



ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

THE LIGHTHOUSE

NON-PROFIT
ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GROVE CITY, OH
PERMIT #6

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Dr. Dave Earley
Lead Pastor

Dr. Jerry Neal
Pastor Emeritus

Bryan Corbett
Worship Pastor

Dr. John Foster
Discipleship Pastor

David Berna
Visitation Pastor

Jeff Bane
Outreach Pastor

Joshua Wright
Children's Pastor

Brian Kinnett
Members' Minister

Robert Stroup
Business Administrator

Visit us on the Web:
www.firstgc.org

During a visit to Amish country, Sharon went into a cheese factory and I went across the road to talk to an Amish man. His name was Roman and he had a twin brother named Raymond. He was under a shade tree selling baskets. We had a great visit.

Next, we went into a furniture store. I loved talking to the Amish salesperson. I tried to dicker with him. It was fun. I suggested that if he would give me 30% off a piece of furniture, I would give him 30% off an automobile in my used car lot. He wasn't buying it. But a big fellow overheard me. He said, "I have a used car lot in Columbus; where is yours?" I fessed up. "Just joking around," I said. His car lot is on Sullivant Avenue. We started talking and his wife has family in Gallia County who went to school with me. We were in that store forever. Had a great time. Bought no furniture.

I love people. All sizes, all shapes, all colors and faiths. I find that if you love people, you can talk to people and have a good time anywhere. Also, when you talk to people, it's not hard to say a word for Jesus. Once you break the ice and establish rapport, people are glad to hear about your faith.

Pastor Earley made it clear in his message about reaching the lost that we need to help people take the next step. There are many steps that are necessary before someone takes the step of giving their heart to Christ. The first step for many people is to know that Christians love people. That is not always an obvious thing. It is very true that unchurched people don't *care* how much you *know*, until they *know* how much you *care*.

This stupid pandemic has separated us from being with people. Let's find a way to greet people, meet people, enjoy people, and love people.

Thank God He loved us enough to give His Son!

Pastor Jerry

MEMBERS' MINISTRY

My hope, my faith is not in any government, political party, or people; it is in Christ alone.

My political views do not determine my faith; on the contrary, my faith determines my political views.

The end result is this: God will put in power whom He chooses, and He will bless or judge us according to His mercy and righteousness.

Mankind is only blessed because God chooses to bless. God also judges and those He blesses He holds accountable. To whom much is given, much will be required.

We become overzealous and passionate over the wrong things. Our passion should be to glorify God in all we do and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to the world.

I will stay faithful to God, and His Word. This means I stand up for the defenseless, the unborn, the fatherless and motherless. I will acknowledge biblical marriages, be a good steward of all our resources, pray for those in leadership, and share the gospel truth with everyone I can, no matter what others say or do. With God's help, I will follow Christ.

Let's be the difference God has called us to be.

He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

In Christ,

**Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Online Pastor and Members' Minister**

SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS AT FBC

Food Truck Sunday: Join us on Sunday, September 6th for a return of Food Truck Sunday. Bring your family, friends, lawn chairs, and appetite to enjoy amazing food from some of our favorite food trucks. We will also be having live music entertainment. Food trucks will be ready and waiting following both the 9:15 and 10:45 AM worship services.

Baptism Sunday: FBC will celebrate lives changed by Jesus with Believers' Baptism on Sunday, September 13th. Please contact the church office at 614-991-0205 or email us at info@firstgc.org to let us know that you are ready to make your decision to follow Jesus a public one. Let's celebrate what Jesus has done in your life!

Daily Connections: We desire for you to grow in grace and knowledge as you walk with Jesus every day. Join us for daily discipleship and bi-monthly gospel videos. These are available on the Dr. Dave Earley *Facebook* page and website. www.facebook.com/daveearleyauthor/ or www.daveearley.com

Upward Sports: Various opportunities remain to volunteer with *Upward* fall sports activities. Please contact Pastor Jeff Bane at jeff@firstgc.org for more details.

TRUSTEE MINISTRY

Teach us, O Lord, the discipline of patience, for to wait is often harder than to work. Peter Marshall

During the month of August, the Trustees were involved in the following projects.

Grounds and Maintenance

The FBC campus lawn was fertilized and treated for weeds. The hiking trail behind the church, around the crop field, was mowed and is available for use. The pond fountains were serviced and the ponds were treated for water weeds.

Shingles were repaired on the FBC garage roof and siding was repaired on the shelter house. The front door of the church was repaired and two cameras were replaced on the outside of the church. In the childrens' wings, safety film was applied as an added security precaution to doors.

King's Kids Day Care

Shingles were repaired on the area that was once the new sanctuary roof. Work was also done to repair plumbing. The basement remediation is a work-in-progress. The hinges on the front doors were replaced and bus inspections were also completed.

Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly/Baptist Builders

Volunteers replaced a deck at the Seneca Lake Dining Hall, painted Evergreen Cabin, and reroofed the garage at the caretaker's residence. A floating dock at the lake was also sealed.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**



Baptist Builders crew members work to construct a 2,800 square foot deck at Seneca Lake Baptist Assembly at the end of July.

Women of FBC

Through the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within us, carefully guard the precious truth that has been entrusted to you. 2 Timothy 1:14

Do you realize God has made an investment in you?

He gave us His Son, His Spirit, and His Word with the expectation He would receive a return. What does God profit from keeping such great and precious promises to us? He receives our praise and worship. He receives glory as we share our testimony with others. And, His kingdom increases when others come to know Him. What a privilege we've been given and what a priceless reward we have of a new life in Christ! Take a few minutes this week to write down your testimony and then ask the Lord whom you can share it with. Someone is waiting to hear how your life has been changed and to know God desires to make an investment in them.

Want to see something positive on your social media? You can follow Women of FBC on **Instagram @fbcgc_women** for daily encouragement. Share with your friends!

Our **Women's Fellowship Breakfast** will be Saturday, September 12th at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We welcome Darcey McCampbell, Founder and Executive Director of Kingdom Pillars, Strong Tower. She will be sharing their mission as a safe haven for young women aging out of foster care or who have been trafficked. They have found wholeness and help in a place they can call home. Breakfast will be catered by Good Eats-To-Go. Please let us know if you have a gluten-free request. RSVP by September 7th to Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 or ronda@firstgc.org to register.

I really have missed you, ladies! Let's have a **Girls' Night Out** under the FBC Shelter House on Tuesday, September 8th at 6:00 PM. Bring your own food from your favorite restaurant. If the weather is bad, we will meet in the conference room at the rear of the Genesis auditorium. Can't wait to see you all! For questions, contact Jodie Butcher at 614-620-6380.

To the Women of FBC: There will be a **Thursday morning life group** meeting for Bible study in the near future. I will have information in the newsletter when the details are all worked out. In the meantime, stay in the Word, keep praying and keep in touch with Bible study friends. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Hardman at 614-323-6891 or kayhardman@gmail.com.

CRAFT DAY will resume on September 18th from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM. Masks are highly recommended with seating of only 1 person per 6 ft. table. No children. We won't have our potluck at this time, so don't forget your personal meal. If you have questions or concerns, please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953.

You have an opportunity to impact your community in a special way! FBC has the very first **Moms In Prayer** life group for the Southwestern City School District. You also have the option to start your very own group. *Moms in Prayer International* impacts children and schools worldwide for Christ by gathering mothers to pray. Their vision is for every school in the world to be covered with prayer. Moms in Prayer groups are in more than 140 countries around the world! There is no better gift we can give our children than prayer! If you would like to partner with a group or start your own, please contact Carol Middendorf at 614-370-3480 or carolindon@att.net.

Blessings,

Ronda Kinnett

Women's Ministry Director



Social distancing has become the new norm for FBC worship services in the summer of 2020. We have room for you!



GriefShare has resumed at FBC on Sundays from 4:00-6:00 PM. We are meeting in the Fellowship Hall or online if you prefer. If you have suffered the death of someone special to you, let us join you in your journey through the grieving process. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-551-9781 for more information.

MEN'S CORNER

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be held Saturday, September 5th at 7:30 AM. Tony Brown will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Dale Evans from our August breakfast.

I would like to start off by giving all praise and glory to GOD. Today, I am 66 years old and proud to be a Christian. Today, I will give my testimony of how I got here. I grew up in West Jefferson, Ohio. My parents would send me to Kentucky every summer to stay with my grandparents. They were my dad's parents and thank GOD for them, because my dad would drink and was very violent. I remember taking Mom to the emergency room several times. Of course, he lied to them about how she was injured. My mom is the sweetest person you could ever meet. I would also be on the receiving end of some of his drunken violence. However, I did forgive him before he died.

So you see the summers in Kentucky were my refuge. I spent summers there from age 4 through age 16. I worked the farm and helped my grandparents. My grandparents were devout Christians and my grandfather was a deacon at the Freewill Baptist church there. They would take me to church every Wednesday night and so the "seed" was planted. I thank God for those summers. I remember the two pastors there, Clavis Adkins and Tracy Fannin, preaching so hard they would be foaming at the mouth with their passion for Jesus and GOD our Father. GOD was in this small 50 member congregation. I remember participating in the old time foot washings and going to tent revivals. GOD does pursue us!

I specifically remember the one tent revival my grandparents took me to; it was quite an experience. As everyone was standing up singing, three boys a bit older than me (I was probably 11 years old) started teasing me, calling me a Buckeye as if it were a bad thing. Then they started flipping my ears and the back of my head. This was the longest hymn I had ever heard by the way. Finally, I could not take it any more and turned around and punched one of them, knocking him over a row of chairs. The other two grabbed me and they proceeded to blacken my eye. It's funny now looking back on it, that no one stopped it or helped me. They are real serious about singing their hymns in Kentucky.

Now recently I found my grandmother's Bible while cleaning out my aunt's house. It had written on a old envelope that on July 19, 1967, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. Being only 12 years old and going up to the altar, I look back and probably did it more to make my grandparents happy not fully understanding. But the "good" Lord never let me go because here I stand in this church, a testament to GOD'S grace and love.

At 16, my dad made me go to work in his body shop. I never got to go back to the farm to help my grandparents. My dad of course, was not religious, so I lost the spiritual guidance a 16-year-old needs. At 19, I got married and we had 2 sons. After I got married I began to drink also and working in the body shop business led me away from GOD. I was drinking with the Outriders motorcycle gang and doing a lot of dumb things. During this time, I worked two jobs and graduated from Ohio State University; however, this all took its toll on my marriage, and after 14 years, my first wife and I divorced.

I soon met my beautiful wife Sherry and we are now in our 33rd year of marriage. We have a beautiful 27-year-old daughter who is a nurse. Several years later, my youngest son (from my first marriage) died from a drug overdose. This is a pain no parent wants to bear. We are always going through trials and that is why we need GOD. From 1970 to 2018 I unfortunately drifted away

from GOD and I now see how it hurt me and my family. But GOD never gives up on you.

In 2018, I can't explain the feeling I experienced, the burning desire to read the Bible, which I never had before. I began to read it and then got the feeling again and started to seek a church. GOD was calling me. I tried a couple of churches but it did not feel right. I wanted a church that actually taught the Bible. Then my neighbors, Ned and Loretta Townsly told me to try First Baptist Church. When I came here the first time everyone was so friendly I felt like I was finally home. I could feel the connection in this house of GOD. Then Pastor Jerry and Sharon showed up at my door after my first visit. They said they lived 4 doors down from me and that was the first time I had ever met them, having lived there for twenty years. I could tell Pastor Jerry had that "Southern Baptist air" about him that drew me to First Baptist Church. Glory to GOD for good neighbors!

I then joined Pastor Dave Early's *Christianity 101*. I was moved to repent and give my soul to Jesus which I did on June 27, 2018, in Pastor Early's class. I would like to thank Pastor Earley, Pastor Neal, Pastor Berna, Pastor Kinnett, and all my church family. But most of all I want to give thanks to Jesus, my Savior, the Holy Spirit, and our Heavenly Father who gives us love and grace.

**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."*

I chat often with a former classmate who lives in New York. In high school, we bonded through four years of cheer camp, three years of band camp, and one long bus ride to march in another state's parade.

We always find various talking points to discuss. The motion sickness we both contracted during that bus ride back to Ohio is not one of them. I learned during college that if I wanted to have a decent relationship with my friend, politics and religion would also remain rarely discussed.

My friend and I will cast very different ballots in 60+ days. She is a self-described "searcher," while I found my way back to Christ several years ago. She recently sent a photo of a beautiful pair of *Jimmy Choo* heels purchased for her anniversary dinner. I gladly shared the exact percentage I saved on a cute pair of shoes with memory foam. She bemoaned the fact they wouldn't be dining in Paris this year. I aspired to empathy by stating that *BibiBop* wouldn't be open in time for our anniversary either.

Although we aren't exactly living parallel lives, I enjoy our talks. God puts us in different situations, with folks who are nothing like us, for a reason. It matters not to Him whether we intercede for the homeless man or the wealthy woman. There is unbridled joy when they actually *ask* us to pray for them! To pray to our Father for anyone is an extraordinary gift.

**Blessings,
Cindy Matlock**

