



First Baptist Church  
**Grove City**

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## MARCH NEWSLETTER

### Pastor's Message



*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4, NIV*

I was teaching last month this passage during the Wednesday Night Bible Study. A question was raised from the floor about how it could be reasonable to maintain a **spirit of Joy** in the midst of a severe test in our lives such as cancer or another similar crisis. I acknowledged that Joy was not necessarily an easy response, but that I believed there was indeed a path to Joy in these grueling experiences.

James clearly indicates that the testing of our faith is to be expected in this life. There's no getting around it! There are moments when everything we have come to believe of God, including His character and His faithfulness, are suddenly called into question. Moments when the preaching we hear on Sundays fails to match our experience on Mondays. Many of us have been there and will in all likelihood be there again. **In these experiences, how can we possibly maintain a spirit of Joy?**

We live in a culture where joy has often been reduced to an event. Events, however, come and go while our relationship with Jesus is continual and eternal and therefore the basis for our Joy.

**True Joy comes as a result of knowing Jesus and embracing our relationship with Him.** There isn't a circumstance we could ever encounter, no matter how dire or seemingly hopeless, that could change or nullify this reality. Below are a few key truths that should strengthen your perspective on Joy the next time your faith is severely tested.

**1. I can maintain a spirit of Joy because** I know that every test of my faith is filtered by God. My test must first meet with His approval. He alone determines its length, width, breadth, and depth (Job 23:10). I am never left to the whim of luck, chance, fate, or evil in the process.

**2. I can maintain a spirit of Joy because** I know that God ultimately has the final say in my circumstance. In baseball and softball, the home team always bats last. In the course of my test, however difficult it may be, God always bats last. Therefore, I always have hope!

**3. I can maintain a spirit of Joy because** I know that God is faithful in sustaining me in the midst of the test, no matter how severe. Whatever I need, I can have the confidence of knowing that He will always supply that need. He has to. His Word says so (Philippians 4:19)!

**4. I can maintain a spirit of Joy because** I know that God always sees to it that "all things work together for my good" (Romans 8:28). Somehow, some way, God is up to something.

**AND .....also in knowing that Joy comes with the morning (Psalm 30:5)!**

May the Joy of the Lord be yours!

**Pastor Rob Stroup,  
FBC Business Administrator**

Dr. Jerry Neal  
Senior Pastor

Dr. Dave Earley  
Lead Pastor

Mike D'Attoma  
Assistant Pastor

Bryan Corbett  
Worship Pastor

Dr. John Foster  
Discipleship Pastor

David Berna  
Visitation Pastor

Jeff Bane  
Outreach Pastor

Joshua Wright  
Children's Pastor

Robert Stroup  
Business Administrator

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

## Members' Ministry

We seek satisfaction and our identity in many places, in many things, and in other people. Some find these in their jobs, some in their possessions, some in their wealth, and some in their relationships with others. But really, what it boils down to is this: we will never be fulfilled and we will never know who we truly are until we are found in Christ. Then He will begin to change our perspective on God and on life.

Our perspective affects how we respond to life and how we respond influences the outcome of every situation. When we change our focus and look at things differently, we can see the other side. God's Word influences our perspective when we read it. God changes our perspective when we pray. Wouldn't you want to see His perspective as much as possible?

We live in a near-sided world that helps keep our focus on us. Life is discouraging as it drags us down and we grow wearisome from the daily grind. If this describes you, then bathe yourself in the Word of God. Cover yourself and those around you in prayer. See what God says and does. He created you and me, and He knows us intimately. Who better to ask and seek than Him?

As Christians we should be filled with joy, so much so, that others are lifted up when they're around us. Our hope and joy are not of this world; they are in Christ. Don't try to find your identity or satisfaction in someone or something. Know that God loves you where you are. God's grace is relentless. He pursues His enemies, not to crush them, but to offer them redemption. If He pursues His enemies with such love, how much more will He do for us, His children?

Jesus is God incarnate. He came to us. He did not have to; He wanted to. He pursued us before we were born. How much more does He need to do for you and me to love Him? This I know first-hand, God's grace knows no boundaries. Isn't it time we learn to identify ourselves as God sees us: as His sons and daughters?

*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Philippians 2:1-2*

**In Christ,**

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,  
Members' Minister**

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Sundays 4:00 PM – 6:00PM  
First Baptist Church

**January 26th – May 3rd**  
Room: A-190

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

## Trustee Ministry

**The saying goes,** "March comes in like a Lion and goes out like a Lamb." *Hopefully, this is exactly what will happen when Spring arrives on Friday, March 20. That will be about the time we begin to see tulips and pansies peeking up through the soil to find the light of the sun. We too are growing in the full light of God's Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have His blessings for more than a season, we have them for eternity.*

Several miscellaneous projects were finished over the past month:

The wall in the Fellowship Hall was patched with regular drywall due to the green board, which had been ordered several months ago for the repair, not having a foreseeable delivery date.

There are now three check-in stations installed in both Children's Wings for easier parental check-ins for children. In the Preschool Wing, anti-scald valves were installed as a safety precaution. Remodeling of the KKDC Director's office has been completed. The Discipleship Minister's office was wired for phone/internet. The left side of the FBC sanctuary closet was partitioned for AWANA use.

Annual contracts have now been signed for the FBC air conditioning and furnace inspections for 2020.

**Phyllis McCloy,  
Trustee Ministry**

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## Great Commission Opportunities

ESL (English as a Second Language) meets every Tuesday at FBC. Teachers, assistants, and class assistants are needed as well as childcare leaders. Contact Pastor Jeff ([jeff@firstgc.org](mailto:jeff@firstgc.org)) for more information.



## North American Missionaries and Church Planting Support

"Local Gospel Partner Offering" begins Sunday, March 29—April 26. Church-wide goal—\$10,000. A full 100% of your giving goes to support church planting efforts in North America.

Pray for the NYC Mission team April 4-9 serving church plants and city ministries.

**Pastor John Foster,  
Discipleship Pastor**

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## AWANA Ministry Update

**March 4th—Where's Everybody Going Night? (Part 1)**

**March 11th—Where's Everybody Going Night? (Part 2)**

**March 18th—Tropical Night!**

**March 25th—Double Points for Sunday School Night!** (Attend Sunday School on March 22nd to earn double points. Remember to wear your uniform.)



# Women of FBC

Please visit the **Women's Ministry kiosk** and pick up a brochure of our Groups and events or contact **Ronda Kinnett** at 614-313-7871 for more information.

**Amazing Love Outreach Dinner:** This will be an opportunity to share Christ with the women in your life and to celebrate God's amazing love. Invite others for a fun, fellowship dinner on Friday, March 27, at 6:30 PM. Stop by the Women's Ministry kiosk to sign up on Sunday mornings. Please contact Audrea Ratliff at 614-464-7982 for more information.

**Girls' Night Out:** Tuesday, March 31, at 6:30 PM. Meet us at 3 Brothers Diner, 3090 Southwest Blvd., Grove City, for dinner and devotions. Please contact Jodi Butcher at 614-620-6380 to reserve your seat.

**Women's Fellowship Breakfast:** Saturday, March 14, at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. This month we welcome Darcey McCampbell from Kingdom Pillars Strong Tower who will share their mission to foster children abandoned and neglected. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-507-6306 to sign up with your favorite breakfast food to share!

**Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study:** We will begin studying *God of Covenant: A Study of Genesis 12-50* by Jen Wilkin on March 17, 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:** We are studying *Red Sea Rules* by Robert J. Morgan. Please join us at 6:45 PM in room S-101 in the Student Center. Please contact DeeAnn Brown at 614-314-7874 for more information.

**Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study:** We are studying *Counter Culture* by David Platt. Come and be encouraged on how to take a stand on the world's social issues. Childcare is provided. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 AM. Please contact Kay Hardman at 614-323-6891 or [kayhardman@gmail.com](mailto:kayhardman@gmail.com) for more information.

**Book Club:** We will meet on Thursday, March 12, at Cimi's Bistro from 7:00 to 8:30 PM to discuss *Chasing Vines* by Beth Moore. We will meet again on Thursday, April 2, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM, at Panera on Stringtown to discuss *Strands of Truth* by Colleen Coble. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

**REFIT®:** Join the Revolution! Maybe you've heard about some "workout" class we have at FBC. Well, it's REFIT® - a fitness experience for everyBODY! We combine positive music and powerful movement for a cardio-based workout that is challenging, effective, and fun. Any of the moves can be modified, which makes it perfect for any fitness level. Come

and experience an empowering workout with an encouraging community! Classes are Tuesdays at 7:00 PM in the Neal Auditorium and Thursdays at 7:00 PM in the Genesis Auditorium. Please contact Carla Wells at 614-579-1237 for more information. See also at [refitwithcarla@gmail.com](mailto:refitwithcarla@gmail.com).

**Craft Day:** Friday, March 20, from 9 AM to 9 PM. Meet us in the Fellowship Hall and bring a project, a snack or side dish, and prepare for a day of fun and fellowship. It doesn't matter what your craft is. Please contact Janet Swicegood at 614-572-5659 or KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information.

FBC Family,

I hope this letter finds you well! I just wanted to take a minute, and give y'all a HUGE THANK YOU!!!



Our annual cake auction fundraiser, dinner and a movie, was INCREDIBLE! Patti Morgan and her team did an fabulous job, and y'all showed up and were so generous as you supported our students!! We are SO THANKFUL! We raised \$11,500 at our cake auction fundraiser!! That is amazing!! Each student who served made almost \$200 off their camp price! AH! Thank you so, so, much! Your generosity never ceases to amaze me!

With that being said, we are taking a team to New York to serve over spring break, and are always in need of extra funds to help students go with us, as well as provide some of the help to the church plant(s) and ministries we work with! You can always donate to our NYC Mission trip on our website at [www.firstgc.org](http://www.firstgc.org) or by marking your donation "NYC Mission trip," and placing it in the offering plates!

Y'all are so incredible, and it is a joy to serve the Most High King with each of you!

Blessings!

**Sola Deo Gloria,**

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

## First ESL Participants Celebrate Completion: Tuesday, February 18, 2020!



## **Men's Corner**

**The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be held Saturday, March 7th, at 7:30 AM. Mike Thompson will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Vern Meyer from the February breakfast.**

I was born a "cradle to grave" Catholic in 1947 to a dairy farmer in NE Iowa who was a state farm hired-hand. I was the oldest of 8 kids (6 boys and 2 girls). I went to Catholic grade school taught by nuns, 4 years of high school Catholic Church Doctrine (CCD) and 8 years of Catholic religious order of the Brothers of Holy Cross at Notre Dame, IN, where I professed the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The reason for my career choice in 1965 was based on my habitual sin nature of lusting in the flesh that led me to believe Matthew 19:29. If I would leave houses, family or lands for His name's sake, I would receive 100 fold and share in eternal life.

Satan really is the one that tempts us and lies about sin's consequences. The sacraments were my means of obtaining grace especially the daily Mass, daily meditation, Marian devotions in the rosary, and rote and formal indulgence prayers. I thought my religion could appease my self-gratification. With great weekly booze parties, fanatic food for all kind of celebrations, owning and sharing most things in common, we remained a religious community sheltered from the world. I joined in 1965 to be a high school English teacher, but I dreaded having to memorize Shakespeare. During my senior college year, I failed the English Literature course at Indiana University in South Bend. There were 400 English majors that year, and the professor weeded out some 200 unlucky ones like me.

When I hit the roadblock in the teaching field, I chose nursing. I enrolled in the Holy Cross school of Nursing at South Bend, IN, for a three year diploma program with 100 females. I soon met a Christian elementary school teacher through a friend. We were set up as a blind date. She read and understood the Bible and showcased the real gifts of the Holy Spirit. We married with a Catholic and Protestant ceremony to appease both sets of parents. We attended two churches each weekend for three years.

My name came up as a possible head nurse for dialysis at Mercy Hospital in Muskegon, MI, in 1979. God knew I needed this promotion for reasons I did not understand then. So our family of four moved to a city near the eastern shores of Lake Michigan. We eventually joined the Mona Shores Baptist Church that had an AWANA program for our two kids, Benjamin and Kara. I soon became actively involved in AWANA also.

It was in a sermon by Pastor Andy Husmann on John 9 about a blind man's healing that my blindness turned to sight when I heard God speaking to me. It was not HOW his blindness was cured, but by whom. His healing and testimony, despite opposition, touched my heart and I needed that forgiveness of sin. I was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1980, when I was 32 years old. I soon passionately accepted the call to teach the young adults, then middle age parents in Sunday School. This was my spiritual gift that God had placed on my heart. God would also use my talents as an usher, nursery worker, trustee, deacon, and AWANA game leader.

In 1990, I lost my renal manager position after ten years at Mercy Hospital. While there, however, I was able to witness my faith to most hospital department heads.

God brought us to Newark in the summer of 1990 to raise our kids, and eventually to Columbus in 2004 where I worked at

OSU Wexner Medical Center for 22 1/2 years that rewarded me with state retirement benefits.

In the end, God took a young man from NE Iowa and a gal from near Dayton, OH, who met in South Bend, IN, and re-located them to Michigan to be saved to eventually end up in Ohio. In that time, I would become a Buckeye football fan, a teacher about kidney care and its treatment for forty years, and also a faithful adult Sunday School leader at Highland Baptist for 15 years.

Among my greatest sins was the belief that the Catholic religion saved me. But when the Holy Spirit's light came into my life I accepted God's greatest gift of faith. I accepted that Jesus had paid my sin debt on Calvary. That day made all the difference!

**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

On a flight back to their home with their newly-adopted newborn, Caren and Dustin were apprehensive. They were now a family of three and flying with a baby. Their daughter got a little fussy, and so they decided to walk her in the narrow aisle. A flight attendant congratulated them and asked who the baby resembled more. They shared her adoption story and that this particular flight was taking them home. The flight attendant quickly made an inter-com announcement about their "special passenger on board" and passed out pens and note cards for the other travelers to leave them congratulatory messages.

I read this story with relish because, I, too, was adopted shortly after I was born. When people say I resemble either of my parents, it makes me happy. I don't know if I look like them, but I certainly have a lot of their mannerisms. My throaty laugh when I get really amused is not a nature thing, it's a nurture thing! Oh, and if only mom's ability to cook would have rubbed off on me as well.

Whenever I hear about being adopted into the family of God, I understand exactly what that means. I get the same inheritance as Jesus. I may not look like Him or act like Him now, but I will. Someday, in Heaven, I will be perfected too!

So on those days that I have to look really hard to see Jesus in me, I know that the longer I abide in Him, the closer the resemblance will be.

**Blessings,  
Cindy Matlock**

