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Coming Alongside **MARCH, 2026**



Some of you have heard my discipling story. When I was in my early twenties, my pastor saw something in me that prompted him to offer to disciple me. I did not know what that meant because Southern Baptists did not typically disciple others in the early 1980s. Our strategy for disciple making was to encourage members to attend the church every time the doors were open. I was good at that.

I, along with a few others, met for seven weeks with our pastor and he poured into us from the Bible the fundamentals of what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus. We were held accountable to complete weekly Bible studies on various topics such as

- Surrendering our lives fully to Jesus
- Spending daily time in personal Bible intake and prayer
- Memorizing scripture
- Loving and serving people in our church
- Witnessing
- And more

We discussed these studies together and strove to obey the teachings of the scriptures that we learned. It was personally life-changing for me and God used it to lead me to be a life-long disciple maker.

The Tampa Bay Baptist Association is committed to assisting pastors and churches in the wonderful and difficult work of making disciples who make disciples. This is why we have partnered with missionary Dennis Pethers and with Pastor Bob Magruder. These godly men serve internationally, nationally, and locally to help churches better fulfill the Great Commission. Dennis Pethers will again lead a Rooftop event at FBC

Tampa on March 23. It is for pastors (church leaders are also welcome) to look out over Tampa from the roof of FBC Tampa and ask Jesus to help us see and love our city like He does. As a follow-up to the Rooftop event we will again offer a disciple making cohort for 10-12 pastors to meet with Dennis and me to strengthen our disciple making efforts. (See below to RSVP to attend the Rooftop event.)

Coming alongside,
Mike

MARCH EVENTS



PASTORS' ROOFTOP ENCOUNTER with Dennis Pethers

DON'T MISS THIS INCREDIBLE TIME WITH THE LORD!

March 23, 2026

9:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church of Tampa

302 W Kennedy Blvd.

Tampa FL 33602

Join us as we go up on the roof together at FBC Tampa to pray over our city. Then come back inside and learn more from missionary, Dennis Pethers of the Rooftop Ministry. This will be our second Rooftop Encounter.

Based in London, Dennis's ministry has reached into over 80 countries with a call to Join Jesus and take his Gospel out of the church and into the mission field.

One of Dennis's primary activities, the Rooftop Encounter is a workshop-based training for churches and associations. Drawing from Acts 10 where Peter went up on the rooftop to pray and God changed Peter and called him to share the gospel with the Gentiles, Dennis will be showing us as leaders and moreover as Christians to see how God is calling us to look at our city differently, to really see and pray about and intersect with lost people where they are.

From this meeting, we will be working with Dennis to launch a twelve-month coaching group of 10 - 12 pastors to help them lead their churches to more intentionally make disciples who make disciples. The Tampa Bay Baptist Foundation will be partnering with churches to underwrite some of the costs of this coaching.

Don't miss this day of encounter on March 23, 2026.

RSVP to Jan Jones at jjones@tbba.org



CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER

An Exploration of Passover, The Last Supper,
and Your Communion Experience

Presented by Lior Fishman of Jews for Jesus
Monday, March 30 at 7:00 pm

West Broad Street Baptist Church

3809 W. Broad St.
Tampa, FL 33614

813-886-4022 | www.wbsbctampa.org

This powerful presentation, shared by Lior Fishman of Jews for Jesus, will demonstrate the link between the Jewish feast of Passover and the Last Supper Jesus shared with His disciples.

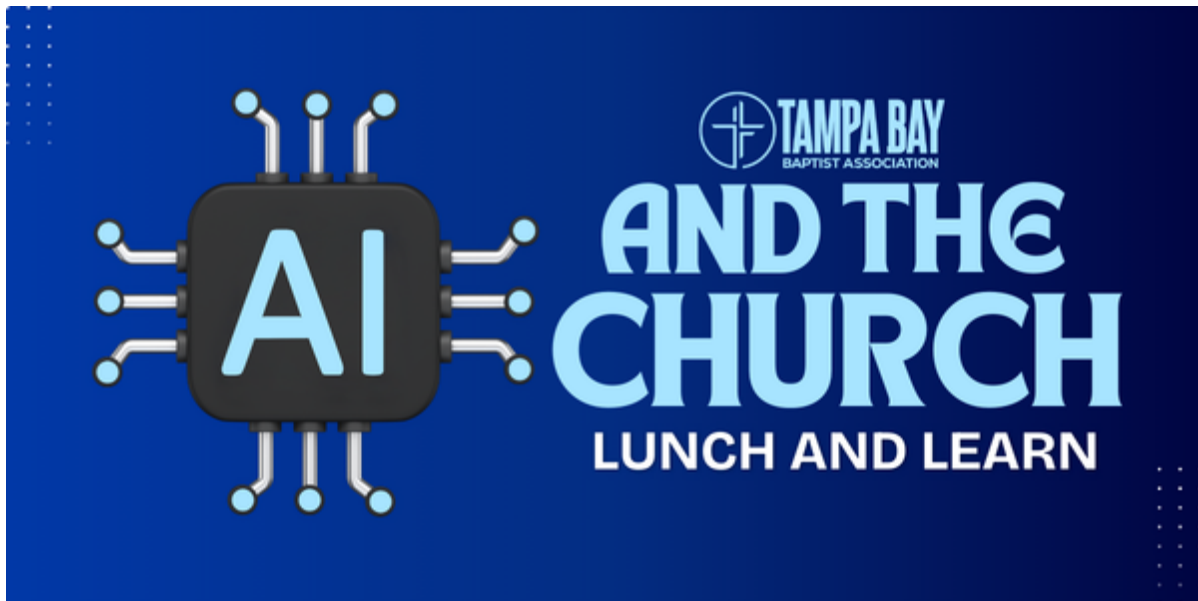
Come and hear an explanation of the beautiful symbolism of the Jewish ceremony called a seder. He'll weave the story of the exodus and freedom from slavery together

with the messianic hope realized in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. The words "do this in remembrance of me" will take on an even deeper meaning to Christians as we learn the significance of the tradition Jesus observed the night before He died, and give us a closer look at the very Jewish life He led.

All are welcome for this unforgettable, thought-provoking experience.

No RSVP required!

APRIL EVENTS



Location: TBD

April 20, 2026

11:00am - 12:30pm

Free lunch will be provided

Artificial Intelligence is shaping our world, and the Church must learn how to respond wisely. Join our "AI and the Church" workshop for pastors, where we will discuss the pros and cons of AI in ministry and hear from experts in the field of AI, helping us approach this technology with wisdom and discernment.

Please RSVP to [Jan Jones](#) or call (813) 935-3839.

SAVE THE DATE



The TBBA Preaching Conference

May 18, 2026

We are excited to be hosting our Annual Preaching Conference on May 18, 2026 with Dr. Greg Heisler, pastor, author, and former preaching professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Please, save the date.

Details coming soon.



The SBC Annual Meeting is coming to our back yard this year. We hope you will save the date and look forward to coming to Orlando with us.

[Click here for the SBC Annual Meeting Website](#)

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



Executive Committee Meeting

We were excited to have so many pastors and leaders with us at our Executive Committee meeting. While this is a meeting where we can conduct official TBBA business, the Executive Committee meeting is much more.

We are blessed to be able to pray with and for one another; to hear concerns and to hear reports from different areas of pastoral ministry, church ministry and associational ministry.

One report in particular is worth special mention, as Pastor Edgar Aponte from Idlewild came forward to share that Idlewild will be officially stepping in to revitalize the historic Palm Avenue Baptist Church, founded in 1900 in downtown Tampa. In the process Idlewild will not just be rebuilding a church family there, but at the same time they will be rebuilding the historic worship center, which was destroyed by fire in 1986.

Pastor Aponte also encouraged our group by sharing that Idlewild has agreed to use any surplus of funds from the renovation project to fund a brand new church planting network named in honor of Palm Avenue Baptist.

Stay tuned. And, continue to celebrate with us how God is moving to revitalize churches in our area.

Please contact [Pastor Mike](#) to learn more.

COMMUNITY & MINISTRY

Christ Fellowship South Tampa (formerly Manhattan Baptist)

- **WORSHIP LEADER** — Part-time, paid position. Multi-ethnic, multi-generational congregation. Christ Fellowship South Tampa is planting a new church in the old Manhattan Baptist (4300 S Manhattan Ave | Tampa FL 33611). They are praying for a called man to come lead in the style of Maverick City, Elevation Worship, and Gospel. Contact Pastor Zachary Carroll zachary@christfellowshiptampa.com.

Church of The Way

- Church of The Way has 200 hymnals they would like to donate to a church. They are 1997 Celebration Hymnals by Word/Integrity. If interested, call 813-239-6543.

Concord Baptist Church

- Concord Baptist (2224 Corrine St, Tampa, FL 33605) is seeking a volunteer worship leader for Sunday morning worship services. Call Pastor Jimmy Evans (813) 248-8702.

Tampa Bay Baptist Association | 1060 W. Busch Blvd. | Tampa, FL 33612, FL 33612 US

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