

# Tower Tidings

First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland

## Freedom!

**“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” “And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**

### Freedom To Serve One Another

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 blue 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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## Re-Ignite Our Passion In Our Sacred Place

Duncan G. Stroik is an architect, author and professor of architecture at the University of Notre Dame. He is the founder and editor of the magazine, Sacred Architecture, described as "dedicated to the renewal of beauty in contemporary church design." In his book, The Church Building as a Sacred Place: Beauty, Transcendence, and the Eternal (2012) he defines sacred architecture as a building meant to honor God and serve his people.

"I think for about five decades we lacked an appreciation of some principles of sacred architecture. Beauty is a big part of it. But I focus on what I see as the five principles: verticality, directionality, iconography, geometrical order and durability. If we do those five things right, we have a basis for creating a sacred building that can also be beautiful."

Baptists have traditionally viewed the church building as matter of functionality over aesthetics. This goes back to its early roots breaking free from Catholicism and Anglicanism. For Baptists, the focal point has always been the 'temple of the Spirit' which was the individual believer (I Cor. 6:19). Yet, throughout Baptist history the meeting house has always been held to be a sacred place. Every building tells a story about the people who worship within its walls. The simplest of churches convey a message about the people who built them. White board churches convey a message of righteousness or light. Red brick churches speak of strength, faithfulness and the saving blood of Jesus.

Even the architecture of a church building demonstrates certain level of anthropomorphism. Allan Greenberg is one of the leading classical architects of the twenty-first century, also known as New Classical Architecture. For Dr. Greenberg, every church or any public building conveys a message which we recognize as a reflection of ourselves. "Columns are like pillars of the community, and moldings are also related to parts of our bodies, the

idea that architecture is related to the human body is a classical view."

Our church, First Baptist of Greater Cleveland, reflects a presence within our community and towers over the Heights bearing witness of our faith as it soars high and points heavenward. The limestone exterior hues of grey speak of the earth where heaven and earth touch. Its windows are like eyes revealing the soul of the congregation and when viewing them from within, they act as color boards of light sharing the story of God's faithfulness in colors and symbols. The sanctuary's solid oak bench pews provide a place to rest for the weary traveler or wandering pilgrim. Aged over time and use, the building has grown and gathered to become more than a chamber of art, place of gathering, or even as a platform for worship. It has truly established as an abiding presence and sacred place for God's people to gather. (Mat. 18:20).

For fourteen months, our building was closed due to concerns over COVID-19. As we regather together in our sacred place, we ask God to re-ignite our passion by the Spirit in the celebrate our Savior. It is my hope and prayer those who pass our building might be drawn into this beautiful place which is open and acceptant to all.

Our history serves as a model of faithfulness, and our passion of believers gathered within this place serves to exalt the Kingdom of God on earth as people who serve others with a welcoming presence of our Lord. Laudetur Jesus Christus ! (May Jesus Christ be praised.)

Sincerely,

Pastor Gregg Burris  
Senior Pastor

## HERO HEADQUARTERS

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](mailto:salexander@firstbaptistcleveland.org) or Carly [cmarino@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:cmarino@firstbaptistcleveland.org)

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

9AM SUNDAYS

# PRAYER IN The courtyard

IN CASE OF RAIN - IN THE FIRESIDE ROOM

**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](http://firstbaptistcleveland.org)

Greater Cleveland Food Bank

TEFAP Guidelines Apply

## July Birthdays

- |                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2nd Mizener, Daniel      | 25th Farmer, Gentrías          |
| 3rd Zemaityte, Dalia     | 25th Shepherd, Gabriella       |
| 4th Brown, Elijah Donald | 25th Walker, Barbara           |
| 6th Gocan, Evon L.       | 26th Chapman-Martinez, Jessica |
| 7th Gocan, Karla         | 27th Preston, Arianna          |
| 9th Turner, Tamara       | 28th Gordon, Hannah            |
| 16th Bull, Charlotte     | 28th Melton, Tia M.            |
| 19th Fullmer, Peg        | 28th Stevens, Jordan           |
| 20th Leibold, Nan        | 30th Anderson, Richard         |
| 22nd Hise, Amy           | 30th Ruhoff, Hannah            |
| 22nd Onyeacholem, Sunny  | 31st Cicco, Alex               |
| 24th Daniels, Betty      | 31st Kidd, Kyle                |

START SUMMER WITH A

# BANG!

JULY 4TH AFTER WORSHIP

POPCICLES IN THE COURTYARD!

## Christian Education

Our classes are taking a break for the summer. Come join us in future Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday classes to grow in God's Word. The men will begin a new class at the end of July so watch for details. Many of our Christian education activities have gone virtual so email Rev. Sandra Alexander – [salexander@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:salexander@firstbaptistcleveland.org) to receive login instructions.



## Intercessory Prayer by Mari Schroeder-Jenkins

The Intercessory prayer meeting continues via Zoom meeting at 6:00 PM on Thursdays. Send prayer requests or request instructions to join our group by emailing [prayer@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:prayer@firstbaptistcleveland.org).

## Calvary Meals For The Homeless by Tina Marr

Friday, July 23 at 4:00 PM

Our provision of hot meals on the fourth Friday of each month is still proceeding during the coronavirus pandemic, thanks to thinking outside the box to put food inside the (takeout) box!



Our next meal service will be on Friday, July 23, 2021, 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 all or part of the time. If you are not able to attend, no worries. Maybe you'd like to donate a food item or bring your clean restaurant takeout containers to FBC. If you have any questions or interest in assisting with this ministry, please contact Tina Marr – [firstbaptistcleveland.org/calvary](http://firstbaptistcleveland.org/calvary)

## Stephen Ministry

by Mari Schroeder-Jenkins

In July we will not have our Peer Supervision meeting. We will gather July 19th for a picnic beginning at 6:00 PM. We will resume our Stephen Ministry Peer Supervision meetings every 3 weeks on Mondays, at 7:00PM beginning August 9th.



If anyone is in need of a Stephen Minister during this difficult time, send a request to [stephenministry@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:stephenministry@firstbaptistcleveland.org) or visit [firstbaptistcleveland.org/prayer-requests](http://firstbaptistcleveland.org/prayer-requests).

The FBC FAIRMOUNT GALLERY Welcomes

## Dian DiSantis, Artist and Photographer

by Mike Skerritt

The Worship and Fine Arts Cluster is pleased to present the art works of Dian DiSantis to our FBC Fairmount Gallery, continuing a tradition that was interrupted, as were so many other FBC activities, by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Pam Esch, who is a friend of Dian's, and I will be hanging her artworks during the week after the July 4th weekend, and her works will officially be on display July 5 through October 1. Special thanks to Pam for introducing us to Dian and helping to make the arrangements for her Fairmount Gallery display.

Dian is originally from Muncie, Indiana and has been living in Cleveland since 1961. Her scholastic credentials include the following:

- A BS in Art Education from Ball State University (in Muncie, IN) in 1961.
- Graduate work in Art History at Case-Western University in 1963.
- A Masters in Library Science from Kent State University in 1979.
- A BFA in Art from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 1994.

Dian's paintings and photography have been in numerous, juried art competitions over the years including the Gates Mills Art show, and exhibits at the Artists Archives of the Western Reserve. Her work has also been featured at Cain Park's Audrey and Harvey Feinberg Art Gallery in Cleveland Heights.

Here is what Dian says about her approach to making art:

*"For years I have been intrigued by the myriad tar marks left on walkways, on roads and parking lots. I have come to refer to the tar marks as calligraphy, or in other terms, 'road talk!'"*

*I enjoy creating my own road calligraphy in painting as well as doing photographic collages.*

*And I enjoy sharing travel experiences primarily by focusing on animals captured by the lens of my camera."*

The Worship and Fine Arts Committee hopes you enjoy Dian's show!

## Fighting the Battle Against Hunger in Cuyahoga County

by Karen Gill

Your response to our events to fight hunger in our community on June 5th was overwhelming! Our Walk for Hunger team raised \$5,424 dollars which more than doubled our original goal of \$2,000. Congratulations to Adam Marino who was our team champion fundraiser. Adam raised \$407 and he had the most donors. The total amount raised so far from the Walk is \$107,280 surpassing the goal of \$100,000. FBC was a Gold Sponsor of the Walk this year. We had a sponsorship table which was manned by the Robinson family and their team who had P.A.D.S. boxes to share with the public. Everyone enjoyed the new venue, the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and our prayers were answered with a bright and sunny day. The 2.1 miles walk took the participants past all types of wildlife. The animals were very active that early in the morning. We saw bears wrestling, otters forging for their food, a koala and her joey climbing a tree, gorillas enjoying bananas and one very proud Orangutan showing off her new baby! As a bonus, all participants were invited to visit the Rainforest after the Walk was over. If you weren't able to join us this year, mark your calendar for June 4, 2022 since the Hunger Network has already confirmed next year's date and it will be held at the Zoo again!

June 5th was also our second Mobile Pantry of the year. This month, our guests went home with produce including apples, green beans, onions, zucchini, corn on the cob and iceberg lettuce from the Cleveland Food Bank which our amazing volunteers helped to bag, box and load. We served 369 people in our community! We also distributed books provided by Friends of the Heights Libraries.

Thank you again to everyone who volunteered, donated and/or participated in our day of fighting hunger! FBC is making a difference in our community.

Our next Mobile Pantry will be July 10th. If you would like to volunteer, contact Karen Gill at [kgill@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:kgill@firstbaptistcleveland.org).



## Women's Praise & Fellowship Hour

Women of First Baptist, let us rejoice and celebrate the goodness of God! You are invited to join us in the Courtyard on July 25 to reconnect with one another. We will meet immediately after worship service for lunch, fun spiritual based games, to get your FBC gear, and to learn about the women's summer reading challenge. Do not miss this opportunity to fellowship. RSVP to Rev. Sandra Alexander by July 12 to [salexander@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:salexander@firstbaptistcleveland.org).

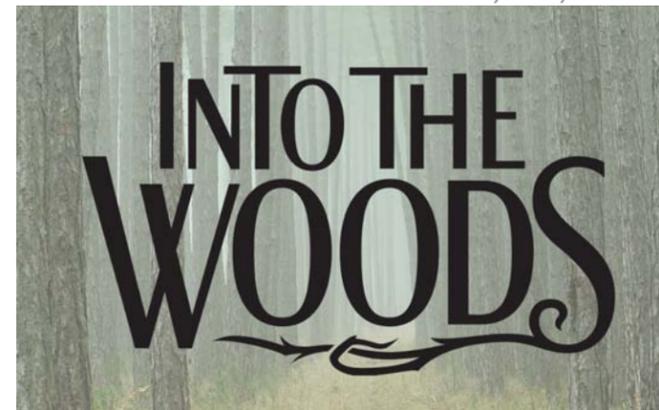
## Fighting Hunger One Step at a Time

Walk for Hunger Team



## HELP Goes Into the Woods!

By Kelley Pernicone



Let me set the stage, it was March of 2019 and the HELP stage was receiving it's final touches for their spring production of Matilda. The day the lights were going to be hung they received notification that the world would be changing. The production team made the difficult decision to cancel the show.

Fast forward to today. Stages across the country that have been quiet amid the pandemic are now waking up and the Happy Ending Lyric Players are among them! The silent halls of FBC will soon be full of singing, dancing, and even an enchanted forest! Into the Woods written by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine contains themes of growing up, family dynamics, accepting responsibility, morality, and the consequences of getting exactly what you ask for. This show provides the Happy Ending Lyric Players with a unique opportunity to connect with a wide variety of audiences and share important messages. Chosen for its ensemble casting, Into the Woods will allow for a multitude of performers to step onto the stage.

Leading the production team is Kelley Pernicone (Damn Yankees, Beauty & the Beast, Matilda) who will be sharing her creative vision as director. Her goal is to create an enchanting and immersive experience for the cast, crew, and audience. She won't be putting on this show alone! Joining her are Music Director Andy Novack (Hunchback) and Producer Mike Skerritt (far too many to list, he's a superstar).

Auditions are scheduled for January 8th-12th and the production will run March 25th through April 3rd. This production will require performers of all ages. The Happy Ending Lyric Players look forward to having you on stage or joining them in the "woods"!



## Teachers Appreciation

We're So Grateful for All You Do! We Appreciate You!

### Discipleship Hour & Wednesday Evening Group Leaders

Marty Capers	Wendy Chaney
Tondra Miller	Jeff Gordon
Alwin Miller	Betty Meyers
Tammy Gordon	Brian Broadbent
Kim Kidd Collins	TaRhonda Ward

### Men's Bible Study

Eddie Wills

### Women's Bible Studies

Tobili Sam-Yellowe  
Martha Lant  
Sandra Alexander  
Charmie Scott

### Youth Ministry

Ship Collins  
Dana Capers  
Kristin Roberts  
Chris Burns  
Daniel Brown

### Children's Ministry

Carly Marino  
LaKeisha Austin  
LeeAnsley Sandridge  
Kathleen Montoya  
Annette Szalay  
Melinda Burns

### Vacation Bible School

Jessica Chapman Martinez  
April Shepherd  
Kelley Pernicone

### Wed. Morning Bible Study

Kregg Burriss

## Interested In Our Digital Library?

rightnow MEDIA



Access thousands of titles on your computer, tablet or phone for FREE! If you are currently using or interested in using this library please let Rev. Sandra Alexander know [salexander@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:salexander@firstbaptistcleveland.org)



# Tower Tidings

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

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Dated Material: July 1, 2021**

**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?

[youtube.com/channel/UCGPcB14N9TRe50jES6uHK7Q](https://youtube.com/channel/UCGPcB14N9TRe50jES6uHK7Q)

## 2021 FBC Lay Leadership

**Moderator:** Dan Mizener

**Vice Moderator:** Kim Kidd-Collins

**Treasurer:** Ralph Hise

**Clerk:** Melinda Burns

**Personnel:** Marty Capers

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

**Carly Marino** - Director of Children's Ministry

**Ship Collins** - Director of Youth Ministry

### Music Ministries

**Stephanie Price** - Director of Music

**Betty Meyers** - Associate Director of Music

**Brian Kozak** - Director of Contemporary Music

### Marketing/Photography/Video

**Greg Beckner** - Web Design/Publicity/Social Media

### Office

**Star Knuckles** - Executive Assistant/Office Admin.

### The Children's Center

**Jane Pernicone** - Director

Send content for the next issue by **July 15th** to Greg  
[gbeckner@firstbaptistcleveland.org](mailto:gbeckner@firstbaptistcleveland.org) Issue mailed Aug 1