



TOWER TOPICS

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, NY

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MAY 2026

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
3837 MACKLEM AVE
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14305

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2026

“And why do you worry about clothes?
See how the flowers of the field grow.
They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you
that not even Solomon in all his splendor
was dressed like one of these.” –

Matthew 6:28-29

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2 11 am – 2 pm NABA Meeting NYS Assoc Executive Minister Rev Cheryl Frank speaking
3 10:00 Bible Study 10:45 Music 11:00 Service with Communion	4	5 	6	7	8 No Socks Day 	9
10  10:00 Bible Study 10:45 Music 11:00 Service	11 National Eat What You Want Day	12	13	14 Dance Like A Chicken Day 	15	16  ARMED FORCES DAY
17 Tower Articles Due 10:00 Bible Study 10:45 Music 11:00 Service with Rev Dewitt Doss 12:00 Stone Soup 12:30 Diaconate / Trustees	18  VICTORIA DAY	19	20 National Rescue Dog Day 	21	22 National Roadtrip Day 	23
24 10:00 Bible Study 10:45 Music 11:00 Service	25  MEMORIAL DAY HONORING ALL WHO SERVED	26 National Paper Airplane Day 	27	28 National Hamburger Day 	29	30
31 10:00 Bible Study 10:45 Music 11:00 Service 12:00 Annual Meeting	<p>Proverbs 31:28-29 ~ Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.”</p> <p>Psalms 139:13 - For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.</p>					



Celebrating May Birthdays!

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



May 5th: Nancy Momberger
Michael Heller

May 9th: Razia Robin

May 11th: Kathy Noakes

May 12th: Toby Ordiway 

May 13th: Mary Metke

May 15th: Janet Kundl

May 19th: Jon Baxter

May 30th: Tyler Ordiway

Tim Baxter

Marguerite Blakely

Monique Burgess

Cindy Clark

Aisha Cochran

Bill Cody

Doug Garis

Mark Hagar

Katona Hoopsick

Jennifer

Janet Keebler

D'Ondrea King

Rev. Donald Lawrence

Heather Matthewson

Tawanda Payne

Vinnie Piaskowski

Lee S

Kay & John Skowronek

Becky Swindlehurst

Victor Torres

Family of Gordy Warme

Prayer Corner



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

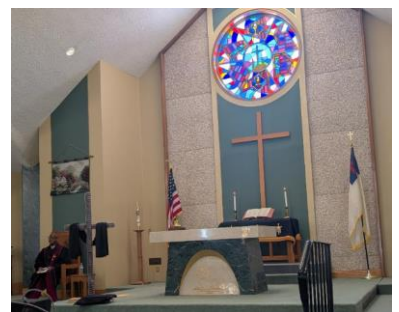
A Message from Pastor Kath ... May - you feel God's blessings always!

So much to share this month!!

First, thoughts on Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, we brought our "sins" to the cross, represented by small stones. (Chris Kinsley made a stand for the cross and wrapped it in chicken wire - thanks Chris!) Katona gave a children's message about Jesus dying on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven.

We acknowledged Maundy Thursday on April 2nd. We started around the table, sharing Holy Communion and a delicious potluck dinner. We then moved into the sanctuary for a time of waiting, as the apostles waited while Jesus prayed in the garden. Peter led thought provoking questions, scripture and meditation. Approximately 30 people participated. We will be starting earlier next year.


On Friday, we held our service of the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross. Meditations were shared by Rev Mark Breese, Rev Ray Allen, Rev Jonathan Lawrence, Rev Justin Marple, Rev Vanessa Jones, Rev Dewitt Doss and Rev Kathleen Ordiway. Special music was provided by Peter Green, Chase Kinsley, Eileen Kineke, Darlene Johns and the Marple 7. There will be no changes in the future! Jim Flood created a moving and perfectly timed service that continues to bless everyone. We were honored to bring this service to approximately 60 people.



On Easter Sunday, we gathered at 6:30 a.m. for a Sunrise Service at Deveaux Park. We had hoped to see the sun rise ... but the clouds had other plans for us. We did see the sky brighten though. Our short service began at 7 a.m. with music, scripture and prayer. Hot coffee and Timbits were happily enjoyed. There were about 20 of us, including a neighboring family. We will definitely hold Sunrise Service next year! A few of returned to the church for coffee, hot cross buns and doughnuts. We gathered for our traditional Easter service at 11 a.m. in our sanctuary. Everyone added fresh cut flowers to the cross - creating beauty from something meant for harm.



Next, our ministry for April. We created "migrant kits" for Church Women United that will be given to workers that come into the area to work on local farms. We were also encouraged to bring in crosses and Bibles to be donated.

Third ... last month's "Easter Egg" winner was Dawn Cody! Congrats!! This month look for this picture  {not this one here though) somewhere in the Tower. When you find it, tell Pastor Kath in person, via text message (716-213-7374) or email (FirstBaptistofNF@gmail.com or KathOrdiway@yahoo.com). Yes, you can win more than once!!!

And then we have all that's upcoming for the future!!

- Our Church Annual Meeting ... Our Annual Meeting for all members will be held on Sunday, May 31st immediately following service. The current board members will be retained as they started in mid-year, but other reports and exciting information will be shared.
- This Month's Ministry ... We will be cleaning our church yard this month and working on what we can take care of inside the church. During the last week of April, we cleaned a lot of the interior - but there's more to do. If you can join us for any of the "work days," wonderful! Invite friends - many hands make light work. If you

aren't able to work on the gardens on scheduled days, you are welcome to stop by and spend 15 minutes weeding, freshening up the yard, washing outside windows ... don't we all love washing windows? ... or anything else you'd like to do.

- Church Cookbook ... Over the next six months or so we'll be creating a church cookbook. Your assignment - go through your favorite recipes, your family recipes that you'd like to share, and send a copy to Pastor Kath at either of the above email addresses. If you have pictures of the results, stories about a special memory connected to the recipe or pictures of anyone enjoying the recipe - share those, too! We will be publishing it in-house and it will be a reasonably priced book sold as a fundraiser.
- Peanut Butter and Jam ... Quite a few years ago, Peter Green helped create an Open Mic Night at First Baptist and we are bringing it back. Our plans are to have it four times a year, beginning in June. Picture this: Open Mic ... singing, poetry, instruments ... anything you'd like to share; tables covered in paper with crayons and colored pencils for our creativity; snacks and drinks - an evening to share with friends and family! Entry will be a jar of peanut butter or a jar of jam that will then be donated.
- Ice Cream Social ... July 19th will be both our annual Ice Cream Social (everything will be provided), as well as our Bring A Friend Sunday. Maybe they come for the ice cream, maybe they will be thrilled to be invited because they've been looking for a church and were afraid to visit on their own. You won't know without asking!
- History Cataloging ... No, I did not forget the many shelves of history we need to digitize. If you can help one time for 15 minutes or commit to a project that may last a few years ... we need you! Talk to me if you would like to help. And, yes, we are starting with the LIFE booklets and photos. After we digitize them, we will be making them available to copy or take home.
- Basket Auction ... We will be holding a Basket Auction on Saturday, September 12th. You probably know the drill ... now is the time to make baskets and ask for donations.
- Art Event ... We don't have a date set yet, but we are going to be having an Open House Art Event ... inviting local artists of any age to display their art (is that you?!!). This will be an advertised event that will give our church another way to let the community know who we are.
- 2027 American Baptist USA Biennial Mission Summit ... June 10-13, 2027 in Rochester, NY!!! The theme is "Courageous Unity." We will begin planning soon. We can stay in Rochester, or drive back and forth. When information is available, we will let everyone know pricing. This event provides a special opportunity for all generations of American Baptists to come together to celebrate God's work among us and throughout the world. It's a time to share ideas, learn from one another, worship together, reconnect, and celebrate the Good News of the Gospel.

And to close ... Some serious thoughts. Matthew 18:20 tells us: *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."* I believe this with all my heart. In fact, I know that God is always present, even when we are alone. But, I also believe the words of Romans 8:28 ... *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."* So, what does the combination of those two passages mean to me? Yes, no matter how many of us are worshipping together, God is present. Yes, our worship is pleasing to God's ears. Yes, we should never refrain from gathering together in worship. Again, a "but" ... the Holy Spirit led us as we made the very difficult, heart-wrenching decision to move from Main Street to Macklem Avenue. We found a different, but beautiful sanctuary in which to praise God, in which to uplift each other, in which to grow our family.

I believe that we are going to be mightily used by God for good. I believe that we have been called together for His purpose. I believe that we are to listen closely so that we can hear God's voice as He continues to encourage us, to guide us, to uplift us in creative and exciting ways so that we can stretch beyond what we believe to be our limits. I see God using us to reach those who feel unloved, abandoned, ignored. I see God using us to help feed the hungry and clothe the naked. I see God using us to bring a joyful noise to His ears and to fill our pews with those who eagerly search for Him. That means we have to stretch further out of our box than what we've already done ... invite a friend, a family member, a work-mate ... a member who hasn't been able to join us as much recently ... a stranger to worship. Invite them to one of the events we're planning. Invite them to help with a fundraiser, to donate a basket, to contribute a recipe, to come color ... or sing ... at our Peanut Butter and Jam. Invite them to Bring A Friend Sunday ... but you don't have to wait until July to do the inviting!

Rev Dewitt is planning a time of prayer and fasting together so that we can earnestly hear how God is guiding us. I'm sure many of you are already praying, but praying together will be a mighty thing.

May you feel God's blessings this month and always! Pastor Kath

Katona's Thoughts of Thanks-Giving

There are moments in life when words don't quite feel big enough, but gratitude deserves to be spoken anyway.

To my church family, thank you! Thank you for the prayers that carried me when I didn't have the strength to carry myself. I truly felt them. They were steady, surrounding, and right on time. There's something incredibly comforting about knowing you are being lifted up, even in moments when you can't find the words to ask.

Thank you as well for every card, every message, every thoughtful gift. Each one was a reminder that I am not walking this road alone. You have a way of showing up exactly when I need it most. Never early, never late, but right on time in the most meaningful way.

Your kindness, your faithfulness, and your love have meant more to me than I can fully express. I am deeply grateful to be part of a church family that lives out compassion so genuinely.

I love you all. Thank you so much! Katona

A Word from Peter Green, our Music Worship Leader

Here at First BAPT, we offer a "no excuses" guarantee.

- Come and be who you are, as you are, where you are, what you are, and join us as the Risen Lord welcomes us to be who we are meant to be!
 - If you find wooden pews too hard, we can provide a pillow.
 - You can't leave your housebroken dog alone? Bring him/her.
 - You're worried about your cat being alone? God made cats to be self-sufficient and take joy in solitude. Probably for the reason that owners enjoy going to a church filled with joy and encouragement.
 - You have nothing for the offering plate? We don't pass one. Giving is not a public action but a personal offering to God. We want your heart, not your wallet.
 - You aren't keen on more modern Music of Worship? Just wait for the next song.
 - You aren't keen on Hymnal music? Wait for the next song.
 - God gave you a bad voice? Sing to get even!
 - You're afraid of the roof falling in? Don't be. We all come in with our past, but we celebrate our future in a building with a very strong roof.
 - You feel God doesn't care about you? You're reading this. That's the start of proof.
 - You have had bad experiences at churches before? So have we. So did Jesus. Come share your hurts with our Pastoral team, share your Heart with our Savior, share your joys with our community.
 - You have better things to do? We thought the same way until we spent time together with our Loving God and found it made everything else we do better.
 - You've had run-ins with Pastors? Our Pastor has studied Spiritual Fencing so she knows when to thrust and when to parry, also when to duck! She is a mom and wife. She can handle anything - and she was prepared for all those things in real life. Her call to lead came after a lifetime of learning. We are so grateful that our leader knows our struggles from experience.
 - I don't like Churches. We probably don't like the same things you do. We laugh, clap, share, care, and we don't glare at people when they come in with children or dressed as they are. We are so glad to see you.
 - You're not a Baptist/Presbyterian/Catholic/Episcopalian/Methodist/Adventist/LDS/Jain/Zoroastrian/Muslim/Hindu/Rastafarian or any other label? Neither are we, we consider ourselves "Christian" and start from there. Our Baptist title and affiliation are primary in many good ways, but our hearts are open to the hearts that come through the doors. Jesus chose twelve very diverse people to be His disciples ... from Fishermen to a Tax Collector to Scholars and tradesmen.
 - Give us a chance to live up to our Guarantee. God always lives up to His.
 - You are welcome here!
- Many Blessings - Peter

Biblical Reflections from Rev. Dewitt Doss

Crossing Over to Royalty



In 1967, Jeff Beck record a song called “**HiHo Silver Lining.**” It’s intent was to be a cheerful, optimistic anthem about finding the positive “Silver Lining” in difficult situations.

When we look at all the things that are going on in our world, we have to stop and think about our inner world. This is the only power we have over any situation that we may face.

How do you look at what affects you?

Behind every cloud there’s a silver lining.

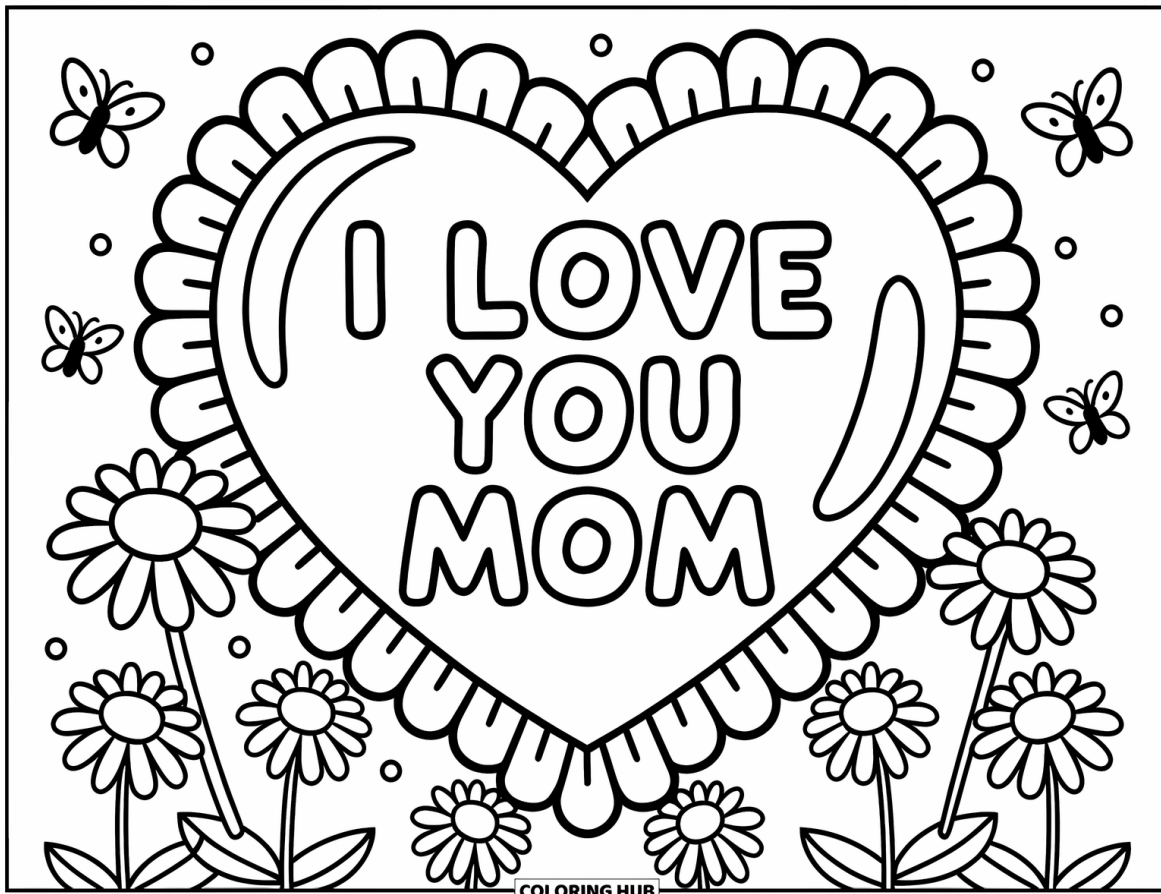
In the Gospel of John 10:9-10 ... *I am the Door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal and to kill and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and they might have it more abundantly.*

I wish they would fix these potholes ... well at least I have a car to drive.

Jesus offered a life full of purpose, joy and spiritual abundance, rather than mere survival, by providing eternal life.

So when we start to feel negative about a situation, let us think about the last five letters of Abund**ance.**

For the Kiddos



Name: _____

Date: _____

Find the words listed. Words may appear forward, backward, up, down or diagonal. Words may overlap and cross each other. When you have found a word, be sure to circle it and cross it off the list.



BIBLE Word Search



ADAM	K	T	G	M	K	G	H	C	V	N	J	K	N	M	V	C	N	C	T	B
ANGEL	R	G	T	M	O	L	F	N	F	L	O	Y	Q	W	P	Z	O	V	K	B
ARK	V	J	Y	D	H	Z	T	T	L	M	R	I	Z	X	J	J	A	D	X	G
BETHLEHEM	L	M	I	R	A	C	L	E	S	A	N	D	X	L	S	X	H	K	L	A
BIBLE	Z	N	G	N	M	B	J	D	M	X	M	R	P	I	R	U	N	P	C	R
CREATION	L	T	D	N	O	Z	E	G	N	J	R	A	V	V	F	O	S	J	Q	D
CROSS	N	E	I	C	T	I	T	T	T	A	R	G	L	B	I	I	C	E	S	E
CRUCIFIXION	X	N	V	Q	M	N	T	L	H	A	L	E	M	T	Q	R	C	E	J	N
DAVID	M	C	A	M	A	R	V	A	B	L	G	D	C	F	E	P	L	U	F	Q
DISCIPLES	V	O	D	B	D	V	S	L	V	N	E	E	E	A	G	P	R	L	R	G
EXODUS	V	M	S	C	A	Q	E	H	A	L	R	H	T	S	I	B	X	W	K	C
FAITH	S	M	L	E	B	S	M	P	E	R	A	I	E	C	I	W	A	R	K	V
GARDEN	T	A	Q	R	S	G	N	E	U	P	O	S	S	M	Z	M	W	T	Z	H
GOD	E	N	S	S	O	R	C	S	L	N	H	I	N	V	F	R	O	X	N	Z
GRACE	H	D	P	H	N	H	E	O	L	R	D	E	R	G	F	M	B	R	Z	H
JESUS	P	M	N	L	B	R	N	J	Z	Y	W	F	R	P	D	J	M	J	P	M
JOSEPH	O	E	N	B	I	J	S	E	R	M	O	N	A	D	N	R	M	C	R	L
MARY	R	N	B	M	B	T	G	L	Y	R	X	K	F	I	G	E	C	A	R	G
MIRACLES	P	T	N	M	L	V	E	X	O	D	U	S	X	T	T	M	F	D	C	M
MOSES	K	S	P	L	E	M	L	J	R	E	Y	A	R	P	C	H	Z	G	N	Y
NOAH																				
PARABLES																				

MARY
MIRACLES
MOSES
NOAH
PARABLES



PRAYER
PROMISED LAND
PROPHETS
RESURRECTION

SALVATION
SERMON
SHEPHERD
TEN COMMANDMENTS

