



First Baptist Church
Grove City

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SEPTEMBER 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

I was sitting with Chewy waiting on Sharon to get a couple of items at the grocery store. I began to reminisce about the old days when automobiles weren't as well built as they are today. As I was looking over that parking lot, it was seemingly full of new cars that start easily and run smoothly. My old cars often would break down, needed pushed to start, pulled to a repair shop, or have me under the hood doing what I could to fix my jalopy. All these cars in this parking lot are so problem free—I thought. Then my daydreaming was interrupted by the car right in front of me. A young lady couldn't start her car. A Honda Civic. I couldn't believe it. I sat for a long time thinking it would surely start. It didn't!

So many times, we look at our neighbors who live in nice homes, drive new cars and have good jobs and think they don't ever need repairs in their lives. Yet, there are marriages falling part, children on drugs, and people in bondage to all sorts of addictions. Whether we realize it or not, people need the Lord. FBC wants to become a House of Prayer for all people. Our nation has so many broken parts and pieces that only God can fix. Join our prayer effort at FBC and intercede for America and the people in America who are right in front of us. They need us whether they ask for help or not.

The lady in the Honda needed me, though she never asked. I opened my car door and Chewy took off like Underdog. Gathering him up, I proceeded to the lady in need. She could hardly speak any English, but she understood I was there to help. We opened the hood. An old battery with loose cables was the problem. With my trusted jumper cables, that I hadn't used in years, I got the motor running. She was overwhelmed with gratitude.

Broken cars are much easier to repair than broken lives. During our services at FBC the last two weeks, we have seen many people saved and baptized. Each one has his or her own story of broken hearts and broken dreams. If you are involved in our prayer ministry, you are a big part of these salvation celebrations. Let's increase our time praying and see more miracles of transformed lives.

My prayer is that FBC may be known as the place where "Broken Lives Are Repaired Here."

Pastor Jerry

Have you been to a family reunion this summer? Karen and I have been to three of them, all in different states, with loads of traveling, but so very well worth it. I think we are “all caught up,” at least for the time being.



The most recent one we attended was in Johnstown. It was quite a hodge-podge of activity. The kids were running around five acres on the 4-wheeler, fishing in the pond, or trying to stay balanced on the paddleboards. Their parents were trying to make sure no one drowned. And the grandparents were talking about retirement, politics, and what parts of their bodies hurt.

What a cross-section of life! What different stages of life! But the common tie was somehow being linked to the extended Meadows/Mader families. That’s why everyone was there.

Our church Life Groups are like that. People, from all stages of life, were coming together not because of blood-line ties, but because of a spiritual tie. As Jesus said to the crowd when His brothers and mother were looking for Him: “*Who is My mother, or My brothers? Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother.*” **Mark 3:33-34**

Are you in one of our Life Groups yet?

We have Groups where everyone is near the same stage of life, and other Groups where everyone is at a different stage, like my family reunion. But all of them have one thing in common; the spiritual connection of knowing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

And the good thing is, they don’t just get together once in the summer.

Pastor Andy Kovalchik,
Assistant Visitation Pastor

Notes of Appreciation

Dear Friends at First Baptist G. C.,

Our entire family so appreciates the flowers and everything you all did in honor of mom (Minerva Eberst).

Thank you, all!

Rick Eberst and the Eberst family

Thank you to all those who called, texted, and checked in on us as we dealt with dad’s unexpected passing.

We’d like to especially thank Pastor Berna for reaching out. And for Joyce Williams, Phyllis Welch, and Jacque Rotruck for being available in various ways to our family.

Diane, Tracie, and David Helmbrecht
Sara, Dave, and Calvin Williams

Members’ Ministry

Every person will go through seasons in his or her life. Some are joyful, others sorrowful, but either way, we must press on. The good news is that as a child of God, in every season, He is with us. He holds us by His hands, He sustains our lives, and He keeps us from perishing. The truth is God never lays upon us more than He can handle. We must trust Him to see us through the high waters, through the darkness, and through the fires of life.

All of have lost loved ones too soon. Death has overcome their mortal bodies. But as children of God, they are with Him. That is God’s promise. Because of Christ Jesus, we have victory over sin and death, and neither have power over us. If you’re fearful, hopeless, or anxious, turn your eyes upon Christ Jesus. He is the author and finisher of our faith, the giver of life. He alone holds the keys to everlasting life. He is the resurrection and the life; He is the way, the truth, and the life. His name is above all things. Death works to take each of us, but it cannot take us away from Him. It’s never us; it is always Him Who protects and provides. With God all things are possible.

Whatever is holding you back from living in Christ, you can break free from the bondage that holds you. Then run into the arms of our loving Lord and Savior and know that nothing can separate us from Christ today, tomorrow, or for eternity—for freedom is found in Christ alone.

Now we have this treasure in clay jars, so that this extraordinary power may be from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way but not crushed; we are perplexed but not in despair; we are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed. We always carry the death of Jesus in our body, so that the life of Jesus may also be displayed in our body. **2 Corinthians 4:7**

In Christ,

Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members’ Minister

AWANA Ministry Update

September 4th—Root Beer Relay Night!

September 11th—Double Points for Bibles Night!

September 18th—Visitor Treat Night!
(Sparks and T & T Groups)

September 25th—Pajama Night!



Neighbors Helping Neighbors

NHN is a volunteer-based initiative created to assist people in our area who are seniors and/or who are struggling with disabilities, with various projects around their 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.

From Our Children's Pastor

It is hard to believe the new school year has already begun, and with that, I wanted to inform you about some exciting changes for 5th and 6th grade. Fifth and sixth grade students have a new class on Wednesday evenings that is structured to address the needs of students that are in intermediate grade levels. We recognize that these students are in a life stage that straddles children's ministry and youth ministry, and we have the opportunity to reach them in a deeper and more meaningful way that builds community and discipleship and brings them to and deepens their relationship with Christ.

Please partner with me in praying that God will make himself known to each student, and that He will do incredible things in and through the lives of these students. Thanks again for your partnership and involvement in our ministry.

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

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Trivia Question: Who said the following: "Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens..."

Was it... A. God. B. Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, President of Mexico, C. Gavin Newsom, Governor of California?

Actually, it was God who said that in Leviticus 19:34-35.

He also adds, "...You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God." You see, God is a God of all nations, and He draws ALL men unto Himself.

In Acts 17:26-27, Paul reminds us, "From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. God made the nations so they would SEEK him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn't far away from any of us." (CEB). In these days, we are ever seeing the world nations flooding into our country. America, which was founded on the belief that God hand guides this nation, is a magnet for all nations of the world.

I remind you of these things to let you know that our church, under the missions ministry and using a guide put together by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, is starting an ESL (English as a Second Language) ministry in October.

The class will be held on Tuesday nights starting this October. Please pray for this start-up ministry that we can reach the nations for Christ and use this as a tool to share the compassion of Christ and to share the Gospel. If you are interested in finding more out about this ministry, please text Wesley Vargas at 614-398-9244.

We currently have been blessed with nine dedicated teachers but will need more volunteers to come once in a while just to sit and converse one-on-one with people to help with English conversation. One thing you can do is pray for this ministry.

**Blessings,
Angela Corbett**

Trustee Ministry

Realizing the end to hot, humid summer days and the beginning of a new season is always looked forward to with eager anticipation by those of us here in Ohio. Summer memories, cooler days, the appearance of Brutus, apple pie, the laughter of children returning to school, and the enjoyment of the time to relax and strengthen our prayer fellowship with the Lord are just a few of the wonderful blessings we have been gifted with.

Grounds maintenance involved spraying for bag worms throughout the trees and spraying for weeds along the creek banks. Gravel was placed into the drain between the south parking lot and the Upward Field. Parking lot LED lights were installed by Baptist Builders.

The construction site was smoothed across the west lawn in the area the County chose to pipe water along Orders Road.

Building maintenance involved power-washing stains on the FBC building stucco and the floor of picnic shelter. Caulking to the edges of the FBC building roof was also completed.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6

God has begun a masterpiece in your life, and He will bring it to completion, too. You are a work in progress so don't give up. God hasn't given up on you. Dale Stephenson

Understanding the Times 2019

**Saturday, September 21st
8:45 AM to 5:00 PM**

Live streamed from Grace Church, in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, to First Baptist Church in Grove City.



Featured Speakers:

**Amir Tsarfati, Robert Jeffress,
J.D. Farag, Jack Hibbs,
Jan Markell, and Laurie Cardoza-Moore**

**Learn more at olivetreeviews.org/
OR by contacting Worship Pastor, Bryan Corbett**

Women of FBC

Discerning the Voice of God Bible study will begin Thursday, September 5, at 9:30 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. This 7-week study with Priscilla Shirer will help you discover the root to clear and daily communication with God and learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings, intended for us, centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life. See Kay Hardman, 614-323-6891.

Book Club: Join us Thursday, September 5, 7:00 PM, at China Bell, Grove City, to discuss *Together Forever* by Jody Hedlund. Also join us Thursday, October 3, 7:00 PM, at City BBQ, Grove City, to discuss *Searching for You* by Jody Hedlund. See Kari Jones, 614-589-7557.

Soul Friends by Leslie Parrott begins on Friday, September 6, at 9:00 AM, in Room S-106, for 12 weeks. We will explore the stages of a women's spiritual journey while showing you how your faith can deepen through soul friend- ships. See Carol Middendorf, 614-370-3480.

Moms in Prayer informational meeting will be on Friday, September 6 at 10:30 AM, in the Prayer Room. We believe that a mom can be the single greatest force for good in the lives of her children and the children around her. See Carol Middendorf, 614-370-3480.

Adorned by Nancy Demoss-Wolgemuth is a legacy work on Titus 2 with a powerful vision. Begins Sunday, September 8, at 6:00 PM, in Room C-154. See Sandy Bennett, 740-248-1024.

Girls Night Out: We will meet on Tuesday, September 24, 6:30 PM, at Donatos, on Stringtown Road. Join us for devotions and dinner. See Jodi Butcher, 614-620-6380.

Sunday Morning Ladies' Life Group: Come and join us at 9:15 AM, in room G-104, with teachers Phyllis Welch, Mindy Rucker, and Barb Lovingshimer as we study God's Word and its effect on our lives and character.

The Living Stones: We are currently studying the book of Matthew. Please join us on Sundays, at 10:45 AM, in room A-194. See Sharon Myers, 614-562-2600.

Women of Faith: 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, September 9 and 23, at 1:00 PM, in room C-146. See Mindy Stith, 614-871-4812.

Wednesday Night Bible Study: *Anxious for Nothing* by Max Lucado will encourage you to view bad news through the lens of sovereignty, to discern the lies of Satan and tell yourself the truth. Join us on at 6:45 to 8:00 PM in room S-103. See DeeAnn Brown, 614-314-7847.

Wednesday Night Bible Study: Bring a journal and your Bible to the Student Center at 6:45 PM. We are learning how the Minor Prophets were called to deal courageously and honestly with the sin around them. See Ronda Kinnett, 614-313-7871.

M.O.M. (Moms on Mission): We are studying *Mom Set Free* by Jeannie Cunnion on Wednesday, at 6:45 PM, in room S-106. Discover how the Gospel message can empower you to parent in the freedom of God's sovereignty. See Bethany Heath, 614-323-9721.

Giving Christ First Place: A Christ-centered Life Group/Bible Study designed to help us place and keep Christ first in all areas of our lives by focusing on health to improve our Christian walk, our financial condition, even our social and mental health. This is not a diet but a lifestyle change. Tuesdays at 7:45 AM, in room S-106. See KyleAnn Williams, 614-440-5953.

Craft Day: Enjoy a wonderful day of making various crafts together or learn something new! We are in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, September 20, from 9 AM to 9 PM. See KyleAnn Williams, 614-440-5953.

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 PM, in Genesis Auditorium. See Carla Wells, 614-579-1237.

Women's Retreat 2019: Visit the Women's Ministry kiosk on Sunday mornings to register for our Fall retreat at Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, WV. Mark your calendars for November 1 - 2 and pray for someone you can invite! Bus transportation is available. Register on Sunday mornings with Ronda Kinnett, 614-313-7871.

Church Family,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer and are getting ready for an awesome fall! I love to watch the leaves begin to change as we move into the fall season. It is a great reminder of how beautiful and majestic our God truly is.



It's going to be a great fall at FBC! We have Food Truck Sunday on September 1st! It's a wonderful time to enjoy some great food and wonderful fellowship.

Upward Flag Football, Cheer, and Fall Soccer are underway! Have you ever been on our campus on an *Upward* Saturday? If not, I highly recommend it! Its an incredible opportunity to meet people and begin to make a connection to our church!

Our Parent Builder Workshop begins Sunday, September 15! If you are a parent—this is for you! It is going to run much like our Marriage Builder Workshop! We are going to give you practical advice to help strengthen your parenting; which we all need!! :) You can register at www.firstgc.org! It's going to be incredible!

It is a joy to serve alongside you, church. Thank you for all you do to make FBC-GC the wonderful place it is!

Sola Deo Gloria,

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

Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, September 7th, at 7:30 AM. Clark Bryant will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Aaron Jones from the August breakfast.

I grew up in a secular home. My grandpa on my dad's side was a Pentecostal preacher, but we moved around so much we were never really exposed to church, the Bible, or a relationship with Jesus. There were four of us who lived in the house: my mom, my dad, my brother, and myself, but we were not a unit at all. We all lived individual and selfish lives seeking out our own desires instead of living as a family. This lifestyle created a great disturbance within me.

My parents fought whenever they were home together. Living in a house with such turbulence, I never had peace. I looked to the things of the world to try and provide peace. The world always promises peace, but it never delivers. I tried all the things this world offers: sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll. At 14, I played drums for a fraternity band playing different gigs at Baldwin Wallace and some other colleges a couple of times a month. This exposed me to much more of an adult life than a 14-year old should ever have. It led to hard addictions. By 16, I was selling drugs to try and support my addictions. I had burned bridges with many of my extended family and friends. This went on into my early 20s.

My parents finally divorced, and everyone went their own way. My brother took with him an old dusty Bible that my Pentecostal grandpa had given him and began to seek to prove that God was a fraud. Like me, he couldn't understand if there was a God, why would He ever allow us to even be born into the life that we lived. Just like many who have tried to prove God wrong, the Word of God proved Him right and my brother ended up accepting Christ and began to be discipled. He was the only one in my family who still had anything to do with me. He would share Jesus with me every time we talked. I got so sick of hearing about Jesus because I believed that Christianity, the Bible, and Christ were just a weakness for those who needed a crutch. Finally, when I'd had enough, and I was getting ready to tell him, "I just don't care about Jesus and if you want anything to do with me, you need to stop talking about Him because I do not care!"—that's when it happened. He mentioned how Isaiah 6:9 says Jesus is the Prince of Peace and I remember saying, "What do you mean by that?" Immediately, I'm thinking, "Why did I just say that! Now he's going to tell me more about Jesus!"

He began to tell me about how God created the Garden of Eden and how peace was established between Adam and Eve by God. And he began to talk about how sin has alienated us from a relationship with God. He shared how His coming brought peace, satisfaction, and joy in the hearts of those who accept Him. He talked about Christ coming down to establish that peace once again by taking our penalty, our sin, and our death on a cross—how Jesus' resurrection brought the way for God to dwell with us in peace once again with God. I had never known that.

So, in the summer of 1998, I ended up praying and accepting Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Immediately, I had peace in my heart! I knew that I was changed, that God was real and that He had begun to work within me even though I didn't know how to

explain it. I began to follow Him, studying His Word. I finally knew what it was like to have peace. I knew what it was like to be loved. I knew what it was like to have the assurance that I'm cared for and protected.

Since my salvation, I still find myself in difficult circumstances, but I have never found myself without that peace. It's been 21 years since then, and God has granted me sobriety as I continued to trust Him to heal me. He has restored my family, too. My brother led me to Christ. We prayed and were instrumental in my dad coming to know Christ. My mom ended up coming to know Christ, and, while we are all scattered around the States, we are closer than we have ever been. All of the relationships that I had burned, God has rebuilt with new bridges and I've been able to share Christ with them. Some of them have accepted Christ.

Twelve years ago God called me into full-time ministry, and I have had the joy and a privilege to preach His Word, make disciples, and to shepherd people towards that same peace that He graciously gave to me when I was in such despair.

**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 have started enjoying TV shows that I normally would not even pause the remote to check out. I like watching people build gardens and decorate homes. My husband likes shows where people blow things up or shoot something or use fire. One of "our" new favorites is called "Forged in Fire." The competitive show features four Blacksmiths creating a weapon of the show's choosing from forging the metal to the final testing of the blades.

One night I sat mindlessly watching the show. As a competitor pounded away on a metal stick, I was reeling from a disappointing day. Canceled plans, a mouthy child and stress at work combined to where I was feeling like I had been beaten down with a hammer. I started silently asking God to help my heart. What I really wanted was for God to remind me of a promise or verse. Instead, He reminded me that Monday was coming. My Life Group night!

I think God shapes us in church. The sermons and Bible Studies are the tools He uses to make us into something useful for Him. Life Groups, though, are where He hardens and tempers us. Meeting with your Group to pray, eat, laugh, and study His Word is where this happens. On the show, this process of hardening the steel is called "quenching."

In my life, it's called Monday night.

**Blessings,
Cindy Matlock**

