

TOWER TOPICS

The News Magazine of

First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, New York



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First Baptist Church

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May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>✠ On Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19, 2019, we are again hosting an Open House for the Office of New York State Landmarks Sacred Sites. The Sacred Sites has given our Church a couple of smaller grants to help with our building over the years and this is a great opportunity to again be a part of their state-wide Open House Weekend to highlight significant ecclesiastical buildings in New York State, of which we are one. If you would like to volunteer to be a docent, call the Church office.</p>			<p>1 Philip and James, Apostles</p>  <p>12:15 Inasmuch lunch</p>	2	3	4
<p>5 THIRD SUNAY OF EASTER</p> <p>10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching 6:00 First Fruits Family Service</p>	6	7	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 Trustees/ Diaconate Meeting</p>	9	10	11
<p>12 FOURTH SUNAY OF EASTER</p> <p>10:00 Mother's Day Continental Breakfast 11:00 Divine Worship Catherine Chambers, preaching 6:00 Bible Study</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>Mathias, Apostle</p>	15	16	17	<p>18 10-3 Sacred Sites Open House</p>  <p>Armed Forces Day</p>
<p>19 FIFTH SUNAY OF EASTER</p> <p>10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen Ordiway, preaching 12:15 Second Sunday Lunch on Third Sunday 12:00-3:00 Sacred Sites Open House 6:00 Bible Study</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>Victoria Day</p>	21	22	23	24	25
<p>26 SITH SUNAY OF EASTER</p> <p>10:00 Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. William Tomas, preaching NO Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>Memorial Day</p>	28	29	<p>30</p> <p>Ascension of Our Lord</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Mary's Visitation to Elizabeth</p>	

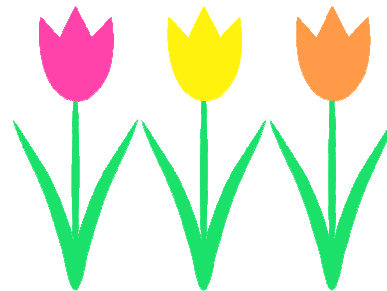


May Birthdays

- 12 Toby Ordiway
- 13 Mary Metke
- 15 Janet Kundl
- 18 Cindy Ward Duke
- 19 Jon Baxter
- 23 Hazel Baxter
- 30 Tyler Ordiway



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY for Helen Louise Bowser, Ron and Margie Blakely, William Cody, Carole and Hank Buchalski, Sara Gromniak, Janet Keebler, Gladys Lewis, our Church family, our missionaries, especially Carmella Jones, our Country and all those who serve our Country, and all Christians persecuted for their faith.



May 1 — Wednesday

12:15 PM Inasmuch Lunch

May 5 — Sunday — Easter 3

10:00 AM Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship with Holy Communion
 Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
 6:00 PM First Fruits Family Service

May 8 — Wednesday

7:00 PM Diaconate/Trustees Meeting

May 12 — Sunday — Easter 4

10:00 AM Mother's Day Continental Breakfast
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Ms Catherine Chambers, preaching
 6:00 PM Bible Study

May 18 — Saturday

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM — Sacred Sites Open House

May 19 — Sunday — Easter 5

10:00 AM Bible Study and Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching
Third Sunday Food Collection
 12:15 PM Second Sunday Lunch on Third Sunday
 12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM — Sacred Sites Open House

May 26 — Sunday — Easter 6

10:00 AM Bible Study & Pre-service Fellowship
 11:00 AM Divine Worship
 Rev. William Thomas, preaching
 NO Bible Study





How about a new T-shirt for spring? 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.

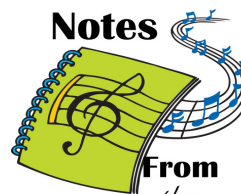
Sizes available are Large and Extra Large (they will shrink a little).

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.

Notes



From the Moderator

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE submitted Child Protection Guidelines for First Baptist Church. They include: the two person rule, classroom doors will remain open, all adults working with children in nursery and kindergarten will be members of First Baptist Church-Niagara Falls for six months or more, and all adults will be screened before beginning work with minors. No convicted adults of inappropriate contact with children will be permitted to work as employees or volunteers with our children.

A checklist for employees and volunteers is part of the policy as are: reporting procedures, response procedure to those reports, a Misconduct Policy, an Application to be kept on file, and Disclosure and Authorization for a background investigation. Our insurance company has assisted us in the writing and implementation of this policy. All schools, churches, and groups working with children should have these policies in place. As we begin to restart our Sunday School program, we will incorporate these procedures with our employees and adults working with or near children.

On a more pleasant note, the woodwork in the vestibule is nearing completion. The rails will be stained to match the rest of the wood in church. It has taken months for this detailed work to be completed.

The Diaconate updated its prayer list, sent cards to our homebound members, and we continue to send "Home Touch" to those who have mobility issues.

On Easter we dedicated Grayson Buchinger.. Our Sunday School now has 13 regular members learning their Bible stories and verses and do so during the service in the education wing on the second floor. That area is getting a much needed face lift and update.

Easter flowers decorated our altar and now in May, we will have a flower planting day, weather permitting, after church near Memorial Day or soon after. Our building will have the grounds in shape and ready for summer. Repairs on the roof are scheduled. We have many windows on the second and third floor that will need repair and/or replacement in the future. Stay tuned for a plan.

Donna Flood
Moderator

Last Month's Crossword Answers

1 Corinthians





"And for those who can't contribute at this time, your names will be posted on the church Web site"



"Even if friends did always call you a saint, I still have to look it up."



"I had multiple personalities."



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



"Now is not a good time to talk to the Pastor; he's been out visiting the church's shut-ins, and no one was home."



"And are you, Katherine, and you, George, sure you want to open this can of worms?"



An Easter Message from the ABCUSA General Secretary

We all watched this week with dismay as flames swept through the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The loss incurred consists of more than just ancient wood and stone; some nine centuries of French culture and Roman Catholic tradition suffered a devastating blow as a result of the blaze.

Nevertheless, in the hours after the tragedy, the French government and others have stepped forward to support the rebuilding of Notre Dame, spreading hope in the midst of loss. In 1978, my wife and I spent some time in the cathedral, taking in the spiritual ambience and being inspired by the beautiful religious art work. The resurrection of the cathedral may very well become a powerful witness to the enduring relevance of the Christian gospel for the French, all Europeans, and for the world at large.

American Baptists throughout the centuries have boldly proclaimed that the death and resurrection of Jesus brings hope, peace and joy to those who open their hearts to the good news of God's redemptive love (Romans 5:1-3). Having experienced divine mercy and forgiveness through Jesus' atonement (Romans 6:23), the Spirit calls us to demonstrate the "power of the resurrection" as individual disciples and as communities of spiritual conviction. Paul expressed the aspiration of all dedicated disciples of the Lord when he wrote, "*I want to know Christ and the power of his **resurrection** and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the **resurrection** from the dead*" (Philippians 3:10-11).

As I faced open-heart surgery last year, I pondered with fresh eyes Isaiah's Messianic prophecy: "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). Indeed, having recovered from the surgery, I now feel like a new man! While Jesus' death and resurrection does not promise temporary relief from every illness, it does point to a promised future resurrection that opens up the endless possibilities of eternal life (John 3:16). As Jesus said to Martha, in anticipation of raising Lazarus from the dead: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." (John 11:25-26).

Destroyed buildings can be rebuilt. Similarly, our lives may be redeemed and our bodies resurrected from the dead (1 Corinthians 15). Jesus invites us to an eternal house where resurrection defeats mortality. He said:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:1-3).

Lee B. Spitzer, General Secretary

FROM CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



New life. That's what this past Easter weekend represented...and your congregation has been a reflection of that all year! Because of your deep care for humanity, there is more of Christ's light - and life - in this world.

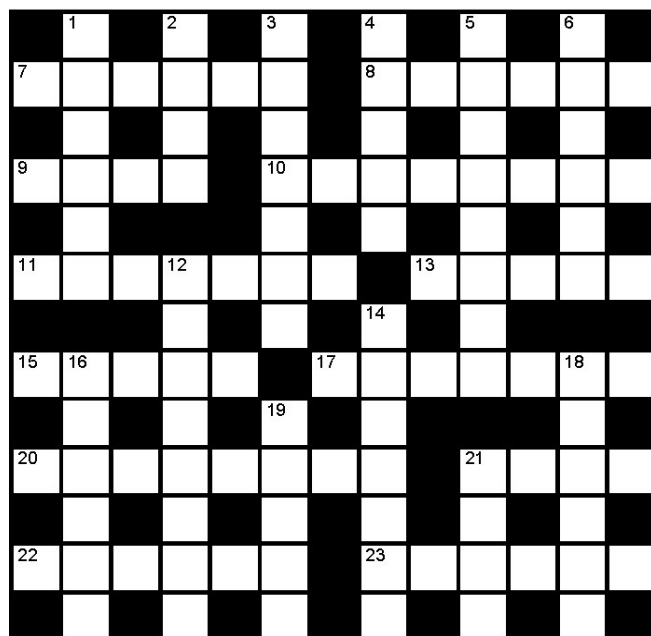
Your reflection shines bright right now, especially for families affected by floods and storms in the Midwest. We've already distributed 750 CWS Blankets to these families; we couldn't have done that without your congregations like yours.

Thank you for sharing new life with so many around the world. May your Christlike compassion cover a multitude this season.

Church World Service is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster.

Bible Crossword Puzzles (King James Version)

2 Corinthians



Across

- 7 "I am _____ a fool in glorying;" 2 Cor 12:11 (6)
- 8 The king of Damascus. 2 Cor 11:32 (6)
- 9 The armour of righteousness was on the right _____. 2 Cor 6:7 (4)
- 10 "In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the damascenes with a garrison, _____ to apprehend me;" 2 Cor 11:32 (8)
- 11 "Always _____ about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." 2 Cor 4:10 (7)
- 13 "Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of _____ in the glory of the kingdom;" Dan 11:20 (5)
- 15 King David wrote many of these musical poems (sing.). (5)
- 17 The archangel named in Jude 1:9. (7)
- 20 "... the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet _____," (1 Sam 18:6) (4, 4)

- 21 This man was beheaded by Herod. Mark 6:16 (4)
- 22 "For we must all appear _____ the judgment seat of Christ;" 2 Cor 5:10 (6)
- 23 "For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God _____ you." 2 Cor 13:4. (6)

Down

- 1 "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he _____ poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." 2 Cor 8:9 (6)
- 2 Peter said he had neither silver nor _____ in Acts 3:6. (4)

3 "But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the

_____ of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ." 2 Cor 3:14 (7)

4 "Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall _____ up us also by Jesus," 2 Cor 4:14 (5)

5 "I speak as concerning _____, as though we had been weak." 2 Cor 11:21 (8)

6 The saints did this. 2 Cor 13:13 (6)

12 "And profited in the Jews' _____ above many my equals in mine own nation," Gal 1:14 (8)

14 "For the letter _____, but the spirit giveth life." 2 Cor 3:6 (7)

16 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath _____ in our hearts," 2 Cor 4:6 (6)

18 To encourage. 2 Cor 9:5 (6)

19 The brother of John. Matt 4:21 (5)

21 Who gave Paul forty stripes save one? 2 Cor 11:24 (4)

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. How many of these ladies can you name and what was the month and year?

- ❖ Who is in the picture?
- ❖ What was the occasion?
- ❖ When was the picture taken?
- ❖ Where was the picture taken?

ANSWERS: _____

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PICTURE: Sunday School Class. Mrs. Michael Doros, teacher.

EASTER ATTENDANCE

It's really nice to note that we had 66 in attendance on Easter Sunday. Family, friends and Sunday School children all came out to the Service with the opening Procession of the Paschal Candle. Honoring God with our presence is one of the vows we make when joining the Church. Let's all try to keep the numbers up; it benefits us as well as the Church.

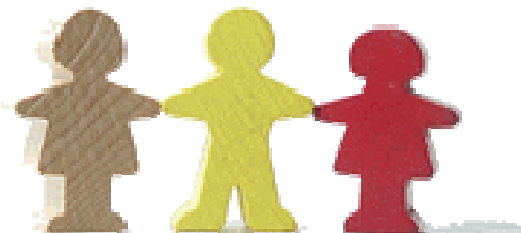
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Have you noticed? Are you aware? Thanks to Katona Hoopsick, family and friends, we now have a regular Sunday School with thirteen children in attendance each Sunday. The Cross up on the altar on Easter Sunday was an example of their work.

Presently they are studying the stories of the Bible with projects to reinforce the important sagas of our heritage. On Palm Sunday Rev. Kathleen went up to the Sunday School to explain the meaning of the palms and our procession. How excellent it is that the Sunday School is restarted to train our children in the ways of our God.

Sunday School is important. Read the interesting article on page 12, and thank Katona and her assistants when you see them.

Children's Sunday School



God's Kings

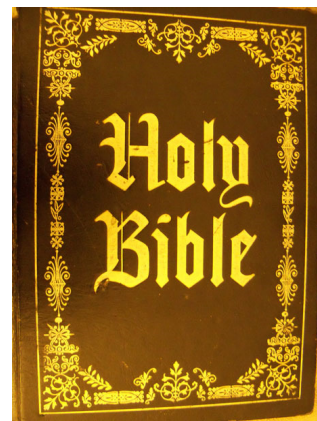
SINCE THE BEGINNING of civilization there have been many kings here on Earth. But were they ordained by God? The first king ordained by God was a man named Melchizedek. He is mentioned in the book of Genesis, Chapter 14. He was also a priest.

God asked Moses and Joshua who served as judges to destroy 31 kings. This is told in the book of Joshua, Chapter 12. Those kings were not ordained by God hence their destruction. The next kings ordained by God was a man named Saul, then a man named David. This is told in the book of First Samuel, Chapter 10 and 16.

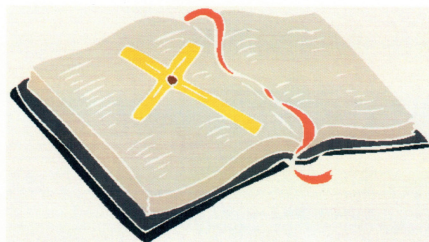
In the books of First and Second Kings, Solomon and many other kings are mentioned. These kings ruled God's chosen people, the people of Israel.

Jesus is the king of Israel and of the whole world. He is called the King of Kings. He is also called Christ the King. Jesus prayed to His Father in Heaven. God the Father is the King of Jesus and the whole Universe. Our Father is Your Majesty. Our Father is Your Highness. God is the King and Ruler of everyone in existence.

Cheryl and Christopher Taylor



Bible Study



*Most Sunday Evenings
6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.*

In the Church Friendship Room

Currently studying: Romans



On Good Friday the Sanctuary was beautifully and appropriately decorated with the draped Cross, the magnificent black altar cloth and antependia, and candelabras.



Why should the kids at my church care about pursuing God?

I don't have all the answers, but I have a few ideas.

by **Debie Thomas**

The fun part of my job in children's ministry is the kid stuff. The Lego towers and Magna-Tile castles; the art projects that leave our children's chapel looking like a tornado blew through it. Telling the children my favorite Bible stories, helping them make Advent wreaths, and hiding hundreds of candy-filled eggs for them on Easter morning.

The much harder part of the job is stepping back and wrestling with some big-picture questions. Why do parents struggle to get their children to church? What case can I make for Christianity at a time when kids have so many appealing alternatives? Why should young people commit themselves to spiritual things when their wider community views such commitments as quaint, obsolete, and even regressive?

When I was growing up, I never heard anyone ask these questions. The culture that raised me was so tightly religious, so uniform in its beliefs, and so self-reinforcing that there was no need to ask why we did what we did. We went to church on Sunday mornings because that's what Sunday mornings were for. We professed faith in God because God was self-evidently real. We pursued spiritual things because the very health of our souls was at stake in the pursuit. Religion was no joke—we had eternal destinies to secure.

But what happens when the terms change? What does spiritual urgency look like in the context of a more progressive Christianity, amid a broader culture in which what used to be obvious to so many people is no longer even tolerable? Without the fearmongering and the hellfire, the guilt and manipulation, how do we make a compelling case for following Jesus?

Charles Taylor argues in *A Secular Age* that Western culture no longer offers the bulwarks that once made faith easier. We no longer view the natural world as testimony; we view it through the lens of science. We no longer live in societies where religious ritual is deeply implicated in civic life. We no longer live in an enchanted world: we indulge children's belief in spirits and demons and moral forces active in the world, but we fully expect them to shed such fantasies before adulthood. And we no longer live in a world in which religion can make an exclusive claim on "fullness"—that numinous sense of wonder, of awe, of more.

Of course, none of these cultural shifts has been intentional or self-conscious. Kids don't come up to me on Sunday mornings to discuss disenchantment or the loss of the numinous. They ask things like: *None of my friends have to go to church, why do I? If your parents hadn't raised you to be Christian, would you still be one? Why should I pray to God when I have no proof? If Jesus is so important, why doesn't anyone talk about him outside of church?*

I don't have answers to all these questions, but I want to keep wrestling with them and weighing the answers that matter to me. If I could offer a child some reasons to stick around—reasons to pursue God in the context of a confusing world and an imperfect church—here are three possibilities.

Christ invites us into a compelling story. Kids love stories. They love *living* in stories. And they need stories to teach them that life is complicated, that easy answers rarely satisfy, and that even the best "happily ever after" endings exact a price. Good stories show all of us that our lives aren't random and meaningless. They promise us meaning and coherence; they hold out the hope that our lives matter as essential parts of a larger whole. Most importantly, good stories point beyond themselves. They begin and end with an author. Maybe Christianity is worth it because it's a deep and comprehensive story we can fall in love with. It's a story that will hold us.

Faith allows us to glimpse eternity—in creation, in the church, in the fellowship of the saints and the breaking of the bread. In every action we take and every thought we think, Christianity insists that tiny seeds of eternity are growing. Nothing is superfluous; nothing is in vain. What we do, how we live, what we give ourselves over to, what we profess, what we worship—all of it matters. It's so easy to forget this, and the church, if nothing else, helps us remember.

The ground of Christianity is love. When our children need it (and they will), there is a love available here that nothing else on earth will ever explain, diminish, or destroy. It's a love that overcomes every barrier of suspicion and hatred we humans construct. It cleanses, blesses, challenges, and fortifies us. It's an eternal love, the love of the broken, resurrected Christ. It's a love worth living and dying for.

I wish I could know that these reasons will suffice for the kids I care about, both at home and at work. I can't; their journeys aren't mine to control. All I can do is hold these reasons out to them, small treasures in my hands, and invite them to take a good, long look—and then another, and another. All I can do is say, "Come and see."