



TOWER TOPICS

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, NY

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OCTOBER 2026

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14305

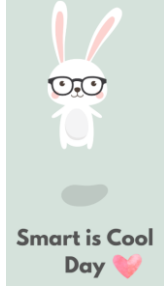
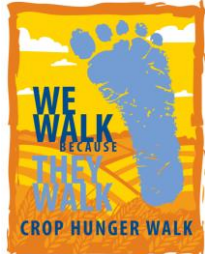
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2026

**Domestic
Violence
Awareness
Month**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2	3
4 9:45 Bible Study 10:45 Music 11:00 Service World Communion Sunday	5 	6	7 	8	9	10 <i>National Angel Food Cake Day</i> 
11 9:45 Bible Study 10:45 Music 11:00 Service With Rev Dewitt 12:15 Trustees and Diaconate	12 	13	14 	15	16	17 <i>HAPPY Sweetest Day</i> 
18 9:45 Bible Study 10:45 Music 11:00 Service 12:15 Stone Soup	19	20 	21	22 	23	24 
25 9:45 Bible Study 10:45 Music 11:00 Service	26 	27	28 	29	30 	31

Genesis 8:22 ... “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Celebrating October Birthdays!



October 1st: Donna Clark
October 4th: Marguerite Blakely
October 4th: Joe Hash
October 8th: Mike Kineke
October 15th: Jonathan Lawrence
October 16th: Ashley Baxter
October 17th: Nico Salimbene
October 20th: Lillian Marple
October 21st: Lydia Hoopsick
October 22nd: Julie Lowry
October 26th: Claire Kineke
October 27th: Liam Kineke

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

Prayer Corner

The family of Vinnie Piaskowski

Tim Baxter

Monique Burgess

Aisha Cochran

Jordan Denney

Doug Garis

Janet Keebler

D'Ondrea King

Heather Matthewson

Sandra

Tawanda Payne

Becky Swindlehurst

Marguerite Blakely

Cindy Clark

Bill Cody

Leslie Denney

Mark Hagar

Mick Kineke

Rev. Donald Lawrence

Samantha

Sandy

Kay & John Skowronek

Victor Torres



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

A Word from Pastor Kath ... Being Christian, Being Baptist – An Introduction

Quite a few years ago I wrote a series of articles on what it means to be Christian. I thought it would be good to bring them back, so I went back to the archives of 2022 ...

As many of you know, I was raised as a Catholic and was quite active in my church. It was a rich part of my younger years and helped form whom I am today. My husband, Toby, introduced me to the American Baptist denomination and the more I learned, the more I knew it was where I belonged.

I will be looking at what it means to be an American Baptist in the next few months –but first I think it is more important to look at what it means to be a Christian. **Many people would tell you that being a Christian means that you believe in Jesus Christ.** Some would stop right there – **but** other faiths know Jesus as a teacher and a prophet. Islam sees Jesus as one of the five main prophets that were sent by God and believes many of the same things about Jesus that we do. Jews see Jesus as a teacher and a political activist. Ancient Jews acknowledged Him as a worker of miracles. Some faiths see Jesus as one of the manifestations of their God. So, they believe in Jesus, but that doesn't make them Christians.

Some say that being a Christian means that we are **decent, kind and fair**, but I think we all know atheists who are often more decent, kind and fair than some who claim the name “Christian.”

Some say that you are a Christian **if you've been baptized**, but if you were baptized when you turned 12 (or another age your Sunday School chose) because everyone else was being baptized ... that doesn't necessarily mean you are a Christian.

Some say that they **attend a Christian Church** so they must be a Christian, **but**, as the saying goes, being parked in a garage does not make you a car (you could be a broom, a bicycle, a bag of garbage, a dollhouse) – and, likewise, being in a church does not make you a Christian.

What does the Bible say about being a Christian? Speaking of what was happening in the church at Antioch, we read in Acts 11:25-26 – *Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the **disciples** were first called “Christians.”* These disciples of Jesus Christ were being called Christians because **they were acting like Christ, they were speaking like Christ. It means to belong to Christ, to be a follower of Christ.**

A Christian is someone who realizes they are a sinner and makes a choice to give their lives and their trust to Jesus Christ their Savior, who believes that Jesus was sacrificed on the cross as payment for their sins so that he or she can enter Heaven – receiving everlasting life after death, who believes that Jesus was resurrected on the third day. A Christian is someone who is committed to living a changed life and therefore responds to the calling of God, who has put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ, following the call of the Holy Spirit to do good works (which do not save them [see Titus 3:5 below], but which they are motivated to do by God), to serve God with joy, which also means demonstrating the love of God by lovingly serving those around them (1 John 4:19 – *We love because He first loved us*) and importantly, sharing the Gospel with those who do not know Jesus Christ.

Titus 3:5 – *He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

Ephesians 2:8 – *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”*

John 1:12 – *But to all who received Him, who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God.”*

Ephesians 1:13 – *In Him you also, when you had heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in Him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.*

Christians practice their faith differently across the world and in our many denominations and, in fact, we worship differently even within the American Baptist Churches. How we share our love, how we sing our songs, how we praise God's Name, how we pray, how we study scripture, how we observe the Lord's Supper, how we mission to the world, how we do so many of the other things that identify us as Christians, are not as important as the fact that we **DO THEM.**

I'll continue next month.

Now, for this month! Please join us on Sunday the 11th to hear Rev Dewitt Doss preach! We are always blessed by what he shares. Dewitt leads our Bible Study every Sunday at 9:45 – you are always welcome. We also have Children's Sunday School every week at the same time. Remember Crop Walk on the 24th! If you can't walk with us, consider how God is calling you to contribute.

For those who are participating, last month's “Easter Egg Hunt” winner was Kathy Noakes! Congrats!



This month, look for this somewhere in the Tower.

Wisdom from Deatrea Doss ...

Proverbs 11:25 - *A generous person will prosper, whoever refreshes others will be refreshed!* The Key themes of generosity - our heart attitude, caring for others and mutual blessings.

As a recap, for First Baptist Church community outreach for the month of August donated to Heart Love and Soul, our small congregation was blessed to have delivered **85 lb of food**. **All Praises be to God!** Each of you should applaud yourselves. With that being said, as you've seen our table needs to be replenished. September is coming to an end, let's achieve for the month of October to deliver additional items that they are in need of. Going into the holidays and everyday basic needs, they are requesting packages of instant potatoes (not the box kind), canned vegetables, stock such as chicken, beef or vegetable and cranberry sauce, baked beans, pork and beans, Rice-a-Roni, Pasta Roni, and hearty soups, not chicken noodle.

It would be great to make a delivery at the end of each month leading into the holidays.

According to the Bible, generosity matters! It matters because (1) it reflects God (John 3:16), (2) it proves faith (2 Corinthians 9:13), (3) it helps the poor (Deuteronomy 15:11) and (4) it brings joy. Jesus says it's better to give than receive (Acts 20:35), God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

While we're here on generosity and giving, let us consider ending hunger one step at a time. On Saturday October 24th, 2026 meet us at Reservoir State Park on Rt. 31 at 12:00 p.m. Let's walk because they walked.

Millions around the world walk long distances every day for water, food, to attend school, to farm, to gather wood for fuel and to find Medical Care. These are **Essentials** that we have within our reach which they have to walk to obtain and then carrying this load of essentials back to their homes. For many years, Church Women United has been supporting this fundraising event for Church World Services to help end hunger, participating in the Crop Hunger Walk.

Consider walking as a church, a team, or individually to raise funds for this event. Also, 25% of what is raised comes back to support our own community such as Heart Love and Soul, as well as several others. If you are interested in walking or donating, please contact First Baptist Church at 716-282-4667.

If you're thinking "I can't do another walk," reflect back to what the Bible says about four reasons generosity matters:

1. It Reflects God
2. It Proves Faith
3. It Helps the Poor
4. It Brings Joy

Be blessed!
Dee



A Word from Peter Green, our Music Worship Leader

The Human Element

God made us. There's no doubt about that. In His own image and with the capacity to achieve wonderful and mighty things in His Name!

We're all made by God with one common factor - we're human. We make mistakes, we stumble, we mess up and our loving Father is always there to pick us back up and help us continue the journey.

On Sunday September 21st, I forgot my glasses at home. I was left with a fuzzy view of the wonderful songs we were sharing and I had another of the many stumbles I've experienced since I came into existence. Yet even though I feel the embarrassment and a bit daft for leaving my glasses behind, it's the warmth and love of our Church family that helps me through these things.

God wants us as we are. Human. Makers of mistakes. We are perfectly imperfect and God wants us to give our best in anything we do. Doing it perfectly is one thing, but doing our best for His glory makes it a worthy sacrifice - warts and all.

Pastor Kath often states that "if God gave you a bad voice, sing to get even!" Don't worry if you don't know the song, or make a mistake on the lyrics. God is listening to the heart, not the technique. God wants our humble, honest efforts and our sacrifices from our human side. I will always try to give my best - even if it means dropping the accompaniment and singing acapella. This attitude didn't come until later in life, after a great many mistakes and reminders that God doesn't want a concert, He wants a sincere act of worship.

Our Church always reminds me that we are all flawed and human, and we all have value in the eyes of God and our Church family. This is one of the true blessings of being part of a Church that counts hearts, not heads. Nancy and I love it here for that reason, and many other reasons.

By the way, as I got into the car to head home after service, I discovered that I had a spare pair of glasses in our car.

Blessings on you all, our cherished Church family!



Thoughts from our Moderator, Kathy Noakes:

Autumn is a season of opposites.

As the cool crisp air takes over the outdoors, we bring the warmth inside
think scents of cinnamon, apple, pumpkin and cozy fires.

At the same time, you can feel the warmth of the sun and the chill in the air.

What are some opposites in your own life?

Places of stress and relaxation that exist in harmony.

Just as the trees begin to drop their leaves,
you might find it helpful to let go of some things and notice if this allows you more room to grow.

Autumn does not cue us to let go of everything,
but maybe it's about us creating space within us and our lives
to allow the world to move forward with progression
and accept the way our lives continually move forward and change.

Miss Katona Shares ...

There is something I have come to appreciate: You never really know who is listening to you and how the things we say affect them.

Sometimes I share a message that was prepared with children in mind, and yet the people who hear it are often well past childhood themselves. Every now and then, someone will tell me that they really appreciate what I shared. They'll say that something in the message stayed with them, encouraged them, or gave them something to think about. Those moments mean more to me than I can easily explain.

But when I receive that kind of encouragement, I also have to remind myself where the glory belongs. It isn't about me finding the perfect words or delivering a flawless message. Whatever good comes from what I share, **I want to give all the glory to God**. I'm simply grateful that He allows me to be a small part of it.

It's easy to assume that if a message is intended for children, then the lesson is only for children. But I've learned that **God's Word and His truths don't have an age limit**. Sometimes a simple thought, a familiar story, or a lesson we may have heard many times before reaches us at exactly the moment we need it.

And when someone takes the time to tell me, "I really got something out of that," I try to stop and take it in. I think that is something we should all learn to do.

We can be so quick to dismiss kind words. We say, "Oh, it was nothing," or immediately point out everything we think we could have done better. I know I do that. It's ok to say "Thank You," you are still a willing participant.

There are times when I walk away from something I've shared and think about the words I stumbled over, the things I forgot, or the parts I wish I had delivered differently. But then someone will tell me that they were encouraged.

And I'm reminded that **God can use us even when we don't feel like we got everything right**.

That is what encourages me the most.

Not because I believe I said something extraordinary, but because it reminds me that **God can take something simple and use it in ways we may never see**. A message that I thought was meant for one group of people may speak to someone completely unexpected.

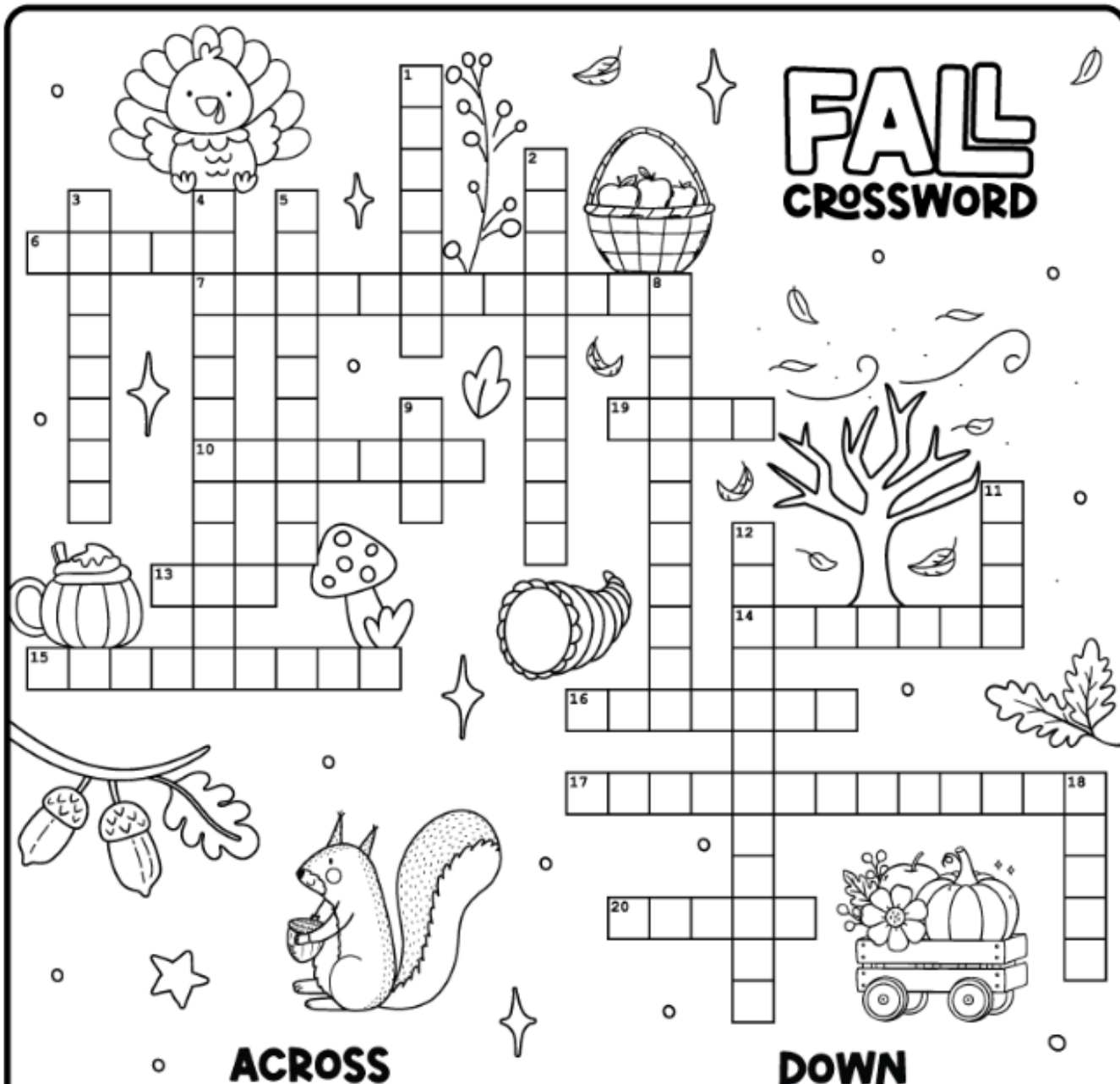
That is a little tidbit I think we should all soak in.

When someone tells you that you encouraged them, helped them, or gave them something they needed in that moment, don't be so quick to brush it aside. **Receive the encouragement. Be thankful for it.**

And then remember Who deserves the glory.



**Saturday into Sunday,
October 31st into November 1st**



ACROSS

6. Hot chocolate drink on chilly days.
7. Orchard fruit covered in sticky sweetness.
10. Warm knitted clothing for fall.
13. Piece of wood cut for campfires or fireplaces.
14. Orange gourd carved or baked in pies.
15. Tall flower with yellow petals and seeds.
16. Season of gathering crops.
17. Trees changing color in autumn.
19. Snug feeling during brisk fall evenings.
20. Checkered pattern worn in flannel shirts.

DOWN

1. Month of pumpkins and changing leaves.
2. Traditional Thanksgiving dessert.
3. Popular game played in fall.
4. Start of classes in September.
5. Trees without leaves in late fall.
8. Time when fall begins to take over.
9. Bright color of fall maple leaves.
11. Fall showers that soak the ground.
12. Gathering apples from an orchard.
18. Campfire treat with chocolate, marshmallow, and graham.