

# TOWER TOPICS

The News Magazine of

## First Baptist Church

Niagara Falls, New York



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## First Baptist Church

554 Main Street

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Niagara Falls, New York 14301-1584

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# October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Here it is October already! It is the month for Reformation Sunday and Halloween.  Make sure to check out the 10:00 AM Sunday morning Bible Study.					<b>1</b> 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> <b>PENTECOST 19</b> <b>WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> 10:00 Sunday School & Bible Study 11:00 Divine Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>PENTECOST 20</b> 10:00 Sunday School & Bible Study 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching 12:15 Diaconate/Trustees Meeting	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>PENTECOST 21</b> 10:00 Sunday School & Bible Study 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching	<b>18</b> Luke, Evangelist	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>PENTECOST 22</b> 10:00 Sunday School & Bible Study 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Justin L. Marple, preaching	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Simon and Jude, Apostles	<b>29</b> 10:00 Men's Coffee Time 	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>REFORMATION SUNDAY</b> 10:00 Sunday School & Bible Study 11:00 Divine Worship Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching						

## October Birthdays

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



**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY** for Hazel Baxter, William Cody, 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. 3 — Sunday — PENTECOST 19 WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY

Holy Communion  
 Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching

### Oct. 10 — Sunday — PENTECOST 20

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

### Oct. 17 — Sunday — PENTECOST 21

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

### Oct. 24 — Sunday — PENTECOST 22

Rev. Justin L. Marple, preaching

### Oct. 31 — REFORMATION SUNDAY

Rev. Kathleen A. Ordiway, preaching







How about a new T-shirt for fall? 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**

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



**WE HAVE A NEW NORMAL.** Our Covid protocols have not changed as we are in another upward turn in the pandemic infection rate. Our service continues with some changes.

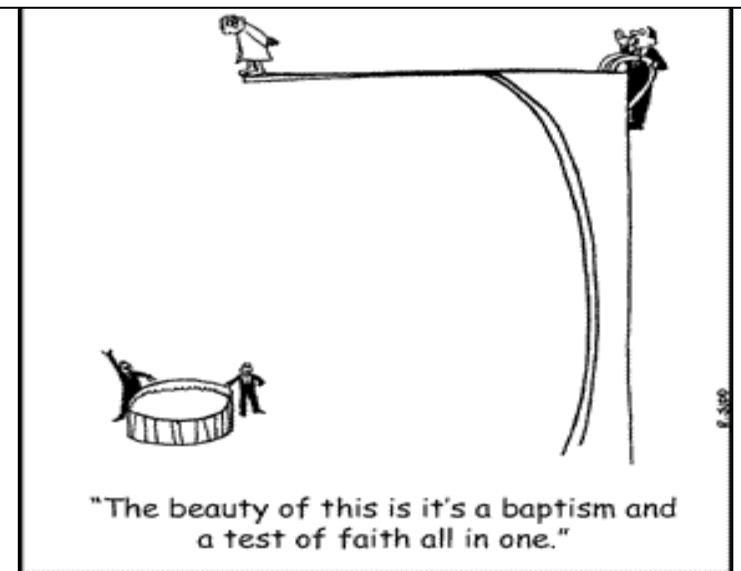
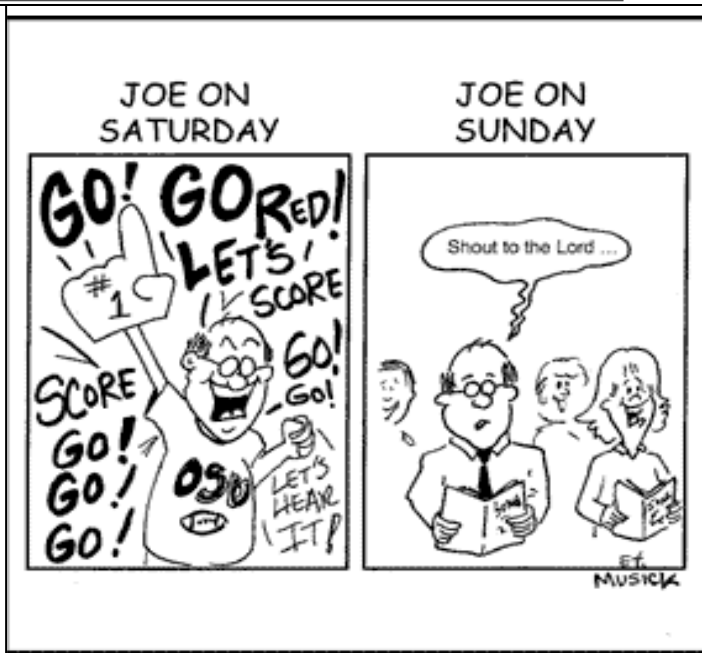
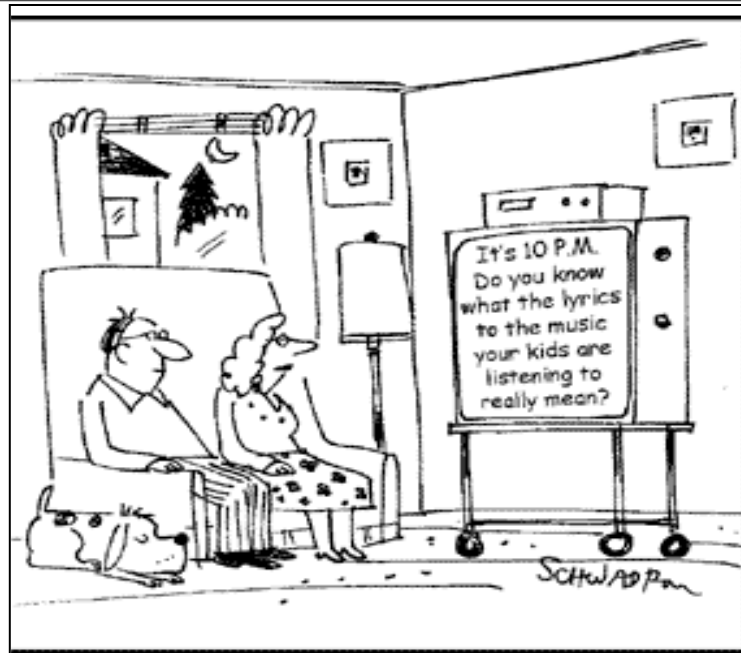
We add Bible study for adults at 10:00-10:45 in the Friendship Room on Sundays and Sunday school has started with the same protocols as used in public schools. We welcome the Rev. Jason Marple as our adult study begins at the beginning of Genesis. Come early and enjoy the company and educational discussions.

Our mission for October is a TBA at this writing, but we celebrate with all Christians worldwide with the first Sunday of October as World Wide Communion Sunday. Imagine the whole Christian World receives Communion on that Sunday for a truly united celebration. Other mission efforts including our Rummage sale are in gear for a cleanup and out of our collected items. We've donated to Heart, Love and Soul Mission, Men's Rescue Mission and to the community through Capital Cleaners. Other agencies are being contacted as the effort expands. Five bags of food and cleaning items were delivered to Heart, Love and Soul along with four boxes of rummage. For the following months, we focus on shelf stable food items and personal care items i.e. toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo and shaving items.

More wind and more rain than our roof can take is necessitating immediate roof repair. The trustees have spoken with three contractors and Clark Bono, Inc., (the Steeple People) is the chosen contractor. The roof repairs focus on the outside of the tower and the lesser slope areas over the education wing. The windows that need to be repaired and/or replaced will be done five at a time depending on cost. All this water has caused high humidity in the dining room and necessitates a cleanup. Companies are being contacted for this work and there's no time line set yet. Mildew can be removed when the water stops coming in and the room gradually dries out. We will not schedule anything in there until the work is completed in the 1500 plus square foot room. Fortunately the mildew has not spread and that's a good thing in the midst of all this.

**Donna Flood**  
Moderator





## Substitutionary Atonement



First Responders on 9/11



An Essential Service Worker During Covid-19

From what I read, some Baptists are struggling with the traditional doctrine of “Substitutionary Atonement” these days, the notion that, like an abusive parent, God sent his Son to suffer for sins committed by others, or that God requires sacrifice to atone for the sins of the world. They ask “What kind of God requires sacrifice, and what parent would send his son to pay the debt of others with blood and death?” We are doing a series on doctrine in Tower Topics, so how are we to understand this one?

The first thing to realize is that the concept of Jesus as the Son of God may be helpful in other discussions, but it is really an emphasis of the church, for the most part. Through the first three gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus never describes himself as “Son of God,” preferring “Son of Man.” The image of sonship appears in the much later Gospel of John, which is thought to be the church speaking on behalf of Jesus. They put such words in his mouth to convey an important aspect of truth, picked up also by St. Paul, and featured in the early creeds of the church. But Jesus says that in him, it is God himself who comes and shares our life of pain, all the way to the cross, to lift in resurrection those who trust Him. In John 17 he says repeatedly that He and the Father are One. Even St. Paul picks up the theme more correctly when he writes in II Corinthians 5, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself.”

The first responders who risked their lives on 9/11 were not sent into situations where many of them died. They went of their own accord to save the lives of others. That is how God’s “salvation” works; He does not just send his child, but He comes in person. This understanding of God’s Oneness in the Trinity can be illustrated again by the essential workers in the Covid-19 pandemic, still raging in some places where doctors, nurses, paramedics and others risk their lives. Many did die and do die in the willingness to keep on working in dire situations where some “sinners” refuse to even protect themselves, far less their loved ones and their neighbors.

God, who is Creator, Christ and Spirit (the Trinity) was in Jesus in a 100% complete way, and God was also in those firefighters and the nurse pictured above. God desires to be in all of us, and this can be especially experienced in any kind of crisis. For those who struggle with the doctrine of substitutionary atonement, it may be helpful to see Jesus on the cross not as merely the Son of God in this instance, but as God Himself, suffering with us and bearing us up.

God as Christ in Jesus on the cross is a model for all of us. God can be seen in you, and God can be felt by you within yourself when you take up the cross in these ways, as all of us are called to do at times. It is just such a Divinity that we worship as an experience of building trust in God-in-Christ-Jesus, whose desire it is to also live in you – the topic for another day.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brian", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Dr. Brian Arthur Brown, FRSA, Scholar-in-Residence at First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls, NY

## My Favorite Time of the Year

Four seasons, spring, summer, fall and winter. I suffer through summer. Other than the opportunity to enjoy swimming (which doesn't happen very often) and to camp as often as possible – summer is not for me. Winter ... don't even get me started! Although wintering in Western New York is infinitely better than summers in Florida or Texas! I do not like driving or walking in the snow or ice, and neither does my backend on the several times I've landed on it! Spring is my second favorite season – seeing plants growing is wonderful. BUT! Fall is my favorite time of the year! I love cool, crisp evenings – a break from all the summer's heat, campfires, snuggling in a comfy blanket on the couch, sitting outdoors in a cozy sweatshirt while reading a book, opening the windows and letting in the fresh air, taking a relaxing drive to look at the changing leaves, taking a hike in the woods ... and all the fall food – soups, stews, acorn squash, casseroles, and pumpkin spice everything!! Fall Can you hear my loud sigh?

Scripturally, fall reminds me of the harvest – a farmer's harvest and God's harvest! It reminds me that it is the season of change.

*Deuteronomy 24:19-21: When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all your undertakings. When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.*

When I read this passage it reminds that we are stewards of the land and caregivers of the orphan and widow, who should be blessed with our abundance. It reminds me that the "alien," the "foreigner," need our help, too. But do they just need a share of the harvest that comes from the field? Don't we also need to remember that since Jesus will return to take in the harvest, us, that we should be introducing our Savior to everyone we meet so that the harvest will include them, too?

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-2: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted...*

*Genesis 1:14: Then God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years..."*

God created each season for a purpose. If we were in a perpetual summer, as much as many would like that, those on the opposite side of the earth would be in a continual winter, receiving so much less sunlight and warmth. I also think that God believes that change is good for us! I always say that change is the spice of life. It reminds me to try new things, to not be afraid of adventure. But there's a rhythm to the seasons, one follows the other, so there is a balance to the change we experience – a reminder that we shouldn't continually leave one thing to do another. I wouldn't enjoy fall so much if it didn't follow the heat of summer!

Fall is the time to settle down. Summers are hectic, picnics, ball games, vacations, but fall tells me that I should be a little like the animals who hibernate, conserving their energy. Are we being called to stop and rest so that we will be strengthened to do the things God calls us to do? How is God calling you today?

*Psalms 107:1: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever.*

May your Autumn be blessed! Sending love to all, Rev Kath

**Rev. Kath**



First Baptist Church of Niagara Falls, NY

# HO, HO Homicide

**Interactive  
Dinner  
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Basket  
Auction  
Fundraiser!**



**A MUST ATTEND  
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\$35 Entry  
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**FOR MORE INFO OR TO BUY TICKETS**

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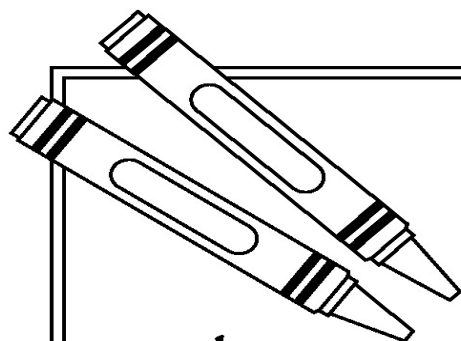
## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

### Myanmar medical care and food projects



You can help improve the quality of life for those in rural Myanmar by providing food and supplies for medical clinics and mobile hospitals through the work of the Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC) and White Cross. As the people of Myanmar face a military coup and a COVID surge during the pandemic, those in great need are often least able to recover from devastating events. A gift can provide mosquito netting and tarps to protect families from monsoon rains, medications and vitamins for clinics, or food like rice, vegetables, oil, salt, beans, and sardines. We pray that God will strengthen and equip the leaders of the Myanmar Baptist Convention as they seek to care for the poor.

Myanmar (Burma) is located in a disaster prone region of the world, and the very poor are often those least able to recover from devastating events. The Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC) provides assistance by helping those in small rural villages who need medical care and food. By providing nutritious foods, they help fight off diarrhea, dehydration and death. The MBC is committed to bringing life in all its fullness to everyone. One of the ways it lives out this mandate is by operating medical clinics and mobile hospitals throughout Myanmar, especially along the border with China. It is able to offer medical care through White Cross funding. It is anticipated this project will improve the quality of life for hundreds of people served by the MBC by providing them with basic nutritional foods and accessible health care. This project will be managed by Rev. Mahn San Thein Tun and by Dr. Zaw Win, general secretary of the Myanmar Baptist Convention, a longtime IM partner.

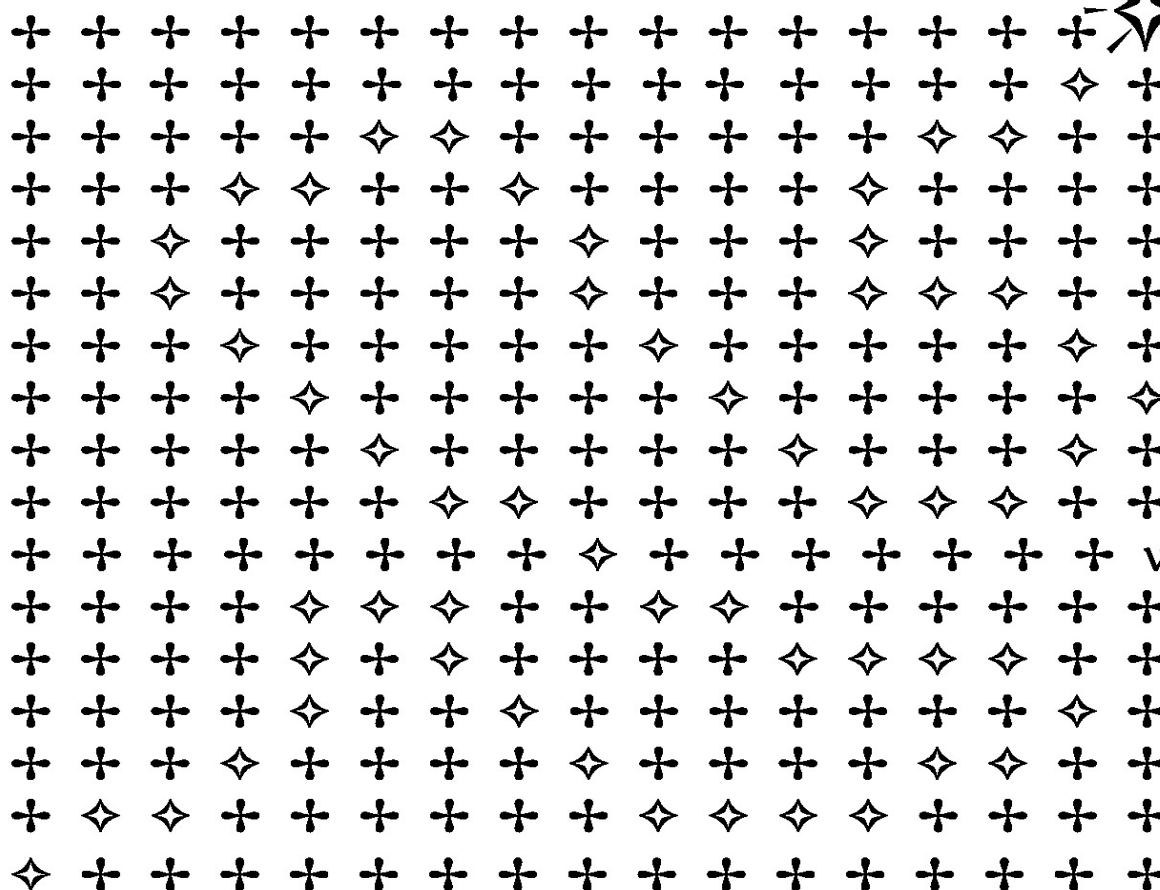


# Just for KIDS

## The Star that Led to the King

The wise men from the East saw a bright star. They followed it to the place where the child who would be King of the Jews was born. When they went inside, they saw baby Jesus with His mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped Him. (Read Matthew 2:1-11.)

Help the wise men follow the star ✧ path that leads to baby Jesus.



**START**



Use the code to fill in the blanks and find out what gifts the wise men brought.

♥ = A   ✿ = E   † = I   ⊙ = O   \* = Y

G \_ LD   FR \_ NK \_ NC \_ NS \_   M \_ RRH



Answers: GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, MYRRH

## OUR HISTORY CORNER



We are delving into our archives to bring our wonderful past to light. If you look closely at this picture you can date it and place it.

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

ANSWERS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S HISTORY CORNER: The Berean Class. This was taken in what is now the Chapel. The date is probably before 1939 because there is no radiator against the wall.



## THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

### A choice that led me down a path of service

Global Servant Christine Lafferty



When I think about my journey in life and what has led me to where I am now as a recently endorsed global servant who will be serving in Nicaragua, I find myself saying, “Wow, *thank you God* for preparing me every step of the way. Especially because while it was happening, I did not know what you were shaping in me.”

I grew up only speaking English, but in middle school, I had to make a choice to either study French or Spanish. All my close friends at the time chose to take French. Logically, I would have also chosen French. But something pulled me towards Spanish. Right around that time before I had to choose, I remember reading several news articles about the increasing numbers of Spanish-speaking immigrants coming to live and work in the United States. I had this conviction in me that if I were going to learn a language, I wanted it to be one that would open opportunities to get to know people living in my own country. I wanted to learn from people whose cultures and home countries were different than my own, but who were living possibly right around the corner from me.

Having a basic grasp of Spanish was so powerful for me when I had the chance to go on my first international mission trip with my church’s youth group in the summer after I graduated high school [pictured above]. We traveled to Juárez, México (right across the border from El Paso, TX), and this trip was transformative for me. I think it was the first time I had come so close to extreme poverty. We spent a week in a local church and since water was so scarce for the people living there, we were asked to not take a shower for five days straight! But the kinds of interactions I had with the local kids who hung around us and the incredibly powerful spiritual experiences I had in worship and prayer with the people in Juárez would not have been possible without that important choice of studying Spanish over French. God touched my heart and called to me in ways that I am still seeking to understand the full depth of. In that week,