

TOWER TOPICS

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April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>✠ The month of April begins with the end of Holy Week. We will be having both Maundy Thursday with Communion and the special ecumenical three hour Good Friday services both in person and on line. If you cannot make these services in person and would like to participate in the Communion on line, let the office know and we will see that you get a set of the elements.</p>				<p>1</p>  <p>MAUNDY THURSDAY</p> <p>7:00 Service with Holy Communion</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>Service Noon – 3:00</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 EASTER – RESURRECTION SUNDAY</p> <p>11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching</p> 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p> 	<p>10</p>
<p>11 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching 12:15 Trustees/Diaconate Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p> 	<p>17</p>
<p>18 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> 	<p>23 10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p> 	<p>24</p>
<p>25 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</p> <p>11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Mark, Evangelist</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 10:00 Men's Coffee Time</p> 	

April Birthdays

7 Mark Boeskin, Sr.
 11 Kathleen Ordiway
 11 Richard Bowser
 14 Vicki Williams
 23 Rev. Don Lawrence
 25 Doug Garis
 29 Amy Baxter



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Hazel Baxter, Elaine Meranto, William Cody, Carole and Hank Buchalski, Sara Gromniak, Janet Keebler, our Church family, our missionaries, especially Carmella Jones, our Country and all those who serve our Country, and all Christians persecuted for their faith.



April 1 — Thursday — Maundy Thursday

7:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion

April 2 — Friday — GOOD FRIDAY

Noon – 3:00 PM — Ecumenical Three Hour Good Friday Service
Seven Sections — Seven speakers
Based on the Seven Last Words Of Christ.

April 4 — Sunday — EASTER

Holy Communion
Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

April 11 — Sunday — EASTER 2

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
12:15 Trustees/Diaconate Meeting

April 18 — Sunday — EASTER 3

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
Third Sunday personal items collection for Heart, Love & Soul.

April 25 — Sunday — EASTER 4

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching





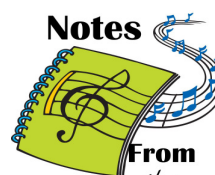
How about a new T-shirt for spring? We have a shipment of T-shirts with First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, New York, imprinted on them below the "I Love My Church" slogan.

Sizes available are Large and Extra Large (they will shrink a little).

Only \$10.00 each

No shipping or tax.

Call the Church office (282-4666) or see Jim Flood or any trustee after church on Sunday.



From
the
Moderator ...

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL! Spring is on its way in and we remember where we were a year ago when we closed churches, schools, gyms, visits with friends and family and so much more. We are blessed to emerge from this year still during the pandemic with renewed faith and gratitude for our lives. One of the hardest part of all we went through was not being able to plan ahead and watching the world in so much suffering.

Our Easter week featured an in person Holy Thursday Communion service and the Good Friday "Seven Last Words" three hour service. We thank the seven preachers: Rev. Kath Ordiway, Rev. Mark Breese, Rev. Ray Allen, Vanessa Jones, Rev. Cozell Ferrell, Rev. Patricia Alston, and Rev. Justin Marple.

We thank Jim Flood for organizing the unique service that we offer to the community and our church members. And again it's a privilege to participate in the remembrance of Holy Week.

Our mission for March and April is our Easter offering and as we look ahead to June on a date to be determined, the Spring Rummage Sale. We can start collecting and bringing items to church, all gently used and workable of course and no out dated electronics. If you need a pick up of your items, call the Church office and arrangements will be made.

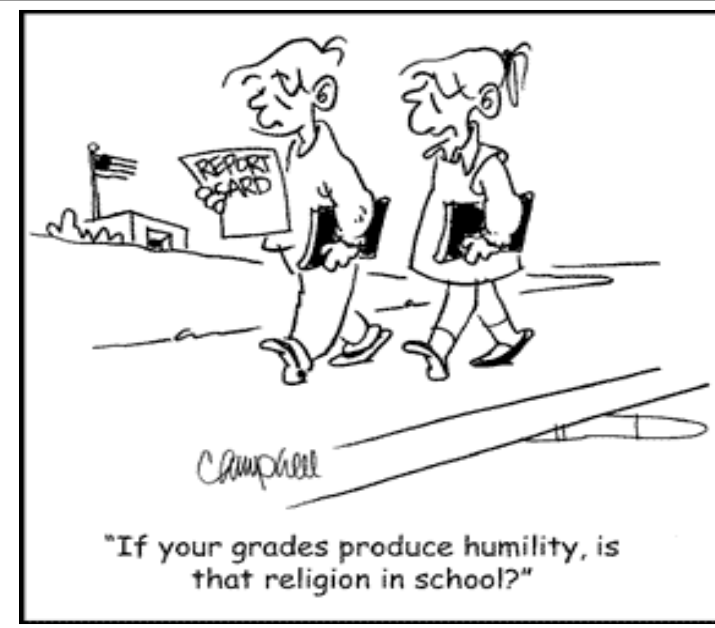
Meanwhile, our on line services continue for the Sunday services of worship and the Wednesday evening Vesper service has concluded. We are exploring on line Bible Study and as we get vaccinated, in person Bible Study. This is a steep learning curve and the desire is there to develop meaningful services and programs while we're sorting restrictions.

Donations for our neighbors at Heart, Love, and Soul mission continue. Please bring your donations of shelf stable food, cleaning items and personal care items to the Friendship Room and thank you for your generosity.

Service to our community is important as the city recovers from the pandemic. We are most thankful that the schools have been mostly open and our children continue to learn. We hope to re-open our Sunday School for children in September, meanwhile Katona Hoopsick has a Sunday children's message on in every service.

Donna Flood
Moderator





PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Mexicali Seminary in Baja, California



While equipping women and men for church leadership is critical to the long-term health of the church, for many the cost of seminary education is out of reach. The Mexicali Seminary project provides forty scholarships each year, reducing the amount a student must pay and allowing them time to concentrate on their studies. Scholarships cover tuition, housing, meals, and attendance at an intensive conference. The seminary trains these leaders through residential programs, extension classes, and online formation in biblical, pastoral and theological studies. Funding for this project also covers facility maintenance costs and upkeep of the library, which serves the residential student community, associate theological programs in local churches, as well as students in the Master of Theological Studies program through Palmer Seminary in Pennsylvania. Please pray for these future leaders to minister faithfully, whether in small groups or larger congregations. Pray that Latin America and the Caribbean could be impacted through the online training courses and the sending of Mexican cross-cultural servants.

ABHS copies of *Philadelphia Confession of Faith* and Rauschenbusch's *Christianity and the Social Crisis* exhibited in Geneva



Philadelphia Confession of Faith, far right, on loan from ABHS

From Gabriel de Montmollin, Head of the International Museum of the Reformation: We are very proud to be able to present two emblematic works of your Society in our exhibition "Calvin in America" in the International Museum of the Reformation. The *Philadelphia Confession of Faith* (1743) is an important part of our exhibition on the Protestant identity of the United States. We explain to the public that the development of the churches of the Reformation was very different there than in Europe. They were able to grow without finding the religious and political resistance of the Old World, hence this dynamism and great diversity. Confessions of faith are like identity cards that allow us to measure the differences and convergences with other traditions. Moreover, this edition is particularly interesting because it was printed by Benjamin Franklin himself. It is a beautiful testimony that underlines the extraordinary personality of one of the Fathers of American Independence.

As for the first edition of Walter Rauschenbusch's book *Christianity and the Social Crisis*, its exhibition allows the European visitor to understand that the United States and its churches have been strongly involved in social justice. It is often thought on this side of the Atlantic that the USA is the land of freedom and money. With his book, Rauschenbusch testifies to a very different reality defined by poverty, which, like elsewhere, alienates millions of people. His book is next to the *Gospel of Wealth* by Andrew Carnegie, also in its first edition, where the question of poverty tries to solve itself with instruments more philanthropic than political.



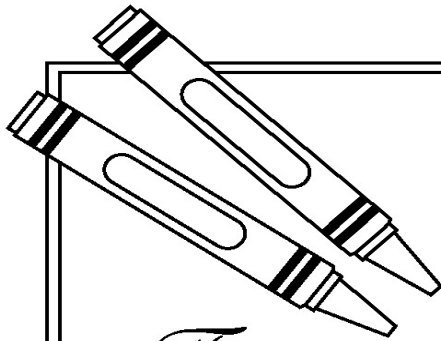
Christianity and the Social Crisis, right, on loan from ABHS



These two important books of the early 20th century remain of obvious relevance. We would like to thank you again for your presence in our museum and hope that other collaborations are now possible between our two institutions.

The exhibit will run through April, 2021, at which time the items on loan will be returned to ABHS.

One section of the "Calvin in America" exhibit at the Musée International de la Réforme, Geneva



Just for KIDS

Famous Mothers in the Bible

Mothers are very special people. The Bible tells many stories about famous mothers.

Unscramble the letters to find the names of some mothers from the Bible.
Look up the Bible verses, if you need help. Write the names on the blanks.
Use the letters on the numbered blanks to fill in the message at the bottom.

VEE (Genesis 3:20)

6 11

NAHHAN (1 Samuel 1:20)

14

BRAHEOD (Judges 5:7)

18

3

KREEHBA (Genesis 27:5)

16

5

HELA (Genesis 30:14)

1

CHELRA (Genesis 30:22)

7

12

MOIAN (Ruth 1:22)

10

17

13

RAAHS (Genesis 17:19)

8

RAMY (Matthew 2:11)

2

ZEBLEHATI

(Luke 1:13)

9

15

4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
13 8 14 G 15 F 4 F 16 10 17 G 3 18 !

Answers: EVE, HANNAH, DEBORAH, REBEKAH, LEAH, RACHEL, NAOMI, SARAH, MARY, ELIZABETH
A MOTHERS LOVE IS A GIFT FROM GOD.

OUR HISTORY CORNER



We are delving into our archives to bring our wonderful past to light. Read the answer below to last month's picture. Do you know who and when and what?

- ❖ Who is in the picture? Name them all..
- ❖ What was the occasion?
- ❖ When and where was the picture taken?

ANSWERS: _____

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S PICTURE: An outdoor gathering. Left to right: Virginia Tangent, Rev. Pierre Tangent, Hazel Baxter.

Jesus as the Bellhop

This may seem like a strange title, but Jesus said, "I am among you as one who serves."
(Luke 22:27).

Niagara Falls is the Honeymoon Capital of the World, and some honeymooners may have had experiences like one described to me by a couple who went to Banff in the Rocky Mountains where many people went following weddings when I was in ministry in Western Canada.

Larry and Sylvia got married at 7:00 pm on a Friday evening, and the banquet and dance were both at the church in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Around 10:00 pm they went to my study to change clothes for their trip, a four-hour motorcycle ride to the luxurious Banff Springs Hotel,

After check-in at 2:00 am the desk clerk tried to find a bellhop, but Larry said, "We can look after ourselves. Just give me the key; we'll carry our bags up and make ourselves at home." They got off the elevator, found their number, but were surprised at how small the room was.

They had booked the honeymoon suite. The room appeared to have just a fold-out sofa bed, a table with a phone, a small bureau and a closet. It was too late to complain, so they did a little devotional exercise I always give to couples for their first night, undressed and went to bed.

In the morning Sylvia's first words were, "Can we switch to a room with a better bed?" Larry reminded her that a special breakfast of strawberries and cream was supposed to come with the honeymoon suite, so, "Let's have that first."

He phoned down and asked for their breakfast to be sent up. When the bellhop arrived, he looked at them in amazement. "Is there something wrong here" he asked. Larry replied, "Well, yes, as a matter of fact. We can hardly believe that a honeymoon suite is so poorly furnished. We'll be asking to switch rooms after breakfast. I hope this great hotel has something better."

With that, the bellhop turned to another door, opened it and said, "Perhaps this will do." He ushered them into a spacious room with a mountain view, a big round bed, a heart shaped Jacuzzi, a table with cheeses and fruit, flowers, coffee ready to go and Champaign in the fridge.

Having turned down the services of a valet to show them to the honeymoon suite, they had slept in the anti-room. When Jesus says, "I am among you as one who serves," he is ready to show us to the suite prepared for us in life. He will guide us and serve us in a context beyond our dreams.

At Easter, he rises and takes us up in resurrection, leading us into eternal life which starts here and now with everything we want and need. When we turn down the services of the one who serves we are stuck in the anti-room of life, sometimes adequate but not what is reserved for us.

My Easter greeting to you is an invitation to follow the bellhop. Our worship service at First Baptist Church is your entrance into the honeymoon suite. In our Father's house there are many rooms, and you are not to wait for heaven to find the one that is reserved for you. Every Sunday is "a little Easter," but on this special day we get the full picture of more abundant life.



Rev. Dr. Brian Arthur Brown, FRSA, Scholar-in-Residence

Resurrection Cookies

Ready in 1 hour, Yields 36-42 cookies



I'm a baker – cookies, cakes, cupcakes, brownies ... but, for some reason, I haven't done a lot of baking over this last year. Probably because I haven't had any family gatherings, so I'd be eating it all myself.

When my kids were little, I made them Resurrection Cookies the night before Easter. It's a great way to share the Easter story. Hopefully you get this in time to make them with your family!

Ingredients:

- 1 cup whole pecans
- 3 egg whites
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- Pinch of salt

Additional Items Needed

- Mixing bowl
- Wooden spoon
- Bible
- Zipper baggie
- Waxed paper
- Cookie sheet
- Tape

Directions:

- Read the whole recipe before beginning. Try to make these together Saturday night before Easter Sunday.
- Preheat oven to 300 degrees.
- Place pecans in zipper baggie and let children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces.
 - o Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers.
 - o Read John 19:1-3
- Let the children smell the vinegar.
- Put 1 tsp into mixing bowl.
 - o Explain that when Jesus was thirst on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink.
 - o Read John 19:28-30
- Add egg whites to the vinegar
 - o The eggs represent life.
 - o Explain that Jesus gave His life to us life.
 - o Read John 10:10-11
- Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand.
 - o Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl.
 - o Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin.
 - o Read Luke 23:27
- So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing.
- Add 1 cup sugar.
 - o Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us.
 - o He wants us to know and belong to Him.
 - o Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16
- Beat with a mixer on high speed for 1-15 minutes, until stiff peaks are formed.
 - o Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus.
 - o Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.
- Fold in broken nuts (this step can be skipped for those with nut allergies).
- Drop by teaspoon full onto waxed paper-covered cookie sheet.
 - o Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid.
 - o Read Matthew 27:57-60
- Put cookie sheet in the oven.
- Close the door and turn the oven OFF (yes, you read that correctly!)
- Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door.
 - o Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed.
 - o Read Matthew 27:65-66
- Go to bed!
 - o Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight.
 - o Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed.
 - o Read John 16:20 and 16:22
- On Easter Morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie!
 - o Notice the cracked surface and take a bite.
 - o The cookies are hollow!!
 - o On the first Easter Morning (or Resurrection Day), Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tom open and empty.
 - o Read Matthew 28:1-9
- HE HAS RISEN! ALLELUIA!!

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING



Larry & Rebecca Stanton

Risto and Zorica live in Lusanci, one of the farms of the mountainous countryside in Croatia.

The December earthquake destroyed their home.

For them, livestock is the only source of livelihood, so it was more important for them to fix the top of the barn: they said, fixing the barn would be like building them a palace.



The earthquake destroyed everything they created for their retirement years in seconds.

But there is hope!

Volunteers from Croatian and Hungarian Baptist Aid recycled materials from demolished buildings and worked last week, completing the barn and running a water line to the family's container home.

Thanks again for your prayers and support and for sending me to love on people who need it!

Larry