

# 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

### ***IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE:***

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- ➔ p. 6 & 7 — Dr. Brown Writes
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# October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>☺ <b>Please note the Annual Meeting after Church on October 11, 2020.</b> Due to Covid-19 we have had to reschedule the meeting. An Annual meeting is a legal requirement so we cannot avoid it. <u>Please</u> plan to stay just a few minutes after the service for the meeting, which will be short. If you usually write an article for the Annual Meeting booklet, note that it is due October 1, 2020. Copies of last year's booklet are in the office.</p>				1	2 10:00 Men's 	3
4 <b>18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	5	6	7	8	9 10:00 Men's  9—3 RUMMAGE SALE	10 9—Noon RUMMAGE SALE
11 <b>19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching 12:15 <b>Annual Congregational Meeting</b>	12  Columbus Day	13	14	15	16 10:00 Men's 	17
18 <b>20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching Dedication of Church Officials 12:15 Trustees/Diaconate Meeting	19	20	21	22	23 10:00 Men's 	24
25 <b>REFORMATION SUNDAY</b> <b>21<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b> 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	26	27	28	29	30 10:00 Men's 	31  Halloween

## October Birthdays

1 Donna Clark  
 4 Marguerite Blakely  
 4 Cheryl Taylor  
 4 Joseph Hash  
 21 Lydia Hoopsick



**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY** for 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.



### Oct. 4 — Sunday — PENTECOST 18

Holy Communion  
 Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

### Oct. 9 & 10 — RUMMAGE SALE

Friday 9 — 3  
 Saturday 9 — Noon

### Oct. 11 — Sunday — PENTECOST 19

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**

### Oct. 18 — Sunday — PENTECOST 20

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

### Oct. 25 — Sunday — PENTECOST 21

**REFORMATION SUNDAY**  
 Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching







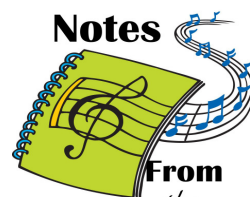
How about a new T-shirt for fall? We have a new shipment of T-shirts with First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, New York, imprinted on them below the "I Love My Church" slogan.

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 ...**

**THE CHANGES UPON US** as we round the corner into autumn are many. The first is our Bible Study which will be done in English and Urdu, led by Shahzad Robin and at this writing, happening before the service. Asif Robin will be translating into English the major points of the lesson of the day. All are invited and we expect several visitors of multiple backgrounds.

The Wi-Fi connections in the church will be expanded throughout the building. We've discovered that the connection isn't clear in a few areas. It's a small move, but important for clearer communications in the building. As the coordinator for Health and Safety and in an effort to keep up with the changing times, I look in the Human Relations mandates and suggestions that come our way from various insurance and legal entities.

Our training for Harassment and Conduct is annually updated for all employees, volunteers, and assistant volunteers who have contact with children. Though we all went through the training last year, we have to keep up with whatever is new on the requirements list. A second issue brought forth by our insurance company is Active Shooter awareness. I will get into this before our next meeting and have a short update on safety on that front.

Our services are viewed on line every Sunday and the broadcast done by phone may be expanded technically by a proposed new camera. We are all learning as we go, preparing for changes in technology and keeping all the Covid-19 guidelines in the front of our minds.

The Fall Rummage Sale will be October 9 and 10 and some of it will be on-line. Yes, on top of sorting, folding, stacking, and arranging, we're adding photography and posting. I already thank those who are working on the project. If you need a pickup of your items call the office or bring in contributions on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

As the summer yard duties wind down, I thank Chris Taylor for keeping the plants alive and thriving and Dave Martin for mowing the lawn and trimming bushes. On the cob web front, Chris is sweeping and dusting weekly.

**Donna Flood**  
Moderator

## Last Month's Crossword Answer

### Revelation

L	O	C	U	S	T	S		T	E	N	T	H
A		A		I		A		H		O		A
M	A	N	S	L	A	W		E	N	T	E	R
P		S		E		E		I		H		V
S	A	T	A	N		S	A	R	D	I	N	E
			C		T						N	S
R	E	D	E	E	M		T	A	U	G	H	T
A		E					B		T			
I	N	C	E	N	S	E		H	E	A	R	D
N		E		I			A		I		L	O
B	E	I	N	G		S	E	R	V	I	C	E
O		V		H		T		S		V		T
W	H	E	A	T		S	I	T	T	E	T	H



"Well, I could baptize you there ... but it's probably just another mirage."



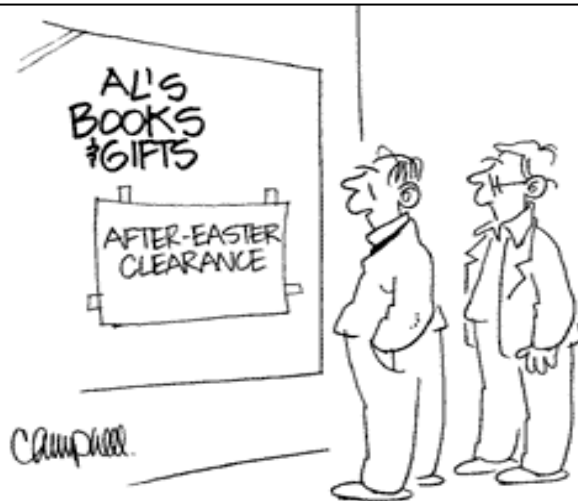
"My husband won't miss me 'til he realizes I have the remote."



"Excuse me, you said the 'what' is in need of repair?"



"And with prayer, you can contact God 24 hours everyday, including weekends ... and there are NO roaming charges!"



"We had one of those at church, too."



"Looks like I'm going to have to get Mom to let me cross the street."



### **When You Walk Through a Storm, Hold Your Head Up High**

Acorns are the seeds of oak trees, but did you know that acorns which ripen and fall during good weather cannot germinate because their little hats remain on, preventing the insides of the cone from sprouting? The tree can only propagate through a storm in which ripe acorns have their hats off and get scattered across the landscape where the shoots can sprout and find fertile soil.

Many years ago I was coasting along in a fair-weather ministry to a church in western Canada. In my fifth happy year the provincial government decided to dismantle their Expo 86 pavilion at the conclusion of that Vancouver World Exhibition and bring it back to Saskatchewan. They awarded it to the church I was serving, to be reassembled as a community service centre.

On my advice the trustees accepted what amounted to a seventeen-million-dollar gift, designed to look like a glass grain elevator, with twelve stories of program space inside. Church members who opposed the idea began meeting in secret and attempted to convince denominational officials that many people wanted the church to stay exactly as it was, with “enough community service going on here already.” They claimed that the congregation had not been sufficiently consulted, and that the Senior Minister was more interested in the community than in the church. I thought I was serving them well, but they wanted me fired.

Heartbroken at their rejection of my ministry, I took leave with my family who shared my distress. Before the denomination decided anything, we left for Nova Scotia to visit my mother. As we neared my old home, we passed the oak tree pictured above, which had obviously just been hit by lightning in a storm. The tree was a perfect picture of how I was feeling, so I took the picture.





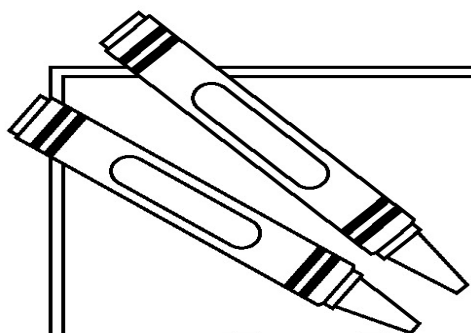
### **From Little Acorns Giant Oak Trees Grow**

It took months of hearings, but the denominational authorities eventually decided that there was nothing in my ministry which could be deemed ineffective. After following the church controversy in the news, the provincial politicians withdrew their offer of the tower. I submitted my resignation, realizing it would be hard to minister to a distressed congregation, and admitting that perhaps the minority had a point. I was leaving much of the pastoral care to associate ministers while I preached to the congregation and worked with the community in radio and TV ministries.

But on behalf of the majority, the trustees of the church unanimously petitioned me to remain and continue my ministry, popular in some quarters. I was grateful for the affirmation, but decided it was time to move on, though I made the effective date of my resignation one year hence. By then I had accepted a call to a wonderful congregation in Ontario, who knew all about my troubles and wanted me anyway. Finishing up in the west, we again took a vacation in Nova Scotia. Near my mother's place, we once again passed that oak tree. Eighteen months later, the field around the tree was now an expansive grove of oak saplings. I took another picture of this miracle.

I continued ministry for years, mostly productive and happy. I have not always remembered my oak tree parable, and not all the spiritual seeds I planted have taken root, but whenever there is a crisis, I walk through the storm with my head held high. I know that God can work miracles, even, and perhaps especially when lightning strikes. As you make your way through Covid-19 and other challenges in life these days, I share my oak tree photos with you. I think you get the picture.

Scholar-in-Residence, First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, NY



Just for

KIDS

## King David's Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a special time to thank God for all He has given us.

*Use the code to fill in the missing words from a portion of King David's prayer from 1 Chronicles 29:10-13 (NIV).*

<b>CODE</b>	1 = everlasting	6 = honor	11 = ruler
	2 = exalted	7 = kingdom	12 = thanks
	3 = glorious	8 = LORD	13 = things
	4 = God	9 = O	14 = wealth
	5 = head	10 = praise	15 = you

" \_\_\_\_\_ be to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, ...  
(10) (15) (9) (8)

from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. ...  
(1) (1)

Yours, \_\_\_\_\_, is the \_\_\_\_\_;  
(9) (8) (7)

\_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ over all.  
(15) (2) (5)

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ come from \_\_\_\_\_;  
(14) (6) (15)

\_\_\_\_\_ are the \_\_\_\_\_ of all \_\_\_\_\_.  
(15) (11) (13)

Now, our \_\_\_\_\_, we give \_\_\_\_\_,  
(4) (15) (12)

and \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ name."  
(10) (3)

"Praise be to you, O LORD, ... from everlasting to everlasting. ... Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name."



## 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. This month is not so tough. 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 The Wild sisters and Rev. Bettina Gilbert.



**ELECTION DAY AND VOTING** for the candidate of your choice is an important obligation for citizens in a Democracy. All voters must be registered to vote which can be done in person or by mail at the Board of Elections, DMV, Department of Health and several other locations.

Registrations can be mailed in to the Board of Elections before October 9 and received by the Board of Elections by October 14. On-line applications are available as well at [on.ny.gov/3jyU9Pk](https://on.ny.gov/3jyU9Pk). Enter your name into the data base to get your mailing place. The application form is available at [on.ny.gov/31S4LCY](https://on.ny.gov/31S4LCY) or call 1-800-FOR-VOTE.

Early voting is at (716)438-4040 or (716)438-4041; [bit.ly/34R1m9q](https://bit.ly/34R1m9q). Early voting must be done in person so either call one of those numbers or find the Niagara County sites at [on.ny.gov/3biGedo](https://on.ny.gov/3biGedo). It starts on October 24. There is also Absentee Voting option. Go to the state's absentee ballot portal for a PDF file you have to print at [on.gov/3jzY7Hm](https://on.gov/3jzY7Hm). Follow directions for mailing in the ballot and don't forget to sign the envelope!

Voting in person on election day, look up the location of your polling place based on your address at [on.ny.gov/2Z1Rvdi](https://on.ny.gov/2Z1Rvdi). Wear a mask and be prepared to wait in line. Many polling places are closed so don't assume your former location is open. Polling places are open from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM. In Erie County, a postcard will be mailed to you with the location of your polling place.

The whole article from the Buffalo News regarding voting in the 2020 election will be posted on the church bulletin board and is available on-line with a Buffalo News subscription.

Good Luck,

*Donna Flood, Moderator*





## RALLY DAY SUNDAY



**ON RALLY DAY SUNDAY** September 13, 2020, we blessed the backpacks for the Sunday School children and laid out the plans for Sunday School. Small gifts were given for the backpacks and the third graders were given their Bibles.





## We started services on July 19<sup>th</sup>!

- Wear your mask. We have some if you need one.
  - We have hand sanitizer.
- Sit six feet apart, both side to side and front to back.
  - No hugging or handshakes.
- Sing by humming or reading the words from the hymnal
  - Sign in in case we need to contact trace.
  - No coffee hour
- Please be on time. We lockdown after the service starts.
  - If you cannot make the service, follow the streaming service on Facebook. Just search for FirstBaptistChurch Niagara Falls, NY

