



First Baptist Church  
**Grove City**

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# THE LIGHTHOUSE

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## MAY 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

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

CVS is a regular stop for me. The older I get it seems I need more medicine! Going through the drive-thru today was very different. The sales lady was super nice. "Hi Sweetie," she exclaimed. "Do you want a cookie?" she asked. Surprised I replied, "Do you have cookies?" "Yes, I do, and you are a real cutie," she continued. Then, she floored me. She smiled big and glowed when she said, "I could take you home and spoil you." This was by far the best greeting I ever received at a drive-thru window. Then I came to my senses and realized she was talking to my little dog, Chewy.

It's amazing the amount of Dog Lovers you meet when you have a dog. All of a sudden, complete strangers come from all directions to make your acquaintance. They become so friendly and audacious to get in your world and talk about your dog.

The same is true with Jesus Lovers. People who love Jesus want to meet people who love Jesus. There is one thing we must remember. Do the people we meet know we love Jesus? Does His presence become obvious when we talk to them?

Easter at FBC has been a wonderful time of celebration. Pastor Earley has led us closer to our Lord through prayer. Pastor has asked us to pray daily for the presence of God to be felt in a deeper way in our services. He has recruited prayer teams to pray daily during the worship times in both auditoriums. Personally, I have never witnessed a pastor put more emphasis on prayer. It seems the more we pray together the more God is doing in our church.

How have you benefitted from this prayer ministry? If you have, don't be surprised that a complete stranger may come up to you and want to talk about Jesus. That's what Jesus Lovers do!

**Pastor Jerry**



Earlier this month, my visitation partner Dave Berna and I drove over to Lincoln Village to visit a family who had come to our church to “check us out” the Sunday before. We were warmly

welcomed by three generations; mother, daughter, and granddaughter. The head of the family was busy working an evening shift at Honda in Marysville.

They were so very glad we came. The mother told us how very impressed she was with our church. Her ten-year old daughter is coming under great peer pressure at school, she told us, and unfortunately, not the right kind. She is looking for a good church where her daughter can get her questions about God and the Bible answered. Well, there is no time like the present. We told her to fire away.

“How can God be three different persons at one time? I don’t understand the Trinity.” I wasn’t expecting that one! And then, “How can Jesus be the way to God if He is God?” I wasn’t expecting that one either!

Well, rest assured, brothers and sisters, we did not rapidly excuse ourselves and tell her we would have to get back to her later. We were able to tackle those two questions. But it did surprise me that a ten year old had such very mature questions for us. And I’m sure she is not alone in that age group.

It was great to be able to tell her, and her mother, and her grandmother, that we have something for all of them at our church. We were also able to comfort her mother, who had become a widow just before Christmas, and to have prayer with them all. I would call it a very successful visit.

**Pastor Andy Kovalchik,  
Assistant Visitation Pastor**

## Members’ Ministry

We go about life unaware of those around us most of the time. We have our own lives and own problems, how can we find time to deal with other people’s problems and life? We live in a non-stop world that continues to move no matter what is going on around us or in us.

Jesus lived in the same world we do. People were busy, self-focused, and worked to earn a living to provide for their families. Jesus walked with them, He cared for them, loved them, fed them, healed them, and spoke God’s truth to them, all while doing His life, which He gave for us. His life is an example of how we are to live.

When we learn to put God first, then our neighbors, then ourselves, we will have learned the secret to living. (really, it’s not a secret, it’s obedience.) This is how Jesus lived. We must love God with all that we are, no exception; He must be the desire of our hearts. Then we must understand that we need to love others (our neighbors) as ourselves. We think to ourselves that Jesus is talking about our neighbors next door, our close friends, our family, or our Church family, in singular terms. Jesus is talking about all these and more, He is talking about every man, every woman, and every child we meet. In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus points this out when He asks: “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” We have it wrong when we ask who is my neighbor? Rather we should be asking “Who can I be a neighbor to?” See God put us where we are for a reason, and we must learn to serve Him where He has placed us!

Start by being Christ-like and love those around you as Christ loves you. I urge you to read the whole story found in **Luke 10:25-37**.

*He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind;” and “your neighbor as yourself.” “You’ve answered correctly,” He told him. “Do this and you will live.” But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ....’ “Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” “The one who showed mercy to him,” he said. Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.”*

Who has God placed around you that needs a friend? Who may be dying, alone, or lost? Who are the neighbors in your life?

**In Christ,**

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,  
Members’ Minister**

## AWANA Calendar of Events

**May 1st—Favorite Color Night!**

**May 8th—Thank Your Leader Night!**

**May 15th—AWANA Awards Night!**

Thank you for yet another successful AWANA year. See you in August!

**Sherri Love,  
AWANA Director**



**Friday  
JUNE 14<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm**

### **SINGING NEWS FAN AWARDS**

**Favorite Male Singer**

**Favorite Young Artist - 2 Times**

**Favorite Tenor - 8 Times**

**Favorite Album - For God So Loved**

**\$15 Tickets Available at the Welcome Center**

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

|                        |       |                     |       |
|------------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| FRASHER, Dan           | 05/01 | BLACKBURN, Karen    | 05/27 |
| DOZIER, Jennifer       | 05/01 | CLEMENTS, Josiah    | 05/28 |
| TARLTON, Terry         | 05/01 | JONES, Abigail      | 05/28 |
| WILSON, Dale           | 05/01 | ONEY, Alta          | 05/28 |
| WILLIAMS, Freda        | 05/01 | EGGERS, Amanda      | 05/29 |
| WESTFALL, Tracy        | 05/02 | SMITH, John         | 05/29 |
| O'NEAL, Avery          | 05/02 | WELLS, Carla        | 05/30 |
| TIMMONS, Delores       | 05/03 | HOHN, Robert        | 05/30 |
| CHAN, Phalla           | 05/03 | HUFF, Brice         | 05/30 |
| SUTTLES, Betty         | 05/03 | HUFF, Rachel        | 05/30 |
| MISHNE, Seth           | 05/04 | GRABILL, Mary Ann   | 05/30 |
| ALLEN, Candice         | 05/04 | GOLDSMITH, Samantha | 05/31 |
| BARTLETT, Amber-Lee    | 05/06 | JONES, Amy          | 05/31 |
| JOHNSON, Jim           | 05/07 | PRINCE, Frank       | 05/31 |
| PINKERTON, Ed          | 05/07 | PARISH, Shelly      | 05/31 |
| GRIFFITH, Scott        | 05/08 |                     |       |
| LOGSDON, Beverly       | 05/08 |                     |       |
| COX, Haley             | 05/08 |                     |       |
| MCCOY, Jessica         | 05/10 |                     |       |
| GRUBB, Gary            | 05/10 |                     |       |
| ALLEN, Nita            | 05/11 |                     |       |
| EARLEY, Andrew         | 05/11 |                     |       |
| ABBLITT, Aric          | 05/11 |                     |       |
| CORBETT, Angel         | 05/12 |                     |       |
| DENBOW, Amanda         | 05/12 |                     |       |
| BURNELL, Paul          | 05/13 |                     |       |
| FULTON, Chris          | 05/14 |                     |       |
| CLEMENTS, Abigail      | 05/15 |                     |       |
| HOLLINGSWORTH, Roberta | 05/15 |                     |       |
| BALL, Mary             | 05/16 |                     |       |
| ROBERTS, Kasia         | 05/16 |                     |       |
| WADDLE, Keith          | 05/16 |                     |       |
| MORBITZER, Nicholas    | 05/16 |                     |       |
| BAYS, Jody             | 05/17 |                     |       |
| WAGNER, Vicki          | 05/17 |                     |       |
| PARSONS, Chloe         | 05/17 |                     |       |
| SHONK, Jeanine         | 05/17 |                     |       |
| CARPENTER, Jeff        | 05/17 |                     |       |
| STITH, Tim             | 05/18 |                     |       |
| CARPENTER, Martha      | 05/18 |                     |       |
| FULTON, Ann            | 05/19 |                     |       |
| CLARKE, Miranda        | 05/19 |                     |       |
| BASINGER, Ted          | 05/19 |                     |       |
| BROTHERS, Melissa      | 05/19 |                     |       |
| WORLEY, Cathy          | 05/19 |                     |       |
| MCCLOY, Phyllis        | 05/20 |                     |       |
| DAVIS, Freda           | 05/20 |                     |       |
| JOHNSON, Louise        | 05/21 |                     |       |
| O'NEAL, Lori           | 05/21 |                     |       |
| CALDWELL, Jami         | 05/21 |                     |       |
| BRANSON, Tammy         | 05/22 |                     |       |
| BRICKEL, Linda         | 05/22 |                     |       |
| DANIEL, Christopher    | 05/23 |                     |       |
| SWICEGOOD, Janet       | 05/24 |                     |       |
| DAVIS, Steven          | 05/24 |                     |       |
| THOMPSON, Kristin      | 05/26 |                     |       |
| BURBRIDGE, Thomas      | 05/26 |                     |       |
| CHAMBERS, Fred         | 05/27 |                     |       |
| ROUSH, Susan           | 05/27 |                     |       |
| WARNOCK, Natalie       | 05/27 |                     |       |

## From Our Children's Pastor

As we near the one year anniversary of my family moving to First Baptist I am so excited at all that is happening in the Children's Ministry. In the past year we have met many milestones in this ministry. We recently unified the curriculum so that each class is learning the same lesson. We increased our security measures and added HD cameras. And we have added a place for nursing mothers to feed their infants.

While making changes can be difficult, the volunteers who serve in the Children's Ministry have helped to make it a seamless process. Whether it be our Sunday School teachers or our Awana volunteers, everyone has adjusted to these changes and worked hard to make it all possible. I just want to say how thankful I am to everyone who serves in the Children's Ministry. Each of you are a part of why our adjustments have been so successful. I am blessed to serve alongside each of you, and I am so excited as we continue to grow this ministry together over the next year.

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

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## From Our Worship Leader

Perhaps you've noticed some new people in the Celebration Choir. We are always excited when new folks want to join us, share their talent, and participate in the ministry of leading worship. We are always looking for more people.



# I Want You!

We also need help in the area of sound, lights, and projectors. Please pray about it. I would love to talk with you.

**Pastor Bryan Corbett**  
[bryan@firstgc.org](mailto:bryan@firstgc.org)

## Trustee Ministry

Spring has always been thought of as a wonderful time to celebrate new seasonal beginnings; the early morning chatter of busy birds; the wonderful aroma of freshly cut grass, daffodils' and crocus's; trees budding and unfolding their leaves; opening windows to the pleasant aroma of fresh air; and the sound of softly pattering rain on rooftops and awnings. *For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. Song of Solomon 2:11-12.*

Ongoing considerations remain concerning the Wilcox proposed development on the west side of FBC.

The Trustees have purchased a pick-up truck and snow plow.

**Kings Kids Day Care update:** Resealing, repairing and restriping the parking lot are on the agenda following the receipt of estimates. The replacement of the flat roof portion of the KKDC building is being shopped for estimates. The landscaping beds are scheduled to be mulched soon, weather permitting.

**Grounds update:** Landscaping beds around our facility will be mulched, weather permitting. A few repairs are underway on our campus parking lot; an estimate is forthcoming for resealing, restriping, and repairing as necessary. Updates were provided on the Upward bleachers (skid boards) as well as for the transition of the FBC campus parking lot to LED lighting, which will be installed by Baptist Builders, weather permitting. All snow care equipment has been converted to yard care status with new mower blades installed, oil and filters changed, and a new drive belt installed on the zero-turn mower deck. The pond fountains will be installed soon, and the campus is on schedule to receive its spring fertilization treatment.

Due to the frequent use of our kitchen, an area vendor has been scheduled in to assess the possibility of doing an in-depth cleaning, on a timely basis, which would help our volunteer cooks as well as our custodians.

Discussion ensued concerning security of the building, FBC security teams, security meetings, and training sessions.

**Phyllis McCloy,  
Trustee Ministry Secretary**



**Saturday, May 18th at 8:45 AM beginning at Grove City H. S.**  
Register to Volunteer at [ACTSINGROVECITY.ORG](http://ACTSINGROVECITY.ORG)  
Applications for Service Projects can be picked up at the Welcome Center located in the FBC Foyer.

Join with Grove City churches in serving our community, unified through the salvation of Jesus Christ, as we share His love through community projects of lawn care, painting, baking, building/bed delivery, and trash pick-up.



# Women of FBC

**Surviving Grief with Hope:** Come and be supported on your journey through grief in dealing with the loss of a loved one, a marriage, one's health, a job, and more. To arrange a meeting or ask questions, please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 or 614-551-9781.

**REFIT:** Come for a fun 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.

**The Living Stones:** Jesus is the "Living Stone" as stated in 1 Peter 2:4-5. Believers are the "living stones" of the Church that Jesus promised to build (Matthew 16:18). Please join us on Sundays at 10:45 AM in room A-104 to learn more about your job as a "living stone." Contact Sharon Myers at 614-562-2600 for more information.

**Women of Faith Bible Study:** We study the Bible because God's Word is infallible, complete, authoritative, sufficient for all our needs, and accomplishes what it promises. We meet bi-weekly on Monday at 1:00 PM in room C-146. For more information contact Mindy Stith at 614-871-4812.

**Book Club:** Will meet Thursday, May 2nd, at 7:00 PM, at City BBQ on Stringtown Road, to discuss, *The Hope Jar*, by Wanda Brunstetter. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

**Mother/Daughter Banquet:** Friday, May 10th at 6:30 PM. Tickets are now available on Sunday mornings at the sign-up table near the information desk. Adults are \$10 and children \$5 (5 years old and under). Please contact Patti Morgan at 614-991-0205 with any questions.

**Craft Day:** We will get together again on Friday, May 17th from 9 AM to 9 PM to work on any craft project you have. You can also come and watch someone create or learn a new craft. Contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953, with any questions.

**Summer Thursday Morning Bible Study:** Beginning Thursday, June 6th, at 9:30 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. We will be studying *God of Covenant: A Study of Genesis 12-50*, by Jen Wilkin. Discover how God orchestrates everything for His glory and the good of His people, and see how the God of creation and covenant is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 or 614-551-9781.

**Women's Fellowship Luncheon:** Saturday, June 8th, at 12:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite sandwich, salad, or dessert to share. Come and enjoy fellowship with the women of FBC. Please see the sign-up sheet at the Women's kiosk to let us know what you're bringing. Childcare will be provided. Contact Pam Leeth at 614-507-6306, for more information.

**Single Senior Ladies' Tea:** Save the date for Saturday, July 27th, at 12:00 PM. Please join us for an afternoon of tea, a light lunch, and an interesting program. Sign-ups begin Sunday, June 30th. Contact Grace Herderick at 614-875-0366, for more information.

**Women's Retreat 2019:** Registration will begin soon for our Fall Retreat to Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Mark your calendars for November 1-2 and be praying about who you can invite!

**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.

Dear FBC Family,

The Tomb is empty and Jesus is Alive!

YES AND AMEN!

All of God's promises are a resounding YES AND AMEN because Christ lived, Christ died, and Christ rose from the dead!

I hope you had a wonderful Easter!! I hope you celebrated the Resurrected Lord! I wanted to let you know it is an absolute joy and blessing to serve the Lord alongside each of you!

Our high school students recently returned from their retreat led by our summer interns, Caden Andrick and Kaleigh Hayes! It was an incredible weekend for our students to connect with the Lord and one another!

Graduation Sunday is May 19th! If you have a graduating senior or know one—we want to honor them! Please have them register for Graduation Sunday here: <https://firstgc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/227323>

Our spots for camp are rapidly filling up! If you need to register someone for student camp, you can do so on our website: [www.firstgc.org](http://www.firstgc.org)!

If you would like to sponsor a student or two for camp (we are in need of sponsorships!) please contact me at [mike@firstgc.org](mailto:mike@firstgc.org)!! Thank you!!!

It's a blessing to serve with you, Church!

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



## Men's Corner

**The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, May 4th, at 7:30 AM. Scott Molino will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Jeff Davis from the April breakfast.**

Hello, my name is Jeff Davis. I joined the Army when I was 20 years old. I served one tour in Iraq and two in Afghanistan and was exposed to burn pits. I completed Airborne school and was later sent to Fort Bragg in North Carolina where I also completed jumpmaster school and started running Airborne operations throwing troops out of the plane. By the end of my career, I had totaled 55 jumps.

My role as a young NCO was fast-paced, and I was often hard on my soldiers, but I never lost a soldier in combat. My last deployment was in 2015, and I was immediately selected to return to an Airborne unit in Alaska. I was pretty excited to get back on Airborne status, but the phone call home to my wife left me in tears and disbelief. My mother-in-law had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, and we would now have to be away from our families.

After deployment we packed up and flew to Alaska. While trying to decide on a school for our 4 year old daughter, we had a couple of choices. The first one was a public daycare where the kids were playing with toys and running all around. The other was a Christian school where the kids were all sitting quietly learning about Jesus. After long discussions, we finally let Calise make the decision, and she insisted on the Christian school. At that point we felt a connection through our child, and it was time to attend church and learn more about the Bible.

It was later that year that we were touched by God and I believed, as I had had many doubts before then. It was also a great time as my personality and respect for other people had changed. And I was no longer yelling and cursing at soldiers. By this point, I was an SFC and looking forward to retirement.

At the end of the year I got sick and was misdiagnosed with pneumonia twice before being rushed to the ER. It was so bad I couldn't run or climb stairs. I couldn't even bend over to tie my shoes because the pressure would stop me from breathing. They removed three liters of fluid from around my heart and lungs followed by a pericardial fusion and inserted a catheter through the lining of my heart. I spent the next several days in ICU and was unable to see my daughter. I was released from the hospital and the doctors told us it was the "mother" of all viruses. All signs came back no cancer.

I spent the next few months on a profile because I still couldn't run. It was too hard on my lungs and I was in much pain. After working with doctors, we did three different biopsies. At this point we were praying that we would find a diagnosis. When we were called into the doctor's office, we were told that I had Stage 4 lung cancer. My wife recalls the first thing I said was, "Am I gonna get med boarded?" After that my mind had gone into a black hole for the next several days. I was close to retirement with less than two years remaining, and now I had cancer.

They found four tumors in my brain and conducted cyber knife radiation. After that the Army relocated me to Columbus for treatment at The James. A year after arriving here, the headaches

began to get worse and I ended up with 19 lesions and the four prior tumors had doubled. After additional radiation and the wonderful work of God, my brain was healed. I thank God that its been 12 months since I've had a headache. I love my family, my friends, and the Lord. Thanks to my wife I am now retired. I'm so blessed to be active once again and enjoy my daughter as she continues to grow up. No matter how hard it gets, you've just got to believe!

**God Bless,  
Pastor David Berna**

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### 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

We jokingly call our Life Group, "The Hot Messes." Each of us is dealing with our own issues, but we laugh, cry and go through life together.

This past week, Syllas walked in and told Garrett that he had bought him a couple purses. On any other night, this would be odd. However, it was Monday night. It was our Life Group and none of us would have thought it humorous. But we had a visitor; thus, we had to explain. Garrett is part of a ministry that reaches out to female homeless and sex workers in the worst parts of Columbus. His group is known for giving women a nice purse filled with some beauty and hygiene products. They also slip some protein bars and a card with information for nearby shelters. The explanation helped our visitor understand why Syllas sometimes buys purses for Garrett.

I've always equated group texts to hostage situations. With our group, we don't feel the texts an imposition, simply one more way to stay connected during the week. When one of us has a ministry, the others help with donations of supplies, prayers, money or time. When one of us suffers a defeat in life, we all hurt. When one of us celebrates a victory, we all give thanks to God and congratulate the victor. My favorite group text starts, "So, I need an outfit for an upcoming event..." or "I really need a cup of coffee." By the time, I get to the designated place, I am met by some of the best people I know. My friends. My Life Group.

Life is messy. What a privilege to go through it with a Life Group!



**Blessings,  
Cindy Matlock**

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### Notes of Appreciation

Church Family,

Thank you for your love and prayers during our difficult time (the loss of Gina's mother, Evelyn Smith). The flowers were beautiful and we really enjoyed them.

**Glenn and Gina Graham**