



First Baptist Church
Grove City

3301 Orders Road
Grove City, OH 43123
614.991.9205 www.firstgc.org

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Message



The visits at CVS have become more enjoyable since Rhoda learned my name. She is a dog lover, and, when she met our dog Chewy, we bonded. Recently, she told me that she slept three years on the couch so her miniature bulldog could have the bed by herself. Now, she tucks her in each night with her little ducky. I remarked, "You know you need help, right!" "Oh, I would do anything for my dog," she explained. Then she said something I didn't see coming. She added, "I would do anything for anybody." She is not just a dog lover, she is a people lover.

Dr. Jerry Neal
Senior Pastor

Do you love people to the extent you would do anything for anybody? December is a month we are reminded to show our love for people. Why? Because the Bible says, "You cannot love God Whom you have not seen unless you love your fellow man whom you do see."

Dr. Dave Earley
Lead Pastor

The opportunities to love people by sharing gifts abound in December. The opportunity I want to remind you of is the Lottie Moon International Mission offering. Each December over 40,000 SBC churches around the USA give to this offering. The good news is that every penny donated goes to support the preaching of the gospel and helping the poor in foreign countries.

Bryan Corbett
Associate Pastor

David Berna
Visitation Pastor

Jeff Bane
Outreach Pastor

Mike D'Attoma
Assistant Pastor

Joshua Wright
Children's Pastor

Robert Stroup
Business Administrator

Visit us on the Web
www.firstgc.org

There are plenty of agencies wanting your support at Christmas time. How do we know for sure our gifts do what we intend to accomplish? I've been an SBC pastor for over 25 years, and Sharon and I have attended nearly every SBC national convention since. I've served on committees, studied budgets, and interviewed our missionaries. I can verify, SBC is the best place for a believer to go to invest in God's Kingdom, outside the local churches.

Pastor Johnny Foster is leading our World Mission effort again. Last year, his mission team set a goal of \$15,000 to give to the Lottie Moon offering. This year they have asked us to up it to \$18,000. Let's do it!

I believe we will meet that goal and more because FBC is full of people who love people.

Pastor Jerry

Surviving the Holidays: GriefShare Update

Daily life is in turmoil as one grieves—the “normal life” is gone as one travels through the grief journey alone. During these days, those grieving seek joy again, but it seems so far away.



Since September 8, 2019, fifteen of us have been supporting each other on this journey on Sunday afternoons. And we did even more in our two-hour seminar on November 10th—Surviving the Holidays. Twelve people drawn from our church and our community plus four facilitators had a fruitful time of fellowship, sharing, and God’s presence. Keep us in your prayers for those in our groups. And consider whom you could encourage to come to our new GriefShare group starting January 16, 2020, from 4:00-6:00 PM.



Your GriefShare Team: Jodie Butcher, Don Clapsaddle, Barb Lovingshimer, and Dawn Martin.

AWANA Ministry Update

December 4th—Ball Cap Night!

December 11th—Gloves for Feed My Sheep Ministry Night! Hats and Scarves needed too!

December 18th—Happy Birthday Jesus!

December 25th—No AWANA—Merry Christmas!

January 1st—No AWANA—Happy New Year!

January 8th—Welcome Back!



Members’ Ministry

When we learn to pray instead of complaining, life is more joyful.

When we learn to pray instead of arguing, relationships become stronger.

When we learn to pray instead of retaliating, our perspective on life changes.

When we learn to pray instead of reacting, we have found the key to living. The Bible says we need to pray about everything and worry about nothing, period.

Yes, it can be that simple. When we learn that all we have, all we are is from God, He allows us to be caretakers of others and things we have. Our families, our finances, our friends, our homes, and jobs are all from Him. You see, it is when we start to believe the lie—that I built that, I have this, I did that—this is when we start to fall. We should thank God that He gave us the wisdom and ability to accomplish anything.

Prayer is the secret to living. Pray every day; when all is good and when all has gone awry, we need to pray.

When we pray we are submitting to the sovereignty of God over our lives. We are submitting to His will and not our own, for He alone is good and He alone can and will provide for us all we need according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Do you want a better marriage? Then Pray.
Do you want peace in your family? Then Pray.
Do you want your work to be blessed? Then Pray.
Do you want your family to come to know the Lord? Then Pray.
Do you need God to do a miracle in your life? Then Pray.
Do you want peace in your finances? Then Pray.
Do you want to honor God in all you do? Then Pray.

Pray like your life, your family, all you have depends on God, and then walk in obedience to His word and behold the glory of God in your life.

God’s Word says this: “*Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.*” **Ephesians 6:18, CSB**

In Christ,

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members’ Minister**

Notes of Appreciation

Dear First Baptist family,

Thank you all so much for all of the support during the passing of my mother. I appreciate being able to have her funeral there and for the wonderful tribute to her life. Thank you also for the beautiful flowers.

We love our church so much.

Phil and Shannon Andrick and family

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

BERGER, Tiffany	12/01	TRAVIS, Tim	12/23
PENNY, Joe	12/02	ARLEDGE, David	12/24
BETTES, Abby	12/02	BARBER, Ashley	12/24
WALTERS, Lance	12/02	BOSWELL, Lance	12/24
SMITH, Lola	12/03	BURCHWELL, Margaret	12/24
BOWER, Chuck	12/03	LAMB, Josh	12/24
WILLIAMS, Dan	12/03	LESHER, Naomi	12/24
TYLER, Anna	12/04	WITBECK, Makayla	12/25
WILDS, Becky	12/04	BARR, Matthew	12/27
WEBB, Steve	12/04	LOVE, Wes	12/27
YOUNG, Gary	12/04	SOSA, Elizabeth	12/27
COX, Caleb	12/05	MORGAN, Patricia	12/27
RAQUET, Sarah	12/05	CAMPBELL, Diana	12/27
MALE, Cody	12/05	FISHER, Abigail	12/27
SEBERT, Faye	12/05	EARLEY, Karla	12/27
SWICEGOOD, Dave	12/06	JAMISON, Kaleigh	12/27
MARTIN, Patrick	12/06	ACKISON, Josh	12/27
WILLIAMS, Kevin	12/06	LEONARD, Joanna	12/28
CAVE, Jeff	12/07	THOMPSON, Jennifer	12/30
FULTON, Nathan	12/07	HIGGINS, Ilene	12/30
FISHER, Sandy	12/07	HISEY, Amber	12/30
BOWLING, Sharon	12/08	FURR, Georgianna	12/31
MCGILL, Jack	12/08	WOLFE, Jill	12/31
LEETH, Pamela	12/08	TERRY, Buzz	12/31
THOMA, Kara	12/08		
MATLOCK, Rick	12/08		
ROUSH, Kris	12/09		
DUNCAN, Tim	12/09		
HICKMAN, Donald	12/10		
STOLL, Nicole	12/10		
STEVENS, Scott	12/10		
SHOEMAKER, Kapri	12/10		
PALMER, Beth	12/10		
LAMB, Jill	12/11		
ANTLE, Kaitlyn	12/11		
CALDWELL, Madeline	12/11		
STONICH, Matthew	12/12		
WATTS, Samantha	12/12		
GOLDSMITH, Nicole	12/14		
FAUGHT, Benny	12/14		
SHOEMAKER, Jason	12/15		
CARMICHAEL, Mya	12/15		
SINSEL, Judy	12/16		
SCOTT, Sharon	12/16		
BRINLEY, Mattie	12/17		
WILSON, Liane	12/17		
JONES, Belinda	12/17		
GABRIEL, Winnie	12/17		
CAVE, Jeremy	12/18		
YOWELL, Carlos	12/18		
BOWMAN, Treva	12/18		
BEBEL, Richard	12/19		
TYLER, David	12/20		
WARNER, Matthew	12/20		
HEIBY, Staley	12/21		
ARMENTROUT, Aaron	12/21		
FULTON, Nicholas	12/22		
MURDOCH, Winnie	12/22		
MAYNARD, Derrick	12/22		
HAMMOND, Zach	12/22		
CLEMENTS, Kim	12/23		

Women of FBC continued from page 5

Thursday Morning Bible Study—Beginning January 9, 2020, at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall, we will be studying *Trustworthy*. In this 6-session study of 1 & 2 Kings, join Lysa TerKeurst in Israel as she honestly reveals the places of distrust in her own heart while exploring the deeply applicable Scriptures that will teach us how to truly trust God. Please contact Pam Peters at 614-274-9279 for more information. Childcare is available.

Book Club will meet on Thursday, December 5, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Donatos on Stringtown Road to discuss *Don't Give Up* by Kyle Idleman. Also, plan to join us for Thursday, January 2, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, at Olive Garden to discuss *The Sunday School Teacher* by Cole Hart. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

REFIT—Come for a fun cardio dance class that will fit YOU, no matter your fitness level! We meet every Thursday from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, in Genesis Auditorium. Please contact Carla Wells at 614-579-1237 for more information.

Craft Day—No Craft Day in December! See you in January. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information.

**1 Day
Membership Class
December 8**

**Sign Up at the
Next Steps Kiosk**

my next step is
MEMBERSHIP

From Our Children's Pastor

I love Christmas music! When I listen to it, I get so excited for Christmas. The idea of sitting around the tree and watching my family have a good time brings a smile to my face. Thoughts of how excited my sons will be while they open their presents makes me Joyful.

As Christmas approaches, I want to encourage each of you to get out your Bible and remind your family about why we really celebrate Christmas. Take the time to show your kids where the story of Jesus' birth is found in the Bible. Let them read verses about the most wonderful thing that has ever happened. Enjoy Christmas with your family, but make it a priority to keep Jesus at the center of it!

**Pastor Josh Wright,
Children's Pastor**

From Our Worship Pastor

I hope you can join us for some special events in December to help celebrate the wonderful Christmas season.



December 15, 7 PM—Join us, our adult celebration choir along with the First Baptist Children's Choir, when we present an incredible night of Christmas worship as we celebrate the birth of Christ!



December 24th, 4:00 PM or 6:00 PM. Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is one of the most attended events of the year. Many families have made it part of their Christmas tradition. I hope your family will join us this year.

**In Christ,
Pastor Bryan Corbett**

Trustee Ministry

Keeping Christ in Christmas: Evergreen represents eternal life. Holly refers to the thorns in His crown. Candles reflect Christ as the Light of the world. Gifts are a reminder of the three Wise Men and their offerings to the baby Jesus. Bells ringing out represent the good news of the birth of the Christ Child—our Savior, our Joy and our Peace. Blessings this Holiday Season.

Don Weekley is retiring from the Trustee Ministry. When you see him, please let him know how much his work and dedication to FBC has been appreciated.

Trustees with terms ending at year-end: Don Estep, Sophie Gebhardt, TJ Henderson, Kip Smith, Dwight Ward, Don Weekley, and Joyce Williams.

New Trustees: Kenny Grundi, Dave Johnson, Mike Johnson, Mike Sanderson, Roger and Becky Vanest, Walt Van Cleave, Ray Van Wagner, and Tom Williams.

Mowing is finished for the year and mowers have been cleaned and oiled. The snowplow installation has been completed. The Upward Field has been aeriated. The gutters and downspouts on the picnic shelter have been installed. The ESL Banner was mounted on the lawn along Orders Road. The fountains in the ponds have been housed for the winter season.

Several new items are being discussed; the possibility of lighting up the FBC church steeple, installing a new FBC activity sign next to Orders Road with LED lights; and possibly upgrading LED lights in dark areas of the parking lot.

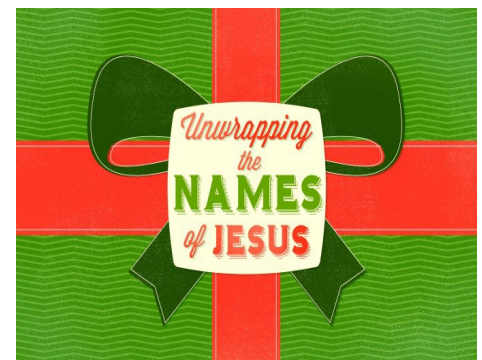
The Trustee Ministry hosted a Thank You dinner for the First Baptist Church Volunteers on November 22. It is important to acknowledge that we would not operate as efficiently as we do without the support of our Volunteers. The Volunteers operate on a 24/7 shift year-round to maintain the upkeep of our church and day care. Sincere thanks and blessings go out to all of you!

The Baptist Builders are always busy, having more items than time to work with. Too numerous to mention throughout the year are the outside communities and FBC families that have quietly been given assistance from your hard-working Baptist Builders. Thank you Baptist Builders! You're the best!

From your Trustee Ministry, Wishing you and your families a Blessed Christmas and a Wonderful New Year!

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

**New Sermon
Series
Beginning
December 8th**



Women of FBC

Please visit the **Women's Kiosk** to find more information about our Groups and Events! Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.

Girls Night Out is on Tuesday, December 17, 6:30 PM at Donato's, on Stringtown Road. Please contact Jodi Butcher at 614-620-6380 to save a seat.

Women's Fellowship Breakfast is Saturday, December 14 at 9:00 AM. We will be assembling and delivering (locally) Blessings Bags. This ministry is for our FBC member shut-ins, the elderly, nursing home or assisted living residents, recent widows, those recuperating from surgery, or families in need of encouragement or sustenance. Stop by the Women's kiosk to sign up or contact Debbie Watts at 614-530-1463.

Secret Sister reveal party is Friday, January 10, at 7:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Snacks will be provided. If you would like to participate in 2020, pick up a new form and return it to the box on the Secret Sister table located outside the preschool wing. Any woman who regularly attends FBC can be a part of this ministry! Please contact Karen Campbell at 614-208-6355.

The Living Stones—You're invited to join the Living Stones ladies' class as we continue through the book of Matthew verse by verse and learn to apply it to our lives. We meet on Sundays at 10:45 AM in room A-194. Please contact Sharon Myers at 614-562-2600.

Sunday Morning Ladies' Life Group—Come and join us at 9:15 AM in room G-104, with teachers Phyllis Welch, Mindy Rucker, and Barb Lovingshimer, as we study God's Word and its effect on our lives and character. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-551-9781 for more information.

Giving Christ First Place is a Christ-centered Life Group/Bible Study designed to help us place, and keep, Christ first in all areas of our lives by focusing on our health to improve our Christian walk, our financial condition, even our social and mental health. This is not a diet but a lifestyle change. We meet on Tuesdays, at 7:45 AM, in room S-106. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information.

Tuesday Night Ladies' Class—The Ladies Class will be taking a break during December due to the holidays. Our last class date is December 3rd. We will resume our study on *I Never Thought I'd See the Day* by David Jeremiah on January 14, at 7:00 PM in room G-104. For more information, please contact Debbie Watts at 614-530-1463.

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study—We will have devotions and prayer time in December. You are welcome to join us in room G-104 at 6:45 PM. Bring your Bible and a notebook for journaling. Contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study—We will have short devotions and fellowship for the month of December. We meet at 6:45 PM in room S-101, in the Student Wing. Contact DeeAnn Brown at 614-314-7847 for more information.

M.O.M. (Moms on Mission) —We are studying (*un*) *Natural Mom* by Hettie Brittz. Our study material is available on RightNow Media. Come together for encouragement with other FBC moms with children ages birth to 6th grade. We meet on Wednesdays, from 6:45 to 8:00 PM, in room S-106. For more information, contact Bethany Heath at 614-323-9721.

Women of FBC continued on Page 3

Church Family,

I hope this letter finds you well as we begin to prepare our hearts for the joyous celebration of the birth of our Lord.



I LOVE CHRISTMAS! I am so excited to jump into the Word of God and to see God fulfill the promises He made to send us a Messiah, a Deliverer, a Savior, Christ the Lord. We have so much to be thankful for and celebrate this Christmas. God has been so good to us. Do not miss out on the joy that it is to celebrate the birth of our Lord this Christmas. I know that it can often times be easy to simply go through the motions—but this year—how can you be more intentional about celebrating the birth of our Lord? It is an incredible reality and a joy for us, as followers of Christ. I hope you take the time to dwell on the reality that God came to earth. What a sweet reality it is!

We had an incredible DNOW (Disciple Now Weekend) with our First Students this year! God is always good to us, and we thank you church for your continued support and generosity toward our students and their spiritual growth. We had 97 students from our church join us for DNOW, and we also had two other churches join us as well. A total of 164 people spent the weekend worshipping the Lord, and serving Him! It was incredible!

I do have a couple of nights for you to put on your calendar for 2020:

Our **Campy Awards** will be on Sunday, January 12, and our **Dinner and a Movie Fundraiser with Cake Auction** will be held on February 7th. Both will be incredible!

I hope you have a wonderful Advent season as we prepare our hearts for the birth of our King!

Sola Deo Gloria,

**Pastor Mike D'Attoma,
Assistant Pastor**

Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, December 7th, at 7:30 AM. Bill Gookin will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Kip Smith, from the November breakfast.

Before I tell you how I got here. Let me tell you that I am embarrassed to say that my sins are many and my righteousness is small, but God has always been there, period.

I remember when I was five years old my mom getting me dressed on a Sunday in a suit and tie, and we all went to church. I was baptized at that age, but I did not know what it was then; surely not as vividly as I do today. Yet it must have been an important time in my life, amen.

Several times I have asked Jesus to come into my heart and forgive me over the years, but like many people, growing up I did not have time for God. I had so much responsibility and so much sinning to do. I went through life—getting married when I was 18 and my wife was 17. We have two daughters. I worked too much, spent too much, had too much stuff—yet I loved life.

One day, God woke me up. My dad and mom stayed in Florida in the winter. My dad had gone into the hospital and was in a coma. The doctor said that he would not come back from his coma as he had no brain activity. Everyone left the room but me. I got on my knees by dad's bed and prayed to God to please let me talk to my dad one more time. That afternoon my dad woke up and that evening we took him home. I spent seven days and nights with my dad and mom. It was the only time in my life my dad said that he loved me. I always knew he did, but he never said it before.

Now I have to tell you dad wasn't the only one who woke up that day. The power in that hospital room at that moment was amazing and indescribable. It had changed me forever. After seven days I had to go back to work. I never saw my dad again. After that when I came home, I started to really dig into the Bible and began to pray more. Trying to learn more, I came across a study thing on the internet called "Roadmap to the End." It was about planet alignment. I have always been fascinated with planets and stars.

Later, I talked with Tina, and we agreed we should check out churches. We went to First Baptist that Sunday. There were all these planets on stage—that was crazy. All the next week I listened to Christian music and the song "10,000 Reasons" really struck me. When we went back to FBC the next Sunday, that was the first song we sang. I thought, "OK, I got it Lord. I am yours."

Then one other crazy thing happened. I did all of my praying on the back porch, and I wrote some prayers in a spiral notebook. For some reason I did not start on the first page: I started part of the way back, and I did write a prayer on the last page. One day when we were away from the house, it rained, and the back porch windows were open letting in two inches of water. My notebook was submerged in it. After it dried in the sun, amazingly none of my prayers were wet—even the last page was water stained only up to the prayer. This notebook is a representation of all my sins—and the last page says "to be continued."

I learned that Jesus died for our sins, and we have been forgiven. This makes me a different person for sure.

No, I am a long way from perfect and will never be worthy. But I am forgiven.

**God Bless,
Pastor David Berna**

My View From The Back Of The Pew

*"Train a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old, he will not turn from it."*
Proverbs 22:6

A few years ago, we were invited to the home of a friend's relative. In fact, she invited our whole Sunday School class to spend the night. She had RV's and tents set up around the perimeter of her rural Kentucky home for each family. We went in the fall but were asked to bring our swimsuits as her house had an indoor pool.

As we pulled up to the house, it was lovely. We then noticed the pool "addition." It was not fancy or lovely at all! It was a rough, unpainted cinderblock building enclosing an in-ground pool. She took us on a tour of her home which was, in stark contrast, thoughtfully decorated with no detail overlooked. Later, as they walked us around the pool, she joked to her husband that they may want to entertain a little less and start decorating their pool house a little more! Then she opened up a closet door. It held swimsuits in every size, pool toys and floats for every age. Wal-Mart does not own as many soft, colorful towels.

My ugly heart finally saw the beauty of this woman's heart. The couple had built this pool for their family, but quickly realized its value as a ministry. Every weekend and most week nights, our hostess stated they had people in for a swim. They always kept hotdogs, buns, and s'mores for their guests. She stated she wasn't offering much more than a pool and a bonfire for them, but laughed when admitting how often she had the opportunity to share the gospel with their new friends.

I still cringe when I think of my shallow judgement of her pool house. To this day, I do not own a pool, much less an indoor one! Yet, I found something that weekend that I still want more than anything. I want a heart like that girl's! A heart in tune with God's.



**Blessings,
Cindy Matlock**

Cookies Needed

King's Kids Daycare is planning for their Santa's Workshop Event and they need your help. Please bring your **un-iced, baked** sugar cookies to the FBC kitchen between Sunday, December 15 and Wednesday, December 18.