



TOWER TOPICS

First Baptist Church
Niagara Falls, NY

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DECEMBER 2025

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
3837 MACKLEM AVE
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14305

IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE:

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ABC-NYS / ABC USA
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December 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <p>Luke 2:11: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."</p> | <p>1</p> <p>Cyber Monday</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Make A Gift Day</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> <p>Set up for Nativity Festival</p> | <p>6</p> <p>11 am – 4 pm Nativity Festival</p> |
| <p>7</p> <p>10 am Sunday School</p> <p>11 am Worship with Communion</p> <p>Pearl Harbor Day</p> | <p>8</p> | <p>9</p> <p>National Llama Day</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11</p> <p>7 p.m. A Christmas Carol</p> | <p>12</p> <p>7 p.m. A Christmas Carol</p> | <p>13</p> <p>7 p.m. A Christmas Carol</p> |
| <p>14</p> <p>10 am Sunday School</p> <p>11 am Worship with Installation of Board Members</p> <p>12:15 Diaconate & Trustees Meeting</p> <p>7 p.m. A Christmas Carol</p> | <p>15</p> <p>2nd Night of Hanukkah</p> <p>14th is the 1st night</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> <p>National Twin Day</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> |
| <p>21</p> <p>10 am Sunday School</p> <p>11 am Worship</p> <p>12:15 Stone Soup</p> <p>First Day of Winter</p> | <p>22</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>Christmas Eve Service</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> <p>Visit the Zoo Day</p> |
| <p>28</p> <p>10 am Sunday School</p> <p>11 am Worship</p> | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> |  | | |

Celebrating December Birthdays!



December 2nd: Charlotte Robinson

December 21st: Mark Clark Jr

December 27th: Jason Clark

Make sure to contact us with your birthday and the birthdays of your loved ones!

In Our Prayers:

Please take time to pray for our friends and family ... If you can, a card could cheer them up. Let us know if there is anyone that needs to be added.

Tim Baxter

Marguerite Blakely

Monique Burgess

Cindy Clark

Bill Cody

Doug Garis

Katona Hoopsick

D'Ondrea King

Heather Matthewson

Tawanda Payne

Vinnie Piatkowski

Lee S

Bernadette Salimbene

Becky Swindlehurst



Ladies' Thanksgiving Tea

We had an absolutely wonderful time at our Tea! Every table was decorated differently: A Honey Bee theme by Dawn Cody; a Fall theme by Karen Catanese; a Winter theme by Christie Kinsley; an Uplifting theme by Dee Doss; and another Fall theme by Kath Ordiway. There were so many finger foods that no one went home hungry! Mini sandwiches, mini quiche, charcuterie, cucumber bites, mini pumpkin pies, cannoli dip, brownies, croissants. We had so much help in the kitchen! Thank you!! After our meal we made mugs with fall and winter themes!



**It's wonderful to see young ladies and older women
having such a great time together!
We are all looking forward to next year's Tea!**

A Word from Pastor Kath



We've started decorating for Christmas!!

Katona came up with a great idea - we are all invited to **bring in a decoration** for the tree. It will be great to see what everyone brings to bring more spirit into our sanctuary!
If there is something you think would be fitting to add to our decorations, let us know or bring in what you have!
As Toby says, this church is our "clubhouse" and we are to make it a welcome home for everyone!



Thank you Debbie Boesken for the beautiful Christmas tree!

Speaking of Christmas ... we are going to **have live music during the Advent Season!** We can praise God without music; we can praise God with recorded music ... but praising God with live instruments is so much better! If anyone would like to participate, let Pastor Kath know. We hope that others will be interested in leading in the New Year.

There are **Advent Devotionals** in the church. Pick one up when you are there or contact us for one. **Christmas Eve service** will once again include Scripture and music, with Silent Night by candlelight to close the evening. We are hoping that we will have children at the service and will invite one of the youngest to place the Baby Jesus under the tree on Christmas Eve.

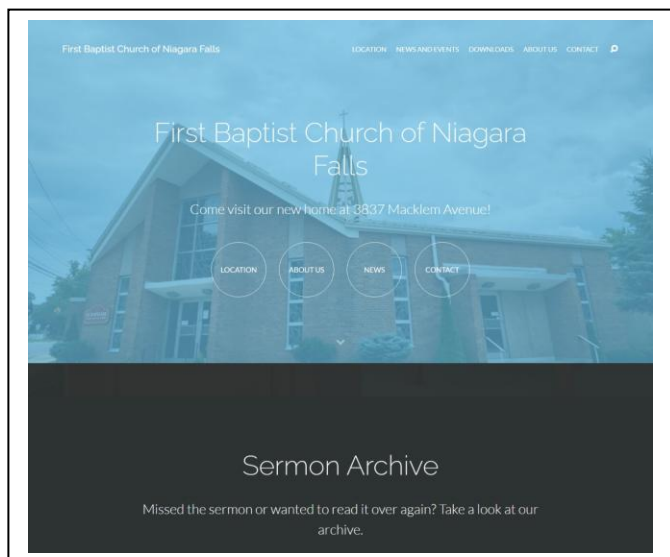
If you know of **anyone who would be interested in leading our music worship** – whether it's every few weeks or even once a year, let a deacon know! We would love a variety of styles & instruments. We will be **installing our Deacons, Trustees and Officers** on Sunday December 14th during our church service.

Remember that we will be holding a **Mini Basket Auction** at "A Christmas Carol" December 11 – 14. Consider if you can donate a basket or two for the auction. It will benefit First Baptist.

Our new website is up and active.

When you have a moment, check it out ...
<https://FirstBaptistofNF.com>

Many thanks to Tyler Ordiway for the continued work!
If you see any typos or things that should be added, let Pastor Kath know.



We have a few special events coming up soon:



Nativity Festival

Saturday, December 6, 2025 - 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

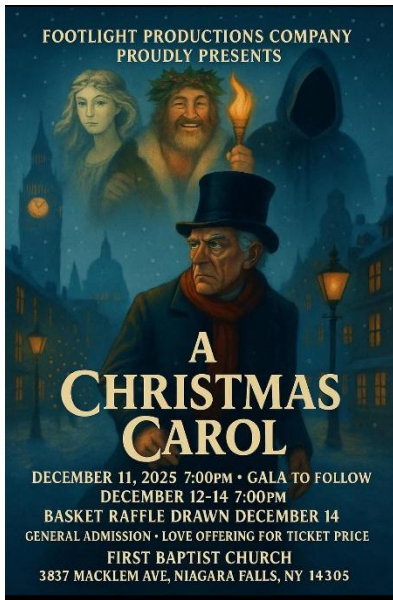
Admission is Free. Invite everyone to drop in.

Beautiful, heart-warming nativities on display, music and a kids' craft. We'll have a Chocolate Bar and Nativity Tree Decorations, both for sale.

If you would like your nativity included in the festival:

Write up a description, where you got it, was it a gift, did your child make it, was it your great grandparents, is it from Hawaii ... anything that you would like to include and get the description to the church office by December 3rd.

We will have the descriptions typed up to display and will be setting up the nativities on the 5th.



Thursday, December 11th through Sunday, December 14th at 7 pm

General Admission (Free) with a free-will Love Gift accepted to defray the cost of the production. Costumes, sets, backdrops, paint, material, mics and scripts can be expensive!

You will recognize most of the faces in the play! Come out and enjoy!

First Baptist will be holding a small basket auction each night with the drawing to be done on Sunday evening. \$5 for a sheet of 25 tickets.

If you can donate a basket, please bring them to the church by Sunday the 7th.



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

STONE SOUP ...

on Sunday, December 21st, we will hold our Stone Soup lunch. All are invited. We encourage you to bring a cup of something to add to the soup pot. It's always delicious, never the same! Whether there's 5 at the table or 25 ... there's always enough and the fellowship is wonderful!

Isaiah 7:14: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

From Missionary – Kristy Engel



The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it. ~John 1:5

About this time last year, I wrote that the war in Ukraine had reached 1000 days. We are now at day 1,366 (as of November 21st) and the end is no closer in sight than it was a year ago. Yet, hope remains! As we enter the final weeks of 2025, please pause and remember those who face ongoing challenges and need the hope of our prayers and actions. You can make a difference!

There has been an outpouring of love and support by you and others who follow my ministry and work in Ukraine. We've been able to raise funds to support the work there, send medical teams, volunteers, and delegations, and walk with our brothers and sisters through the ongoing war. International Ministries continues to offer hope and stand with our partners as they continue to serve internally displaced persons and churches in the region. Please continue in your support and prayers so that we can be a light in the darkness. 2026 will bring me back to Ukraine with another medical team and the encouragement so needed.

After almost a year without international travel following major ankle surgery, I will begin traveling overseas again in February. International Ministries has a new partnership with Baptists in Jordan and they've requested help with medical teams. I will make an initial visit in February and follow it with a medical team in September. Please reach out if you are interested in joining the team or know of someone who would like to serve in this way. After Jordan, I will make visits to Italy, Bolivia, Ukraine, the Dominican Republic, and hopefully India.

I am so grateful for your continued prayers and encouragement after my ankle surgery in March. I am walking fairly well these days and even going on some shorter (2 mile) level-ground walks. I'm feeling stronger every day.

Mia and I moved back to Missouri in August and are enjoying time with family, including my sister's Great Dane, Waffles! I have been speaking in a few churches in the area as well as continuing to work with partners internationally while I'm not able to visit them in person. I am also doing some Zoom visits with churches, regions, and ABW groups, so in spite of the lack of travel, I'm staying connected.





Giving Tuesday is December 2, 2025.

NYS-ABC's goal is to raise \$750 for the ABCNYS Region Offering, especially through online giving via FB or you can donate by designating a check to:

ABCNYS for "Giving Tuesday"

3218 James St, Syracuse, NY 13206

or via the region website's PayPal portal through the site below:

<https://www.abc-nys.org/giving-to-the-region.html>



Those who wish to directly support IM's local partners that provide disaster relief can do so through their American Baptist church, through giving online, or by sending checks directly to American Baptist Churches USA. Please designate your contributions "OGHS-Caribbean Relief" on the memo line of your check.

Checks sent to American Baptist Churches USA should be made payable to:

"ABCUSA" and mailed to:

ABCUSA Office of the General Secretary,

1015 W. 9th Avenue, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

American Baptist Churches USA is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with approximately 5,000 congregations comprised of 1.3 million members, across the United States and Puerto Rico, all engaged in God's mission around the world.

For the Kiddos

Christmas Word Scramble

1. ILNGEJ LELBS

2. AYWA IN A NEGRAM

3. SLTNIÉ GTNIH

4. SEVRLI SELLB

5. TI MEAC NOUP A TIHGINDM ERCAL

6. O LHYO NGTHI

7. EW REETH SINGK

8. O TCAISRMHS TEER

9. O EMOC O COME UAEMMNEL

10. SLNGEA EW AHEV EHRAD NO HIGH

11. DO UOY RHEA TWAH I AREH

12. ETH FSRTI OENL

13. GO LETL TI NO A AINONTMU

14. GDO TERS YUO RRMEY LTEMGNEEN

15. HRAK HET LHDAOR SEAGLN SGIN

16. EHRE WE ECMO A ASIGASILWN

17. O HYLO NITHG



Around Town

When we get involved and support our neighbors, our community becomes stronger.



SELFIES *with Santa*

BRING THE TOTS TO SHARE THE MAGIC!
SNAP A HOLIDAY MATERNITY PHOTO!

Selfies
Storytime
Crafts
Snacks

**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 18TH
2-4PM**

**FREE &
OPEN TO THE
COMMUNITY!**

P3 CENTER
Pregnancy, Parenthood, Partnership
In Care.
**EVERY WOMAN
and child
COUNTS**

 **NIAGARA FALLS
Memorial Medical Center**
Exceptional care, exceptionally close.

**MARY C. DYSTER WOMEN'S PAVILION
HODGE BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR
621 10TH ST, NIAGARA FALLS
(716) 278-4274**



This year, Community Missions asked Eileen Kineke – Brave Spirit Arts, to create an Advent Coloring “Book” ... one page for each week of Advent ... available as a devotional for those the mission serves, as well as the staff – or the public who are interested. Contact Pastor Mark Breese if you’d like a copy!

E-mail: MBreese@CommunityMissions.org
Phone: (716) 285-3403

