



TOWER TOPICS

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, NY

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FEBRUARY 2026








FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
3837 MACKLEM AVE
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14305

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This Month's Calendar
Celebrating Birthdays / Prayer Corner
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Thoughts From Our Moderator, Kathy
ABC-NYS / ABC USA
For The Kiddos
Around Town

February 2026

This is
Black History Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday 10 am Bible Study 10:30 Music 11 am Service	2 	3	4 National Homemade Soup Day 	5	6 Pay a Compliment Day	7
8 Super Bowl 10 am Bible Study 10:30 Music 11 am Service 12 pm Diaconate & Trustees	9	10 National Flannel Day 	11	12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday  National Lost Penny Day	13	14 
15 10 am Bible Study 10:30 Music 11 am Service 12 pm Stone Soup	16 President's Day Dee & Dewitt's Anniversary	17 	18 Ash Wednesday 7:00 Service	19	20	21 NATIONAL STICKY BUN DAY 
22 10 am Bible Study 10:30 Music 11 am Service	23	24	25 Quiet Day the day to engage in a little quiet contemplation, give our vocal cords a rest, and simply listen to the world around us and connect with it	26	27	28 US Snowshoe Day 



let all that you do
be done in
Love
1 corinthians 16:14

Celebrating February Birthdays!



February 1st: Frederick Douglass
February 9th: Rev Richard Hague
February 15th: Brenda Caldwell
Susan B Anthony
February 19th: Abraham Lincoln
February 22nd: Laura Smith (Gladys Lewis' sister)
George Washington

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

Tim Baxter
Marguerite Blakely
Monique Burgess
Cindy Clark
Bill Cody
Doug Garis
Mark Hagar
Katona Hoopsick
Janet Keebler
D'Ondrea King
Heather Matthewson
Tawanda Payne
Vinnie Piatkowski
Lee S
Becky Swindlehurst

Prayer Corner



The family of Bernadette Salimbene, who was called home on February 23rd.

Let us know if you have changes for our prayer list.

A Word from Pastor Kath ... February ... God is Doing a New Thing!

In Isaiah 43:19 we read: *See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.* It's God's promise of renewal and transformation in our lives. It lets us know that even in difficult times - even when we're confused, scared, feeling alone ... God is working to bring about change and hope - letting us know that we are never alone and His perfect plan is in motion! We've experienced the New Thing that God had in store for us ... we have a new home! Now it's time to reach out into our community and allow God to work through us to do more "New Things," trusting that He will guide us and that all we do will glorify His Name and serve His creation!


Speaking of a "New Thing." I have several things that are "new" or "newer" or things we haven't done in a while. The first "New Thing" ... **Easter Eggs**. What child doesn't like to hunt for Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday? We know that an egg is the symbol for something new - of birth or rebirth. It's also something that's hidden in movies and games. When Toby and I went to Disney one year, we looked for "Hidden Mickeys," things that were in the shape of Mickey Mouse's head



hidden in the parks. Something to hunt for. Disney is well-known for hiding "Easter Eggs" in their movies, too - hiding characters in movies where they don't belong.

←Here's Sebastian from Little Mermaid in Alladin!

So, what does that have to do with us? Every month in our Tower, I'm going to hide an "Easter Egg." If you find it, let me know where and you'll be in a

drawing for a little gift from me - a little fun in your day! You can send a text, an email, a private message on Facebook, a note in the offering box or just let me know personally. Every month I'll have the "Easter Egg" in my article so you know what you're looking for in the Tower. This month? It's this heart! 

Remember that God is always doing a New Thing. Let that thought encourage you to dream bigger dreams, to imagine yourself going into new places, to bravely follow God's leading where you never dreamt it possible to go!

Our next "New Thing" is something that our **Youth Representative - Chase** - envisioned us doing! During the month of February, the month of love, we will be collecting blankets: **New blankets** for the Men's Gospel Rescue Mission; **like new blankets** for the SPCA and **money for blankets** for Church World Services. Last year 17,317 blankets were provided to be used for warmth, as tents, to carry possessions and to be used as gurneys.

Then there's two "like-new" "New Things." First, we will be creating an **in-house recipe book** of our favorite recipes, our families' recipes, our friends' recipes. When it's done, we'll print it for sale as a small fundraiser! When you have a recipe you would like to include, send it my way and I'll start creating our cookbook! Secondly, our **basket auction!**



At the time of this printing, we're selecting a May Saturday. What can you do now? Start making baskets for the auction! If you need a theme idea, let me know. Next month I'll include a list of ideas. I love a good sale - clearance items are great for an auction! We'll need help sending out "begging" letters, setting up the baskets, making phone calls to winners after the auction and cleaning up. Many hands = light work.

Ash Wednesday is this month - February 18th. We'll hold our service at 7 p.m. that evening.

In speaking about **Black History Month**, President Ford said: "Seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." Many of us remember that George Washington Carver is known for his work with peanuts ... but did you know that he was an agricultural scientist, an inventor and a professor at Tuskegee Institute? Have you heard of Madam CJ Walker? She was an American entrepreneur, philanthropist and social activist and the 1st female self-made millionaire in America! She developed and marketed cosmetics and hair care products for black women. I watched an inspiring, but a little fictional mini-series based on her last year called *Self Made*.

Introducing Chase Kinsley, Our Youth Rep!

Hello, my name is Chase Kinsley, the youth representative for First Baptist Church. As the Youth Representative my job and goal is to get more youth to come to my church. I would like more youth to come to the church so I can talk with kids who have the same Christian interests as I do. As a Christian I feel like it's my duty to get more youth to church so they can hear the Good News and be enlightened as I have been!

When I first went to First Baptist Church I never really went to church besides on holidays. My family found First Baptist by my Dad going there when he was a kid. When he was a kid his church had so many fun games, Sunday school, and a Christmas play. My dad really liked talking to the kids and getting to know them. When I first went to that church I was really excited to go again because they had great music, prayers, and readings. I also remember how welcoming the church community was to me and my family and how eager they were to have us listen to the good news. Ever since then I fell in love with First Baptist, I started joining in music and expanded my singing talent and also became more active and religious. I hope that you and your family can enjoy the same joy I did right when I walked inside those doors and to bring back how big the church was with youth when my dad was a kid.

Another thing I love about my church is that we also have a good cause. Every month we try to donate something like in January we did a mitten tree to donate mittens. When we had the church meeting we were trying to figure out what donation we should do and I said blankets since February is the most harsh time of the year and people aren't comfortable when they sleep. We are going to donate the blankets to a homeless shelter. Hopefully we get another idea for March donations. I'm sure we will find something good, but in the meantime we will be donating blankets.

I also have suggestions to make it more desirable for more youth to come, too. Sometimes we hold a community picnic and when we are there we can have backyard games or even Christian trivia! We can also have an ice cream social when you or your family comes to church. Another thing we do is post on social media so you guys can see what it's like to be at the service and get a feel on what it's like to be in one too! I would be overjoyed and blessed to see more youth and families come to church and I hope I will see you at service. I write in the newsletter every month so you can keep up on more suggestions, donations, and events but until then, Goodbye and I hope to see you at church.

Biblical Reflections from Dewitt Doss

Crossing Over to Royalty

Purple = Blue + Red

The "Purple Rain" album by Prince was released on June 25, 1984, followed by the film premiere on July 27, 1984. The title track itself was famously recorded during a live benefit concert at Minneapolis' First Avenue Club on August 3, 1983.

The song lyrics begin:

I never meant to cause you any sorrow,
I never meant to cause you any pain,
I only wanted one time to see you laughing,
I only wanted to see you laughing in the purple rain.

In the book of Numbers, chapter 15:37-39, "*The Lord spake unto Moses saying, 'Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make fringes in the borders of their generations,' and they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribbon of blue.*"

Blue: It represents a sign "*to remember to do all the commandments of the Lord, that you may not seek after your own heart and your own eyes to a whoring*" after other gods, and that you may be holy unto God.

In the gospels of Matthew chapter 9, Mark chapter 5 and Luke 8, the bible tells us of a woman who had an issue of blood for 12 years, who said, "*If I can only touch the hem of His garment.*" **Red** is the color of blood and it signifies sacrifice, sin and redemption through Jesus Christ.

When we mix **blue** and **red**, we come up with the color **purple**, which signifies royalty, luxury, power and ambition, spirituality, imagination and uniqueness.

1 Peter 2:9 speaks of the Royal Priesthood: every believer has direct connections to God's unchanging hand, and serves the Lord of lords, eliminating the need for human mediators.

.... To be continued next month

A Word from Peter Green, our Music Worship Leader

So here we are, 2 months after Nancy and I were going to help our dear friend Pastor Kath, and we fell in love with the people and Spirit at First Baptist. **Thank you so much to each person in our congregation and Church Family!!**

A bit about me ... I have led worship in numerous locations and events for nearly 30 years, and have been a Liturgical Musician since I was 15 (52 years!). I play flute and other woodwind instruments, Bass Guitar and Upright Bass, and Guitar.

I am a Canadian who lived in the US for nearly 23 years and now live in Niagara Falls, Canada. Nancy and I share a house as roommates while we are "dating" and building our relationship. Nancy and I attended the same High School in Toronto, and reconnected for the first time last February since 1979. As you get to know Nancy, you'll see why I fell so much in love and we are delighted to be learning under Pastor Kath.

I've known Pastor Kath for 22 years, having been introduced by Rev Mark Breese. I have worked closely with our Pastor in various roles and consider her and Toby to be dear friends.

A bit about music ... I am joined by a gifted and delightful young colleague, Chase, who provides his voice to carry our music to wonderful places. Our focus is on using the Hymnal as much as possible in order to encourage unity in how we all share the songs together. Both Chase and I consult and defer to our Pastor as we select music for our services and celebrations.

We aren't performers. We want to create a foundation that everyone can join in singing on. We are open to any songs - contemporary, traditional, and if you have a song that resonates with you to bring joy, comfort, healing or hope! Please feel free to share with myself or Chase (or post on Facebook) if there is something you might like to have in our Church.

While we are on the subject of "Our Church," I am drawn to the story of Gideon who was told he had too many soldiers, and the words of Jonathan who said to his armor-bearer "nothing can prevent the Lord from saving, by many or by few." God doesn't count numbers, He counts hearts. We may be a small group, but in my years of service I've learned that no Church functions without a small core of dedicated "key people" and I have no doubt that God is preparing all of us for growth and we are meant to be key parts of a greater house.

Some of us are meant to hold up the arms of Moses, as Joshua and Aaron did. Or we sing to worship God as David did. We employ the wisdom of Solomon in leadership and the administration of our finances. We use our abilities to tend to our building and property as Joseph did. All of us can use the gift of prayer to support our Church family. Everyone in our Church family - on Facebook or in our pews on Sunday - has value.

Thank you for welcoming Nancy and I into our Church Family!



Thoughts from our Moderator, Kathy Noakes:

My thoughts combine Romans 12:2: *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind"* with a page from Yung Pueblo's Clarity and Connection ... *know your sources of rejuvenation: the amount of solitude you need to feel fresh again, the activities that strengthen your creativity, the people who light you your spirit.*

ABC-NYS Notes:

To assist Rev Jerrod Hugenot in his duties serving the American Baptist Churches in New York State, starting February 1, 2026, Rev Cheryl Frank joins our Region staff as Associate Executive Minister. (yay!)



ABCUSA Notes

American Baptists are joining together this month to celebrate ABCUSA Sunday!



Get ready for an uplifting and mission-driven Sunday as we celebrate American Baptist Churches USA Sunday this February 2026! This event offers us a wonderful opportunity to come together in unity to honor our history while joyfully looking toward the future. As 2 Corinthians 9:8 reminds us: "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

Let us unite in the spirit of grace, mission, and discipleship as we celebrate ABCUSA Sunday. Your participation this February will spread the message of our shared mission and provide a meaningful opportunity for a congregational offering that strengthens our collective efforts.

Note from Pastor Kath ... We will observe ABCUSA Sunday on February 8th.

For the Kiddos

JESUS LOVES YOU



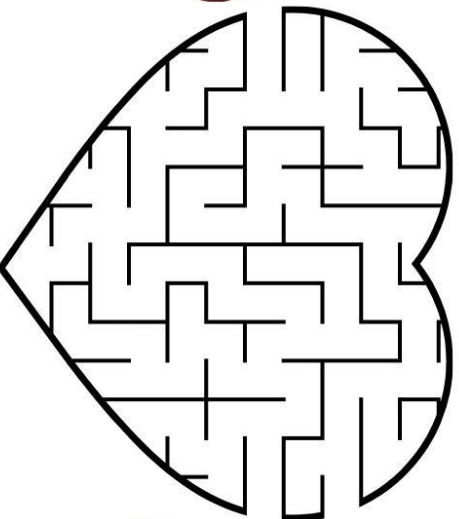
Salvation through Jesus Christ

About me

My name is _____

I am _____ years old

I am saved because of _____



Jesus said I am the way, the truth and life.

John 14:6

Your memory verse

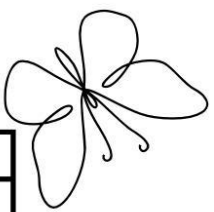
For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Jesus is/is my

S	A	V	I	O	U	R	N	Y	G	S	W	H	B	V	J
E	C	O	M	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	A	T	E	F	R
R	S	Q	R	G	D	G	Y	H	D	H	N	M	L	I	E
V	H	E	A	N	A	F	R	B	H	U	O	G	B	J	L
A	G	J	E	G	E	W	L	L	R	T	T	J	M	D	T
N	N	I	A	B	E	W	L	M	E	E	B	Z	U	N	N
T	R	A	A	L	O	V	I	N	G	C	D	A	H	B	E
F	O	R	G	I	V	I	N	G	A	V	E	M	R	G	G

Saviour Friend Gentle
 Servant Compassionate Forgiving
 Loving Humble God



Around Town

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

FOR GOD SO
"LOVED"
THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN
SON JOHN 3:16



Heart, Love & Soul

939 Ontario Ave, Niagara Falls, NY

If you need assistance, call 716-282-5687

Open Monday-Friday

Pantry: 10AM - 1PM

Breakfast: 9AM - 10AM

Lunch: 11:30AM - 1PM

Heart, Love & Soul is a non-profit organization dedicated to nourishing those in need - body, mind & soul.

They don't just offer food. They also offer showers, laundry and haircuts.

Anniversary Lunch

Time: 11:00 am - 1:30 pm in the HLS Dining Room

On Friday, February 14, 2026, Heart, Love & Soul will celebrate our anniversary with a special lunch for our guests. Join us as we share a meal together in gratitude for the years of love, service, and community.

<http://heartloveandsoul.org/home/>



NEW DATE ANNOUNCED

An Evening of Compassion

Friday, April 24th

We appreciate your flexibility and hope this change works for your schedule. The new date will give us even more time to make this spring celebration truly special—we can't wait to see you there!

Questions? Email Sarina at somalley@communitymissions.org



Formerly known as Sweetheart Dinner, Community Missions welcomes you to attend An Evening of Compassion. This event will take place at the Niagara Falls Convention Center. Join us for a fun evening of raffles, games, auctions, dinner, music & more to benefit Community Missions' Crisis & Community Services. These include an Emergency Housing Shelter, Community Kitchen, Food Pantry, and many other services to benefit our Niagara neighbors.

Single Ticket - \$95.00

Double Ticket - \$175.00

Table of Eight - \$680.00

Sponsorships are available!

Important Update: Community Missions has changed the date of its upcoming Evening of Compassion event to Friday, April 24th. What has not changed is the venue (Niagara Falls Convention Center), the prizes (lots of baskets, gift cards, and other raffle items), and the fact that all proceeds are going to a great cause!

We appreciate your flexibility and hope this change works for your schedule. The new date will give us even more time to make this spring celebration truly special—we can't wait to see you there!

First Baptist continues to collect donations of food and other items for Heart, Love and Soul, as well as Dimes for a Difference for Community Missions.

During the year, specific items for both missions are collected. Watch our newsletter for ways you can help us serve!