

# TOWER TOPICS

The News Magazine of

## First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, New York



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## First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

Corner of Main and Fourth

Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

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# December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 December 17 — 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM — <b>THE NATIVITY FESTIVAL</b> Be there!  Three more opportunities for Soup and Bible Study: December 6, 13, & 20. Be there!  Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are always special. Be there!				1	2	3
<b>4</b> <b>ADVANT II</b> 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching	5	6 6:00 Soup & Bible Study "All I Want for Christmas"	7 12:15 Inasmuch Lunch	8	9	10
<b>11</b> <b>ADVANT III</b> 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching 12:15 Second Sunday lunch 2:00 <i>Gift of Music</i> : Christmas Organ Program	12 10:00 Finance Committee Meeting	13 6:00 Soup & Bible Study "All I Want for Christmas"	14 7:00 Trustees/ Diaconate Meeting	15	16	17 <b>NATIVITY FESTIVAL</b> <b>11:00 – 3:00</b>
<b>18</b> <b>ADVANT IV</b> 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching 3:00 Christmas Tea with Carmella Jones	19	20 6:00 Soup & Bible Study "All I Want for Christmas"	21 	22	23	24 
<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 10:00 Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	<b>26</b> <b>Stephen</b> Deacon and Martyr <b>Kwanzaa</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>27</b> <b>John</b> Apostle and Evangelist OFFICE CLOSED	<b>28</b> <b>The Holy Innocents</b> Martyrs OFFICE CLOSED	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 



## December Birthdays

2	Gladys Lewis
9	Jeanette Heasley
10	Kathleen Buckley
17	Donna Flood
21	Mark Clark, Jr.
27	Jason Clark
28	Bonnie Cook



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for John Swindlehurst, Sara Gromniak, Margaret Payne, Mark Williams, Jr., Patricia Smeal, Janet Keebler, Celia Krasinski, Neal Jacobs, Gladys Lewis, our Church family, our missionaries, especially Carmella Jones, our Country and all those who serve our Country.



### Dec. 4 — Sunday — ADVENT II

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship  
 11:00 AM Divine Worship with Holy Communion  
 Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching

### Dec. 6 – Tuesday

6:00 PM — Soup and Bible Study

### Dec. 7 — Wednesday

12:15 PM Inasmuch luncheon

### Dec. 11 — Sunday — ADVENT III

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship  
 11:00 AM Divine Worship  
 Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching  
 12:15 PM Second Sunday Lunch  
 2:00 PM *Gift of Music:* Christmas Organ Program

### Dec. 13 – Tuesday

6:00 PM — Soup and Bible Study

### Dec. 14 — Wednesday

7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

### Dec. 17 — Saturday

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM — **NATIVITY FESTIVAL—**

### Dec. 18 — Sunday — ADVENT IV

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship  
 11:00 AM Divine Worship  
 Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown, preaching  
 3:00 PM Christmas Tea with Carmella Jones

### Dec. 20 – Tuesday

6:00 PM — Soup and Bible Study

### Dec. 24 – Saturday – Christmas Eve

5:30 PM Music for Christmastide  
 6:00 PM Lessons, Carols, and Candlelight

### Dec. 25 – Sunday – Christmas Day

10:00 AM Pre-service Fellowship  
 11:00 AM Divine Worship  
 Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

### Do we have Your Birthday?

If your birthday doesn't appear on our list, please call the office (716-282-4666) to let us know your special date so we can include it.



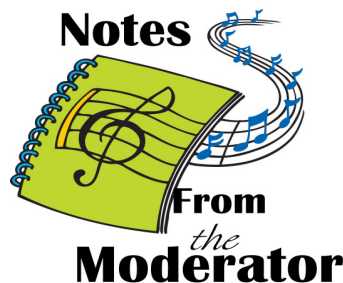
On December 12, 2016, at 10:00 AM, the Finance Committee will meet to discuss next year's budget. Anyone who is interested may come. If funds are available these projects will be given consideration:

- Rebuild Steinway 7' grand - \$7500
- Replace carpet on porch - \$3000
- Programs in fixed up gym - \$2500
- Our share to resurface parking lot - \$1500
- Fix up supply and shower rooms - \$1500

Is it possible for you to fund one of these projects?

## Last Month's Crossword Answers

### Esther



**OUR FIRST BAPTIST CANDY MAKERS** have done their work and orders are ready for pickup. An order blank is in this Tower Topics if you need one. Please contact Hazel Baxter or Jim Flood in the office with your candy order. Thank you to Hazel and Michael Baxter for picking up the items used in preparing the candy and to the cooks: Sally Denny, Donna Flood, Marge Bozigar, Dave and Michelle Martin, Carol Buchalski, Kathleen Buckley, Connie Davis and Ron Bowser. The plan was to make 400 pounds of delectable delights and we did it!

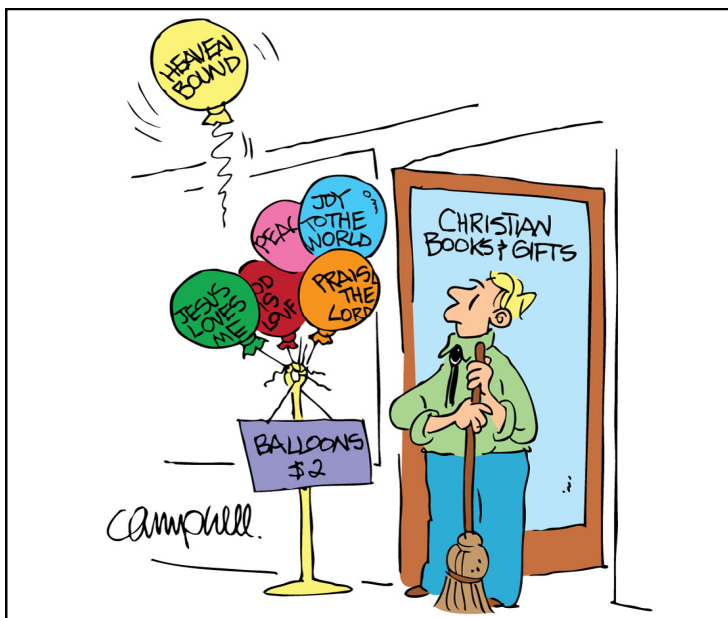
The bake sale on Election Day was a great success. We raised \$475 and noted that after voting, cookies and muffins were needed by all to celebrate the vote. Katona and Kath, Donna and Connie, Sally and friends were the bakers. We thank the Niagara Frontier Fire Hall for the opportunity to talk to community members about our church over freshly baked treats.

Christmas celebrations include Gift of Music organ recital by Jim Flood, Nativity Festival, Christmas Tea, Christmas mission family gift giving, the Mitten Tree - donations of personal care items, hats, gloves and mittens for Community Missions, and our Advent Bible Study lead by Kath Ordiway. The soup and sandwich supper precedes the Bible study and all are invited.

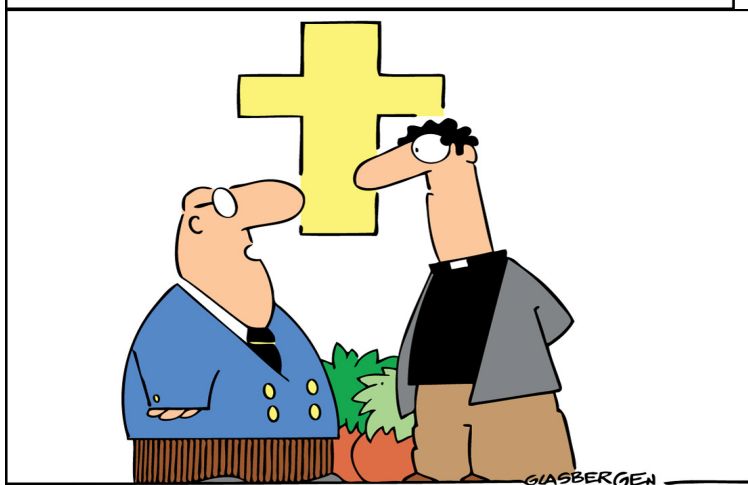
Our Christmas Eve service will be a celebration of Lessons and Carols with candle lighting, readings, and carol singing. The Christmas Day Sunday service will be held as usual at 11:00 AM. and I hope to see you all there! Check the calendar for times and dates of all events.

**Donna Flood**





"Can you prescribe something to help me rest in peace?"



"If I count my blessings and some of them are heavily taxed, do they still count as blessings?"



"I wasn't always as religious as I am now. For years I thought the Ten Commandments were a doo-wop group from the 1950s!"



"Do you have one called repent?"



"We do."

## SOUP AND BIBLE STUDY

This fall and Advent Season we are having a great Bible Study led by Kathleen Ordiway. The remaining dates are Tuesdays, November 29 and December 6, 13, & 20. The time is 6:00 PM for soup (and possibly something else very tasty) followed by the Study. The theme is "All I Want for Christmas" and the series is written by James Moore, who, you'll remember, wrote our Advent meditation booklet a while back. His writing is spiritual yet down to earth and very readable. Church members get the study book free, courtesy of First Baptist Church. There is a DVD presentation each week followed by discussion and things to do and think about during the week.

What a wonderful opportunity this is to celebrate the joy of Advent! But you have to attend to be a part of this opportunity. If you cannot make every session, that's OK, come to the ones you can make. As you remember we have tried different times and formats with various leaders, not always with the greatest success. Take advantage of what *your* church offers so we can continue to plan future opportunities for Christian growth.

*As Sally Denney has reminded us:*

- ✚ Never underestimate the power of patience.
- ✚ The Son-shine of God's love can melt the hardest heart.
- ✚ Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.
- ✚ Christ never compels or coerces our service. Rather, His spontaneous, willing care for us evokes authentic, willing service — in us and from us.
- ✚ We love because He loved.  
We give because He gave.  
We serve because He served.  
We love, give, and serve because Jesus loved, served, and gave Himself for us!
- ✚ Sometimes Jesus calls His servants
  - To go the extra mile
  - To do the extra task, and
  - To give the extra effort.
- ✚ But just as surely, our Lord in compassion calls us aside
  - To rest,
  - To eat, and
  - To let Him refresh us.

### Preaching Schedule - 2016

December 4	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	Advent II
December 11	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	Advent III
December 18	Rev. Dr. Brian A. Brown	Advent IV
December 24	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway & Mr. Joseph Heasley	Christmas Eve
December 25	Mrs. Kathleen A. Ordiway	Christmas Day

## “I Love My Church” T-Shirt Order Form

You may put this form in the offering plate or mail or call it in to the Church office. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

Sizes: Adult: \_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_ X-Large \$10.00 each

Total of order: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



## Sunday Memorial Flower Order

Flowers for Sunday morning are \$20.00. You may put this form, along with payment, in the offering plate or mail or call it in to the Church office. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

Preferred Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

☐

I shall pick them up.

OR

☐

Please deliver to Shut Ins

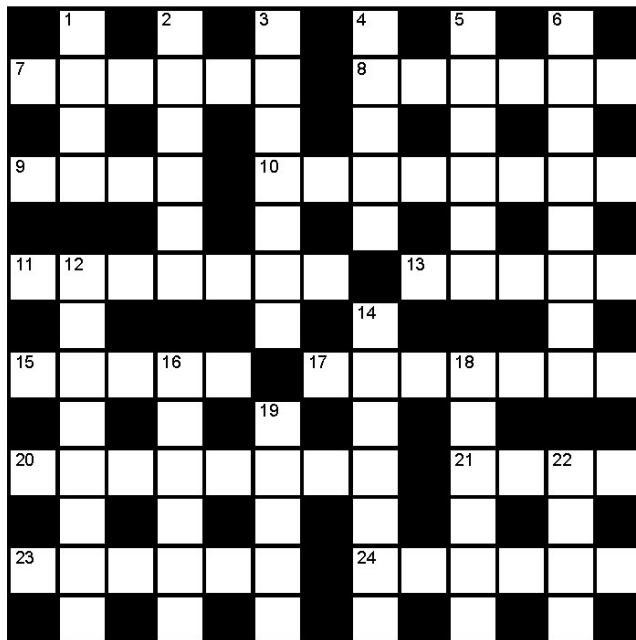
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Did you know?** American Baptist Churches partner with the National Baptist Convention in some churches, that have a dual membership, such as New Hope Baptist Church here in Niagara Falls and Macedonia Baptist Church in Buffalo.

# Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

## Job



### Across

- 7 One of Job's three friends. Job 2:11 (6)
- 8 "Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still \_\_\_\_\_ thine integrity? curse God, and die." Job 2:9 (6)
- 9 The bones of behemoth are like bars of this. Job 40:18 (4)
- 10 "In a moment shall they die, and the people shall be troubled at \_\_\_\_\_, and pass away: and the mighty shall be taken away without hand." Job 34:20 (8)
- 11 "What time she lifteth up \_\_\_\_\_ on high, she scorneth the horse and his rider." Job 39:18 (7)
- 13 Job said his eyes pour out these to God. Job 16:20 (5)
- 15 "Why doth thine heart \_\_\_\_\_ thee away? and what do thy eyes wink at." Job 15:12 (5)
- 17 The Leviathan's nostrils smoke "as out of a seething pot or \_\_\_\_\_." Job 41:20 (7)
- 20 "So the poor hath hope, and iniquity \_\_\_\_\_ her mouth." Job 5:16 (8)

- 21 "How \_\_\_\_\_ more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?" Job 15:16 (4)
- 23 "Is my strength the strength of \_\_\_\_\_? or is my flesh of brass?" Job 6:12 (6)
- 24 "If I have eaten the fruits thereof without money, or have caused the \_\_\_\_\_ thereof to lose their life." Job 31:39 (6)

### Down

- 1 "\_\_\_\_\_ remembrances are like unto ashes, \_\_\_\_\_ bodies to bodies of clay." Job 13:12 (4)
- 2 "God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great \_\_\_\_\_ doeth he, which we cannot comprehend." Job 37:5 (6)
- 3 "The pillars of heaven \_\_\_\_\_." Job 26:11 (7)
- 4 "There they cry, but none giveth answer, because of the \_\_\_\_\_ of evil men." Job 35:12 (5)
- 5 "Why dost thou \_\_\_\_\_ against him? for he giveth not account

of any of his matters." Job 33:13 (6)

6 "And said, \_\_\_\_\_ shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?" Job 38:11 (8)

- 12 Zophar said, "Know therefore that God \_\_\_\_\_ of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth." Job 11:6 (8)
- 14 "Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one \_\_\_\_\_ us in the womb?" Job 31:15 (7)
- 16 Job said, "I abhor myself, and \_\_\_\_\_ in dust and ashes." 42:6 (6)
- 18 "Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will \_\_\_\_\_ of thee, and answer thou me." Job 38:3 (6)
- 19 "Who teacheth us more than the \_\_\_\_\_s of the earth, and maketh us wiser than the fowls of heaven?" Job 35:11 (5)
- 22 "They reap every one his \_\_\_\_\_ in the field: and they gather the vintage of the wicked." Job 24:6 (4)





## Nativity Festival

Our Nativity Festival will be on Saturday, December 17th, from 11 - 3. There is still time to get involved!

1st: tell everyone about it - a moment in their hectic schedule to slow down, listen to Christmas music and look at beautiful nativities.

2nd: decide what nativities you can bring in.

3rd: let Kath know about your nativity so that the story can be typed up next to the display.

4th: Bake or buy something for the bake sale.

5th: Let Donna or Kath know if you or someone you know can provide music for a portion of the day.

***All displays are invited to stay for the Women's Tea on the next day!***

**Music:** I envision solos, groups, sing-a-longs and instrumental music throughout the event. We need someone to take this portion of the event and start contacting local churches, musicians, music schools – looking for people interested in donating 30 minutes of their time to fill the sanctuary with music that gets our toes tapping, gets the Spirit moving, lulls us like a lullaby for the Baby Jesus or gets our voices raised!

**Art:** I believe I have someone to chair this portion, but she will need help. We will probably have 3 Nativity art centers: coloring pages for the young and the young at heart, a simple craft and a slightly more elaborate craft. I am hoping that the cost of supplies will be minimal so that we can offer this free of charge.

**Food:** We will have refreshments available at a Bake Sale – so that the cost of art supplies can be covered. We will need someone to chair this portion; and make sure that we have bakers and sellers. We had such a great response at the Basket Auction – I'm sure this will be a no-brainer, too!

**Nativities:** Keeping the main attraction until last on the list ... So many of us have nativities (crèches) that we would like others to enjoy. Yes, the 17<sup>th</sup> of December means that your main nativity may already be under your tree or on your mantle, but hopefully you are willing to take it down for a day or two – or you have other nativities that you would like to share for the day.

My friends and family now know about the Festival and have been either gifting me or lending to me nativities of all shapes and sizes. I have full, tabletop displays, snow globes and small tree ornaments! I have pieces that depict just Jesus, Mary and Joseph; and others that include every possible animal at the manger, as well as the Wise Men, who didn't appear until Jesus was a toddler. I can't wait to see what you have! Think about a special story attached to your nativity. Did a friend give it to you? Was it handed down through your family? Did you make it yourself or maybe it was made by your children or grandchildren? Is it made out of some rare material, or maybe made of popsicle sticks? Is it a treasured memento or did you just get it last week? Get me those stories as soon as possible since I type them and mat them so that we can display them next to the nativities.

Contact me soon so that I know what you are able to do so this can be a great event!  
Kathleen Ordiway

***Kathleen Ordiway***

**Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our Election Day Bake Sale a HUGE success.**



# CAMP HOPE



*A free bereavement camp for any WNY child age 7-13 grieving the loss of a loved one*

During this weekend-long event, grieving children meet and interact with other children who are experiencing similar feelings. They learn tools to help themselves and each other through their grief, and how to express emotions in a healthy way.



2002 Camp Hope camper Samantha Tremko (left) works on an art project; Samantha (right) recently as a Camp Hope volunteer, reminiscing with her Camp Hope yearbook.

## **Activities include:**

- Small group grief support facilitated by trained staff
- Memorial bonfire
- Pet visits
- Arts and crafts
- Rock wall climbing
- Archery
- Nature hikes

**FOR DATES AND MORE INFORMATION,  
CALL THE NIAGARA HOSPICE  
BEREAVEMENT DEPARTMENT AT  
(716) 280-0777 OR VISIT  
WWW.NIAGARAHOSPICE.ORG**



Presented by...

**NIAGARA  
HOSPICE**



## Candy Order Form

Absolutely delicious Butter Crunch candy is available in one (1) lb. boxes for a donation of \$10.00 each. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

Number of 1 lb. boxes \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ total.

(We can ship, too. Add \$4.00 for the first box and \$2.50 for each additional box.)

Pickup Date \_\_\_\_\_ We also accept   

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



## 2016 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

Orders for poinsettias for Christmas along with payment must be in the Church office no later than Monday, December 5, 2016. You may put this form in the offering plate or mail or call it in to the Church office. Make checks payable to First Baptist Church.

Number of poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$7.00 ea. \_\_\_\_\_ 6" pot

**Total of order: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

☐

I shall pick them up.

**OR**

☐

Please deliver to Shut Ins

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES  
[www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org)

## Cape Cod Resident Is Commissioned to Serve in Africa



IM leadership, members of Brewster Baptist Church and friends and family pray over Marilyn Raatz at her commissioning service.

On October 2, 2016, Marilyn Raatz was commissioned by American Baptist International Ministries (IM) for mission service in Africa.

This was a historic moment for Cape Cod's Brewster Baptist Church. As Lead Pastor the Rev. Dr. Doug Scalise stated, "As far as I know, over the more-than-190-year history of the congregation, this is the first time our very own missionary has been commissioned."

Raatz will serve as a regional consultant residing in Cape Town, South Africa, assisting IM partner organizations throughout Africa in promoting peace and justice in ministry. She will do this by providing instruction, skills training, guidance and coaching for young leaders entering the pastorate or careers in education, civil service or the private sector.