



# THE LIGHTHOUSE

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## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

### Pastor's Message



Dr. Jerry Neal  
Senior Pastor

Dr. Dave Earley  
Lead Pastor

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](http://www.firstgc.org)

Sharon and I served our first church in southern Ohio. The church was located in the small community of Vinton. The church had never had Christmas Eve services, and it seemed to me we should have one.

We also began a tradition there of placing an Advent wreath about the same time. The wreath, with three purple, one pink, and one white candle, made the little church "ready" for Christmas. The wreath was wrapped with pine branches. One morning, after lighting the four candles and while I was preaching, the congregation became so excited! I had never seen them so animated. They were on their feet, waving their arms, and yelling. I thought it was another day of Pentecost. One fellow came running forward and I thought, "What a service!" But he soon ran right past me. The pine branches on the Advent wreath were burning. It was quite a fire!

I have always prayed for our church to "become on fire!"—that we would be overwhelmed with a burning passion to worship God. Thank God we have witnessed some wonderful breakthroughs this past year. We have experienced many people give their hearts to Christ. We have also been blessed to have witnessed numerous baptisms throughout the year. FBC is indeed, alive!

This year, however, could be our best year yet. This month our church will begin an emphasis of **28 Days of Prayer**. Our preaching will be dedicated to the subject of prayer. We will also host public prayer times at the church in the mornings, at noontime, and in the evenings. You won't want to miss any of it!

D. L. Moody once said, "The world has never seen a Christian 100% sold out to God. I want to be that person." What would happen if we just gave a little more of our time to God, a little more of our time reading our Bibles, and a little more of our time to prayer. Could we see a fire of revival breakout at FBC?

You know it only takes a spark to get a fire going. Dry pine branches will burn.

**Pastor Jerry**

## Members' Ministry

God is just as glorified in our pain and suffering as He is in our healing and comfort.

He is, however most glorified when we surrender our hearts to Him, walk in obedience, and trust Him to see us through each moment in life. From tragedy to triumphs, no matter the outcome, God is good.

Through the years I have learned to trust Him every day for everything. On my own, I am unable to function or move without His help. I don't think I could say this if I was completely healed. Don't get me wrong, I know things don't always work out as we wish.

As Christians, we suffer, we get sick, and are plagued with disease and poverty. We die, we go bankrupt, we lose friends and family, we are not immune to life's tragedies.

We do though have an advocate on our side. We do have victory over all sin and death in the world because of Christ. The things this world throws at us are temporary. We, however, are eternal. We can trust that God holds us in His hands and that He is at work in our lives, in our pain and suffering, or in our healing and comfort. In life or death, He will be glorified, and we will be with Him no matter what.

As the New Year begins, commit to keep the faith!

Let the peace of God fill your life.

Press into Christ, our Lord and Savior, allowing His life and love to shine through you, glorifying His name in all that you say and do.

*Therefore, since we have been declared righteous by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have also obtained access through him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Romans 5:1-2*

**In Christ,**

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,  
Members' Minister**

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## AWANA Ministry Update

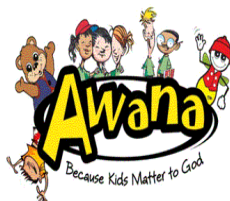
January 1st—No AWANA—Happy New Year!

January 8th—Welcome Back!

January 15th—Wacky Sock  
Night!

January 22nd—Visitor's Treat  
Night!

January 29th—Dues to "Go"  
Missions Night!



## First Place for Health

A new year! What a great time to work on making healthy choices!

Maybe you are struggling with losing 5 to 10 pounds or you are battling obesity. Or perhaps you desire to increase your knowledge about nutrition, receive help with implementing a consistent exercise plan or learn how to develop a healthy lifestyle for your family.

Whatever your reasons, you'll soon discover that **First Place for Health** is a biblically-based, medically trustworthy wellness program that addresses the whole person—physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual.

A First Place Information Meeting will be held Sunday, January 12th, at 4:45 PM, in room C-154 (information meeting is required for all new members).

Twelve session meetings begin Sunday, February 2nd and run through April 26. Sessions are held on Sunday evenings at FBC from 4:45 to 6:00 PM.

For more information or to RSVP, please call Sherri at 614-871-3053 or email at [sllove@columbus.rr.com](mailto:sllove@columbus.rr.com).

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## Notes of Appreciation

Dear First Baptist Family,

Thank you so much for all the calls, visits, and the beautiful flowers during this difficult time in the passing of Judy Stambaugh. Thanks also to everyone who helped and prepared the wonderful meal.

**In Christian Love,  
Wayne Stambaugh and Rhonda Thompson**

Dear First Baptist Family,

Thank you Church for the Blessing Bag with all of its goodies. We really appreciate it. Thanks too, to Elizabeth Sosa for delivering it to us.

**Blessings to you all,  
Don and Betty Hickman**

Dear First Baptist Family,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our church family and Life Group for all of the prayers, thoughts, cards, and visits while our son, Kyle, was in the hospital. We are very blessed to be a part of First Baptist Church.

**In Christ,  
Tim and Cindi Price**

Dear First Baptist Family,

Thank you so much for your many prayers. They have been answered for my son, Josh. He has been on a waiting list for 3 years (housing). You are so very wonderful. He is so happy. May God bless you all.

**Love,  
Patty Fowler**

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# Women of FBC

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

**Girls Night Out** is on Tuesday, January 21st, at 6:30 PM, at Panera on Stringtown Road. Please contact Jodi Butcher at 614-620-6380 for more information and to reserve your seat!

**Women's Fellowship Breakfast** is Saturday, January 11th, at 9:00 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Kelli Karlich, Executive Director of Stowe Mission, will join us to share their mission to bring Gospel hope and restoration to people facing hardships in central Ohio. Bring your favorite food to share. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-507-6306 for more information.

**Secret Sister** reveal party is Friday, January 10th, 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!

**The Living Stones:** You're invited to join the Living Stones ladies' class as we continue, verse-by-verse, through the book of Matthew. We meet on Sunday, at 10:45 AM, in room A-194. Please contact Sharon Myers at 614-562-2600 for more information.

**Sunday Morning Ladies' Life Group** meets in room G-104 at 9:15 AM. Join us as we study God's Word and its effect upon our lives and character. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-551-9781 for more information.

**Giving Christ First Place** is beginning a new Bible study on Tuesday, January 7th, at 7:45 AM, in room S-106: *Everything You Need* by David Jeremiah. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information.

**Tuesday Night Ladies' Class:** We will begin studying *I Never Thought I'd See the Day* by David Jeremiah on January 14th, at 7:00 PM, in room G-104. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-530-1463 for more information.

**Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study** will begin a study of the book of Philippians on January 8th, at 6:45 PM, in room G-104. Bring your Bible and a journal. Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.

**M.O.M. (Moms on Mission):** We will continue our study in *(un) Natural Mom* by Hettie Britz. Study materials are available on *RightNow Media*. Join other FBC moms with children ages birth through 6th grade on Wednesday at 6:45 PM, in room S-106. Please contact Bethany Heath at 614-323-9721 for more information.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study** is beginning *Trustworthy* by Lysa TerKeurst on January 9th, at 9:30 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we study 1 & 2 Kings. Childcare is available. Please contact Pam Peters at 614-274-9279 for more information.

**Book Club** is meeting on Thursday, January 2nd, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, at Olive Garden on Stringtown Road to discuss *The Sunday School Teacher* by Cole Hart. February meeting information coming soon! Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

**REFIT** is a cardio dance class that fits your fitness level. We meet every Thursday from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, in the Genesis Auditorium. Please contact Carla Wells at 614-579-1237 for more information.

**Craft Day** meets in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 17th. Grab a project to work on, or just come and join us for a time of fellowship anytime from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information.

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FBC Family,

The year 2020 is finally upon us! I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and took time to intentionally celebrate the Savior. Our contemporary Christmas Eve service in our Genesis Auditorium had 246 people worshipping the Savior. That is by far the most we've ever had in a contemporary service here at FBC!



It's been an incredible year for FBC, and I am so excited for 2020! I cannot wait to see what God is going to do in the year 2020—both in and through FBC.

I would like to bring your attention to a couple of dates of interest for 2020:

The **Camp Awards** are scheduled for Sunday evening, January 12th, at 6 PM, in the Genesis Auditorium. If your student is registered for camp with their \$75 deposit paid either before that night or even on that night, your student will be entered into a drawing to receive one of three FULL camp scholarships!

Our **Dinner and a Movie + Cake Auction Fundraiser** is scheduled to be held on Friday, February 7th, in the Neal Auditorium. You may purchase your tickets in the FBC lobby beginning Sundays in January. This will be an incredible night to raise money for our Students' Summer Camp.

Let's make 2020 our best year yet!

**Sola Deo Gloria,**

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

## Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be held Saturday, January 4th, at 7:30 AM. Ken McKinley will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Bill Gookin, from the December breakfast.

Looking back, I can now say that I lived the first thirty plus years of my life without the benefit of much structure. I married my wife Alice in 1953 and came to know Jesus Christ as my Savior in 1972. I was a member of the former Avondale EUB church (later Avondale United Methodist Church) from 1973 until its closing in 2018, at which time God led me to begin attending here at FBC.

I believe the Bible to be the Word of God and Jesus Christ to be the only way to heaven, and that Jesus will one day return to Earth to receive His saints to Himself. I will be among His saints to spend eternity with our Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit (3 in One). I believe Jesus speaks to me through a still, small voice; through Scripture; through nature; through sermons; and through inner thoughts or meditations.

I was encountering difficult times once with my faith and prayer life, when God used the words in Revelation Chapter 2 to catch my attention. "You lost your first love," stood out on the page to the point I had difficulty closing the book. I soon began to consider how I had taken my eyes off of Jesus Christ, having placed them upon other things. I needed to get back to Jesus Only! In salvation, there is no one else (Acts 4:12)!

I was not called to be a preacher, a writer, a missionary to other lands, or even a healer. The still, small voice said no to all of these. Scripture says that through Jesus Christ we are all called to live as He did. Jesus says in essence, "As you have seen me do, go and do likewise" (Philippians 4:9). In other words, "Pray for the sick, help those in need, and love one another where we are now."

I have fished Lake Erie on a number of times, and on one of those occasions I was returning home by myself and decided to take a sightseeing trip. I had heard of "Blue Hole" in Castalia, Ohio, (Route 269), and went to look at it. While I gazed a bit, I was fascinated by the fact that it appeared to be so clear. I could see deep down into it. Then a still, small voice said, "There is no oxygen in the water. Look toward the spillway where the water flows out." As the water moved over the rocks, life began to appear. The still, small voice said, "Rocks agitate the water, enabling oxygen to occur, and therefore creating an environment for life." Then the voice said to me, "I want you to BE MY ROCK."

The truth was, I did not want to be a "Rock." My "ego" did not appreciate this. God, however, did not appreciate my ego! After much fussing, I accepted my role. Doing so has caused much stirring, many debates, misunderstandings, and hindered relationships in my life. God, however, has provided me with strength and love to cope with these outcomes.

God needs more "Rocks." And when you have done all you can, just stand (for Jesus). **Ephesians 6:13**

Stand for Jesus!

**God Bless,  
Pastor David Berna**



Provides help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. *GriefShare* is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Sundays 4:00 PM – 6:00PM      **January 26th – May 3rd**  
First Baptist Church      Room A-190: Cost \$15.00

Call Barb Lovingshimer 614-875-4613 with any questions.

## 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 months ago, I was at school for a Parent/Teacher conference. No matter the subject or teacher, the comments were almost identical, "...so enjoyable in class but talks a lot." Oh friends, it was not a windy day when the nut fell from this tree! My child and I enjoy talking. So, it was quite shocking to me when in the span of a few days, I felt God speak to my very soul, "Shut up."

Maybe God had to use harsh words with me because He knew I wouldn't stop talking otherwise. Twice, as I started to argue with someone or toss out a snide remark, I actually sensed the words, "JUST SHUT UP!"

What a stunning turn of events. As I sat there in my newly acquired silence, one person apologized and the other simply walked away. I listened intently when I really wanted to argue. There was peace in my soul. It was a Christmas miracle, folks! No more feelings of regret or bitterness after an argument—just sweet, sweet peace.

In the weeks that have followed, I have listened more carefully, swallowed some ugly words and gone on with my life. Quietly. Well, not every time, of course. This may be a new year, but I am the same old me and I have no doubt that taming my tongue will be my struggle until I am in the presence of Jesus. But until then, I will continue recalling the words of the Psalmist.

*"Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you, O God."* **Psalm 19:14**

If God is pleased, what more is there to say?

**Blessings,  
Cindy Matlock**

