



First Baptist Church
Grove City

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Message



Feed My Sheep and *Jericho Ministry* are on West Broad Street. One is located in the “Bottoms” and the other on the “Hilltop.” Rick Matlock, our son-in-law, is at Jericho each week feeding the poor and the homeless. It amazes me when I consider his level of commitment. There’s much work involved in serving in this mission. Cindy, our daughter, didn’t think it was her “thing.” However, when she helped she felt a real pull toward serving people like this.

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

Saturday morning I am equally amazed at Pastor Jeff Bane and his 100 volunteers who keep the *Upward* program going. Between 1,000 and 2,000 people are on our property every Saturday working with children and their parents doing “recreational evangelism.” Who ever “thunk up” this mission project was certainly inspired by the Holy Spirit.

This last month the *Awana* leaders from all over the state met for leadership training at FBC. This mission outreach is a weekly effort put forth by 50-60 members who dedicate their time to invest in children. Sherri Love and more than a few of her staff have been doing this for over 25 years. They have committed their lives to reaching, growing, and loving children. It’s amazing to watch, and more so, to be involved.

If you are a member of FBC and attending worship, you will find your worship to be much more exciting when you find a place to serve others. Worship is a time to drink in God’s presence. Serving is a time to give out God’s love. After being a pastor for nearly 45 years, I’m still amazed to see people shine with God’s love when they find a way to serve people.

Pastor Jerry



Most of the time, when God performs a miracle of healing. He does it all at once. But on some occasions, He does it in steps. An example is the blind man Jesus healed

whose story is recorded for us in chapter 8 of Mark's Gospel. Mark tells us that Jesus brought the man out of his village, spat on his eyes, touched him, and asked if he could see. "I see men, but they look like trees walking," the man replied. Jesus touched his eyes again. This time, his sight was fully restored, and he saw everything clearly.

I recently visited one of the men in our church who has been battling cancer. He had a fairly large tumor and fluid on his lungs, which needed to be drained periodically with an implanted drain tube. He was on an orally administered form of chemotherapy.

At the end of our visit, we prayed earnestly that God would heal his body and remove the cancer. That was ten days ago.

Today, his wife stopped me as I was leaving our church. She excitedly came up to me. With tears in her eyes, she told me our prayers had been answered. Her husband's lungs no longer were draining fluid, and the doctor was able to remove the drainage tube. And the tumor? Well, it was about half the size it had been.

Hmmm. Half the size. Reminds me of our blind man who "saw men, but as trees walking" after the first touch of Jesus. Our brother needs a second touch from Jesus!

And so we will continue praying. We're trusting the Lord won't need another ten days.

Pastor Andy Kovalchik,
Assistant Visitation Pastor

Members' Ministry

The things God has allowed me to do since my diagnosis of Crohn's is beyond words. He has used this to spread His message of grace, love, and salvation to people whom, on my own, I would've never have reached for Him. I have been able to share Christ with tens of thousands of people, through different means. These are people of different nationalities, people of other beliefs, people who don't believe in God, people who believe God is evil, people who others have written off.

I have had the privilege to pray with my Doctors, Nurses, PCA's, Janitorial, Valet, Food Workers, and their families. On one occasion, God used me to lead a chaplain back to Him. People need to hear the Gospel, and in ways unimaginable to me, God is using my life to reach others. The name of Jesus is universal. I have had the privilege of leading people to Christ and back to Christ all because of the power of His name. Don't take me wrong, I am never going to complain about how God uses me, with this sickness or the results. He has changed our lives and allowed us to be a part of so many people's lives, day after day. I am in awe of His awesome ways, power, and glory.

I wake each day wondering where He will lead us and to whom Christ will speak to. This past hospital stay I was unable to speak words to many about Christ because of my voice and breathing. I wondered, "God, why am I here if I cannot speak of you, your grace, and mercy?" Amazingly, God spoke to people through my actions. Through my medical chart the Doctors at the hospital asked how often I preach and sing. The nurses, PCA's, and cleaning people said that they felt peace in my room and wondered what was so different, and while my words struggled to come out, I could point to Christ as a silent witness.

When I was leaving OSU and sitting in the lobby, I literally saw a couple hundred people pass before me from all over the world. God spoke to my Spirit and said, "They need to hear and see the Gospel; never forget why you're here for I love them as I do you, and I will speak to them as I have you. I ask you to shine my light."

The plans God has for our lives will take us farther away from what we know but will lead us closer to Him where we belong. I love serving the Lord, and my prayer is that whenever God asks, "Who will I send?" I will always answer, "Send me Lord!" There is not a moment of this journey I would trade for perfect health or riches, for in all of this God is being glorified.

God's word says this; *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*
Matthew 5:13-16, CSB

In Christ,
Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members' Minister

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

STROTH, Linda	11/01	GREENE, Matthew	11/21
WOLFE, Will	11/01	CLARK, Julie	11/22
CARSON, Drew	11/01	SHOEMAKER, Bryant	11/22
JONES, Jenny	11/02	ROBERTS, Tim	11/24
PENNY, Erin	11/03	SEELEY, Kevin	11/24
DEARING, Mike	11/03	BOWMAN, Shirley	11/24
NEISWANGER, Joshua	11/04	COLEMAN, Carley	11/25
HAUSER, Clifford	11/04	PARISH, Mike	11/25
HALDEMAN, Patti	11/05	GENTHER, Jessica	11/25
RAQUET, Fritz, Jr.	11/05	MARCUM, Charmie	11/25
WHITE, James	11/05	LINDSAY, Freda	11/25
HENDERSON, T.J.	11/06	FRASER, Lou	11/25
RUCKER, Kristie	11/06	KAUFMAN, Bonnie	11/26
VANWAGNER, Ray	11/06	HUSTON, Aaron	11/27
WILLIAMS, KyleAnn	11/06	DOYLE, Scott	11/27
YAKOUBIAN, Zana	11/06	WELLS, Holly	11/27
SPURLOCK, Debra	11/06	DOUGHTY, Raymond	11/28
JOHANNES, Beverly	11/07	JOHNSTON, Roberta	11/28
NICHOLS, Janice	11/07	MCCONNAUGHEY, Jared	11/28
YOWELL, Kay	11/07	MEYERINK, Tara	11/28
BUTCHER, Jodi	11/08	RAQUET, Hannah	11/28
ANGUS, Scott	11/09	ENTERMAN, Makayla	11/29
CORBETT, Michael	11/10	MCGILL, Andra	11/29
CURTIS, Christian	11/10	PULLINS, Lindsey	11/29
BROWN, Julia	11/10	VALONE, Mary Lou	11/29
REINDL, Barb	11/11	DENBOW, Kyler	11/12
WARNER, Brooke	11/11	DOLCH, Kerry	11/29
ROBINSON, Ray	11/11	STEELE, Shelley	11/29
BEARD, Joy	11/11	NEAL, Sharon	11/30
BISHOP, James	11/12	SCOTT, Leah	11/30
SOTO, Robert	11/12		
THOMPSON, Laura	11/12		
GRUNDEI, Laura	11/13		
LEHMAN, Michelle	11/13		
MOORE, Alexander	11/13		
SIMMONS, Jeffrey	11/13		
MULLINS, Melanie	11/13		
HILL, Brandon	11/14		
HAUSER, Christine	11/14		
BALL, Darrell	11/15		
WHEELER, Roger	11/15		
COLEMAN, Corrin	11/15		
JOHNSON, Katrina	11/15		
MAXSON, Lonnie	11/15		
HAUSER, Clifford	11/15		
COBB, Tracie	11/16		
WILLIAMS, Connie	11/16		
MILLER, Aaron	11/16		
HIVELY, Shelah	11/16		
WARNER, Lisa	11/17		
SCHAIBLE, Emma	11/17		
PERRY, Sherry	11/18		
BURNELL, Jeremiah	11/18		
EWING, Brenda	11/18		
FISHER, Chris	11/18		
CURRY, Brenda	11/18		
WASHINGTON, Cimone	11/19		
ZAVALA, Oscar	11/19		
GIBSON, Donald	11/19		
LOVEJOY, Callie	11/20		
FRASHER, Becky	11/21		

From Our Children's Pastor

I love November. One of the reasons why is because I love Thanksgiving. It is a day to eat all of the best foods. Huge plates of ham, turkey, mac and cheese, and tons of dessert are eaten, and then I get to take an awesome nap. But my favorite part of the day is being with family and enjoying spending a fun day with one another plus thanking God for different things He has done for us and for who He is.

This November, teach your kids about being thankful to God. Before you eat each night, go around the room and have everyone tell God what they are thankful for. When we model the ability to be thankful to our kids, it will help them to build a habit of being thankful to God.

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

From Our Worship Minister

I was 17 and a senior in high school when the pastor of a church asked me to fill in as the choir director. Neither of us knew that it would last over 4 years there before I left to attend Liberty University. Since then I have directed many choirs and led quite a few congregations in praise. I have a few stories I could share. There have been a great deal of changes in methods and style since the late 1970's, but the best thing I have noticed is that many Baptists are now more expressive with their worship.

We used to sing of lifting our hands, and now we actually raise them. We find it all right to clap for the joy of the Lord. It is one thing to receive and enjoy the love of the Lord, but I believe that many now consider worship to be an act of love for the Lord.

I remember attending a Keith Green concert in 1982 where I saw several thousand people who were very expressive with their worship. Keith Green led the entire experience with only a piano, a microphone, and a Bible. I was impressed with how much those people seemed to really love the Lord. Keith died later that year in a plane crash, but his impression on me and many others still lives.

I also remember walking alone on my family's farm in South Carolina. I talked out loud to the Lord just to praise Him and thank Him for being so good, true, and faithful to me. I was much more expressive there than I ever was in church. It was a great worship experience, but I later wondered why I never acted that way in a worship service. I believe I was too concerned about my dignity in the presence of others, when I should have concerned myself with worship in the presence of God.

It will soon be 40 years since I started in Worship ministry. One thing that has not changed at all, God is worthy to be praised.

**In Christ,
Pastor Bryan Corbett,
Worship Minister**

Trustee Ministry Report

Cloudless blue skies of Indian Summer are upon us. The hum of dry corn stalks moving in the breeze, the touch of frost on window panes, the wonderful aroma of burning leaves—it's apples and cider, pumpkins on porches, nuts on the ground, crisp dry sounds as we move about outside. The Lord has blessed us with yet another glorious month.

New mower blades will be purchased for each mower and installed in the spring. A new heater and battery have been installed on the Gator which is being used for security patrol and member services. A large stainless-steel roller has been acquired for lawn care maintenance and has already been used on the Upward Field. The hiking trail around the crop field south of the FBC campus has been mowed and cleared of overhanging branches. Flower beds have been readied for winter.

The Franklin County Highway Engineers are working on improving roadside drainage along the FBC front-west lawn to reduce ponding. Koorsen Environmental Services has completed backflow testing on the water system. The Trustees have located a local company for sewage sump pump services when needed.

The outside doors on the eastside and the southside of the church are being repainted. Carpeting has been repaired in the Children's Wing.

The Trustees are preparing their part of the FBC 2019 budget which will include the cost of sealing, striping, and repairing the parking lots as well as the cost for needed improvements to the equipment used for snow care. The four-wheel drive/three-quarter ton pick-up truck will be presented to the Finance Committee for the 2019 budget.

The new 15-passenger bus has a promised delivery of mid-October. The tailgate on the FBC pick-up truck has been repaired.

KK Day Care property has been surveyed in preparation for moving the playground fence posts.

Winkel, Green & Van Horn, gave notification that everything has been received to begin the Review Audit. The Review Audit will be finished by the end of the year. In two to three years a regular Audit will follow.

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**

Notes of Appreciation

Dear Rob, J.D., and FBC Church Family,

Thank you once again for graciously opening up your wonderful facilities for our Awana conference. It is truly a privilege to minister and serve with you as we equip leaders for greater Kingdom impact. You are a blessing to us.

**Mike and Kris Reed,
AWANA MidAmerica Missionaries**

Women of FBC

Many thanks to Kari Jones for her service, a busy working mom with active children, who just resigned as Women's Ministry Director. We appreciate all your efforts.

Book Club: We will meet Thursday, November 1st, from 7:00-8:30 PM, at Olive Garden. We will discuss the book, *The Fitting Room*, by Kelly Minter. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

Craft Day: Friday, November 16th, from 9 AM-9 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a project, a snack to share, and a dish for dinner. We hope you join us. Please contact Kyle- Ann Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information.

Surviving Grief with Hope: This is a group to support those who are dealing with the grief over the loss of a loved one, one's health, a marriage, a job, and more. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer at 614-875-4613 with questions and the time we will be meeting.

Women's Fellowship Breakfast: We will not be meeting in November. See you in December!

Bible Studies:

- Mondays bi-weekly, at 1:00 PM, in Room C-154. Please contact Mindi Stith at 614-871-4812 for more details.
- Tuesday, at 7:30 PM, in Room C-156. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-875-4201 for more information.
- Wednesday, at 6:45 PM in Room K-117. They will begin a new study, *Knowing God by Name*, by Mary Kassian on October 31st. Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.
- Wednesday, at 6:45 PM in Room K-121. We will begin a new seven-week Bible study on October 31st focusing on the book and video Jonah, *Navigating Life Uninterrupted*, by Priscilla Shirer. What do we do when God interrupts our lives? Come join us and find out. Please contact DeeAnn Brown at 614-314-7847 for more information.
- Thursday, at 9:30 AM, in Room K-117. We are beginning a new series on November 3rd called, *I Never Thought I'd See the Day*, by David Jeremiah. Childcare will be provided. Contact Kay Hardman at 614-323-6891 or kayhardman@gmail.com for more information.

**Carol Middendorf,
Interim Women's Ministry Director**

Church Family,

I hope this newsletter finds you well, and enjoying the grace of our Lord! He has been so good to us. Often times, in my journal, I'll take some time and thank God for who He is, and all that He has done in our lives, and the life of our church. Do you find yourself thanking God often? It is one of the healthiest practices for believers to constantly remind themselves of everything we have to be thankful for!



We had an incredible night for Trunk or Treat this past October! Hundreds of children flooded our property and heard about the good news of Jesus. We had beautiful weather—another item to thank God for. He is always working on our behalf, for His glory, and for our good.

In the middle of November is our DNOW weekend for our student ministry! It is a high energy, super fun, worship filled weekend for our students. As of today, we have 101 students registered for DNOW, and we anticipate several more before opening night on November 9th. What a wonderful weekend it will be! Would you mind praying for DNOW over the next couple weeks and throughout the weekend? Pray for our speaker, our worship band, our mission projects, and the hearts of our students. Pray that God would bring some kids out of darkness and into the light of Jesus Christ! Also, if you'd like to sponsor a student, it's \$60 per student, and we would love for you to bless a student in that way. Please contact me if you'd like to sponsor a student!

It is a blessing to serve you, Church.

Soli Deo Gloria,

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

AWANA Calendar of Events

November 7th—Shoebox Night!

November 14th—Can of Food Night!

November 21st—No AWANA—Happy Thanksgiving!

November 28th—Wacky Hair Night!

Help Wanted!

- 3rd and 4th Grade Boys.
- 3rd and 4th Grade Girls.
- 5th and 6th Grade Girls.



The conversion of a soul is the miracle of a moment, but the manufacture of a saint is the task of a lifetime.

**Dr. Alan Redpath,
Former Pastor of Moody Church—Chicago**

Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be November 3rd at 7:30 AM. Tim Crane will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Colt Lovejoy shared at the October breakfast.

My name is Colt Lovejoy. I'm 24 years old. I grew up about an hour and-a-half northwest of here in Lima, Ohio. I grew up going to Vacation Bible School as a kid until I was about ten. I had accepted Christ but never really knew him. I stopped attending church events because of sports and being so busy with football, tee ball, soccer, and more. As I grew up I became good at sports and school. I always wanted to go to college and being good at sports opened that path up. I trained all of the time for sports; it consumed my high school life.

Fast forward to college. Finally, freedom. I went to college receiving "academic" scholarships, but really went to wrestle. College started out being about school sports and hanging out and partying with my teammates. I thought I was on top of the world, but I was wrong, and my teammates soon turned on me. Thankfully it happened in the first month of school, and I had friends from class to hang out with. They were in the honors program, so they had their own special lounge. This was actually pretty cool. I met a girl in there who liked cars. Her computer screen attracted me to her. It was a 2010 Dodge Challenger that was plum crazy purple. Something was different about her. She was an authentic Christian.

We dated for a week, but I wanted to experience more of college and decided to break up with her. We stayed good friends the rest of the year and talked all of the time. We would have conversations about God and why things would happen. She planted the seed. At the end of the school year we decided to start dating. That's when I met her parents. Her dad was intimidating at first, not in the scary way. He is a man who is right with God. I believed in Jesus but wasn't on solid ground. He made me reevaluate myself. On the first day I talked with him I started growing. I identified what I needed to change and how to change it. I acquired a Bible and began reading.

Eventually my girlfriend and I became more serious. We became engaged and I graduated from college. I moved to Grove City in January of 2016 and started to attend church here at First Baptist. This is a place that got me fired up. I liked Pastor Jerry's preaching and was always learning new things. I also received great life advice and wisdom from Pastor Jeff and was able to learn from his example of a Godly family man. Later that year I married my wife, Callie. We grew together and we both were baptized in the Genesis Auditorium on her birthday, November 20, 2016.

Since then I have grown as a person. I look at outcomes in my life and see what God was trying to teach me. I have learned to be more patient (though I'm still working on that). The biggest change I have made is in my attitude and the way I talk to others. I used to be really rough around the edges. I drank and cursed, and I am surprised my wife ever wanted anything to do with me. But that is how I know that God had a plan to save me. I also now have my own son and there is nothing I wouldn't do for him. He is my world, and I will protect him with my last breath. God has shown me that I need to have

compassion for others and Roran is showing me more and more every day how to love unconditionally. He has the happiest smile and is a great baby. I'm nowhere close to perfect but thanks to God surrounding me with a great family and friends, I can grow, and, if I stumble, I have help and advice from a great support system.

**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

Love your neighbor.

This isn't a suggestion from God, but a command. In fact, Mark 12:31 tells us there are no greater commandments than 1) loving God and 2) loving our neighbor.

Jesus was answering the Pharisees when they asked, "What is the greatest commandment?" Jesus answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind." That commandment alone will keep me busy until Jesus returns. But then, not unlike me, Jesus kept talking. He continued by saying, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Oh, Lord, why did you have to add that? You already answered his question. He didn't even ask about the neighbor! We have been taught that our "neighbor" is actually any person we come in contact with during our life. I have been really great with neighbors who are nice to me. Not so much with those who are...less than pleasant.

My friend, Misty, has a literal neighbor who was not a nice person. The neighbor was cranky. It seemed she lived to yell at folks and call the police for all sorts of non-criminal behavior. So, Misty took things into her own hands. She went across the street and took homemade goodies with her. It turned out, her neighbor had cancer. She was in constant pain from both the disease and the treatments. Misty made it her mission to take the neighbor's mail to her door, do some light yard work, or ask if the lady needed anything before she headed to the store. The neighbor was touched that someone would love on her when she admittedly was so unlovely. When confronted with kindness, the neighbor became a friend.

What if we loved our neighbors like Jesus commanded? We might not change the world, but we could definitely change our little corner of it.



**Cindy Matlock,
Preschool Coordinator**

Time Change Sunday, November 4th

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before heading to bed on Saturday night, November 3rd. Enjoy the extra hour of rest. You've earned it!