



TOWER TOPICS

First Baptist Church
Niagara Falls, NY

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MARCH 2026

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
3837 MACKLEM AVE
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14305

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MARCH 2026



<p>1 Communion Sunday 10 am Bible Study 10:30 Music 11 am Service</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 National Banana Cream Pie Day</p> 	<p>4</p> 	<p>5</p>	<p>6 National Oreo Day</p> 	<p>7</p>
<p>8 2 a.m. DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 10 am Bible Study 10:30 Music 11 am Service</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Harriet Tubman Day</p> 	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Popcorn Lover's Day</p> 	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Pi Day</p> 
<p>15 10 am Bible Study 10:30 Music 11 am Service 12 pm Stone Soup 12:30 Diaconate & Trustees</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22 10 am Bible Study 10:30 Music 11 am Service</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Waffle Day</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Wear A Hat Day</p> 	<p>28</p> 
<p>29 Palm Sunday 10 am Bible Study 10:30 Music 11 am Service Niagara Falls Runs Dry Day</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 National Crayon Day</p> 	<p>Isaiah 43:19: <i>"For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland."</i></p>			



Celebrating March Birthdays!



March 1st: Brenda Johnson
March 5th: Thomas Wrobel
March 11th: Dewitt Doss
March 16th: Chloe Salimbene
March 17th: John Caldwell
March 30th: Tim Baxter

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
Kay & John Skowronek
Becky Swindlehurst

Prayer Corner



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

A Word from Pastor Kath ... March, Preparing for April and the Resurrection!

Check out the calendar for March 29th! Niagara Falls Runs Dry Day is on March 29 every year. The holiday commemorates the time Niagara Falls ran dry due to ice blockages in 1848. The waterfall continued to stay blocked for two days. The day - which I can't say I have ever heard of or joined in any of the yearly celebrating - aims to celebrate the extraordinary event that took place, spanning from Niagara Falls, Ontario to Niagara Falls, New York. Festivities (hmmm) usually involve offers from establishments near the falls and celebration parties (maybe we should have one ourselves!) Niagara Falls has never naturally dried up since.

Hope everyone can be at worship on March 8th ... Pastor Mark Breese will be leading worship while Pastor Kath is away. He'll be preaching on the Woman at the Well.



During December and January we collected items for our Mitten Tree. We donated underwear, scarves, gloves, socks, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and more to the Mission.

We continue to collect Dimes for a Difference for the Mission. We will be presenting Pastor Mark with our recent collection of coins on March 8th when he is with us.

Remember, we are collecting food and personal care items for Heart, Love and Soul, too. Everything we do is greatly appreciated by both missions!

This month's "Easter Egg" is . There'll be a drawing for those who find it in the Tower. Tell me where you found it and your name will be entered.

As we prepare for April and our Easter week observance ... this is what we're planning:

March 29th - **Palm Sunday**. We will have our traditional parade of palms around the church.

Thursday, April 2nd - **Maunder or Holy Thursday**. At 7 p.m. we will join around the table for a potluck meal. We will then have a time of waiting, as the apostles waited while Jesus prayed in the garden. We will pray, sing, meditate, share - waiting with Jesus.

Good Friday, April 3rd. From noon until 3 p.m. we will once again have meditations on the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross. Seven speakers, music, scripture and prayer.

Easter Sunday, April 4th. We will be having a short Sunrise Service at Deveaux Park. Our traditional Easter service will be at 11 a.m. in our sanctuary. We are inviting everyone to **bring in fresh cut flowers** to add to a cross at the front of the sanctuary.

We will be hosting the Niagara Area Baptist Association delegates meeting on Saturday, May 2nd. We will provide a catered light lunch that will be paid for by NABA. Our new ABCNYS Associate Executive Minister - Rev Cheryl Frank - will be attending. It's going to be exciting to welcome everyone to our new sanctuary!!

Matthew 26:26-29 *Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."*

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

John 11:25: "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Wisdom from Deatrea Doss ... March

We are three months into the New Year of 2026. According to Groundhog Punxsutawney, we are still facing 6 more weeks of winter, and Groundhog Dunkirk Dave predicts an early spring ...

Hmmmm! Which groundhog is right? Logical answer – Time will tell!

There's a traditional proverb that was cited from a collection of sayings by Thomas Fuller in 1732, about the month of March! **“In like a lion, out like a lamb!”**

Though this isn't a biblical overview, if you read Revelation 4 – 7, particularly chapter 5, it indicates The Lion as being authoritative and harsh and the Lamb as pure and innocent, calm as the month of March.

When March has approached, we do look forward to two highlights: 1 – Daylight Savings Time, March 8, 2026; and 2 – the First Day of Spring, March 20, 2026. With that, our days become longer, we become more energized, ready to venture outdoors, we do spring cleaning and exercise more.

On Sunday, February 1st, Pastor Kath spoke on individual talents, gifts, skills, resources, time and finances that can be helpful in our church home and lives when we put our hearts and minds to it. The sermon may have led us to ask if we can / will prepare our hearts and our minds now that we've settled into our new church home. Though some accomplishments have been made (with still so much to do!)

It may seem like a lot, but let us not think grudgingly, rather let us say as it states in Isaiah 6:8 – Here I am, send me! Let us be willing, ready and obedient to God's calling ...

What talent, skill, time and finances will you offer when it's time to say to the Lord “Here am I, send me”..?



Hearing From Chase Kinsley, Our Youth Rep!

Hello everybody, I hope everyone's February went well. We are heading into a new month, March - and I am excited for the opportunity of a new month. There are many Christian holidays this March like the Annunciation on March 25th and Palm Sunday on March 30th. We also have St. Patrick's Day this month and I hope we are all excited for that. As you know from my last message, I hope to bring more Youth to my church so I can talk to kids with Christian minds like me!

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is celebrated for bringing Christianity to Ireland. He was born in 385 AD to a wealthy family in Britain because his father, Calpornius, was a deacon. When he was sixteen, Patrick was kidnapped by a group of Irish Raiders and sold into slavery. He worked as a shepherd for six years, but he had an urge to convert the Irish into Christianity. Patrick escaped slavery after receiving a divine dream that told him to go home to Britain. Patrick returned home and went through religious training and was ordained a bishop. After that he went as a missionary to Ireland. When he was in Ireland, Patrick established churches, schools, and was responsible for converting many Irish people from paganism to Christianity. He also used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity to the Irish. Patrick died in 461 and was ordained a saint by the Catholic Church in 461 as well. His feast day is March 17th or Saint Patrick's Day. After that amazing story on Saint Patrick, I hope I inspired you to be like him and to come to our church to help spread the word of Christianity like St. Patrick did.

Another Great celebration in March is Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week where Jesus entered Jerusalem. On entering Jerusalem, the people rejoiced and were overjoyed to see Jesus. Palm Sunday is marked by the blessing and distribution of the palm branches. I hope you can join us for the Palm Sunday service as we will walk around the church with palms and greet Jesus just like the residents of Jerusalem did. Please join us for the greeting of our King.

Here are some updates and suggestions about our church. The blanket donation went very well as we donated many blankets to people in need just like Jesus wanted. We also donated all the used blankets to the SPCA for the animals and made financial donations to Church World Services to purchase blankets for use in disasters. The music is also doing very well with Peter and his mastery on instruments. For some suggestions, I think we should have a St. Patrick's Day get together so we can talk about St. Patrick with refreshments.

Have an amazing month and I hope I see you soon!



A Word from Peter Green, our Music Worship Leader

MUSICAL CHURCHES

I have had the opportunity to lead and play at a wide range of denominations and non-denominational settings. Every church is different in how and what music is played. You'd be amazed at how a song that is well-known in one church (even within the same denomination) is totally foreign to another church.

In the 1990's and early 2000's, I was very involved in what was termed "Contemporary Worship". The songs I got to play were wonderful, and the tone and style of worship varied but tended to be very upbeat and positive. Through that time, I never lost the "traditional" songs that people were raised on. I remember playing in a prison years ago, wondering if the inmates wanted modern music, only to find that they found comfort in "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art".

At many Houses of Worship, congregants would say they wanted (or would tolerate) contemporary music because it would "bring in young families". Someone close to me said something that I would repeat to anyone who said that - young families won't be drawn by contemporary music, they want to be welcomed and affirmed, their kids will make noise or cry (as kids do) and they don't want to go someplace that people cast dirty looks when their kids make a noise! It's not just the music, we have to create a joyful, peaceful, welcoming and affirming place for anyone who walks through our doors.

That leads me here to First Baptist. There is one common denominator that works very well in every church setting and it has been overlooked for many years...the hymnal. I'll admit, I wasn't keen on adhering to the hymnal in my various appointments and guest visits even though I would play many songs from within it. I have heard that a number of non-denominational churches have returned to hymnals rather than the "lyric projection" (with video backgrounds) for their music time.

I have learned that the Hymnal unifies us. It provides basic notation that most can follow, and the lyrics in a clear format. (Just a note here: Sometimes my versions of the hymns may contain a word or phrase that differs from the Hymnal. If I sing something different, please forgive me for not checking the lyrics in our hymnal).

We will blend the best of contemporary worship music (1995-present) with hymns that are dear to our hearts and resonate with God's word. We will grow as a church community and our music will grow with it. Regardless, our Hymnal remains as a key source for our expression of musical worship!

As we enter Lent, we will continue to lift the Pastor's Word with music chosen to reflect the tone of the season.
Be blessed, our precious Church Family!!!!

Thoughts from our Moderator, Kathy Noakes:

What would happen if:

You believed
You trusted
You prayed

You smiled
You listened
You loved

You were kind
You were courageous
You were humble

You were thankful
You gave grace
You were patient

You let go

Any and all of these things
will make a difference
to others and yourself.

Choose to make a difference!

Biblical Reflections from Dewitt Doss

Crossing Over to Royalty

1 Peter 2:9 – *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*

The serenity prayer teaches us on having emotional peace, resilience, and wisdom. This lets us know the difference between what we can and cannot change, and it points us toward the One who is everywhere (**Omnipresent**), who has unlimited power (**Omnipotent**). I can do anything through Christ who strengthens me. We are pointed toward the One who is all-knowing (**Omniscience**). Past, present and future.

The past has come and gone and even if Eve would have not eaten the forbidden fruit, we can't change the past.

The future is unpredictable; it is not 100% sure. Ask your local weatherman!

But you are God's present and when we turn to Him, all things are possible.

1 Peter 2:9 teaches us four things about Christians.

Deuteronomy 7:6 – *For thou art a holy people unto the Lord God: the Lord thy God has chosen you to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.*

Exodus 19:6 – *and you shall be unto me a kingdom of priests.*

Exodus 19:6 – *And a holy nation.*

Deuteronomy 7:6 – *A peculiar people (purchased) not peculiar as in dress, speech or manner of life.*

Jeremiah 1:5 – *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee.*

God brings us from darkness to his marvelous light.

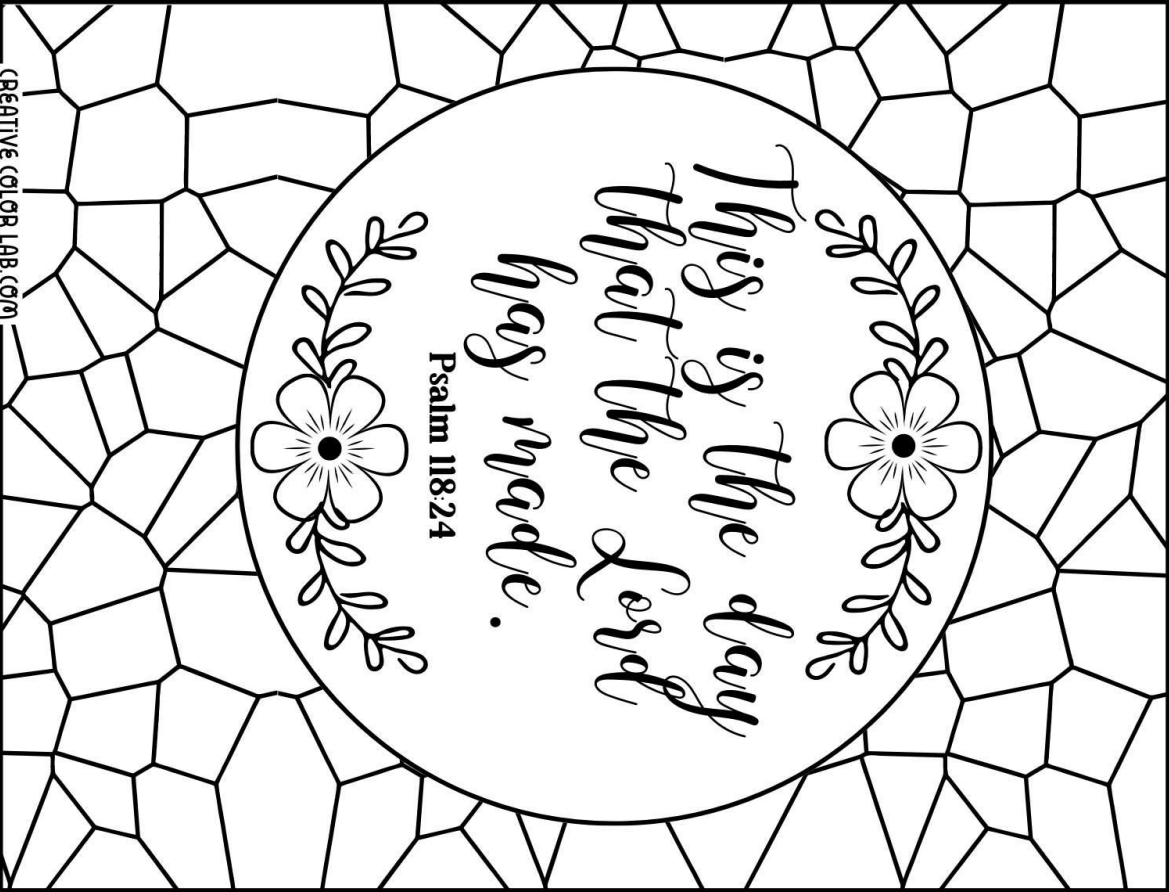
The hardship that we go through in life is preparing us to someone else to **cross over to royalty**.

.... To be continued next month

Before I *formed* you in the *womb*
I *knew* you, before you were *born*
I set you *apart*.
- Jeremiah 1:5



For the Kiddos



(RELATIVE COLOR LAB.COM)

Name: _____ Date: _____

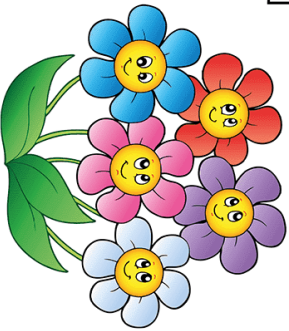
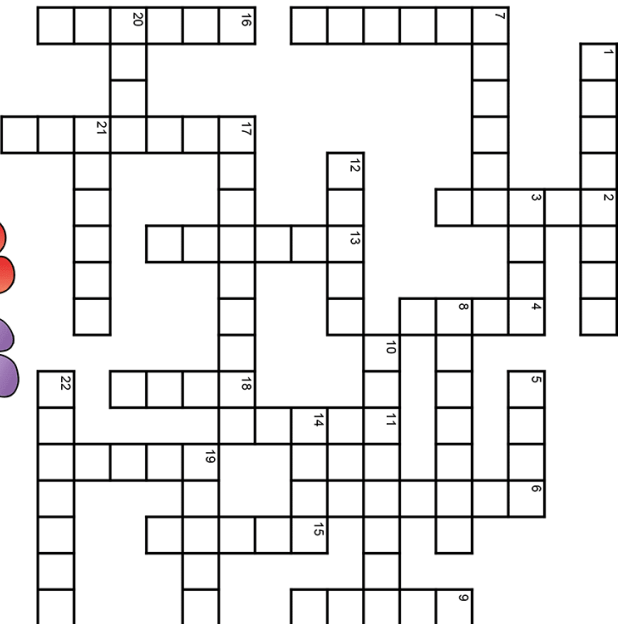
Spring is Here!

Across

- It warms and brightens everything.
- Warm up from a freeze.
- They make honey.
- Meal in the park.
- Colorful arc in the sky.
- It keeps the rain off you.
- The color of spring grass.
- Where a bird lives.
- An adult caterpillar.
- A baby chicken.
- What chicks hatch from.
- It comes after winter.
- Red insect with black spots.

Down

- Come out of an egg.
- Wriggly creature that lives in the ground.
- Short rainfalls.
- Small pool of rain.
- What the lawn is made of.
- Another name for a rabbit.
- A spring holiday.
- Holland is famous for this flower.
- Just a little wind.
- Flower on a tree.
- It is green and on a plant.
- It might hide the sun.



Word Bank: Bees, Blossom, Breeze, Bunny, Butterfly, Chick, Cloud, Easter, Eggs, Grass, Green, Hatch, Ladybug, Leaf, Nest, Pencil, Puddle, Rainbow, Showers, Spring, Sunshine, Thaw, Tulip, Umbrella, Worm



Join Us

A Benefit for

Mark Hagar Jr



When someone we love is facing an unimaginable challenge, the strength of a community can make all the difference.

Mark was recently diagnosed with Metastatic Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer, and this benefit has been organized to support him and his family as they navigate treatment, recovery, and the road ahead together.

EVENT DETAILS:

Basket Auction ♦ 50/50 ♦ High End Items ♦ Misc Games

Date: Saturday March 21st

Place: Lewiston #2 Fire Hall- 1705 Saunders Settlement Rd, Niagara Falls,

Time: 12:00pm-6:00pm

TICKETS / DONATIONS:

To Donate a Basket, Purchase a Ticket or Join the Benefit Team please contact:

Annie/Carl: 716-807-9407, Christina: 303-887-7790,

Katherine: 716-940-4055, Julianne: 716-870-0228, Sue: 716-316-3866

\$20 Ticket Donation includes Pizza, Pop & Door Prize Entry

Tickets can be purchased at the door, calling the above

Or via Venmo -note as "Benefit"

