th John Currier	26th Terri Brown Arheghan
9th Meredith Shelley	29th Delesia Robinson
14th Frances Leanza	29th Cheryl Spahr
16th Sandra Bronoff	30th Frank Marino
19th Claude Kennard	

Preschool & Elementary Children's June Schedule

Preschoolers and K-4 are meeting with [Carly Marino](#) online.

JUNE 2021	Elementary WEEKLY CUES	YOU GOT THIS!
	<p>Theme Press Play: Get in the Mix</p> <p>Confidence is learning to see yourself the way God sees you.</p>	<p>Week One John 3:16 God So Loved the World SAY THIS: You can be confident because God loves you.</p> <p>Week Two Joshua 5:13-6:20 Israel Captures Jericho SAY THIS: God's plan is the best plan.</p> <p>Week Three Judges 6-8 Gideon SAY THIS: God can use you no matter what.</p> <p>Week Four 1 Kings 18:16-46 Elijah and the Prophets of Baal SAY THIS: God can do the impossible.</p>
		<p>REMEMBER THIS</p> <p>"I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." Psalm 27:13, NIV</p>

Prayer Opportunities

By Mari Schroeder-Jenkins

Group opportunities :

Sundays at 9AM in the courtyard (weather permitting or Fireside Room in case of rain) Beginning June 1 through Labor Day (depends on if service times change in fall)

Thursdays at 6PM via zoom

We always need people to pray from a list of requests we receive (updated 2-3 times /month). The only requirement is a desire and ability to receive a confidential list via email.

We also need persons willing to pray with people after services – Contact Mari Schroeder-Jenkins at prayer@firstbaptistcleveland.org for more information.

Belated May Birthdays

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

Christian Education Schedule

Come join us in these upcoming Sunday, Wednesday, and Thursday classes to grow in God's Word. All of our Christian education activities have gone virtual. Email Rev. Sandra Alexander-Haynes – salexander@firstbaptistcleveland.org to receive login instructions.

Wednesdays in the Word

Romans 8-16 For You – Men's Group

by Dr. Timothy Keller

Led by Eddie Wills

Starting at 7:00 PM via Zoom conf.

In his description of the book, Dr. Keller stated, "The book of Romans is one that changes the world by changing the people."

Into the Word – Women's Group

by Anne Graham Lotz

Led by Martha Lant and Sandra Alexander-Haynes

Starting at 6:30 PM via Zoom conf.

Led by Tobili Sam-Yellow

Starting at 7:30 PM via phone conf.

Thursday Mornings

Women's Bible Study Class

Led by Sandra Alexander Haynes

Starting at 10:00 AM & 10:30 AM via phone conf.

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Into the Word – Women's Group

by Anne Graham Lotz

Led by Sandra Alexander-Haynes

Starting at 7:30 PM via telephone conf.

The Women's Bible study group is focused on lessons from a study titled Into the Word. This study includes 52 life-altering Bible lessons. As noted by the author, "These fifty-two weekly studies emphasize personal application and will draw you directly into God's Word...to love Him more."

Sunday Discipleship Hour

The Power of Knowing God – Group for Everyone

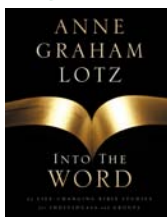
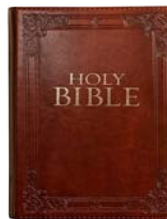
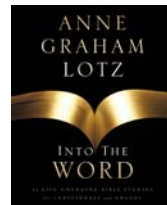
by Dr. Tony Evans

Led by Marty Capers

Starting at 12:00 PM via Zoom conf.

Please join us as we examine the Power of Knowing God by Dr. Tony Evans. As stated by Dr. Evans, "You go to church, you read the Bible, you participate in small groups, but many still don't know God intimately." This study will empower us to "experience a soul-deep closeness with God, practice relying on God instead of self-reliance, and find our identity and purpose in belonging to Him." Most significantly, this study will remind us to make developing our relationship with God our greatest purpose in life.

It is never too late to join a Bible study.



First Baptist Church OF GREATER CLEVELAND 3630 Fairmount Blvd. Shaker Heights, OH 44118

Free 2021 Mobile Pantry Produce Pick Up is Available at First Baptist Church

Five Saturdays from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
May 1st | June 5th | July 10th
August 7th | September 11th

Help us help others... spread the word! Bring your valid ID. firstbaptistcleveland.org

Greater Cleveland Food Bank



Combat Hunger In Our Community

by Karen Gill

May 1st was our first Mobile Pantry of the year! Our guests went home with produce including apples, cabbage, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, pears, and green beans from the Cleveland Food Bank which our amazing volunteers helped to bag and box. We served 389 people in our community! Teams from Stella Maris and Thrive Peer Support joined us this month and they passed out Narcan kits, fentanyl test strips, drug disposal kits and bags with mental health crisis information. We are partnering again this year with Friends of the Heights Libraries to help them distribute books and tapes. Our next Mobile Pantry will be June 5th and we could really use some extra volunteers this month.. If you are able to help out contact Karen Gill at kgill@firstbaptistcleveland.org.

It's not too late to join our team for the 33rd Annual Walk for Hunger & 5K Run. Participants will be able to enjoy entertainment, refreshments as well as a day at the Zoo and free entry into the Rainforest while raising money to ensure that no child goes hungry. The pandemic pushed Cuyahoga County's child food insecurity rate to 30.3 percent — meaning more than 1 in 4 children in our community may not know where their next meal will come from. When children are hungry, they simply cannot learn, grow or thrive. Hunger doesn't take a summer break. Thousands of children in Cuyahoga County receive two meals while at school each day, and many rely on free and reduced-price lunch. As schools let out for summer, many families, especially those who have been hard-hit by the pandemic, grapple to put food on their tables. You can register at <https://give.hungernetwork.org/team/344156>. If you are unable to attend, please consider making a donation to support the Hunger Network and the great work they are doing in our community.



Congratulations To Our 2021 Graduates – We're Proud of You!



Alona Marie Miller

Alona is a graduate of Shaker Heights High school. She has earned her four year diploma as well as a diploma in the International Baccalaureate program with an accumulative gpa of 4.4. Alona was the first artist for The Shakerite, the school newspaper, and has been a part of many artistic projects in the community. Her love and talent as a musician has brought joy to many people in the community who have enjoyed listening to her music. Alona has selflessly given her time participating in church and community outreach programs. She is looking forward to embarking on her new endeavors as an undergraduate student at New York University where she will study Business and Technology Management at the Tandon School of Engineering.



Sierra Hurlle

Sierra is a senior at Shaker Heights High School and plans on attending Valdosta State University and majoring in their health sciences program. In her community Sierra coaches at SYSA and also works at Pizzazz. Throughout her years at the church she has helped with the food drives, helped with the Christmas play for the kids and also participated in the Christmas pageant. She is excited to start the next part of her life and see where it takes her. Go Blazers!



Valeria Kozak

Valeria is going to be graduating from North Royalton High School and will be attending Tri-C in the fall. After that she plans to transfer to a university. She has completed over 60 community service hours with Key Club international and has also been a part of her high school color guard for all four years. She has danced competitively for 9 years with Dance Dimensions by Jen Naso. Valeria has been going to First Baptist with her dad since she was a little girl and has always enjoyed the positive and welcoming environment!

Cory Turner

Cory will graduate from The Ohio State University with a bachelors degree in sociology.



Tara Capers

Tara will graduate from Hathaway Brown School after being there for 13 years. She is very excited to be going down to Columbus to study Early Childhood Education at The Ohio State University! Throughout high school, Tara has dedicated her time to staying involved in her community by volunteering, teaching, and participating in various music initiatives, including the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony. Tara has volunteered on various occasions with her church, and taught Sunday school classes through its East Side Ministries program. She plans to teach in the future.



Nearly 40 churches, synagogues, and mosques have joined in coalition to form Greater Cleveland Congregations. The mission of GCC is to work together to build power for social justice. GCC unites people across lines of race, class, religion, and geography to promote public, private, and civic-sector actions that we believe will strengthen and improve the quality of life of our neighborhoods. First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland is a supporting member of Greater Cleveland Congregations.

In May, the Delegate Assembly focused on GCC's vaccination efforts, the emerging Battle for Democracy work, Criminal Justice house meetings, and the Gun Safety Consortium. The Greater Cleveland Congregations also strongly advocated for the new Crisis Diversion Center in the city of Cleveland. Currently, each participating member congregation is requested to hold one-hour house meetings to discuss where GCC should focus its criminal justice efforts going forward. Input from these house meetings will help guide this organization's future criminal justice work. So that your voice will be represented, it is critical that we have as many congregations participate as possible.

Email Rev. Sandra Alexander at salexander@firstbaptistcleveland.org if you would like to participate in a meeting on June 4th via Zoom noon-1 p.m. During the meeting, you will have an opportunity to share what you want the Criminal Justice Team of the Greater Cleveland Congregations to focus on in the future. If you are not available to participate at that time, please send an email with your questions and concerns to be addressed by the Greater Cleveland Congregations Criminal Justice Team.



Tower Tidings

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dated Material: June 1, 2021
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



Watch Sermons Online

Miss a sermon
or want to hear
one again?

youtube.com/channel/UCGPcB14N9TRe50jES6uHK7Q

2021 FBC Lay Leadership

Moderator: Dan Mizener
Vice Moderator: Kim Kidd-Collins
Treasurer: Ralph Hise
Clerk: Melinda Burns
Personnel: to be filled

Children's Center: Frank Marino

Communication & Outreach: Debra Hegler
*Greeters, Welcome Center, Marketing,
& Communications*

Discipleship: Dana Capers
*Discipleship Classes, Children's Ministry,
Youth Ministry, & Covenant Groups*

Fellowship & Nurture: Kristin Roberts
*Stephen Ministry, Deacons,
& New Member Orientation*

Stewardship: Lynne Liu

Finance & Property: Jennifer Whatley-Williams

Missions & Social Concerns: Carolyn Neal

Worship and Fine Arts: Carole Negus

Serving in Ministry

Ministries

Rev. Dr. Gregg F. Burris - Senior Pastor

Rev. Jeff Gordon - Associate Pastor/
Business Administrator

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

Carly Marino - Director of Children's Ministry

Ship Collins - Director of Youth Ministry

Office

Star Knuckles - Executive Assistant/Office Admin.

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

Marketing/Photography/Video

Greg Beckner - Web Design/Publicity/Social Media

Send content for the next issue by **June 15th** to Greg
gbeckner@firstbaptistcleveland.org Issue mailed July 1