



TOWER TOPICS

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, NY

FirstBaptistofNF@gmail.com 716-282-4667



JUNE 2026

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
3837 MACKLEM AVE
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14305

IN THE JUNE ISSUE:

This Month's Calendar

Celebrating Birthdays / Prayer Corner

A Word from Pastor Kath / Wisdom from Dee

A Word from Peter, Our Music Worship Leader

Peanut Butter & Jam / CWU Letter

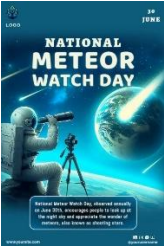
For The Kiddos / Around Town

JUNE

2026



Proverbs
30:25 ...
Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2	3	4 	5	6 
7 10 am Bible Study 10:45 Music 11 am Service with Communion	8 	9 	10	11	12 Peanut Butter Cookie Day 	13 
14 10 am Bible Study 10:45 Music 11 am Service 12:15 Diaconate & Trustees	15	16	17	18 	19 	20 
21 1 st Day of Summer Father's Day 10 am Bible Study 10:45 Music 11 am Service 12 pm Stone Soup ?	22 	23	24	25 June 25th National Strawberry Parfait day 	26	27
28 10 am Bible Study 10:45 Music 11 am Service	29	30 				

Celebrating June Birthdays!



June 6: Eileen Kineke
June 7: Jeremy Salimbene
June 12: Nancy Pennesi
June 19: Rev Ray Allen
June 22: Christeen Salimbene
June 23: Debbie Skellen

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

Marguerite Blakely
Monique Burgess
Cindy Clark
Aisha Cochran
Bill Cody
The Family of John Denney
Doug Garis
Mark Hagar
Janet Keebler
D'Ondrea King
Rev. Donald Lawrence
Rev. Jonathan Lawrence
Heather Matthewson
Tawanda Payne
Vinnie Piaskowski
Lee S
Kay & John Skowronek
Becky Swindlehurst
Victor Torres

Prayer Corner



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

We received words of immense thanks from Sally Denney, for the prayers, the calls, the texts, the food, the words of comfort, and for your presence as she said her final goodbyes to her son, John.

A Word from Pastor Kath ... June reminds me of those busy ants!

Proverbs 30:25 ... *Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer.*

Toby and I have a little ant problem. We used to get them every year in the kitchen during the spring rains, but it's been easily 5 or more years since the last "plague." This year's rain did us in and those pesky little things are back. Toby put out his magic formula and fingers crossed they're gone before this gets published!

It got me thinking though ... those busy ants, finding any crumbs we missed on the floor and bringing them back to their homes to store up food for the winter. They are these tiny things but they are so strong and such hard workers! They have foresight, planning and diligence to see them through the tough times.

Their industriousness reminds me of how we should be living. Just as those ants are preparing for their futures, so should we be looking ahead - planning for life's potential challenges. That doesn't mean we should live in fear, but we should be prepared. What with my retirement and Toby's plans for retirement in three years, we've had to put away a little extra in the bank and cut back on a few of the unnecessary splurges to make sure we are wisely preparing for our future. Just like those ants.

And then I think about how small those ants are and how amazing it looks to see them dragging large leaves or holding a seed twice their size on their backs. I read that an ant can carry 10 to 50 times its weight! Even the youngest, the smallest, the weakest of us can achieve great things through Christ who strengthens us. We just need to be focused, wise and consistent in our plans, turning to God in our decision making.

So, what's been going on around First Baptist and what do we have in our plans?!!

In early May, we welcomed NABA (Niagara Area Baptist Assoc.) representatives as the Association is being re-vitalized having become close to non-existent after COVID. We provided a lovely lunch catered by Katona's daughter Kasey, of which we were reimbursed by NABA. There was a meeting and Rev. Cheryl M. Frank, ABC-NYS Associate Executive Minister, spoke about all the ways ABC-NYS could help our churches and the association. Peter Green led us in music. It was wonderful to show everyone our new home and to let them know that there are other options beyond closing a church.



This month's "Easter Egg" is this specific picture somewhere in this Tower . There'll be a drawing for those who find it in the Tower (not here, on another page). via text message (716-213-7374) or email (FirstBaptistofNF@gmail.com or KathOrdiway@yahoo.com). Tell me where you found it and your name will be entered. May's winner was Kathy Noakes! And yes, you can win more than once!!!

Our YouTube Channel is up and running. Share it with friends!! Look for @FirstBaptistofNF and "Follow" us!

This month's ministry is One Great Hour of Sharing. One Great Hour of Sharing supports disaster relief, ministries to displaced persons, and development projects of the American Baptist Churches and its partners. The fund is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches USA. Any offering you are able to contribute will be appreciated!

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. I've received a few recipes already but I can't wait until the book is overflowing!!

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 on Friday, July 10th at 6 p.m. 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. Backing soundtracks can be provided by Peter with advance notice.

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 ... Take a peak at our 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. We need people to help identify faces as well as doing the copying!

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. Bring in finished baskets when you have them.

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.

Wisdom from Deatrea Doss ... God's Will

Have you ever wondered what your purpose in life is? Maybe you've asked yourself, "What is God's Will and what is it for me?"

I have wondered time and time again what plans God has for me (LOL)! Although according to Jeremiah 29:11, He says, "*For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*"

Then I'm also reminded per Isaiah 55:8-9, "*For his thoughts are not my thoughts, neither his ways, my ways*" because as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are his ways higher than my ways and his thoughts than my thoughts. Well!!!

Something to think about, as sure as it is written, why should we think about it and not be proactive to the Word? I've learned it's the human side of us (LOL). In remembering God's Words again, "*I am the Way the Truth and the Life*" no man comes unto the Father, but by me. John 14:6.

My wheels have continued to turn constantly asking – Am I doing enough good deeds, if so – is it enough? Am I setting the example? Do I share enough about my faith? (OMG!) The questions continue to go on... I couldn't understand why in all my years of growing up in the Word, listening to the Word, being taught the Word, reading and meditating on the Word (or so I thought I was), I was still struggling while continuing to find an answer on what God's will is, I stumbled on something that had been staring me right in the face. "The Aha Moment" was right there and had been all along. It was with more clarity and undeniable what "The Lord Requires" can be found in multiple books (7 main books) ... Micah 6:6-8, focusing on verse 8 (hit the nail on the head for me!) KJV: "*He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*"

How plain and simple this should be! This is His will for me and everyone! You, too, can research the other books on discovering God's will:

- Psalm 15
- Matthew 5:14-16
- Romans 13:8-14
- 2 Peter 1:3-9 and
- 1 John 4:7-21

At times and always in Prayer and Petition "Lord if it be your will, not ours (mine) but yours" or "Whatever your will you let it be done." Amen!

"Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?"

When we share visions for our Church community, we are preparing for more people to become part of what we believe God is building with and for us! From every heart in our congregation there is a ministry pouring out that is ready to reach and care for those who enter our building. We are blessed to have Katona back and delivering a lighthearted and powerful moment aimed at the youngsters in all of us! We select songs that fit the scriptural focus and we also hope to build familiarity with a number of these tunes so that we can sing and praise with confidence.

Have you ever been part of a meal (or the author of it) where a guest arrives who might be vegetarian or unable to partake of elements of the food? Let's face it, that's an awkward situation. Be it kosher, halal or any other restriction, we strive to welcome the guest with whatever we can, but it's only human to "wish we had known."

Our Church is essentially a large table with a great many seats to offer. We hope that those who sit at our table are hungry for what we have to share! Yet, it is almost inevitable that some will arrive who may not be open to what is served - scripturally, musically, liturgically, or in a host of other ways. That doesn't mean they oppose us, it just means we have to work harder to find ways to welcome and connect. A single mom with three small children has different needs than a single Senior who has felt disconnected from a church due to a spouse passing or a bad experience. Every heart that walks through our doors is truly unique with unique experiences and needs, as well as gifts to offer.

My experience in music has me thinking one way - should I look at who is in attendance and perhaps cater to what I think they would be open to? My experience in the Ministry tells me something very different: "Our music program is designed to be broad-reaching and respectful of both traditional and contemporary worship styles. We don't pick songs to please people. We choose songs that support the Word of God spoken in each service, and we use them to Praise, Honor and Glorify God with each selection.

So, back to my analogy about who is coming to dinner. Each person presently in attendance, from home or in the pews, is being refined by Our Lord for a role in preparing that meal. I'm going to save the most important role for last, but those involved in preaching, lector, hospitality, Audio-Visual, church-cleaning, office admin, children's ministry and music (et al) are all being prepared for important roles. Similar to setting the table, clearing the dishes, cooking the food, placing seats, serving food, etc. Pastor Kath is our guide as we undergo this preparation. I can only speak from the point of music, but she has a wonderful gift as a listener that compliments her heart to grow our Church community. This always reminds us to choose songs that please God, and in doing so, God will handle all of the other preparations. If preparing and delivering music is likened to setting the table, then we trust that those who are serving food or choosing chairs are delivering their ministry with equal passion, love and obedience. Pastor Kath is not likely to want the seat of honor at our table, she recognizes that she, too, is subservient to the true Guest of Honor - the Holy Spirit!

Now, to the most important role: As we prepare our meal, as we prepare our home, the most important welcome and gift you can bestow upon anyone who graces our Church is a warm smile & greeting. The most important role we can all play is as a welcome and accepting host. We might look at someone new and smile as we recognize that God brought you to our home, you are welcomed and loved as a brother/sister in Christ. All the most gifted Pastors or eloquent Lectors or engaging Children's leaders or talented musicians in the world mean nothing if the initial experience a person receives leaves them feeling unwelcome.

And remember, leave the menu to God. It only takes five loaves and two fishes.

Thoughts from our Moderator, Kathy Noakes:

How do you RELAX?

A massage? Meditation? Soaking in a hot tub? Exercise? Yoga? Sitting in a sauna? Visualization? Participating in activities that bring you joy?

Our bodies react to the world around us, and within us in many ways. Like a sponge they soak up healing energy OR they absorb and trap negative energy of stress and tension. Sometimes we do not realize how much we need to RELAX or how much stress we are carrying in our bodies and our minds.

The Bible reminds us that rest is a gift from God and is NECESSARY for renewal. Matthew 11:28-29 tells us, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

Allow yourself to "push pause." Relax, rest, and trust in the Lord.

Give anything 20 years and
it comes back in style...



Share your gift at
our family-friendly
open mic!

Music

Poetry

Comedy

Storytelling

Friday, July 10th
6pm

First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls
3837 Macklem Ave

Bring
your own
materials!

Questions?
Contact Peter
(716) 957-5258

If you can, please bring a jar of peanut butter or jam for those in need.
Allergy-friendly event!

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF NIAGARA FALLS AND VICINITY
AN ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN**



May 18, 2026

THEME: SHELTER ME ... PSALM 5:11-12

Dear Members,

We are ending of our program year. We will be presenting our ANNUAL MEETING and luncheon. At the meeting our year-end reports, vote on our budget and install new officers.

Please bring your loose change for our NICKELS FOR NATIONAL. THIS FUND WILL GO TO NATIONAL OFFICE TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL MISSIONS EFFORT.

The meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. Come and bring a dish to pass.

Date: June 5, 2026

Time: 12:30 - lunch at 1:00

**Place: Damascus Baptist Church
210 24th Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303
Rev. Patricia Alston, Pastor**

Our meetings are open to the public. Please come and bring a friend. There is no fee involved, but please call with attendance.

Any question or concern, please call 716-216-4966. Constance Washington, Secretary

For the Kiddos ... and all the Young-at-Heart

Name: _____ Date: _____

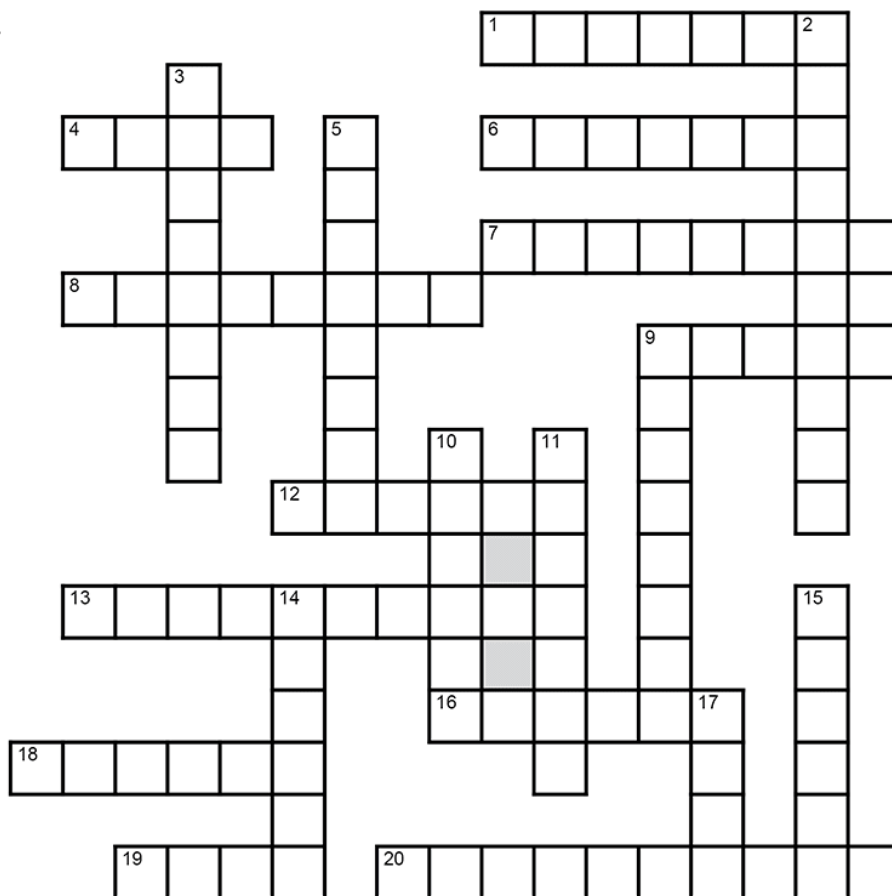
ACROSS

1. Marriage ceremony.
4. Celebrated on June 14th in the US:
___ Day.
6. Certificate presented at a graduation ceremony.
7. Cook outdoors on a grill.
8. Opposite of indoors.
9. June is the ___ month of the year.
12. Astrological sign for the start of June (twins).
13. Celebrated on June 19th to commemorate the ending of slavery.
16. Astrological sign for the end of June (crab).
18. He is celebrated on the third Sunday in June.
19. June 6th, 1944.
20. Red berry that is in season in June.

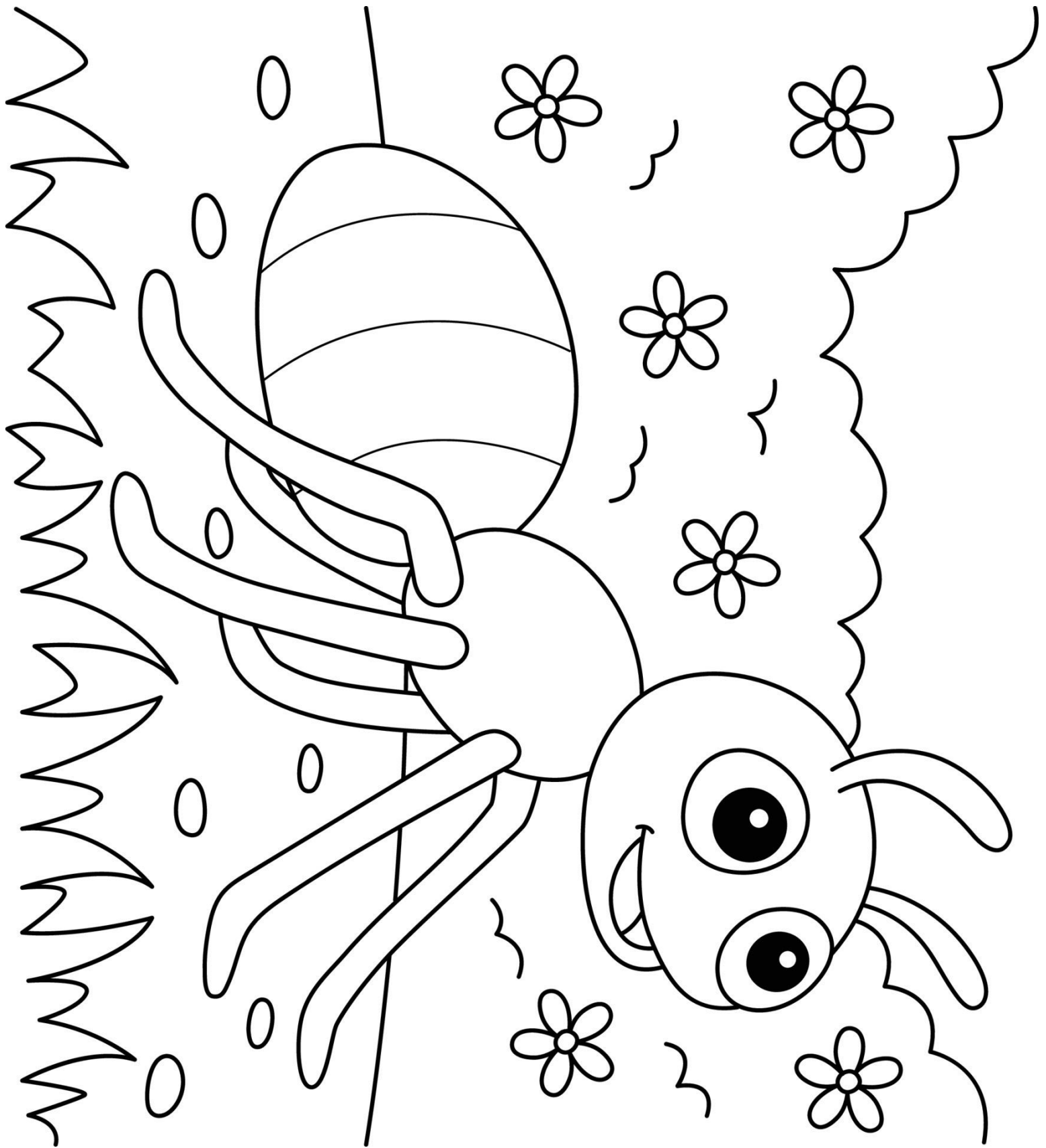


DOWN

2. Ceremony marking the end of the school year.
3. Time off from school.
5. Drink made from a yellow citrus fruit and sugar.
9. Longest day of the year: Summer ___.
10. Meal eaten outdoors.
11. Sport using a rod and a reel.
14. Number of days in June.
15. Season that begins in June in the Northern Hemisphere.
17. Birth month flower for June.



Barbecue	Outdoors
Cancer	Picnic
D-Day	Rose
Diploma	Sixth
Father	Solstice
Fishing	Strawberry
Flag	Summer
Gemini	Thirty
Graduation	Vacation
Juneteenth	Wedding
Lemonade	



Hey, Beautiful...
This could be you!



Brave Spirit
ARTS & CONSULTING

&
present

Kendra's
POLE FITNESS STUDIO



Paint & Pole!



Monday, July 6th

7:00 - 9:30pm

\$50

Niagara Arts & Cultural Center

1201 Pine Ave

bravespiritarts@yahoo.com

Space is limited.

Advance paid registration required!

Square link:



Venmo: @bravespiritarts

Curated by women, for women!



HEART Love & SOUL
Serving The Community Since 1983

Immediate Need Items

- Coffee
- Sugar
- Jelly
- Syrup
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels

939 Ontario Avenue

Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Support@Heartloveandsoul.org

Phone: [\(716\) 282-5687](tel:7162825687)

Pantry: [\(716\) 282-5687](tel:7162825687) Ext. 101

Community
Missions
OF NIAGARA FRONTIER, INC.

Children's Clothes Needed!



We are in desperate need of gently used or new clothing
for toddlers & youths. Any & all sizes are accepted!

Donations are
accepted 24/7!

1570 Buffalo Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14303



NIAGARA GOSPEL MISSION
HELP • HOPE • HEALING

We accept and provide:

Food - We serve three meals a day to all residents in our building. We also host a community dinner every night at 5pm, which is open to everyone from our neighborhood. By God's grace and through the generosity of our donors and community partners, we are enabled to keep our kitchen supplies stocked and to prepare nutritious and delicious meals for those in need.

Clothing Closet – gently used, clean clothing

Clothes Baling - We also take clothing that is damaged or soiled for clothing baling to be sold as a source of income.

1317 Portage Road, Niagara Falls, NY 14302

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 2657, Niagara Falls, NY 14302

Call Us: 716-205-8805

Around Town

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



THE NACC
Niagara Arts & Cultural Center

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 13, 2026 12 – 6pm

Parade at approx 11:30 (City Market to NACC Grounds)

NACC Building and Grounds, 1201 Pine Ave, Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Free grounds admission

Gather with neighbors and friends at the NACC to celebrate Juneteenth! We'll have a day filled with live performances, vendors, cultural exhibitions, delicious food, and opportunities for community engagement. Through this event, we seek to foster understanding, promote dialogue, and strengthen the bonds of solidarity among all members of our diverse community.

Vendor / Parade Info contact: **Daina** (716) 803-5600, Dainamccray@gmail.com