



First Baptist Church
Grove City

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Grove City, OH 43123
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MARCH NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Message



Happy Winter FBC!

At this point we are counting down to Spring—yay! And with Spring comes another new season of **Upward Soccer** (age 4 years through 8th grade), our 11th year with the opportunity to bring hundreds and even thousands of people onto our property to have a good time together and share the Good News of Jesus! Each season, most of the children and families in our league are not connected to a church or have a relationship with God. We want to help change that.

There are many ways to be involved and help make this happen. Coaches are always needed (we provide the training), and this is the best way to have an impact on 8-12 families over a period of 10 weeks. We have plenty of opportunities to serve as officials (mostly just determining who touched it last before going out of bounds—and again, we train you). You might like to help in the concession stand or come be a part of one of our several outreach events throughout the season (passing out hot chocolate, inviting people to Easter services, and more) or joining the prayer team.

If you would like to be a part of helping our community get connected to Jesus and our church—we have a place for you!

To register your child, please go to: <https://registration.upward.org/upw68106>

To get involved as a volunteer, please contact Pastor Jeff directly by email or phone (jeff@firstgc.org OR 614-991-0205).

See you out on the field (pitch)!

**Pastor Jeff Bane,
Outreach Pastor**

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



Karen and I have some friends from our seminary days who recently moved to the Pittsburgh area. On February 2nd, they made the hour journey from their home to Punxsutawney to

watch the famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, emerge from his burrow and fail to see his shadow. Great news! Only six more weeks of this winter. Then we have a new season.

But there is one season in our lives that should never be over. Or maybe I should say there is one thing that should never be out of season in our lives. That would be prayer.

I visited one of our church's home Life Groups recently. They were focused on prayer that evening. Here are some tips that came up that night that may help you more intensify your prayer life:

1) Bend over and put your face between your knees as Elijah did (1 Kings 18:42). I am not being facetious in the least. It is a position of reverence.

2) You may have seen videos of Orthodox Jews who pray regularly before the Wailing Wall in Old Jerusalem and who bob their heads up and down as they pray. When I asked my guide why they do this, he replied that it helps them concentrate and add intensity to their prayers.

3) Fast. Jesus and the early church did it. Enough said.

We will be having another church-wide emphasis on prayer in the weeks leading up to Easter. I hope many of you will be able to attend some of our prayer sessions. But you don't have to wait until then to start. There are three good ideas above you can try right now.

God's blessings to you all.

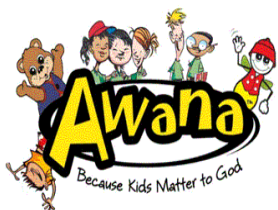
**Pastor Andy Kovalchik,
Assistant Visitation Pastor**

AWANA Calendar of Events

March 6th—Visitor Treat Night!

**March 13th—Double
Points for Bibles!**

**March 20th—Tropical
Night (Wear bright,
tropical colors OR your
uniform)!**



March 27th—No AWANA (Spring Break)!

Time Change This Month

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour on Sunday, March 10th. **Spring Forward!**

Members' Ministry

The other day I heard a story of a man who sued God and His Church. It seemed that when he opened a bar next door to a church, the Pastor and the people felt compelled to pray that God would shut it down as they gathered for a week and prayed. Two weeks later, lightning hit the bar and it burned to the ground, while nothing else around it was destroyed. The bar owner heard about the Pastor and church praying to close his bar and sued them.

In court the bar owner's case was explained that his place was prayed over for God to close it. The judge listened intently, and then he called for the Pastor to give his testimony. The Judge asked, "Did you really pray that his bar would be shut down?" The Pastor said, "Yes, well kind of. We didn't believe God would really do it!"

The Judge shook his head; then he said this, "I am perplexed. Here I have a bar owner who believes that prayer works and God answers prayer, and a Pastor and church who aren't sure if prayers work or if God answers prayers! How can this be?"

Many times we pray and go through the motions, but we pray doubting God will answer. Then we wonder why God won't answer our prayers the way we prayed. When we doubt God when we pray, He has already answered that prayer.

Over the years, God has answered our prayers in only ways He could, day after day He answers them, and we have learned to never come before Him doubting. My health keeps me at bay, and every day I come before His throne and pray to have the strength to get out of bed and accomplish His plans. Wherever He leads, I will follow, and I mean every day!

What about you? Do you doubt when you pray? If so, ask God, Who gives us wisdom and faith, to forgive your doubts, to give your faith strength instead of fear—and believe me, He will do it!

Are you ready to see God move in your life? Then pray without doubting! And watch Him move the mountains in His way!

God's Word says this:

"Jesus replied to them, "Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, everything you pray and ask for — believe that you have received it and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven will also forgive you your wrongdoing." Mark 11:22-25, CSB

In Christ,

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members' Minister**

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a volunteer-based initiative to assist people in our area who are seniors and/or struggling with disabilities, with projects around the home. If you are available to assist in any way or if you know someone who is in need of this ministry, please contact Becky Grundei at 614-947-9296 or Sherri Love at 614-871-3053.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

COVERSTONE, Cassidy	03/01	REED, Michelle	03/22
CLICK, Dixie	03/02	REYNOLDS, Annette	03/23
ADKINS, Kaitlin	03/02	SALMONS, Phyllis	03/23
GERACE, Lynnette	03/02	WHITMER, Karen	03/23
VAN CLEAVE, Walt	03/02	GRUBB, Teresa	03/23
MYERS, Gordy	03/04	CONRATH, Carol	03/23
BASINGER, Julie	03/04	ABRAM, Greg	03/23
SIMCOE, Claudia	03/05	BUTTRICK, Jesse	03/24
ELLIOTT, Mary Ann	03/06	CAVE, Aaron	03/24
GULLION, Melody	03/06	RICKETTS, Ron	03/24
KAUFMAN, Lois	03/06	LEONARD, Bob	03/24
PEITSMEYER, Steve	03/07	WATKINS, Joseph	03/24
WARD, Shirley	03/07	BELCHER, Pamela	03/24
WOLFE, Shelby	03/07	WALTERS, Logan	03/24
PARSONS, Kim	03/07	CURTIS, Lauren	03/25
LAITRES, Gloria	03/07	GROSSHOLZ, Dean	03/26
HAUGHN, Teresa	03/08	THOMPSON, Erin	03/26
LANE, Dale	03/08	CAVE, Darlene	03/28
VANDYKE, Deanna	03/08	FEUSTEL, Debbie	03/28
JONES, Marc	03/10	WAGNER, Alex	03/28
BUTCHER, Austin	03/10	CASTLE, Dan	03/29
McKEE, Marissa	03/11	MARCUM, Charles	03/29
FREET, Trish	03/11	BUTLER, Liz	03/30
CRAMER, Tammie	03/11	CLAPSADDLE, Don	03/30
JAMES, Matthew	03/12	HUMPHREY, Margaret	03/30
REICHLER, Kara	03/12	BROWN, Deborah	03/30
CROPPER, Michael	03/13	WHITMER, Karen	03/31
HOLBROOK, Christina	03/13		
PATRAS, Naomi	03/13		
YAKE, Hannah	03/14		
BELCHER, Amanda	03/14		
BELCHER, Denise	03/14		
DOTSON, Kyle	03/15		
JARRELL, Carson	03/15		
JAMES, Katie	03/15		
BUTTS, John	03/15		
KNOLL, Joshua	03/15		
WARNER, Tim	03/15		
PRICE, Cindi	03/15		
DAVIS, Troy	03/15		
STILLWELL, Austin	03/15		
MYERS, Connie	03/15		
CANTER, Ray	03/16		
SMITH, Karla	03/16		
DANIEL, Carla	03/17		
CALDWELL, Caleb	03/17		
TILLEY, Amy	03/18		
McKINLEY, Ken	03/18		
CHADWICK, Mary	03/19		
SMOOT, Dan	03/19		
BOSO, Shelly	03/19		
WILLIAMS, Roy	03/19		
SUTTLES, Charles	03/19		
BARR, Sarah	03/20		
HASKELL, Russell	03/20		
HILL, Cinnamon	03/20		
WILLIAMS, Tom	03/21		
HIGGINS, Courtney	03/21		
BROWN, Terry	03/21		
HUFF, Austin	03/22		

DO YOU HAVE YOUR TICKETS YET?



GREATER VISION

Friday
March 22

\$50 SEASON TICKETS

\$15 Each Concert in Advance at Welcome Center

GREATER VISION – Fri Mar 22nd

BRIAN FREE & Assurance – Fri June 14th

KAREN PECK & New River – Fri Aug 16th

TRIUMPHANT – Fri Nov. 1st

Surviving Grief with Hope meets on Sunday, at 4 PM, in Room C-154. Come be supported on your journey through grief in dealing with the loss of a loved one, one's health, a family relationship, and more. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 or 614-551-9781 if you would like to attend.

From Our Children's Pastor

I am super excited about the month of March for *First Kids*. In our effort to make life easier on parents, we will be standardizing the curriculum taught in each class. This will make having car conversations about what each kid learned in class more effective and less difficult.

When children attend the 9:15 AM service time, they will be taught from *The Gospel Project*, and during the 10:45 hour, they will be taught from *Bible Studies for Life*. Children in the 2-year-old class will be taught the same story and truth as the kids in the 5th grade class but will learn it at a level that they understand. This will provide parents with more clarification about what each child learned so that they can build upon it during the week.

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

Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays at 8:00PM

**We have openings in the vocal,
instrumental and technical areas.**



If interested in taking part in Worship Leading—contact Bryan Corbett

Women Bible Studies at FBC:

- **New Women's Bible Study:** Women of Faith Bible Study will start meeting again on Monday, April 8th at 1:00 PM, in Room C-146. This group meets bi-weekly on Mondays. Please contact Mindi Stith at 614-871-4812 for more information.
- **New Women's Bible Study:** Beginning Wednesday, February 27th at 6:45 PM, in Room K-121. We will be studying the *21 Most Effective Prayers of the Bible* by Pastor Dave Earley. Please contact DeeAnn Brown at 614-314-7847 for more information.
- **New Women's Bible Study:** Beginning Thursday, March 7th at 9:30 AM, in Room K-117. This study by Matt Chandler on the 1,600 year old Apostle's Creed will give us a clear understanding of God the Father, Jesus Christ, His son, and the Holy Spirit. Childcare is provided. Please contact Kay Hardman at 614-323-6891 for more information.
- **Women's Bible Study:** The Parables of Jesus will continue on Wednesdays, at 6:45 PM, in Room K-117. No book required. Bring your Bibles and a journal. Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.

Trustee Ministry

After experiencing bitter cold temperatures “polar vortex-ing” across Ohio, we have been notified by a sleepy critter, with the incredibly difficult name to spell of Punxsutawney Phil, that we will experience an early spring this year! Amazing, what has probably gone into providing forecasters the needed tools to accurately predict our weather and then they end up relying on one of God's small sleepy critters looking into flood lights and cameras to predict our fate. Hopefully, the little fella is right on target with his prediction and may be even allowed to have a few more weeks of much needed rest.

The heater located in the Gator was moved from the back seat to an area underneath the dash for easier access.

A new control unit for the pick-up truck salt spreader was installed; and, the salt spreader was power washed.

FBC snow equipment has been serviced, and the volunteers are prepared.

A leaking roof at KKDC was repaired, and a new dishwasher and a toilet were installed.

The sewer pipeline required for the Long & Wilcox development of the Brown Farm was discussed. First Baptist Church is willing to work with Long & Wilcox on an easement for the sewer line. The City of Grove City has requested that Long & Wilcox work with FBC to decide on an east access location to Orders Road.

The Trustees met with the Franklin County Engineers to discuss needed repairs on Orders Road.

Baptist Builders will be installing new LED lights in the parking lots. These lights have the potential of lasting thirty years. Since the parking lots are in good condition, they will be sealed, re-stripped, and patched on an as-needed basis.

The Nativity scene and Christmas lights along the FBC driveway were taken down and put into storage. The lobby and hallway decorations were also put away for the season.

Our sincere thanks go out to our volunteers for their amazing support.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

Notes of Appreciation

First Baptist Church family,

A special thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement and the awesome sermon in memory of our mother Lundy Gutheil (Mulfinger).

**Sincerely,
Linda, Lisa, and Charlie**

Women of FBC

True love is mentioned in 2 Corinthians 5:14 (CSB). “For the love of Christ compels us, since we have reached this conclusion: If one died for all, then all died.”

The Bible mentions the heart over 1,000 times. The terms “bowels of mercy” (Colossians 3:12) isn’t one I saw in any Valentine’s Day cards. Another term is “the seat of emotions” that the ancient Romans thought was in the liver. Later, the heart was thought to be the organ of feeling. In modern times, emotions were associated with emotional centers in the brain.

Love is with us every day—not just on set holidays. Valentine’s Day is over, and Easter will be here soon. I’ve been thinking about the selfless love and passion of Christ.

Christ’s passion was to die for all and nothing kept Him from His Father’s will. His love is irresistible and influences every moral, intellectual, emotional part of us. This is compelling. I can gratefully serve as a co-laborer with the Lord regardless of what the world says. Truthfully, I’m shy and content to serve behind the scenes. But, there’s a love that compels me to serve the One who loves me and died for me. Jesus’ passion was and is resolute. He still seeks and saves the lost.

Since March is all about ministries at FBC, what ministry do you feel compelled to do? There’s someone to love and many opportunities to serve the Lord. I’d love to work alongside you in Women’s Ministry!

**Ronda Kinnett,
Women's Ministry Director**

Upcoming Events

Book Club: We will meet Thursday, March 7th, from 7:00-8:30 PM, at Olive Garden on Stringtown Road to discuss the book, *It’s Not Supposed to be This Way*, by Lisa Terkeurst and on April 4th, at Panera on Stringtown Road to discuss, *The View from Rainshadow Bay*, by Colleen Coble. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

Craft Day: We will meet Friday, March 22nd, in the FBC Fellowship Hall, from 9 AM to 9 PM. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information.

Women’s Fellowship Luncheon: Saturday, March 2nd, at 12:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite sandwich, salad, or dessert to share. Unsweet ice tea and lemonade will be provided. Debbie Vaughn will be our speaker. Come enjoy fellowship with the women of FBC. Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.

Women’s Paint and Potluck: Friday, April 12th, at 6:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a guided painting session with Karen Copen and bring a potluck dish to share. Cost is \$20.00 per person and includes all supplies. Payment is your RSVP, due as soon as possible. For questions call or text Karen Campbell at 614-208-6355.

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

List of Women’s Bible Studies located on Page 4

Church Family,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying the grace of our Lord! God has been so good to us! I love to recount His wonderful works and think upon His greatness and majesty over our lives. Recently, I was studying Exodus 3 in which we see that God is far and above all, yet also close and near to Moses. I am thankful that God is over and above all, yet meets me where I am at as well. Aren’t you?

We had a great month of February in our Student Ministry as we walked through a sermon series called Emoji Romance! We talked about all things relationships, and it was really wonderful. I am praying that our students take heed of what was taught to them!

I want to say, on behalf of the entire student ministry and our families, THANK YOU CHURCH! At our annual Dinner and a Movie + Cake Auction Fundraiser, we raised \$10,236!!! It is the most we have ever raised! Every dollar will be spent supporting our students as they go to camp this summer!! We are so thankful for your incredible support!!

If you didn’t get to attend our dinner, and you’d like to donate to our student ministry, please email Mike@firstgc.org, and I’d be happy to assist you with that!

In March, we are heading to Brooklyn, NY, to serve the communities in and around NYC for the glory of Christ! We covet your prayers! Also, if you would like to join us on that mission trip—we still have a few spots available. Please get in contact with me as soon as possible! If you cannot go—but you’d like to be a part of the NYC trip—you can always donate to that trip as well. We use all of that money towards helping students go on the Mission trip, but also for supplies as well.

It is a blessing to serve you, Church.

Blessings,

**Pastor Mike D’Attoma,
Assistant Pastor**



Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be March 2nd at 7:30 AM. Len Stayton will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Pastor Josh Wright from the February breakfast.

I once had a counselor tell me that statistics say that, due to the environment that I was being raised in, I would end up in jail or worse. That because I had seen abuse, I would be abusive. That I would be an addict because I was raised in a home with addicts. What that person didn't realize is that God does not care about statistics.

My mother gave birth to me when she was 17. My father did not want a child, so he was not in the picture. My mom found herself in a highly abusive relationship with a drug addicted alcoholic who was made to believe he was my father. Some of my earliest memories are of seeing my mom get hit and then being told to lie about what had actually happened.

After years of abuse my mom left but found herself falling into the same cycle of being with men who had issues with drugs and were not of the highest character. This led to one of my mom's boyfriends kicking us out without us having a place to live.

After a couple of nights "camping" in the car, my mother sent me to live with the man whom I assumed to be my father. He was not capable of raising a child. At the age of 6, I learned to take care of myself. I woke up, had breakfast, and caught the bus by myself. When I got off the bus, I would be the only one home. Many nights I would go to bed without an adult in the home. It was during one of the few nights he was home that he informed me, while in a drunken rage after an argument on the phone with my mom, that he wasn't my dad.

When I finished the first grade, I moved back with my mom and the man she would eventually marry. For the first time in my life things were fairly stable. He did drugs as well, but he never hit my mom. We didn't have much money, but it was better than in years past. This would be the norm for most of my life.

When I was around 14 or 15, my mom became addicted to pills after having an operation. This led to an addiction to stronger drugs that eventually took her life when I was 23. I didn't know how bad it was at the time but quickly learned. She started stealing to get money for more drugs. I started to pull away from my family because I couldn't stand seeing her like that.

It was around this time that I joined the wrestling team and became friends with a guy named Matt. Matt was the first person I recalled saying that he was a Christian and his life reflected it. We became quick friends and started hanging out often. When he got his license, my house was the first stop. A couple of days later Matt invited me to church, and a few weeks later I accepted Christ as my Savior. Later that year I would move in with Matt and his family.

God used Matt and his family to impact my life greatly. His mother introduced me to Children's Ministry and then gave me my first job in ministry. God knew what people said my life was supposed to become, but God had bigger plans. Every day I thank God for bigger plans!

Men's Summit and Prayer Advance

A reminder to all men that our annual Men's Summit has been rescheduled for March 1st-3rd. **Harold Vaughn** will be with us again this year, sharing with us all three days to include all Sunday morning worship services. His wife Debbie will be making the trip this year and will be sharing with our ladies at lunch on Saturday afternoon.

The weekend will kickoff with a potluck dinner at 6 PM on Friday and will include our regularly scheduled fellowship breakfast on Saturday at 7:30 AM. See you there!

**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

I was getting ready for work and the unthinkable happened; I had no coffee. I love my morning eye-opener. I got ready for work in a grumpy haze and headed out the door. I pulled into the nearest gas station to fill up my tank only to find the chip in my card defective. Silently berating myself for not going to a station that also served coffee, I went to "see the attendant" as instructed so my card could be swiped.

As I opened the door, I was greeted with the heavenly aroma of fresh coffee brewing and a cheerful "hello" from the cashier. Even though station didn't have a typical coffee bar set-up, the attendant had purchased a little single serve coffee maker to make his morning shifts a little more bearable. He shared all this while making me a cup and offering sugar and flavored creamer that he had also brought from home. He even brought disposable cups with lids so he could share with others "if they look like they need it." My morning look could only confirm his suspicions that I was desperately in need. I thanked him for his hospitality and headed to work in a much better mood.

I asked God, while sipping my hot coffee during the commute, to help me be that hospitable. It doesn't mean my home has to be spotless and expensively decorated. This gentleman showed me it doesn't even have to be my own home. Maybe I can be hospitable wherever I am.

I made a stop on the way home that night and bought a box of tiny creamers with different flavors. My new Barista was thrilled that he could give "those in need" some choices. It was just a start, but God certainly used Mike, the gas station attendant, to open my eyes.



**Blessings,
Cindy Matlock**